

Concerns about Love Reality (LR)

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***Disclaimer:** This is not an exhaustive review of all of Love Reality's teachings. This is based on the Love Reality Tour, sermons 1 through 11, on YouTube. The compiler has attempted to be true and accurate of their teachings as presented in this series. This document has not been reviewed by any representative of Love Reality.*

Problems (According to LR)	Solution (by LR)	Is LR Solution T or F Based on Bible/SOP? (See notes following the table for sources)
I am a worthless, good-for-nothing sinner.	Our identity is that we are a greatly loved son or daughter of God ⁱ (even though on your own you are a sinner—you still have great value to God ⁱⁱ). You may occasionally fall into sin, but you have access, you're in grace ⁱⁱⁱ [meaning, you have assurance of salvation].	True
I feel so guilty and dirty because of my sins.	This is a lie that sin tells about us. We are sons and daughters. "Feelings aren't lord, Jesus Christ is." ^{iv} Our righteousness is as filthy rags, but we are still valuable to God. ^v	Yes, our righteousness is as filthy rags, and we are valuable to God and feelings are not Lord. However, it is true that we are guilty (not worthless or valueless), but the condemnation (death) has been removed by Jesus Christ's death on our behalf. See #1.
God is a severe, harsh God who loves to judge us.	This is a lie, a false picture of God. He is actually a very loving God. ^{vi} That being said, He does punish sin—that's why Jesus died, to save us from the punishment of sin. ^{vii}	True
We are under condemnation because we are sinners.	We are not under condemnation if we are in Christ Jesus. Therefore, I can just thank God for forgiving me and I just need to "walk in forgiveness." ^{viii}	It is true that those who are in Christ Jesus are not condemned. However, when a righteous person falls into sin, they may be condemned if they do not repent and confess. Forgiveness is conditional upon confession of sins. See #2.
I'm trying to follow Christ, but I keep falling. Then I come back to God and beg for forgiveness like a worthless sinner. This cycle constantly repeats. I have no assurance of salvation.	This is like the Israelites who had to keep bringing sacrifices repeatedly whenever they sinned, but since Jesus came and died once for all, we no longer have to come again and again to Jesus [to ask for forgiveness]. We are reconciled through Jesus' sacrifice so all we need to do is "continue in the faith." ^{ix}	The sacrificial system has been done away with and Jesus did indeed die once for all. However, the process of recognizing God's love—that we are sinners and need a Savior, repentance, confession, and forgiveness with faith in the Messiah—has been valid and needed from Eden to the present time. See #3.
When we sin, we lose our status as God's sons and daughters.	"We are always sons and daughters" ^x even if we stumble and sin while in Christ.	People become God's son and daughter when they accept Jesus and allow Him to redeem them. They have the choice to leave God permanently and would lose salvation and be a lost son or daughter. See #4.

<p>Like the Romans 7 man, we struggle with doing what we don't want to do because we're living in the flesh.</p>	<p>We may still struggle with the experience of the Romans 7 man of wanting to live in the flesh, but by faith we can live in the Spirit and walk by the Spirit.^{xi}</p>	<p>True.</p>
<p>Sanctification is the work of a lifetime. It is something we work at and achieve sometime in the future. We can't have it now.</p>	<p>We can have it now.^{xii} We just have to confess that Jesus is Lord, live in the Spirit, and "walk it out."^{xiii}</p>	<p>While the Bible speaks of being sanctified, this is not a one-time event but the progressive work of a lifetime. See #5.</p>
<p>Confession means groveling before God and begging mercy, grace, and forgiveness from Him.</p>	<p>This is a lie we have believed about the Father^{xiv}—He loves us, and we don't have to beg or even ask, just believe that we have forgiveness in Jesus' sacrifice.^{xv} Confession means naming a sin^{xvi} and then being in agreement with what God says about us^{xvii}—that we are sons. We can say, 'I have humility, meekness, holiness.'^{xviii}</p>	<p>While the Christian should not feel afraid to approach God, we should always approach Him with reverence and humility, recognizing His sovereignty.</p> <p>Confessing a truth is one form of confession in the Bible, but never the kind used when a person is returning to God after sinning.</p> <p>Confession for sin means admitting our sins and asking for forgiveness. See #6.</p>
<p>I am a sinner saved by grace. My heart is wicked and deceitful, but I am being created into a new creature.</p>	<p>We can't be two things at once—there are only two categories in Scripture: sinners and righteous. If we are righteous, we can't have the heart that is desperately wicked and a renewed heart at the same time.^{xix}</p>	<p>Just like gold in the refiner's oven, we are being transformed into Christ's character, so there may be elements of dross in us as God removes those qualities from us and makes us pure gold. See #7.</p>
<p>I'm not free from sin yet, but I still follow Christ.</p>	<p>We must believe we are free from sin in order to escape the punishment for sin.^{xx}</p>	<p>We must believe God's promises: when we ask for forgiveness, we are indeed forgiven and cleansed from all unrighteousness. But God's people never claim to be free from sin. See #8.</p>
<p>I have to approach God as less-than, as a sinner, servant, and groveling.</p>	<p>We are sons and daughters and can come boldly, not bowing before the throne.^{xxi}</p>	<p>It is true that we can come with boldness (confidence) before the throne of God, thanks to the merits of Jesus, but we must approach Him in humility. See #9.</p>

Sources/Evidence for the Far-Right Column Above

#1. Yes, our righteousness is as filthy rags, and we are valuable to God and feelings are not Lord. However, it is true that we are guilty (not worthless or valueless), but the condemnation (death) has been removed by Jesus Christ's death on our behalf.

- **All our righteousness is like filthy rags.**
 - "...all our righteousnesses are like filthy rags" (Isaiah 64:6).
- **We are valuable to God.**
 - "But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8).
- **We are guilty (not worthless or valueless)**
 - **We are Given Grace, which is unmerited**
 - "For by grace you have been saved through faith" (Ephesians 2:8).
 - Merriam-Webster defines "grace" as: "unmerited divine assistance given to humans for their regeneration or sanctification"^{xxii}
 - **There is a blessing to those who can say, "I am guilty...but Jesus is my Advocate"**
 - "Blessed is the soul who can say, "I am guilty before God: but Jesus is my Advocate. I have transgressed his law. I cannot save myself; but I make the precious blood that was shed on Calvary all my plea. I am lost in Adam, but restored in Christ. God, who so loved the world as to give his only begotten Son to die, will not leave me to perish while repentant and in contrition of soul. He will not look upon me, for I am all unworthy; but he will look upon the face of his Anointed, he will look upon my Substitute and Surety, and listen to the plea of my Advocate, who died for my sin, that I might be made the righteousness of God in him. By beholding him I shall be changed into his image. I cannot change my own character, save by partaking of the grace of him who is all goodness, righteousness, mercy, and truth. But by beholding him, I shall catch his spirit, and be transformed into his likeness. 'We all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.'" {YI November 8, 1894, par. 2}
 - **An example prayer where self is referred to as "weak" and "unchristlike"**
 - "No outward observances can take the place of simple faith and entire renunciation of self. But no man can empty himself of self. We can only consent for Christ to accomplish the work. Then the language of the soul will be, **Lord, take my heart; for I cannot give it. It is Thy property. Keep it pure, for I cannot keep it for Thee. Save me in spite of myself, my weak, unchristlike self. Mold me, fashion me, raise me into a pure and holy atmosphere, where the rich current of Thy love can flow through my soul.**" (COL 159.3, Emphasis added).
- **The condemnation for sin has been removed by Jesus Christ's death on our behalf**
 - "Therefore, as through one man's offense judgment came to all men, resulting in condemnation, even so through one Man's righteous act the free gift came to all men, resulting in justification of life" (Romans 5:18).

#2. It is true that those who are in Christ Jesus are not condemned. However, when a righteous person falls into sin, they may be condemned if they do not repent and confess. Forgiveness is conditional upon confession of sins.

- **When a righteous person falls into sin, they may be condemned if they do not repent and confess.**
 - **David:** “So David said to Nathan, ‘I have sinned against the Lord.’ And Nathan said to David, ‘The Lord also has put away your sin; you shall not die’” (2 Samuel 12:13).
 - **Peter:** “And the Lord said, ‘Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift *you* as wheat. But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail; and when you have returned to *Me*, strengthen your brethren.’” (Luke 22:31-32).
 - **John’s Believers:** “My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.” (1 John 2:1-2).
- **Forgiveness is conditional upon confession of sins, among other things (listed below).**
 - **Confession of our sins.** “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (1 John 1:9).
 - **To forgive others.**
 - “But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses” (Matthew 6:15).
 - “[After quoting Matt. 6:15] “This is a decided statement and should come home to every heart. It is a promise of forgiveness to those who forgive men their trespasses and a refusal of forgiveness to those who do not forgive men their trespasses.” (Ms46-1902.13).
 - **To not blaspheme the Holy Spirit.** “Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man, it will be forgiven him; but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit, it will not be forgiven him, either in this age or in the age to come” (Matthew 12:32).

- **LR teaches that 1 John 1:9 is addressed to a group of people who are coming to Christ for the first time, not to believers.** (Jonathan Leonardo, *Love Reality Tour* video 4, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EsmUWtuLrsk> Retrieved 4/10/2021).

ANSWER:

- John, writing to an audience he addressed as “beloved” (1 John 3:2), and “My little children” (1 John 2:1; 3:18), also says, “If we confess our sins...” (1 John 1:9). This verse is applicable to believers.

#3. The sacrificial system has been done away with and Jesus did indeed die once for all. However, the process of recognizing God’s love—that we are sinners and need a Savior, repentance, confession, and forgiveness with faith in the Messiah—has been valid and needed from Eden to the present time.

- **The sacrificial system has been done away with and Jesus did indeed die once for all.** This is true.
 - “Who does not need daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifices, first for His own sins and then for the people’s, for this He did once for all when He offered up Himself.” (Hebrews 7:27).
- **Recognizing God’s Love from Eden to the Present**
 - “The Lord has appeared of old to me, saying: “Yes, I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore with lovingkindness I have drawn you.” (Jeremiah 31:3).
- **Recognizing that we are sinners and need a Savior from Eden to the Present**
 - **In Eden:**
 - “And the Lord God said to the woman, ‘What is this you have done?’ The woman said, ‘The serpent deceived me, and I ate.’” (Genesis 3:13).
 - “And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel.” (Genesis 3:15).
 - **OT times:**
 - “So I said: ‘Woe is me, for I am undone! Because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts.’ Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a live coal which he had taken with the tongs from the altar. And he touched my mouth with it, and said: ‘Behold, this has touched your lips; your iniquity is taken away, and your sin purged.’” (Isaiah 6:5-7).
 - **NT times:**
 - “And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise *his* eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, ‘God, be merciful to me a sinner!’” (Luke 18:13).
 - **EGW:**
 - “When Satan suggests doubt to your soul, when he tells you that you are too unworthy, too sinful, to realize the blessing of God, present Christ before him as your Advocate and Saviour. Tell him you know that you are a sinner, but that Jesus came to seek and save that which was lost. He came ‘not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance’ (Mark 2:17).” (TMK 245)
 - “There is one point that I wish to emphasize. Those who are striving to keep the law of God never boast of their holiness.... Sanctification is not the work of a moment, but of a lifetime. It is not gained by a happy flight of feeling, but is the result of dying to sin, and constantly believing and living to Christ, practicing the virtues of Christ.... Every day our faith should increase. While we say ‘I know that I am a sinner,’ we can say also, ‘I know I have a Saviour.’”—Manuscript 25, 1886. (EGWE 194).

- **Recognizing that we need to repent, confess, and be forgiven with faith from Eden to the Present**
 - **Repentance**
 - **OT times:**
 - “Therefore say to the house of Israel, ‘Thus says the Lord God: ‘Repent, turn away from your idols, and turn your faces away from all your abominations.’” (Ezekiel 14:6).
 - **NT times:**
 - “I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance.” (Luke 5:32).
 - “And Jesus answered and said to them, ‘Do you suppose that these Galileans were worse sinners than all other Galileans, because they suffered such things? I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish.’” (Luke 13:2-3).
 - To the Church of Ephesus: “Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place—unless you repent.” (Revelation 2:5).
 - To the Church of Sardis: “Remember therefore how you have received and heard; hold fast and repent.” (Revelation 3:3).
 - To the Church of Laodicea: “As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent.” (Revelation 3:19).
 - **EGW:**
 - “No church officer should advise, no committee should recommend, nor should any church vote, that the name of a wrongdoer shall be removed from the church books, until the instruction given by Christ has been faithfully followed. ...If the erring one repents and submits to Christ’s discipline, he is to be given another trial. And even if he does not repent, even if he stands outside the church, God’s servants still have a work to do for him. They are to seek earnestly to win him to repentance. And, however aggravated may have been his offense, if he yields to the striving of the Holy Spirit and, by confessing and forsaking his sin, gives evidence of repentance, he is to be forgiven and welcomed to the fold again. His brethren are to encourage him in the right way, treating him as they would wish to be treated were they in his place, considering themselves lest they also be tempted. (CCh 257).

LR teaches that the lost son did not repent when he “came to himself” in the far country, which led to his return to the Father. (Jonathan Leonardo, *Love Reality Tour* video 2, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LHNtC_0Ykbw Retrieved 4/12/2021).

ANSWER:

1. See how the Bible defines someone “coming to themselves:”

- a. “When they sin against You (for there is no one who does not sin), and You become angry with them and deliver them to the enemy, and they take them captive to the land of the enemy, far or near; yet **when they come to themselves** in the land where they were carried captive, and repent, and make supplication to You in the land of those who took them captive, saying, ‘We have

sinned and done wrong, we have committed wickedness'; and when they return to You with all their heart and with all their soul in the land of their enemies who led them away captive, and pray to You toward their land which You gave to their fathers, the city which You have chosen and the temple which I have built for Your name: then hear in heaven Your dwelling place their prayer and their supplication, and maintain their cause, and forgive Your people who have sinned against You, and all their transgressions which they have transgressed against You; and grant them compassion before those who took them captive, that they may have compassion on them." (1 Kings 8:46-50, Emphasis added).

2. EGW Evidence that he repented

- a. "The prodigal's soul had been stirred to the very depths by remorse and repentance..." (RH July 16, 1889, par. 3).
- b. "The father will permit no contemptuous eye to mock at his son's misery and tatters. He takes from his own shoulders the broad, rich mantle, and wraps it around the son's wasted form, and the youth sobs out his repentance, saying, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in thy sight, and am no more worthy to be called thy son.'" (CSA 13.3).

○ Confession

● OT times:

- "And it shall be, when he is guilty in any of these matters, that he shall confess that he has sinned in that thing" (Leviticus 5:5).
- "He who covers his sins will not prosper, but whoever confesses and forsakes them will have mercy." (Proverbs 28:13).

● NT times:

- "Then all the land of Judea, and those from Jerusalem, went out to him and were all baptized by him in the Jordan River, confessing their sins." (Mark 1:5).
- "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9).

● EGW:

- "How mistaken are those who imagine that confession of sin will detract from their dignity... It will not hurt your dignity to confess your sins. Away with this false dignity. Fall on the Rock and be broken, and Christ will give you the true and heavenly dignity. Let not pride, self-esteem, or self-righteousness keep anyone from confessing his sin, that he may claim the promise. 'He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy' (Proverbs 28:13). Keep nothing back from God, and neglect not the confession of your faults to your brethren. 'Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed' (James 5:16). Many a sin is left unconfessed to confront the sinner in the day of final account; better far to confront your sins now, to confess them and put them away, while the atoning Sacrifice pleads in your behalf. Do not fail to learn the will of God on this subject. The health of your soul and the salvation of others depends upon the course you pursue in this matter. 'Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time: casting all your care upon him: for he careth for you' (1 Peter 5:6, 7). The humble and broken heart can appreciate something of

the love of God and the cross of Calvary. Ample will be the blessing experienced by him who meets the condition by which he may become a partaker of the favor of God.” (1SM 326).

- “It is not only at the beginning of the Christian life that this renunciation of self is to be made. At every advance step heavenward it is to be renewed. All our good works are dependent on a power outside of ourselves. Therefore there needs to be a continual reaching out of the heart after God, a continual, earnest, heartbreaking confession of sin and humbling of the soul before Him. Only by constant renunciation of self and dependence on Christ can we walk safely.” (COL 159).

- **“Confession” to LR is declaring a truth**

- “Father, I thank you for grace this morning. I thank you that I have the privilege to live as a son this morning. I thank you Father that by faith I know Your Holy Spirit is within me because You are Lord. I know that I have the privilege of starting my day positioned as a son. I thank you for that.” (Jonathan Leonardo, *Love Reality Tour* video 5 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aNYx4qLF9F0> Retrieved 4/14/2021).

- **“Confession” to LR is naming a sin (not confessing in the sense of asking for forgiveness)**

- “You got a little problem with lust? ‘Father, I got a problem with lust. You see it. I’m naming it.’” (Jonathan Leonardo, *Love Reality Tour* video 5 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aNYx4qLF9F0> Retrieved 4/14/2021).

Note: LR *may* believe in confessing sins and asking for forgiveness when initially coming to Christ and leaving sin behind (this is not clear in their presentations), but after that LR does not teach confessing sins other than naming them.

ANSWER:

- **There are two types of confession in the Bible, both of which are valid but for different purposes and appropriate at different times**

- To admit or acknowledge sin (i.e., “I acknowledged my sin to You, and my iniquity I have not hidden. I said, ‘I will confess my transgressions to the Lord,’ And You forgave the iniquity of my sin. Selah” Psalm 32:5).
- To declare faith in something (i.e., “Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven” Matthew 10:32 or “...every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.” Philippians 2:11).

- **Confession of sins is specific and involves not just naming them but asking for forgiveness and for God’s mercy.**

- “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” (1 John 1:9).
- “And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, ‘God, be merciful to me a sinner!’” (Luke 18:13).

- “True confession is always of a specific character, and acknowledges particular sins. They may be of such a nature as to be brought before God only; they may be wrongs that should be confessed to individuals who have suffered injury through them; or they may be of a public character, and should then be as publicly confessed. But all confession should be definite and to the point, acknowledging the very sins of which you are guilty.” (SC 38).
- **Confession and forgiveness continue to occur after coming to Christ**
 - **Addressed to believers:** “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” (1 John 1:9).
 - **Addressed to the disciples:** “Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.” (Matthew 6:11-12).

- **Forgiveness**

- **OT times:**

- “...’Oh, these people have committed a great sin, and have made for themselves a god of gold! Yet now, if You will forgive their sin—but if not, I pray, blot me out of Your book which You have written” (Exodus 32:31-32).
- “If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land” (2 Chronicles 7:14).

- **NT times:**

- “Lord, teach us to pray...So He said to them, ‘**When you pray, say:** Our Father in heaven, hallowed by Your name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us day by day our daily bread. And **forgive us our sins**, for we also forgive everyone who is indebted to us. And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.” (Luke 11:1-4, Emphasis added).
- “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (1 John 1:9).

- **EGW:**

- “Teach them [parents teaching their children] to **ask His forgiveness daily for any wrong that they have done**, and that Jesus does hear the simple prayer of the penitent heart, and will pardon, and receive them, just as He received the children brought to Him when He was upon earth.” (CG 494, Emphasis added).

- **LR teaches that the Lord’s prayer (regarding “forgive us our debts”) is simply an expression of God’s willingness to forgive us only to the extent that we forgive others, not actually asking for forgiveness in the prayer.** (Jonathan Leonardo, *Love Reality Tour* video 7 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oQIOu52hHRw> Retrieved 4/18/2021.).

ANSWER:

- **Jesus’ example prayer shows we are to ask for forgiveness of sins**
 - “Many of those who are the open opponents of God’s Sabbath, the third angel’s message, and the health reform are among the sanctified ones. Some of them have even reached the almost hopeless position that they cannot sin. These, of course, have no further use for **the Lord’s Prayer, which teaches us to pray that our sins may be forgiven**, and but very little use for the Bible, as they profess to be led by the Spirit...” (FH 47, Emphasis added).

- **Faith**

- **OT times:**

- “And he believed in the Lord, and He accounted it to him for righteousness.” (Genesis 15:6).

- **NT times:**

- “For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God” (Ephesians 2:8).
- “So Jesus answered and said to them, “Have faith in God.” (Mark 11:22).

- **EGW:**

- “We come unto God in the name of Jesus by special invitation, and he welcomes us to his audience chamber, and imparts to the humble and contrite heart that faith in Christ by which he is justified, and Jesus blots out as a thick cloud his transgressions by the bright sunshine of his love, and the comforted heart exclaims, ‘O Lord, I will praise thee: though thou wast angry with me, thine anger is turned away, and thou comfortedst me.’ [Isaiah 12:1.]” (CE 128).

#4. People become God’s son and daughter when they accept Jesus and allow Him to redeem them. They have the choice to leave God permanently and would lose salvation and be a lost son or daughter.

- **People become God’s son and daughter when they accept Jesus and allow Him to redeem them**

- “But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name” (John 1:12).
- “For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, ‘Abba, Father.’ The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.” (Romans 8:14-17).

- **They have the choice to leave God permanently and would lose salvation and be a lost son or daughter.**

- “While I was with them in the world, I kept them in Your name. Those whom You gave Me I have kept; and none of them is lost except the son of perdition, that the Scripture might be fulfilled.” (John 17:12).
- “For if, after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the latter end is worse for them than the beginning. For it would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered to them.” (2 Peter 2:20-21).
- “For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries.” (Hebrews 10:26-27).

#5. While the Bible speaks of being sanctified, this is not a one-time event but the progressive work of a lifetime.

- “For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are **being sanctified.**” (Hebrews 10:14, Emphasis added).
- “Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 3:12-14).
- “But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.” (2 Corinthians 3:18).
- “**There is no such thing as instantaneous sanctification.** True sanctification is a daily work, continuing as long as life shall last. Those who are battling with daily temptations, overcoming their own sinful tendencies, and seeking for holiness of heart and life, make no boastful claims of holiness. They are hungering and thirsting for righteousness. Sin appears to them exceedingly sinful.” (SL 10, Emphasis added).
- “At every stage of development our life may be perfect; yet if God’s purpose for us is fulfilled, **there will be continual advancement. Sanctification is the work of a lifetime.**” (COL 65, Emphasis added).
- “Sanctification is the progressive work of a lifetime...” (3SM 202).
- “**The work of transformation from unholiness to holiness is a continuous one.** Day by day God labors for man’s sanctification, and man is to co-operate with Him, putting forth persevering efforts in the cultivation of right habits. He is to add grace to grace; and as he thus works on the plan of addition, God works for him on the plan of multiplication. Our Saviour is always ready to hear and answer the prayer of the contrite heart, and grace and peace are multiplied to His faithful ones. Gladly He grants them the blessings they need in their struggle against the evils that beset them.” (AA 532, Emphasis added).

#6. While the Christian should not feel afraid to approach God, we should always approach Him with reverence and humility, recognizing His sovereignty. Confessing a truth is one form of confession in the Bible, but never the kind used when a person is returning to God after sinning. Confession for sin means admitting our sins and asking for forgiveness.

- **While the Christian should not feel afraid to approach God, we should always approach Him with reverence and humility, recognizing His sovereignty.**
 - “So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened” (Luke 11:9-10).
 - “Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need” (Hebrews 4:16, ESV).
 - “And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, ‘God, be merciful to me a sinner!’ I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.” (Luke 18:13, 14).
- **Confessing a truth is one form of confession in the Bible, but never the kind used when a person is returning to God after sinning.**
 - **Confessing a Truth (not an exhaustive list)**
 - “Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful.” (Hebrews 10:23).
 - **Confessing Sins (not an exhaustive list)**
 - “...then he shall confess the sin which he has committed...” (Numbers 5:7).
 - **Ambiguous references to confession (not an exhaustive list)**
 - “For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.” (Romans 10:10).
- **Confession for sin means admitting our sins and asking for forgiveness.**
 - "I acknowledged my sin to You, and my iniquity I have not hidden. I said, ‘I will confess my transgressions to the Lord,’ and You forgave the iniquity of my sin" (Psalm 32:5).
 - “Then I set my face toward the Lord God to make request by prayer and supplications, with fasting, sackcloth, and ashes. And I prayed to the Lord my God, and made confession, and said, “O Lord, great and awesome God, who keeps His covenant and mercy with those who love Him, and with those who keep His commandments, we have sinned and committed iniquity, we have done wickedly and rebelled, even by departing from Your precepts and Your judgments.” (Daniel 9:3-5).
 - “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (1 John 1:9).

#7. Just like gold in the refiner's oven, we are being transformed into Christ's character, so there may be elements of dross in us as God removes those qualities from us and makes us pure gold.

- “But who can endure the day of His coming? And who can stand when He appears? For He *is* like a refiner's fire and like launderers' soap. He will sit as a refiner and a purifier of silver; He will purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer to the Lord an offering in righteousness.” (Malachi 3:2-3).
- “Our calling is holy, our profession exalted. God is purifying unto Himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works. He is sitting as a refiner and purifier of silver. When the dross and tin are removed, then His image will be perfectly reflected in us. Then the prayer of Christ for His disciples will be answered in us: ‘Sanctify them through Thy truth: Thy word is truth.’” (2T 317).
- “True grace is willing to be tried; if we are loath to be searched by the Lord, our condition is serious indeed. God is the refiner and purifier of souls; in the heat of the furnace the dross is separated forever from the true silver and gold of the Christian character. Jesus watches the test. He knows what is needed to purify the precious metal that it may reflect the radiance of His divine love.” (4T 85).

- **LR teaches you can't be two things at once (i.e., have a wicked, deceitful heart and have a new heart).** (Jonathan Leonardo, *Love Reality Tour* video 2, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LHNtC_0Ykbw Retrieved 4/4/2021).
- **LR admits we can say we are sinners, while not allowing that to make us less valuable. People's righteousness is filthy rags, yet they have great value.** (Jonathan Leonardo, *Love Reality Tour* video 9 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wEqlGOWiFjk> Retrieved 4/24/2021).

ANSWER:

- **We Can Be Two Things at Once**
 - **Paul acknowledges he is [present tense] a chief of sinners but also those sins are in his past.**
 - “Although I **was formerly** a blasphemer, a persecutor, and an insolent man; but I obtained mercy because I did it ignorantly in unbelief. And the grace of our Lord was exceedingly abundant, with faith and love which are in Christ Jesus. This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom **I am** chief.” (1 Timothy 1:13-15, Emphasis added).
- **Should we ever call ourselves “sinners” after coming to Christ?**
 - “Satan will come to you saying, You are a sinner. But do not let him fill your mind with the thought that because you are sinful, God has cast you off. Say to him, Yes, I am a sinner, and for that reason I need a Saviour. I need forgiveness and pardon, and Christ says that if I come to Him I shall not perish. In His letter to me I read, ‘If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness’ (1 John 1:9). I will believe the word He has left for me. I will obey His commands. When Satan tells you that you are lost, answer, Yes, but Jesus came to seek and to save that which was lost. The greater my sin, the greater my need of a Saviour.” —Letter 98b, 1896 (1MCP 33).
 - “The moment you grasp God's promises by faith, and say, I am the lost sheep that Jesus came to save, a new life will take possession of you, and you will receive strength to resist the tempter.” (Lt98b-1896.14).

- “When Satan suggests doubt to your soul, when he tells you that you are too unworthy, too sinful, to realize the blessing of God, present Christ before him as your Advocate and Saviour. Tell him you know that you are a sinner, but that Jesus came to seek and save that which was lost. He came ‘not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance’ (Mark 2:17).” (TMK 245).
- “From these scriptures it is evident that it is not God’s will that you should be distrustful and torture your soul with the fear that God will not accept you because you are sinful and unworthy. ‘Draw nigh to God, and He will draw nigh to you’ (James 4:8). Present your case before Him, pleading the merits of the blood shed for you upon Calvary’s cross. Satan will accuse you of being a great sinner, and you must admit this, but you can say: ‘I know I am a sinner, and that is the reason I need a Saviour. Jesus came into the world to save sinners. ‘The blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth us from all sin’ (1 John 1:7). ‘If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness’ (Verse 9).” (FW 105).
- “There is one point that I wish to emphasize. Those who are striving to keep the law of God never boast of their holiness.... Sanctification is not the work of a moment, but of a lifetime. It is not gained by a happy flight of feeling, but is the result of dying to sin, and constantly believing and living to Christ, practicing the virtues of Christ.... Every day our faith should increase. While we say ‘I know that I am a sinner,’ we can say also, ‘I know I have a Saviour.’” —Manuscript 25, 1886. (EGWE 194).

#8. We must believe God’s promises: when we ask for forgiveness, we are indeed forgiven and cleansed from all unrighteousness. But God’s people never claim to be free from sin.

- **We must believe God’s promises: when we ask for forgiveness, we are indeed forgiven and cleansed from all unrighteousness.**
 - “Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful.” (Hebrews 10:23).
 - “God is not a man, that He should lie, nor a son of man, that He should repent. Has He said, and will He not do? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?” (Numbers 23:19).
 - “But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind.” (James 1:6).
 - “Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, ‘Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!’” (Mark 9:24).
- **But God’s people never claim to be free from sin.**
 - See “Answer” below.

LR teaches that we are free from sin, and we can claim this. They say that John’s rebuke, “we have no sin” (1 John 1:8,10), refers to a group of people who have not come to Christ and are continuing to reject him and claim to be sinless. (Jonathan Leonardo, *Love Reality Tour* video 4, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EsmUWtuLrsk> Retrieved 4/10/2021).

ANSWER:

- **It is true that the moment we repent, confess, and are forgiven, we are cleansed from sin**
 - “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (1 John 1:9).

- “Have mercy upon me, O God, according to Your lovingkindness; according to the multitude of Your tender mercies, blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I acknowledge my transgressions, and my sin is always before me... Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.” (Psalm 51:1-3, 7).
- **We should not claim to be free from sin (even immediately after repentance, confession, and forgiveness)**
 - **John was writing to fellow believers, not unbelievers who claim sinlessness**
 - “If we say [it doesn’t say, “if they say”] that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us... If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.” (1 John 1:8, 10, Emphasis added).
 - “The epistles of John breathe a spirit of love. But when he comes in contact with **that class who break the law of God and yet claim that they are living without sin**, he does not hesitate to warn them of their fearful deception. ‘If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: but if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us’ (1 John 1:6-10).” (SL 68, Emphasis added).
 - **EGW References to not Claiming Sinlessness**
 - “Let those who feel inclined to make a high profession of holiness look into the mirror of God’s law. As they see its far-reaching claims, and understand its work as a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart, they will not boast of sinlessness.” (AA 562).
 - “There is no one, however earnestly he may be striving to do his best, who can say, ‘I have no sin.’ He who would say this would be under a dangerous deception.” (UL 53).
 - “There is in the religious world a theory of sanctification which is false in itself and dangerous in its influence. In many cases those who profess sanctification do not possess the genuine article. Their sanctification consists in talk and will worship. Those who are really seeking to perfect Christian character will never indulge the thought that they are sinless. Their lives may be irreproachable, they may be living representatives of the truth which they have accepted; but the more they discipline their minds to dwell upon the character of Christ, and the nearer they approach to His divine image, the more clearly will they discern its spotless perfection, and the more deeply will they feel their own defects.” (SL 7.2).
 - “God does not look with favor upon those self-confident ones who loudly exclaim, “I am sanctified, I am holy, I am sinless.” These are Pharisees, who have no foundation for their assertion. Those who, because of their sense of utter unworthiness, dare scarcely lift up their eyes to heaven, are nearer to God than those who claim so much piety. They are represented by the publican, who, with his head on his breast, prayed, “God be merciful to me a sinner,” and went to his house justified, rather than the self-righteous Pharisee.” (RH February 28, 1907, Art. A, par. 3).
 - **Examples of “I/We have Sinned” (God’s people confessing their sins as they return to Him)**
 - **Aaron after he and Miriam complained against Moses:** “Please do not lay this sin on us, in which we have done foolishly and in which we have sinned” (Numbers 12:11).

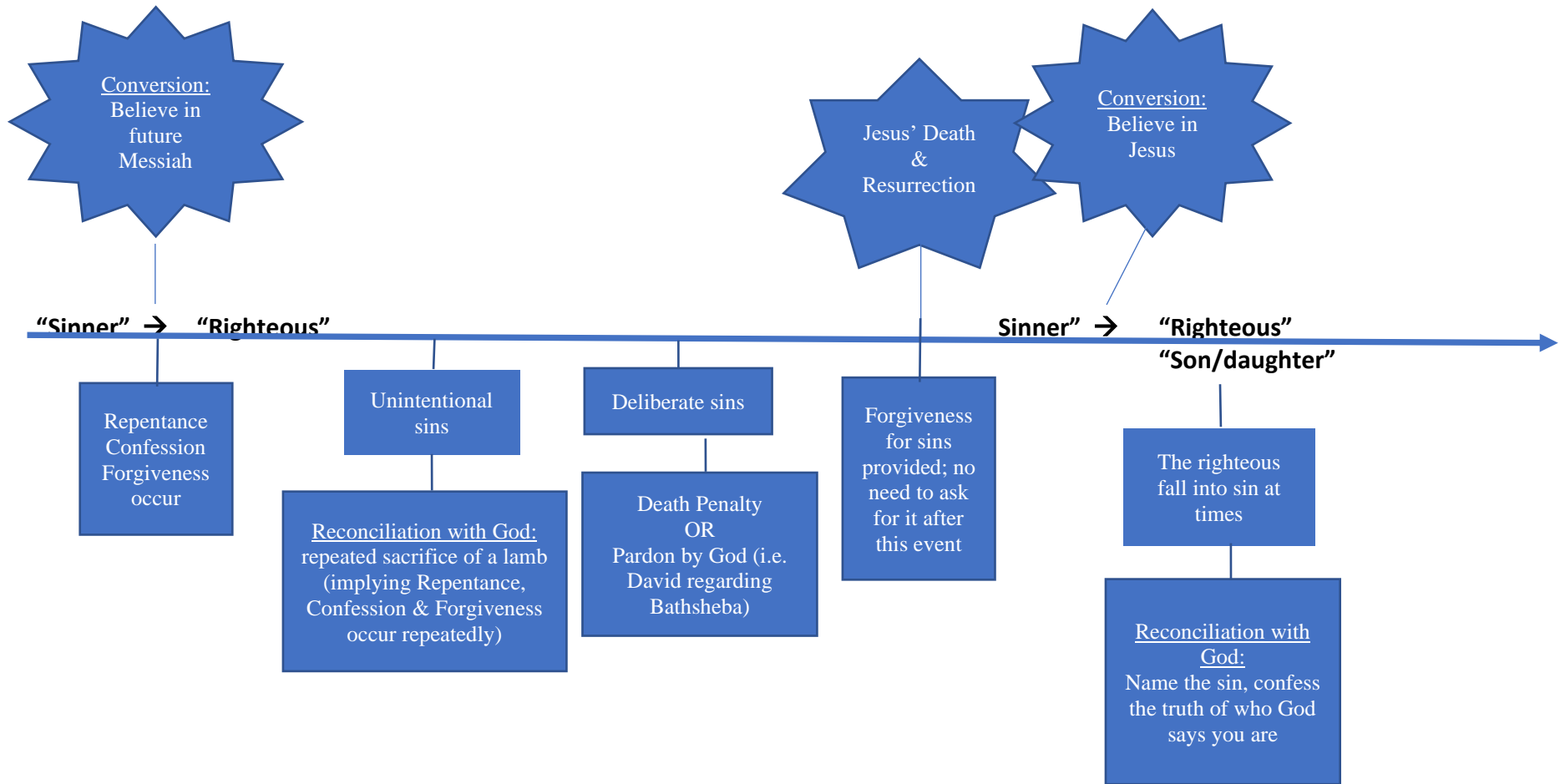
- “And the **children of Israel** cried out to the Lord, saying, ‘We have sinned against You, because we have both forsaken our God and served Baals!’” (Judges 10:10, Emphasis added).
- **Israel after opening up the ark to look inside:** “So they gathered at Mizpah, drew water, and poured it out before the Lord. And they fasted that day, and said there, ‘We have sinned against the Lord.’ And Samuel judged the children of Israel.” (1 Samuel 7:6).
- “So **David** [after Bathsheba] said to Nathan, ‘I have sinned against the Lord.’ And Nathan said to David, ‘The Lord also has put away your sin; you shall not die’” (2 Samuel 12:13, Emphasis added).
- “And **David’s** heart condemned him after he had numbered the people. So David said to the Lord, ‘I have sinned greatly in what I have done; but now, I pray, O Lord, take away the iniquity of Your servant, for I have done very foolishly’” (2 Samuel 24:10, Emphasis added).
- **Nehemiah:** “...Both my father’s house and I have sinned.” (Nehemiah 1:6).
- **David:** “I said, ‘Lord, be merciful to me; heal my soul, for I have sinned against you.’” (Psalm 41:4); “Against You, You only, have I sinned, and done this evil in Your sight’...” (Psalm 51:4).
- **Jeremiah:** “We lie down in our shame, and our reproach covers us. For we have sinned against the Lord our God, we and our fathers, from our youth even to this day, and have not obeyed the voice of the Lord our God” (Jeremiah 3:25; See also 14:7, 20).
- **Daniel:** “We have sinned and committed iniquity, we have done wickedly and rebelled, even by departing from Your precepts and Your judgments.” (Daniel 9:5; See also verses 11, 15).
- **Prodigal Son:** “And the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight, and am no longer worthy to be called your son’” (Luke 15:21).
 - “The son determines to confess his guilt. He will go to his father, saying, ‘I have sinned against heaven, and before thee, and am no more worthy to be called thy son.’” (EGW, *A Call to Stand Apart* p. 12).
- **Reasons why we should not claim we have no sin**
 - **To Recognize our Need and Depend on our Savior**
 - “It is only he who knows himself to be a sinner that Christ can save” (8T316).
 - **It is a Form of Boasting that Demonstrates being Far from Christ’s Character**
 - “I was shown that those who triumph, and claim that they are sinless, show in this very boasting that they are far from being without the taint of sin. The more clearly fallen man comprehends the character of Christ, the more distrustful will he be of himself, and the more imperfect will his works appear to him in contrast with those which marked the life of the spotless Redeemer.” –*Life Sketches of James White* (LS80 211.2).

#9. It is true that we can come with boldness (confidence) before the throne of God, thanks to the merits of Jesus, but we must approach Him in humility.

- **Come with Confidence before the Throne**

- “Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need” (Hebrews 4:16, ESV).
- “But as for the king of Judah, who sent you to inquire of the Lord, in this manner you shall speak to him, ‘Thus says the Lord God of Israel: ‘Concerning the words which you have heard—because your heart was tender, and you humbled yourself before the Lord when you heard what I spoke against this place and against its inhabitants, that they would become a desolation and a curse, and you tore your clothes and wept before Me, I also have heard you,’ says the Lord.” (2 Kings 22:18-19).
- “Then he said to me, ‘Do not fear, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart to understand, and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard; and I have come because of your words.’” (Daniel 10:12).
- “Why not pray as if you had a conscience void of offense, and could come to the throne of grace in humility, yet with holy boldness, lifting up holy hands without wrath and doubting? Do not bow down and cover up your faces as if there were something that you desired to conceal; but lift up your eyes toward the heavenly sanctuary, where Christ your Mediator stands before the Father to present your prayers, mingled with His own merit and spotless righteousness, as fragrant incense.” (Pr 76).

The Experience of Salvation According to Love Reality (Before & After Jesus' Death & Resurrection) *



* Note: this illustration is not explicitly described by Love Reality. This was created based on a compilation of understandings from the Love Reality Tour videos 1-11.

General Words of Advice from Spirit of Prophecy:

- **Individuals mix a lot of scripture into their theories, but are “not correct” and “mixed with error”**
 - “Many will honestly search the Word for Light as those in the past have searched it; and they see light in the Word. But they did not pass over the ground in their experience, when these messages of warning were first proclaimed. Not having had this experience, some do not appreciate the value of the truths that have been to us as waymarks, and that have made us as a peculiar people what we are. They do not make a right application of the Scriptures, and thus they frame theories that are not correct. It is true that they quote an abundance of Scripture, and teach much that is true; but truth is so mixed with error as to lead to wrong conclusions. Yet because they can weave Scripture into their theories, they think that they have a straight chain of truth...” (2SM 110).
- **Deceptions predicted to come so mixed with truth there must be “a thorough examination” and “carefully considered with much prayer” to discern what is truth and what diverges from the right path “almost imperceptibly”**
 - “My soul is much burdened, for I know what is before us. Every conceivable deception will be brought to bear upon those who have not a daily, living connection with God. In our work no side issues must be advanced until there has been a thorough examination of the ideas entertained, that it may be ascertained from what source they have originated. Satan’s angels are wise to do evil, and they will create that which some will claim to be advanced light, will proclaim as new and wonderful things; and yet while in some respects the message is truth, it will be mingled with men’s inventions and will teach for doctrines the commandments of men. If there was ever a time when we should watch and pray in real earnest, it is now. There may be supposable things that appear as good things, and yet they need to be carefully considered with much prayer, for they are specious devices of the enemy to lead souls in a path which lies so close to the path of truth that it will be scarcely distinguishable from the path which leads to holiness and heaven. But the eye of faith may discern that it is diverging from the right path, though almost imperceptibly. At first it may be thought positively right, but after a while it is seen to be widely divergent from the path of safety, from the path which leads to holiness and heaven. My brethren, I warn you to make straight paths for your feet, lest the lame be turned out of the way.” (TM 229).

ⁱ Jonathan Leonardo, *Love Reality Tour* video 6 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ya2PVYunOME> Retrieved 4/17/2021

ⁱⁱ Jonathan Leonardo, *Love Reality Tour* video 9 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wEqIGOWiFjk> Retrieved 4/23/2021.

ⁱⁱⁱ Jonathan Leonardo, *Love Reality Tour* video 5 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aNYx4qLF9F0> beginning at 0:43/46:23 Retrieved 4/14/2021

^{iv} Jonathan Leonardo, *Love Reality Tour* video 5 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aNYx4qLF9F0> Retrieved 4/14/2021

^v Jonathan Leonardo, *Love Reality Tour* video 9 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wEqIGOWiFjk> Retrieved 4/23/2021.

^{vi} Jonathan Leonardo, *Love Reality Tour* video 11 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8zVnp_8uOnM Retrieved 4/25/2021

^{vii} Jonathan Leonardo, *Love Reality Tour* video 9 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wEqIGOWiFjk> Retrieved 4/23/2021.

^{viii} Jonathan Leonardo, *Love Reality Tour* video 5 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aNYx4qLF9F0> Retrieved 4/14/2021

^{ix} Jonathan Leonardo, *Love Reality Tour* video 5 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aNYx4qLF9F0> Retrieved 4/14/2021

^x Jonathan Leonardo, *Love Reality Tour* video 5 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aNYx4qLF9F0> beginning at 0:19/46:23 Retrieved 4/14/2021

^{xi} Jonathan Leonardo, *Love Reality Tour* video 5 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aNYx4qLF9F0> Retrieved 4/14/2021

^{xii} Jonathan Leonardo, *Love Reality Tour* video 1, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CMnxS3tFjtI> Retrieved 4/3/2021

^{xiii} Jonathan Leonardo, *Love Reality Tour* video 5 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aNYx4qLF9F0> Retrieved 4/14/2021

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- ^{xiv} Jonathan Leonardo, *Love Reality Tour* video 11 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8zVnp_8uOnM Retrieved 4/25/2021
- ^{xv} Jonathan Leonardo, *Love Reality Tour* video 5 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aNYx4qLF9F0> Retrieved 4/14/2021
- ^{xvi} Jonathan Leonardo, *Love Reality Tour* video 5 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aNYx4qLF9F0> Retrieved 4/14/2021
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- ^{xviii} Jonathan Leonardo, *Love Reality Tour* video 8 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PtmHyHjT2so> Retrieved 4/22/2021
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- ^{xx} Jonathan Leonardo, *Love Reality Tour* video 9 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wEqIGOWiFjk> Retrieved 4/23/2021
- ^{xxi} Jonathan Leonardo, *Love Reality Tour* video 11 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8zVnp_8uOnM Retrieved 4/27/2021; begins at 50:37/1:07:03
- ^{xxii} <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/grace> Retrieved 4/26/2021