

BECOMING



A SPIRITUAL PEOPLE

Gary Hargrave



Created to Live in Two Realms

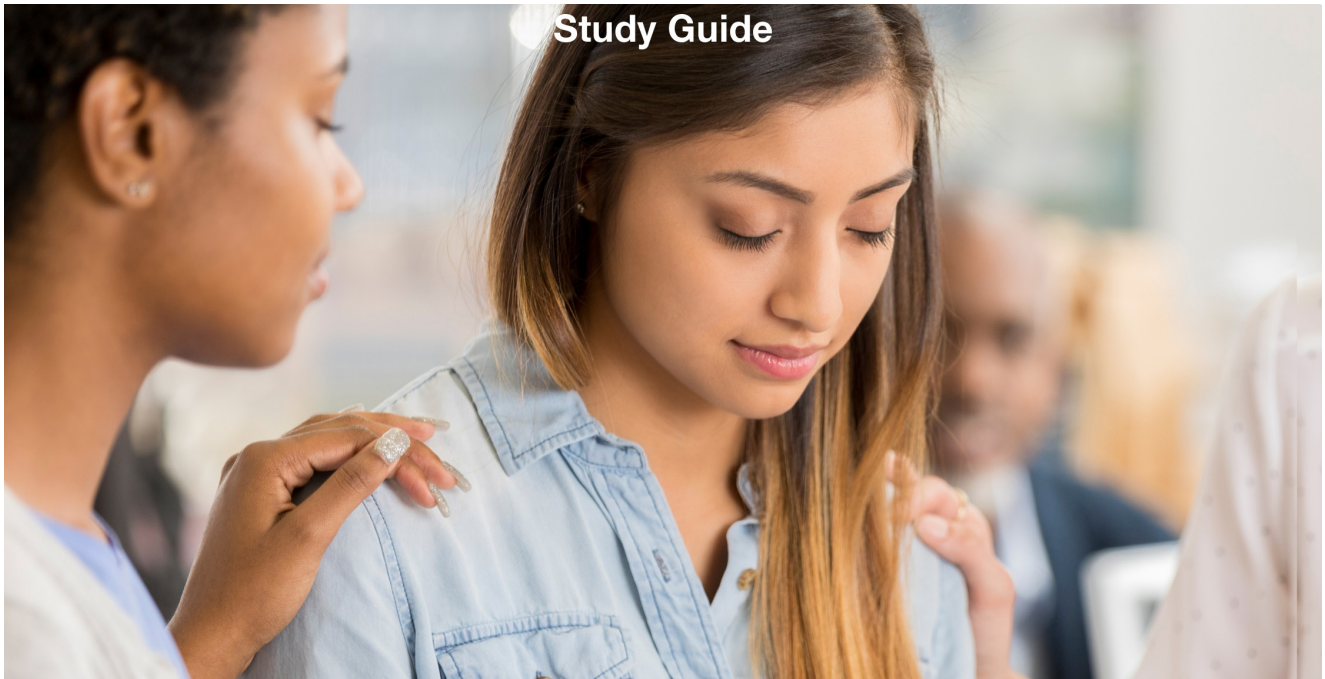
We as humans are probably the most unique beings that God created. Why are we unique? Some theologians will tell you that humans are unique because we have a will. However, God created many beings that have wills. Cats, for example, must have a will because they do whatever they want to do, and it is never what you want them to do! Angels also have wills. Remember, satan was an angel and he had the will to rebel against God. So we as humans are not unique because we have a will. What makes us unique is that we were created to live in both the spirit and the natural realms.

God created us to live in the physical realm, and yet He also made us spiritual beings. Other beings created by God exist in a spiritual body only (1 Corinthians 15:40). So it is easy for them to have an awareness of the spiritual or heavenly realm. That awareness is more difficult for us because we are oriented toward the physical realm. So what captures our mind is what is happening around us physically, and we struggle to have spiritual perception. That captivity to the natural world is something God wants to change.

That was actually a major focus of the first Passover. Part of Passover was about God getting the children of Israel out of being swallowed up by the natural realm. Yes, He wanted to deliver them from slavery. But a big part of slavery is what it does to your mind. It steals away any ability to focus on the spirit world. How can you focus on the spirit world when you have a taskmaster's whip on your back? The Israelites spent their lives in harsh physical labor, and so the physical world held their minds captive.

God wanted to take them out of Egypt because it was distracting them from Himself. They were not capable of becoming a spiritual people while they were slaves in Egypt. Therefore, God instructed Moses to tell Pharaoh to release the children of Israel, which we read about in Exodus 3.

“Therefore, come now, and I will send you to Pharaoh, so that you may bring My people, the sons of Israel, out of Egypt.” But Moses said to God, “Who am I, that I should go to Pharaoh, and that I should bring the sons of Israel out of Egypt?” And He said, “Certainly I will be with you, and this shall be the sign to you that it is I who have sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall worship God at this mountain.” (Exodus 3:10–12)



God Wants to Dwell With His People

God promised to be with Moses.

And He said, “Certainly I will be with you, and this shall be the sign to you that it is I who have sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall worship God at this mountain.” (Exodus 3:12)

The sign of that promise was that Moses would worship God after bringing Israel out of Egypt. Remember, this was before everything Moses went through to see Israel finally delivered from Egypt. First Moses had to face the elders of Israel. Then he had to lead Israel through ten plagues. Later he had to lead them through the Red Sea while Pharaoh’s army chased them.

But from our human perspective, God meeting us after we have completed His will would be too late to be a sign that He would be with us in the process of doing His will. However, the purpose that God had for His people could only be understood after they were completely out of Egypt. The Lord explained this in Exodus 29.

“I will dwell among the sons of Israel and will be their God. They shall know that I am the LORD their God who brought them out of the land of Egypt, that I might dwell among them; I am the LORD their God.” (Exodus 29:45–46)

Why was the Passover necessary? It was necessary because God wanted to dwell with the sons of Israel. He could not do that while they were in Egypt. God was not in Egypt. He was not in slavery. He was not in their bondage. And He had to bring His people out to where He was. God wants to do the same thing for us. He wants to bring us to where He is (John 17:24). Yeshua (Jesus) said that we must be born again of the Spirit (John 3:3–7). Even though God created us with the capacity to relate to Him, we are still locked into our bondage to the natural realm.



Transformed by the Renewing of Your Mind

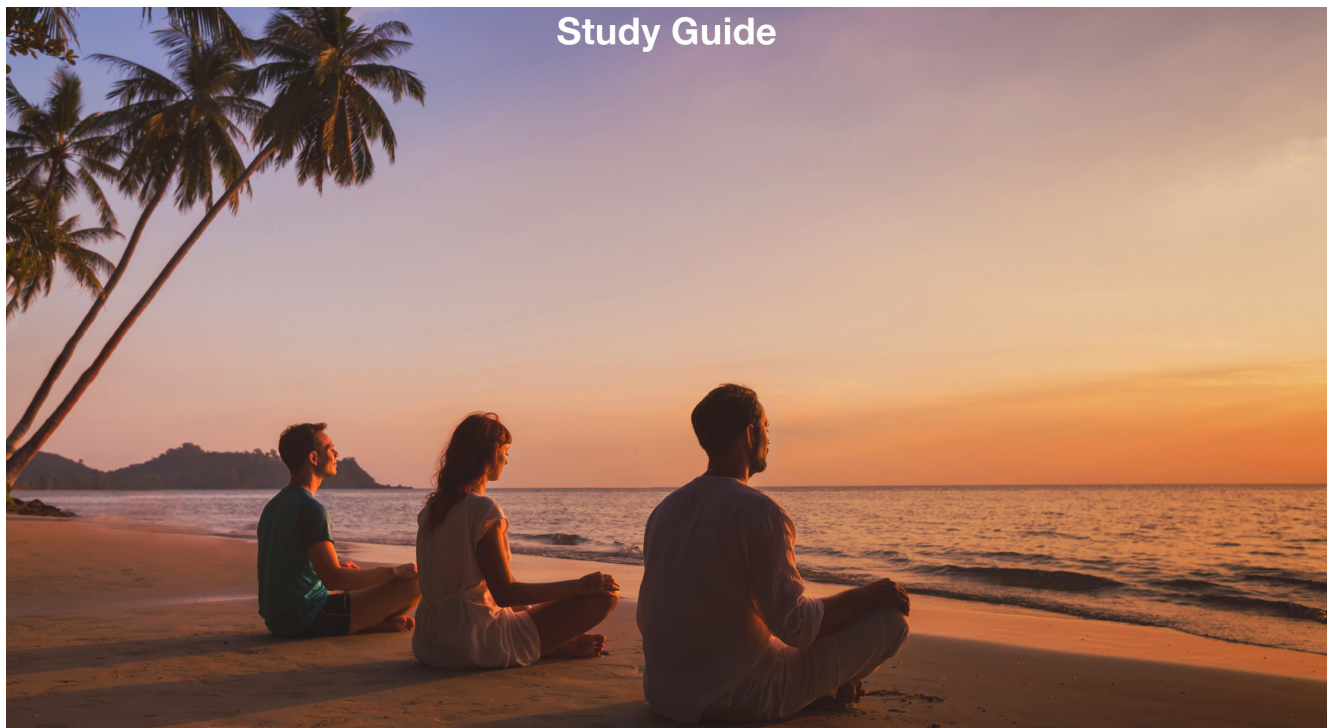
What happens when you receive your initial salvation experience? Your spirit comes alive. Without that you have no ability to relate to God because the tools are missing. Just as you cannot make a phone call without a phone, so you must also be equipped to communicate with God. Then, because your spirit is alive, you can begin to communicate with God because God is spirit: “God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth” (John 4:24). Real worship can only begin through salvation when your spirit comes alive to God. Only then can you begin to take your whole being and present it back to God, as we read in Romans 12.

Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect. (Romans 12:1–2)

True spiritual worship is presenting our bodies as a living sacrifice to God. This leads us out of

conformity to this world and into a transformation whereby our minds are renewed. Why must our minds be renewed?

It is like going to a foreign country without knowing the language. Your ability to function in that country is limited until you can understand and speak the language. The same is true when you begin to walk with God. You are born again; your spirit is alive to God; but your ability to function in the world of spirit is still limited. So your mind must be renewed to function in the spirit. It essentially must learn a new language. It must learn a new way to relate.



Relating to Earth and Heaven

This ability to function in two realms is not impossible because when God created you, He created you as spirit, soul, and body. But all those things have been locked into the natural world surrounding you. Therefore, even your spirit gets connected to what is happening in the world, as we read in the Scriptures, “Let us cleanse ourselves from all defilement of flesh and spirit” (2 Corinthians 7:1). Your spirit gets so engaged in the world around it that it gets polluted.

This is similar to the children of Israel coming out of their bondage at Passover. The only way we can become a spiritual people is to learn to relate to God in the spirit, and that means coming out of everything we have been bound to in the world. God is bringing you out of all your circumstances, all your confusion, and all the distractions that are holding you in bondage to the natural world. It is your spirit that relates to God, and your spirit needs to grow in that relationship. People have the concept of going to heaven to relate to God. But the reality is that we were made to live on the earth. The Kingdom of God is coming to earth, and mankind will still be living here.

Yeshua taught us to pray, “Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven” (Matthew 6:10). Our existence is here. Our life is here. But that existence and life must still be as it is in heaven. Heaven is a place of spirit, and I believe that the world will become overwhelmingly a place of spirit. Now, however, it is locked into the futility of the natural world, and we are locked into it along with everything else in creation (Romans 8:20–23).



We Must Be Where He Is

What is a Passover deliverance? It is God delivering us into His presence so that we can worship Him. But we can only worship Him in spirit and in truth. That means we have to become spiritual people. We have to know how to relate to God in our spirits. God has done everything to meet us where we are. He sent Yeshua in the flesh because we are in the flesh. But He did not bring Yeshua in the flesh for us to stay on that level only.

It is no mistake that Yeshua is invisible right now. It is no mistake that Yeshua is living in heaven with the Father and not here with us in the flesh. He said, “If anyone serves Me, he must follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also” (John 12:26). We are supposed to follow Him and be where He is. We are supposed to be seated with Christ in the heavenly places (Ephesians 2:5–6). We are supposed to be coming into a spiritual existence while we are still in our physical bodies. Yet we seem to stop short before we reach the point of actually knowing what it is to live, walk, communicate, and relate in the Spirit.

The Process of Becoming Spiritual

Nevertheless, the ability exists for us to live in both the physical and spiritual realms. If you have been saved, then your spirit is alive. It is redeemed, connected to Him, and filled with the Holy Spirit. Yet while you may have those things going for you, at some point you have to sit down and do the lessons. You have to do the work that makes everything function. We have to go through a process similar to what the disciples experienced between Passover and Pentecost.

It was during that time frame that the Lord shook the disciples out of their humanness and made them become spiritual. The Day of Pentecost was the completion of that process. On that day they were filled with the Holy Spirit and became a spiritual people. They were different from that moment on. Yet what they had to go through to get to that point was not easy.

From the moment of the cross, Yeshua was going to His fulfillment. But the disciples were going through hell. Those fifty days from the cross to Pentecost were probably the worst days of their lives. Everything seemed to go wrong. They were all scattered. Peter denied the Lord. They hid in fear (Matthew 26:31–34; John 20:19). I know they were the apostles, but they were the most fleshly, natural-level people you could imagine. Look at what they were doing while they were disciples. If they were not wanting to bring fire down from heaven to consume the Samaritans, they were arguing over who was the favorite of Yeshua and who would be at His left and right hand (Luke 9:54–55; Mark 10:35–37).



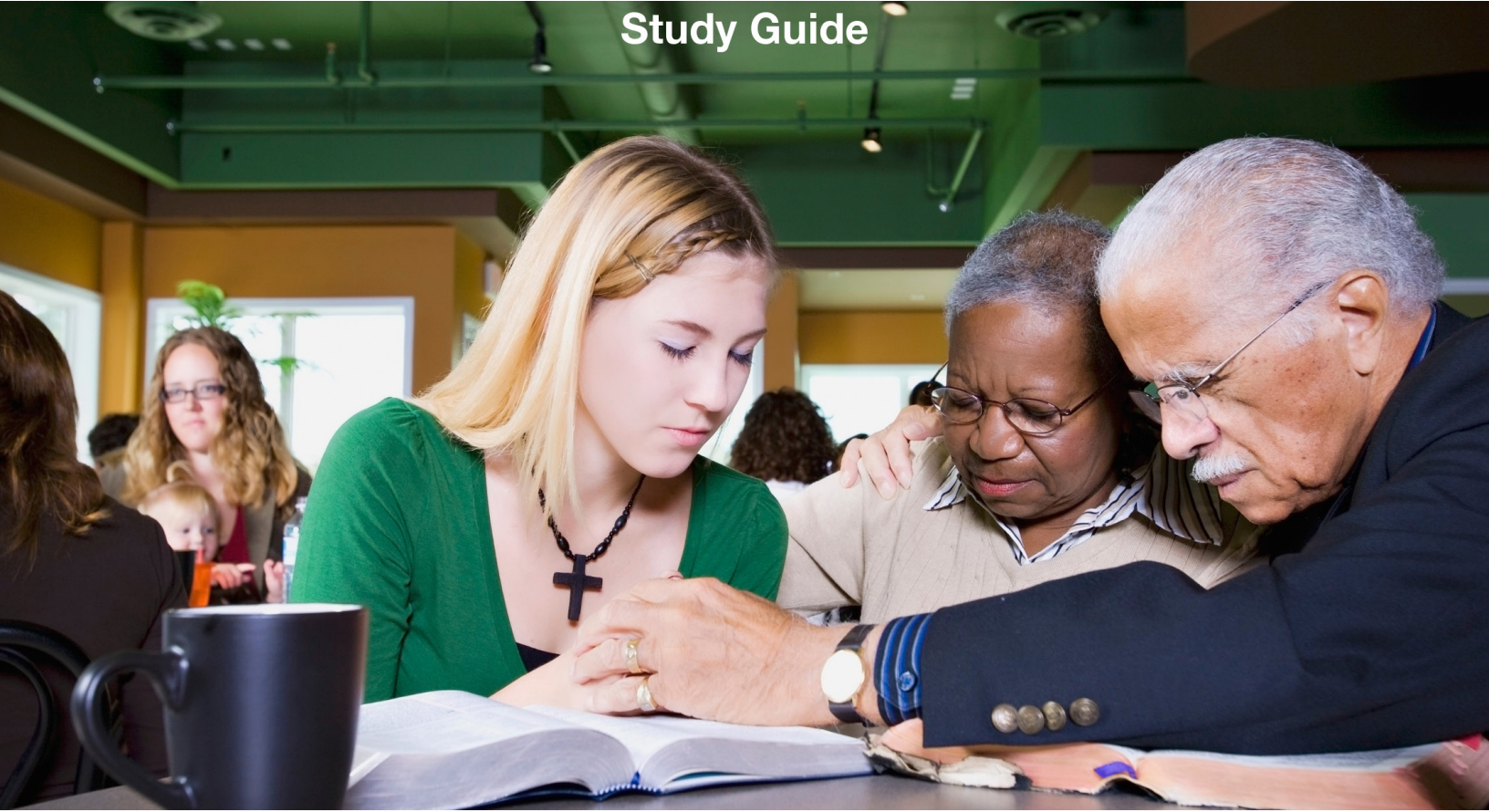
From Earthly People to Spiritual People

These were very natural people. They had real problems, and those problems persisted. The fact that they were walking with Yeshua, living with Him, eating with Him, and being with Him all the time never seemed to change the human problems of those disciples. Their humanness and their focus on the natural world never changed until the Lord dealt with them between the Resurrection and Pentecost.

Do you feel it is worth being shaken like the disciples were? Is it worth going through whatever you need to go through for God to get your focus off the natural realm and teach you how to speak with Him and how to relate with Him? Is it worth it to be with Him in the world of spirit, existing and having your being not only in this natural realm, but also in a realm greater than what you have known before? That is literally what happened to those disciples. They had to become like Christ.

Think about what would have happened if Yeshua had been as fleshly as the disciples. He could have done anything He wanted after He had come up out of the grave in a glorified body with the power of God surrounding Him. What would you have done for forty days on the earth if you were Yeshua in a glorified body? Would you have confronted Caiaphas and make him pay for everything he said to send you to the cross (Matthew 26:63–66)? Would you have stood on a mountaintop where everyone could see you while lightning flashes came out of your eyes and your body glowed with electricity?

What did Yeshua do during those forty days? He ministered to the disciples. He kept appearing to them, teaching them, and unfolding the Scriptures to them. He was working with them to get them out of what they were on a natural level and bring them into the way He functioned in the world of spirit.



The Mind-Changing Experience

The disciples had to stop relating to Yeshua after the flesh as the man who had walked with them alongside the Sea of Galilee. Instead, they had to learn how to communicate and relate with the Son of God who is King of kings and Lord of lords, who has a name that is above every name, who is making every enemy a footstool of His feet, and who is taking dominion over all creation (1 Corinthians 15:27; Philippians 2:9; Revelation 19:15–16). It was a monumental change. For them it was as great a mind-changing experience as it was for the people who were delivered out of Egypt.

This is what God is saying to us today. We must be transformed by the renewing of our minds. Something has to happen in our minds that lifts us out of the level we are living on and brings us into the place where we can walk as sons of God in the earth. That is what the disciples had to do. After Pentecost they had to bring the Word of salvation. They had to work the miracles. They had to go out and be the Christ in the earth.

Look around the world today: it needs the sons of God rather than people who are as caught up in their flesh as everyone else in the world. We need the renewing of our minds. We need to be those in this generation who worship Him in spirit and in truth, who know Him by the Spirit and walk by the Spirit (Galatians 5:16). Even while we live in our physical bodies in a physical world, we must be those who can move in the spirit realm, communicate in the Spirit, live by the Spirit, and see God move through our relationship with Him in the Spirit.

All Scripture references are from the New American Standard Bible 1995 (NASB1995).

ABOUT GARY HARGRAVE



GARY HARGRAVE has a passion for leading people into spiritual maturity. Gary effectively ministers the life-changing truth of God's Word through Bible teaching and prophetic revelation that emphasizes the Lordship of Christ.

Gary embraces the teachings and insights of the Hebrew Scriptures as the essential foundation of God's Kingdom and the roots of Christian faith.

By cultivating spiritual maturity in Christians, Gary is deeply committed to teaching and inspiring unity in the Body of Christ and between Christians and the Jewish people.

Throughout decades of ministry, Gary has worked closely with leaders in the Jewish, Catholic, and Protestant communities to build relationships based on commonality and understanding. He frequently leads study tours to Israel in the land of the Bible.

Gary is the host of a weekly podcast entitled *Growing In God* and is the founder of Shiloh University, an accredited online Bible college and seminary.

Gary and his family reside in Hawaii.

For other insightful resources by Gary Hargrave, including podcasts, books, articles, videos, and other educational materials, please visit: www.HargraveMinistries.org.

ABOUT HARGRAVE MINISTRIES

The calling of the Lord upon this ministry is to lead people into spiritual maturity by revealing biblical truth. **Our passion is to see the Kingdom of God manifest on earth** as the Body of Christ grows in unity, power, and love.

Everything we do flows from the revelation of the Jewish foundations of our Christian faith. It is our desire and privilege to bless the land and people of Israel. Our Israel outreach includes our ability to:

- **Feed the poor and break the cycle of poverty in Israel**
- **Support the orphans and widows of fallen Israeli soldiers**
- Provide physical and emotional care to **child victims of terrorism**
- **Build bridges between Christians and Jews with biblical study and research**
- Support archaeology and preservation of the **biblical City of David**
- Provide 24/7 **care for Holocaust survivors**
- **Help persecuted Jews around the world return to Israel and start new lives**
- Plant trees to **reforest Israel** and help create **"The Gospel Trail"** between Nazareth and Capernaum

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