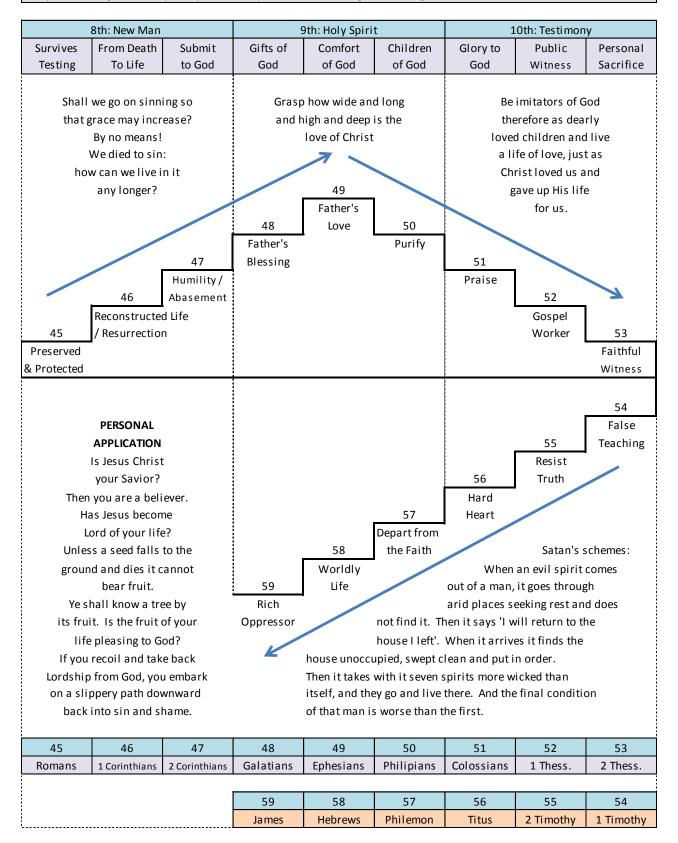
NUMBERS:

45 to 53 and 54 to 57

THEME 5 - WORK OF GRACE IN THE BELIEVER

The Christian grows by dying to self, submitting his will to God, and through grace he becomes like Christ. It is possible to grieve the Spirit, quench the Spirit, become entangled in sin again and useless to God.



NUMBERS: 45 to 53 and 54 to 57

THEME 5 - WORK OF GRACE IN THE BELIEVER

BELIEVER - SURVIVES TESTING

The faith of believers will be tested. Life will present choices, for example to preserve one's virginity for marriage, and the believer will experience a battle between what the flesh wants and what God wants. In Bible times, there was persecution merely for becoming a believer. Whatever the battle or the test, God demonstrates His love and His power by protecting and preserving the believer. When we perservere we show our love for Him (James 1:12).

BELIEVER - RECONSTRUCTED LIFE

All believers come with baggage from their life before knowing God. A huge house cleaning project must get underway to put away sinful lifestyles and start to live in godliness. Although the process is uncomfortable there is a blessing in living to please God not self. The fact believers can make this transition is testimony to the power of God in their lives. A godly life is essential for further spiritual growth in grace, and further blessing. God forbids continuing to live in sin.

BELIEVER - ABASEMENT

Many times in Scripture we see believers sitting in sackcloth and ashes, or prostrating themselves on the ground before God. The ancients perceived that if we hold on to any pride we are not in a condition to receive blessing from God. The believer's heart must ache from the sinful condition of his soul. Jesus said if we hunger and thirst for righteousness then we will be filled. The previous stage was reconstructing our outer life. This stage is cleansing our inner life.

HOLY SPIRIT - BLESSING

Like a maiden in the first home of her wedding vows, the Spirit of God now works to fill our soul with blessings. We receive spiritual gifts, manifestations of the Holy Spirit, such as the word of wisdom, word of knowledge, etc. We are filled with the Holy Spirit, making melody in our heart to the Lord and submitting to one another. We show the fruit of the Spirit in our character and behavior: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness.

HOLY SPIRIT - FATHER'S LOVE

Note the parallel between the peak of Theme 5 (Father's Love) and the peak of Theme 2 (Willing Sacrifice) where God pours out His love on the cross. As we abide in Him, and as we meditate on Christ's sufferings in the celebration of the communion, the Spirit shows us the height, the depth, the breadth of the Father's love for us. We experience anew the acceptance of the prodigal son, whose father runs out to meet him, embraces him, clothes him, and loves him.

HOLY SPIRIT - REVIVAL / PURIFY

The fire of the Lord comes out of the temple and devours the sacrifice! The spirit burns in our hearts and every last vestige of pride and sin is confessed and consumed in the flames. Our hearts are purified by the Spirit of Holiness. Just as the temple objects were cleansed with blood from the sacrifice, we ourselves are consecrated and devoted to the Lord. We now experience the burning passion to serve the Lord. "Here I am Lord, send me!"

TESTIMONY - PRAISE

Empty of self, the believer is controlled by the Spirit, and now shouts "Glory to God"! Old things have passed away and all things have become new. Living in the experience of all these blessings, our natural response is to sing His praises. We make a joyful noise and fill His temple with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs. We join together with thousands of angels in assembly in Heaven pouring forth our thankfulness and worship to our creator and our redeemer.

NUMBERS: 45 to 53 and 54 to 57

THEME 5 - WORK OF GRACE IN THE BELIEVER

TESTIMONY - GOSPEL WORKER

Our joy in the Lord is so great, we overcome fear of man and go forth to tell others of the mercy God has shown us. We have experienced the good news of the gospel in our lives, and on the basis of that testimony have authority to sincerely preach to others the blessings repentance to faith can bring. We become co-laborers with God in bringing salvation to the world. We experience the great joy of seeing new children brought into the kingdom.

TESTIMONY - FAITHFUL WITNESS

At times we suffer rejection for our testimony. Even slight rejection can be painful to the tender heart of a believer. Suffering for the testimony of Jesus is our personal sacrifice which we offer back to God for His sacrifice for us. Some saints are called by God to make the ultimate sacrifice, to die in the process of testifying for God.

SATAN'S SUBTLETY

FALSE TEACHING

God is truth, there is no falsehood in him. The devil is the father of lies. By his subtlety, Satan introduces heresies which destroy the faith of believers, especially new believers or weak believers. If any of these false teachings take hold, they divide our hearts from pure devotion to God. We begin to fall away from fellowship with Him.

RESIST TRUTH

The Spirit pleads with us to remove the unclean thing from our hearts that is a stench to Him. At first, we feel the conviction in our heart, but we resist the Holy Spirit and give in to impure thoughts, unrighteous deeds, or lies of the devil. At some point, we grieve the Holy Spirit: He retreats into the Most Holy Place, and fellowship goes cold.

HARD HEART

A pattern or habit of unrighteousness takes root in our lives. Although we were once enlightened and a have tasted the heavenly gift and have become partakers of the Holy Spirit, our heart becomes hard. We won't listen to sound teaching and instruction. We have ceased to submit to discipline and the chastening of God. We are backsliding.

DEPART THE FAITH ** Note: I am not saying carnal belivers lose their salvation **

Some who have once believed will renounce their faith. This may not be a formal announcement. Some may remain in the body of believers for their own interest, for social status or business ties. These people are blots on our love feasts and walk according to the flesh. The fruit of their lives betrays them. Usually, in time they leave.

WORLDLY LIFE

The proverb comes true, the dog returns to his vomit. The believer that left sinful fleshly ways now re-immerses himself in the pleasures and activities of the world. His focus is on this life and getting the most out of it.

RICH OPPRESSOR

Money is the answer to all things, if you have no faith in God. Before long the worldly ones are dedicated to accumulating wealth. The lust for money slays all in its way. Respect for workers rights and dignity is not a concern. Competition brings out the animal instincts of kill or be killed. The poor are oppressed, the rich become richer.

NUMBERS: 45 to 53

APPENDIX - NUMBER MEANINGS

- PROTECT / PRESERVE (45). GRACE (5) of the SPIRIT (9). [45 = 5 x 9]. Also, PEACE (15) of GOD (3). [45 = 15 x 3]

 "And the PEACE (15) of GOD (3) that passes all understanding will GUARD (45) your hearts and minds" (Phil. 4:7)

 (45)th Genesis: "But God sent me ahead of you to PRESERVE (45) for you a remnant on Earth" (Gen. 45:7)

 (45)th Book: "Everyone who trusts Him will never be put to shame." (Rom 10:11)

 (45)th Isaiah: "everlasting salvation...you will never be put to shame or disgraced, to ages everlasting" (Isa 45:17)
- RECONSTRUCTION / RESURRECTION (46). DIVISION (2) of DEATH (23). [46 = 2 x 23]. We pass from DEATH to LIFE.

 (46)th Gen.: "Now I [Jacob] am ready to DIE, since I have seen for myself that you [Joseph] are still ALIVE" (Gen 46:30)

 (46)th Psalm: "He makes wars to cease to the ends of the Earth..he breaks the bow, and shatters the spear" (Psa 46:9)

 (46)th Book: "Christ DIED for our sins...he was buried...he was RAISED (46) on the third day" (1 Cor 15:3)
- ABASEMENT (47). 15th prime. The GRACE (5) OF GOD (3) reveals our flesh is weak and sinful, destined for destruction.

 (47)th Isaiah: "Your nakedness will be exposed.." (v. 3) and "Disaster will come upon you...suddenly" (v.11)

 (47)th Genesis: "The famine was severe" (v.15) and "the land became Pharoahs...the people reduced to slaves" (v.20-21)

 (47)th Book: "Outwardly we are WASTING AWAY (47), yet inwardly we are being RENEWED day by day" (2 Cor 4:16)
- FATHER'S BLESSING (48). BINDING (3) of the SACRIFICE (16). [48 = 3 x 16]. All who come to God by sacrifice are blessed. (48)th Genesis: "Then he BLESSED (48) Joseph...may the God of Abraham and Isaac...BLESS (48) these boys" (v.15,16) (48)th Psalm: "Within your temple, O God, we meditate on your UNFAILING LOVE" (1,2,9) (48)th Book: "fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control" (Gal 5:22)
- FATHER'S LOVE (49). FULNESS (7) of REST (7). [49 = 7 x 7]. The Spirit reveals how great is the FATHER'S LOVE (49) for us. (49)th Book: "... know how [great] is the LOVE (49) of Christ... FILLED (7) [with] the FULNESS (7) of God." (3:17) (49)th Genesis: "Your FATHER'S BLESSINGS (49) are greater than the ancient mountains...the bounty of the...hills" (v26) (49)th Psalm: "the ransom for a life is costly...God will redeem my soul from the grave...to be with himself" (Psa 49:7,15)
- REVIVAL / PURIFY (50). RECORD (10) of GRACE (5). [50 = 10 x 5]. Spiritual CHILDREN (50) Proof God's Grace works in us. (50)th Genesis: "Joseph ... saw the third generation of Ephraim's CHILDREN (50) ...placed on his knees" (Gen 50:23) (50)th Book: "Do everything without complaining ... BLAMELESS (50) and PURE (50) ... CHILDREN (50) of God." (Phil 2:15) (50)th Isaiah: "I was not rebellious, I did not turn away...I gave my cheeks to those who pull out the beard" (50:5,6)
- PRAISE / GLORY (51). VICTORY (17) of GOD (3). [51 = 17 x 3] We PRAISE (51) his GLORY (51): the VICTORY (17) of GOD (3) (51)st Isaiah: "I will make my justice as a LIGHT to the peoples" (Isa 51:4)

 (51)st Book: "speak...in psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, SINGING (51) with grace in your hearts to the Lord." (Col 3:16) (51)st Psalm: "O Lord, open my lips. And my mouth shall show forth your PRAISE (51)" (Psa 51:15).
- GOSPEL WORKER (52). WITNESS (2) of GOSPEL (26). [52 = 2 x 26]. One who lives the GOSPEL and tells the GOSPEL (26). (52)nd Isaiah: "How beautiful on the mountains are the FEET (2) of him who brings GOOD NEWS (26)" (Isaiah 52:7) (52)nd Book: "Laboring day and night, that we might not be a burden...we PREACHED THE GOSPEL (52)" (1 Thess 3:2) Nehemiah 6:15. The wall was completed in (52) days, GOOD NEWS (26) for believers, bad news for God's enemies
- FAITHFUL WITNESS (53). 16th Prime. PERSONAL SACRIFICE (16) on behalf of God is a powerful WITNESS (53) for Him. (53)rd Isaiah: "He poured his soul unto death" (v.12) "He was cut off from the land of the living" (v.8) (53)rd Psalm: "Have the workers of iniquity no knowledge, who eat up my people as they eat bread." (v.4) The gematria of the Hebrew word for sacrifice ('ZEBACH' h2077) is 53!

NUMBERS: 54 to 59

APPENDIX - NUMBER MEANINGS

- FALSE TEACHING (54). DIVISION (2) of SPIRITUAL TRUTH (27) [54 = 2 x 27] First step to destroying faith. (54)th Book: "...command certain men not to teach FALSE DOCTRINE (54)" (1 Tim 1:3) (54)th Book: "The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things TAUGHT BY DEMONS (54). Such teaching comes through hypocritical liars, whose consciences have been seared with a hot iron." (1 Tim 4:1,2)
- RESISTING TRUTH (55). HIDING (11) from GRACE (5). [55 = 11 x 5] 2nd step is GRIEVING (55) the Holy Spirit (55)th Book: "as Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses...these men OPPOSE THE TRUTH (55)" (2 Tim 3:8)

 "Manasseh...reigned in Jerusalem FIFTY-FIVE (55) years. He did much evil in the eyes of the Lord...He built altars to all the starry hosts in the courtyard of the Temple...PROVOKING THE LORD to anger" (2 Chr 33)

 "Manasseh LED JUDAH ASTRAY...so they did more evil than the nations the Lord destroyed" (2 Chr 33:9)
- HARD HEART (56). DIVISION (2) of CHRIST IN YOU (28). 3rd step is QUENCHING (56) the Holy Spirit (56)th Book: "There are many rebellious people, mere talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision, teaching things they ought not to teach, and that for dishonest gain." (Titus 1:10,11) "their minds and consciences are corrupted" (Titus 1:15) "Have nothing to do with them" (Titus 3:10)
- DEPART FROM FAITH (57). TRUTH (3) of our FAITH (19). [57 = 3 x 19] What we really believe comes out. (57)th Book, Philemon, is a letter from Paul in which he pleads that the RUN AWAY SLAVE (57) return (57)th Chap., God told Moses that Pharaoh would DEPART FROM FAITH, not believe the miracles. (57)th Psalm, David's heart is steadfast, but his soul is turning from God so he prays "Awake my soul!"
- WORLDLINESS (58). OPPOSITE (2) of HOLY LIFE (29). Departing from the godly path, we walk as the world. (58)th Book: "See to it no one is GODLESS, like Esau, who for a single meal sold his inheritance rights" (12:16) (58)th Verse: "The woman spoke to the Serpent..." (Gen. 3:2) ignoring her husband's spiritual authority (58)th Isaiah: "...on the day of your fasting you do as you please" (v.3) "quarrelling and strife..." (v.4)
- RICH OPPRESSOR (59). 17th prime. Worldly VICTORY (17). Every concern in the heart of God is cast aside. (59)th Book: "...don't you know FRIENDSHIP WITH THE WORLD is hatred to God?" (Jas. 4:4) (59)th Book: "...is it not the RICH (59) who are exploiting you?" (Jas. 2:6) (59)th Book: "You have lived in LUXURY (59) and SELF-INDULGENCE (59)" (Jas. 5:5) (59)th Book: "You have CONDEMNED and MURDERED innocent men who were not opposing you" (Jas 5:6) (59)th Isaiah: "The way of peace they do not know; there is NO JUSTICE (59) in their paths" (v.8)