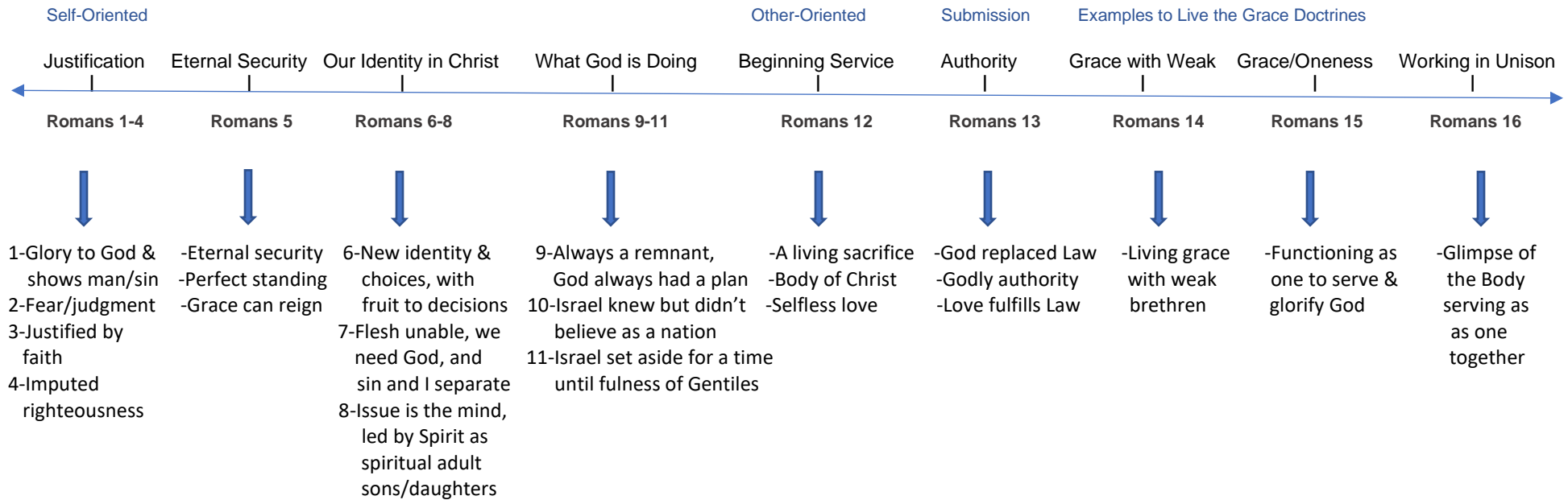


Romans Progressive Faith Journey

(Can Use to Evaluate Self or as a Teaching Aid)

By Deborah Johnson April 2018



Find key, reflective verses in each chapter of Romans, then pose a question to assess where you are functioning spiritually. Examples to consider:
Chapter 1:32: Are you rebellious toward God the Creator or walking by faith? **Chapter 2:6,29:** Do you feel confident in your own works, or do you know there's a perfect judgment where you fall short? **Chapter 3:28:** Are you trusting Christ's blood alone to be justified? **Chapter 4:24:** Do you have imputed righteousness? **Chapter 5:1,21:** Are you secure in your standing before God and realize grace can reign in your life? **Chapter 6:22:** Are you confident you are free from sin and can bring forth fruit unto holiness? **Chapter 7:24:** Do you know who can deliver you from your 'body of death?' **Chapter 8:31-39:** Are you confident in God as your Provider? **Chapter 9:32:** Do you trust that God has a perfect plan with mankind? **Chapter 10:17,21:** Has God provided perfectly for Israel? Who fell short? **Chapter 11:33-36:** Do you realize the time is short. How this ought to affect you? **Chapter 12:21:** Are you serving, soberly? Are you overcome, or an overcomer, ministering to others? **Chapter 13:14:** Do you put on Christ or provide for the flesh? **Chapter 14:23:** Are you living what you believe or under the law? **Chapter 15:30:** Do you function as one with Christ/local assembly or are you coasting? **Chapter 16:25,26:** Are you now stabilized in foundational doctrine and realize God's way to edify?

*A Progressive Faith Journey Through Paul's Epistles

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*Paul's epistles contain three units, which are building blocks of doctrine to edify saints. Organizational breakdown:

Foundational Doctrine

(Romans thru Galatians)

(I & II Corinthians and Galatians show application of Roman's foundational Truths.)

Advanced Doctrine

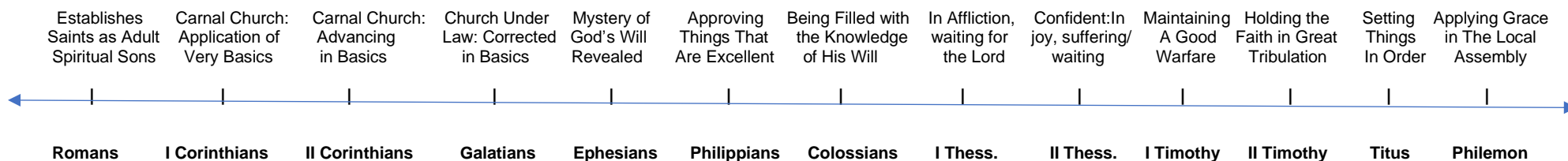
(Ephesians thru Thessalonians)

(Philippians through Thessalonians enable you to learn and observe the specific ways that the progressive Truths of Ephesians are worked out.)

Leadership in the Church

(Timothy thru Philemon)

(These epistles are the final advancement in perfecting the Church, fine-tuning attitudes in the local assembly, while nurturing mature saints, especially in leadership positions.)



*This progressive journey of faith through Paul's epistles is our edification, referred to in Ephesians 4. The goal is *"For the perfecting of the saints for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ."* (Vs. 12) Verse 13 continues: *"Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ."*

Thus, the reason we need to spend time in the Word is to grow up, is to attain this personal edification. This education has great personal benefit: *"That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine...But speaking the Truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ."* (Vs 14) We each are given grace as we 'renew the spirit of our mind' (Vs. 21-23) with sound doctrine of the Word: *"But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ."* (Vs. 7)

Our maturity also impacts the whole Body of Christ: *"From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love."* (Vs. 16) As we walk by what we have attained unto (Phil 3:16), we are enabled to put on Christ (the measure of doctrine we have attained) to live unto Him. (Vs 24)

To do: Study the terms/phrases: rule, measure, according to the grace given, and the proportion of faith. Other verses to consider: Romans 12:3-6, II Cor. 10:13-15.