

Judgment Council Free Zone

Base Lines:

A general discussion regarding the ability to see and understand a foundational belief in God's desire to establish in you a 'Judgmental Council' free environment; learning to love God's kids as much as he loves you.

The baseline may require you to dust off your understanding a bit so you can focus on what Jesus has done in/with you when you **Truly** – emphasis – **Truly** accepted His Gift of salvation. That gift includes an ability to walk in the gift of life and it more abundantly in the body of Christ, in truth.

Information.

As I enter commentary within the scriptural references I will use **this color text** to set emphasis to the fact it is commentary. I will at times highlight scriptural text to emphasize it **using this color to do that**. Additionally, unless otherwise stated all Scriptural reference quotes are from the King James Version. Where other translations are used it is noted for clarity. Should you have issues with the colors I have chosen email me at seeker@godsprovision.org

Let's establish some things in God's Word.

Who is the King?

Ecclesiastes 8:1-3

Who *is* as the wise *man*? and who knoweth the interpretation of a thing? a man's wisdom maketh his face to shine, and the boldness of his face shall be changed. *I counsel thee* to keep the king's commandment, and *that* in regard of the oath of God. Be not hasty to go out of his sight: stand not in an evil thing; for he doeth whatsoever pleaseth him.

Revelation 22:13

I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last.

Matthew 27:37

And set up over his head his accusation written, THIS IS JESUS THE KING OF THE JEWS.

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John 18:37

Pilate therefore said unto him, Art thou a king then? Jesus answered, Thou sayest that I am a king. To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice.

Jesus is the King.

What were Jesus' commandments?

Mark 12:28-34

And one of the scribes came, and having heard them reasoning together, and perceiving that he had answered them well, asked him, Which is the first commandment of all? And Jesus answered him, *The first of all the commandments is, Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord: And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment. And the second is like, namely this, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these.* And the scribe said unto him, Well, Master, thou hast said the truth: for there is one God; and there is none other but he: And to love him with all the heart, and with all the understanding, and with all the soul, and with all the strength, and to love *his* neighbour as himself, is more than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices. And when Jesus saw that he answered discreetly, he said unto him, Thou art not far from the kingdom of God. And no man after that durst ask him *any question*.

Let's establish the need for the Spirit of Truth, judgment and timing.

Everything of wisdom is gained by the Spirit which no man can control. Despising evil following the law in the Spirit leads to judgment and timing from God; through relationship in truth with God.

Ecclesiastes 8:4-13

Where the word of a king *is, there is* power: and who may say unto him, What doest thou? Whoso keepeth the commandment shall feel no evil thing: and a wise man's heart discerneth both time and judgment. Because to every purpose there is time and judgment, therefore the misery of man *is* great upon him. For he knoweth not that which shall be: for who can tell him when it shall be? *There is* no man that hath power over the spirit to retain the spirit; neither *hath he* power in the day of death: and *there is* no discharge in *that* war; neither shall

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wickedness deliver those that are given to it. All this have I seen, and applied my heart unto every work that is done under the sun: *there is* a time wherein one man ruleth over another to his own hurt. And so I saw the wicked buried, who had come and gone from the place of the holy, and they were forgotten in the city where they had so done: *this is* also vanity. Because sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil. Though a sinner do evil an hundred times, and his *days* be prolonged, yet surely I know that it shall be well with them that fear God, which fear before him: But it shall not be well with the wicked, neither shall he prolong *his days, which are* as a shadow; because he feareth not before God.

Ordering your footsteps happens when you are walking where God wants you to walk as established by the nature of your relationship with the truth in all things; seeking to be in his image.

Psalms 17:5-15

Hold up my goings in thy paths, *that* my footsteps slip not. I have called upon thee, for thou wilt hear me, O God: incline thine ear unto me, *and* hear my speech. Shew thy marvellous lovingkindness, O thou that savest by thy right hand them which put their trust *in thee* from those that rise up *against them*. Keep me as the apple of the eye, hide me under the shadow of thy wings, From the wicked that oppress me, *from* my deadly enemies, *who* compass me about. They are inclosed in their own fat: with their mouth they speak proudly. They have now compassed us in our steps: they have set their eyes bowing down to the earth; Like as a lion *that* is greedy of his prey, and as it were a young lion lurking in secret places. Arise, O LORD, disappoint him, cast him down: deliver my soul from the wicked, *which is* thy sword: From men *which are* thy hand, O LORD, from men of the world, *which have* their portion in *this* life, and whose belly thou fillest with thy hid *treasure*: they are full of children, and leave the rest of their *substance* to their babes. *As for me, I will behold thy face in righteousness: I shall be satisfied, when I awake, with thy likeness.*

Notice this don't miss it:

Psalms 17:15

As for me, I will behold thy face in righteousness: I shall be satisfied, when I awake, with thy likeness.

Keeping your eyes firmly on God in all circumstances is the only way you can come against those forces that line up against you. Keeping your eyes on God assures your footsteps are ordered in his will. The path of life assured in his God's will is defined as the fullness of Joy in him. Not indignant self righteousness.

Psalms 16:11

Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence *is* fulness of joy; at thy right hand *there are* pleasures for evermore.

How do we see the path and establish the true course as he would have us move?

Psalms 119:105

NUN. Thy word *is* a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.

So now we have established that God's Holy Word will light our path in his will. We also see that it is verified according to our joy. Understanding this will help you avoid becoming bitter in your walk with God towards even those who despitefully use you. If you are truly in God's path you will have joy. It is written.

Knowing this as established in God's word; precept upon precept line upon line we now can study any topic knowing the correct path is established and how we can determine if we are in God's will and know exactly the road that we should take. God's timing, God's will, God's judgment and most importantly God's path.

Isaiah 28:9-16

Whom shall he teach knowledge? and whom shall he make to understand doctrine? *them that are* weaned from the milk, *and* drawn from the breasts. For precept *must be* upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, *and* there a little: For with stammering lips and another tongue will he speak to this people. To whom he said, This *is* the rest *wherewith* ye may cause the weary to rest; and this *is* the refreshing: yet they would not hear. But the word of the LORD was unto them precept upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, *and* there a little; that they might go, and fall backward, and be broken, and snared, and taken. Wherefore hear the word of the LORD, ye scornful men, that rule this people which *is* in Jerusalem. Because ye have said, We have made a covenant with death, and with hell are we at agreement; when the overflowing scourge shall

pass through, it shall not come unto us: for we have made lies our refuge, and under falsehood have we hid ourselves: Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD, Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner *stone*, a sure foundation: he that believeth shall not make haste.

Believe Jesus is that corner stone.

Stephen knew God's will and walked the right path for God.

Acts 6:8-15

And Stephen, full of faith and power, did great wonders and miracles among the people. Then there arose certain of the synagogue, which is called *the synagogue* of the Libertines, and Cyrenians, and Alexandrians, and of them of Cilicia and of Asia, disputing with Stephen. And they were not able to resist the wisdom and the spirit by which he spake. Then they suborned men, which said, We have heard him speak blasphemous words against Moses, and *against* God. And they stirred up the people, and the elders, and the scribes, and came upon *him*, and caught him, and brought *him* to the council, And set up false witnesses, which said, This man ceaseth not to speak blasphemous words against this holy place, and the law: For we have heard him say, that this Jesus of Nazareth shall destroy this place, and shall change the customs which Moses delivered us. And all that sat in the council, looking stedfastly on him, saw his face as it had been the face of an angel.

Stephen walking and acting in God's will portrayed the appearance of an Angel when looked upon by the Council. He did not walk about proclaiming self.

Acts 6:8

And Stephen, full of faith and power, did great wonders and miracles among the people.

This was Stephen's witness in the world. He had the appearance of an Angel. He did works full of power and wonders from God. God's light shone through him to the hearts of the people and then the Council. Would yours? When strife or disagreement arises do you have the appearance of an Angel?

From where do you seek your strength?

Stephen chose this Path.

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Acts 7:55

But he, being full of the Holy Ghost, looked up stedfastly into heaven, and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God,

Do you see the glory of God and Jesus on his right hand? Can you let go of self enough to be blessed by the one who created you? What council do you stand before? What false witness offers itself up against you? Do you walk as Stephen or do you rely on the evil of self defending self, taking offence in ignorance making God's power null and void in your life?

Isn't the Spirit of God enough for you?

Stephen in Acts 7:55 saw the truth of it. Stephen saw the truth of God in his Glory; with Christ by his right hand. All this as spoken by the prophets of old and in the word of God read by the very council he was in front of.

Acts 7:55

But he, being full of the Holy Ghost, looked up stedfastly into heaven, and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God,

Remember our start verses?

Psalms 17:7

Shew thy marvellous lovingkindness, O thou that savest by thy right hand them which put their trust *in thee* from those that rise up *against them*.

Psalms 16:11

Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence *is* fulness of joy; at thy right hand *there are* pleasures for evermore.

Here are some more verses from the Word of God the Council knew well; that Stephen's vision put in their faces making them pointed to them to think of as well.

Exodus 15:6

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Thy right hand, O LORD, is become glorious in power: thy right hand, O LORD, hath dashed in pieces the enemy.

Exodus 15:12

Thou stretchedst out thy right hand, the earth swallowed them.

Deuteronomy 33:2

And he said, The LORD came from Sinai, and rose up from Seir unto them; he shined forth from mount Paran, and he came with ten thousands of saints: from his right hand *went* a fiery law for them.

Psalms 18:35

Thou hast also given me the shield of thy salvation: and thy right hand hath holden me up, and thy gentleness hath made me great.

Psalms 20:6

Now know I that the LORD saveth his anointed; he will hear him from his holy heaven with the saving strength of his right hand.

The Council in their belief had read many times of the 'Right Hand of God' so in declaring his vision, Stephen convicted everyone in the Council and the witness of that conviction was that in one fell swoop they were all called false by the truth of Stephen's vision.

God's heart placed on the Council by Stephen, by the power of the Holy Ghost. Remember, he operated in Spirit and power and authority. Remember, so do you if you remain in God's joy. In that authority in the power of God; Stephen declared God's heart to the Council before him.

Acts 7:51

Ye stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, ye do always resist the Holy Ghost: as your fathers *did*, so *do* ye.

Then Stephen establishing the core truth proclaimed his vision as received from the Holy Spirit and sealed the Councils fate.

Acts 7:55-56

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But he, being full of the Holy Ghost, looked up stedfastly into heaven, and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God, And said, Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing on the right hand of God.

The spoken Word of God as received by the Holy Spirit and a vision pure in truth. The Council was dumbstruck. Stephen had already spoken of the history of their forefathers from Abraham to their time accurately. Stephen had then spoken the position of Christ as given him by the Holy Spirit and then he told them the pure God's truth of their polluted position.

The Truth of God tore at the men of the Council and they being false in their hearts already in their purpose, having given place to satan and his imps; satan's spirits were empowered twenty fold at that moment, Rejection/rebellion/fear/anger/hatred, shook them deep. They lost control to the spirits that drove them.

Acts 7:57

Then they cried out with a loud voice, and stopped their ears, and ran upon him with one accord,

The Word confirms this empowerment of satan within them; first by the lack of joy which tells us they were far from God's path and also by their lack of acceptance of the truth as revealed to Stephen by the Holy Spirit.

Acts 7:55-56

But he, being full of the Holy Ghost, looked up stedfastly into heaven, and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God, And said, Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing on the right hand of God.

Does the truth ever cause you to feel a rush of anxiety? When you are operating out on the edge of truth, pushing the limit of grace rather than what God would have you do and someone reprovess or rebukes you by the Word; do you react as the Council or as Stephen?

Do you walk in joy as Stephen who steadfastly looked up to Heaven for the light of God's glory and Jesus Christ his Savior or do you act as the Council who when confronted with the truth allowed satan a place?

This illustrates really well a couple of things in the here and now.

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The council is your flesh and Stephen is an example of your Spirit. The truth is your flesh acts not as your spirit desires. If allowed to run your flesh allows satan to establish himself in your life, by invitation. Your spirit cries out to you to be as Stephen and look steadfastly up to heaven seeking Gods light. Staying in God's joy, thus knowing you are in God's true path.

Your flesh however; rebels from the truth, squirming in its corruption, seeking escape from the truth and the power of Jesus Christ in God's glory. During this rebellion of flesh your spirit cries out to God; looking steadfastly on God's glory and Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. That is the point you decide; joy or strife. You choose the Spirit in joy or the flesh in strife and confusion. The joy of Jesus causes you to cast the nasty bits away from the flesh and its deeds empowering the Spirit within you and improving your rest in Christ in agreement with a renewed mind. The alternative; strife ends up in confusion and frustration.

The flesh (all flesh) even by hearing truth is uneasy in it. It wonders at the truth as it is presented and fears the depth of it. What more of your flesh weakness will the truth reveal? What else does the truth know of your flesh secrets? How bare will it lay you open?

This can cause the weapon of the fear of rejection to step up from satan's armory and can allow the lies of satan to be manifest through your very dispute between the Spirit and flesh and fear of the truth. As your flesh struggles, because you refuse to submit to the truth satan and his imps take root in your flesh causing your original fear and weakness to increase. At this exact moment, at this exact heartbeat, in this very instant you are overwhelmed by the flesh and in total confusion. You still however; can choose joy and get free in an instant in Jesus, will you? Do you enjoy your self righteousness and feeling of anger and foolishness?

Remember Stephen. His face had the appearance of an Angel

The implication is that in remembering, Stephen who even to death looked steadfastly into heaven, you are assured Gods light to set your path right again; every time, every circumstance, every fault.

Acts 7:55-56

But he, being full of the Holy Ghost, looked up stedfastly into heaven, and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God, And said, Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing on the right hand of God.

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Let's take a deeper look

When the Council rebelled against God's word and God's truth, it allowed Satan to establish himself in the hearts of the Council. The Council, just like your flesh can invite Satan to come and wreak havoc through the flesh by your actions. This causes far reaching ramifications in your life just as it did for the Christian and Jewish churches of that time. In the case of the Council they committed murder. Satan in his lie drove them to murder Stephen; someone they saw that had the appearance of an Angel. The true reason for Stephen's death however was so they could attempt to kill the truth that had been established by his word as revealed by God to Stephen and then by obedience and faith of Stephen to them.

Acts 7:59-60

And they stoned Stephen, calling upon *God*, and saying, Lord Jesus, receive my spirit. And he kneeled down, and cried with a loud voice, Lord, lay not this sin to their charge. And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

The truth, always the same; returned to God, Stephen died and was received by Jesus. The truth in that moment ceased to be heard in that situation. It still existed unchanged and perfect. It was just removed from their faces; buried by the flesh of that Council.

Do you have any truths you have in the flesh tried to kill and bury?

Are there things to mortify in your flesh? The answer is yes; so seek out your buried truths and bring them to light again. In spirit and through the power of Christ you are able. Remember Stephen received Jesus' reward; the reward in life of being obedient and even in death having peace and rest and being with Jesus. Stephen knew he would be with his Lord. That knowledge is true rest in Jesus.

Acts 6:8

And Stephen, full of faith and power, did great wonders and miracles among the people.

Acts 7:59-60

And they stoned Stephen, calling upon *God*, and saying, Lord Jesus, receive my spirit. And he kneeled down, and cried with a loud voice, Lord, lay not this sin to their charge. And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

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The Council by killing Stephen stilled the truth only in flesh, attempting to bury it by rejecting God, who was indeed present before them. Yet the truth stands as an example for us today as we read of Stephen's testimony.

Acts 7:49-54

Heaven *is* my throne, and earth *is* my footstool: what house will ye build me? saith the Lord: or what *is* the place of my rest? Hath not my hand made all these things? Ye stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, ye do always resist the Holy Ghost: as your fathers *did*, so *do* ye. Which of the prophets have not your fathers persecuted? and they have slain them which shewed before of the coming of the Just One; of whom ye have been now the betrayers and murderers: Who have received the law by the disposition of angels, and have not kept *it*. When they heard these things, they were cut to the heart, and they gnashed on him with *their* teeth.

That is the reason they "gnashed their teeth" and were "cut to the Heart" they not only killed Stephen. They committed the unpardonable sin of blasphemy of the spirit of God. They denied the power of the Holy Spirit by their rejection of Stephen and the truth of God he witnessed. Do not doubt that this rejection of the Spirit bore ill fruit. Witness the scripture of Saul a young man at the time. Here is the fruit of the Councils unbelief and arrogance.

Acts 7:57-60

Then they cried out with a loud voice, and stopped their ears, and ran upon him with one accord, And cast *him* out of the city, and stoned *him*: and the witnesses laid down their clothes at a young man's feet, whose name was Saul. And they stoned Stephen, calling upon *God*, and saying, Lord Jesus, receive my spirit. And he kneeled down, and cried with a loud voice, Lord, lay not this sin to their charge. And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

Acts 8:1-3

And Saul was consenting unto his death. And at that time there was a great persecution against the church which was at Jerusalem; and they were all scattered abroad throughout the regions of Judaea and Samaria, except the apostles. And devout men carried Stephen *to his burial*, and made great lamentation over him. As for Saul, he made havock of the church, entering into every house, and haling men and women committed *them* to prison.

By the Council's actions and then Saul's agreement with the murder of Stephen the fate of the church of God was sealed in division; Jew from Christian. Satan had finally placed his lies once again in the hearts and used the strife and division of the church (Gods whole Church; Jews, Christians) to set forever in action once again the strife between ones who should be brothers. Satan has done this many times in the scripture. He has used the disobedience of man to set the Church of God at odds one with the other; Jew against Christian, Christian against Christian. Let's be clear in this. God does not separate us one from another. We are all his children.

Genesis 12:2-3

And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.

Genesis 22:17

That in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which *is* upon the sea shore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies;

Genesis 32:12

And thou saidst, I will surely do thee good, and make thy seed as the sand of the sea, which cannot be numbered for multitude.

Romans 3:9-23

What then? are we better *than they*? No, in no wise: for we have before proved both Jews and Gentiles, that they are all under sin; As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one. Their throat *is* an open sepulchre; with their tongues they have used deceit; the poison of asps *is* under their lips: Whose mouth *is* full of cursing and bitterness: Their feet *are* swift to shed blood: Destruction and misery *are* in their ways: And the way of peace have they not known: There is no fear of God before their eyes. Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God. Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law *is* the knowledge of sin. But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets; Even the

righteousness of God *which is* by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference: For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

We are in serious error if we look to our God brethren and shake our head at another. It is the lies of the devil as seen in the Council that Stephen was brought before. We are a church divided by mistrust and man's philosophy and man's traditions.

Colossians 2:8

Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.

We and our brothers and sisters in God fail to see past the lies of satan. We must overcome this problem if we are to prosper as God's children and God's church.

Mark 3:24-25

And if a kingdom be divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. And if a house be divided against itself, that house cannot stand.

Let's move this topic closer to home now.

What can be learned by the example of Stephen in this?

It is important to note that the men on the Council were all learned men; men of distinction and presence and high men of the church, elders, counselors, men who were esteemed for their dedication to God.

How many of you have left a church due to some inner strife within the body? How many of you have seen a church; whole in spirit and worship, just disintegrate before your eyes? Who among us here have been seriously damaged by the church? Who among us now have wrestled with other saints to put forth our agenda or plan the way we see it (Don't all jump up on this one at once...)? Who among us have winked that smug wink or thought that smug thought of self righteousness and spoke to another saint at a third saints expense? Do you lead the choir, deacon, elder, counsel, teach? Is your heart true or are you puffed up? Members of the church are you the Council that killed Stephen over the truth? Do you revile others because they have chosen to serve God? Are you the fat cattle of Ezekiel's prophecy?

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Ezekiel 34:20-22

Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD unto them; Behold, I, *even* I, will judge between the fat cattle and between the lean cattle. Because ye have thrust with side and with shoulder, and pushed all the diseased with your horns, till ye have scattered them abroad; Therefore will I save my flock, and they shall no more be a prey; and I will judge between cattle and cattle.

Proverbs 15:33

The fear of the LORD *is* the instruction of wisdom; and before honour *is* humility.

Proverbs 16:1-3

The preparations of the heart in man, and the answer of the tongue, *is* from the LORD. All the ways of a man *are* clean in his own eyes; but the LORD weigheth the spirits. Commit thy works unto the LORD, and thy thoughts shall be established.

Do you seek the peace of service or the arrogance of place? If your heart is true do not be offended. If not be provoked, are you the Council? Every one, saints, look to your heart keep it clean.

Matthew 3:7-12

But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees come to his baptism, he said unto them, O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance: And think not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham to *our* father: for I say unto you, that God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham. And now also the axe is laid unto the root of the trees: therefore every tree which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and *with* fire: Whose fan *is* in his hand, and he will thoroughly purge his floor, and gather his wheat into the garner; but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.

Are you stirred up a little? Good.

The admonition is this: Do not reduce the church to a stoning contest. Stoning each other to death for our own purposes, to hide the truth or put forth an agenda or to correct the faulty ways of others in Christ is satan's lie. The church divided is satan's playground. How should we

be? Seek Stephen's heart; deal with one another and others from without truthfully keeping Stephen's way.

Acts 6:8

And Stephen, full of faith and power, did great wonders and miracles among the people.

Acts 7:55-56

But he, being full of the Holy Ghost, looked up stedfastly into heaven, and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God, And said, Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing on the right hand of God.

Is this not enough? How about this then?

Acts 7:58-60

And cast *him* out of the city, and stoned *him*: and the witnesses laid down their clothes at a young man's feet, whose name was Saul. And they stoned Stephen, calling upon *God*, and saying, Lord Jesus, receive my spirit. And he kneeled down, and cried with a loud voice, Lord, lay not this sin to their charge. And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

Then while following this example shout to the world

Acts 7:56

And said, Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing on the right hand of God.

Then watch the stones fly; the stones of the wicked, the stones of the Council, the stones of the dead. While you brethren following Stephen example keep your eyes firmly on God and accepting the right hand who is Jesus. You all, being dead to the world through Jesus Christ's finished work. Claiming the victory in Christ praying as Stephen did.

Acts 7:60

And he kneeled down, and cried with a loud voice, Lord, lay not this sin to their charge. And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

Count it to the Lord Jesus Christ to make it whole again by the softening of the hearts. He also will reward the wicked. What follows are some scriptural truths to support this pouring of love

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instead of joining the fray and throwing stones of your own. Love is the key, Stephen's heart, his eyes and his faith and obedience. If we walk in his example we can never be far from Jesus. Are we without things we need to mortify in our own flesh? So how can we correct others by casting stones like the lost of Jesus day did? Remember, these folks were not Christians.

John 8:7-12

So when they continued asking him, he lifted up himself, and said unto them, He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her. And again he stooped down, and wrote on the ground. And they which heard *it*, being convicted by *their own* conscience, went out one by one, beginning at the eldest, *even* unto the last: and Jesus was left alone, and the woman standing in the midst. When Jesus had lifted up himself, and saw none but the woman, he said unto her, Woman, where are those thine accusers? hath no man condemned thee? She said, No man, Lord. And Jesus said unto her, Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more. Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.

Psalms 62:1-12

To the chief Musician, to Jeduthun, A Psalm of David. Truly my soul waiteth upon God: from him *cometh* my salvation. He only *is* my rock and my salvation; *he is* my defence; I shall not be greatly moved. How long will ye imagine mischief against a man? ye shall be slain all of you: as a bowing wall *shall ye be, and as* a tottering fence. They only consult to cast *him* down from his excellency: they delight in lies: they bless with their mouth, but they curse inwardly. Selah. My soul, wait thou only upon God; for my expectation *is* from him. He only *is* my rock and my salvation: *he is* my defence; I shall not be moved. In God *is* my salvation and my glory: the rock of my strength, *and* my refuge, *is* in God. Trust in him at all times; *ye* people, pour out your heart before him: God *is* a refuge for us. Selah. Surely men of low degree *are* vanity, *and* men of high degree *are* a lie: to be laid in the balance, they *are* altogether *lighter* than vanity. Trust not in oppression, and become not vain in robbery: if riches increase, set not your heart *upon them*. God hath spoken once; twice have I heard this; that power *belongeth* unto God. Also unto thee, O Lord, *belongeth* mercy: for thou renderest to every man according to his work.

Satan cannot live where the truth of Jesus lives. If you live in the truth following Stephen's example in your churches satan will only fail, over and over again in Jesus name. As it says in scripture:

Job 18:5-21

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Yea, the light of the wicked shall be put out, and the spark of his fire shall not shine. The light shall be dark in his tabernacle, and his candle shall be put out with him. The steps of his strength shall be straitened, and his own counsel shall cast him down. For he is cast into a net by his own feet, and he walketh upon a snare. The gin shall take *him* by the heel, *and* the robber shall prevail against him. The snare *is* laid for him in the ground, and a trap for him in the way. Terrors shall make him afraid on every side, and shall drive him to his feet. His strength shall be hungerbitten, and destruction *shall be* ready at his side. It shall devour the strength of his skin: *even* the firstborn of death shall devour his strength. His confidence shall be rooted out of his tabernacle, and it shall bring him to the king of terrors. It shall dwell in his tabernacle, because *it is* none of his: brimstone shall be scattered upon his habitation. His roots shall be dried up beneath, and above shall his branch be cut off. His remembrance shall perish from the earth, and he shall have no name in the street. He shall be driven from light into darkness, and chased out of the world. He shall neither have son nor nephew among his people, nor any remaining in his dwellings. They that come after *him* shall be astonished at his day, as they that went before were affrighted. Surely such *are* the dwellings of the wicked, and this *is* the place *of him that* knoweth not God.

How do we know God?

1 John 4:7-11

Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love. In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him. Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son *to be* the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another.

Yet another.

Psalms 51:10-17

Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me *with thy* free spirit. *Then* will I teach transgressors thy ways; and sinners shall be converted unto thee. Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, thou God of my salvation: *and* my tongue shall sing aloud of thy righteousness. O Lord, open thou my lips; and my mouth shall shew forth thy praise. For thou desirest not sacrifice; else would I give *it*: thou delightest

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not in burnt offering. The sacrifices of God *are* a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.

Need some guidance on your next action?

Proverbs 15:31

The ear that heareth the reproof of life abideth among the wise.

Proverbs 16:1-9

The preparations of the heart in man, and the answer of the tongue, *is* from the LORD. All the ways of a man *are* clean in his own eyes; but the LORD weigheth the spirits. Commit thy works unto the LORD, and thy thoughts shall be established. The LORD hath made all *things* for himself: yea, even the wicked for the day of evil. Every one *that is* proud in heart *is* an abomination to the LORD: *though* hand *join* in hand, he shall not be unpunished. By mercy and truth iniquity is purged: and by the fear of the LORD *men* depart from evil. When a man's ways please the LORD, he maketh even his enemies to be at peace with him. Better *is* a little with righteousness than great revenues without right. A man's heart deviseth his way: but the LORD directeth his steps.

Want to know who is in charge?

Isaiah 9:6

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

Who is keeping score?

Psalms 103:1-6

A Psalm of David. Bless the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, *ble*ss his holy name. Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits: Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases; Who redeemeth thy life from destruction; who crowneth thee with lovingkindness and tender mercies; Who satisfieth thy mouth with good *things*; *so that* thy youth is renewed like the eagle's. The LORD executeth righteousness and judgment for all that are oppressed.

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In summary

Reach for your fallen brother in Love, not the love of man but the love of Christ. Lift his chin so he too can gaze steadfastly on the glory of God. Do not become a Council member. Do not join the international stoning team.

May the Lord Jesus have his will on the world forever.

AMEN

Be blessed

Bro John

If you have any questions or issues feel free to email me. Seeker@godsprovision.org