The More Excellent Way:

Embracing New Life in Christ!

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Section I: God's Part

Biblical Mandates and Principles

Comparison of Old and New Covenants

Feature	Old Covenant	New Covenant
When established	at Exodus	at crucifixion
Parties: God and	national Israel	Christians
People redeemed from bondage	in Egypt	in sin
Mediator of the covenant	Moses	Jesus Christ
Ratified by blood of	animals	Jesus Christ
Promises offered	prosperity, national security, become God's treasured nation	eternal life, children of God, know God, law in heart, forgiveness, with God forever

Jesus: The Better Way!

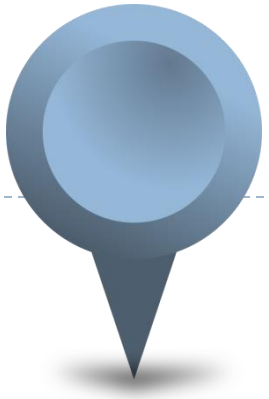
Others

- Prophets received and shared God's word
- Angels are ministering messengers
- Moses was faithful as a servant in all God's house
- Aaronic priesthood ministered on earth but sinned and died

Jesus

- Is the Word
- God's Son and The message
- Christ is faithful as the Son over God's house.
- High priest in the order of Melchizedek. Sinless and sitting at the Father's right hand; saves, eternal

The Point: God Did His Part!



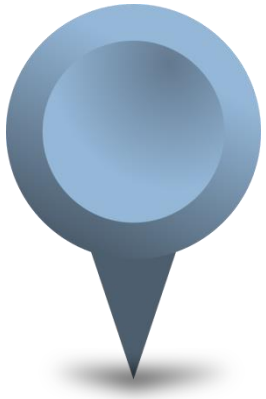
1. God established a better way for us to
    1. live in relationship with Him
    2. inherit eternal life and
    3. live more abundantly in this life

2. Freed us from the burden of the Law (Romans 8:2)
    1. Sacrificial system
    2. Powerless to save

The Point: God Did His Part!

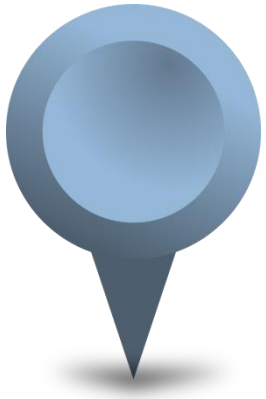
1. Jesus finished it!
    1. The cross of Christ
    2. The death burial and resurrection of Christ

2. **In** Christ we are new and improved
    1. In Christ we are new creatures (2 Corinthians 5:17 (NIV)
        1. Positional/Physical adjustment
        2. Spiritual adjustment (John 14:16-17)



The Point: God Did His Part!

1. In Christ we are new and improved
    1. Access to heaven
        1. Direct
        2. Intercessor
    2. Access to His promises
    3. Access to abundant life
    4. Access to grace, forgiveness, longsuffering



The Point: God Did His Part!

We Are New and Improved!

We Are Better!

Section 2: The Better Way

What it Looks Like!

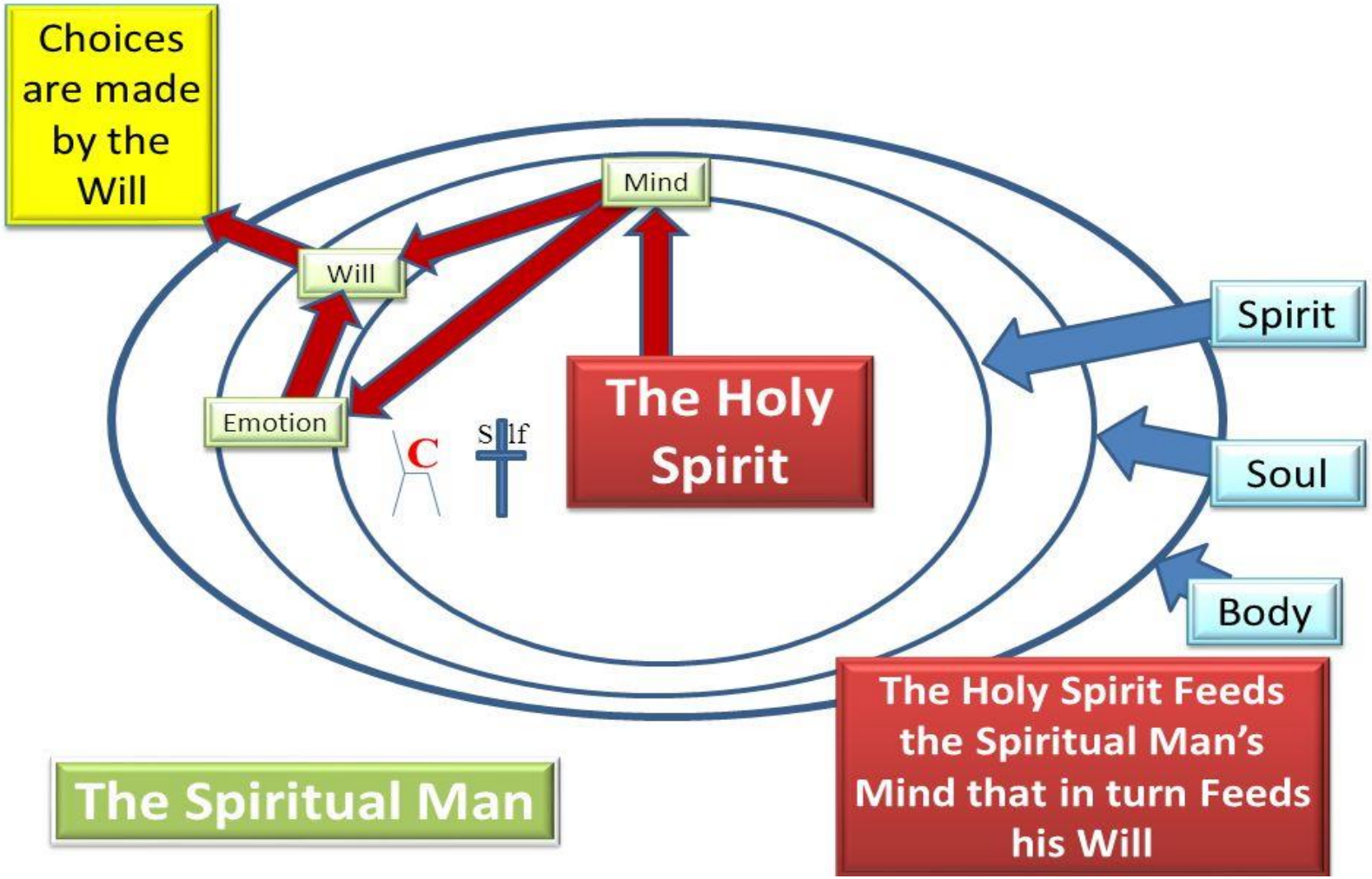
New and Improved

Old Nature	New Nature

Section 3: The More Excellent Way - Our Part

Choosing to Do Better!

Feeding Our Choices

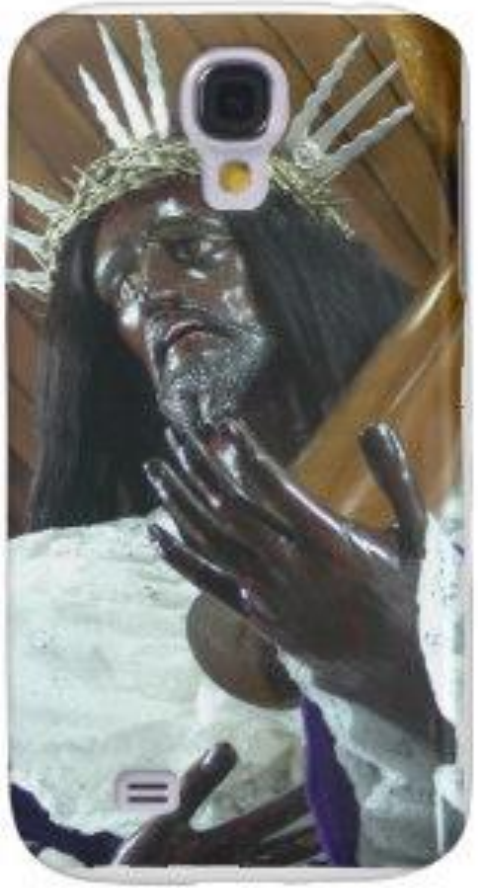


Examples from the Word

- Paul
- Peter
- Ester
- Mary

Choosing the More Excellent Way

- Jesus!



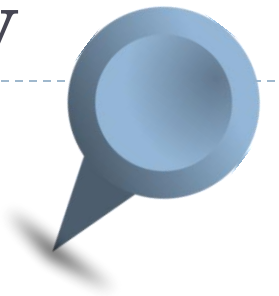
109 *Bearing the Cross.* C. M.

1 MUST Jesus bear the cross alone,
And all the world go free?
No, there's a cross for every one,
And there's a cross for me.

2 How happy are the saints above,
Who once went sorrowing here;
c2

Choosing the More Excellent Way

Choosing the More Excellent Way



1. Requires paying attention
2. Dying to self
3. Requires Focus
    1. Eliminating distractions (husbands, children, church, busyness)
4. Requires work
5. The better way is sometimes the hardest way
6. Fear of man's justice or lack thereof can sometimes cause us not to choose the better way
7. Comes at a cost!
8. Always the better way!
9. Requires love!

Love: The Most Excellent Way

- Love is…
  - Patient
  - Kind
  - Not self-seeking
  - Not easily angered
- Love
  - Does not envy
  - Does not boast,
  - Is not proud
  - Does not dishonor others
- Love always
  - Protects
  - Trusts
  - Hopes
  - Perseveres.
- Love
  - Keeps no record of wrongs
  - Does not delight in evil
  - Rejoices with the truth
  - Never fails

Choosing the More Excellent Way

- Requires Prayer