

1. Spiritual Immaturity & the Fix

The Problem	The Fix
Babe in Christ	Grow up
Puffed up, proud	Control thoughts
Sin mentality	Faith mentality

2. Contrast of Living in the Light or in Darkness

Light

Has the Word in him
Doesn't sin
Is informed by the Word of God
His source is from God

Darkness

Can't hear the word
Acts on desires of the devil
Speaks on his own
His source is himself

Here are two people in the Bible (3 John) that show the contrast:

Light - Demetrius

The truth is in him and he walks in it
He imitates what is good
He is of God

Darkness- Diotrephes

He loves having preeminence
He does evil
He hasn't seen God

3. In a nutshell:

Three Kinds of Judging:

- (1) Discerning good or bad - necessary
 - (2) Condemning - not our job
 - (3) Disfellowship - not to be taken lightly
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4. Similarities of Eating and Understanding the Bible

I. Recipe - Needs to be mixed, stirred, with no leaven, with a softened heart, and valued.

II. Satisfaction comes from doing the Word.

III. There are different "diets" and food groups. Take enough to maintain and build faith.

Milk - can be digested by babies in Christ or older Christians who are carnal and unskilful in discerning good and evil (for example Luke 6:32-34)

Meat - can be used by Christians that are spiritual and grown-up regarding righteousness (for example Luke 6:27-31)

Milk and meat diets contrasted: 1 Corinthians 3:1-3; Hebrews 5:11-14

Drink - 1 Peter 2:1-3; Ephesians 29a; John 4:14

Bread - John 6:50

Sweetener - Proverbs 24:13-14

IV. The body we are feeding is not ours, is the righteousness of God in us (2 Corinthians 5:21), is the image of God in us (Colossians 3:10), and is part of the body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12:12; Ephesians 4:25b).

V. Hunger and desire for the Word.

Desire to be filled - "There is a God shaped vacuum in the heart of every man which cannot be filled by any created thing, but only by God, the Creator, made known through Jesus."
Blaise Pascal

VI. Palate and soul discriminate suitability and desirability.

5. Forgetting about Ourselves and Concentrating on Him:
 Going from Being Carnal to Being Spiritual

Our outward man as we walk in the Lord:

	At First	As Time Goes By
In our speech	Novice Prating (idle or foolish talk)	Full of faith Purposeful
In our thoughts	Natural wisdom (or foolishness) Fear Vanity	Godly wisdom Confidence Meaning
In our manner	Needy Dependent on man's approval	Able to give Fears God
In our actions	Selfish In love with the Lord, unreliable (James 2:18)	Thoughtful In love with the Lord, faithful

6. The Six Topics in Jesus' Letters to the Seven Churches in Revelation 1-3

A letter is written to the angel (possibly pastor) in each church by city and stating Who it is from.

I. At Ephesus, from Him Who holds stars in right hand and walks in midst of the seven churches (2:1-7):

1. Description	Hardworking, discerning, patient, not fainting
2. Danger	Candlestick being removed
3. Correction	Remember before, repent, and do first works
4. Encouragement	You hate the Nicolaitanes, which I also hate
5. Message	You have left your first love
6. Future	Overcome and you get to eat of the tree of life

II. At Smyrna, from the First and the Last, Who was dead and is alive (2:8-11):

1. Description	Poor (but rich), some are of Satan
4. Encouragement	Don't fear anything to come
5. Message	Some will be cast into prison, have ten days of tribulation, death
6. Future	Overcome and you won't be hurt by second death, will get a crown of life

III. At Pergamos, from Him Who has a sharp, two-edged sword (2:12-17):

1. Description	Faithful, dwell where Satan's seat is
2. Danger	I will come quickly and fight against heretics with the sword of My mouth
3. Correction	Don't have them that are Nicolaitanes or of the doctrine of Balaam in the church (Compare 2:6 above)
6. Future	Overcome and eat hidden manna and get new name on a white stone

IV. At Thyatira, from the Son of God, Who has eyes like a flame of fire and feet like fine brass (2:18-29):

1. Description	Last works of charity, service, faith, and patience are more than the first, but you put up with that false prophetess
2. Danger	Great tribulation to unrepentent
3. Correction	Repent if unfaithful, in depths and doctrine of Satan. I search the reins and hearts and will give you what your works deserve.
5. Message	Unto you and the rest, I will put no other burden on you, but hold fast
6. Future	Power to rule over the nations with rod of iron, have the morning star

V. At Sardis, from Him Who has the fullness of the Spirit and power and seven messengers (3:1-6):

1. Description	Alive but dead
2. Danger	About to die suddenly
3. Correction	Watch, strengthen what's remaining, remember how you received and heard, hold it fast, and repent
4. Encouragement	A few are worthy
6. Future	Overcome and be clothed in white and your name won't be blotted out, but confessed before My Father and His angels

VI. At Philadelphia, from Him that is holy and true and has THE key (3:7-13):

1. Description	Kept word, not denied Name, prevented open door from being shut
4. Encouragement	I will honor you before those who are false brethren and make them know I have loved you
5. Message	I will keep you from the trials coming on the world since you've kept the word of My patience
6. Future	Overcome and be a pillar with name of My God and new Jerusalem written on you

VII. At Laodicea, from the Amen, worthy of absolute trust and confidence, faithful and true, Who began the creation of all things in the beginning (Revelation 3:14-22):

1. Description	Complacent, showing uncritical satisfaction with yourselves, wretched, miserable, poor, blind, naked
2. Danger	Shame of nakedness appearing, being spued out
3. Correction	Be zealous, repent; get faith, righteousness, and enlightenment from Me
4. Encouragement	I'm at the door ready to come in and eat together with you
5. Message	You're wretched and naked, but you think you're rich, increased with goods, and need nothing
6. Future	Overcomers are granted to sit with Me in My throne even as I overcame and am set with My Father in His throne

To all: I know thy works, . . .

To all: He that hath an ear, let him hear . . .

7. The Thread of Conversation in the Book of Job

What started it - Unbeknownst to Job, Satan is the cause of his sudden affliction. Job is consequently thrown into confusion and doesn't understand the reason for his life (Job 3). Eliphaz, Bildad, and Zophar came to him to comfort him, but end up fighting him instead. Presented below is the gist of what was said.

Job says his peace and quietness are gone (3:20,26).

Eliphaz, Bildad, and Zophar - Foolish, not right (Job 42:7,8)	Job - Right, but not seeing (Job 42:2-6,7,8)
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First go-round:

<p>Eliphaz (Job 4 and 5) - I would seek God and commit my cause to Him if I were you. God is teaching you something, correcting you. We have studied this and know more than you.</p>	<p>Job (Job 6 and 7) - You are deceitful and aren't fearing the Almighty. Teach me, but don't treat me like my palate can't discern if I'm saying perverse things. God, I'm sleep deprived and my dreams are terrifying if I do sleep. Why bother with me as a marked man instead of taking my iniquity away?</p>
<p>Bildad (Job 8) - Your children sinned and you're a hypocrite, not of God. Others know more than you. Get right with God.</p>	<p>Job (Job 9 and 10) - Why should I try? God would still be against me no matter what. If He cares about justice, where is He? If I'm righteous, why am I so afflicted? With a mediator I could talk to God, Who is not a man.</p>
<p>Zophar (Job 11) - You lie and are mocking. God needs to show you that your doctrine and claim of innocence are wrong. Everything goes well with you if you put away iniquity and wickedness or badly if you don't.</p>	<p>Job (Job 12, 13, and 14) - Everybody knows what you say. The ear tries words like the mouth tastes meat. You're forging lies and are worthless helpers. You're nothing; be quiet. I will trust Him and be raised from the dead.</p>

Second go-round:

<p>Eliphaz (Job 15) - We are wise and gentle, giving you comfort, and you're evidently in the wrong by how you're responding. Why have you turned against God?</p>	<p>Job (Job 16 and 17) - You're not wise, you're mocking me, and you're miserable comforters. What makes you keep talking, and such nonsense?</p>
<p>Bildad (Job 18) - We're talking nonsense!? We can't get through to you because you won't understand. Isn't your skin diseased and aren't your kids dead? You're wicked, and you don't know God.</p>	<p>Job (Job 19) - How long are you going to beat me over the head with your words? All this bad stuff has happened to me. I need your pity. But no matter what happens to me, I'm going to see God. Watch out for yourselves.</p>
<p>Zophar (Job 20) - You mustn't have heard me. Don't you know that the portion of a wicked man is that his riches go away because of his maltreatment of the poor and hypocrisy?</p>	<p>Job (Job 21) - I know you think I'm wicked, but good things happen to the wicked. You're lying to say that if we are prospering we are serving God. [Knocks out Zophar's argument]</p>

Third go-round:

Eliphaz (Job 22) - Yes, sometimes God fills the house of the wicked with good things - I wouldn't know about that. But that doesn't make him profitable to God, especially you, since you got rich by wickedness. Return to God and you can be rich again and right with God.	Job (Job 23 and 24) - I <u>am</u> right with God. Although what I'm going through is what sinners go through, and I can't see Him, it's not because of darkness in my life. No one can say I'm a liar or make what I say unimportant.
Bildad (Job 25) - You ARE a liar. No man can be clean. [in contradiction to Eliphaz's argument]	Job (Job 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, and 31) - [maybe to Eliphaz] All this wickedness you accuse me of, have you lived in the righteousness I did? I would be wicked to say you're right. God has riches of wisdom that the wicked can't attain to even though rich. I was rich and righteous when the secret of God was with me. I'm afflicted now by God [Job mistakenly thinks] and man. I wish God would not be secret and would be as clear as in a book.

After Zophar gives up trying to silence Job, Eliphaz's conciliation not getting anywhere, and Bildad's intimidation ineffective, the dialog breaks down and they return to their initial silence. Then Elihu speaks even though he's much younger than they.

Elihu's say (Job 32, 33, 34, 35, and 37):

Although God ransoms man out of his chastisement if there is a righteous messenger, your wicked words need to be brought to justice.

Elihu misjudges Job like the other three. Neither Job nor the others respond. Elihu talks of the terrible majesty of God's voice.

God demonstrates Himself to Job by speaking through a whirlwind. (Similarly, in 1993 God publicly demonstrated Psalm 103:3 by instantly healing Duane Miller's diseased vocal cords in the middle of his erroneous application of that verse.)

38:1-40:5 - Be a man, strengthen yourself, because I'm going to talk to you (38:3) [and then He talks about Who He is].

40:6-42:8 - Be a man, strengthen yourself, because I'm going to talk to you some more (40:7) [and then He talks more about Who He is]. I accept you (42:9). You spoke right (42:7,8)

What Job didn't see but sees now (40:3-5; 42:1-6): I see who I am (40:4). I see Who You are (42:2,3). Through having patience to see the end the Lord had (James 5:11), he saw greater riches and had a better reputation than before (42:12).

God says to Eliphaz (42:7-9): You and your two friends make me mad. Offer sacrifices, have Job pray for you, and I won't deal with you after your folly. They didn't know how to draw nigh to God like Job did (Hebrews 7:19)

Our advantage over Job as New Testament Christians:

1 Peter 1:10 - Job was a prophet of the grace we have now.

Luke 22:53 - Satan's hour and power of darkness is seen in Job and at crucifixion.

1 John 2:8 - The darkness is past.

Ephesians 5:14 - Awake . . . arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light.

1 John 3:8 - The Son of God was manifested to destroy the devil's works.

Miscellaneous

Unlike the Song Of Solomon, who says what in the book of Job is clearly labeled. Like the S. of S., the speaker is not readily apparent from a verse(s) isolated from the text. Properly read, the Word of God is profitable even if we don't know who is speaking.

People are set free according to the working of God's power because issues of the heart are addressed. (Eph. 3:20; Pro. 4:23; Josh. 1:9)

Nicknames: Eliphaz - Mr. Smooth? (that is to say, until ch. 22), Bildad - Meanie?, Zophar - Know-It-All?

Job had the blessings and protection of God, but no covenant. God would have had to say "No" to Job's test had there been one (Salmo 89:34). Walls are representative of covenant (Micah 7:11). New Testament believers have a covenant that allows oneness with God, shuts out the enemy, and binds us together.

Job knew He had a Redeemer, evidence contrary. Likewise, we know we have a Healer and Savior, no matter what. Interpreters often fail to realize Job was living under a lie of Satan that would be put off (James 5:11). Don't forget the end!

8. Thoughts and Deeds of Interpersonal Differences (2 Tim. 2:15)

Category 1 - With Christians we differ with on the externals of the faith.

Category 2 - With Christians we differ with in the faith.

Category 3 - With people we differ with who are not believers.

(Available in a separate document)

http://www.nf5d.com/rightly_dividing.pdf

9. Receiving What God Says

What God says:

IS NOT received / does not bear fruit if a person:	IS received if a person:
1. won't listen	1. has a servant attitude
2. is not mature enough	2. is well-exercised in discernment
3. is a fool	3. is circumspect
4. is hardened, unbelieving, or deceived	4. has an honest and good heart
5. has no depth	5. is wise and understanding
6. is hindered by cares, riches, pleasures	6. is patient

Outline of the Bible

- I. A Covenant is made with the Israelites
- II. Israel is ruled by judges
- III. Israel is ruled by David (I Samuel, 1 Chronicles)
- IV. Israel is ruled by Solomon (1 Kings 1 - 11, 2 Chronicles 1 - 9)
- V. Israel is divided into Israel (northern tribes) and Judah
 - Israel - 1 Kings 12 - 2 Kings 17
 - Judah - 1 Kings 12 - 2 Kings 25; 2 Chronicles 10 - 36
- VI. Warnings to Israel about their breaking the Covenant
- VII. Result: Israel is taken into Assyrian captivity
- VIII. Warnings to Judah about their breaking the Covenant
- IX. Result: Judah is taken into Babylonian captivity
- X. Persian dominance
- XI. Return from captivity
- XII. Jesus fulfills the Covenant and makes a new one
- XIII. A New Covenant is made with whosoever will
- XIV. The Holy Spirit is given
- XV. The Gospel is preached to the Gentiles
- XVI. Missionary journeys