



GOSPEL INSTITUTE

UNFORCED RHYTHMS OF GRACE

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THE UNFORCED RHYTHMS OF GRACE

Session 1

Until John

“Let me tell you what’s going on here: No one in history surpasses John the Baptizer; but in the kingdom, he prepared you for, the lowliest person is ahead of him. For a long time now, people have tried to force themselves into God’s kingdom. But if you read the books of the Prophets and God’s Law closely, you will see them culminate in John, teaming up with him in preparing the way for the Messiah of the kingdom. Looked at in this way, John is the ‘Elijah’ you’ve all been expecting to arrive and introduce the Messiah.” Matthew 11:11-14

All the laws of the prophets prophesied until John. “Until” is a time word.

A shift from having to take it to be able to receive it through unforced rhythms of grace. Up until John, you had to perform to get it.

The Kingdom is not just where you go when you die, but it is where you went when you got born again.

¹⁵ “Are you listening to me? Really listening? ¹⁶⁻¹⁹ “How can I account for this generation? The people have been like spoiled children whining to their parents, ‘We wanted to skip rope, and you were always too tired; we wanted to talk, but you were always too busy.’ John came fasting and they called him crazy. I came feasting and they called me a lush, a friend of the riffraff. Opinion polls don’t count for much, do they? The proof of the pudding is in the eating.” Matthew 11:15-19

The Real Gospel will give you back your life. The whole point is that Jesus came so that you might have life. John 10:10 says abundant life.

Some Other Way

Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that entereth not by the door into the sheepfold, but climbeth up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber. But he that entereth in by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. To him the porter openeth, and the sheep hear his voice: and he calleth his own sheep by name, and leadeth them out. John 10: 1-3

Jesus is the door into the sheepfold. Jesus is the door into abundant life. The thief of John 10:10 is "some other way."

⁷ Then said Jesus unto them again, Verily, verily, I say unto you, I am the door of the sheep. ⁸ All that ever came before me are thieves and robbers: but the sheep did not hear them. ⁹ I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture. ¹⁰ The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly. John 10:7-10

Some other way that was being offered was the law of the Old Covenant. We thought that was the door, but that was not the door, Jesus is the door.

The Posture of Rest Being the Sabbath

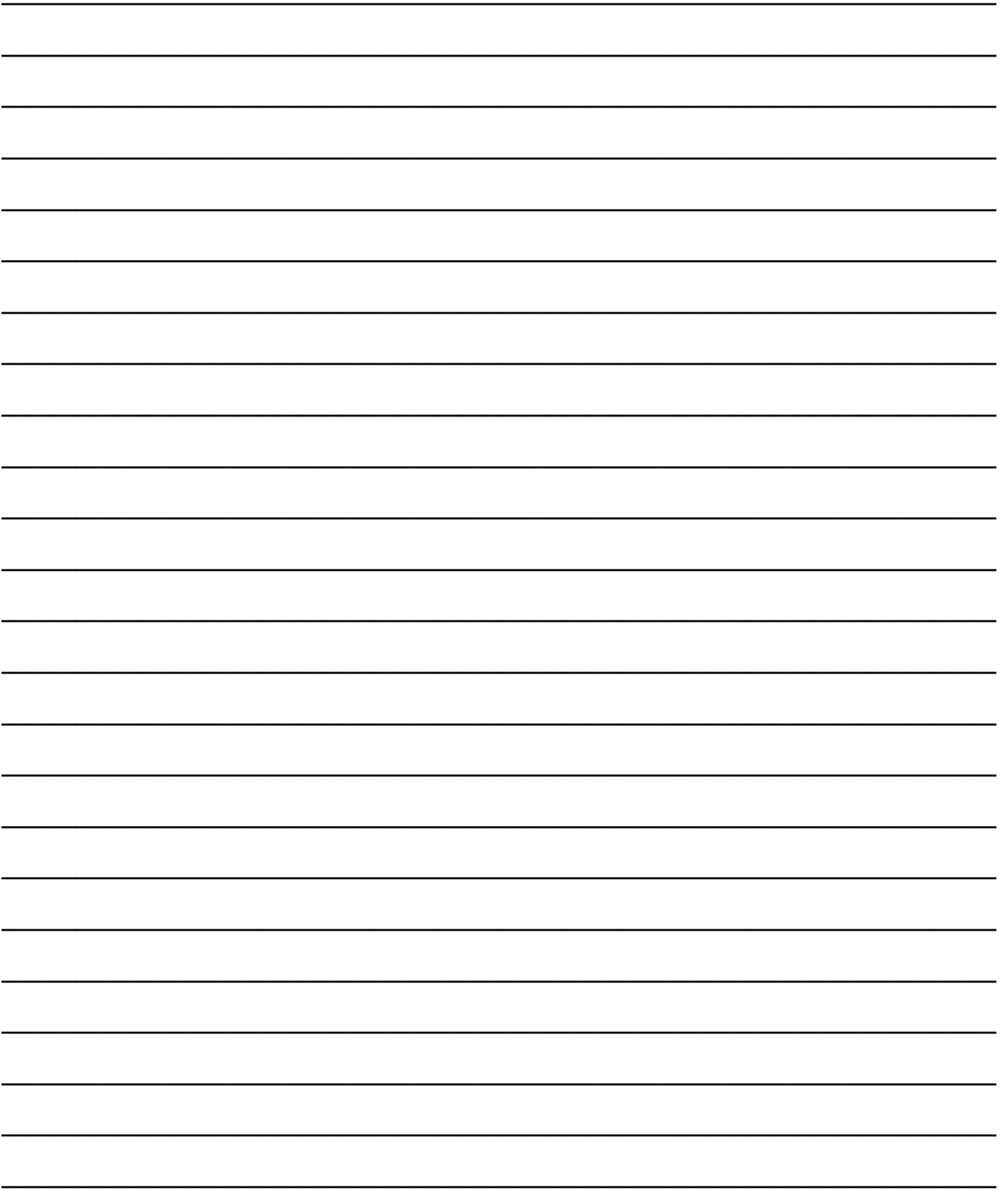
²⁸⁻³⁰ **“Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to me. Get away with me and you’ll recover your life. I’ll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me and work with me— watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won’t lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with me and you’ll learn to live freely and lightly.” Matthew 11:28-30**

¹⁶ **Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of a feast day or a new moon or a sabbath day: ¹⁷ which are a shadow of the things to come; but the body is Christ’s. ¹⁸ Let no man rob you of your prize by a voluntary humility and worshipping of the angels, dwelling in the things which he hath seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind... Colossians 2:16-18 (ASV)**

So don’t put up with anyone pressuring you in details of diet, worship services, or holy days. All those things are mere shadows cast before what was to come; the substance is Christ. Colossians 2:16-17

The Sabbath day is not what day of the week you worship, but it’s a Person. It is the rest in the finished work of Jesus Christ. Jesus does more from the posture of rest than He ever did on any other day.

¹⁷ Speak unto Aaron, saying, Whosoever he be of thy seed in their generations that hath any blemish, let him not approach to offer the bread of his God. ¹⁸ For whatsoever man he be that hath a blemish, he shall not approach: a blind man, or a lame, or he that hath a flat nose, or anything superfluous, ¹⁹ Or a man that is broken-footed, or broken-handed, ²⁰ Or crook-backed, or a dwarf, or that hath a blemish in his eye, or be scurvy, or scabbed, or hath his stones broken; ²¹ No man that hath a blemish of the seed of Aaron the priest shall come nigh to offer the offerings of the LORD made by fire: he hath a blemish; he shall not come nigh to offer the bread of his God. Leviticus 21:17-2



Miracles of Jesus

Jesus heals people who were disqualified. Every miracle that Jesus does is to heal one of the disqualifications. Jesus heals a blind man, he heals a man near the poolside. He heals man with a withered hand.

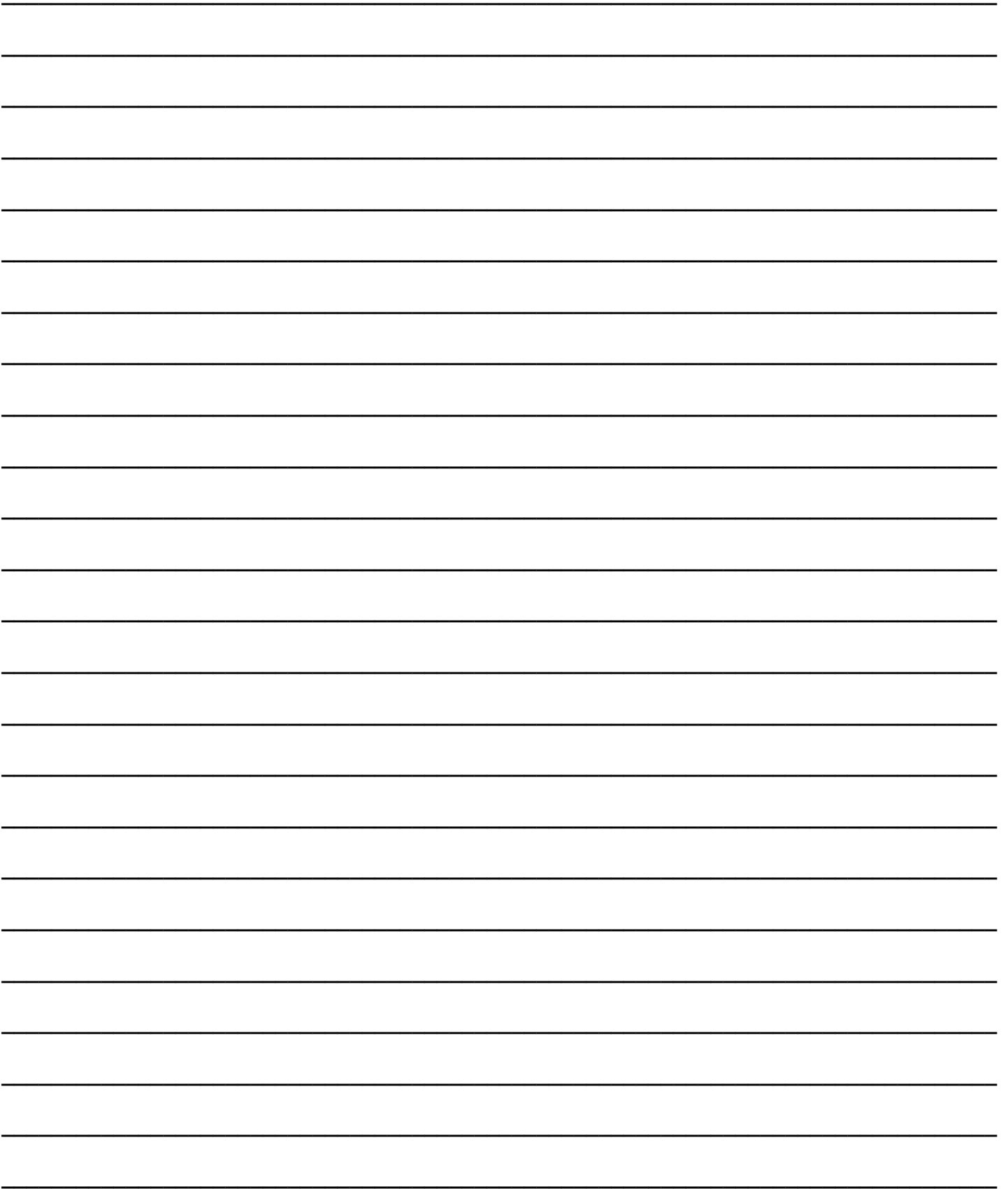
Let us therefore fear, lest a promise being left us of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it. ²For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it. ³For we which have believed do enter into rest, as he said, As I have sworn in my wrath, if they shall enter into my rest: although the works were finished from the foundation of the world. Hebrews 4:1-3

What brings us into rest is faith. When we believe, when we trust, it is the posture of rest. Faith is what accesses the finished work.

⁶Seeing therefore it remaineth that some must enter therein, and they to whom it was first preached entered not in because of unbelief: ⁷Again, he defineth a certain day, saying in David, Today, after so long a time; as it is said, Today if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts. ⁸For if Jesus had given them rest, then would he not afterward have spoken of another day. ⁹There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God. ¹⁰For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God did from his. ¹¹Let us labour, therefore, to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief. Hebrews 4:6-11

²⁸Then said they unto him, What shall we do, that we might work the works of God? ²⁹Jesus answered and said unto them, This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent. John 6:28-29

The only work in the New Covenant is to believe.



THE UNFORCED RHYTHMS OF GRACE

Session 2

The Grace of God that Flows from Rest

¹⁰ And, behold, there was a man which had his hand withered. And they asked him, saying, Is it lawful to heal on the sabbath days? that they might accuse him. Matthew 12:10

Everything that Jesus does is significant. There is a powerful meaning that links every miracle that Jesus performed to the Old Testament.

¹¹ And he said unto them, What man shall there be among you, that shall have one sheep, and if it fall into a pit on the sabbath day, will he not lay hold on it, and lift it out? ¹² How much then is a man better than a sheep? Wherefore it is lawful to do well on the sabbath days.

¹³ Then saith he to the man, Stretch forth thine hand. And he stretched it forth; and it was restored whole, like as the other. Matthew 12:11-13

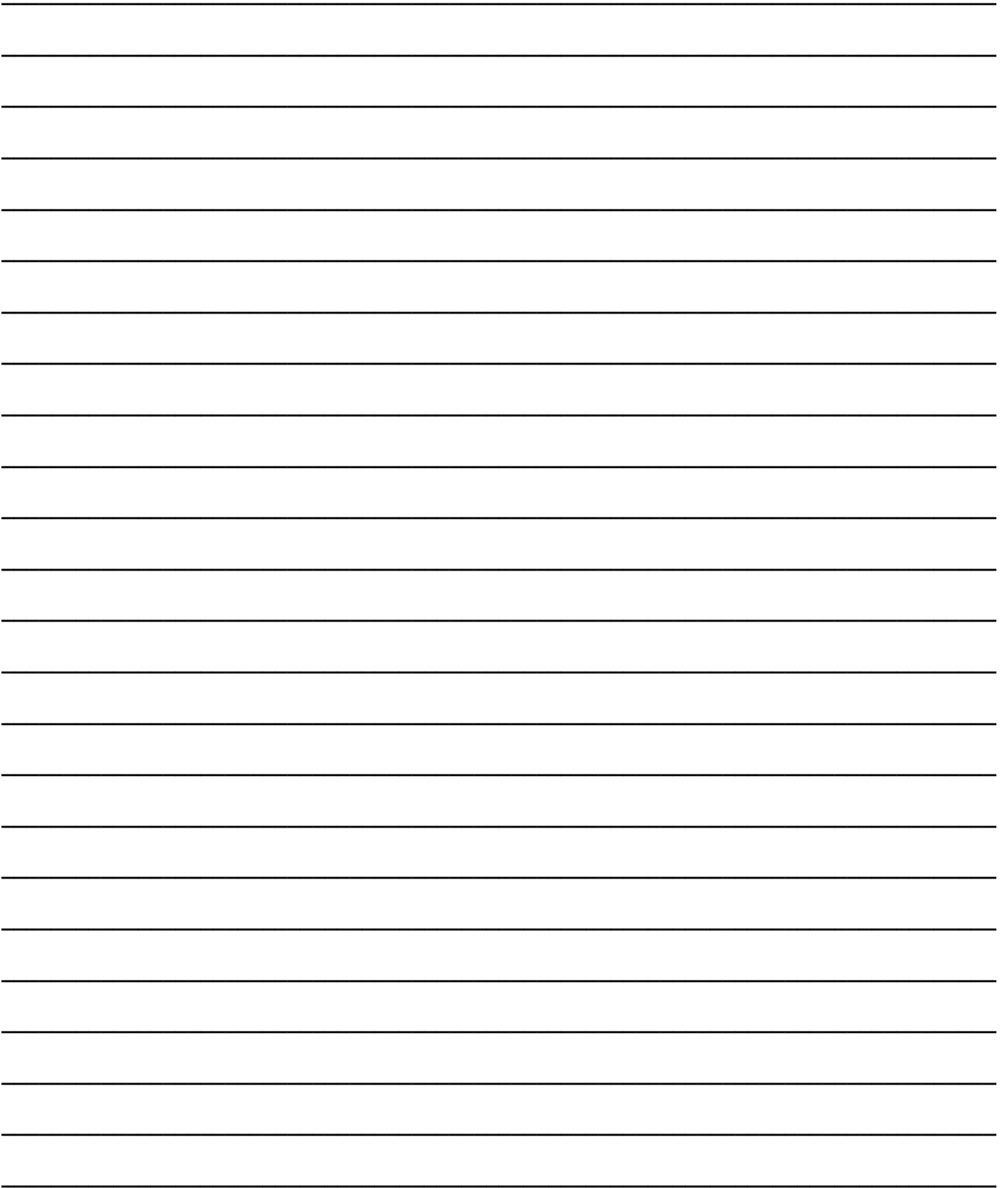
Five-Fold Ministry

The withered hand is prophetically symbolic of the five-fold ministry.

- Apostle – Thumb – Governs
- Prophet – Index – Guides
- Evangelist – Middle Finger – Gathers
- Pastor - Ring Finger – Guards Teacher –
- Little Finger – Grounds you

²⁷ For a whore is a deep ditch; and a strange woman is a narrow pit. Proverbs 23:27

⁷ How much she hath glorified herself, and lived deliciously, so much torment and sorrow give her: for she saith in her heart, I sit a queen, and am no widow, and shall see no sorrow. Revelation 18:7



Married to Jesus

Know ye not, brethren, (for I speak to them that know the law,) how that the law hath dominion over a man as long as he liveth? ² For the woman which hath a husband is bound by the law to her husband so long as he liveth; but if the husband be dead, she is loosed from the law of her husband. ³ So then if, while her husband liveth, she be married to another man, she shall be called an adulteress: but if her husband be dead, she is free from that law; so that she is no adulteress, though she be married to another man. ⁴ Wherefore, my brethren, ye also are become dead to the law by the body of Christ; that ye should be married to another, even to him who is raised from the dead, that we should bring forth fruit unto God. **Romans 7:1-4**

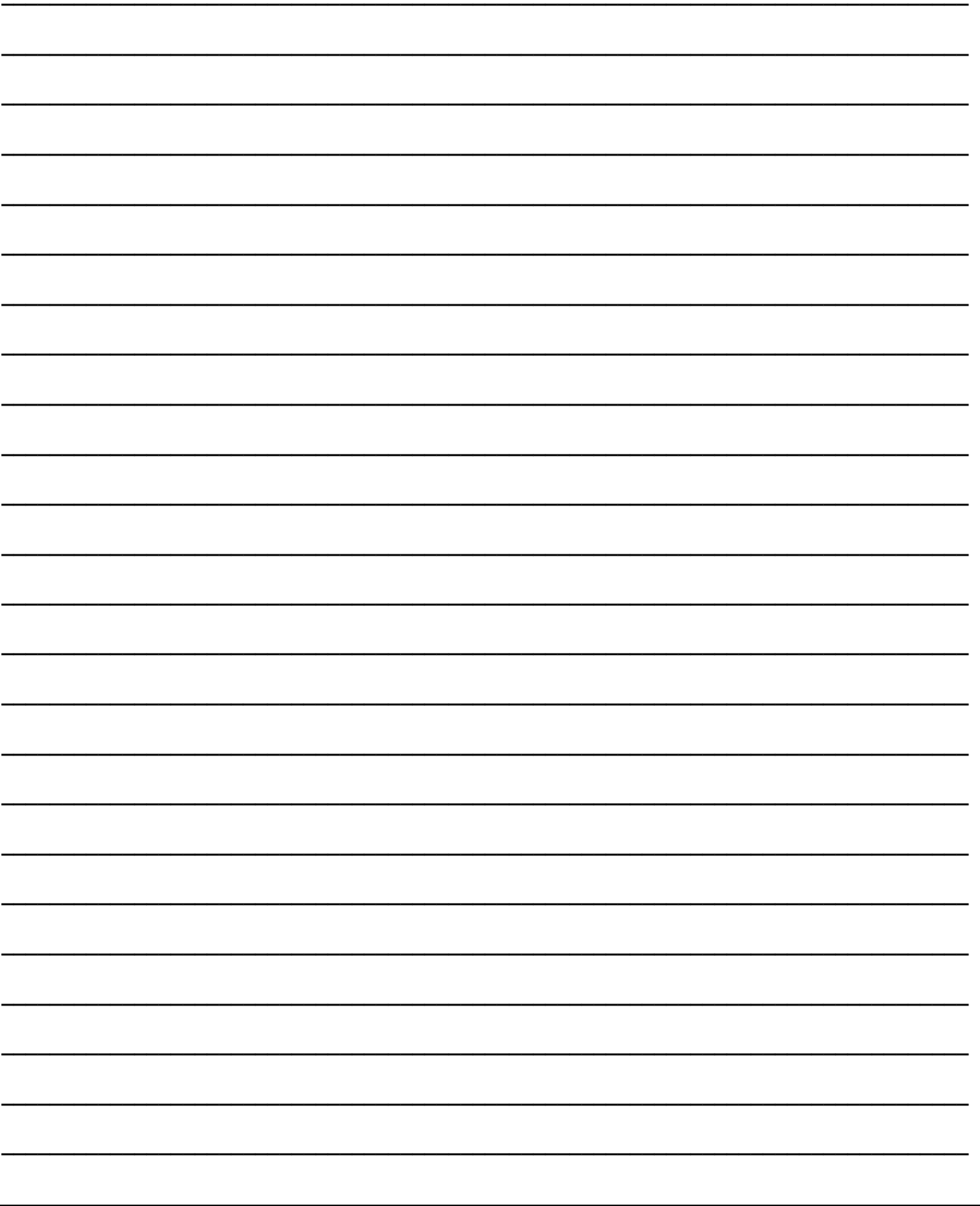
The New Covenant is what gives you the legal right to be intimate with Jesus. If we are not already married to him, it is illegal to be intimate. It is illegal to use His name.

⁹ I John, who also am your brother, and companion in tribulation, and in the kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was in the isle that is called Patmos, for the word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ. ¹⁰ I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet... **Revelation 1: 9, 10**

¹⁷ And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last... **Revelation 1: 17**

¹² For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. ¹³ Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do. ¹⁴ Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession. ¹⁵ For we have not a high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. ¹⁶ Let us, therefore, come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need. **Hebrews 4:12-16**

The context is the words that flow from rest, and are life-giving, powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword.



REFERNCED MATERIALS

- The Bible
- Unforced Rhythms of Grace: The Grace of God That Flows from Rest by Dr. Lynn Hiles