

It is important to ensure fellowship with God before the study of the Word.

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness (**1 John 1:9**).

Standing on the Promises of God - -

Psalms 121 “. . . From where shall my help come? ² My help comes from the LORD, Who made heaven and earth. ³ He will not allow your foot to slip; He who keeps you will not slumber. ⁵ The LORD is your keeper. . . ⁷ The LORD will protect you from all evil; He will keep your soul. ⁸ The LORD will guard your going out and your coming in from this time forth and forever.”

Matthew 5:23-24

"Therefore [a conclusion based on the standard set in vv. 21-22] if you are presenting your offering at the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, ²⁴ leave your offering there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother, and then come and present your offering.

Matthew 5:21-22 "You have heard that the ancients were told, 'YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT MURDER' and 'Whoever commits murder shall be liable to the court.' ²² "But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother shall be guilty before the court; and whoever says to his brother, 'You good-for-nothing,' shall be guilty before the supreme court; and whoever says, 'You fool,' shall be guilty enough to go into the fiery hell.

God raises the standards of righteousness above what the Pharisees have taught!

Vituperation – “Bitter railing and continuous condemnation” – a sin of the tongue!

POD – Overt sins, mental attitude sins, and sins of the tongue are equally condemning before God.

"Therefore, if you are presenting your **offering** at the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you

“Offering” - δωρον – DORON - “A gift or sacrificial offering”

Luke 21:1-4 And He looked up and saw the rich putting their **gifts** [δωρον] into the treasury. ² And He saw a poor widow putting in two small copper coins. ³ And He said, "Truly I say to you, this poor widow put in more than all of them; ⁴ for they all out of their surplus put into the offering; but she out of her poverty put in all that she had to live on."

POD – Spirit led sacrificial giving is devoid of solicitation, requires faith, and brings the greatest glory to God.

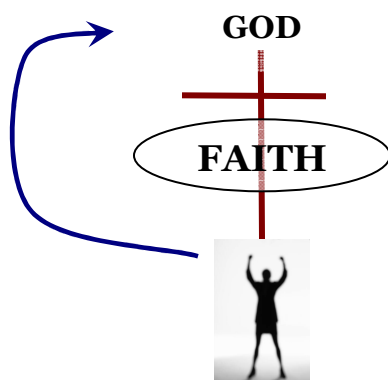
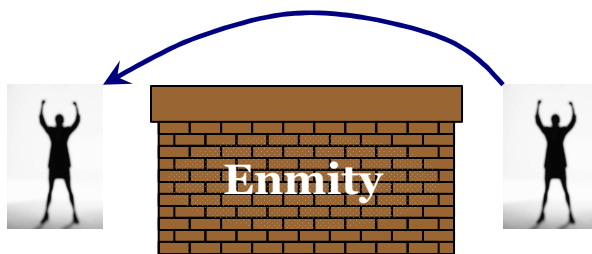
Who are you focused on in your life?

"Therefore, if you are presenting your offering at the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, ²⁴ **leave your offering** there before the altar and **go**; first **be reconciled** to your brother, and then come and present your offering.

“Be reconciled” – διαλλάσσομαι – The passive voice used here indicates that “you are the one with the issue,” even though you are the one that has been wronged.

- ✓ Harboring bitterness makes you guilty before God's court.
- ✓ Forgiveness is required for reconciliation.

Reconcile – to be brought back or restored



An example from the Law - -

Exodus 21:33-34 "If a man opens a pit, or digs a pit and does not cover it over, and an ox or a donkey falls into it, ³⁴ the owner of the pit shall make restitution; he shall give money to its owner, and the dead animal shall become his."

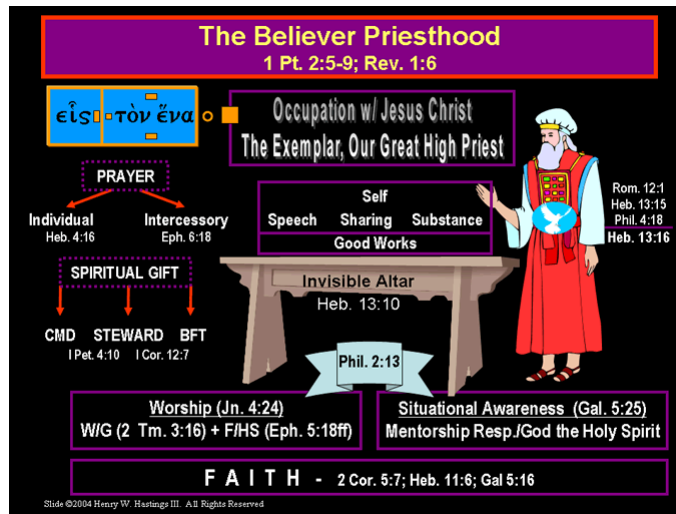
Deuteronomy 25:1-3 "If there is a **dispute** between men and they go to court, and the judges decide their case, and they justify the righteous and condemn the wicked, ² then it shall be if the wicked man deserves to be beaten, the judge shall then make him lie down and be beaten in his presence with the number of stripes according to his guilt. ³ "He may beat him forty times but no more, so that he does not beat him with many more stripes than these and your brother is not degraded in your eyes."

POD – Without an enforceable standard that regulates conduct for the victim and the offender, reconciliation is impossible.

The benefits of being a part of the Church Age vs. the Age of Israel –

- ✓ Grace *plus* the indwelling of the Holy Spirit
- ✓ Filling of the Spirit
- ✓ As we walk in dependence in the Spirit, we manifest the character of Christ *from within*.

POD – The Church Age Believer Priest must offer his sacrifices 'in-fellowship' or they are not acceptable to God.



POD – Fellowship is secured through the mechanics of 1 John 1:9.

POD – The believer who walks in dependence on the Holy Spirit will have the character of Christ manifested *within* him to forgive.

Hebrews 4:16 Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

The ability to forgive comes from God alone!

Psalms 55:22 Cast your burden upon the LORD and He will sustain you; He will never allow the righteous to be shaken.

POD – Bitterness is held at bay and fellowship maintained when the believer applies doctrine and prays in light of recalling wrong-doing that he has suffered at the hands of another.

All Scriptures quoted are from New American Standard unless otherwise noted.