

# *The Faith of Jesus*

The Pioneer and Perfecter of Faith

Fred Bischoff

# *Guidelines for Bible Study*

1. Holy Spirit: ask for, listen to
2. Jesus: center of all Scripture
3. Themes: look for
4. Definitions: look up
5. Connections: discover, explore
6. Applications: see, live, share
7. Thankfulness: express

# *Key Text*

Heb. 12:2 Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of *our* faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

# *Preview of Studies*

1. "endured the cross" = gospel
2. "looking unto Jesus" = seeing
3. "for the joy set before" = future
4. "finisher of faith" = end-time
5. "endured the cross" = endurance

# *The Faith of Jesus*

## 1. A "New" Paradigm of the Gospel

# *Purpose of Study #1*

What does faith have to do with Jesus' experience?

I believe Heb. 12:2 is stating it when it say He "endured the cross"--

But how does the cross reveal this faith which He pioneers and perfects?

The "faith of Jesus" is the paradigm (a "new" one) of the Gospel.



# *James Edson White*

- Born July 28, 1849
- Older of two sons of James and Ellen White who survived to adulthood
- Difficulty in business
- Unconverted: "I am not at all religiously inclined"
- June 1893 appeal: re-converted
- Ministry to blacks in American South
- Challenge relating to church leaders

# *Counsel to Edson*

Regarding two church leaders--

"If possible, we want to save these men, who know so little of the Spirit of God. In order to do this, while you should not depend on them as gods, be kind and courteous, treat them as respectfully as though they had been your best friends." {1888 1463.1}



# *The Core Element*

"as though they had been your best friends"

We will see this treating others "as though they had been" is the key to understanding Christ's ministry, the faith of Jesus, indeed, righteousness by faith.

# *What the FOJ is Not*

1. The faith of Jesus is not putting man where God should be. John 2:23-25
- “Many believed in his name, when they saw the miracles which he did. But Jesus did not commit himself unto them, because he knew all *men*, and needed not that any should testify of man: for he knew what was in man.”
- vs. 24 "commit" = verb form of "faith"; understand primary commitment

# *What the FOJ is Not*

"In His mercy and faithfulness God often permits those in whom we place confidence to fail us, in order that we may learn the folly of trusting in man and making flesh our arm. Let us trust fully, humbly, unselfishly in God." {MH 486.7}

# *What the FOJ is Not*

2. The faith of Jesus is not any form of self-dependence. Luke 18:9; John 5:30  
"He spake this parable unto certain which trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others."  
"I can of mine own self do nothing."  
The verb "can" = "have power"



# *What the FOJ is Not*

3. The faith of Jesus is not  
foreknowledge. John 6:70

"Jesus answered them, Have not I chosen  
you twelve, and one of you is a devil?"

Compare John 13:5, 26; Matt. 26:50



# *What the FOJ is Not*

4. The faith of Jesus is not play-acting, make-believing, or fiction. Matt. 23:13

"But woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye shut up the kingdom of heaven against men: for ye neither go in *yourselves*, neither suffer ye them that are entering to go in."

The word "hypocrite" = "actor" versus creative power; see Rom. 4:17

# *What is the FOJ?*

Springs from His identity:

1. Son of God (Luke 1:32, 35; John 9:35)

First of all, the faith of Jesus is the faith of the Son of God, the faith of God.

Axe to root of sin from Eden: "God has no faith in you, because He is not like that. He is keeping something from you."

# *What is the FOJ?*

Springs from His identity:

2. Son of Man (Matt. 8:20)

Secondarily, the faith of Jesus is the faith of the Son of man, the faith of man, particularly in His role as the last Adam, as Paul describes Him in 1 Cor. 15.

Axe to root of sin from Eden: "We cannot have faith in Him; He did not mean what He said; we have to look out for ourselves."

# *The Faith of Jesus*

I would submit that "the faith of Jesus" is a phrase that both Paul and John used to describe the gospel of salvation from sin, the good news of recovery from Adam's buying the lie.



## *Rom. 3:19-31*

- (vs. 21, 22) the righteousness of God ... is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets ... by faith of Jesus Christ
- (vs. 25) set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness
- (vs. 26) the justifier of him who is of the faith of Jesus Christ



# *Righteousness*

Eph. 6:14 breastplate of righteousness

1 Thes. 5:8 breastplate of faith and love

Righteousness = faith and love

Metaphor = gold

## *Rom. 4:3, 9*

Righteousness is by faith, because God counts faith as righteousness.

Let us state this clearly: in God's economy, faith is righteousness. Faith working by love is the dynamic of how God Himself functions.

## *Gal. 2:16*

"a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law"

# *Righteousness / Justified -*

We have believed in Jesus Christ ← Goal

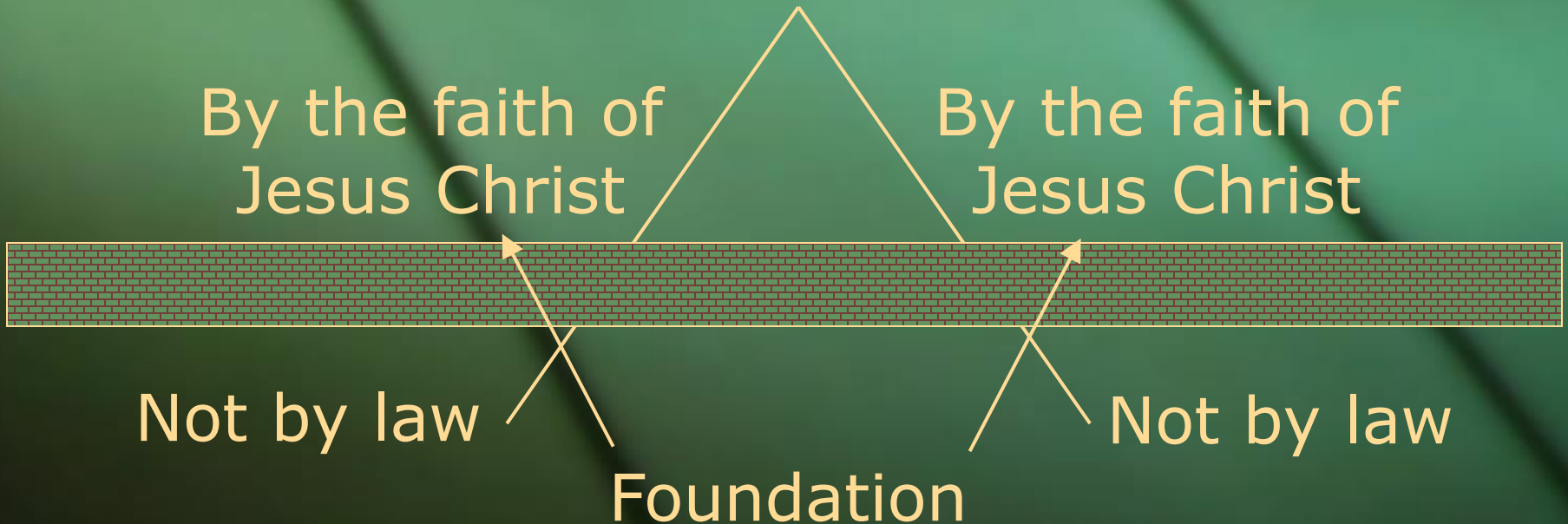
By the faith of  
Jesus Christ

By the faith of  
Jesus Christ

Not by law

Not by law

Foundation



## *Gal. 2:20*

"Live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave Himself for me."

Cross = declaration of God's righteousness through the faith of Jesus; poured out life of God in Jesus Christ; what an act of faith!



# *1 Cor. 1:17-25*

17 preach the gospel ... the cross of Christ

18 the power of God

23 preach Christ crucified

24 Christ the power of God

Preach the gospel = the cross of Christ,  
Christ crucified, the power of God

# *1 Cor. 15:1-11*

1 declare unto you the gospel which I  
preached ... ye have received ...  
wherein ye stand

3 Christ died

4 buried ... rose again

11 so we preach, and so ye believed

# *The Gospel*

This gospel is the everlasting gospel. It is the outpouring of the heart of God in behalf of lost sinners, in the gift of His Son--His birth and His life, which led to His death, and the confirmation of the gift in the resurrection.

# *Acts 17:31*

"He hath given assurance unto all, in that  
He hath raised Him from the dead."

The word "assurance" = faith

## *Rom. 4:25*

25 Who was delivered for [on account of] our offences, and was raised again for [on account of] our justification.



# *The Gospel*

This was the greatest revelation of righteousness, of faith and love the universe will ever see. This alone has power to overcome. That is why we are told that the blood of Christ cleanses from sin.

## *Gal. 5:6*

"The only thing that avails [has power to overcome] any thing ... faith which worketh by love"

# *The Gospel*

So when we read of the faith of Jesus in the context of sin, we can be assured it is speaking of the gospel, the good news of our salvation, of how God has saved us, of how He has overcome (availed).

# *1 John 3:16*

"Hereby perceive we the love: because  
He laid down His life for us."

## *1 Tim. 1:14*

"the grace of our Lord was exceeding abundant with faith and love which is in Christ Jesus."



## *2 Tim. 1:13*

"Hold fast the form of sound words, which thou hast heard of me, in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus."

# *1 John 5:4*

"This is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith."

# *1 John 4:19*

"We love Him, because He first loved us."

# *The Law of Love*



*We love, because He first loved us.*

# *1 John 4:8*

"He that loveth not knoweth not God; for  
God is love."



# *The Law of Love*



*He that loveth not, knoweth not God; for God is love.*

# *Rom. 1:16, 17*

"The gospel is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth....

"For therein [in the gospel] is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith."

# *Mark 1:15*

"Believe the gospel."

# *Our Faith*

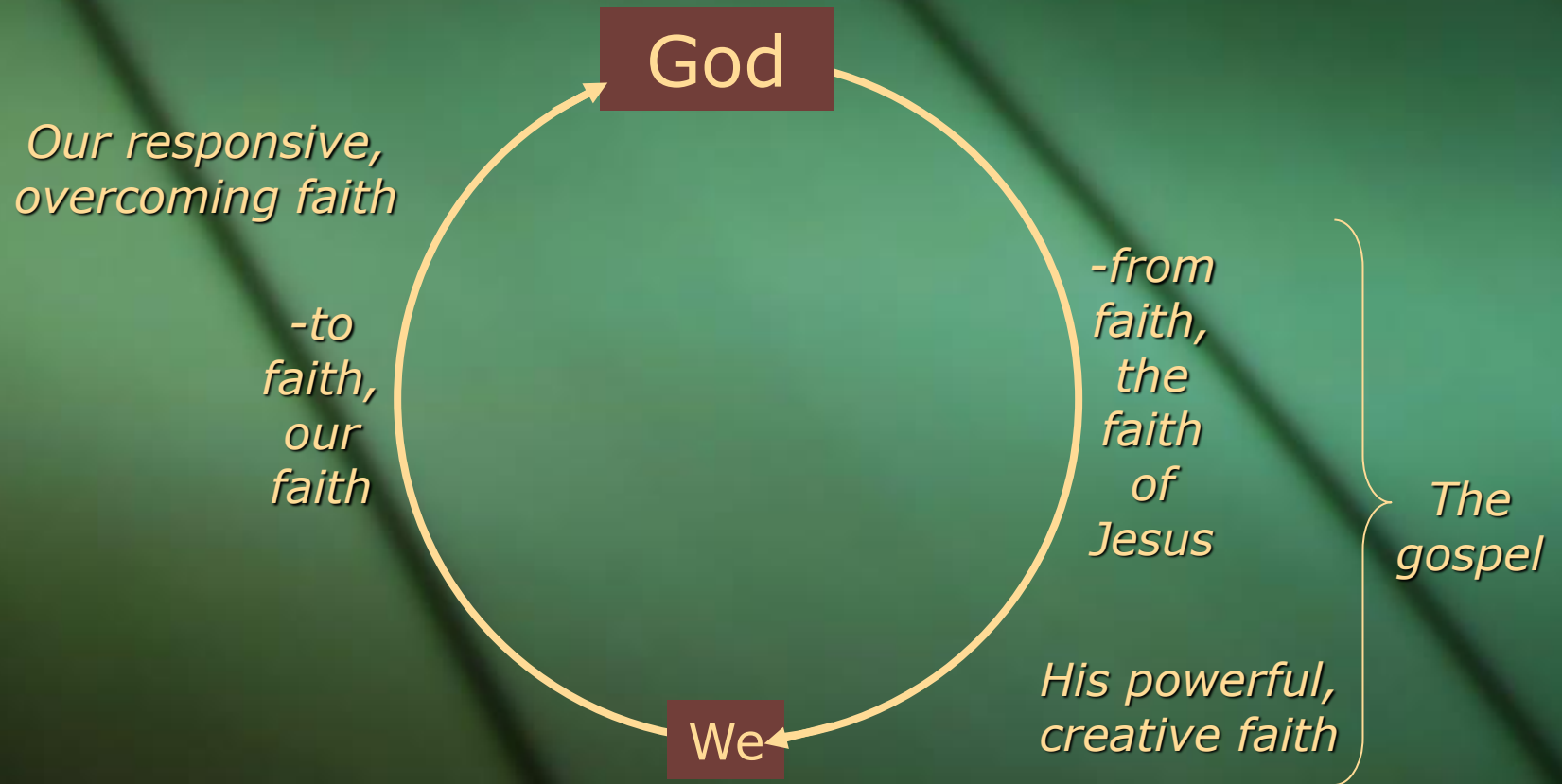
Since the faith that avails [overcomes] works by love, we can see from 1 John 4:19 that our love is but a response to His love. So from what we have seen in our study, I am convinced that our faith, the faith that is the victory over the world, is but a response to His faith--"from faith to faith."

# *From Faith to Faith*

His powerful, creative faith leads in His plan to our responsive, overcoming faith.



# *The Law of Faith*



*The righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith.*

# *1 John 5:10-13*

"He that believeth not God hath made him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of his Son.

"And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.

"He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life."

# *The Law of Faith*



# *The Law of Faith*



# *Amazing Statement*

"Each word, each action, is a work for God. Here is faith in God, and faith in men. Christ would never have given His life for the human race if He had not faith in the souls for whom He died. He knew that a large number would respond to the love He had expressed for humanity.



# *Amazing Statement*

"It is not every heart that responds, but every heart may, and can if it will, respond to that love that is without parallel. 'My sheep hear my voice,' Christ said. A heart yearning for God will recognize the voice of God. God cannot respond to one soul that does not respond to His grace offered, His love bestowed. He is waiting for a response from souls. . . . " (*LHU* 221)

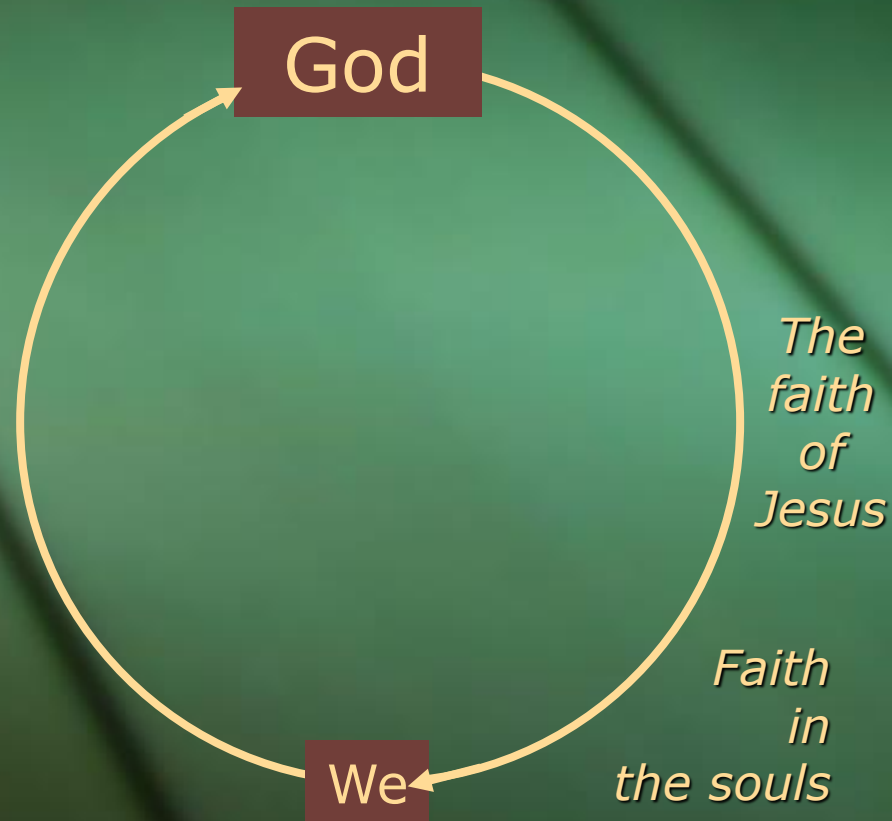


# *The Law of Faith and Love*



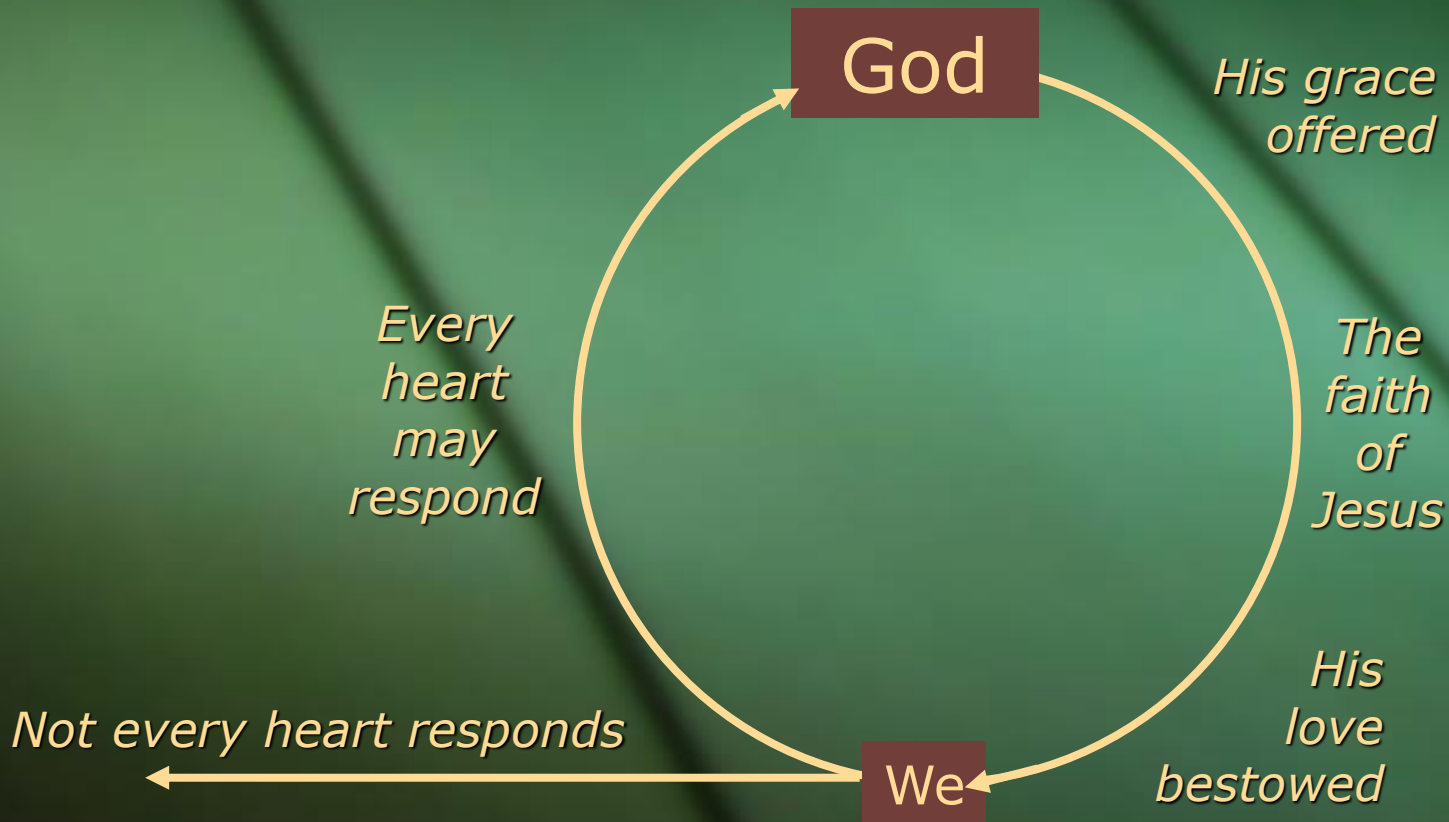
*Here is faith in God, and faith in men.*

# *The Law of Faith and Love*



*Christ had faith in the souls for whom He died.*

# *The Law of Faith and Love*



*Not every heart responds; every heart may respond.*

# *Question*

How fundamental is the theme we are exploring?

I believe the following statement further places the dynamic of faith and love in the context of life itself.

# *The Law of Life*

*"Looking unto Jesus we see that it is the glory of our God to give. 'I do nothing of Myself,' said Christ; 'the living Father hath sent Me, and I live by the Father.' 'I seek not Mine own glory,' but the glory of Him that sent Me. John 8:28; 6:57; 8:50; 7:18. In these words is set forth the great principle which is the law of life for the universe." {DA 21.2}*



# *The Law of Life*

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# *The Law of Life*



*All things Christ received from God, but He took to give.*

# *The Law of Life*



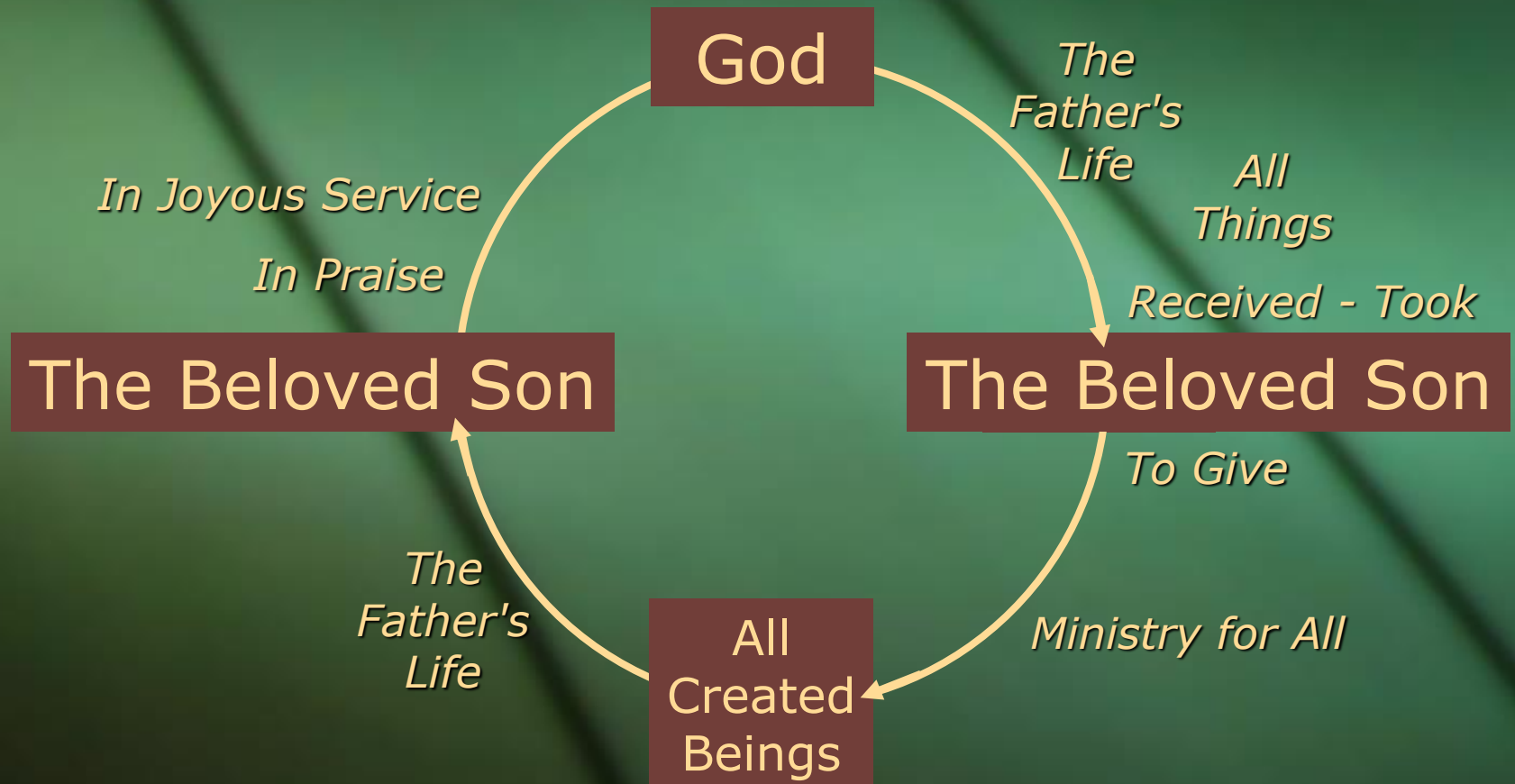
*So in the heavenly courts, in His ministry for all created beings:*

# *The Law of Life*



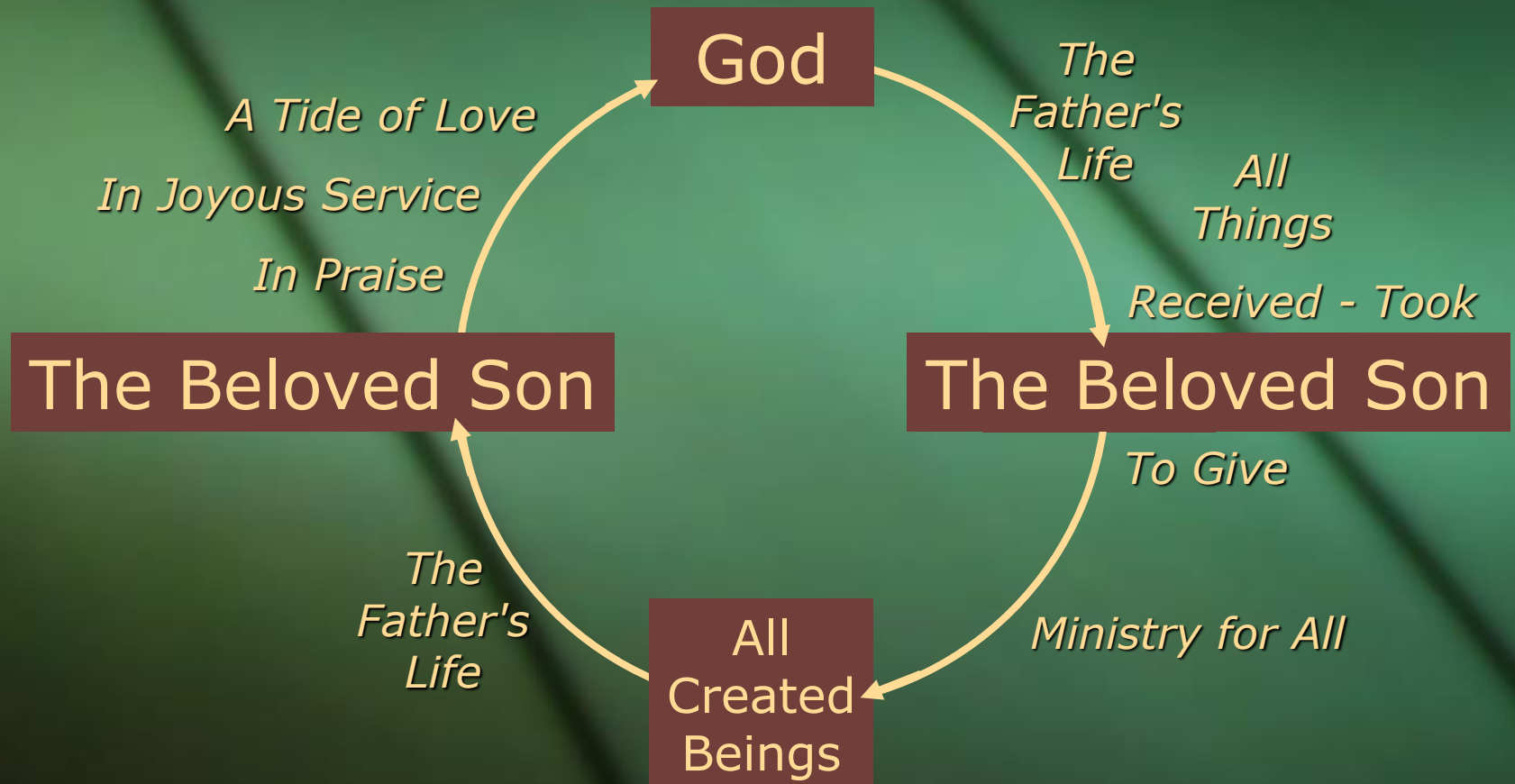
*through the beloved Son, the Father's life flows out to all;*

# *The Law of Life*



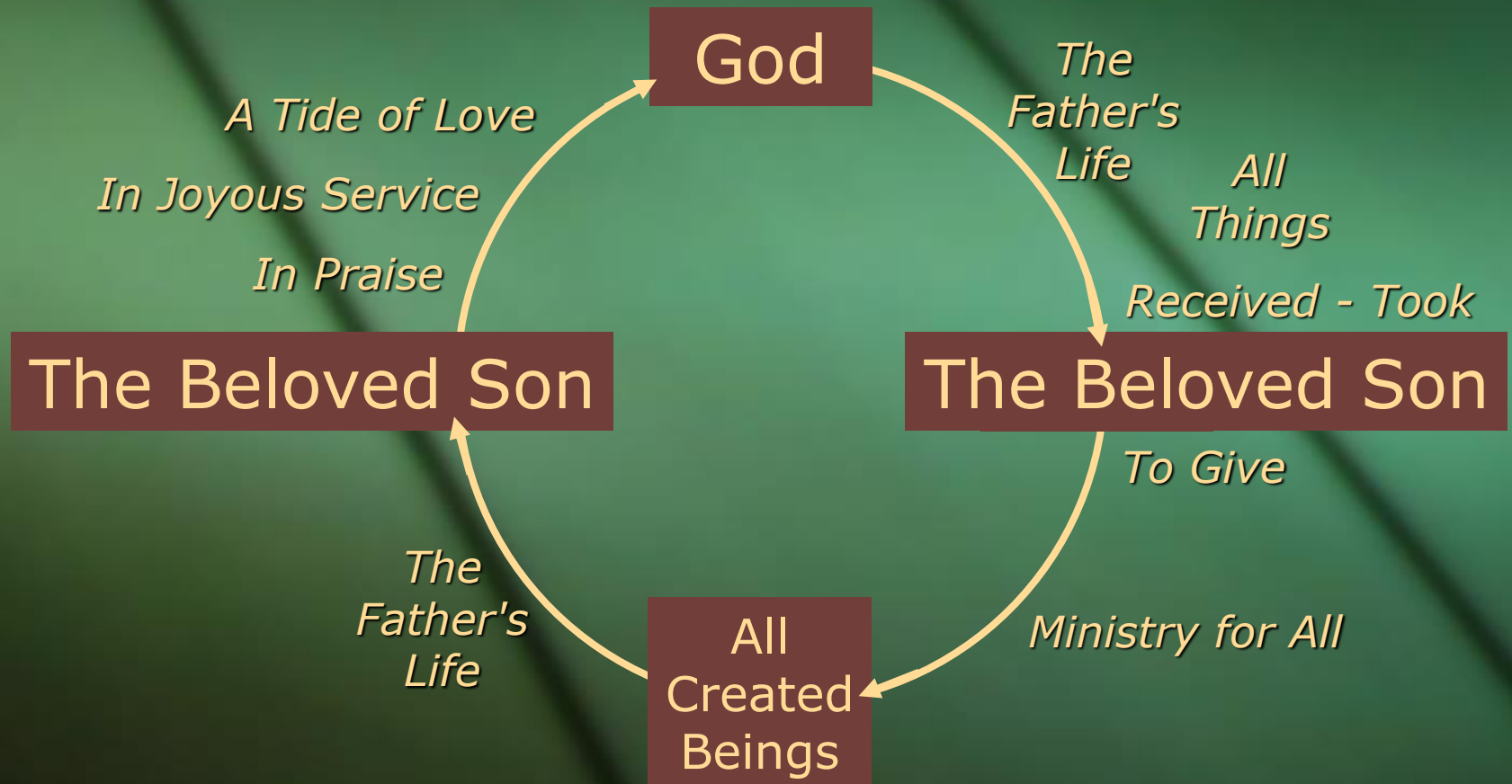
*through the Son it returns, in praise and joyous service,*

# *The Law of Life*



*a tide of love, to the great Source of all.*

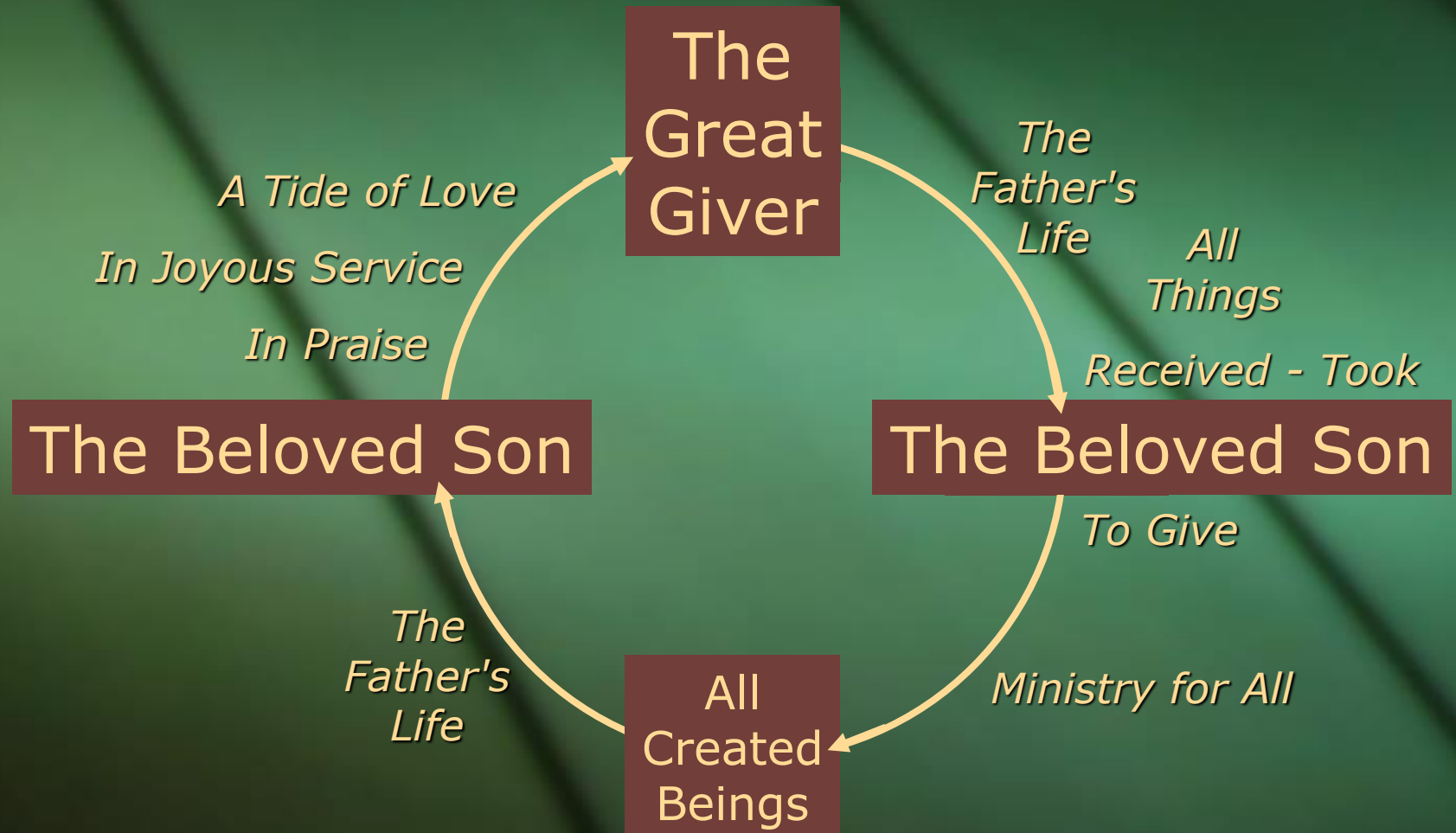
# *The Law of Life*



*And thus through Christ the circuit of beneficence is complete,*



# *The Law of Life*



*representing the character of the great Giver, the law of life.*

# *Appeal*

Do you desire to see better the faith of Jesus?

Do you want to tell God that you are committed to living your life based on that principle Christ bestowed on all in the gift of Himself?

Do you choose to return through Christ the tide of love God has bestowed in Jesus' faith and love?

