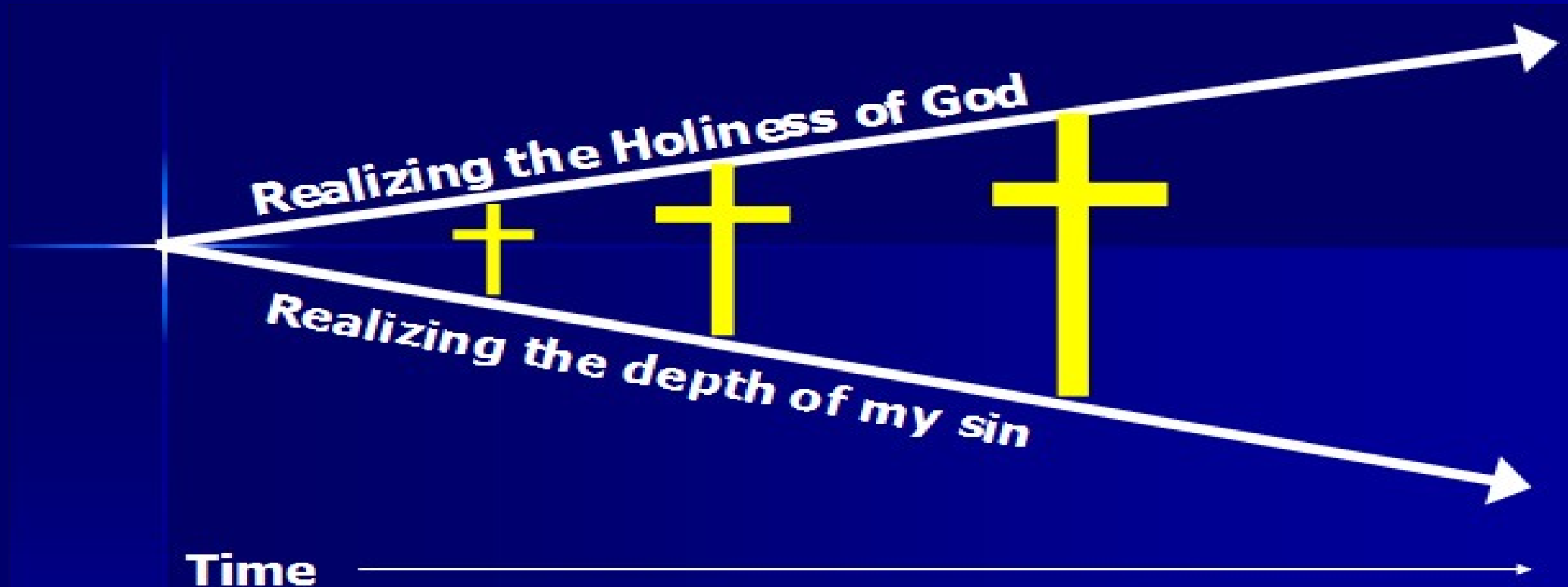


**Gospel-
Centered
Living
#2 - Sonship**



"Angle" Paradigm for Spiritual Growth

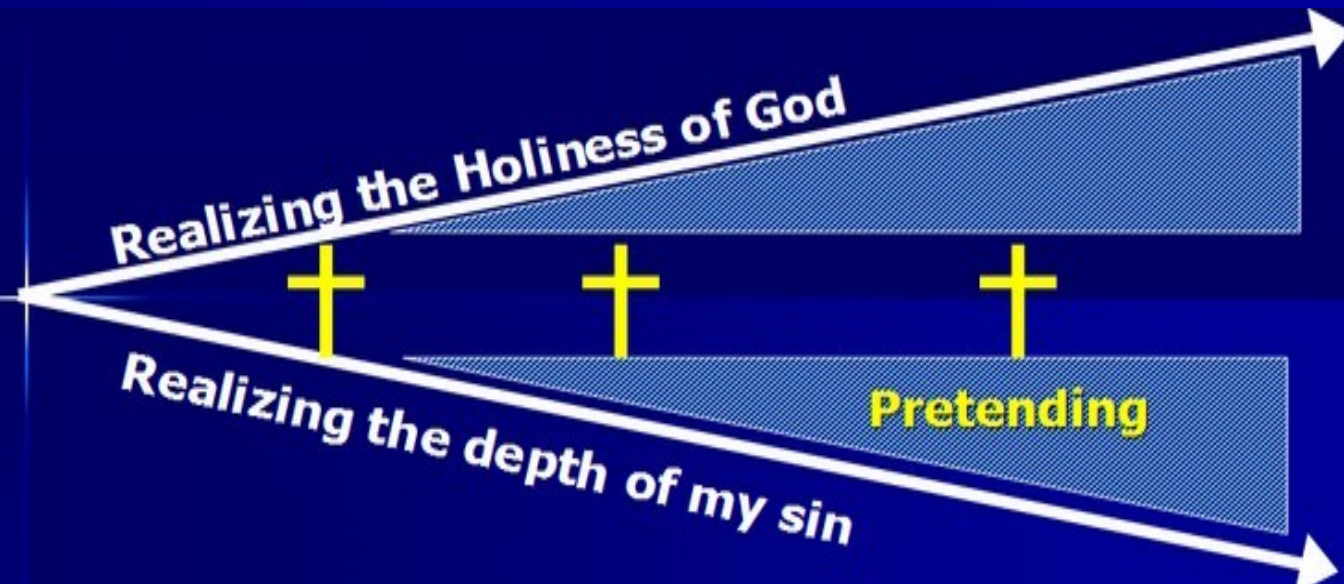
- What grows as we mature in faith?



Problem #1: Minimizing Sin

What strategies do you use?

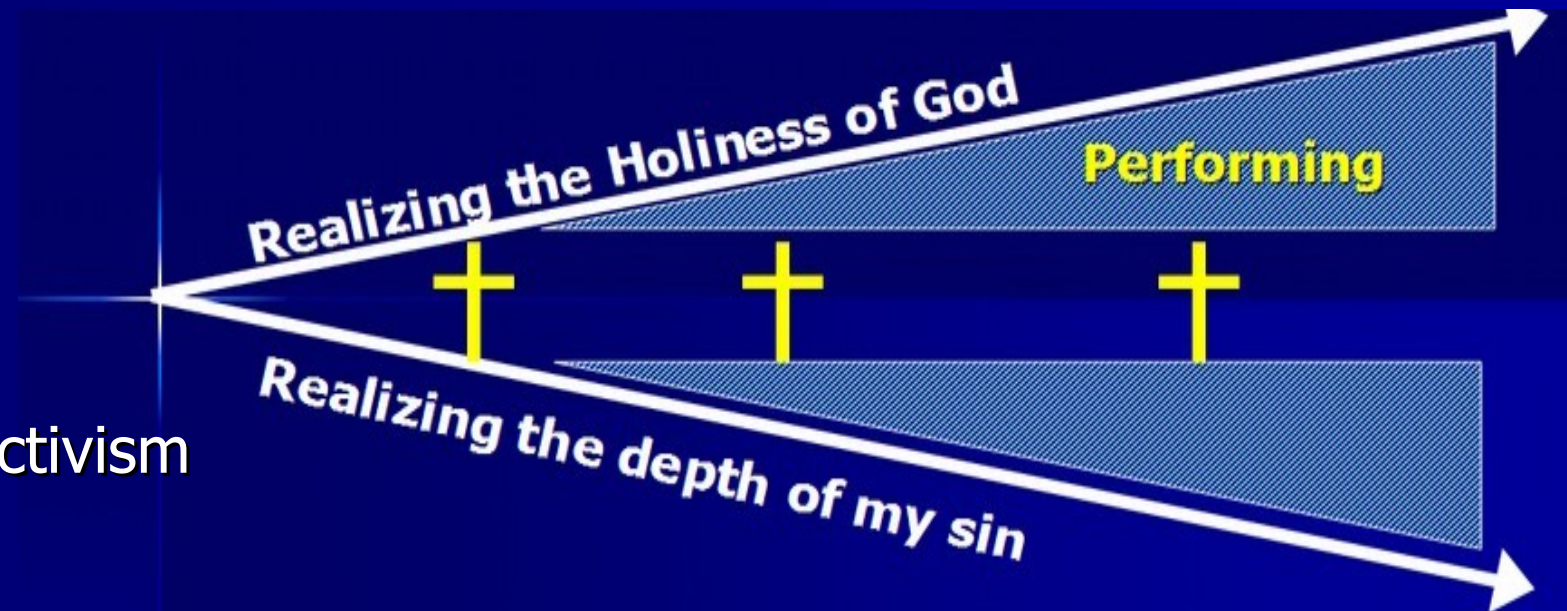
- Defensiveness
- Maintaining appearances to impress
- Hiding shame to avoid rejection
- Exaggerating strengths (or crises)
- Blame-shifting
- Downplaying
- Judging Others



Problem #2 Performing

What makes you credible?

- Hard work
- Family order
- Theological accuracy
- Intellectual superiority
- Self-disciplined, timely
- Flexible and caring
- Lifestyle holiness
- Thrift and generosity
- Political or Evangelistic activism
- Tolerance

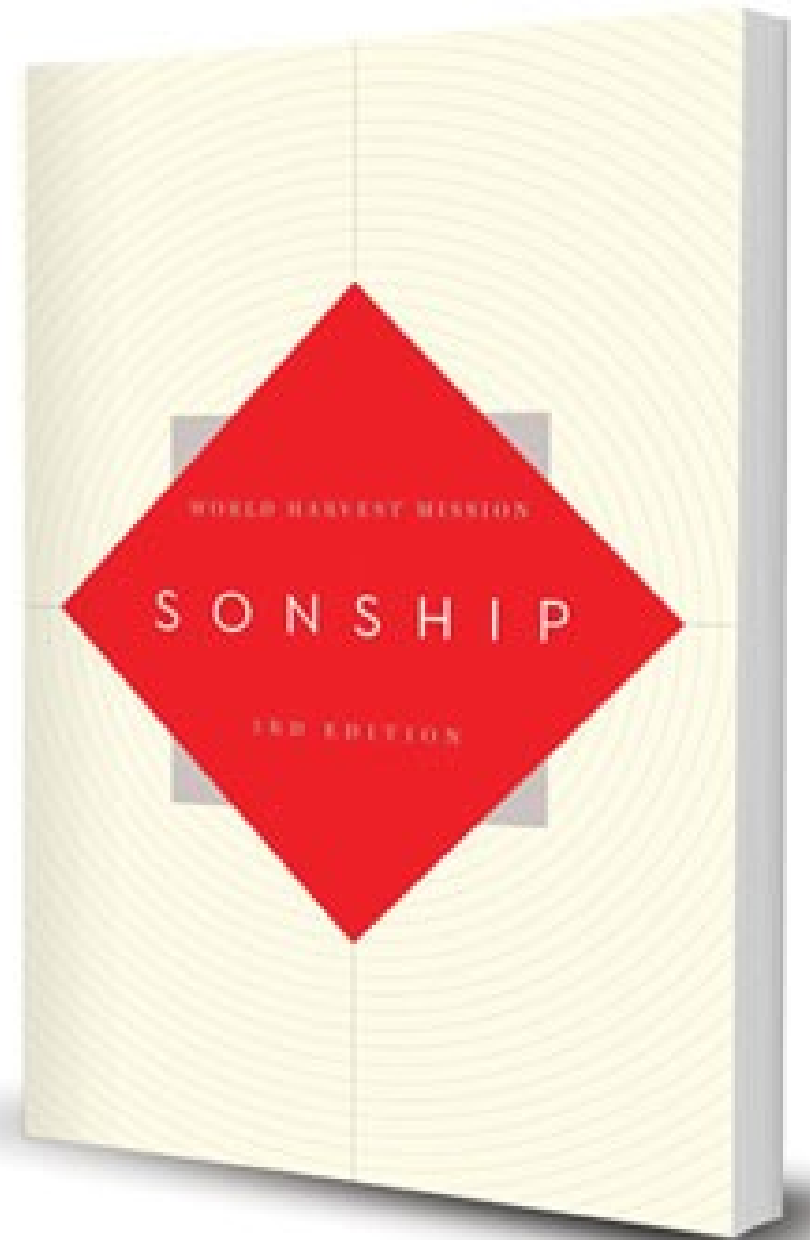


The path forward



- **God has given remedies to the problems of minimizing our sin and of trying to fill the gap with our own righteousness.**
- **“Growing in the gospel means seeing more of God’s holiness and more of my sin... and then believing the Gospel more”**

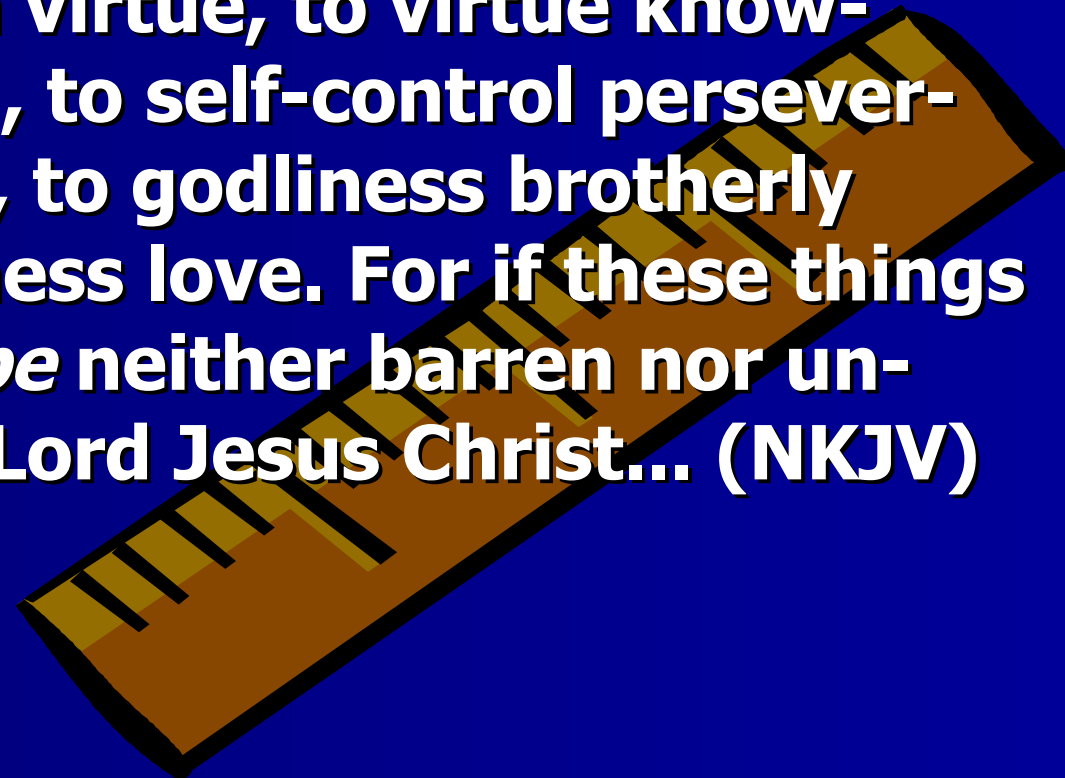
**Based on
Chapters 1-3
of the Book,
Sonship
By Jack Miller,
Published by
World Harvest
Mission**



Peter's spiritual maturity chart

2 Peter 1:1-12 Simon Peter, a bondservant and apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who have obtained like precious faith with us ... add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. For if these things are yours and abound, *you will be* neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ... (NKJV)

- How do you measure up?
- Why is it hard to mature?



Peter explains what stunts our growth: forgetfulness!



2 Peter 1:8-12 For if these things are yours and abound, *you will be* neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. For **he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins.** Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to **make your call and election sure,** for if you do these things you will never stumble; for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. For this reason I will not be negligent to **remind** you always of these things, though you know and are established in the present truth. (NKJV)

Do you act like an orphan?

■ Telltale symptoms:

- lack of joy,
- seeking approval,
- controlling situations,
- hiding faults

■ How do your “orphan feelings” reveal a forgetfulness (or unbelief) of what you know to be true about God?

■ How would a belief in what is true about God’s fatherly love for you change your relationship with Him and with others?



Problem: Identity Apart from Jesus



- Human nature craves acceptance and significance from other persons. We become warped when we seek this from humans and forget how God gives us these things.
- **Jeremiah 2:13** For My people have committed two evils: They have forsaken Me, the fountain of living waters, *And* hewn themselves cisterns —broken cisterns that can hold no water.
- **Romans 10:3-4** For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and seeking to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted to the righteousness of God. For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes. (NKJV)

Solution A: Passive (Received) Righteousness

- **Romans 3:21-22** But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe.
- **Luther** "Passive righteousness...isn't righteousness that we work for, but righteousness we receive by faith... whoever wanders away from passive righteousness has no other choice but to live by works righteousness... Most necessary is it that we know it well, teach it to others and beat it into their heads continually."
- We can't do anything to make God more proud of us than He already is. His favor is already on believers!



Heidelberg Catechism on Passive (Received) Righteousness



■ #60 How are you right with God?

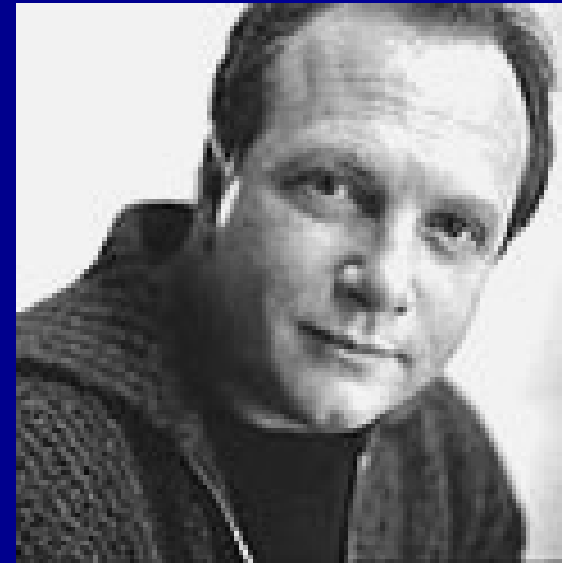
Only by true faith in Jesus Christ. Even though my conscience accuses me of having grievously sinned against all God's commandments and of never having kept any of them, and even though I am still inclined toward all evil, nevertheless, without my deserving it at all, out of sheer grace, God grants and credits to me the perfect satisfaction, righteousness, and holiness of Christ, as if I had never sinned nor been a sinner, as if I had been as perfectly obedient as Christ was obedient for me. All I need to do is accept this gift of God with a believing heart."

Adoption is part of God's salvation process

- **"I am worse off than I think or know. It is amazing that God knows the extent of my rebellion against Him (even if I really don't) and He still loves me and pursues me and is committed to making me like his Son Jesus. When I take this to heart, a smile appears on my face."**

**~Charlie Peacock,
commenting on song, "Cheer Up, Church"**

- **To be right with God the judge is a great thing, but to be loved and cared for by God the Father is greater." ~J.I. Packer, *Knowing God*, p.187**



SOLUTION B: Adoption



- **Galatians 4:4-7** But when the fullness of the time had come, God **sent forth** His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to **redeem** those who were under the law, that we might receive the **adoption as sons**. And because you are sons, God has **sent forth** the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, **crying out**, "Abba, Father!" Therefore you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then an **heir of God** through Christ. (NKJV)
- ὅτε δὲ ἦλθεν τὸ πλήρωμα τοῦ χρόνου, **ἐξαπέστειλεν** ὁ Θεὸς τὸν υἱὸν αὐτοῦ, γενόμενον ἐκ γυναικός, γενόμενον ὑπὸ νόμον, ἵνα τοὺς ὑπὸ νόμον **ἐξαγοράσῃ**, ἵνα τὴν **υἰοθεσίαν** ἀπολάβωμεν. Ὅτι δὲ ἐστε υἱοί, **ἐξαπέστειλεν** ὁ Θεὸς τὸ Πνεῦμα τοῦ υἱοῦ αὐτοῦ εἰς τὰς καρδίας ἡμῶν, **κρᾶζον**· ἄββᾶ ὁ πατήρ. ὥστε οὐκέτι εἶ δοῦλος, ἀλλὰ υἱὸς· εἰ δὲ υἱὸς, καὶ **κληρονόμος Θεοῦ** διὰ Χριστοῦ.

Adoption = fearless security

- **With God: Psalm 139:23-24** Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me, and know my anxieties; And see if *there is any* wicked way in me, And lead me in the way everlasting.
- **With Man: 2 Cor. 12:9** And He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness." Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. (NKJV)



What you believe about God will affect how you live:

- **Dad's Shirt Illustration**
- **"...our needs are a window to God, not an obstacle that makes Him disgusted with us." ~Sonship, p.21**
- **"I knew you to be a hard man..." ~Mt. 25:24, Servant who buried his talent**





- **“Growing in the gospel means seeing more of God’s holiness and more of my sin... and then believing the Gospel more”**
- **Don’t forget and fall back into orphan mode!**
2 Peter 1:1-12
 - ◆ Believe that He has really made you righteous.
 - ◆ Believe that your identity is truly that of God’s child.
 - ◆ Enter fearlessly into the relationships (with God and with others) that this opens up to you!