

# ***Faith Building Cycle—Renewing Commitment***

**LESSON AIM:** to know my Father God is truly good and my life is His--the Father and the Son live in me and are always with me.

## **INTRODUCTION**

Joni Eareckson's book dedication reads: "To the glory of the Lord Jesus Christ . . . and lovingly dedicated to mom . . . through whom He has especially expressed His kindness and love.

Through her patient and understanding heart, I have drawn much more than strength."<sup>1</sup>

Joni saw Jesus Christ indwelling in her mother. She recognized God's reflection in her mother and by following her became a great Christian leader taught by God. Jesus followed a great leader saying, "the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing" – "the Father who sent me commanded me what to say and how to say it" ([Jn 5: 19; 8:28;12:49](#)).

*What makes for a GREAT LEADER? Why do people follow a great leader? Know any?*

## **THE STUDY**

### **RUN YOUR RACE – [Heb 12:1-3](#)**

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and **let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us**. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not **grow weary and lose heart**. These verbs describe runners who are spent and collapse after a race; look to the Christ for an example of how to run your race without being exhausted before the race is over.

*What race are you running? Who opposes you? What is "the joy set before" you?*

### **ACCEPT YOUR DISCIPLINE – [Heb 12:4-6](#)**

**In your struggle against sin**, you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood. And have you forgotten that word of encouragement that addresses you as sons: "My son, do not make light of the Lord's discipline, and do not lose heart when he rebukes you, because the Lord disciplines those he loves, and he punishes everyone he accepts as a son."

*How are you and Jesus alike? Are you different in the Father's eyes? Are you loved less?*

### **TRUST YOUR HEAVENLY FATHER – [Heb 12:7-11](#)**

Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as sons. For what son is not disciplined by his father? If you are not disciplined (and everyone undergoes discipline), then you are illegitimate children and not true sons. Moreover, we have all had human fathers who disciplined us and we respected them for it. How much more should we submit to the Father of our spirits and live! Our fathers disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us for our good, that we may share in his holiness. No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.

*What is your Father doing? How well is He doing it? Just how capable do you think He is?*

## ***Faith Building Cycle—Renewing Commitment***

### **LIVING BY FAITH – [Gal 3](#)**

Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit ([2 Cor 3:17](#)). For God . . . made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ. . . So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen ([2 Cor 4:6-18](#)).

*Want to know and see God more clearly? How are you like Abraham, Sarah and Esau?*

### **FAITH BUILDING CYCLE APPLIED – [2 Peter 1](#)**

Believe God first and foremost; when you do everything will begin to make sense! Start anywhere in the Faith Building Cycle (Fig 1) believing God just as Abraham did and the blinding darkness of the effect of sin will begin to lift. Once you start reflecting/meditating on the Son of the Living God you will begin your “transformation” (Greek: metamorphose) into His likeness, knowing God and His love lives within you in this world ([1 Jn 4:13-18](#)), with an ever-increasing glory until you are made complete when He appears ([1 Jn 3:1-3](#)).



**Figure 1 - Faith Building Cycle**

## ***Faith Building Cycle—Renewing Commitment***

### **THE REALITY IN CHRIST – [1 Peter 1](#)**

This lesson states as a fact, what a Christian calls reality. The Christian reality is a formula (Fig 2) for building up, i.e., increasing love for God. Our responsibility is to learn to see God's handiwork and His power in the life we live. We are called to believe God exists, knowing He rewards those who earnestly seek Him. If we say we believe God then we behave in a way that shows we know what He told us through His Son is true. Everything rests (is divided by) on obedience to what we know, accept and experience; without obedience/action, nothing is believed to be true. This is "OUR FAITH" expressed in our love for God as we follow the Lord, Jesus Christ ([Jn 15:9-30](#)).

“the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross”

What did He see that you must also see in faith?

The will of God!

*What did He see that you must also see in Faith? What is your reality?*

**THEREFORE STRENGTHEN/MAKE YOUR \_\_\_\_\_ AND SEE TO IT YOU DO NOT \_\_\_\_\_ ([Heb 12:1-29](#))**

Strengthen your feeble arms and weak knees.

Make level paths for your feet.

Make every effort to live in peace with all men and to be holy.

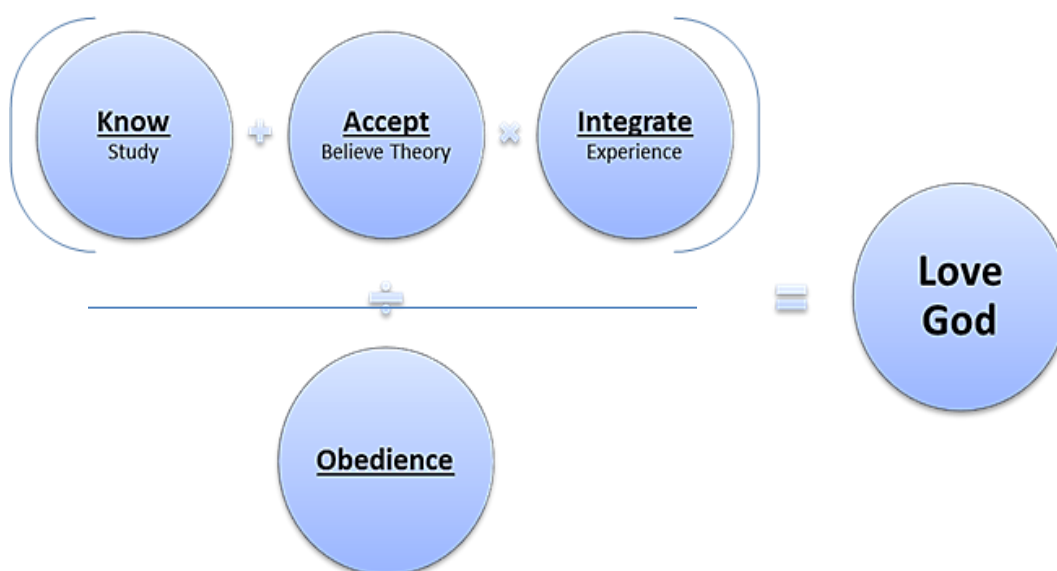
See to it that no one misses the grace of God.

See to it that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many.

See to it that no one is sexually immoral, or is godless like Esau.

See to it that you do not refuse him who speaks.

Let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe, for our "God is a consuming fire."



**Figure 2 - Building Love For God Formula**

## ***Faith Building Cycle—Renewing Commitment***

### **APPLICATION TO EVERYDAY LIVING**

Everyone has heard about your obedience, so I am full of joy over you; but I want you to be wise about what is good, and innocent about what is evil.

**The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet.**

The grace of our Lord Jesus be with you. [Rom 16:19-20](#)

The formula for seeing and knowing God (Fig 3) is similar to the formula for increasing love for God—it requires time! Mankind is very impatient, wanting much without effort or time. How long did Abraham wait for a son? Look at the time factor in the life of Moses, who wanted as the son of Pharaoh to set his people free. How long did he spend herding sheep before God sent him back to lead the people to the Promised Land? How long did the Israelites wander in the wilderness because the majority did not trust God could do what He promised?

*How are you different from these witnesses to God's power? How long should you wait?*

$$\frac{\left( \begin{array}{c} \text{Know + Accept x Integrate} \\ \text{Obedience} \end{array} \right)}{\text{TIME}} = \text{SEE \& KNOW GOD}$$

**Figure 3 - Seeing and Knowing God Formula**

### **DAILY RENEWAL PRAYER FORMAT FOR AN ANOINTED PRIEST/KING:<sup>2</sup>**

Father, everything that exists does so because Your Word sustains it. Your Word became flesh and spoke to us and continues now and forever to speak of Your Love.

Give me Wisdom to know what, how and why --the purpose for my living ([Ja 1:2-12](#)).

Help my unbelief ([Mk 9:17-29](#)).

Search me, cleanse me, teach me--write on my heart and put in my mind everything You want ([Ps 139:23 24](#); [Ps 51:7 12](#); [Ezek 36:22 27](#); [Heb 8:6 13](#); [Jer 31:31 34](#)).

Give me twice as much of Your Holy Spirit as I had yesterday ([Jn 14:23-31](#); [16:12-16](#); [17:20-26](#); [Lk 11:5-13](#)).

Make me productive according to Your will that I might bring Glory to You ([Jn 15:1-17](#)).

Amen

## *Faith Building Cycle—Renewing Commitment*

### ENDNOTES

---

<sup>1</sup> . Preface to JONI by Joni Eareckson with Joe Musser (Zondervan Publishing House, Grand Rapids, MI 1976): Isolated, by itself, what is a minute? Merely a measurement of time. There are 60 in an hour, 1,440 in a day. At seventeen, I had already ticked off more than 9,000,000 of them in my life.

Yet, in some cosmic plan, this single minute was isolated. Into these particular sixty seconds was compressed *more significance than all the millions of minutes marking my life prior to his instant*.

So many actions, sensations, thoughts, and feelings were crowded into that fragment of time. How can I describe them? How can I begin to catalog them?

I recall so clearly the details of those few dozen seconds -- seconds destined to change my life forever. And there was no warning or premonition.

What happened on July 30, 1967, was the beginning of an incredible adventure which I feel compelled to share because of what I have learned.

Oscar Wilde wrote: "In this world there are only two tragedies. One is not getting what one wants, and the other is getting it." To rephrase his thought, I suggest there are likewise only two joys. One is having God answer all your prayers; the other is not receiving the answer to all your prayers. I believe this because I have found that God knows my needs infinitely better than I know them. And He is utterly dependable, no matter which direction our circumstances take us.

<sup>2</sup> **ANOINTED: Exerpt from A GUIDE TO FERVENT PRAYER**, by A.W. Pink edited by Donald R. White (BAKER HOUSE BOOKS, Grand Rapids, MI: 1981) pg. 213, 214.

When Paul states in II Corinthians 1:21 that God "stablisheth us . . . in Christ, and hath *anointed* us," he is implying that God has made us kings and priests; for the word *anointed* is expressive of *dignity*. Kings and priest were anointed when inaugurated in their offices. Therefore when it is said that God has anointed all who are in Christ Jesus, it intimates that He has qualified and authorized them to the discharge of these high offices. In drawing a sharp contrast between true believers and false brethren and false teachers, the Apostle John says, "ut ye have an unction from the Holy One. . . . But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you" (I John 2:20, 27). We have a participation in Christ's anointing (Acts 10:38), receiving the same Spirit wherewith He was anointed (a beautiful type of Christ's anointing is set forth in Ps. 133:2). The blessedness of the elect appears in that they are made both kings and priests by virtue of the Name in which they are presented before God. They who "received abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall *reign* in life by one, Jesus Christ" (Rom. 5:17). Though in all things Christ has the preeminence, being "the King of kings"--for He has been "anointed. . . with the oil of gladness *above* the [His] fellows" (Ps. 45:7)--yet His companions are invested with royalty; and "*as* he is, so are we in this world" (I John 4:17). Oh, for faith to appropriate that fact, and for grace to conduct ourselves accordingly!