HEALTHY/FUNCTIONAL SPIRITUALITY/THEOLOGY	UNHEALTHY/DYSFUNCTIONAL SPIRITUALITY/THEOLOGY
God of Covenant: …declares each of us uniquely and unconditionally beloved for who we are (made in the Divine Image) and not for our performance …accepts each of us where we are and as we are, warts and all …declares each of us (by God's gift through Jesus Christ and not by our deserving) a citizen of a forgiven universe	God of Contract: …declares the conditions we must first fulfill before we may receive God's blessing and reward …loves, accepts and forgives us in proportion to our performance
God as Initiator: God's Initiative Invites our Response An Inviting God is an Almighty God who chooses to be vulnerable (cf. Parable of the Marriage Feast)	God as Responder to our anxious Initiatives
God as All-in-All, needing nothing and no one, and yet choosing to invite (need) us into a relationship of trust and truth	
God, Omniscient, Transcendent, beyond our knowing, and yet a God who chooses to be revealed as Knowable	
Knowing as Relationship, as Trusting Truth, as Knowing and being Known Faith as betting my life on my relationship with God	Knowledge as Information about… Truth as having all the information so we can claim Certainty
Prayer as initiated by God and inviting our response Prayer as our primary response of "Yes" to God's constant invitation Prayer as Trust; Prayer as Gratitude Prayer as Risking my truth into God's Truth Prayer as Vulnerability, trusting God's prior love, acceptance, and forgiveness and so not needing to conceal any part of my truth. Prayer as Freedom to be fully myself	Prayer as my initiative, defining the God I need , and giving God my agenda Prayer as giving God (diagnostic) information Prayer as Persuasion/Manipulation Prayer as Defense Prayer as a safe place to hide Prayer as Negotiation to restore my credit balance at God's bank Prayer as expressing my Fear of Being

11 So the Lord *said* to him, "Arise and go to the street called Straight, and inquire at the house of Judas for *one* called Saul of Tarsus, for behold, he is praying. 12 And in a vision he has seen a man named Ananias coming in and putting *his* hand on him, so that he might receive his sight."

13 Then Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much harm he has done to Your saints in Jerusalem. 14 And here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call on Your name."

15 But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is a chosen vessel of Mine to bear My name before Gentiles, kings, and the children of Israel. 16 For I will show him how many things he must suffer for My name's sake."

17 And Ananias went his way and entered the house; and laying his hands on him he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you came, has sent me that you may receive your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." 18 Immediately there fell from his eyes *something* like scales, and he received his sight at once; and he arose and was baptized.

19 So when he had received food, he was strengthened. Then Saul spent some days with the disciples at Damascus.

20 Immediately he preached the Christ in the synagogues, that He is the Son of God.

21 Then all who heard were amazed, and said, "Is this not he who destroyed those who called on this name in Jerusalem, and has come here for that purpose, so that he might bring them bound to the chief priests?"

Jesus Christ can make the weakest man into a divine dreadnought, fearing nothing. (SHL)

Reading 181—Devoted to a Person

Acts 9:26

The vision Paul had on the road to Damascus was no passing emotion, but a vision that had very clear and emphatic directions for him, and he says, "I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision." Our Lord said, in effect, to Paul—Your whole life is to be overmastered by Me; you are to have no end, no aim, and no purpose but Mine. *"I have chosen him."*

When we are born again we all have visions, if we are spiritual at all, of what Jesus wants us to be, and the great thing is to learn not to be disobedient to the vision, not to say that it cannot be attained. It is not sufficient to know that God has redeemed the world, and to know that the Holy Spirit can make all that Jesus did effectual in me; I must have the basis of a personal relationship to Him. Paul was not given a message or a doctrine to proclaim, he was brought into a vivid, personal, overmastering relationship to Jesus Christ. Acts 26:16 is immensely commanding—"to make you a minister and a witness." There is nothing there apart from the personal relationship. Paul was devoted to a Person not to a cause. He was absolutely Jesus Christ's, he saw nothing else, he lived for nothing else. "For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified." (MUH)

I CHRONICLES 23:1—25:31

SO when David was old and full of days, he made his son Solomon king over Israel.

2 And he gathered together all the leaders of Israel, with the priests and the Levites. 3 Now the Levites were numbered from the age of thirty years and above; and the number of individual males was thirty-eight thousand. 4 Of these, twenty-four thousand *were* to look after the work of the house of the LORD, six thousand *were* officers and