

***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).

**Isaiah 55:11** So will My word be which goes forth from My mouth; it will not return to Me empty, without accomplishing what I desire, and without succeeding in the matter for which I sent it.

**Luke 7:29-30** When all the people and the **tax collectors** heard this. . .

➤ **Tax Collectors** – τελώνης – TELONES – “revenue officer”

**Revenue officers:**

- > Hired by the Roman government to collect taxes from the Jews
- > They were males of Jewish descent.
- > They were wealthy, despised by the population, and considered traitors.

What they heard was the Lord’s commendation of John and the fact that John was the messenger mentioned in **Malachi 3:1**.

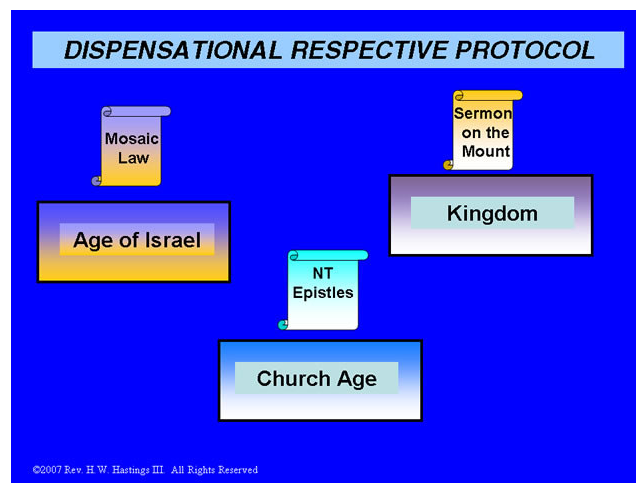
. . . they acknowledged God’s justice, having been baptized with the baptism of John.

**Luke 7:30** But the Pharisees and the **lawyers rejected** God’s purpose for themselves, not having been baptized by John.

- **Lawyers** – νομικός – NOMIKOS - Those who were “expert in the Mosaic Law”
- **Rejected** - ἀθετέω – ATHETEO - “To reject; to refuse to recognize; to declare invalid”

**John’s baptism -**

- Water baptism – immersion in the River Jordan
- Confessed sin
- Ritually identified one with the Kingdom (2 Samuel 7:11 ff.) and the King of that Kingdom (Messiah – Jesus Christ).



**2 Timothy 3:16-17** All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; <sup>17</sup> so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.

Truth is not revealed to the wise.

Truth is revealed to babes.

**Luke 10:21** At that very time He rejoiced greatly in the Holy Spirit, and said, "I praise You, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that **You have hidden these things from the wise and intelligent and have revealed them to infants.** Yes, Father, for this way was well-pleasing in Your sight.

**Rom 12:16b** - "Do not be wise in your own estimation."

- Children are not wise in their own estimation; therefore, they trust.
- The problem with children is when they begin to amass knowledge.
- As a child begins to amass knowledge, they become independent.
- Independence is the fertile soil in which seeds of arrogance are sewn.

***In independence we must be dependent on God!***

**Proverb 3:5** Trust in the Lord with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding.

- **SHAAN** – "To lean, to trust, to rely"
- "Rely on, rest in, depend, i.e., have trust and belief in an object to the point of being in jeopardy if the object of trust fails" [*Biblical Dictionary of Semantic Domains*]

**Galatians 5:16** But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh.

What did the religious leaders do in arrogance?

1. Failed to acknowledge their sin
2. Failed to submit to John's baptism – they completely dismissed it.
3. They were wise in their own estimation – they failed to trust.

**POD:** When the believer fails to trust the Lord with humility as a child, he is unable to cooperate with what God is doing.

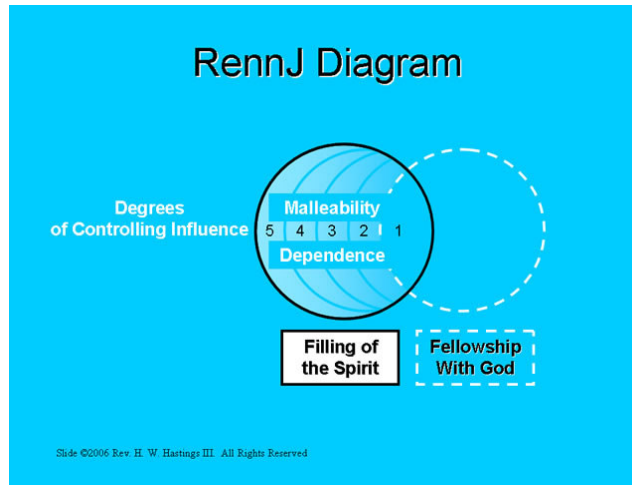
**POD:** The Christian way of life is designed to be a life of trust where we cooperate with God in order to fulfill what He has prepared beforehand for us.

Arrogance is the biggest distraction to executing the Unique Spiritual Life.

The Lord chastises the arrogant religious leaders because they were not cooperating with what the Lord was doing.

**Luke 7:31-34** "To what then shall I compare the men of this generation, and what are they like? <sup>32</sup> "They are like children who sit in the market place and call to one another, and they say, 'We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we sang a dirge, and you did not weep.' <sup>33</sup> "For John the Baptist has come eating no bread and drinking no wine, and you say, 'He has a demon!' <sup>34</sup> "The Son of Man has come eating and drinking, and you say, 'Behold, a gluttonous man and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!'"

POD: You might not understand what God is doing, but you must cooperate with what He is doing.



Malleability - - Dependence - - Genuine Humility -- submission to authority

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