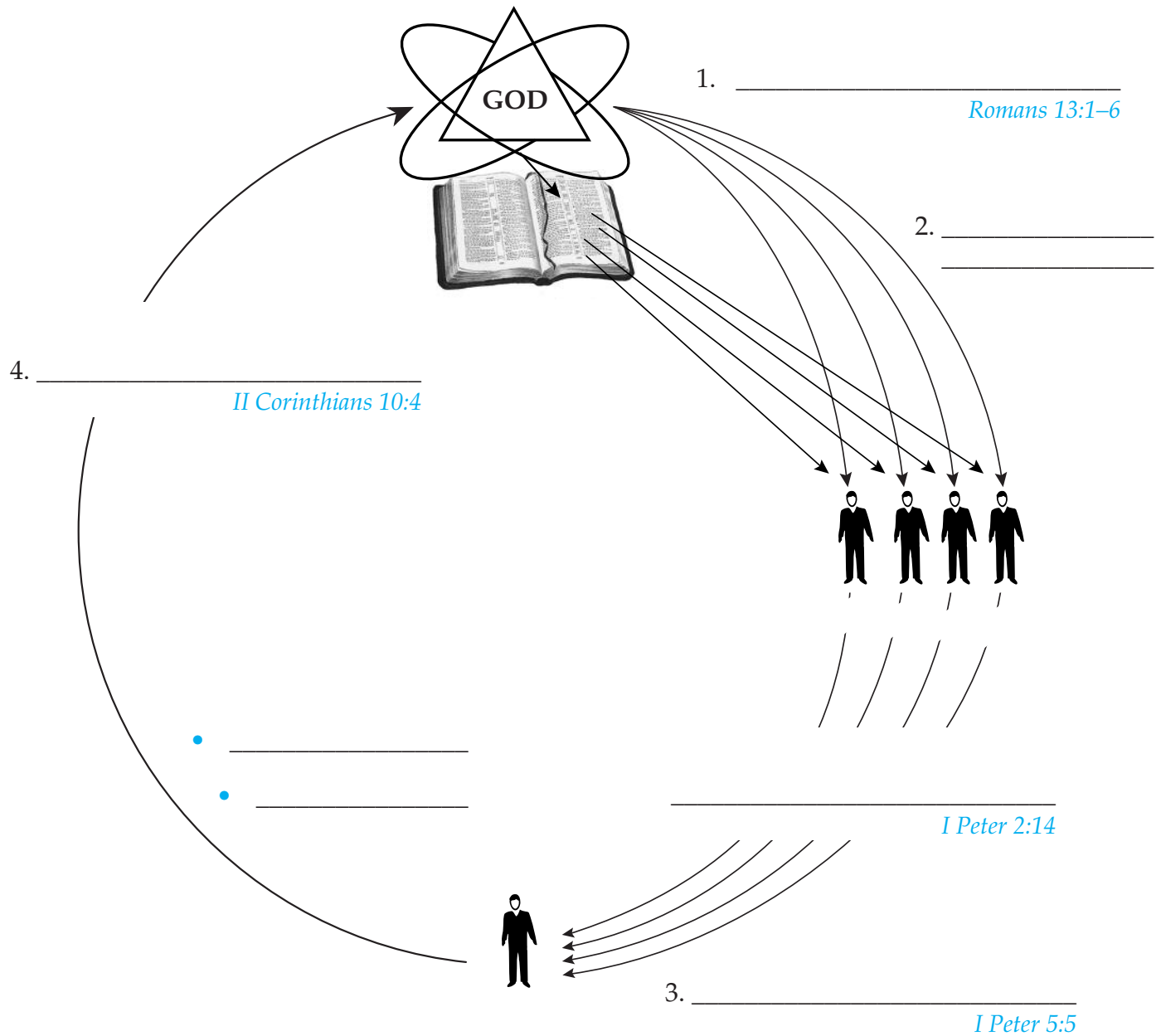


GAINING FAITH AND WISDOM BY UNDERSTANDING AUTHORITY

- _____ *Hebrews 11:6*
- _____ *Matthew 8:5-10*
- _____ *Ephesians 5:22*
- _____

HOW GOD'S "CHAIN OF COMMAND" WORKS:



SEVEN STEPS OF ACTION

(WHEN COMMANDED TO DO WHAT WE THINK IS WRONG)

On two occasions Daniel was commanded by the king to do that which would violate God's Law. His responses provide clear direction for each of us to follow whenever we are asked by an authority to do something that we know is wrong. We are never to do evil, no matter who asks us to do it. However, in many cases we can make wise appeals.

1. CHECK OUR ATTITUDES (*Daniel 1:9 — Tender Love*)

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

2. CLEAR OUR CONSCIENCES (*Daniel 9:20 — No Blemish*)

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

A spirit of obedience must be distinguished from blind obedience. Those who desire to obey an authority and have served him well in the past are able to say no to a command that violates Scripture and be respected for it. Those who obey such a command will not be respected for it.

3. DISCERN BASIC INTENTIONS (*Daniel 1:10 — Fear, Health*)

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

4. DESIGN A CREATIVE ALTERNATIVE (*Daniel 1:8–13 — Purpose*)

- _____
- _____

- _____
- _____

5. APPEAL TO OUR AUTHORITY (Daniel 1:12–13 — Test)

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

6. GIVE GOD TIME TO CHANGE THEIR MINDS (Daniel 1:16)

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

7. SUFFER, IF NECESSARY, FOR NOT DOING WRONG

- _____ *Matthew 10:32–39*
- _____ *Acts 4:19*
- _____ *Daniel 6:12–16*

The desire to obey a person in authority actually motivates creativity, which in turn enables the one under authority to accomplish a proper goal without violating principles or morals. A resistant spirit stifles creativity, because there is reaction to the spirit of the one in charge and a lack of concentration on desirable goals.



Notes...