

GENERAL DISCIPLESHIP I

General Discipleship I 1-14 5 ways.doc

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In January of 2014 some minor wording corrections were made and the number of ways to study the Bible was reduced to five.

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General Discipleship I

I. WHY DISCIPLESHIP?

Eph 4:12 For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:

2 Cor 13:9this also we wish, even your perfection.

The ultimate goal of spiritual growth is to become like Jesus. God's plan for us since the beginning has been for us to be like his Son. God wants every believer to develop the character of Christ. The big question, then is: How does spiritual growth happen? How do we become mature in Christ?

II. MYTHS ABOUT SPIRITUAL MATURITY

A. Myth #1--Spiritual growth is automatic once you are born again

1. Spiritual growth is not automatic with the passing of time. The writer of Hebrews sadly noted, **"...though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you elementary truths of God's word all over again"** (Hebrews 5:12). Millions of Christians have grown older without ever growing up. Spiritual growth is intentional. It requires commitment and effort to grow. A person must want to grow, decide to grow, and make an effort to grow. Discipleship starts with a sincere decision. The disciples certainly did not understand all of the implications of their decision when they decided to follow Christ; they simply expressed a desire to follow him. Jesus took the simple but sincere decision and built on it.
2. **Philippians 2:12-13** says, **"Continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose."**

Notice that it says "work out," not "work on," your salvation. There is nothing you can add to what Christ did for your salvation. Paul is talking about spiritual growth to people who already are saved. The

important thing is that god has a part in our growth, but so do we. We become whatever we are committed to.

B. Myth #2--Spiritual growth is mystical, and maturity is attainable by only a select few

- 1.** Mention the term “spirituality” today and many people conjure up an image of someone in a white robe, sitting in a yoga position, burning incense, and chanting with his or her eyes closed. Actually, spiritual growth is very practical. Paul often compared training for the Christian life to the way athletes stay in shape. **1 Timothy 4:7** says, **“Take time and trouble to keep yourself spiritually fit.”**
- 2.** Anyone can become physically fit if he or she will regularly do certain exercises and practice good health habits. Likewise, spiritual fitness is simply a matter of leaning certain spiritual exercises and being disciplined enough to do them until they become habits. Character is shaped by the habits we develop.

C. Myth #3--Spiritual maturity can occur instantly if you can find the right “key”

- 1.** Christian character is not acquired overnight or by simply reading a book. Many sincere Christians spend time their entire lives earnestly searching for an experience, a conference, a revival, a book, a tape, or a single truth that will instantly transform them into a mature believer. Spiritual growth is a process that takes time. Believers grow faster when you provide a track for them to grow on.
- 2.** Some key areas, which should be understood by every new believer follow in this outline.

III. The Nature of God

There is much more to study and know about God than we will be able to consider in this first lesson. However, we will begin with the assumption that God does exist, and concern ourselves here with a few basic things we can know about Him according to the scriptures.

- A. **Can God be defined?** When speaking about the nature of God, it is not possible to put together a word or phrase expressing the essential nature of God. No one could define God for He is indescribable. However, we can describe the attributes of God that are revealed in scripture and therefore, in a limited way, define God. The following statement is one attempt to define God:

“There is but one only living and true God, who is infinite in being and perfection, a most pure spirit, invisible, without body, parts, or passions, immutable, immense, eternal, incomprehensible, almighty, most wise, most holy, most free, most absolute, working all things according to the counsel of his own immutable and most righteous will, for his own glory; most loving, gracious, merciful, long-suffering, abundant in goodness and truth, forgiving iniquity, transgression, and sin; the rewarder of them that diligently seek him; and withal most just and terrible in his judgments; hating all sin, and who will by no means clear the guilty.” (Westminster Catechism)

- B. **The Essence of God** (This is only a partial look at the essence of God)

1. God is a Spirit

John 4:24 God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.

A body localizes, but God as spirit is everywhere; He cannot be limited. Although God does not have a body, He is nonetheless a substance but not material.

2. He is immaterial and incorporeal:

Immaterial= Not having material or physical substance.

Incorporeal= Not having bodily, physical form

Luke 24:39 "Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself. Handle me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see I have."

a.

In the above passage Jesus shows his humanity while at the same time explaining that a "spirit" does not have possess flesh and bone substance.

b.

This explains the strict restrictions against making any graven image in the O.T. for there can be no physical likeness of God. (Ex. 20:4, Deut. 16:22.)

c.

Why then are there scriptures in the Bible that ascribe physical features to God? These are called "Anthropomorphic scriptures" meaning to ascribe human form or attributes to a being not human.

(1) Is. 65:2, Heb. 1:10- **Hands**

(2) Gen. 3:8, Ps.8:6- **Feet**

(3) 1 Kings 8:29, 2 Chron. 16:9- **Eyes,**

(4) Neh. 1:6, Ps. 34:15- **Ears**

They should be understood in that they are symbolic representations, which serve to make God real and to express His various interests, powers and activities.

3. God is Invisible (Deut. 4:15-19)

a. John 1:18 "No one has seen God at any time."

b. Rom. 1:20 "For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes."

c. Col. 1:15 "He is the image of the invisible God."

d. 1 Tim. 1:17 "Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible..."

4. He is Alive.

a. The knowledge that God is spirit indicates that His essence is not of material substance yet He is very much alive.

- b. Josh. 3:10, "By this you shall know that the living God is among you."
 - c. 1 Sam. 17:26, "Who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the Living God."
 - d. Ps. 84:2, Matt. 16:16, "You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God."
- 5. **God is Self Existent:** God is not dependent on anyone or anything outside of himself. Ex. 3:14, "I am who I am."
- 6. **God is Immense:**
Simply put, he is not limited in relation to space. All finite space is in fact dependent on him.
 - a. Jer. 23:24- "Can anyone hide himself in secret places, so I shall not see him? Says the Lord. Do I not fill heaven and earth? Says the Lord."
 - b. Is. 66:1- "Thus says the Lord: Heaven is my throne and earth is my footstool. Where is the house that you will build for me? And where is the place of my rest."
- 7. **God is Eternal:**
God is infinite in relation to time. He is without beginning and without end. He is free from all succession of time, and he is the cause of time.
 - a. Gen. 21:33, "The everlasting God"
 - b. Ps. 90:2, "From everlasting to everlasting thou art God."
 - c. Ps. 102:27, "And you are the same and your years will have no end."
 - d. Is. 57:15, The high and exalted one who lives forever.

C. **The Attributes of God**

The attributes of God are the distinguishing characteristics of the divine nature that are revealed to man, and therefore help us to know and understand the nature of God. Some of these attributes are briefly presented in what follows:

1. The Non Moral or Natural Attributes

- a. **Omnipresence:** Come from Latin, using prefix Omni, meaning "All".

Present everywhere at once, God is present in all His creation, but in no manner limited by it. Immensity (or vastness of God) emphasizes the transcendence of God in that He transcends all space and is not subject to his creation. Omnipresence has special reference to His presence within the universe. (1 Kings 8:27, . 139:7-10, Is. 66:1, Acts 17:24)

Psa 139:7-10 Whither shall I go from thy spirit? or whither shall I flee from thy presence? 139:8 If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there: if I make my bed in hell, behold, thou art there. 139:9 If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea; 139:10 Even there shall thy hand lead me, and thy right hand shall hold me.

- b. **Omniscience:**

The following explanation is from “A Survey of Bible Doctrine” by Charles C. Ryrie, published by Moody Press, Chicago, Ill.

Omniscience means that God knows everything, and this includes the knowledge not only of things that actually happen but also of things, which might happen. This kind of knowledge God had by nature and without the effort of learning. Jesus claimed omniscience when He said, “**If the mighty works, which were done in you, had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes**” (**Mt 11:21**). Here is a display of the knowledge of things that might have happened. God “**telleth the number of the stars; he calleth them all by their names**” (**Ps 147:4**), and “**known unto God are all his works from the beginning of the world**” (**Ac 15:18**).

The practical ramifications of the omniscience of God are many. Think, for instance, what this means in relation to the eternal security of the believer. If God knows all, then obviously nothing can come to light subsequent to our salvation, which He did not

know when He saved us. There were no skeletons in the closet, which He did not know about when He offered to give us eternal salvation. Think again what omniscience means when something tragic occurs in our lives. God knows and has known all about it from the beginning and is working all things out for His glory and our ultimate good. Consider what omniscience ought to mean in relation to living the Christian life. Here is Someone who knows all the pitfalls as well as the ways to be happy and who has offered to give us this wisdom. If we would heed what He says then we could avoid a lot of trouble and experience a lot of happiness.

c. Omnipotence:

God is all powerful and able to do whatever he wills. God's will is limited by his nature, in that he can only do what is in harmony with his moral attributes.

(The Moody Handbook of Theology) “The term omnipotence signifies that God is all powerful. However, it **does not** suggest that because God is all-powerful He can and does do anything or everything at random.... In other words, the question, “Can God create a stone so large that He could not lift it?” is not a legitimate question. God can do all things that are in harmony with His nature and person.

The name Almighty means “the mighty one” and is probably derived from the verb meaning “to be strong” (Gen. 17:1; 28:3; Isa. 13:6; Ezek. 1:24; Joel 1:15). Because God is Almighty, all things are possible (Matt. 19:26). The One who has formed the unborn child (Ps. 139:13-16) and created the heavens (Jer. 32:17) can do all things; nothing is too hard for Him. He does as He pleases (Ps. 115:3) and decrees all things in accordance with His will (Eph. 1:11).

God cannot do things that are not in harmony with His nature:

- He cannot go back on His word (2 Tim. 2:13);
- He cannot lie (Heb. 6:18);
- He has no relationship to sin (Hab. 1:13; James 1:13).

Since God is able to do as He pleases, the doctrine of God's omnipotence becomes a source of great comfort for the believer (Gen. 18:14; 1 Pet. 1:5).

d. Immutability:

God is unchangeable in his essence, attributes, consciousness, and will. All change is either to the better or to the worse, but God cannot change, for the better since he is absolutely perfect, and for the same reason he cannot change for the worse.

(The Moody Handbook of Theology)Malachi 3:6 teaches the doctrine of immutability: "I, the Lord, do not change." James 1:17 indicates there is no variation or shifting shadow with God.

There is change throughout the world from year to year, but God does not change in His Person nor in His response to His creatures. The value of this doctrine is enormous: since God does not change, His love and His promises forever remain certain. For example, He will never change concerning His promise in John 3:16."

e. Sovereignty: The following is from "A Survey of Bible Doctrine" by Charles C. Ryrie, published by Moody Press, Chicago, Ill.

The word *sovereign* means chief, highest or supreme. When we say that God is sovereign we are saying that He is the number one Ruler in the universe. Actually, the word itself does not tell anything about how that Ruler may rule, although this is described in the Bible. The word itself means only that He is the supreme Being in the universe. Of course, the position brings with it a certain amount of authority, and in God's case that authority is total and absolute. This does not mean, however, that He rules His universe as a dictator, for God is not only sovereign, He is also love and holiness. He can do nothing apart from the exercise of all His attributes acting harmoniously together. The concept of sovereignty involves the entire plan of God in all of its intricate details of design and outworking. Although He often

allows things to take their natural course according to laws, which He designed, it is the sovereign God who is working all things according to His wise plan.

That the Bible teaches the sovereignty of God there can be no doubt. Just read **Ephesians 1** and **Romans 9** (and don't worry about all the ramifications). For the Christian the idea of sovereignty is an encouraging one, for it assures him that nothing is out of God's control, and that His plans do triumph.

These are the principal attributes or characteristics of God, and this is the only God that exists. The God of the Bible is not a god of man's own making or thinking or choosing, but He is the God of His own revelation.

2. The Moral Attributes of God:

God's moral attributes are those qualities in God manifest as they relate to moral creatures. These attributes relate closely to the will of God.

a. God is Holy: Holiness is God's foremost attribute.

Holiness is the attribute that God wanted to be known by.

Lev. 11:44-45, "For I am the Lord your God. You shall therefore sanctify yourselves, and you shall be holy, for I am holy, For I am the Lord who brings you up out of the land of Egypt, to be your God. You shall therefore be holy, for I am Holy."

b. God is Righteous and Just: The righteousness and justice of God is that aspect of his holiness that is seen in his treatment of man. (2 Chron. 12:6, Ezra 9:15, Neh. 9:33, Is. 45:21, Dan. 9:14, John 17:25, 2 Tim. 4:8, Rev. 16:5, Ps. 89:14)

2 Chr 12:6 Whereupon the princes of Israel and the king humbled themselves; and they said, **The LORD is righteous.**

c. God is Good

The goodness of God encompasses four qualities of God. The love of God, the benevolence of God, the mercy of God, the grace of God.

(1) The Love Of God:

(a) God's love is not a mere emotional impulse, but a rational and voluntary affection, having its ground in truth and holiness. And it's an exercise in free choice.

(b) The scripture testifies of God's love.

- (2 Cor. 13:11) The God of Love.
- (1 John 4:8, 10, 16) It is God's nature to love, he initiates love.
- God loves the world (John 3:16, Eph. 2:4).
- God loves His people, Israel (Deut. 7:6-8, Jer. 31:1-3).
- God loves righteousness (Ps. 11:7, Is. 61:8).
- Nothing can separate us from the love of God. (Rom. 8:35-39)

(2) God is Benevolent: (Desiring to do good to others)

(a) Because of His goodness, God deals bountifully, tenderly, and kindly with all His creatures. (Ps. 145:9, 15-16).

(b) God is good to all creation providing for their individual needs. (Matt. 5:45, Acts. 14:17)

(3) God is Merciful:

(a) God's mercy is His goodness manifested towards those who are in misery or distress. Compassion, pity, and loving kindness are other scriptural terms for the same thing.

(b) The exercise of mercy is optional in every given case. If it were necessary for God to be merciful in every case on every situation it would no longer be mercy, it would be a debt owed.

(c) Eph. 2:4 - "God is rich in mercy."

(d) James 5:11 - God is full of compassion and is merciful.

(e) 1 Pet. 1:3 - God has "great mercy."

(4) God is Gracious:

(a) The grace of God is God's goodness manifested toward the ill-deserving. Mercy is extended to the miserable and

pitiful whereas grace is what is extended to the sinner and guilty. It is the unmerited favor of God.

(b) Eph. 2:7-9 - The surpassing riches of His grace.

1 Pet. 4:10 - The manifold grace of God.

1 Pet. 5:12 - The true grace.

(c) The exercise of grace is optional. God must be Holy in all His actions, but grace is an option. God's grace is revealed in His long-suffering with man and delaying of punishment. (Ex. 34:6, Rom. 2:4, 3:25, 9:22, 1 Pet. 3:20)

d. God is Truth:

(1) He is the source of all truth and right knowledge.

(2) John 17:3 - The only true God.

1 John 5:20 - We are in Him who is true.

Jer. 10:10, John 3:33, Rom. 3:4

(3) Because He is truth, he fulfills all His promises, which are expressed in His word.- Is. 25:1

God is faithful to Himself.- 2 Tim. 2:13

To His word.- Heb. 11:11

To His people. - 1 Cor. 1:9, 10:13, 1 Thess. 5:24

D. The Trinity of God

1. Word "Trinity" does not appear in the Bible.

- a. A man by the name of "Terturian" first used this term in (220 A.D.). Although the word does not appear in the scriptures, the doctrine is Biblical since the concept is clearly evident.
- b. "A proper definition of the Trinity states: "the Trinity is composed of three united Persons without separate existence—so completely united as to form one God. The divine nature subsists in three distinctions—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit." (The Moody Handbook of Theology)
- c. Charles C. Ryrie writes: "There is only one God, but in the unity of the Godhead there are three eternal and co-equal Persons, the same in substance, but distinct in subsistence." (Willmington's Guide to the Bible)

2. The Trinity evident in both testaments of the Bible. For this class we will examine some of the New Testament proofs:

a. Present at Jesus' baptism - Matt. 3:16-17

Mat 3:16-17 And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw **the Spirit of God** descending like a dove, and lighting upon him: 3:17 And lo **a voice from heaven**, saying, **This is my beloved Son**, in whom I am well pleased.

b. Jesus' teachings concerning the Holy Spirit, prove the Trinity. - John 14:26, John 15:26.

John 14:26 But the Comforter, which is the **Holy Ghost**, whom the **Father** will send **in my name**, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

John 15:26 But when **the Comforter** is come, whom **I will send** unto you **from the Father**, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me:

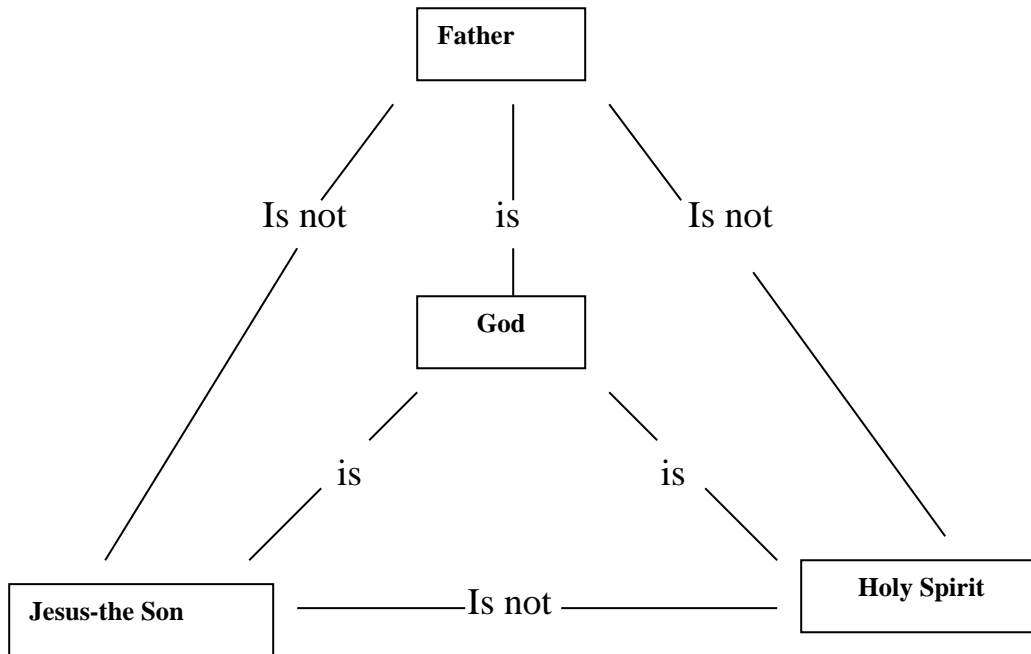
c. Jesus' instructions on baptism prove the Trinity. – Matt. 28:19

Mat 28:19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the **Father**, and of the **Son**, and of the **Holy Ghost**:

From these passages we can clearly see evidence of the triune nature of our God.

3. Illustrations of the triune God:

- a. **Drawing of the nature of the trinity.** This simple drawing seeks to illustrate the inter relationship of the three persons of the triune God.



- b. **Water** is a frequently used illustration of the 3 in one God. It retains its same chemical activity whether in solid, liquid, or gas. All are water, yet distinct from each other. Same essence but differing manifestations.

IV. God the Father

The following is from “A Survey of Bible Doctrine” by Charles C. Ryrie, published by Moody Press, Chicago, Ill.

A. THE PARTICULAR RELATIONSHIPS OF THE FATHER

1. All people are called the offspring of God (**Ac 17:29**); therefore, there is a sense in which God is the Father of all men as their Creator. This is simply a creature-Creator relationship and is in no sense a spiritual one.
2. God is the Father of the nation Israel (**Ex 4:22**). Not all in Israel were redeemed, so this relationship was both spiritual (with believers) and

governmental (with all in Israel, whether believers or not).

3. God is the Father of the Lord Jesus Christ (**Mt 3:17**).
4. In a very special way God is the Father of all who believe in Christ (**Gal 3:26**).

B. THE PARTICULAR WORKS OF THE FATHER

Almost everything God does involves in some way or other all the Members of the Trinity. So when we speak of the particular works of the Father we are not excluding the other Persons, but simply delineating those things, which seem to be the prerogative of the Father in a special way.

1. It is the Father who was the Author of the decree or plan of God (**Ps 2:7-9**).
2. The Father was related to the act of election as its Author (**Eph 1:3-6**).
3. The Father sent the Son to this world (**Jn 5:37**).
4. The Father is the disciplinarian of His children (**Heb 12:9**).

V. GOD THE LORD JESUS CHRIST

The uniqueness of Christianity is the Person, Jesus Christ, and the distinctiveness of Christ is the fact that He is the God-man. In other words, He is a divine-human Being, something unique in time and eternity. It is also a concept very difficult to understand, for we have no basis for comparison with another God-man in history nor do we get any help from our experience. Yet this is not a dogma imposed on us simply to receive without question; it is a conclusion, which grows out of the evidence in the Bible. Many facts point to the conclusion that Jesus Christ is God; many others lead to the conclusion that He is truly human; at the same time we see only one Person moving across the pages of the gospels. This union of undiminished deity and perfect humanity forever in one Person is called the doctrine of the hypostatic union (that is, the union of two hypostases or natures), and this is the uniqueness of Jesus Christ. (From "A Survey of Bible Doctrine" by Charles C. Ryrie, published by Moody Press, Chicago, Ill.)

Volumes could be written about our Lord Jesus Christ. For this study we will examine just a few important topics: His pre-incarnate existence, the incarnation, His earthly life, His resurrection, and present ministry. (most of the information

on the Lord Jesus Christ (V.) is from “A Survey of Bible Doctrine” by Charles C. Ryrie, published by Moody Press, Chicago, Ill.).

A. HIS PREEXISTENCE

Did Christ exist before He was born at Bethlehem? The answer is yes. While this does not of itself prove His deity (for He might, for instance, have existed as an angel before His birth), it certainly seems necessary to validate His claim to be the revelation of God and the Revealer of the Father. Did He exist before He was born? Names given to Him in the Old Testament indicate this. [Micah 5:2](#) teaches the eternity of the Son, for the word translated “from of old” is used in [Habakkuk 1:12](#) of God’s eternal nature; thus, what God is, the Son is (see also [Is 9:6](#)). Furthermore, He Himself claimed to be preexistent, for He said, “Before Abraham [came to be], I am” ([Jn 8:58](#)). The statement, “I am,” is not only a claim to existence before Abraham but also is a reference to the sacred name of God, *Yahweh*, and thus a claim to be God ([Ex 3:14-15](#)). Certain works which are said to have been done by Christ could only have been accomplished if He existed before time (e.g., creation, [Col 1:16](#)). Of course, His claims to be God, which are discussed in the next section, include pre-existence.

1. **His assertions.** Jesus of Nazareth claimed equality with God when He said that He and the Father were one ([Jn 5:18](#); [10:30](#)). Those who heard Him make this statement understood the force of such a claim, for they accused Him of blasphemy. If He were only claiming to be some kind of superman, they would not have bothered with the blasphemy charge. When Christ stood before the high priest, He gave a clear affirmative answer to the question whether He was the Christ ([Mt 26:63-64](#)). And His reply was given under oath.

In both [John 10:36](#) and [Matthew 26:63](#) the phrase “Son of God” is used, which some claim means something less than deity in order to avoid the conclusion that Christ claimed to be God. This is not so.

In Jewish usage the term “son of ...” did not generally imply any subordination, but rather equality and identity of nature. Thus Bar Kokba, who led the Jewish revolt 132–135 A.D. in the reign of Hadrian, was called by a name which means “Son of the Star.” It is supposed that he took this name to identify himself as the very Star predicted

in Numbers 24:17. The name Son of Consolation (Acts 4:36) doubtless means, “The Consoler.” “Sons of Thunder” (Mark 3:17) probably means “Thunderous Men.” “Son of Man,” especially as applied to Christ in Daniel 7:13 and constantly in the New Testament, essentially means “The Representative Man.” Thus for Christ to say, “I am the Son of God” (John 10:36) was understood by His contemporaries as identifying Himself as God, equal with the Father, in an unqualified sense.

Not only did Jesus make the claim to be equal with God for Himself, but the writers of the New Testament did the same. See John 1:1; 20:28; Romans 9:5; Philippians 2:6; Titus 2:13.

2. **His works.** Furthermore, Jesus of Nazareth claimed to do certain things which only God can do. In a classic confrontation with the scribes the Lord demonstrated He had the power to forgive sins by healing a man sick of the palsy. The scribes considered this claim to be blasphemy because they recognized that only God can forgive sins. The miracle of healing was done in order to validate Christ’s claim to be able to forgive sins (Mk 2:1-12).

On other occasions He claimed that *all* judgment was given into His hands (Jn 5:27), that He would send the Holy Spirit (Jn 15:26), and that He would be the one to raise the dead (Jn 5:25). Since these are all prerogatives of deity, they substantiate His claim to be God or else they make Him a liar.

Elsewhere in the New Testament, works are attributed to Christ which only God can perform, further substantiating His equality with God. See John 1:3 and Colossians 1:16 for His work of creating, Colossians 1:17 and Hebrews 1:3 for the work of upholding all things, and Acts 17:31 for His being Judge of all men.

3. **His characteristics.** Jesus of Nazareth possessed characteristics which only God has He claimed to be all-powerful (Mt 28:18; cf. Rev 1:8); He displayed knowledge that could only have come from His being omniscient (Mk 2:8; Jn 1:48); He made a promise which we often quote that depends on His being present everywhere (Mt 18:20; cf. Mt 28:20; Eph 1:23). These very distinctive claims indicate either that He

was God or a great deceiver.

4. **His ascriptions.** Others ascribed to the Lord the prerogatives of deity in substantiation of His own claims. He was worshiped by men and by angels (Mt 14:33; Phil 2:10; Heb 1:6). His name is coupled with other Members of the Trinity in a relationship of equality (Mt 28:19; 2 Co 13:14). The writer to the Hebrews declared that He was the same in substance with the Father—“the exact likeness of his substance” (Heb 1:3, free trans.). Coupled with Paul’s statement that “in Him dwells all the fullness of deity in bodily form” (Col 2:9, free trans.), these are very strong declarations of His full deity equal with the deity of the Father and the Spirit. Too, He is called Yahweh in the New Testament, which could only be true if He were fully God. Notice Luke 1:76 compared with Malachi 3:1, and Romans 10:13 compared with Joel 2:32. Add other names of deity which He is given (God, Heb 1:8; Lord, Mt 22:43-45; King of kings and Lord of lords, Rev 19:16), and we can only conclude that Christ’s deity is fully attested by the ascriptions given Him in the New Testament.

Remember that in each of these four lines of evidences for the deity of Christ, the proofs have been cited from two sources—the claims which the Lord Himself made as taken from His own words, and the claims which others made of Him in New Testament books other than the gospels. Both are equally valid, though there are some people today who deprecate the writers of the New Testament but who still pay some attention to Christ’s own words. In helping people to acknowledge the evidence for the deity of our Lord it may be useful to keep this distinction in mind and present to them first Christ’s own claims before presenting the evidence of the rest of the New Testament.

B. THE INCARNATION & HUMANITY OF CHRIST

1. **The incarnation** was the way in which Christ took on humanity. The word means “in flesh,” and the method of the incarnation was the virgin birth. Though there has been debate over the meaning of “virgin” in Isaiah 7:14, there can be no question that the New Testament quotation of the prophecy intends us to understand “virgin” (Mt 1:23). Furthermore, the use of a *feminine* relative *singular* pronoun in Matthew 1:16 shows that the birth of Jesus was connected exclusively with Mary and not Joseph. The Scriptures say only that the

Holy Spirit came upon Mary to generate the child within her (Lk 1:35).

The New Testament states the following purposes for the incarnation:

- to reveal God to men (Jn 1:18),
- to provide an example for living (1 Pe 2:21),
- to provide a sacrifice for sin (Heb 10:1-10),
- to destroy the works of the devil (1 Jn 3:8),
- to enable Him to be a merciful and faithful High Priest (Heb 2:17; & 5:1-2),
- to fulfill the promise of a son to sit on the throne of David forever (Lk 1:31-33).

Each of these purposes is worth considerable study, and we can only mention the highlights here. As a man, He provides an example for our lives. Only a man can die, so the Saviour had to become incarnate in order to be able to die. Because He lived here on earth as a man, He can understand and sympathize as our Priest. Remember, however, that His humanity was always perfect (Heb 4:15; 2 Co 5:21).

2. **The Humanity of Christ** is seen clearly in scripture:

- a. He had a human body.** Although His conception was supernatural, He did possess a human body, born as a baby and developing as human beings do (Mt 1:18; Gal 4:4; Lk 2:52). He referred to Himself as a man and was recognized by others as such (Jn 8:40-41 & 1 Jn 1:1).
- b. He had a human soul and spirit.** It is important to remember that the *humanity* of Christ included body, soul and spirit—material and immaterial. It was not that the humanity provided only the body while the deity provided the soul and spirit in the person of Christ. The humanity was complete and therefore included both material and immaterial aspects (Mt 26:38; Lk 23:46).
- c. He had the characteristics of a human being.** Jesus was hungry (Mt 4:2), He was thirsty (Jn 19:28), He grew tired (Jn 4:6) He experienced love and compassion (Mt 9:36), He wept (Jn 11:35), and He was tested (Heb 4:15).
- d. He possessed human names.** He called Himself the Son of man, linking Himself to the work of Saviour and coming King (Lk

19:10). He was called the Son of David (Mk 10:47), Jesus (Mt 1:21), and a man (1 Ti 2:5).

C. The Earthly Life of Christ & Offices He fulfilled

1. THE EVENTS OF HIS LIFE

- a.** The earthly life of Christ is doctrinally important for several reasons.

(1) First, it proved the validity of His claims and thus His worthiness to be the Saviour. It was the time when the Lamb was tested and proved to be a proper sacrifice for sin.

(2) Second, His earthly life furnishes an example for His people to follow. This particularly means the example of His self-sacrificing love (1 Jn 2:6).

(3) Third, it was during His earthly life that His teachings were given. Some of those teachings concerned the Jewish people directly, and some were given in anticipation of the founding of His church.

- b.** The life of Christ may be divided into three parts.

(1) First, there were the years of preparation beginning with His birth in Bethlehem, through the years of infancy, childhood and growth into full manhood, and concluding with His baptism and temptation.

(2) Second, there followed the years of public ministry which included His early ministry in Judea (Jn 2:13–4:3), His ministry in Galilee (Mk 1:14–9:50), and the Perean ministry (Lk 9:51–19:28).

(3) Third, there were events leading up to His death and the crucifixion itself. These occurred during what is called Passion Week (Lk 19:29–22:46) and included:

- (a) the betrayal and arrest (Jn 18:2-13),
- (b) the trial before Annas (Jn 18:12-24),
- (c) the trial before Caiaphas (Mk 14:53–15:1),
- (d) the first trial before Pilate (Mk 15:1-5),
- (e) the trial before Herod (Lk 23:8-12),
- (f) the second trial before Pilate (Mk 15:6-15),

(g) and the crucifixion itself with its various words spoken from the cross.

2. THE OFFICES HE OCCUPIED

During His life the Lord occupied and exercised the three offices of prophet, priest and king.

- a. **The prophet** was the channel through which God's message was delivered to man. Our Lord called Himself a prophet ([Mt 13:57](#)) and was undoubtedly the greatest of all prophets, for He not only delivered God's message to man, but He also revealed God in His life and person. Of all His teachings only a portion have been recorded, but the scope and comprehensiveness of the revelation that came through Christ are beyond any other. Three lengthy and important discourses should be studied—the Sermon on the Mount ([Mt 5–7](#)), the Olivet discourse ([Mt 24–25](#)), and the upper room discourse ([Jn 13–16](#)).
- b. **Our Lord was a priest** after the order of Melchisedec (seen first in Gen. 14) although He performed many of the functions that were illustrated by the Aaronic priests. He was appointed by God, fully qualified, offered a sacrifice for sin, and represented His people before God ([Heb 5:1-10](#)). Of course His priestly ministry in behalf of believers continues today in His interceding for us, and His sustaining us ([Heb 7:25](#); [Rev 2:1](#)).
- c. **The office of Christ as King** was predicted before His birth ([Is 9:6-7](#), [Lk 1:31-33](#)). When He came He fulfilled the requirements of that promised King although **the Jewish** people rejected His claims. The result of that rejection was not an annulment of the kingdom promises, but simply a delay in their fulfillment until the second advent of the King. In the meantime He is building His church. The delay in no way puts in doubt the certainty of future fulfillment nor does it alter the fact that He always is King in His person.

D. The Resurrection and Ascension of Christ

1. THE FACT OF THE RESURRECTION

The fact of the bodily resurrection of Christ is overwhelmingly attested to in the Bible.

- a. First of all, man is confronted with an empty tomb. Many explanations are offered as to why it was empty, but they are all unbelievable except the one that says He arose from the dead. To say that the disciples went to the wrong tomb and happened to find one that was empty requires a lot of faith, since there were Roman soldiers and angels stationed at Christ's tomb, making it rather easy to find. To say that the body was stolen by outside parties was known to be a fabrication in those days (Mt 28:11-15). If it had been stolen then why was it not produced the moment the disciples began to preach the bodily resurrection of Christ from the dead? That would have silenced their preaching quickly and completely. To say that the disciples stole the body is to conclude that they were willing to die as martyrs for something they knew to be a lie. Furthermore, the orderly condition in which the graveclothes were found by those who came to the tomb indicates that the body was not stolen. Robbers would not have unwrapped the body in the first place; but if they did, they certainly would have left the wrappings in disarray (Jn 20:6-7). The empty tomb is impossible to explain apart from bodily resurrection.
- b. Second, all the appearances of the Lord after the resurrection are evidence that He did rise, and those appearances came at various times, to various people and under various circumstances—all of which indicate that they were not staged (Jn 20:11-17; Mt 28:9-10; 1 Co 15:5; Lk 24:13-35, 36-43; Jn 20:26-29; 21:1-23; 1 Co 15:6). The sheer number of witnesses to the appearances of Christ after the resurrection makes it impossible to conceive of the story being fabricated by a few.
- c. Third, many subsequent events of history also attest to the resurrection. For example, on the day of Pentecost, Peter declared that Jesus had been raised less than two months before in the same city where he was preaching, and he was not challenged or contradicted. Indeed, his message was believed by 3,000 people.

The very marked change in Peter and the others, the growth of the church, and the beginning of worship on Sunday all are results of the resurrection.

2. THE NATURE OF THE RESURRECTION

Christ rose bodily from the dead. His was not a resurrection of “influence” or “spirit.” The resurrection does not mean simply that His memory lives on, but it was a physical, bodily resurrection. Those bodily characteristics of His resurrection body were felt and seen by the disciples (Lk 24:39; Jn 20:27), and He demonstrated certain physical functions when He ate with them (Lk 24:42-43). His resurrection body was clearly identified with the same one which was crucified and buried.

But it was also different in that it was not subject to normal limitations. For instance, after the resurrection He could pass through closed doors (Jn 20:19), but most important He cannot die ever again (Ro 6:9).

3. THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE RESURRECTION

The resurrection proved the validity of Christ’s claims about Himself and the truth of all that He said. The angel emphasized this at the open tomb (Mt 28:6) and Peter reiterated it on the day of Pentecost (Ac 2:30-31).

The resurrection is the everlasting guarantee of the forgiveness of our sins (1 Co 15:17). Our trust is not in myths or self-induced beliefs, but in the true and proven facts of the gospel.

The resurrection is also the guarantee of the certainty of future resurrection of all men—those who believe to everlasting life and those who do not believe to everlasting condemnation (Jn 5:28-29). Future judgment is also certain because the Judge has been raised from the dead (Ac 17:31).

The resurrection also has significance in relation to the life of the believer in providing power for his service and relationship to his risen Head (Eph 1:19-22), and assuring him of a sympathetic High Priest

(Heb 4:14-16).

E. The Present Ministry of Christ

The present ministry of our Lord is chiefly related to **believers** in contrast to the present work of the Spirit which includes ministries to unbelievers, like enlightening and regenerating. Among the particulars of Christ's ministry are the following:

1. The risen and ascended Christ is praying for **believers**. This has several benefits: it guarantees the security of their salvation (Heb 7:25); it assures continued fellowship in the family of God (1 Jn 2:1); and it is a powerful preventive against sin in their lives (Jn 17:15).
2. The Lord is preparing a place for our everlasting habitation (Jn 14:3). He is anticipating the day when He will take us to be with Himself by preparing for our arrival in heaven.
3. Christ is now building the church which is His body (Mt 16:18).
4. The Head of the church is engaged in various activities on behalf of the members of His body. We have already noted that as ascended Head He gives gifts to men (Eph 4:11). These are essential to the proper functioning of the body. Furthermore, He indwells every member of the body of Christ (Gal 2:20). He Himself indwells us and He has sent the Spirit who also indwells us. The standard against which His indwelling power is measured is His own resurrection and ascension (Eph 1:18-20). The resurrection guarantees that His power can bring victory out of defeat, and His being seated at the right hand of the Father assures us that His power can bring honor in place of dishonor. Too, the Lord is nurturing and cherishing the body of Christ (Eph 5:29). The idea in these words is that our Lord is fostering with tender concern the growth of His people. As Head He also gives union and direction to the church (Eph 2:20-21).
5. The Lord is also engaged in answering our prayers (Jn 14:14). When we pray in His name He will answer and the result will be even greater works than He did while on earth (Jn 14:12). This means greater in scope (worldwide now) and greater in kind (involving all the spiritual

benefits which the coming of the Spirit unleashes).

6. He gives special help for particular needs (Heb 4:16). The help is promised just at the particular time that the need arises, according to this verse. This includes help (same Greek word) in times of temptation (Heb 2:18).
7. He is concerned with the fruitfulness of His followers (Jn 15:1-16).

Of course, none of these ministries would be operative if Christ were not alive today!

VI. God the Holy Spirit

As with the other members of the God-head, a true study of the person of the Holy Spirit could fill several books. Thus for our limited purpose here we shall examine the Deity of the Holy Spirit, and some areas of His present ministry in the lives of believers. (most of the information on God the Holy Spirit (**VI.**) is from “A Survey of Bible Doctrine” by Charles C. Ryrie, published by Moody Press, Chicago, Ill.).

A. Is the Holy Spirit Completely God?

The proof of the personality of the Spirit does not, of course, include the proof that He is God. The reverse is true, however, for if He is God He must also be a person as God is. The denial of deity and personality usually go together, though some believe He is a person without believing that He is also divine.

1. **YES, BECAUSE HE HAS CHARACTERISTICS POSSESSED ONLY BY GOD**
 - a. The Spirit, we are told, knows the things of God in a way in which man does not and in a way which implies His omniscience—an attribute which only God possesses (1 Co 2:11-12).
 - b. Further, no one can escape the presence of the Spirit wherever He might try to go, and omnipresence is an attribute only God has (Ps 139:7).

2. YES, BECAUSE HE DID THINGS WHICH ONLY GOD CAN DO

Some of the works which only God can do and which the Holy Spirit does (and which, therefore, show that He must be God) are:

- a. regeneration (causing a person to be born again, Jn 3:5-6),
- b. begetting the humanity of Jesus Christ (Lk 1:35),
- c. the creation of the world (Ps 104:30).

3. YES, BECAUSE HE IS ASSOCIATED ON AN EQUAL PLANE WITH THE OTHER PERSONS OF THE TRINITY

One of the strongest proofs of the deity of the Spirit is the identification of the Spirit with Yahweh of the Old Testament. This is seen in passages where the Old Testament records that Yahweh said something and the New Testament quotation of that same passage is attributed to the Spirit as the Speaker. That would seem to say very clearly that the Spirit, like Yahweh, is fully divine (Is 6:1-13 and Ac 28:25; Jer 31:31-34 and Heb 10:15-17).

In the New Testament, blasphemy of and lying to the Holy Spirit are the same as if done to God (Mt 12:31-32; Ac 5:3-4). Also the Spirit is associated equally with the other Members of the Godhead in the baptismal formula (Mt 28:19) and in the benediction of 2 Corinthians 13:14. All these instances argue for His being a true person.

B. The Work of the Spirit in Salvation

Without question, one of the most important and largest areas of the Spirit's work today is in relation to salvation. Indeed, it is primarily His work from the beginning of conviction to the final delivery of that person in heaven.

1. CONVICTING (JN 16:8-11)

The convicting work of the Spirit is the placing of the truth of the gospel in a clear light before the unsaved person so he acknowledges it as truth *whether or not he receives Christ as personal Saviour*. Conviction is making the message clear, not the saving of the soul—that's regeneration. In other words, the one who testifies about the saving grace of God must depend on the Spirit even to make that testimony

understood clearly.

What truth is it that He makes clear? It is the truth about sin, righteousness and judgment (**Jn 16:8**). The proof that men are in a state of sin is because “they believe not on me.” The righteousness of Christ is proved because of His resurrection from the dead and ascension to the Father. All of His righteous claims were fully vindicated when He returned to heaven. The proof of judgment to come is based on the past judgment of Satan. In other words, if Satan, Christ’s archenemy, has been judged (**Jn 12:31**), what chance can any man hope to have of escaping judgment if he refuses the grace of God?

The order of the Spirit’s work of conviction is a logical one. Man needs first to see his state of sin, then he needs to have proof of the righteousness of the Saviour who can save him from that sin, and finally he needs to be reminded that if he refuses to receive the Saviour he will face certain judgment and condemnation.

2. REGENERATING (TITUS 3:5)

Although the word **regeneration** is used only twice in the Bible (Titus 3:5, where it refers to the new birth, and Mt 19:28 where it refers to the millennial kingdom), the concept of being born again is found in other passages, notably John 3. Technically, it is God’s act of begetting eternal life in the one who believes in Christ. While faith and regeneration are closely associated, the two ideas are distinct, faith being the human responsibility and the channel through which God’s grace is received, and regeneration being God’s supernatural act of imparting eternal life. The two must happen together, and any attempt to place one chronologically before the other cannot be more than useless academic exercise. Some argue that since a man dead in trespasses and sins cannot believe, God must first regenerate him in order that he may then believe. But, if that were true, that is, if he already had been regenerated and thus been given the gift of eternal life, then why would he need to believe? The two must be simultaneous. The Word of God is also closely associated with regeneration as the necessary revelation to give proper content to a man’s faith (1 Pe 1:23; Ja 1:18).

Regeneration brings with it a new nature (2 Co 5:17), which means a new capacity to serve righteousness. The old nature is not eradicated,

for the capacity to serve self continues until we die. Regeneration does not make a man perfect, but it places him in the family of God and gives him the new ability to please his Father by growing into the image of Christ. Fruit from the new nature is proof that regeneration has occurred (1 Jn 2:29).

3. **INDWELLING (1 Co 6:19)**

The distinctive feature of the ministry of the Spirit today is His indwelling *every* believer, regardless of his spiritual condition. The easiest test of this is to notice that in the New Testament, sinning Christians are said to be indwelt. Remember the Corinthians? If ever there was a group of carnal believers, it was at Corinth (1 Co 3:3)—one brother (1 Co 5:5b) was living in gross sin, and many were at legal swords' points with each other (1 Co 6). And yet Paul says, without making any exceptions, that the Holy Spirit lived within their bodies (1 Co 6:19). Indeed, this is the basis for his exhortation not to defile their bodies. Furthermore, Romans 8:9 makes it clear that the absence of the Spirit is an evidence of an unsaved condition; therefore, if the Spirit were to come and go in a person's life, then he would have, lose, regain, lose, etc., his salvation.

How can a believer know that the Spirit of God is within him? There are two avenues of assuring evidence. One is simply to believe the Word of God, which says this is true. The other is to look at one's Christian experience as an evidence of the Spirit's presence and working in one's life. However, experience may not always be convincing since sin may hinder His work, and in the normal process of Christian development one's growth will be slow but steady with no unusual demonstrations of the power of God. This unspectacular kind of progress should never be diagnosed as indicating the absence of the indwelling Spirit. He does abide forever in every believer's life (Jn 14:16-17).

4. **BAPTIZING (1 Co 12:13)**

To many the word *baptism* conjures up visions of water or spectacular displays of power. Neither is correct when speaking of the baptizing work of the Spirit **when placing the believer into the body of Christ.** This is something entirely different from the ordinance of water baptism, and it is something which gives the Christian primarily a

position in the body of Christ. People often confuse baptism into the body of Christ, and the filling of the Spirit, but these are separate and distinct ministries of the Spirit. Some characteristics of the baptism into the body of Christ by the Spirit are:

- a. It is for all believers without exception. Again, it was to that carnal Corinthian church that Paul said all were baptized (1 Co 12:13). Notice, too, that he did not exhort them to be baptized as the way out of their carnality.
- b. It occurred for the first time on the day of Pentecost (for it was still future when the Lord spoke of it in Ac 1:5, and Peter referred to it as happening first at Pentecost in Ac 11:15-16).
- c. Apparently each believer is baptized only once (the tense of the verb in 1 Co 12:13 indicates an unrepeatable experience).
- d. It joins believers to the body of Christ and sets up a relationship from which all kinds of power and experiences can flow (Ro 6:1-10). However, the absence of unusual experiences does not indicate an unbaptized position (otherwise one could be a believer and *not* be in the body of Christ!). The carnal Corinthians had been baptized. The baptized Galatians were turning away from the true gospel (Gal 1:6; 3:27). Many were baptized who did not speak in tongues (1 Co 12:13, 30). To experience fully the benefits of the new position, which the baptism gives us involves the filling of the Spirit as well. But the baptism into the body of Christ is basic to all Christian growth and experience.

5. SEALING (EPH 4:30)

One of the greatest assurances of the eternal security of the believer is the fact that the Father has sealed every believer with the Holy Spirit (2 Co 1:22; Eph 1:13; 4:30). All are sealed (including the carnal Corinthians!), and it occurs when we believe (Eph 1:13 should be translated “in whom having believed ye were sealed with that Holy Spirit of promise”).

The concept of sealing includes the ideas of ownership, authority and security. Since God has sealed us, we are His possession, secure (unless there were someone with greater power than God Himself!) until the day of redemption. One of the best illustrations of sealing is registered mail. When something is registered at the post office, it is sealed until delivered and only two persons can open it—the sender or the recipient.

In our case, God is both sender and recipient, so only God could break that seal; and He has promised to deliver us safely to heaven. That's eternal security in the clearest terms. But, notice the context of Ephesians 4:30. Sealing is the basis for an exhortation not to grieve the Spirit by committing sins, especially with the tongue. A proper understanding of security never breeds license.

S A L V A T I O N

VII. Man is a 3 part being.

1 Thessalonians 5:23 And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Human SPIRIT	SOUL	BODY
Separated from God at birth due to sin nature When a man receives Jesus as savior & Lord his human spirit is "born-again" or made alive to the things of God.	Mind ❖ Intellect ❖ Brain ❖ Thought ❖ Evaluation	❖ Touch ❖ Taste ❖ Smell ❖ Hearing ❖ Sight ❖ Referred to as the fleshly nature or "old man"
	Emotions ❖ Feeling ❖ Desire ❖ Moods	
	Will ❖ Decisions ❖ Volitions ❖ The devil wants to be king	

VIII. The death of the human spirit

“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Romans 6:23).

“But you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die” (Genesis 1:17).

- A. In the Garden of Eden man lived in perfect harmony with himself, his environment, and his Maker until sin entered his life.
- B. Satan appealed to Eve through the three factors of her being:
 - 1. This was the appeal to the **body** characteristics of Eve: her appetite.
“Now the serpent was craftier than any of the wild animals the Lord God created. He said to the woman, “Did God really say, ‘You must not eat from any tree in the garden’?” (Genesis 3:1).
 - 2. Next was the appeal for the **soul** of Eve: her reasoning, thinking and will power.
“You will not surely die,” the serpent said to the woman” (Genesis 3:4).
 - 3. Finally was the appeal to the **spirit** of Eve: her conscience or intuition and her personal relationship with God.
“For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like god, knowing good and evil” (Genesis 3:5).
- C. Eve responded to Satan with her body, spirit and soul
 - 1. The physical part (body) of Eve, her appetite, surrendered to Satan.

“When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good” (Genesis 3:6).

2. The eyes are the window to the soul. Her mind had reasoned the matter. Her emotions accepted it. Her free will made her determine to act upon it.

“That it was pleasing to the eye” (Genesis 3:6).

3. This was also an attack against her spirit to compete with God

“and also desirable for gaining wisdom” (Genesis 3:6).

D. The problem for Adam

“When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her and ate with him” (Genesis 3:6)

“And Adam was not the one deceived, it was the woman the one who was deceived and became a sinner” (1 Timothy 2:14).

1. Adam was not deceived by Satan his sin was willful whereas Eve’s sin was by deception. However, each sinned and therefore faced the consequences of their actions. What died in them the day they transgressed?
 - a. Adam first lived by the breath of life that God breathed into him. It was the union of the physical body with the breath of God (imparting the human spirit into Adam) that made him a living soul. Adam enjoyed communion with God through his human spirit. When Adam & Eve transgressed, their spirit, as we have said, died or was separated from God. Keep in mind that to God death is the separation of man from Him. Therefore, any man who is without Christ is dead to the things of God.
 - b. After his fall, Adam’s spirit no longer enjoyed fellowship with God, and thus Adam & Eve hid themselves from God. Their

human nature was a sinful nature. This sin nature was passed on to their offspring, and therefore to all mankind.

- (1) When Adam and Eve were expelled from the Garden of Eden, their human spirits had died (were separated from God) in the transgression, and their fleshly nature became master of their lives.
 - (2) The independent action of Adam and Eve terminated the active participation of the human spirit over the soul and body.
2. When a sinner comes to Christ and is born again, the human spirit is made alive to the things of God, and with the empowerment of the Holy Spirit can rule over the fleshly desire of the sin nature.

The soul and body can be mastered, ruled and governed by the spirit. The more we are willing to yield to the **Holy Spirit** within each believer's spirit, the more we will rule over the desires of the **soul** and **body**. Doing so will teach us how to effectively **walk in the Spirit**.

IX. SALVATION : BEING “BORN AGAIN”

The objective of the Discipleship program is to bring the new believer to an understanding of what he/she has experienced in their acceptance of Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. It should be pointed out that the idea is to present the bigger picture. This is not time to go into great detail about our theology. Discipleship is a long process of growing and maturing. These lessons are meant to lay a foundation of understanding.

A. Five realizations that bring us to the “born again” experience of receiving Jesus Christ as Savior

1. I'm a sinner

The new believer should have already come to the realization that they were guilty of sin. That all men are guilty before God as all have fallen short of the “glory of God.”

Romans 3:23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

I John 1:8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

2. I could not save myself

The desire in this section is to bring the new believer to the understanding that it is our **sin nature** that makes us guilty before God. Our acts of sin are proof of the presence of the sin nature.

ILLUSTRATION of the flowering weed that must be removed by the roots to kill the plant. Picking the top off will **not** solve the problem as the root will grow another flowering weed. The roots are likened to our sin nature, where the flowering part above the ground is like our acts of sin. We must get below the surface if we are to truly solve the problem. This is exactly what Jesus did for us. He bore our sinful nature on the cross, so we could be free from condemnation, free from guilt, and walk victoriously in the power of the Holy Spirit. This I could not do for myself.

There is nothing I can do to earn God's gift of salvation.

Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin [is] death; but the gift of God [is] eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

If I could earn it, it would not be a gift. The penalty for sin is death. God has made a way for me to escape the penalty by having faith in Jesus Christ, His gift to man. Jesus. He, lived a perfect life without sin, and died to pay the penalty for sin so that I could accept his sacrifice in my place. The innocent giving His life so the guilty could go free by accepting His sacrifice as my payment.

Ephesians 2:8-9 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: [it is] the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.

Not even by my good works, can I earn salvation. There is nothing I can do to earn salvation, its a gift of God. I can not earn it no matter how hard I try. Thus salvation is received by grace through faith so no man could boast thinking he had earned his salvation by his good works.

3. Only through Jesus Christ - no other way or person

Here the desire is to make sure the new believer understands that there is no other name by which a man can find salvation from sin and the gift of eternal life. Jesus is the only one who has risen from the dead to everlasting life. All other gods are either dead or were never alive to start with.

Acts 4:10-12 Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, [even] by him doth this man stand here before you whole. This is the stone, which was set at nought of you builders, which is become the head of the corner. Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

4. Verbal confession of the inward belief of heart brings salvation

Here we want the believer to understand that it is the verbal confession of what has taken place in his heart that assures us of salvation. Confession is most important because we must be willing to stand now for Christ if we wish for Him to stand before the Father for us. God looks on a man's heart not his outward appearance. Our relationship with Christ is based on our heart attitude. If our heart is for Him we will have a desire to tell others that they also could know His forgiveness and the promise of eternal life.

Romans 10:9-13 That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed. For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for

the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him. For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

Mat 10:32-33 Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven. 10:33 But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven.

1 Sam 16:7 But the LORD said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for the LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart.

5. Now we are "Born Again"

John 3:1-7 There was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews: The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him. Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb, and be born? Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, except a man be born of water and [of] the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.

My first birth was that of a natural man born of woman. I was born separated from God by my sin nature, which was passed on to me by my parents. **The second birth** took place in my human spirit as my spirit was made alive to God by the work of His Holy Spirit. God gave me immortality, everlasting life when I received Christ and God's Spirit came into me.

X. The inter-action of Body, Soul, and Spirit:

“Be very careful, then, how you live – not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. Therefore do

not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is. Do not get drunk of wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit. Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.” (Ephesians 5:15-21).

Here we are encouraged to **“be filled with the Spirit,”** which is the yielding to the presence of the Holy Spirit that dwells within the believer. The Holy Spirit will not force His presence upon us, if we want to walk in victory over our sinful nature we must learn to yield to the Holy Spirit and be filled with His presence.

“For the Word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eye of him to whom we must give account.” (Hebrews 4:12-13).

The Word of God is alive and active in the life of the believer. As we take in the word of God into our spirit it will reprove or approve our actions, thoughts, and even the attitudes of our heart. This is true both of the written Word of God (the Bible), and of the presence of Jesus Christ who is the living expression of the Word of God (and who is referred to as “the Word” see John 1:1).

A. The works of the flesh

“But the Scripture declares that the whole world is a prisoner of sin, so that what was promised, being given through faith in Jesus Christ, might be given to those who believe” (Galatians 3:22).

It is important to remember that when a person is truly renewed in his/her spirit, there is a visible change in their lives. Sometimes it is immediate and other times it takes longer, but there is still evidence of a change. This change will be experienced in our feeling toward the things we use to do in our body, soul, and spirit. With the spirit of Christ in our lives we can see the harm in these behaviors, and can sense the conviction of the Holy Spirit when we continue in them. This

convicting work is to help us to see our sin for what it is; that which separates us from God. With our new nature and love for God we no longer want to do those things that keep us from right standing and fellowship with God. Therefore when we sin, we feel the convicting in our spirit that this is wrong. To restore fellowship with God we must humble ourselves before God, confess and repent of our sin, and receive His forgiveness.

1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Some examples of sins we commit in each level of our being are:

- 1. Body**
 - a. Adultery: sexual intercourse between persons married, but not to each other
 - b. Fornication: sexual intercourse when you are unmarried
 - c. Uncleaness: immorality
 - d. Lasciviousness: exciting lust
 - e. Murder
 - f. Drunkenness
 - g. Reveling: boisterous festivity
- 2. Spirit**
 - a. Idolatry: putting anything before God
 - b. Witchcraft: superstition, demonic practices
- 3. Soul**
 - a. Hatred
 - b. Strife
 - c. Sedition: stirring up rebellion
 - d. Envy: ill will toward another
 - e. Heresies: religious beliefs that are opposite of orthodox views

As the new believer learns to yield to the working of the Holy Spirit in his life he will begin to experience the evidence of the fruit of the Holy Spirit.

B. The nine fruits of the Holy Spirit are: Read Gal. 5:13-26

- 1. Love**

2. Joy
3. Peace
4. Longsuffering: the ability to stand unmoved
5. Gentleness
6. Kindness: doing good deeds
7. Faith
8. Meekness: not highly opinionated about oneself
9. Temperance: self-control

The following are scriptures which will strengthen your faith as you speak their truth into your life:

CONFESSION SCRITURES

(Prov. 18:21, James 3:2, Matt. 12:36)

GOD IS WHO HE SAYS HE IS.

Eph. 2:14	Matt. 5:48	Exo. 34:14	Jer. 32:17
Col. 1:15	I Jn. 4:8	Rom. 16:27	I Pet. 5:10
Col. 2:9,11	Ps. 111:9	Rom. 2:11	I Jn. 1:5
II Thes. 3:3	Ps. 105	Isa. 40:28	James 1:17
Ps. 46:1	Isa. 48:17	Isa. 49:26	Ps. 68:20
Isa. 45:21	Heb. 3:12	Isa. 45:11	Rev. 5:12
Ps. 69:16	I Jn. 3:3	Isa. 44:6	Heb. 3:4

GOD WILL DO WHAT HE SAYS HE WILL DO

II Cor. 9:8 Phil. 2:13 Matt. 19:16 Gal. 4:6 Phil. 3:21 I Pet. 5:10
 Eph. 2:4-7 Phil. 4:19 Ps. 84:11 Eph. 3:20 I Th. 5:9,10 Ps. 37:4,5
 Phil. 1:6 I Thes. 5:24 Col. 3:4 I Jn. 1:7,9 II Th. 3:3 II Th. 3:16
 II Tim. 2:7 I Jn. 3:8,22 Heb. 2:18 Ps 34:19 Matt. 6:33
 I Jn 5:11,14,18,20 Isa. 45:7 James 1:5-7 Rev. 21:4-5 James 2:13
 Jude 24 Isa. 48:17 James 3:1 Ps. 91:11,12,14-16
 I Cor. 10:13 James 4:8-10 Rev. 3:20,21 James 1:12,13

I AM WHO GOD SAYS I AM

Gal. 2:20 Eph. 2:19-22 Heb. 2:11 Ps. 139:14 Gal. 3:26,27

Phil. 1:21 Phil. 3:3,14 Jer. 17:8 Gal. 4:7 Isa. 43:4 Eph 2:6 Gal. 4:5
Eph 2:10 Gal. 4:14 Eph. 4:24 Isa. 41:9-10
Col. 2:10 II Cor.5:17 II Cor.5:20 Isa. 43:1 Isa. 49:5

I HAVE WHAT GOD SAYS I HAVE

I Th.5:9 Phil.3:20 Rom. 13:12 Eph. 1:3,4,7,11-13 Col. 1:20
II Tim. 1:7 Heb. 6:5 Eph. 3:12 Col. 2:10 II Cor. 5:18 Phil 4:6
Eph. 6:14-17 Col. 1:13,14 Hebrew 4:14-16 Isa. 52:7 Eph. 2:14
Col. 2:12 Roman 6:4 II Th.2:13 Eph. 5:27 Col. 1:22 II Tim. 1:7
Heb.10:19-23 Eph. 6:11-13 Col. 3:1 Isa.59:17 Mark 16:19 Rom. 8:16
Col. 2:13 Coloss. 1:14 Acts 3:16 Luke 11:22 Col. 3:4 Coloss. 1:11
Rom. 8:34 II Pt 1:11 Jn. 14:27 Hebrews 12:2

I CAN DO WHAT GOD SAYS I CAN DO

Phil. 3:7-10 I Tim. 1:18 I Thes. 4:4 I Tim. 6:11-12
Phil. 4:13 Isaiah 43:2 Coloss. 4:5 Coloss 1:10-12
I Cor.12:9 I Thes. 5:16-18 Isa. 52:10 I Th. 2:12
I Th. 1:5 Galat. 5:22-25 II Pet. 1:21 Psalm 4:8
I Th. 4:4 II Tim. 2:22 Isaiah 26:3 Isa. 55:
I Tim. 4:7,12 Col: 3:2,10,12-17,23

Exchanged Life Basics

XI. THE BASICS OF THE EXCHANGED LIFE

The goal of this lesson is to help the new believer understand that he/she has exchanged their life for Christ. We no longer live for ourselves, but rather we live so Christ can live through us. We do not belong to ourselves; He purchased us with His life. Now I lay my rights down so He can live through me. Thus, **“for me to live is Christ”!** This topic is explored in greater detail later in this study.

A. I exchanged my life for Christ's life

1. Now for me to live is Christ

When Jesus went to the cross to die for my sin, He did so in my place. He paid for me with His life, so that I could know eternal life with Him. My purpose for living is to let others see Christ through my life. Thus I die to myself (to any rights I might think I have), and learn to walk in His Spirit so others can see Him in me. I also benefit because I can sense His power and presence working through me.

Philippians 1:21 For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.

Galatians 2:20 I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

2. I'm now led by the Spirit of God

As a follower of Christ I am led by the presence of the Holy Spirit who lives in me. It is His work to teach me and lead me into the truth of Christ. This happens as I yield my rights so His presence can come through. The more I yield to the working of the Holy Spirit in me the more I am aware that I am a child of God. His Spirit bears witness to my spirit.

Romans 8:14-16 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba,

Father. The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:

B. Three things that have happened as I exchanged my life for Christ's:

- 1. Christ by His Holy Spirit came into me** and I have become His temple, being led by His Spirit, I am now truly a son of God by my new birth.

I Corinthians 6:19-20 What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost [which is] in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

God dwells within me and wherever I go I take His presence with me.

Heb 13:5 Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.

- 2. I have now been placed into Jesus Christ.**

I Corinthians 12:12-14 For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ. For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit. For the body is not one member, but many.

It is important to realize that just as Jesus lives in me by His Holy Spirit. So am I in Him as a part of His body. His body is composed of many members all over the world. When I accepted Christ I was baptized into His body. To be baptized means to be placed into. I was placed into His body as one of the members. This is a spiritual body, but also a living body made up by every believer on the face of the earth. We are all members of one another, and part of Jesus Christ on the earth.

- 3. We become a new creation in Christ Jesus**

II Corinthians 5:17 Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

We are baptized, meaning to be placed into, the Body of Christ so when the Father sees me He sees Christ. I am a new creation, my past is gone, done away with. I can now walk in newness of life. I am free from my past, and don't have to be what I was any longer. As I yield to the work of the Holy Spirit this change will become more and more evident to myself and others.

C. I now have the life that Christ is

I John 5:11-13 And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath life; [and] he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.

- 1. I was without Christ - as dead.** I now have Christ and have life (Christ's life - Eternal life). Salvation is the participation in the life that God lives.
- 2. Remember it's all because of my faith and trust in Christ, not a matter of works - "He who has the Son has life"**

D. My life is now Hidden with Christ in God.

Colossians 3:3 For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God.

My old life is past, it has been dealt with by God through Christ and my new life is in Christ.

E. Our position in Christ:

- 1. Over 120 times in the New Testament we see the phrases such as: "In Whom," "In Him," "Of Him," "In Christ."** These tell us of what we now have because we are in Him.
- 2. Some examples from the book of Ephesians: (Watch for these as you read and study)**

Ephesians 1:4 According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:

II Timothy 1:9 Who hath saved us, and called [us] with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began,

Ephesians 1:7 In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;

Ephesians 1:11 In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will:

Ephesians 1:13 In whom ye also [trusted], after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that Holy Spirit of promise,

Ephesians 2:6 And hath raised [us] up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:

Ephesians 2:21-22 In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.

Ephesians 3:12 In whom we have boldness and access with confidence by the faith of him.

F. We now have the love of God through Christ - nothing can separate us from it.

As a believer in Christ I must be assured of God's love for me. The death of Christ was how God demonstrated His love for us. His love is not like what we experience on earth. He is always faithful, always there for us, always ready to listen, always ready to draw close to us. God by His very nature is a loving God. God's love never fails!

Romans 8:35-39 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? [shall] tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are

accounted as sheep for the slaughter. Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Rom 5:8 But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

1 John 3:16 Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.

1 John 4:9 In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him.

XII. WALKING IN OBEDIENCE

A. What God's Word says our walk should be

1. A walk of obedience:

Gen. 17:1 - "... I am the Almighty God, walk before me and be thou perfect."

- a. He has given us new life in Christ. We can now show our love for Him by walking in obedience to His word.

Isaiah 30:21 - "And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying: This is the way, walk ye in it ..."

- b. This may or may not be an audible voice that I hear with my ears, but a voice that I hear in my spirit.

I Samuel 15:22 - "... behold, to obey is better than sacrifice ..."

- c. God would always prefer that we obey Him rather than bring our sacrifice or request for forgiveness. When we learn to obey our daily walk becomes one of victory and power.

2. A walk in the light God gives

I John 1:7 - "... if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship one with another ..."

- a. Jesus is our example we can and should ask ourselves, "What would Christ do in this situation?" His word, as we read it, becomes a light to our path and we gain understanding of God's ways. The more light (understanding) we receive the greater our responsibility.

Psalm 119:105 - "Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path."

- b. We can only have fellowship with God and with one another as we walk in the light. If we walk in sin it breaks fellowship with God and with our brothers and sisters in Christ. Our relationship with God is not broken by sin but our fellowship is. When I sin I am still God's child but our fellowship is broken until I confess my sin and repent. Then I can receive His forgiveness and our fellowship is restored.
- c. Whenever we have question about what to do or which way to turn we should look to God's word for direction. If we learn to lean on Him and His word he will direct our path.

3. A walk of faith:

Part of learning to be a victorious Christian is learning to exercise faith. Faith believes and gives evidence to things, which do not yet appear. Faith is giving substance to what is yet hoped for. Faith is what our Christian walk is all about. The world functions on the basis of what it sees and feels, as Christians we learn to walk by faith in what we don't see or feel.

II Corinthians 5:7 - "For we walk by faith, not by sight."

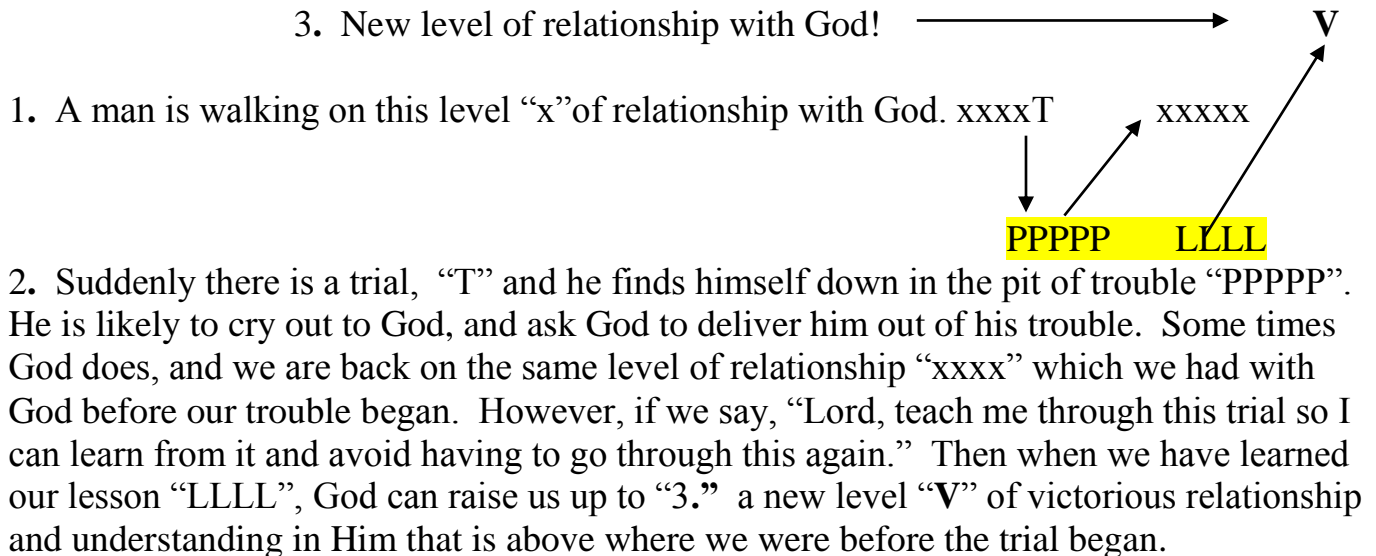
Hebrews 11:6 - "Without faith it is impossible to please God."

Hebrews 11:1 - "Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."

4. A walk with expected trials:

- a. Being a Christian is not easy and no one enjoys going through trials. The scriptures clearly teach us that we should expect trials. Trials, when faced properly, help us to grow in our faith giving us opportunity to deepen our relationship with God. Trials help to perfect us, if we are willing to learn from them.
- b. Example from the book "Unto full stature": Follow the explanation in numerical order: 1-2-3.

3. New level of relationship with God!



Job 5:7 - "... a man is born into trouble as the sparks fly upward."

James 1:2-4 - " Consider it pure joy, my brothers whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything."

- c. Jesus promised His victory to those who overcame their trials. He said the over-comers would:

(1) **Rev. 2:7 Eat of the tree of life**

- (2) **Rev. 2:11 Shall not be hurt by the second death**
- (3) **Rev. 2:17 Eat hidden manna & be given a white victory- stone**
- (4) **Rev. 2:26 Power over nations**
- (5) **Rev. 3:5 Shall be clothed in white linen and confessed before the Father.**
- (6) **Rev. 3:12 Made a pillar in the temple (given authority) & a new name.**
- (7) **Rev. 3:21 Sit with Christ on the throne**

- d. Remember God does not allow trials to make life difficult but to perfect us and conform us into His image. The book of Job is a lesson in a good man going through trials and coming out victorious.

5. A walk in the Spirit

Galatians 5:16-17 - "Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.."

- a. Everyday throughout the day we make choices. Choices as to whether we will walk in God's Spirit obeying His voice, or to walk after the self centered lust of our flesh. When we do **the latter** we **ignore** the voice and conviction of the Holy Spirit.

Ephesians 5:18 - "... be filled with the Spirit." When we receive the Holy Spirit we receive all of the Holy Spirit. To be filled is a matter of our releasing the presence of the Holy Spirit in our daily life. We do this by yielding our will to the will of the Holy Spirit allowing Him the freedom to come forth.

Romans 8:1 - "There is therefore, now no condemnation to them who are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit."

- b. The temptation itself is not sin, but when we through our own lust give place to the temptation in our heart we have committed sin even before we carry it out.

James 1:13-16 "Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God; for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man; but every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and

enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin; and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death. Do not err, my beloved brethren."

I Cor. 10:13 There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not permit you to be tempted above that ye are able, but will, with the temptation, also make the way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.

- c. Sin is a choice. It is not something beyond my control. With every temptation the devil brings, God always provides a way to escape. The choice to sin or escape is up to us. We are responsible for our actions. No one else is responsible, no one else makes me sin. I choose to sin rather than to obey God. If I sin I need to confess my sin before God. Keep in mind that He already knows we have sinned. There is nothing hidden from God. **I John 1:9** tells me that if I confess my sin, He is faithful and just to forgive me of my sin and to cleanse me from all my unrighteousness. To confess means to agree with God completely concerning all aspects of my sin, and to repent from the sin, to turn from it and go in the opposite direction.

Romans 6:11-23 "...reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Let not sin, therefore, reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in its lusts. Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin, but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God. For sin shall not have dominion over you; for ye are not under the law but under grace. What then? Shall we sin because we are not under the law, but under grace? God forbid! Know ye not that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, whether of sin unto death or of obedience unto righteousness? But God be thanked, that whereas ye were the servants of sin, ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine that was delivered you. Being, then, made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness. I speak after the manner of men because of the infirmity of your flesh; for as ye have yielded your members servants to uncleanness and to iniquity, unto iniquity; even so now yield your members servants to righteousness, unto holiness. For when ye were the servants of sin, ye were free from righteousness. What fruit

had ye then in those things of which ye are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death. But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life. For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

- d. The battle of sin is fought in the area of our will, our soul. We instructed by Paul not to yield to the desire of sin but to yield our will to God. We need to remember to whom we yield to him we serve. Don't become servants of evil!

XIII. THE FLESH VS. THE SPIRIT

A. Definitions

1. **The flesh** refers to our old sinful nature that Christ paid for on the cross. It is called the flesh or "old man" as it refers to what we were before we accepted Christ.
2. **The Spirit** refers to our new life in Christ, which is empowered by the Holy Spirit's working in us as He has made our human spirit alive unto God. Now because of the abiding presence of the Holy Spirit in us we have the power to walk in the Spirit and not give into the lust of the flesh.

B. The war:

1. Though our **"old man of sinful flesh"** was paid for and crucified in Christ on the cross, and so credited to God's record of our **life, we** still feel the effects of **its** presence in this life. Though its debt of sin has been paid for in full, it still wars against the spirit of Christ in me.

Romans 6:6 Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that hence-forth we should not serve sin.

2. However, it is still a part of our earthly existence and now is at war against our Spirit. Our new life in Christ has given us power by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. This power of Christ when obeyed enables us to overcome the pull of the flesh and walk in the Spirit.

3. This empowerment involves the exercise of our will. The control of our will is the true battleground. When sin is evident in our life we have made a choice to sin. Now by the power of God we can just as easily choose to do right.

C. Paul describes this battle

Romans 7:15-25 - "For that which I do I understand not; for what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that do I. If, then, I do that which I would not, I consent unto the law that it is good. Now, then, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me. For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) dwelleth no good thing; for to will is present with me, but how to perform that which is good I find not. For the good that I would, I do not; but the evil which I would not, that I do. Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me. I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me. For I delight in the law of God after the inward man; But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. Oh, wretched man that I am! Who shall deliver me from the body of this death? I thank God through Jesus Christ, our Lord. So, then, with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh, the law of sin.

1. Paul explains that we have the Spirit of God and therefore are to walk in the Spirit and not the flesh if we are to be victorious. Notice from this passage that Paul saw himself as two people. One who desired to follow the Spirit of God and the other who desired to walk after the flesh. He saw himself as the spiritual man and that the body of sin at work in him was not who he really was in Christ.

Romans 8:5-13 For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, neither, indeed, can be. So, then, they that are in the flesh cannot please God. But ye are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his. And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. But if the

Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also give life to your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you. Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh. For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die; but if ye, through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live.

2. Paul shows us here that we can put to death the desires of the flesh by walking in the Spirit of God.

D. The Battle of the Mind

One of the three primary actions of the mind (soul) is thought. Through his mind (soul), a man thinks, imagines, learns and understands. His mind distinguishes him from all other earthly creatures. Man's mind (soul) has the power to reason and decide his own destiny.

1. The age-long battle for the mind

God desires the human mind to be under divine subjection. It should be directed through the human spirit by the agency of the Holy Spirit. Because the mind (soul) of man is so important, it has been and still is a perpetual battlefield. The mind (soul) suffers great onslaughts from the powers of darkness, greater than any other part of the human body.

2. The battle still wages on these days

“Furthermore, since they do not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, he gave them over to a depraved mind, to do what ought not to be done” (Romans 1:28).

“The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ who is the image of God” (2 Corinthians 4:4).

“All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts” (Ephesians 2:3).

“The sinful mind is hostile to the kingdom of God. It does not submit to God’s law, nor can it do so. Those controlled by their sinful nature cannot please God” (Romans 8:7-8).

3. The passive mind is empty

An empty mind is one waiting for an external power to activate it. A blank mind is a **great danger**. A Christian must exercise his mind. The mind should grow stronger as one grows older. God does not want mental inertia. When the mind ceases to create, comprehend and apprehend, it is sick. The mental process should never be under bondage.

4. Vanity of the mind

“So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility (vanity) of their mind” (Ephesians 4:17).

5. Fleshly mind

“Let no man beguile you of your reward in a voluntary humility and worship of angels, intruding into those things that he has not seen, vanity puffed up by his fleshly mind” (Colossians 2:18).

6. A defiled mind

Worry can become this type of activity. The mind becomes weakened to a point where it cannot function properly.

“Unto the pure, all things are pure: but unto them that are defiled and unbelieving is nothing pure; but even their mind and conscience is defiled” (Titus 1:15).

7. Lack of concentration

The devil interferes with the Christian’s power of mental concentration. Some people are totally powerless to concentrate. In others, concentration is flighty. This lack of concentration creates inattentiveness and a drifting mind.

8. Forgetfulness

Some people are deprived of the power of memory. They forget what they just said or they cannot locate an article they just had in their hand. All natural loss of memory is the attack of the devil on the passive mind.

9. Flashing thoughts

As one permits all kinds of ideas to flash through his brain, the devil will motivate most of it. Nonsensical notions will be there.

10. Mind pictures

A person's mind permits mind pictures to develop on a mental screen. Whether good or bad, these are not **healthy**. If the mind is permissive, these pictures will eventually dominate and manipulate him. The thoughts in and of themselves are not the problem, as they are sent from Satan. It is what we choose to do with the thoughts that is the problem.

11. What must we do about the passive mind?

a. We must bring every thought into captivity.

“Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ” (2 Corinthians 10:5).

b. We must keep the mind of Christ

“For who has known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct Him? But we have the mind of Christ” (1 Corinthians 2:16)

XIV. How to walk victoriously in the Spirit

A. If we yield our will to the voice of God's Spirit, He will develop the fruit of the Spirit in our lives. (Illustration of lead sinking in water because of its natural tendency to sink, but when placed on wood, it floats, freed from its natural pull.)

Galatians 5:16-26 This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. 5:17 For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would. 5:18 But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law. 5:19 Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are [these]; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, 5:20 Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, 5:21 Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told [you] in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God. 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, 5:23 Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. 5:24 And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. 5:25 If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. 5:26 Let us not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, envying one another.

B. "seek things above...put off...put on..." Here Paul instructs us as to the things we should put on in our lives and the things we should put off, out of our lives.

Colossians 3:1-17 If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. 3:2 Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. 3:3 For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. 3:4 When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory. 3:5 Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry: 3:6 For which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience; 3:7 In the which ye also walked some time, when ye lived in them. 3:8 But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth. 3:9 Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds; 3:10 And have put on the new [man], which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him: 3:11 Where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, Barbarian, Scythian, bond nor free: but Christ [is] all, and in all. 3:12 Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; 3:13 Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye. 3:14 And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness. 3:15 And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are

called in one body; and be ye thankful. 3:16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. 3:17 And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.

Philippians 1:6 - "Being confident of this very thing that He who hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ."

- C. My position in Christ allows the Father to see me in the righteousness of Christ. Christ has overcome sin for me and now empowers me to put to death the manifestation of sins in my body.

THREE BAPTISMS

XV. BAPTISM INTO JESUS CHRIST

I Corinthians 12:12-31 For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ. 12:13 For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit. 12:14 For the body is not one member, but many. 12:15 If the foot shall say, Because I am not the hand, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body? 12:16 And if the ear shall say, Because I am not the eye, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body? 12:17 If the whole body were an eye, where were the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where were the smelling? 12:18 But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him. 12:19 And if they were all one member, where were the body? 12:20 But now are they many members, yet but one body.

12:21 And the eye cannot say unto the hand, I have no need of thee: nor again the head to the feet, I have no need of you. 12:22 Nay, much more those members of the body, which seem to be more feeble, are necessary: 12:23 And those members of the body, which we think to be less honorable, upon these we bestow more abundant honor; and our uncomely parts have more abundant comeliness. 12:24 For our comely parts have no need: but God hath tempered the body together, having given more abundant honor to that part which lacked: 12:25 That there should be no schism in the body; but that the members should have the same care one for another. 12:26 And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honored, all the members rejoice with it. 12:27 Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular. 12:28 And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues. 12:29 Are all apostles? are all prophets? are all teachers? are all workers of miracles? 12:30 Have all the gifts of healing? do all speak with tongues? do all interpret? 12:31 But covet earnestly the best gifts: and yet shew I unto you a more excellent way.

- A. This is a Spiritual baptism that takes place when you are saved. This speaks of you being placed into the body of Christ and a member of His body.
- B. This is the work of God, who places us into the Body of Christ by the Holy Spirit. Each member of the body has a function to perform for the benefit of the whole body. When one part of the body suffers we all suffer. This shows us the care and respect that the members of the body are to have for each other.

XVI. BAPTISM IN WATER:

- A. This baptism is performed by the ministers (although it need not be a pastor necessarily but another believer) **after** one is saved, and is a symbol, and outward sign, of our identification with Christ's death, burial and resurrection.
- B. Facts concerning water Baptism:
 - 1. **It's a command:**

- a. Jesus commanded in **Matt. 28:19** that we are to **"go therefore and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit."**

Mark 16:16 He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.

- b. Jesus Himself, submitted in obedience to the ordinance of water baptism in order to identify fully with mankind, and in order to "fulfill all righteousness," Jesus was setting an example for all believers.

Matthew 3:13-17 Then cometh Jesus from Galilee to Jordan unto John, to be baptized of him. 3:14 But John forbade him, saying, I have need to be baptized of thee, and comest thou to me? 3:15 And Jesus answering said unto him, {Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfill all righteousness.} Then he suffered him. 3:16 And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him: 3:17 And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

- 2. **Its an outward symbol of an inward work that has already taken place in the heart.** Baptism shows our union with Christ. Through faith we are identified with Christ in baptism, just as through our natural birth we are identified with Adam. As we fell into sin and became subject to death in Adam, so we now have died and been raised again with Christ - which water baptism symbolizes" :

FOR THE BELIEVER:

- a. We were co-crucified with Him
 - b. We co-died with Him
 - c. We have been co-buried with Him.
 - d. We have been co-raised to newness of life in Him.
- 3. **Water Baptism, in itself, does not save you:** It is not essential to salvation. You don't have to be baptized in water in order to go to heaven. This point needs to be clarified lest we place false hope in the

mere act. It's by faith in Christ and His atoning work on the cross alone that saves us.

Ephesians 2:8-9 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: [it is] the gift of God: 2:9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.

4. Christ forgave sins without Baptism in water.

Jesus told the thief on the cross, "**today thou shalt be with me in Paradise**". **Luke 23:43** This thief had no opportunity to be baptized.

C. What about infant Baptism?

1. Most evangelical churches do not practice infant Baptism because we find no Scriptural basis for this, neither is there a single instance in scripture where this ceremony was practiced.
2. Infant Baptism gives a false assurance to parents that their children are saved without following through with it in later years.
3. There is nothing wrong with bringing a child to an altar and dedicating them to God.

D. The Method of Baptism:

1. There are currently 3 methods of baptism -
 - a. Sprinkling
 - b. Pouring or effusion
 - c. Immersion
2. There is general agreement that the word "baptism" means to dip or immerse. The same word in the Greek language was used when one would immerse a garment in order to dye it a different color. Further, history argues for immersion. Pouring and sprinkling came about because of water shortage and as a convenience of the aged and infirm. In Acts 8:38 we see that Phillip and the Eunuch both went down into the water and were baptized.

Acts 8:38-39 And he commanded the chariot to standstill: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him. 8:39 And when they were come up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip, that the eunuch saw him no more: and he went on his way rejoicing.

Matthew 3:16 And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him.

XVII. THE BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT

(I ask each teacher of the following material to share with our students prior to this teaching that this material is widely debated among evangelical Christians. There are many strong Christians on both sides of the issue as to whether the Baptism in the Holy Spirit is meant for this day and age in which we live. Our school program is open to both Pentecostal and Non-Pentecostal students. It is not our desire to offend any student who does not accept this teaching as relevant for today. The following presentation is bias toward relevancy today. However, no one should be thought less spiritual or less a Christian if they do not hold to this view. A different view of this subject is presented in our class on 1 & 2 Corinthians (see that study 1 Cor. 12). Our major concern should always be centered on our common belief that Jesus is the Christ, the only begotten Son of God, our redeemer. As to acceptance of the Baptism in the Holy Spirit that should be determined between each individual and the Lord Jesus.)

Matthew 3:11 I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire:

A. All believers have the Holy Spirit

I Corinthians 6:19-20 What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? 6:20 For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

B. The Baptism in the Holy Spirit distinguished from receiving the Holy Spirit:

John 20:22 "And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and said unto them, Receive ye the Holy Spirit;"

1. Here Jesus imparts the indwelling of the Holy Spirit to His disciples. Up to this point throughout the Old Testament the Holy Spirit did not indwell but came upon to empower and then would depart from the person when His work was finished.
2. Here Jesus imparted to them the presence of the Holy Spirit yet they now having received the Holy Spirit, were to wait for the Baptism in the Holy Spirit and power some 50 days later at Pentecost.

Luke 24:49 "Beloved, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the City of Jerusalem until ye be endued with Power from on High."

3. The Baptism in the Holy Spirit is for power to serve. God does not call us to serve without enabling us.

C. The Initial evidence of the Baptism in the Holy Spirit:

A life of intimacy with God and a walk of power in the Spirit are the best proofs that one is filled with the Holy Spirit. On the day of Pentecost God provided an un-mistakable proof of the Baptism in the Holy Spirit when the disciples all spoke with other tongues as they were baptized in the Holy Spirit.

1. Tongues on the Day of Pentecost:

In Acts 2 we read the account of the disciples as they were **"filled with the Holy Ghost and began to speak with other tongues"**. On this occasion the Holy Spirit enabled them to speak in different languages that could be understood by the foreigners that were in Jerusalem, as a sign to everyone that the Holy Spirit had been given. This was fulfillment of the promise that Jesus gave to them prior to his ascension in Acts 1:4-9 that they would be Baptized in the Holy Spirit.

Acts 2:5-8 And there were dwelling at Jerusalem Jews, devout men, out of every nation under heaven. **2:6** Now when this was noised abroad, the multitude came together, and were confounded, because that every man heard them speak in his own language. **2:7** And they were all amazed and marveled, saying one to another, Behold, are not all these which speak Galilaeans? **2:8** And how hear we every man in our own tongue, wherein we were born?

2. At Cornelius' house Gentiles also received:

Acts 10:44-47 - they were astonished for they heard them speak with tongues and magnify God. Tongues was the initial evidence as “**the Holy Ghost fell on all them, which heard the word**”. Peter later refers to this experience as their being “**baptized with the Holy Ghost.**” **Acts 11:15-17**

Acts 10:44-47 While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them, which heard the word. **10:45** And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost. **10:46** For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God. Then answered Peter, **10:47** Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we?

It is evident from a close examination of the terms used to describe the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, that such terms as **baptized, filled, received, poured out, and fell on** are used interchangeably all signifying the same event.

3. Purpose of Tongues:

The most important reason is the provision of power to witness.

Luke 24:49 And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high.

Acts 1:8 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

D. What Paul had to say about tongues

1. First, Paul did not want us to be ignorant

I Corinthians 12:1 Now concerning spiritual [gifts], brethren, I would not have you ignorant.

2. Secondly, he shared that God had set within the church "diversities of tongues"

I Corinthians 12:28 And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues.

The "diversities of tongues" may imply several different things:

- a. different uses such as: public, private, singing
- b. different languages 13:1 **"of men and angels"**
- c. for understanding on foreign fields—(there have been many testimonies of missionaries who were in difficult situations and not knowing the language began to speak in tongues and were understood)

3. Thirdly, he shared that LOVE was most important

I Corinthians 13:1 Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become [as] sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal.

4. Fourthly, Paul stated that tongues, prophecy and knowledge would all cease when that which is perfect would come.

I Corinthians 13:8-10 Charity never faileth: but whether [there be] prophecies, they shall fail; whether [there be] tongues, they shall cease; whether [there be] knowledge, it shall vanish away. For we know in part, and we prophesy in part. But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away.

- a. It seems apparent that Paul is speaking of yet a future time as tongues were very much a part of the church. The statement **"that**

which is perfect" seems to be the key as to the time table for these to cease. We can look at the world today and see that tongues still operate, that people still prophesy in speaking forth the word of God to the edification of the body, and finally we are living in an age of increasing knowledge to the point that the average man can't even keep up with all the advances. Therefore, **"that, which is perfect"** seems to be a yet future event. I should point out that many of those who do not believe that "speaking in tongues" is for this time, base part of their belief on their conception that the Bible is **"that which is perfect."** Thus in their thinking we have the revealed Word of God, and therefore tongues have ceased.

b. My own feeling concerning this is that "that which is perfect" is speaking of the second coming of Christ when he establishes his earthly Kingdom. Christ is in my thinking, "that which is perfect."

5. Fifthly, Paul admonishes us to desire spiritual gifts:

I Corinthians 14:1-5 Follow after charity, and desire spiritual gifts, but rather that ye may prophesy. (14:2) For he that speaketh in an unknown tongue speaketh not unto men, but unto God: for no man understandeth him; howbeit in the spirit he speaketh mysteries. (14:3) But he that prophesieth speaketh unto men to edification, and exhortation, and comfort. (14:4) He that speaketh in an [unknown] tongue edifieth himself; but he that prophesieth edifieth the church. (14:5) I would that ye all spake with tongues, but rather that ye prophesied: for greater [is] he that prophesieth than he that speaketh with tongues, except he interpret, that the church may receive edifying.

- a. desire spiritual gifts
- b. prefer that you prophesy
- c. tongues involves the spirit of man speaking mysteries that are not understood
- d. this speaking is communication between man and God
- e. prophecy is in our normal language and is understood by everyone and thus builds everyone up
- f. tongues with interpretation is equal to prophecy

E. Next Paul shares that praying in an unknown tongue involves his human spirit praying even though his understanding is unfruitful and that we

can choose to pray or sing either in the spirit (tongues) or with the understanding (our normal language).

I Corinthians 14:14-15 For if I pray in an [unknown] tongue, my spirit prayeth, but my understanding is unfruitful. (14:15) What is it then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also: I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also.

F. Paul now turns his attention to the exercise of the gifts in the public service.

I Corinthians 14:23-33 If therefore the whole church be come together into one place, and all speak with tongues, and there come in those that are unlearned, or unbelievers, will they not say that ye are mad? (14:24) But if all prophesy, and there come in one that believeth not, or one unlearned, he is convinced of all, he is judged of all (14:25) And thus are the secrets of his heart made manifest; and so falling down on his face he will worship God, and report that God is in you of a truth. (14:26) How is it then, brethren? when ye come together, every one of you hath a psalm, hath a doctrine, hath a tongue, hath a revelation hath an interpretation. Let all things be done unto edifying. (14:27) If any man speak in an unknown tongue, let it be by two, or at the most by three, and that by course; and let one interpret. (14:28) But if there be no interpreter, let him keep silence in the church; and let him speak to himself, and to God. (14:29) Let the prophets speak two or three, and let the other judge. (14:30) If any thing be revealed to another that sitteth by, let the first hold his peace. (14:31) For ye may all prophesy one by one, that all may learn, and all may be comforted. (14:32) And the spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets. (14:33) For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints.

1. tongues to the unlearned or unbeliever are not understood and therefore deemed to be out of order (note the usage of unlearned could mean those who were believers yet had not received teaching on the baptism of the Holy Spirit)
2. “prophecy” because it is given in the native language is a stronger witness as everyone immediately understands.

3. vs 26 all of us are to come to the church service with a song, tongue or word from the Lord
4. not more than two or three should speak publicly in a service and make sure someone interprets
5. the same is true of prophecy, not more than three and they should be judged as to whether it is of God
6. remember the spirit of the prophet is subject to the prophet

G. Finally, Paul closes by stating that we who are spiritual should realize that what he has stated is from the Lord but if any man would choose to be ignorant of this fact don't argue over it just allow him to remain ignorant.

Furthermore we should strongly desire to prophecy and don't forbid speaking in tongues remembering to keep everything in order.

I Corinthians 14:37-40 If any man think himself to be a prophet, or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things that I write unto you are the commandments of the Lord. (14:38) But if any man be ignorant, let him be ignorant. (14:39) Wherefore, brethren, covet to prophesy, and forbid not to speak with tongues. (14:40) Let all things be done decently and in order.

H. THE PURPOSE OF THE BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT IS POWER

The purpose of receiving the baptism in the Holy Spirit is to receive God's supernatural power in our lives. **Acts 1:8**

Power to:

- **Power** to live an overcoming life.
- **Power** to witness for Jesus.
- **Power** to fulfill the great commission.
- **Power** to heal the sick and cast out demons.

I. SIX POINTS ABOUT THE BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT

(the following sections explain the common Pentecostal teaching on the Baptism in the Holy Spirit and how to receive it. It should be left up to each student to personally decide to what degree he/she chooses to seek this experience. The opposing view [non-pentecostal] is presented in our class on I & II Cor.)

1. The baptism in the Holy Spirit is a supernatural equipping with power from Heaven to empower the Christian for effective witness and service.
2. It is evidenced by the believer speaking in a language given by the Holy Spirit and is unknown to the one speaking.
3. The baptism in the Holy Spirit enables the Christian to build up his own spiritual life by direct communication with God, and is the doorway to the nine supernatural gifts of the Spirit.
4. In the New Testament Church, the experience of the baptism in the Holy Spirit was NORMAL for all believers IN CHRIST.

Luke 24:49 "Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high."

Acts 1:8 "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria and to the end of the earth."

5. The baptism in the Holy Spirit will give you the ENDUEMENT of power to do the work of Jesus on the earth.

John 14:12; Matthew 11:4-5, Luke 4:18

6. The baptism in the Holy Spirit will give you the anointing, and the spiritual provision to move in the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

J. FOUR REASONS WHY GOD WANTS YOU TO FLOW IN HIS POWER

1. To show forth His great love and compassion in meeting the needs of suffering humanity - the sick, the lost, the possessed, the oppressed, the

afflicted, and the hopeless.

2. To evangelize the world, and reach the un-reached.
3. To destroy the works of the devil, and set people free from bondage and demonic forces.
4. To supernaturally build up, strengthen, and edify the church.

K. HOW BELIEVERS RECEIVED IN THE BOOK OF ACTS

1. **The 120 Disciples received** on the day of Pentecost.
Acts 2:1-4

Notice: The disciples did the speaking in tongues; as the Holy Spirit gave the utterance.

2. **The new converts at Samaria received** through Peter and John laying hands on them. **Acts 8:5-8, 12-17**
3. **Cornelius and the Gentiles received** the baptism in the Holy Spirit through Peter speaking the word. **Acts 10:44-46**
4. **Paul laid hands on the Ephesian Christians** and they received.
Acts 19:6

- a. Every New Testament verse was written by believers who spoke in tongues.
- b. Every believer IN CHRIST should desire the baptism in the Holy Spirit with the Bible evidence of speaking in other tongues.
- c. Speaking in tongues is you praying and talking to God in the prayer language of the Spirit -you are talking from your human spirit to God, who is a Spirit. It is spirit to Spirit communication.

L. HOW TO RECEIVE THE BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT

1. **Jesus Christ is the Baptizer in the Holy Spirit.**
Matthew 3:11; Mark 1:8, Luke 3:16 John 1:33

Come to Jesus with childlike faith, and ask Him to baptize you in the Holy Spirit.

2. Following salvation, God's gift for all believers is the baptism in the Holy Spirit. Luke 11:13; John 7:37-39, Acts 2:38-39

- a. Salvation is God's gift to the sinner, which involves being born of the Spirit. **John 3:3-5**
- b. The Holy Spirit is God's gift to His children and involves being filled, or baptized in the Spirit. **Acts 1:5**

3. When we receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit, we will receive the Bible evidence of speaking in other tongues.

Acts 2:4 "And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance."

- a. Notice carefully: All believers were filled with the Holy Spirit and all believers spoke in other tongues.
- b. Speaking in tongues is you speaking out a language that you do not know. It is our spirit speaking in **direct communication** with God, bypassing the natural, carnal mind.

John 7:38 "He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water."

- c. Living water is the river of God flowing up out of your spirit.
- d. "Living water" is when the Holy Spirit wells up in us, rises up in us, comes onto our tongue, and gives us a language that we speak out in faith.
- e. We are encouraged to exercise speaking in tongues regularly!
1 Corinthians 14:2,4

4. We must desire to receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit.

M. HOW TO MINISTER THE BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT

These are guidelines in helping people to receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit!

- 1. Repent and be born again by receiving Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior.**
- 2. Receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit by asking Jesus to baptize you in the Holy Spirit like He did the disciples on the day of Pentecost.**
- 3. As hands are laid on you receive in faith the power of the Holy Spirit and speak out.**
- 4. You must open your mouth and speak out in tongues** (not any language you know) **the language the Holy Spirit gives you.**
 - a.** It's your voice, your mouth; you speak out the words and the sounds – you give voice to the utterance of the Holy Spirit. Let it pour out of you like rivers of living water. Be bold and fluent.

If it helps begin praising God in your own language, and then switch to speaking sounds from your spirit by faith.

- b.** Encourage them not to stop speaking in tongues, but to continue to speak in tongues FREELY and fluently.

N. A PRAYER TO RECEIVE

"Heavenly Father, I believe your word is true. I'm just going to believe your words with childlike faith. You said in your word that if I ask for the Holy Spirit and just believe you at your word, then I have received Him. I am asking you to fill me with your precious Holy Spirit to overflowing.

Now speak.

You speak the utterances coming to your thoughts. Speak them out loud. Faith is an act. Jesus called for us to walk on the water. Don't even speak in English or a language you know. Speak the syllables on your lips. You are speaking in a new tongue.

It sounds like gibberish? It's repetitive? Don't go by what it sounds like or what it feels like. Go by what the Bible says about it. It is a promise. It's yours. You have done what the Bible has told you to do.

"Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation. And these signs WILL accompany those who believe: In My Name they will drive out demons; THEY WILL SPEAK IN NEW LANGUAGES."

THE BIBLE GOD'S WORD

XVIII. THE BIBLE

A. THE IMPORTANCE OF THE WORD OF GOD.

- 1. The Word of God is not only a physical book but a spiritual encounter.** As we read and study God's word we come to know Jesus. Thus it is much more than just a book to read it is truly one meeting place of man and God.

John 5:39, "You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me."

Matt 4:4, " But He answered and said, "It is written, Man shall not live by bread but every word that proceeds from the mouth of God. "

- 2. It is the Word of God that points us to Christ.** As we read and study God's Word it reveals to us the character and person of Jesus. He is our example, therefore, the more we learn of Him the better equipped we

will be to bring others to Christ. The Word of God will be a light to direct us along the path of life. We must set aside time each day to read and consider God's Word.

B. THE SOURCE AND NATURE OF GOD'S WORD.

1. The divine Inspiration of the Bible. 2 Tim 3:16

- a. The Bible is "God-breathed" and the very words were chosen by God though He used the personality of men.
- b. **2 Tim 3:16, "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness."**
- c. **2 Pet 1:21 For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.**

2. The Complete Trustworthiness of the Bible. Ps 19:7

- a. The Word of God is "perfect" in its accuracy and "sure" in its dependability.
- b. **Psalms 19:7 "The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul; The testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple:"**

3. The content of God's Word is complete. Prov 30:5-6

- a. The Bible is complete, trustworthy, and sufficient to answer, anything we need to know about eternal salvation or practical wisdom concerning relationships, morality, character, and conduct.
- b. **Prov 30:5-6, "Every word of God is pure; He is a shield to those who put their trust in Him. Do not add to His words, Lest He rebuke you, and you be found a liar."**

4. Jesus and the Holy scriptures. Luke 16:17

- a. Jesus confirms that every word of Scripture is given by God, and every part is infallible.
- b. **Luke 16:17, "And it is easier for heaven and earth to pass away than for one title of the law to fail."**

5. The way God's Word is to be ministered. 2 Cor 3:5-8

- a. The word of God is to be ministered in the spirit of Truth and Life. God's word is given to build us up in our spiritual man. As we are built in the spirit we are strengthened in our inner man. We become partakers of the glory of God and are then able to minister God's glory to others.
- b. **2 Cor 3:5-8 Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think any thing as of ourselves; but our sufficiency is of God; 3:6 Who also hath made us able ministers of the new testament; not of the letter, but of the spirit: for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life. 3:7 But if the ministration of death, written and engraven in stones, was glorious, so that the children of Israel could not stedfastly behold the face of Moses for the glory of his countenance; which glory was to be done away: 3:8 How shall not the ministration of the spirit be rather glorious?**

C. THE ESSENTIAL PLACE AND POWER OF GOD'S WORD.

1. The regenerating power of God's word. I Peter 1:23

- a. Belief in the Word of God brings new spiritual life where man was otherwise dead spiritually.
- b. **I Peter 1:23, "having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever."**

2. The authority of God's Word over our lives. Ps 119:89-91

- a. As "spiritual" people we are to refuse the "natural" inclinations of fallen man, giving place instead to hearing and yielding to the authority of God's word.
- b. **Ps 119:89-91, " Forever, O Lord, your word is settled in heaven. Your faithfulness endures all generations; You established the earth, and it abides. They continue this day according to Your ordinances, For all are Your servants."**

3. God's word is for our soul's nourishment. Deut 8:3

- a. The regular application of the Word of God, makes spiritual maturity genuine.
- b. **Deut 8:3, "So he humbled you, allowed you to hunger, and fed you with manna which you did not know nor did you know that man shall not live by bread alone; but man lives by every word that proceeds from the mouth of the Lord. "**

4. God's Word provides practical guidance which yields fruitful living. Psa. 119:105

- a. The regular application of the Word of God is the pathway to success and prosperity in living.
- b. **Ps 119:105, "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path."**

5. True Spiritual growth requires God's Word. I Cor 3:1-5

- a. If we are to grow spiritually we must feed on the word of God which is our source of hope and strength.
- b. **I Cor 3:1-5, " And I , brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual people but as to carnal, as to babes in Christ. I fed you with milk and not with solid food; for until now you were not able to receive it, and even now you are still not able; for you are still carnal. For where there are envy, strife, and divisions among you, are you not carnal and behaving like**

mere men? For when one says, ' I am of Paul,' and another, ' I am of Apollos,' are you not carnal?'"

6. As a follower of Christ I should develop a love for His word.

- a. To follow Jesus and to know God requires a commitment to studying and obeying His word.
- b. **John 15:7 If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.**

7. God's Word purifies us unto Holy Living. James 1:23-25

- a. The Bible shows us Christ's likeness so that we can be molded into that image.
- b. **James 1:23-25, "For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does."**

8. God's Word is to be evangelized . Is 55:10-11

- a. The spreading of God's Word and the fulfillment of our personal potential in Christ comes by the Word of God.
- b. **Is 55:10-11, "For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven, And do not return there, But water the earth, And make it bring forth and bud, That it may give seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; it shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish what I please, And it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it."**

9. God's word: Read it! Study it! Memorize it! II Tim 2:15

- a. God's Word is the only source of true wisdom, knowledge, and understanding.

- b. II Tim 2:15, "Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."**

D. Which Bible?

There are numerous translations of the Bible, and although it may be argued that one is better than the other, there is not one translation that can be considered "the only authoritative version of Scripture."

E. The Authenticity of Scripture

1. Every Christian must accept the divine authenticity of the Bible. Either God is informing man of the truth in His Word, or He is openly deceiving us. He cannot be both. The Bible is not a systematic accumulation of theology, morals, history, science or any other topic. It is a **REVELATION** of God, of the fall of man, the way of salvation, and God's plan and purpose throughout the ages.
2. The Scriptures were given to us through men as the Holy Spirit moved them during a period of 1600 years, extending from BC 1492 to AD 100. The Bible consists of 66 separate books; 39 in the Old Testament and 27 in the New Testament. These books were written by about 40 different authors:
 - by kings such as David and Solomon,
 - by statesmen such as Daniel and Nehemiah,
 - by priests such as Ezra,
 - by men learned in the wisdom of Egypt such as Moses,
 - by men learned in Jewish law such as Paul,
 - by a herdsman Amos,
 - a tax collector Matthew,
 - fishermen such as Peter, James and John,
 - a physician Luke
 - and such mighty prophets as Isaiah, Ezekiel and Zechariah.

3. While the Bible is a revelation from God, it is not written in a superhuman or celestial language. If it were, as Christians, we could not understand it. Its supernatural origin, however, is evident in the fact that it can be translated into any language and not lose its message, power or spiritual life. Apart from the symbolic language, such as the description of Nebuchadnezzar's Colossus, Daniel's Four Wild Beasts or Christ in the mist of the Seven Candlesticks, (which is explained in the same chapter or somewhere else in the Bible), the Bible is truly not a difficult book to read. The rest of the language of the Bible is to be interpreted according to the customary rules of grammar and rhetoric. That is, we are to read the Bible as we would read any other book, letting it say what it wants to say and not allegorize or spiritualize its meaning. Failure to properly interpret the Bible has led many into false religious beliefs and practices. There are three things that we must avoid in our study of God's Word:

- a. The **misinterpretation** of Scripture—not correctly understanding the message of scripture
- b. The **misapplication** of Scripture—applying scriptural truth the wrong way
- c. The **dislocation** of Scripture—generally this involves trying to relate something that was for a specific time and purpose to another entirely different time and purpose.

It is because of this grave disregard and deception regarding the correct interpretation of Scripture that one of the subjects we will examine in the near future deals with what we call: "Scripture Twisting," the misinterpretation, misuse or misapplication of scripture.

F. Bible Tools

"Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, handling accurately the word of truth"
(2 Timothy 2:15)

It is the innate responsibility of every Christian to seek and hunger for the Word of God, for it is **the only thing** that will last eternally. Therefore, let us use the resources available to equip us in our walk with our Lord Jesus Christ.

The following items can be of tremendous help in our study of God's word. We realize that in many places around the world these tools may not be available. Where they are we encourage you to use them. If you cannot afford them for yourself, you might look in a local library, or church, or consider putting your resources together with others to purchase what is available to you and then sharing its use. Where there these tools are not available, you can develop your own tools by keeping good notes of what you study and learn and referring to them when you come across similar themes.

1. The Bible and Concordance

Though we should reverence our Bibles, it is not wrong to write in them or make notes in the margins that will help us to remember what we have learned or what God may have spoken to our hearts. A Concordance is a listing of major words in alphabetical order giving the scripture references where they are found. This is a very helpful tool when trying to follow a particular theme through the Bible or in gaining a better understanding of a word's use and meaning.

2. Commentaries

As you grow in the Word of God, it is suggested that you purchase an Old Testament and New Testament commentary. A commentary is the opinion of one or several Bible scholars regarding every verse or passage in the Bible. The important rule to remember is that although you will glean from the various insights of these scholars, the only and ultimate authority on its interpretation comes from the Holy Spirit of God that dwells in each Christian. Keep in mind that **what the** Bible teaches may disagree as to the correct interpretation of a verse or passage. Thus we must rely on the Holy Spirit to guide us into His truth. As it says in **1 John 2:27 "...we do not need any man to teach us..."** as it is the Holy Spirit who gives us understanding in God's word. This does not mean that we are not to hear or seek what others may say about the scriptures, but it means that we are not at their mercy. We can take what we read or hear to the Holy Spirit and ask Him to confirm what is truth to our hearts.

Commentaries can be found in many forms. You may find commentaries on a single book of the bible or on groups of books or a

single volume on the entire Old Testament or the entire New Testament. The main thing is to find one from a respected bible teacher who has demonstrated strong Christian character and an understanding of the fundamental truths of God's word.

G. How to study the Bible

Although we will examine several ways to study your bible in our discipleship material, here is one way to effectively study the Bible.

1. Through determination and perseverance (Just Do It)

Imagine what would happen if you stopped eating – you would eventually die. Well, this is what could happen to you when you do not feed your spirit with the Word of God. Although you may be alive physically, spiritually you are vulnerable, thus opening yourself to continuous attacks and deceptions of the enemy in your life.

2. By reading the Word daily

Your goal should be to try to read one chapter of the Bible daily. One of the keys is **consistency without condemnation**. Be willing to ask the Holy Spirit to help you accomplish this task with joy. There will be times where you may forget to read due to situations that may arise. However, do not allow the enemy to bring condemnation to you since condemnation does not come from God but from Satan. When the situation that kept you from reading the Word ends, continue to fill yourself with the living water from the Word of God. This will help keep your eyes focused on Christ. If the situation that kept you from God's word continues, seek the prayer support and counsel of other believers. You should consider anything that keeps you from God as a possible attack from the enemy.

3. What do you read first?

- a.** It is suggested that you start by reading the New Testament (one chapter per day)
 - (1)** The gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, John)
 - (2)** The history and beginnings of the church (Acts)
 - (3)** The constitution of our faith (Romans)
 - (4)** The epistles—letters written to the early churches (1 & 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians,

1 & 2 Thessalonians, 1 & 2 Timothy, Titus, Philemon, Hebrews, James, 1 & 2 Peter, 1 & 2 & 3 John, Jude)

(5) The end times (Revelation)

b. Once you have read the New Testament in the above format, start with the following books of the Old Testament

(1) The creation of man and his beginnings (Genesis)

(2) The book describing the love, mercy and grace of God (Psalms)

(3) The book of wisdom (Proverbs)

c. Then begin to work yourself through the rest of the Old Testament where we learn about the history of the Jews and Gentile nations. Here we also learn much about the character of God, and His ways of dealing with man. You may want to divide your study time with some time in both Old and New Testaments.

BIBLE LIBRARY

H. 66 BOOKS – EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW

LAW:

❖ Genesis Exodus Leviticus Numbers Deuteronomy

HISTORY:

❖ Joshua Judges Ruth 1 Samuel 2 Samuel 1 Kings

❖ 2 Kings 1 Chronicles 2 Chronicles Ezra Nehemiah

❖ Esther Acts

PROPHECY:

❖ Isaiah Jeremiah Lamentations Ezekiel Daniel

❖ Hosea Joel Amos Obadiah Jonah Micah

❖ Nahum Habakkuk Zephaniah Haggai Zechariah

❖ Malachi Revelation

LETTERS:

❖ Romans 1 Corinthians 2 Corinthians Galatians Ephesians
 ❖ Philippians Colossians 1 Thessalonians 2 Thessalonians
 ❖ 1 Timothy 2 Timothy Titus Philemon Hebrews James
 ❖ 1 Peter 2 Peter 1 John 2 John 3 John Jude

POETRY:

❖ Job Psalms Proverbs Ecclesiastes Song of Solomon

GOSPELS:

Matthew Mark Luke John

1. Some keys to reading the Bible.

- a. Always read the Bible in the context of the verses surrounding your scripture reading. Then read the chapter, book and then lead up to the entire Bible.
- b. Read with the literal meaning in mind unless the context indicates the words are symbolic or are a word picture.
- c. Keep in mind, that when something is repeated, the writer is emphasizing the importance of the point.
- d. Remember that the Bible never contradicts itself. If **you're** confused or it seems that something is contradicting the thought, read the verse in the light of all the verses around them.

2. The following is an example of how to do a verse study providing you have the books available to do so. If you do not have a “Strong’s Concordance” available read through the following material for the day when one is available to you.

- a. Read the first chapter of Joshua to begin to understand the context of who is speaking and what the topic is. (Make a mental note to be sure to read the entire book.)
- b. Head the page of your notebook, possibly titling it "Study on Joshua 1:8, and write out verse 8.

c. You may want to look up the word "meditate" in the Strong's concordance. You will find it listed alphabetically.

- (1) All the verses where the word "meditate" is used in the Bible will be listed,
- (2) The reference numbers in the right hand column, (i.e., 1897,7878, 3191, 4304) indicate where the original Hebrew and Greek words are listed in their respective dictionaries in the back of the Strong's Concordance.
- (3) Make a note of the reference number for Joshua 1:8, "1897". This reference number will identify the original Hebrew word and its definition, which has been translated "meditate".
- (4) Look up number 1897, It is found in the "Hebrew and Chaldee Dictionary" in the back of the Strong's Concordance. (page 32)
- (5) You will find the original word means "to murmur(in pleasure or anger); by implication to ponder." Any other words listed are the various ways this word is translated and appears in other verses in the King James Version.
- (6) Substitute "ponder" in the verse for "meditate" and reread it.
- (7) Look up the words "ponder" and "meditate" in a good dictionary and write their meanings in the notebook.
- (8) Re-read the verses, substituting in these definitions.
- (9) Look up some of the other verses where the word "meditate" appears, especially those which are translated from the same Hebrew word, reference #1897, i.e., Psalm 1:2; Psalm 63:6; Psalm 77:12.
- (10) What do these other verses say about meditation? Write down a brief summary of these verses.
- (11) You can continue to look at other words in the same verse or study additional verses where the same word appears or a variation of the word, such as "meditation". This will help you in your understanding of what God is saying to you.
- (12) The same procedure can be used to study words in the New Testament using the Greek dictionary in the back of the Strong's Concordance.

- (13) This is the "book work" part of the study, but it may serve to increase your knowledge without changing your life and character, so be careful.

PRAYER

XIX. PRAYER –COMMUNICATION WITH GOD

A. GOD HAS ESTABLISHED PHYSICAL LAWS.

1. Law of Gravity
2. Law of Velocity (speed and motion)
3. Law of the Weightlessness. Galaxies in space.
4. Law of Humans needing oxygen.
5. Law of humans needing to consume and eliminate food products.

B. GOD HAS ESTABLISHED PHYSICAL LAWS AND HE HAS ESTABLISHED SPIRITUAL LAWS. Prayer is a Law Established By God.

C. IS GOD IN CONTROL OF ALL THINGS?

1. Absolutely—God has absolute power over all things
2. But, He has chosen to operate within specific laws and principles that he has established.
3. Jesus who is part of the trinity, when on this earth lived by the Law of Humanity. Phil. 2:5-6 The “Kenosis” of Christ—leaving His place of

divinity to take on human form. He is omnipresent (everywhere at once) in Spirit, but not in the physical realm.

D. IF WE DON'T PRAY; GOD MAY CHOOSE NOT TO MOVE, IT IS NOT THAT HE IS NOT ABLE TO MOVE; BUT THAT HE MAY CHOOSE NOT TO MOVE.

E. GOD CONDITIONS HIS ACTIONS BASED ON OUR PRAYERS.

1. II Chron 7:12-15, " **IF** my people who are called by my name....."
2. Jer 29:10-13, " For I know the thoughts that I think towards you,"
3. Jer 33:3, " Call to me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty...."
4. Ps 50:15, " Call upon me in the day of trouble; and I will deliver you..."
5. Isa 58:9, " Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer..."

F. WHAT ARE WE REALLY SAYING IN A PRAYERLESS LIFE.

1. When we choose not to pray, we limit what the Lord will do here on earth.
2. When we do not pray, what we are really saying is what I am doing right now is more important than God.
3. It is better to let the work go by default than to let the praying go by neglect.
4. If prayer puts God to work on earth, then prayerlessness hinders God from working out the worlds affairs.
5. The denial of prayer is the denial of God Himself.
6. When the church prays God's plans prevail, when the church does not pray the work of God is hindered.

G. WHAT IS PRAYER?

1. John 15:7, " If you abide in me. and my words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you."
2. Prayer is the product of abiding in the Lord and his word abiding in you.
3. Prayer begins with a revelation of man needing to communicate with a living God for divine intervention for the will of God to take place.

H. LET'S LOOK AT SCRIPTURE

1. Isaiah 64:4, "For from of old no one has heard nor perceived by the ear, nor has the eye seen a God besides you, who works and shows himself active on behalf of him who earnestly waits for him."
2. Isaiah 65:24, " And it shall be that before they call I will answer; and while they are yet speaking I will hear."
3. Matt 7:8-9, " For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. Or what man is there among you who, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone?"
4. Matt 21:22, " And whatever things you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive."
5. Luke 11:9, " 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."
6. John 11:22, " But even now I know that whatever you ask of God , God will give you?"
7. John 14:14, " If you ask anything in my name I will do it?"
8. Eph 3:20, "Now to him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us."
9. I John 5:14, "Now this is the confidence that we have in him, that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us."

I. Dealing with Prayer Issues

There are two major problems that confront the Christian struggling to learn the joy of prayer: knowing **how to pray** and developing the **discipline to pray**. When you answer the call to pray, you will begin to see more of God at work in your life. There are various ways to pray to God, and there is not one particular form as the only correct way.

J. The various forms of prayer:

1. Regular conversation

Simply talk to God about your daily circumstances and decisions as you would with anyone else. The fact that He may not respond to you in an audible voice should not deter us. The more you seek Him, the more sensitive you will be to His “still small” voice that speaks to our hearts and mind.

2. The different expressions of prayer

The basic premise in understanding the different expressions of prayer is coming to understand that there is diversity within the church of Jesus Christ, but one Holy Spirit.

a. Praying in your natural language (ie.; English, Spanish, Italian)

b. Praying in your heavenly language

(1) Speaking between you and God only (1 Corinthians 14:2)

(2) Speaking to bring insight to the church only

(1 Corinthians 14:12)

This heavenly language is a sign, not for Christians, but for the unbelievers (1 Corinthians 14:22)

This heavenly language is a **gift** given to Christians by God. It has nothing to do with your salvation or the fact that the Holy Spirit dwells in you. It is simply one of the many gifts available to all Christians. This gift which is referred to as “speaking in tongues” is discussed in depth elsewhere.

(3) A true servant of Jesus Christ does not criticize or become intimidated by the different expressions of prayer. Again, although there are many expressions, they are all under one Holy Spirit. It is important to note that no one way is the only way, because there are times to pray in different ways. For example:

- Some pray out-loud; some pray quietly
- Some pray in their native tongue; some pray in their heavenly language or a mixture of each
- Some walk while they pray; some sit

- Some sing in conjunction with their prayers; some do not
- Some may read their Bible and pray. This is often done while reading the Psalms when after reading the Psalm a person may repeat the Psalm as their own prayer.

K. Developing an Effective Prayer Life

To develop an effective prayer life, you must overcome these three enemies of prayer: interruptions, drowsiness and wandering thoughts

1. INTERRUPTIONS

The telephone and the doorbell can become common enemies of the believer who seeks to become a disciple of prayer. That is why many busy people choose to pray early in the morning before these distractions begin. It is not surprising, then, that David said, **“My voice shalt thou hear in the morning, O Lord; in the morning will I direct my prayer unto thee, and will look up”** (Psalm 5:3).

On the other hand, Susanna Wesley, the mother of 19 children and wife of John Wesley, chose from one to two o’clock each afternoon for her time with the Lord. Every day at one o’clock she closed her bedroom door, knelt beside her bed, spread open her Bible and communed with her God. Whether you choose morning, midday, evening, or even the middle of the night, it is critical that you set aside personal time with Jesus. Jesus, in teaching His disciples to pray, instructed them to choose a quiet, private place to pray and meet God every day. (Matthew 6:6).

2. DROWSINESS

How can believers defeat the enemy of drowsiness when they pray? Some of John Wesley’s early Methodist leaders who were determined to overcome this problem actually soaked towels in cold water and went on praying! Now, that is not the method I would personally choose, but I certainly admire their tenacity. If you find yourself dropping off to sleep every time you kneel, cradle your head on your arm or close your eyes to pray, why not try sitting or standing? Or why not try walking as you pray? Scoot a chair or table out of the way and walk back and forth across a room or pace up and down a hall. You will quickly grow

accustomed to the “path” and then you will be able to concentrate solely on prayer and defeat the enemy.

3. **WANDERING THOUGHTS**

If your thoughts wander and you have difficulty concentrating as you pray, defeat that enemy by praying out loud instead of silently. Putting your thoughts into words and praying aloud, even in a whisper, help you focus your mind on what you are doing. Perhaps that is one of the reasons Jesus commanded, “When you pray, **say**, Our Father which art in heaven...” (Luke 11:2).

Once you learn to defeat interruptions, drowsiness and wandering thoughts, within just a short time the **desire** to pray will have matured into the **discipline** to pray. Don’t worry if some days as you pray you shed no tears or feel no emotion. Those times that you feel the least like praying may be the time you need to pray the most. Besides, God is not moved by your emotion. He is moved by His Word and your obedience and tenacity! Prayer does work, so keep at it and begin to keep record of how God answers your prayers to encourage you to continue in daily prayer. Keep in mind that God’s answer may not be what we asked for. We are to pray according to His will, (1 John 5:14-15) not ours. He knows what is best for us. His answer whether it is what we asked for or not, will always be in our best interest according to His purpose and plan for our lives.

L. The Bible will keep you from sin, or sin will keep you from the Bible.

It is essential that every Christian read the Word of God **daily**. This is the only food that will feed your spirit. The lack of it will leave you with an abundance of flesh (un-surrendered things) for Satan to prey upon. Did you know that you could read the entire Bible in one year by reading fifteen minutes each day or three chapters every weekday and five on a Sunday? Remember this: The Bible is the Word of God. Treasure it. Study it. Obey it. As you do, God’s Word will become a source of light, hope and strength all the days of your life.

M. An example of prayer

“Our Father, which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done. On earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever and ever. Amen.” **Matt. 6:9-15**

1. PROMISES: “Our Father which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name”

The Lord’s Prayer opens with praise. Therefore, at this first topic, praise the Lord and appropriate His promises. Thank God for sending His Son to redeem you. If it was not for what Jesus did for you at the cross, you could not call upon God the Father (Galatians 4:4-6).

2. PRIORITIES: “Thy kingdom come, thy will be done”

God reigns over you when you obey Him and accept His will and authority in your life. Therefore, declare that God’s kingdom (His holiness, joy and peace; Romans 14:17) shall come and that His will and priorities shall be established in the following four areas: yourself, your loved ones, your church and leaders, and your nation and leaders.

3. PROVISION: “Give us this day our daily bread”

There are four basic requirements for appropriating God’s provision for your physical and material needs.

- a. You must be in the will of God and seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness
- b. Then all things will be added unto you. Unfortunately, many Christians forget the part about what to do first. You must claim God’s promises and believe it is His will to bless you, for this will give you the confidence to come daily before the Lord with all your needs.
- c. Third, you must be specific in your requests.
- d. Fourth, be tenacious. Keep praying until your answer comes through. Refuse to allow discouragement or unbelief to rob you of your answered prayer.

4. PEOPLE: “Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors”

Never allow bitterness to hide and creep inside your soul. If it does, it will steal your joy. So let your past go.

You have no choice but to release your past and to forgive if your prayers are to be answered. When you hold un-forgiveness in your heart, your prayers are like noise in the ears of God. If a Christian ever learns this simple biblical principle, he will save himself countless unnecessary grief.

5. **POWER:** “And lead us not into temptation”

Every day you should pray a hedge of protection over yourself, your loved ones and your possessions (Psalm 91). You should also put on the entire armor of God as outlined in Ephesians 6:14-17 & Romans 13:12-14, and start declaring who God is.

6. **PRAISE:** “For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory forever and ever”.

We should never enter or leave God’s presence without humbly bowing before Him and offering a sacrifice of praise. If there comes a time where you simply cannot think of what or how to praise God, simply tell Him how much you love Him and appreciate eternal life through Jesus Christ.

The Role of the Church

XX. THE PURPOSE OF THE CHURCH

A. In reviewing Scripture, there are only two passages that adequately summarize what the church is **to be and to do**: the Great Commandment (Matthew 22:37-40) and the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20).

1. **Matthew 22:37-40 “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and with all your mind...Love your neighbor as yourself. All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”**
2. **Matthew 28:19-20 “Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the son and the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.”**

- B. Every church is defined by what it is committed to. Based on the above two passages, the church should be committed to fulfilling all five tasks that Christ ordained for his church to accomplish.

XXI. **The Five Purposes of the Church**

A. **Purpose #1: Love the Lord with all your heart**

The word that describes this purpose is **worship**. The church exists to worship God. Throughout Scripture we are commanded to celebrate God's presence by magnifying the Lord and exalting his name. The Bible says, **"....Worship the Lord your God, and serve Him only."** (Matthew 4:10). Notice that worship comes before service.

B. **Purpose #2: Love your neighbor as yourself**

The word we use to describe this purpose is **ministry**. The church exists to minister to people. Ministry is demonstrating God's love to others by meeting their needs, and healing their hurts in the name of Jesus. The church is to minister to all kinds of needs: spiritual, emotional, relational, and physical. The church has a responsibility to **"...equip the saints for the work of the ministry"** (Ephesians 4:12 NRSV) Unfortunately, these days faithfulness is often defined in terms of attendance rather than service.

C. **Purpose #3: Go and make disciples**

This purpose is called **evangelism**. The church exists to communicate God's word. The word GO in the great commission is a present participle in the Greek text. Actually, it should read "as you are going." Evangelism is more than our responsibility; it is our privilege to bring people into God's eternal family. As Christians we're called to belong, not just to believe.

(a)

D. **Purpose #4: Baptizing them**

In the Greek text of the Great Commission there are three present participle verbs: going, baptizing, and teaching. Each of these is a part of the command to "make disciples." Baptism, is not only a symbol of the external manifestation of salvation, it is a symbol of fellowship. It visualizes a

person's incorporation into the body of Christ. We are not alone because we have each other for support. In the Living Bible Ephesians 2:19 reads: **"You are members of God's very own family...and you belong in God's household with every other Christian."** The church exists to provide fellowship for believers.

E. Purpose #5: Teaching them to obey

The word we use to describe this purpose is **discipleship**. Discipleship is the process of helping people become more like Christ in their thoughts, feelings, and actions. The process begins when a person is born again and continues throughout the rest of his life. The book of **Colossians 1:28** (NCV) says, **"We continue to preach Christ to each person, using all wisdom to warn and to teach everyone, in order to bring each one into God's presence as a mature person in Christ."** As the church we are not only called to reach people, but also to teach them. After someone has made a decision for Christ, he or she must be discipled.

XXII. The responsibility for spiritual maturity

A. It is the church's responsibility to help develop people to spiritual maturity. "...so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ." (Ephesians 4:12-13) If you examine the earthly ministry of Jesus, it is apparent that he included all five of these purposes in his work (John 17). Paul not only fulfilled these purposes in his ministry he also explained them in Ephesians 4:1-16. But the clearest example of all five purposes is the first church at Jerusalem described in Acts 2:1-4. They taught each other, they fellowshiped together, they worshipped, they ministered, and they evangelized. Today our purposes are unchanged: the church exists to edify, encourage, exalt, equip, and evangelize. While churches may differ in how these tasks are accomplished, there should be no disagreement about what we are called to do.

B. We use five key words to summarize Christ's five purposes for his church.

- 1. Magnify:** We celebrate God's presence in worship
- 2. Mission:** We communicate God's word through evangelism

3. **Membership:** We incorporate God's family into our fellowship

4. **Maturity:** We educate and train God's people through discipleship

Ministry: We demonstrate God's love through service

SERVANTHOOD

XXIII. Servanthood

A. God takes on the form of a servant

Philippians 2:5-8 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

B. Four steps to servanthood

1. **Become of no reputation** – which means to seek no glory for oneself but rather seek to glorify God. **John 5:44** How can ye believe, which receive honour one of another, and seek not the honour that cometh from God only?

Instead of seeking the honor of man we should seek to glorify God and receive the honor that comes from Him.

2. **Take action - I John 3:18** My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth.

I Corinthians 15:58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.

3. **Humble yourself - Philippians 2:3** Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.
4. **Obey - I Samuel 15:22** And Samuel said, Hath the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams.

Acts 5:29 Then Peter and the [other] apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men.

XXIV. JESUS OUR EXAMPLE

John 13:1-17 Now before the feast of the passover, when Jesus knew that his hour was come that he should depart out of this world unto the Father, having loved his own which were in the world, he loved them unto the end. (13:2) And supper being ended, the devil having now put into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray him; (13:3) Jesus knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he was come from God, and went to God; (13:4) He riseth from supper, and laid aside his garments; and took a towel, and girded himself. (13:5) After that he poureth water into a basin, and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel wherewith he was girded. (13:6) Then cometh he to Simon Peter: and Peter saith unto him, Lord, dost thou wash my feet?(13:7) Jesus answered and said unto him, {What I do thou knowest not now; but thou shalt know hereafter.} (13:8) Peter saith unto him, Thou shalt never wash my feet. Jesus answered him, {If I wash thee not, thou hast no part with me.} (13:9) Simon Peter saith unto him, Lord, not my feet only, but also [my] hands and [my] head. (13:10) Jesus saith to him, {He that is washed needeth not save to wash [his] feet, but is clean every whit: and ye are clean, but not all.} (13:11) For he knew who should betray him; therefore said he, {Ye are not all clean.} (13:12) So after he had washed their feet, and had taken his garments, and was set down again, he said unto them, {Know ye what I have done to you?} (13:13) {Ye call me Master and Lord: and ye say well; for so I am.} (13:14) {If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another's feet.} (13:15) {For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you.} (13:16) {Verily, verily, I say unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord; neither he that is sent greater than he that sent him.} (13:17) {If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them.}

A. Jesus demonstrates the four steps to servanthood

- 1. No reputation** - He quietly rises from the table, no one even noticed what He was doing.
- 2. Takes action** - He washes the disciples feet
- 3. Humbles Himself** - foot washing was the job of a servant never the master
- 4. Obeys** - Jesus demonstrated His servant relationship to the Father as an example that we should serve one another

Galatians 5:13 For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only [use] not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another.

Galatians 6:2 Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.

XXV. SERVANTHOOD WILL BEAR FRUIT

A. Abiding causes fruit to be produced

John 15:1-5 I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman. (15:2) Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every [branch] that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit. (15:3) Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you. (15:4) Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. (15:5) I am the vine, ye [are] the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.

If we abide in Christ we will bear fruit. Fruit is one evidence of our abiding.

B. The fruit of the Spirit is manifest in servanthood

Galatians 5:22-23 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

If we want the fruit of the Spirit to be manifest in our lives then we need to become a servant after the model of Christ.

C. Serving through evangelism

Matthew 28:16-20 Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, into a mountain where Jesus had appointed them. (28:17) And when they saw him, they worshipped him: but some doubted. 28:18 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, {All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.} (28:19) {Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:} (28:20) {Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, [even] unto the end of the world. Amen.}

1. Live the life that Christ is first (so others see Christ in you)
2. Share the life with others be a witness
3. "Go ye into all nations" each of us needs to be either a goer or a sender

D. Serving through giving

1. **New Testament pattern - Luke 6:38** {Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again.}

II Corinthians 9:6-7 But this [I say], He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully. Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, [so let him give]; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.

2. **Tithing 10% of gross income/before tax**

Leviticus 27:32 And concerning the tithe of the herd, or of the flock, [even] of whatsoever passeth under the rod, the tenth shall be holy unto the LORD.

Malachi 3:8-11 Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings. 3:9 Ye [are] cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, [even] this whole nation. 3:10 Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that [there shall] not [be room] enough [to receive it]. 3:11 And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, saith the LORD of hosts.

If we use God's tithe we are instructed in the scripture to add a 5th part to it. In other words 20% interest.

Leviticus 27:31 And if a man will at all redeem [ought] of his tithes, he shall add thereto the fifth [part] thereof.

E. Serving through involvement

1. Assembling together strengthens the body -

Hebrews 10:25 Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some [is]; but exhorting [one another]: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

2. Praying together allows us to share needs and thus fulfill the law of Christ in bearing one another's burdens -

Acts 12:12 And when he had considered [the thing], he came to the house of Mary the mother of John, whose surname was Mark; where many were gathered together praying.

3. Praising together allows us to worship and glorify God -

Ezra 3:11 And they sang together by course in praising and giving thanks unto the LORD; because [he is] good, for his mercy [endureth] for ever toward Israel. And all the people shouted with a great shout,

when they praised the LORD, because the foundation of the house of the LORD was laid.

4. Giving thanks together allows us to magnify our praise and thanksgiving for needs met -

Hebrews 13:15 By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of [our] lips giving thanks to his name.

Ephesians 5:20 Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ;

The tithe

XXVI. TITHING

A. Stewardship I Cor 4:2

1. True stewardship begins when we recognize everything belongs to the Lord. Ps 24:1
2. It also includes the fact that we are **accountable** for everything that we have in our possession. What does the word accountable mean to us? For what do you believe we are to be accountable? Can you give scripture to back your beliefs?
3. Remember in the Total Surrender Contract we gave up our "RIGHT" to finances. (see end of section on Basics of the Exchanged Life notes for total surrender)

Most problems pertaining to tithing come from insufficient scriptural teaching and understanding, or the desire to hold on to what we think we the right to possess or own. In light of this statement, what does it mean to totally surrender?

B. When did tithing begin?

1. God imparted this principle to Adam. Gen 4:3,4
2. Gen 4:3,4 speak of the "first-fruits" brought to the Lord. Cain and Abel brought the "first-fruits" of their labor to the Lord.
3. Gen 14:20 speaks of Abraham giving "tithes of all" to Melchizedek, King of Salem.
4. Jacob made an oath unto the Lord concerning his commitment to the tithe. Gen 28:22

C. What is a tithe?

1. Prov 3:9 (first-fruits)
2. Lev 27:30 (it's Holy unto the Lord)
3. Lev 27:30 (it is the Lord's)
4. Lev. 27:32 (it was a tenth part or 10%)
5. 2 Chron. 31:5 (it was to a tenth of everything they received)
6. There are many other scriptures on the tithe or tenth that was to be given to God.

D. What was the purpose of tithing?

1. Tithing is a means of worship unto the Lord. Prov 3:9
2. It builds your faith. It reinforces my confidence in God to provide for my needs, and not my own talents and abilities. Mal 3:10
3. It provides financial support for the ministry. Num 18:24
(The Levites of the OT are our modern day Ministers)
4. It provides financial support for the church.. Mal 3:10
5. It weakens the hold of materialism in our lives.

E. Was tithing done away with in the New Testament?

Although Christ brought an end to the curse of the Law and did away with the ceremonial requirements involving sacrifices, dietary restrictions, washings, circumcision, holy days, and a host of other ordinances. He did not terminate the moral obligation of the Law. Tithing, as we shall learn later in our class called "Dispensations" was given prior to the existence of the law. Therefore, it is not bound by the principle of the law. It was given for our good and continues to be the right discipline for every believer. The true new testament principle of giving is found in Luke 6:38, 2 Cor. 9:6-7. This principle goes beyond the tithe (10%). If one were to calculate all the offerings that were

required by the Old Testament feasts and tithe, you would see that giving the tithe was simply a starting point.

F. God's Promise to the tither:

1. Spiritual and material blessing- Mal 3:10, II Cor 9:6, Prov 11:25 and Luke 6:38
2. Divine Protection : Mal 3:10-11
3. Eternal rewards- Matt 6:19-21

G. Common Questions

1. Should I tithe on the gross (the total I earn) or the net of my pay (what I bring home after taxes and such)?

The tithe should be based upon the gross amount of our income. I always consider the proportion by which I want to receive God's blessing. Would I rather have His blessing based on my gross earning or my net earnings? Naturally, I would rather be blessed on the gross earnings as it is the greater amount. Thus I tithe and give out of my gross earnings. God has always blessed accordingly!

2. Should I pay my bills first? The tithe belongs to God and not your creditors.

Too many bills may indicate a poor stewardship and wrong priorities. Check where and on what you are spending your money.

3. What if I can't afford to tithe?: In reality, a Christian cannot afford not to tithe.

Luke 21:1-4, Luke 6:38; Mal 3:10 There are some tribes in Africa who in order to discipline a believer who is committing sin, will cover the offering basket as it is passed in front of him thereby not allowing him to give. This they do because God's word teaches that if we do not

give we will not receive. It is their hope that shutting off the flow of God's blessing will cause the sinner to repent.

4. What if I haven't tithed previously-should I pay back tithes?

The important thing is to commit yourself to faithful, consistent tithing from this point forward. Some new believers that I have known did feel the desire to repay overdue tithe as God blessed them. In the Old Testament those who withheld their tithe for any reason were to add a fifth part 20% to the tithe that was owed when they finally paid it (Lev. 27:31).

5. Should I tithe if I am married to an unbeliever?

Though you are not responsible to tithe from your non-believing spouse's income, you are responsible to tithe off of your personal allowance, spending money, or income from work or other outside sources.

The Will of God

XXVII. THE WILL OF GOD

A. Introduction: Adjusting Your Life to God

“I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing” (John 15:5).

As you follow Christ one day at a time, He will keep you right in the center of His will. It is not a program or a method, it is a love relationship with God.

B. God's will and Your life

Relationship to Jesus Christ is a prerequisite. In order to know and do the will of God in our lives we must first enter into a personal relationship with

Jesus. We must not only receive Him as Savior, but we need to **spend time building a relationship with Him** as we would any person with whom we wanted to have relationship.

C. Look for more in your experience with God

“But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you” (John 14:26)

1. Expect to sense or hear when God is speaking to you.
2. Clearly identify the activity of God in your life.
3. Believe Him to be and do everything He promises.
4. Adjust your beliefs, attitudes, and behavior to conform to His ways.

- a. Jesus is “the way” not “a way.” It is clear that any way man comes up with to get to heaven is not what the Bible teaches.
- b. Jesus answered **“I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me” (John 14:6).**

“But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness and all these things will be given to you as well” (Matthew 6:33)

- c. Learning to be a servant of God. The word servant in the original language is different than what we may think it is. The Greek word *doulos* describes this type of servant as a bondservant, one who willfully chooses to serve his master once he was free to make his own choice. Therefore a true servant (*doulos*) is one who willfully serves Jesus Christ at all costs.
- d. Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: **“Who, being in very nature (equality with God) God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant” (Philippians 2:5-7).**

D. The Seven Realities of Experiencing God That will help us to Know His Will

1. God is always at work around you.
2. God pursues a love relationship with you that is real and personable.
3. God invites you to become involved with Him in His work.
4. God speaks through the bible, prayer, circumstances, friends, and the church
5. God's invitation for you to work with Him always requires faith and action.
6. After hearing from God you make the adjustments He requires.
7. Once you have made the adjustments act in obedience!

E. Faith requires action. Action = Adjustments + Obedience

Kinds of adjustments:

1. In your circumstances (job, home, finances, and others). God may require you to abandon what you are doing to follow Him or He may ask you to serve Him where you are.
2. In your relationships (family, friends and business associates). Nothing should come before God. God's will always lines up with His word.
3. In your thinking (prejudices, methods, and your potential). We must open our hearts to see people as God sees them. Ask and He will help you to do so.
4. In your commitments (to family, church, job, plans and traditions). Followers of God often must lay down their plans to pursue His.
5. In your actions (how you pray, give and serve). Faithfulness in each of these areas is a key.
6. In your beliefs (about God, His purposes, and His ways). His ways are not our ways, therefore we must ask for His leading in all that we do. We must learn to see where He is at work and join in rather than asking Him to bless what we do in our own strength and will power.

7. In your personal relationship to Him and others. Following someone requires a level of relationship and trust. This we develop by spending time with Him.

F. Does God Guide His People?

1. The question is not - "Does God guide His people?" for God wants to reveal His will more than we seek to know it. The real understanding that is needed is that of: "How does God guide His people?".
2. The Christian, knowing that his Heavenly Father wants to reveal His will, needs only to know the answer to: "What is God's will for me in this situation?"
3. A third question for consideration in finding God's will is that of: "whether or not there is a particular plan of God for my life?"

G. Does God have a plan for my life?

1. It is reasonable to think so because:

God is a God of orderliness and planning.

1 Cor.14:40 "Let all things be done decently and in order"

2. Experience says that God does lay out a plan for His believers:

In our own lives each of us have had experiences where God seemed to be directing us, and as we followed that leading things worked out.

3. The Scripture indicates there is a plan:

Jer. 29:11-14a NIV - "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. I will be found by you," declares the Lord "and I will bring you back from captivity."

Proverbs 3:5-6 Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. 3:6 In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.

H. What does "God's will" mean?

1. **God's Sovereign Will** = the Bible teaches that every-thing that takes place is a part of God's ultimate plan and under His absolute power and authority. His will is sovereign. He has determined certain things to take place. Such as the coming of Christ. Nothing man or Satan could do would have prevented Him from accomplishing this part of His ultimate plan. He had sovereignly willed this to take place even before the earth was created. He also works all things after the counsel of His own will. Yet He does so:

- a. Without being the author of sin
- b. Without violating the will of man
- c. Without destroying the reality of decision making

2. God's sovereignty means that He has the authority and power to accomplish His own will. The scripture clearly declares this fact:

Dan.4:35 "And all the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing; and He doeth according to His will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth, and none can stay His Hand, or say unto Him, What doest Thou?"

Eph.1:11 "In Whom we have also obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who worketh all things after the counsel of His own will."

I. God's Moral will = God's moral commands as revealed in His Word teach us how we ought to believe and live.

Example: God's Word is very clear that believers are not to marry non-believers, but the Scriptures do not specify what particular person I am to marry. Thus, my individual decision on who to marry must be in harmony with God's Word. God will never lead us to do something He has forbidden in His Word. Two examples of God's moral will as revealed in the scriptures are:

II Corinthians 6:14 Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?

I Thessalonians 4:3 For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication:

- J. God's will for each Individual** = is that plan God has designed for each individual. This guidance is given through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, who progressively reveals God's life-plan to the heart of the believer.

Knowing God's will for me as an individual is **not** "trying to find the needle in the hay stack." Realize, it is not to God's advantage to cause His will to be hard to know.

1. GOD DESIRES THAT WE KNOW HIS WILL

Col.1:9 "For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that yet might be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding"

2. PROVING GOD'S WILL IS A PROCESS OF INVESTIGATION & TESTING TO ARRIVE AT A SURE RESULT

Romans 12:2 "And be not conformed to this world, but be ye trans-formed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God."

3. "UNDERSTAND" MEANS - TO PUT TOGETHER

Eph. 5:17 "Wherefore, be ye not unwise but understanding what the will of the Lord is."

The Greek word for "understand" means "to put together" it denotes a process of gathering and analyzing data to determine the will of God.

4. INDIVIDUAL GUIDANCE

Psalms 32:8 I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way, which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye.

Proverbs 16:9 A man's heart deviseth his way: but the LORD directeth his steps.

K. Reading the Road Signs

1. **God's Word:** The Bible does not reveal God's individual will, but it does declare His moral will. The individual will always lies within God's moral will.
2. **Circumstances:** As believers, we believe that no circumstance develops by chance. God, being sovereign, works through circumstances. Open or closed doors are two of the most obvious ways God reveals His will.

a. OPEN DOOR

1 Cor. 16:8-9 "But I will tarry at Ephesus until Pentecost. For a great door, and effectual, is opened unto me, and there are many adversaries."

b. DOOR NOT YET OPEN

Col. 4:3 "Praying also for us, that God would open unto us a door of utterance, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in bonds;"

c. OPEN BUT TURNED AWAY FROM

2 Cor. 2:12-13 "Now when I went to Troas to preach the gospel of Christ and found that the Lord had opened a door for me, I still had no peace of mind, because I did not find my brother Titus there. So I said good by to them and went on to Macedonia."

We do not have to walk through every open door, but should pray asking God to confirm to us his desire.

d. CLOSED DOOR

Acts 16:6-7 Now when they had gone throughout Phrygia and the region of Galatia, and were forbidden of the Holy Ghost to preach the word in Asia, 16:7 After they were come to Mysia, they assayed to go into Bithynia: but the Spirit suffered them not.

3. USING A FLEECE

The use of a fleece was done by Gideon because of a lack of faith and fear, but God still used it. (Judges 6:15-37) Remember Gideon already knew God's will but God honored his fleece allowing him to prove the will of God. God also honored the fleece of Abraham's servant in Gen. 24. Proper use today might follow these guidelines:

- a. Use only as a last resort
- b. During a time of sincere prayer agree with God on a circumstantial sign
- c. Select a sign that is clear, definite, and an uncommon occurrence
- d. Use this approach only for the most important decisions.

4. THE INNER WITNESS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT: It is one of the ministries of the Holy Spirit to guide believers:

John 16:13 "Nevertheless, when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, He will guide you into all truth; for He shall not speak of Himself, but whatever He shall hear, that shall He speak; and He will show you things to come."

Rom. 8:14 "For as many are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God."

- a. This "inner voice", "witness", "still, small voice", "inner burden", or "inner peace" that helps us to feel right about a certain course of action.

Col. 3:15 says to "let the peace of God rule your hearts."

- b. Here the verb "rule means to act as an arbitrator or umpire. Where we have God's peace we can feel confident. A lack of it should be a danger signal.

5. THE MATURE COUNSEL OF OTHER CHRISTIANS:

Often others who are mature Christians (not just age-wise) can draw on their insights and personal experiences in addition to their grasp of God's word to assist in our guidance, but they are certainly not infallible.

6. OUR PERSONAL DESIRES:

We need to remember that our heart is "deceitfully wicked" and not to be trusted; but on the other hand, a heart yielded to God may bear the desire of God's heart. Christ must be Lord and when He is His desires become ours.

7. COMMON SENSE:

God has intended that we use our common sense, realizing that our ways are not always God's ways. For example, if Noah had relied on common sense, he never would have built the arc. Guidance that goes against common sense may often come from God.

8. SUPERNATURAL GUIDANCE:

Most believers never hear God's audible voice, or see an angel, etc. But we must not rule out this possibility because God is sovereign.

L. What about Results

1. positive results are a confidence builder
2. difficulties may mean testing rather than being out of God's will - weigh them carefully.
3. When we clearly miss God by getting ahead of Him he is gracious and allows us to learn our lesson before returning us to the right road.

4. God may shut a door which we were preparing to walk through to keep us from disaster but we should not expect Him to continually shut doors to keep us from foolishness.

M. Prayer, Fellowship and Abiding

1. 90% of those who cannot find God's will have simply not spent enough time asking God in prayer & seeking Him through His Word.

WHY SHOULD GOD SPEAK TO PEOPLE WHO DON'T PRAY OR OBEY?

2. Do not forsake the assembling of yourselves together
3. Nothing replaces closeness to the Lord. It's a personal relationship. He took the first two steps in giving us His word and Spirit now he stands at the door taking the 3rd step "knocking" - we must open the door and be willing to spend time with Him.

John 15: 4-5 Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine, no more can ye, except ye abide in me. I am the vine, ye are the branches. He that abideth in me, and I in him the same bringeth forth much fruit, for without me ye can do nothing.

5 WAYS TO STUDY YOUR BIBLE

XXVIII. STUDYING THE BIBLE ON YOUR OWN

- A. Most Christians sincerely want to study their Bibles on their own, but they just don't know how. On a typical evening, an average Christian may sit and watch TV for three hours, but only read his Bible for three minutes before bedtime. Is it any wonder many lack spiritual maturity? Many Christians are

more faithful to read their newspaper than they are to the Word of God. What would happen if Christians committed themselves with equal vigor to reading their Bibles each morning before they left for work, school, or shopping? **It would change their lives and the ones around them.**

B. There are many reasons why far too many Christians do not study the Word of God. Many reasons could be given, but **three** seem to be most common.

1. **The first reason** is that people don't know how.
2. **The second reason** why people don't study their Bibles is that they are not motivated. This is primarily because they have not yet discovered the joy that comes from personally discovering truths from the Word of God.
3. **The third reason** why people don't study the Scriptures is that they are lazy. Bible study is hard work, and there are no shortcuts to it.

C. The **PURPOSE** of this session on “How **You** Can Study The Bible” is to teach you how to dig out the riches of the Word of God for yourself. Which study method is right for you? It will require some serious thinking, but an effort has been made to keep the procedures simple for you. For the sake of clarity, each weekly session will follow the same basic format. It will include:

1. A condensed outline of each method. This will allow you to gain an overview of each method at a glance.
2. A short definition of the method.
3. A rationale for each method. This will acquaint you with the benefits and limitations of each method.
4. The procedure for each method. This will be explained in a simple step-by-step manner.
5. An example of each method (a completed form).

6. Suggested possible passages or subjects to get you started on your own study.

b)

D. Principles of Dynamic Bible Study

Dynamic Bible study does not require anything magical. Once you understand the basic principles, it's simple to do. Here are five general principles you will need to remember, regardless of the method of study you choose.

1. The **secret** of dynamic Bible study is knowing how to ask the right questions. One benefit of studying the Bible is that you will begin developing [because it's a process] a more inquisitive mind. The more questions you ask about the text in Scripture, the more you will get out of it.
2. Dynamic Bible study involves writing down what you have observed and discovered. You really have not thought through a biblical text until you have put the thoughts gained into writing. This is the main difference between Bible reading and Bible study.
3. The **ultimate goal** of dynamic Bible study is application, not interpretation. Reading or listening to Scripture without application of the Word of God will train you to become a hearer of His Word and not a doer. Scripture is quite clear on the difference between the two.
4. Dynamic Bible study means that God's word must be studied systematically. A haphazard study of the Word of God is an insult to the sanctity of Scripture. We need to study the Word of God with some type of plan (systematically).
5. In dynamic Bible study you will never exhaust the riches in any one passage of Scripture. The psalmist declared, "To all perfection I see a limit; but your commands are boundless" (Psalm 119:96). You can dig and dig in Scripture, but you will never touch the bottom. For this reason, you can study the same passage over and over again, you can dig in it, then leave it alone for months, and when you come back to it, there is much to find. The key is this: STICK WITH IT!

E. GETTING STARTED

In order for you to develop into a genuine disciple who enjoys discovering the nuggets available in God's Word, a basic understanding of the events of how the different Bible translations came about is necessary in order to maintain a balanced perspective. Some helpful tools for beginning your Bible study will follow.

1. Why The Different Translations?

Before the printing press was built, in the early 1500's, only a select few had full version of the Bible, therefore; the religious and political hierarchy found it simple to simply "tell" the common person what the Scriptures said. A mandate was given for a mass production of Bibles, and since at that time the common language was "the kings language" the King James version of the Bible was born. The many scholars used one particular manuscript that they agreed was the most accurate translation of the Hebrew (Old Testament) and the Greek (New Testament). As time progressed, other Bible scholars strongly felt that other manuscripts were more accurate and a translation needed to be available for the common person to better understand. This is where the vast majority of the mainline translations came about.

Although you will find respectable scholars, pastors, theologians, and students of the Word on opposite sides of which version is the more accurate, I firmly believe each of you must not allow yourself to get caught up in the debate. It's fruitless to waste time because it has no value as to a persons eternal security. Now its important to note that the King James is probably the most accurate translation available, the translation is extremely difficult to read, understand, and comprehend by the average reader. I believe it is wise to have a King James Version, and if possible, at least one more translation that is a modern translation and therefore, easier to understand. If someone really wanted to get an even more accurate translation of the Bible, an Interlinear Bible is available in some places.

2. Helpful Hints

- a.** Always have a notebook of some type and a pen near your bed. The Holy Spirit can give you nuggets (wisdom) at any time,

including dreams when you are go to sleep. It's wise to be prepared to keep some type of journal so you can verify dreams, words, and anything else that comes into your mind against the Word of God. This is **not** the same notebook you will need for your personal Bible study. This notebook should never leave your room.

- b. Perform an inventory of your house to make sure there is nothing there inviting forces of darkness into your home. Legal authority is given when situations are created to entertain their presence or objects that are questionable to have. Please feel free to call my office if you have any questions (727) 799-1618.
- c. Keep a stock of highlighters, and pens available in your bedroom and wherever else you may choose to study the Word of God.
- d. Be disciplined enough to make time to feed your spirit **daily**.
- e. If you are on the internet, you can download a browser that allows you to search for anything on line with approximately 12-18 search engines. This is incredible and it's **FREE**.

WWW.COPERNIC.COM

- f. If you are on the internet and would like to get on it for **FREE**, you can download the following website and get in with absolutely no problems. Once you are satisfied with it you may choose to cancel your other online subscription. The reason it's at no cost is because there is a small box that stays on your screen providing advertising (NOTHING BAD) all the time and you can't remove it. Hey, it's great and it's FREE.

WWW.NETZERO.NET

- g. There are so many Bible tools, different Bible translations, helps, and information on the internet its incredible!
- h. If you are online and wanted to access the web pages of all the churches in the world that have a web page, type in:

WWW.CHURCHES.NET

3. WHAT TOOLS WILL I WANT, IF THEY ARE AVAILABLE?

- a. **A Study Bible**

Your first and most important tool is a good study Bible. A good study Bible should have print large enough for when you read for long periods of time without getting a headache from eyestrain. Wide margins are helpful because they allow you room to make notations. For now, I suggest you choose a King James study Bible only because two exhaustive concordances are keyed to this translation and the two best Bibles available today are in that version. The two excellent study Bibles are:

- The Thompson Chain-Reference Bible (B.B. Kirkbride Bible Company Co.)
- The Open Bible (Thomas Nelson Inc.)

Both of these study Bibles represent years of long, in-depth study and research, and a wealth of helpful material is found in each. You can overcome the difficulty of the King James language by keeping a recent version at your side. Some popular ones are:

- The Living Bible (LV)
- The American Standard (AS)
- The New American Standard (NAS)
- The New International Version (NIV)
- The Jerusalem Bible (JB)
- The Amplified Version (AMP)
- The Open Bible (OB)

b. Several Recent Translations

Out of the many recent translations available (including the above list), I recommend three reliable translations available today:

- The New International Version has become the most popular version available today. It is easy reading.
- The New American Standard Bible is recognized as one of the most accurate translations, that is faithful to the original languages of the Bible (Hebrew[OT] and Greek[NT]).
- The Amplified Bible a translation that includes different possible meanings of many words used in the text to better

understand the full implication of the usage. It helpful in doing word studies, but its not recommended as a regular reading Bible.

Many other fine translations are available today, so choose the ones with which you will be most comfortable.

c. **An Exhaustive Concordance**

By far the most important tool you will need in Bible study next to your study Bible is a concordance. This tool is a Bible index of the words contained in the King James Version ONLY. An exhaustive concordance lists every usage of every word in the Bible, and gives all the references where that word may be found. The two exhaustive concordances in print today for the King James Version are:

- Strong's Exhaustive Concordance (Abingdon Press)
- Young's Analytical Concordance to the Bible (Eerdmans Publishing Co.)

Of the two, Young's is better for word studies because of the way it is organized.

XXIX. The Devotional Method

HINT: The ultimate goal of all Bible study is application, NOT interpretation. Since God wants to change your life through His Word, it is critical you learn how to apply Scripture to your life.

- A. DEFINITION:** The Devotional Method of Bible study involves taking a passage of Scripture, large or small, and prayerfully meditating on it until the Holy Spirit shows you a way to apply its truth to your own life. It should be practical, personal, possible, and measurable. The goal is for you to take the Word of God and “do what it says.” (James 1:22)
- B. WHY APPLICATION IS IMPORTANT:** Bible study without personal application can be just an academic exercise with NO eternal spiritual value.

C. APPLICATION IS NECESSARY FOR YOUR DAILY LIFE: The study of the Word of God should lead to its application in your life, with the result that the Scriptures change you to conform to the will of God.

1. You can't really get to know the Word of God unless you apply it to your life. During His ministry, Jesus had a number of encounters with religious leaders of His time. On one occasion the Sadducees, who did not believe in the resurrection from the dead, asked Jesus a trick question. His answer was real interesting. He said to them, "You are in error because you do not know the Scriptures or the power of God" (Matthew 22:29). The Sadducees had an intellectual knowledge of the facts of the Jewish Scriptures, but they did not apply these principles in a personal way. You can be a walking encyclopedia, with your head crammed full of biblical knowledge, but it won't do you any good if you don't apply it practically in daily living.
2. Studying the Word of God can be extremely dangerous if you merely study it without applying it. Bible study without application can be dangerous because knowledge puffs up. Learning without application will eventually develop pride and arrogance in your life; therefore, knowledge demands action!
 - James 1:22
 - Matthew 7:24-27
 - Psalm 119:59-60
 - James 4:17

D. APPLICATION IS HARD WORK: It would seem that that applying the Bible would be fairly simple, but actually it is the hardest part of Bible study. Application doesn't happen by accident. You have to plan for it or it will never come about. Three of the reasons that make applying Scripture to your life so difficult are: it requires thinking, the devil fights it viciously, and you naturally desire to resist change.

1. Application is hard work because it requires serious thinking. Sometimes it takes a long period of meditation before you see a way to apply a truth of Scripture you have studied. Sometimes it may require looking beneath a temporary rule to see a timeless principle in the text.

2. Application is hard work because Satan fights it viciously. The devil's strongest attacks often come in your quiet time when you are trying to apply what you have studied. Satan knows that as long as you are content with merely having head knowledge of the Word, you are not much of a threat to his plans. But as soon as you get serious about making some changes in your life, he will fight you tooth and nail.
3. Application is hard work because you naturally resist change. Often you don't "feel" like changing, which is what true application requires. Feelings have nothing to do with the Christian life, for feelings come and go. The key to spiritual maturity is to live for Jesus Christ not because we feel good, but because you know it is the right thing to do. If the only time you study the Bible is when you feel like it – the devil will make sure you never feel like it!

E. FOUR STEPS TO PRACTICAL APPLICATION

When you do a devotional bible study, follow four simple steps. These steps can be summarized in the words: pray, meditate, apply, and memorize.

1. Step One – Pray For Insight On How To Apply The Passage
Ask God to help you apply the Scripture you are studying and show you specifically what He wants you to do.
2. Step Two – Meditate On The Verse(s) You Have Choooses To Study
Meditation is the key to discovering how to apply Scripture to your life. Get the thought God gives you, put it in your mind, and think it over and over again. Meditation of God's Word is enhanced when you begin to visualize the scene you are currently studying.
3. Step Three – Write Out An Application
Write an application of insights you have discovered through your meditation. If you don't write something down, you will soon forget it. This is particularly necessary when you are dealing with spiritual truths. You need to remember four factors in writing out a good application.

- a. Your application should be **personal**. Always write it out in the first person singular (I, me, my, mine).
- b. Your application should be **practical**. It needs to be something you can do. Make it as specific as possible because broad generalities can make you feel helpless and produce little action.
- c. Your application should be **possible**. It should be something you can accomplish; otherwise you will get discouraged.
- d. Your application should be **provable**. You must set some up some sort of follow up to check up on your success in doing it. Also, make sure it is measurable in order to set some type of limit on your application.

4. Step Four – Memorize A Key Verse From Your Study

So that you can continue to meditate on the passage you are applying, memorize a verse that is key to the application you have written. Sometimes God will work out on one area of your life for several weeks or even months. You should not fool yourself into thinking that by writing out one application there will instant change. Rather, it must be thought of as part of growth.

F. HOW TO FILL OUT THE DEVOTIONAL FORM?

This method of Bible study must contain at least the following preliminary information:

- Date – when you did the study.
- Passage – write down the book, chapter, and verse(s) you are studying.
- Prayer – make a check after you have prayed for insight from the Holy Spirit.
- Meditation – Write out your thoughts
- Memorization – Write out the memory verse you plan to learn.

5. Devotional Study Form

Date: February 12, 2000	Passage: Judges 6:1-18
1. Prayer:	ξ (check when done)
2. Meditation: This passage is on the call of Gideon	

Lessons (Truths to Believe)

- When God wants to accomplish something, HE looks for people to use.
- God often uses the most unexpected people.
- God can show His strength best through our weakness.
- God's power in us is the answer to our inadequacies.

Sin To Confess / Attitude To Change: Lord, forgive me for not being willing to be used by You. I've felt that you couldn't use me because of my weakness. I've used my inadequacy as an excuse for laziness. Help me remember that trusting myself will cause failure, but relying on Your strength in me will bring victory. Use my weakness to bring glory to Yourself.

Application: I've been afraid to accept my church's invitation to teach a Sunday School class. I have made up excuses for not taking the position because I felt inadequate. But I Know God wants me to teach that class, so I'm going to do it!

Memorization: Remember what God told Gideon, "I will be with you" (v. 16)

XXX. The Chapter Summary Method

A. How You Can Begin To Understand Chapters Of A Book In Your Bible

1. The Bible as it was originally written had no chapters or verse divisions. In fact, it wasn't till AD 1228 that Bishop Stephen Langton added the chapter divisions. These were added to make the various sections of the Bible more accessible to the readers. Some of these divisions are arbitrary, and interrupt the flow of a writer's message. Usually they provide good braking points that are helpful in Bible study.
2. According to these divisions, which were made centuries after the Bible was written, there are 1,189 chapters in the Protestant Bible. If you studied one chapter each day, you could read through the Scriptures in just over three years. If you summarized two chapters a day, you could finish in about 20 months. This pace is not recommended, for you

would quickly get bored with the study method. Instead, select random chapters of Scripture that you want to study and use the summary method on those passages; or use a different method for variety.

B. DEFINITION:

The Chapter Summary Method involves gaining a general understanding of the contents of a chapter of the Bible by reading it through at least five times, asking a series of content questions, and summarizing the central thoughts of the passage. This method should not be confused with the Book Survey and Chapter Analysis Methods we will discuss later.

C. Why THIS METHOD IS IMPORTANT:

This method is important because it enables you to begin to understand chapters of the books of the Bible. It is a popular method for those beginning with Bible study because chapters are usually short, and it does not require deep study to do a chapter summary. It is a valuable method because it can be easily taught to a brand new Christian or someone interested in doing a meaningful Bible study. Here are the four benefits:

1. First, this method is easy to learn. You can begin practicing as soon as you understand the 10 basic steps that follow in the next section.
2. Second, this method does not take much time. Depending on the chapter you are studying, you can complete a chapter summary in about 20-30 minutes.
3. Third, this method does not require any outside helps or reference tools. By memorizing the following ten steps, you can do a chapter summary in any situation at anytime, using your Bible and a piece of paper.
4. Fourth, this method is a good type of study to use when you are engaged in a rapid reading survey through the Bible. You can make initial notes as you read each chapter by using the Chapter Summary Format.

D. 10 Easy Steps for Doing Chapter Summary

In preparing to do an effective Chapter Summary, read through the chapter at least five times. Many Christians miss the great insights of Scripture because

they fail to read and reread it over and over again. Here are some tips on how to read a chapter of the Bible:

- **Read it in a Bible without notes.** If you try using this method by reading a Bible in which you have made notes, you'll have the tendency to concentrate on the same ideas.
- **Read it without stopping.** Your goal is to feel the flow of the chapter, so don't be concerned with the details at first. Try and capture the central message and theme the Holy Spirit is showing you.
- **Read it in several contemporary translations.** This will give you additional insights as you see how each translator rendered an opinion on a verse or subject based on his translation of the original language.
- **Read it aloud quietly to yourself.** If you have problems with concentration, this will help you tremendously because you will be hearing yourself read.

1. Step One – Caption

Give the chapter a short, catchy, descriptive title. This will help you to remember it. In fact, if you use this method on every chapter in a selected book of the Bible, you can remember the contents of the whole book by memorizing your chapter titles.

2. Step Two – Contents

Describe, summarize, paraphrase, outline, or make a list of the major points in a chapter. Some people like to summarize, analytical people enjoy outlining. Don't try to interpret the chapter; just make observations on its contents.

3. Step Three – Chief People

List the most important people in the chapter. Ask Questions such as, Who are the main people in this chapter? Why are they included? What is significant about them? When you come to long genealogies (list of people), don't try to list each one but summarize the list.

4. Step Four – Choice Verse

Choose a verse that summarizes the whole chapter or one that speaks to you personally.

5. Step Five – Crucial Word(s)

Write down the key word(s) of the chapter. Sometimes the crucial word may be the most important word but not the most used.

6. Step Six – Challenges

List any difficulties you may have with the passage. Are there any statements you do not understand? Is there any problem or question you would like to study further?

7. Step Seven – Cross References

Using the cross-references in your study Bible, look up other verses that help you clarify what the chapter is talking about and list them on your form. Ask the question: What else in the Bible helps me understand this chapter.

8. Step Eight – Christ Seen

The entire Bible is a revelation of the person of Jesus Christ. In fact, Jesus used the Old Testament to teach his disciples about Himself. Ask yourself, What can I learn about the nature of Jesus in this chapter? What attributes of God in Christ are illustrated here? This step may be difficult to complete in some portions of the Bible, particularly in the Old Testament.

9. Step Nine – Central Lessons

- a. Write down the major principles, insights, and lessons you learn from this chapter. Ask yourself, Why does God want this passage in the Bible? What does He want to teach me from this chapter?

10. Step Ten – Conclusion

This is the application portion of your study. It will benefit you to conclude your chapter summary by asking yourself two questions: (1) How do these truths apply to me personally? (2) What specifically am I going to do about them?

E. HOW TO FILL IN THE CHAPTER SUMMARY FORM

The following form has a place for listing the chapter of the Bible you are studying and the 10 steps of this method.

Chapter Summary

Chapter:	Luke 15
Read 5 times	ξ (check when done)
1. Caption (title):	“Lost and Found”
2. Contents:	<p>This chapter contains three parables.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Verses 3-7: The Lost Sheep 2. Verses 8-20: The Lost Coin 3. Verses 11-32: The Lost Son
3. Chief People:	<p>The shepherd with the lost sheep. The woman with the lost The father with the son</p>
4. Choice Verse:	<p>Luke 15:7-“I say unto you that, likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth more than over ninety and nine just persons who need no repentance.”</p>
5. Crucial Word(s)	<p>Lost (vs. 4, 5, 9, 24, 32) Found (5-6, 9, 24, 32)</p>
6. Challenges (Difficulties I need To Study):	<p>What does this verse mean – “ninety and nine just persons who need no repentance”?</p>
7. Cross References:	<p>Luke 15:4-6</p> <p>Matthew 18:11-14; John 10:10-14 1 Peter 2:25 Isaiah 53:6 Psalm 119:176</p>
8. Christ Seen:	<p>1st parable – Jesus the Good Shepherd searching for lost sheep. 2nd parable – the Holy Spirit our rightful owner finding and restoring. 3rd parable – God the Father waiting to welcome us home.</p>
9. Central Lesson(s)	<p>Insights: The son went away saying, “Give me” (v. 12). He returned saying, “Make me” (v.19).</p>

God cares for sinners and anxiously waits for them to return home.

Characteristics of the immature brother:

Anger – v. 28 Childish – v. 28 Jealousy – vv. 29-30 Grumbling – vv. 29-30

10. Conclusion (Personal Application):

I need to develop specific witnessing plans for sharing my faith.

XXXI. Thematic Method - How You Can Investigate Themes in Scripture

The Thematic Method involves approaching a biblical theme with a set of not more than five predetermined questions in mind. You then trace that theme through the Bible or a single book by asking only those questions summarizing your conclusions, and writing out a personal application. This method is similar to the Topical Study but differs in two ways.

First, the thematic study is shorter than the topical study because you study fewer verses. It is in fact, a limited type of topical study. Second, it differs in the number of questions you ask. In a topical study you can ask as many questions as you can because your goal is to discover as much as possible about the topic. The thematic study limits the question to a maximum of five because you are interested only in finding out the answers to a few carefully chosen questions.

A. Tools You Will Need

- A study Bible
- An exhaustive concordance
- A Topical Bible

B. Advantages of This Study

1. You can do a limited study if you have a topical Bible. But a topical Bible does not list all the references on a particular theme, so you will benefit by using an exhaustive concordance. You can make a list of every word that relates to the theme, then look up each word in the concordance and select the verses that deal specifically with the theme you have chosen.

2. You can use this method when you don't have the time to do a full-scale topical study because the theme is too broad or because of the large number of references on the subject.
3. This method is a good way to preview a topic by surveying the high points of its subordinate themes before attempting a regular topical study of the subject. Or you can use this approach when you are only interested in having certain questions answered on the theme.
4. This method is one of the easiest types of personal Bible study to turn into a sermon or Sunday school lesson.
5. This method is a good one for teaching new Christians. It is simple enough for someone who has not done any personal Bible study to grasp and do effectively.

C. Some Tips on Doing This Study

1. Don't use too many questions.
2. Many times you will not find the answer to every one of your questions. This means you probably need to revise your questions.
3. If you want to know everything God has said about a certain subject in the Bible, you will have to use an exhaustive concordance and look up all the words related to your theme.
4. If you are not finding answers to any of your questions in your verses, it probably means you need to revise your questions.

D. Six Steps In Doing This Study

1. **Step One - Choose A Theme To Study**
If this is your first study of any kind, start with one that is small or short.
2. **Step Two – List All The Verses You Intend To Study**
Using your three reference tools, make a list of all the Bible verses that are related to the theme you have chosen. Remember to use synonyms and other similar words and concepts when using the concordance.
3. **Step Three – Decide On The Questions You Will Use**
How Do You know what questions to ask? Write down those in which you are most interested.
4. **Step Four – Ask Your Questions Of Each Reference**

Read through your references and ask your set of questions of each verse.

5. Step Five – Draw Some Conclusions Of Your Study

After you have read through all the references and answered your questions from them, go back and summarize the answers to each of your questions.

6. Step Six – Write Out A Personal Application

To implement what you have discovered and make it real in your life, write out a personal application that is practical, possible, and measurable.

Thematic Study

1. Theme: Jesus' Definition of a Disciple
2. List of References: Matthew 10:24-25 Luke 14:26-28 John 8:31-32 John 15:8
3. Questions To Be Asked: A. What are the characteristics of a disciple? B. What are the results of being a disciple? C.
4. Answers To Questions Scripture Reference: Matthew 10:24-25 A. A disciple will be like Christ (his Master) B. He should expect to be treated as Christ was by the world. C. Scripture Reference: Luke 14:26-28 A. A disciple gives supreme love to Christ and bears his cross and follows Him. B. Scripture Reference: John 8:31-32 A. A disciple continually abides in Christ's Word. B. He knows the truth and is set free.
5. Conclusions: Characteristics I discovered: A disciple is: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Like Christ

- Gives supreme love to Christ
- Bears his cross and follows Christ
- Gives up all to follow Christ
- Continually abides in Christ's Word
- Loves others
- Bears fruit

Results I discovered:

- He should expect persecution
- He knows the truth and is set free
- He brings glory to God
- Others notice he belongs to Christ

Application:

1. Based on John 8:31-32

I will establish a regular, daily quiet time in the Word, starting tomorrow morning.

2. Based on John 13:34-35

I will demonstrate love for the person in my Sunday school class who irritates me by asking his family to come to dinner this next week.

XXXII. The Topical Method

How To Trace A Topic Through Scripture

A. DEFINITION

The Topical Method of Bible Study involves selecting a biblical subject and tracing it through a single book, Old or New Testament or the entire bible in order to discover what God says about the topic. Some examples of topics are: doctrines, miracles, prayers, problems, promises, prophecies, attitudes, animals, the family, great questions, duties to God, and disciple making.

B. THE IMPORTANCE OF THE TOPICAL STUDY

1. It enables you to study the Word of God systematically, logically, and in an orderly manner.

2. It gives you a proper perspective and balance regarding biblical truth.
3. It enables you to study the great doctrines of the Bible.
4. It allows you to study subjects that are of particular interest to you.
5. It lends itself to good and lively discussions. The results of a topical study are always easy to share with others.
6. It allows you variety in your lifetime commitment to personal Bible study.

C. TOOLS YOU WILL NEED

- Time set aside to do the study
- An exhaustive concordance
- A topical Bible

D. SUGGESTIONS FOR A GOOD TOPICAL STUDY

1. Be systematic. Don't try to study the Bible in a haphazard manner which is basically an undisciplined manner. Make a list of all the things related to your topic, and make it as comprehensive and complete as possible. Then take up these items one at a time, studying them in a systematic and logical order.
2. Be thorough. As far as possible, find and study every verse that relates to the topic. The only way to know all God has said on a topic is to go through the entire Bible, finding passages on that topic. Use your concordance to do this.
3. Be exact. Try to get the exact meaning of every verse you study. Be sure to examine the context of each verse to avoid misinterpretation. The biggest mistake is taking a verse out of its context.

E. SIMPLE STEPS ON DOING A TOPICAL STUDY

1. STEP ONE – Compile a List of Words

Make a list of all the related words (synonyms and antonyms), phrases, events, and anything else that could have something to do with your

chosen topic. If you are studying the topic of “suffering,” for example you will want to list words such as affliction, anger, chastisement, grief, health, pain, sorrow, trials, and tribulation. If you see that your topic has become too broad,, narrow it down to a manageable size.

2. STEP TWO – Collect Bible References

Take your reference tools and begin to gather all the verses you can find on your topic. Use your concordance to find these references.

3. STEP THREE – Consider Each Reference Individually

Look up, read, and study each individual reference and write down your observations and insights on it. Remember to use great words like: what, why, when where, who, and how questions.

4. STEP FOUR – Compare and Group the References

After you have carefully studied all your verses individually, you will begin to notice that some of the references naturally complement each other and deal with the same areas of the topic under study. Categorize these references on a piece of scratch paper.

5. STEP FIVE – Condense Your Study into an Outline

Using categories from step four, logically arranged as your main division, outline your study. This step will organize your study for you and enable you to share it with others. Do this by grouping related or similar references together into natural divisions. Then organize these divisions into a logical pattern.

6. STEP SIX – Conclude Your Study

In your two-part conclusion, summarize your findings in a brief paragraph. Then write out a practical application drawn from your conclusions. Remember to be personal, and practical, writing a possible and measurable application.

Topical Study Form

TOPIC: The Faithful Man (2 Timothy 2:2)
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1. Compile a List of Words: Faithful		
2. Collect Bible References: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Numbers 12:7 • 1 Samuel 2:35; 22:14 • Nehemiah 7:2; 13:13 • Isaiah 8:2 • Daniel 6:4 • Psalm 12:1 • Proverbs 20:6; 28:10 • Matthew 24:45 • Luke 16:10-13; 19:17 • 1 Corinthians 1:9 		
Verses	Cross References	Observations & Insights
Numbers 12:7	Luke 14:11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moses was called faithful by God.
1 Samuel 2:35	Isaiah 35:2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was prophesied that Samuel would be a faithful man.
1 Samuel 22:14	Matthew 24:45	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • David was called a faithful man by Abimelech.
Nehemiah 7:2	Matthew 15:12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hanai was called a faithful man by Nehemiah
Nehemiah 13:13	Proverbs 11:17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nehemiah's treasures were considered faithful by Nehemiah so he gave them responsibly.

Select the method of Bible study, which fits your situation, and be faithful to set aside a regular time for study.

Extra Teaching Material if Time permits:

THE EXCHANGED LIFE

ATTENTION TEACHER: The following material was briefly covered earlier in this study (page 48). If you have sufficient additional teaching time, you may want to

teach all of the following or those parts not covered earlier. However, this additional material is not required to complete this course.

THE PROCESS OF CHRISTIAN MATURITY

(Who you were; who you are; who you can be!)

All figures and diagrams mentioned can be found at the end of this section of notes in the order they are presented. This material is not done in outline form, but is divided by lessons. Those who are teaching this material will want to pay close attention to special directions that are given throughout the material. Watch for: **TEACHER:**

Lesson I (Who you were)

To understand who we are now, we have to look back to who we were before we met Jesus; back to the start of creation. We'll learn how God designed man so we can understand how He deals with us.

God is a trinity made up of God the Father, Jesus Christ who is God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. One common way of describing the Trinity of God is seen in our understanding of the different form in which water (H₂O) can be found. In its liquid form, it is water; in its solid form it is ice; in its gaseous form it is steam but no matter which form we see it is still simply H₂O. Although all three have their own separate function and use, they are all the same in substance.

God made man a tri-unity; that is one being made up of body, soul and spirit. Many people are aware of the existence of the body and soul, but may not realize they are also spirit (Heb. 4:12; 1 Thess 5:23).

1 Th 5:23 And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole **spirit and soul and body** be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Heb 4:12 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 (body)**, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

Our primary substance is our soul. We are a soul that has come about as the result of the uniting of the body, which God created from the dust of the earth to the human spirit which came into existence as God “breathed into (man’s) nostrils the breath of life.” The union of the body and the human spirit created a living soul known as MAN. When Adam was created

these three were a perfect blend united in the soul from which man's individuality emerged, thus he is called a "living soul."

The angels were created as "spirits" whereas man is predominantly a "living soul." Upon the death of man, according to Eccl. 12:7 the body returns to the dust, it decays and goes back to the form from which God created it. The "spirit" of man returns to God who gave it. The soul continues to exist. The question then becomes in what form does it exist, where does it exist, and what awareness does it possess? These we shall answer in the course of our study.

Gen 2:7 And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.

Eccl 12:7 Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it.

TEACHER: Hand out **Figure 1** and explain the function of each part briefly.

EXPLANATION:

1. The human spirit relates to God, it houses our God consciousness

We relate to God through our:

- intuition (insight) which has been defined as "the immediate learning of something without the conscious use of reasoning; instantaneous apprehension;
- conscience (inner moral self). The dictionary says it is the knowledge or feeling of right and wrong; the faculty, power, or principle of a person which decides on the lawfulness or unlawfulness of his actions, with a compulsion to do right; moral judgment that prohibits or opposes the violation of a previously recognized ethical principle.
- communion (sharing together) in the sense of fellowship; intercourse between two or more persons; interchange of thoughts or interests; a state of giving and receiving; agreement; a personal relationship.

It is this aspect of our nature that tells us that there is a higher being which is in some way responsible for the existence of man and the world in which he lives. Thus man can have through his human spirit a sense that there is a God and at the same time not be in relationship or fellowship with God.

2. Soul - relates to others - personality or self consciousness

The soul houses our personality and awareness of self. Our soul is involved with how we relate to others. It is comprised of our MIND, that is our intellectual being, our EMOTIONS which is the feelings we sense whether we choose to express them through the body or not, and our WILL, which is expressed in that which we choose.

Psa 139:14 I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvellous are thy works; and that **my soul knoweth** right well.

Song 1:7 Tell me, O thou whom **my soul loveth**, where thou feedest, where thou makest thy flock to rest at noon: for why should I be as one that turneth aside by the flocks of thy companions?

Deu 14:26 And thou shalt bestow that money for whatsoever thy soul lusteth after, for oxen, or for sheep, or for wine, or for strong drink, or for **whatsoever thy soul desireth**: and thou shalt eat there before the LORD thy God, and thou shalt rejoice, thou, and thine household,

3. Body - relates to the environment - world consciousness

The body is our physical shell, our outward covering. It is temporal and will not always be in its present form. It was made from the dust of the ground and will return to dust and await the resurrection. The body houses the soul and spirit and places us in touch with the world around us. Through our physical senses of sight, touch, taste, hearing, and smell we take in information and communicate information. However, what we choose to manifest (meaning to make known to man), through the body is not always a true reflection of our soul and spirit. For example, I can choose (will), to act as though I am happy with someone when inside I may be very angry with them. This would be what we call a deception as it is not a true reflection of my emotions.

It is through the body that I am in touch with the natural world around me. As shown in “Figure 1” it gives me my “world-consciousness.”

Figure 1 indicates that the soul and human spirit interact with each other to determine what the body will do. The “?” question mark in the small circle in the middle stands for the question of what part of man will control the body. This question arises from the fact that before we received Jesus as our savior, our human spirit was dead to the things of God. By “dead” here we mean that the human spirit was not alive to the true living God. The term “death” in God’s eyes is any existence without Him. In other words, any person who has not received Jesus Christ as their savior is dead in the eyes of God. God is life and there is no life without Him. In fact, our human spirit was more alive to

Satan because of the heredity of Adam's sinful nature which was passed on to us as the descendants of Adam. The sin nature is passes on through the bloodline of Adam.

Rom 5:12 Wherefore, as by one man (Adam) sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:

But when Jesus, who never sinned, died to pay the price for our sin He fully satisfied the penalty of sin for all who would accept His sacrifice for their sin. We who have received Jesus are now justified before God. Justified means: "just as if I never sinned." When we received Jesus as our savior God the Holy Spirit quickened our human spirit and made it alive to the living God. At the moment of our repentance from sin and confession of our faith in Jesus, God the Holy Spirit came to live in our body dwelling in our human spirit. He is the very presence of Christ in us, the life that God is, now lives in every believer.

Rom 5:8-10 But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, **while we were yet sinners**, Christ died for us. 5:9 Much more then, being now **justified by his blood**, we shall be saved from wrath through him. 5:10 For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, **we shall be saved by his life**.

Eph 2:1 And you hath he **quickened**, who were dead in trespasses and sins:

1 Cor 6:19-20 What? know ye not that **your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost** which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? 6:20 For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

The Bible; God's Word. It is infallible; written for our instruction; our handbook for life. It answers any question we have on how to live our lives. It is His love letter to each of us. It is His revelation of Himself, by which we can know Him and His will for our lives. We are to rely completely on Him and His Word. Whatever man would tell us must be confirmed by God's Word. Anything that is contrary to God's Word is a false teaching. No one scripture can be taken by itself but should be validated by other scripture. The following are verses which validate the importance of God's Word:

Isa 55:11 So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.

Mat 4:4 But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.

John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

John 8:31-32 Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; 8:32 And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

1 Th 2:13 For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe.

2 Tim 3:16-17 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: 3:17 That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

Heb 4:12 For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

1 Pet 1:23 Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.

1 Pet 1:25 But the word of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you.

2 Pet 1:20-21 Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. 1:21 For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.

1 John 5:13 These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.

The term "Christian", is common but few really understand what it means. To be a Christian is **to be like Christ**; to believe in Him so much as to follow in all His examples.

TEACHER: Hand out **Figure 2** and explain the “C” and the “S” in the two small circles as follows:

The “C” represents Christ taking residence in us by His Spirit the Holy Spirit. He enters our body and dwells in our human spirit making us alive to the things of God. While at the same time “S,” Self, controls whether the soulish side or our nature or the spirit side of our nature will determine the actions of the body. Though Jesus Christ is in our lives He leaves us in control of our actions. We must decide whether to yield to the desires of the flesh, our old sin nature, or yield to the pull of God’s presence in our spirit to deny the flesh and walk in the Spirit.

Rom 8:1- 14 There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. 8:2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death. 8:3 For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: 8:4 That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. 8:5 For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit. 8:6 For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. 8:7 Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. 8:8 So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God. 8:9 But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his. 8:10 And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. 8:11 But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you. 8:12 Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh. 8:13 For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live. 8:14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.

When we receive Christ into our lives, we receive:

1.) Salvation - We know the term "saved" but **what are we saved from ?**

Rom 10:9-10 That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. 10:10 For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

We are saved from the wrath of the Father; from everlasting damnation; the power and penalty of sin.

Rom 6:23 For the **wages of sin is death**; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Rom 5:9 Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be **saved from wrath** through him.

We are saved by grace (unmerited favor) not by our works or any merit on our part. Grace is favor or kindness shown without regard to the worth or merit of the one who receives it and in spite of what that same person deserves. Grace is one of the key attributes of God. Grace, however, must be accompanied by faith; a person must trust in the mercy and favor of God, even while it is undeserved.

Eph 2:8-9 For **by grace are ye saved through faith**; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: 2:9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.

Other terminology meaning the same as being "saved":

- a. born again
- b. conversion to Christ
- c. Trusting Christ as Savior and Lord
- d. receiving Christ.
- e. personal surrender

Our spiritual birth is only the beginning of our life in Christ. On the basis of His infallible word He saves us when we believe and call upon Him.

Rom 10:13 For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

After we have settled the question of salvation in our lives, we can rejoice in;

2.) Assurance - (of salvation)

It is possible to be saved but not be assured of that salvation. Our assurance must be based on the facts of Scripture rather than on feelings that are subject to our emotions. In 1John 5:11-13 it says we are to know we have eternal life. 1 John 5:20 - He has given us the understanding to know Him and we are in Him..

1 John 5:11-13 And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. 5:12 He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. 5:13 These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.

And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true, even in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life.

We can establish assurance only by accepting Gods Word for what it is. Then we must realize that we have:

3.) Security

We must be secure in our relationship with Jesus and know that it is eternal. Eph 1:13 tells us that we are sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit.

Eph 1:13 In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, **ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise,**

The time of sealing coincides with the time of believing. A seal indicates possession and security. The presence of the Holy Spirit, the seal, is the believers guarantee of the security of his salvation. We are joined to the Lord and are one spirit with Him.

1 Cor 6:17 But he that is joined unto the Lord is one spirit.

He sealed us and gave us the Spirit in our hearts as a pledge to honor His promise.

2 Cor 1:22 Who hath also sealed us, and given the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts.

2 Tim 2:11-13 It is a faithful saying: For if we be dead with him, we shall also live with him: 2:12 If we suffer, we shall also reign with him: if we deny him, he also will deny us: 2:13 If we believe not, yet he abideth faithful: he cannot deny himself.

If we are faithless, He remains faithful. A statement of the consistency of God's character, a strong promise to the believer of the security of his salvation. We can't go around in fear of losing our salvation. This leads to doing works to keep it; thus returning to the law and to bondage. By the same token, we don't want to be like those who believe that since we are saved we can do whatever feels good and continue in sin.

Rom 6:1-2 What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? 6:2 God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?

We must have the unquenchable desire to please Our Lord just because He is who He is; our creator, redeemer, omnipotent God. Then, we need to realize we are:

4.) Accepted (by God)

Eph 1:6 assures us that we are accepted **IN** the beloved.

Eph 1:6 To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.

Our acceptance doesn't depend on any of our own effort, but as salvation is grace from beginning to end, so is acceptance. God accepts His Son and since we are in His Son, He accepts us as well. Many people feel that no one really accepts them and as a result, they feel that God can't accept them either. If a person truly feels this rejection, he must realize he is acceptable; not on his own merit, but on what Christ has done. When we put our trust in Jesus as Savior and Lord, we were "Put into" Christ (1 Cor 1:30).

1 Cor 1:30 But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption:

Therefore, we are accepted by God "IN" Christ. As we begin to take God at His word, our feelings start to line up with the facts. Now we can make a total commitment to God.

5.) Total Commitment (Rom 12:1,2)

Rom 12:1-2 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies **a living sacrifice**, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. 12:2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

Total commitment is an act of our will where we tell our Father that our heart's desire is to have His will accomplished in our lives. After we've committed our lives to Him, He will bring it to pass (Ps 37:5).

Psa 37:5 Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass.

Our total surrender to the Lord gives God the responsibility of our lives and that brings about a consummation of His purpose and plan in that life. This subject of Total commitment will be elaborated on at a future point in our study.

Lesson II - Soul (Psychological functions) (Who you are)

TEACHER: Review the first lesson and then hand out **Figure 3** and explain as follows:

The soul houses our personality, and is sometimes referred to as our thinker, feeler and chooser. There are negative aspects of the soul that result in frustration. Some examples of these negative aspects a person may face are:

1. Inferiority - Sometimes these feelings are so intense that relationships with others are hampered. It can hinder their ability to do work to the point that when assignments are given to them, they find no confidence to even begin. Once they start they usually do a good job but still feel they can't perform as well as most others. In their mind they know they're not inferior but their feelings say they are. This will likely cause some serious emotional problems as a person tries to find ways in which to compensate. They are wrapped in fear which leads to.....Insecurity.

2. Insecurity – The person is filled with fears and doubts about themselves and what's going to happen in the future. Always thinking the worst is on its way. Full of anxiety and apprehension which leads the way to other symptoms. Insecurity in a marriage makes one jealous which may lead to unfounded accusations of misconduct. This often becomes a repeating cycle which eventually results in divorce. Insecurity in a job produces a continuing fear of losing their job that hinders their performance making them ineffective.

3. Inadequacy. – This is the feeling that one is not properly equipped or able to perform a task. There are two common types of inadequacy:

- (1) The feeling that one is totally inadequate to cope with life. This severity is possible but not typical.
- (2) More often inadequacy is situational. It may only arise in certain situations. For example: If a person is unsuccessful in their performance in relationships at home and with family, but has no problems in relating and performing at work, then they are likely to pour themselves into their work where they can find a sense of significance and value. When at home they may feel like they are not part of the family. The kids only want to deal with Mom because Dad

doesn't understand us. The opposite may also be true. Some people may feel safe and secure at home but out of place when they go outside their home. They may wrongly feel like they are on display, and don't know how to act. Thus being away from where they feel comfortable they may even express all three, inferiority, insecurity and inadequacy.

Notice all three key words above begin with "IN" indicating that is in the direction of "inward;" toward "self."

Before looking at # 4, "guilt," lets take a moment to learn about **rejection** and the very important part it plays in our personalities. It has been said that **"Rejection is the root cause of failure to mature in Christ."** It causes us to look inward, to ourselves. We become subjective in our evaluation of every situation. By subjective we mean that we tend to look at situations through our emotions instead of on the basis of what is fact.

REJECTION

We have all experienced rejection in one form or another in our lives. It may have come from friends, and family alike. We may also have given out rejection to others.

Now, to find the roots of rejection, we have to go back to the beginning - to the first man. It dates even farther back than that... in fact back to the time with Lucifer rebellion against God's authority. Before he rebelled he was known as "Star of the Morning". Some believe that he was in charge of the music and worship of God around the throne of God. When he rebelled, his name was change to Satan (deceiver). In Isaiah 14:12-14, we will see the "I Will's" of Satan; when he said: I will ascend into heaven; I will exalt my throne; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the Most High.

As he rejected God's authority, he was ejected from heaven and became the prince of the power of the air; the spirit that now works in the children of disobedience (Eph 2:2). Lucifer deceived Adam and Eve by telling them they would not die if they ate from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Instead he convinced them that God didn't want them to eat of it because they would become like God. Satan's rejection of God resulted in his encouraging rebellion and rejection in Adam and Eve. This set the cycle of "rejection" in motion.

God had warned Adam that if he ate of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, he would die. When that day came Adam died spiritually, that is in his relationship with God, while the penalty of his physical death was, by the grace of God, postponed. However, as we, the human race, were all yet in the loins of Adam (meaning that we were yet to be his offspring) his sinful nature was passed on to each of us as his descendants. So mankind at birth is

alienated from God and in league with the devil. This continues to effect man until he comes to the saving knowledge (being “born again”) of Jesus Christ, who paid the penalty of Adam’s sin for all who would believe in Christ. When we receive Jesus as our savior our human spirit is made alive to the things of God.

John 3:3 Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

John 3:7 Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.

Acts 26:18 To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me.

Romans 6:6 speaks of the “old man”, referring to our rebellious sinful nature before we came to Christ. It was passed on to us as a descendant of Adam. The “original sin” of Adam and Eve in eating the forbidden fruit began man’s quest to meet his needs apart from God.

Rom 6:6 Knowing this, that our **old man** is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.

There are two types of rejection:

1. Overt
2. Covert

We are all familiar with "**overt**" meaning obvious rejection. Generally, in all relationships, except with God, the person rejected reciprocates with rejection. He may even reject God for a time, but never succeeds in getting God to reject him.

Covert rejection is not so obvious, but in some cases more harmful and damaging than "overt".

The following is a list of some examples of covert forms of rejection:

1. Overprotection--leads to a sense of inadequacy on the part of the person being protected, and
often a complete dependency on the care provider.
2. Death of parents—may lead to a feeling of being left without love.
3. Wrong sex—perhaps parents wanted a boy but got a girl or vice versa.
4. Perhaps you were a “change of life baby”—in other words a child who was not planned for “a mistake”; which may lead to feelings of being unwanted

5. Perhaps you come from a “broken home” where parents divorced leaving you feeling you were uncared for.
6. Suicide often the result of feelings of rejection. This is a clear indication of self-centeredness.
7. Perhaps a mother died while giving birth. Often the child will feel abandoned from birth along with guilt feelings that they somehow are responsible for the death of the mother.
8. Perhaps we were rejected through conditional love responses that were based on performance. If we pleased, we were rewarded with love, but if we displeased all indications of love were removed. Some responsive behaviors to this type of rejection include:
 - a. Becoming a perfectionist who makes demands on others, and sets the standard for performance very high.
 - b. Or one might withdraw, becoming unsocial due to feelings that they can't measure up, and therefore feel worthless.
 - c. Some rebel, knowing doing things the family will be displeased with. They become the “black sheep,” or outcast of the family.
9. Some who are handicapped feel rejection in that they are not like others; different.
10. Some may be rejected by being compared with others. Comparison, has been described as the root of all inferiority.

There are **many adverse effects** that are the result of a lifetime of rejection. Such as:

1. Feelings of worthlessness
2. Wishing they had not been born
3. Feelings of inferiority
4. Inability to express feelings
5. Depression (anger turned inward)
6. Emotional Insulation
7. Subjectivity--Dictionary says:
 - (a) Tendency to consider all things according to your own personality;
 - (b) Concerned with only your own thoughts and feelings.
8. Introspection—constantly examining oneself
9. Perfectionism
10. Lack of self discipline
11. Irresponsibility
12. Worries doubts, fears
13. Self-condemnation
14. Self-hatred
15. Guilt

Notice - this is a list of extremes.

It is evident that it is impossible to live in this world without some degree of rejection. Alienation from the love of God is man's basic problem; reconciliation to God along with the restoration of His love and acceptance is the only complete answer.

Perhaps it would help us to realize that Jesus also experienced much rejection beginning with His own family.

Mat 13:53-57 And it came to pass, that when Jesus had finished these parables, he departed thence. 13:54 And when he was come into his own country, he taught them in their synagogue, insomuch that they were astonished, and said, Whence hath this man this wisdom, and these mighty works? 13:55 Is not this the carpenter's son? is not his mother called Mary? and his brethren, James, and Joses, and Simon, and Judas? 13:56 And his sisters, are they not all with us? Whence then hath this man all these things? 13:57 And they were offended in him. But Jesus said unto them, A prophet is not without honour, save in his own country, and in his own house.

Even at the cross as He was rejected by so many of the very people He came to save, only John of His disciples was there at the cross.

John 19:26 When Jesus therefore saw his mother, and the disciple (John) standing by, whom he loved, he saith unto his mother, Woman, behold thy son!

Not even His brothers believed in Him; John 7:5.

John 7:5 For neither did his brethren believe in him.

In Mark 3:21, we see that His own people heard that He chose 12 apostles to go out and preach and to have authority to cast out demons; they thought He lost His senses.

Mark 3:21 And when his friends heard of it, they went out to lay hold on him: for they said, He is beside himself.

Acceptance on a supernatural level by God through the Lord Jesus Christ and discovering our identity in Him dissolves the rejection we have known from the world around us. When we know God accepts us as Jesus knew He was accepted of the Father, we can accept ourselves even if the whole world rejects us. When we know that we have been accepted by Christ and know that glorious freedom in Christ that makes us a new creation of Christ, we are set free

from trying to please people. Then, when others reject us, we realize it is **THEY** who have the problem and not us!

John 6:37 All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and **him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.**

Eph 1:6 To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein **he hath made us accepted** in the beloved.

2 Cor 5:17 Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is **a new creature**: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

LESSON III

Let's now return to our examination of some of the things which trouble our soul. Item # 4 is **Guilt** look at **(Figure 3)**.

There are two kinds of guilt: real and imagined.

A. Real guilt is exactly what it says it is—Guilt; we can't cover it over or explain it away. It's not a feeling. It is the result of sin. The only cure for real guilt is the blood of Jesus Christ. There is only one way for real guilt to be put away. That is found in the following passage:

1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Of course, when we are saved, we are cleansed from all sin and guilt, but afterwards while we are learning to walk in the Spirit, sin keeps cropping up and must be dealt with by acknowledging it to God and forsaking it.

B. Imagined guilt

It feels real, we confess over and over again but continue to be plagued with the problem. This may stem from feeling a lack of love and acceptance. Example - an unwanted child who doesn't feel as though they belong. This can result in their being guilty about being there and feeling as though they are the cause of all the problems in the family. As they grow up, this feeling carries over even to the extent that they feel guilty for even being a person. This imaginary guilt may persist throughout life unless it is dealt with in Christ. Understanding this imaginary guilt is the first step in turning it over to the Lord. **Experiencing God's acceptance is the antidote to this type of rejection.**

#5. Worry, doubts and fears.

Inner turmoil makes us prone to worry. God's word tells us to be anxious for nothing

Phil 4:6 Be (anxious) careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

But most people seem to ignore what the word of God says and worry about everything. At times we doubt anyone loves us including God. You may even find yourself doubting your salvation or whether God will meet our needs, or if He is even real.

Doubts cause many kinds of fears and fear can overcome us like a plague and ruin our testimony. When fear and worry become irrational, it is called a phobia. The underlying cause of every phobia is faulty faith. In fact, all 5 symptoms we have examined are indicative of the failure to trust in and depend fully on the Lord; even if we've known Him as Lord and Savior for years.

TEACHER: call the students attention back to **Figure 3**

When all these things are going on inside us and acting on each other, inner turmoil results. Internal frustration is compounded by external stresses from family, work and other outside problems. All five result in frustration being felt by the SELF. This frustration must be released and is done so in the form of "hostility." At times it is like the knee-jerk reaction, an automatic response, that seems to come without thinking. Psychotherapists try to teach us how to handle hostility but this is impossible. Sometimes this hostility is aimed at someone else who may not even deserve it but we vent our frustration anyway to get it out of our system. The pressure is temporarily relieved but more guilt surfaces increasing the frustration moving us to commit another hostile act and the cycle goes on.

As the world doesn't want to hear anything negative many people, filled with hostility, have no means of dumping their hostilities. They can't verbalize them or exercise violence to others to release it, so they keep it bottled up inside. Since we don't want others to know we're not perfect **we put on** what might be called our "**world face**". It is what we show to others but is not a true reflection of what we feel inside. When all these things are held inside they can go in two directions: (see figure 3) to our **mind** or **emotions**.

1. MIND

When attacking the mind, it can cause:

- a. **Fantasy** - how he would like things to be. Lives in a fantasy world; not effective in the real world.
- b. **Schizophrenia** - live in an unreal world, incapable of living in reality - sometimes hospitalized depending of the severity.
- c. **Paranoia** - Blames failures on everyone else and finally believes their own lie. Thinks all are out to get them. Stems from guilt and often feels the need to be punished. This person may be well-adjusted in other areas of life.
- d. **Obsessive thoughts** - Tries to rid these by a redundant act (washing hands over and over)

2. EMOTIONS

Frustration can also effect emotions or both mind and emotions. A common effect on the emotions is depression; hostility kept inward becomes depression. We take it out on ourselves, causing us to become anxious, depressed and the feeling of being tied up in knots inside. This is usually contained for a while until the individual can no longer hold it inside; then it manifests itself in the BODY as a psychosomatic or psycho-physiological symptom such as we see in Figure 4 under “Body”.

TEACHER: hand out **Figure 4** and read the information under the section on Body.

There are different degrees or levels of how depression and anxiety can be manifested in our physical well being.

LESSON IV

One major issue in life is learning how to cope with the stresses of life. It is obvious that by ourselves we can't do it. God did not make man to have SELF rule. God wants us to rely on Him. He made us with a void that only He can fill. Until man is willing to vacate the throne of ruler-ship over his own life he will continue to experience all these problems. God will permit man to continue in his own ways; until he learns that his ways do not bring lasting satisfaction. When we surrender and give our lives to Christ we can avoid this struggle by our obedience and submission to the ruler-ship of Christ. However, we often find ourselves right back in the same struggles because we have taken back the ruler-ship of our lives. God will at times allow us to come to the end of ourselves in this so we will again yield to His sovereignty. This along with times when he as a loving Father disciplines us for our rebellion, are used to conform us into the image of Christ. Otherwise it would be like covert rejection and we would never learn.

Psa 94:12 Blessed is the man whom thou chastenest, O LORD, and teachest him out of thy law;

Prov 3:11-12 My son, despise not the chastening of the LORD; neither be weary of his correction: 3:12 For whom the LORD loveth he correcteth; even as a father the son in whom he delighteth.

Fret not! God has a solution for this dilemma; it is to exchange our life for His....

EXCHANGED LIFE

TEACHER: hand out **Figure 5** and read scriptures.

God's solution for this dilemma is to exchange our life for His. To take "self" off the throne and allow Jesus to control our life. When we exchange our life for His, what we see in Figure 5 is the result.

The exchanged life principle is based on Gal. 2:20

Gal. 2:20 "I have been crucified with Christ, nevertheless I live, Not I but Christ lives in me, and this life that I now live in the flesh, I live by the faith of the Son of God who loved me and gave Himself for me.

Also look at:

Col 3:3 We died but our life is hid with Christ in God.

Rom 6:1-7 What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? 6:2 God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein? 6:3 Know ye not, that so many of us as **were baptized into Jesus Christ** were baptized into his death? 6:4 Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. 6:5 For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection: 6:6 Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. 6:7 For he that is dead is freed from sin.

Rom 6:14 For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.

TEACHER: explain baptized as it is used in the above passage. The Greek word is: baptizmo—meaning to be placed into. When we received Jesus as our savior. We were placed into (baptized) His body. Therefore when He died on the cross we were in Him and when He was raised from the dead we were again in Him. We are “in Christ” and He by the presence of the Holy Spirit is in us.

Keep in mind that as far as God is concerned “death” is the separation or alienation of the soul from God; it is being under the dominion of sin, and destitute of grace or divine life: we call this spiritual death.

Now I'll tell you what the exchanged life is NOT:

1. The exchanged life does not mean passivity. It involves active choices to walk in conformity with who we are in Christ. We must decide to walk in dependence on the power of the Spirit and not after the lust and desires of our flesh, the “old man”.
2. It doesn't mean perfectionism. Our identification with Christ doesn't mean immunity from sin. We still have the full capacity of our will to choose.
3. Our co-crucifixion and co-resurrection with Christ is not an extra to salvation. Romans chapters 6-8 say these were ours when we became new creatures in Christ (2 Cor 5:17).
4. Our participation in Christ's death and resurrection doesn't mean that we helped pay for our sins. It was entirely the work of Christ on our behalf. We only believe and receive.

The abundant life and the abiding life are one and the same. We give up nothing when we turn away from the self-life to the Christ-life.

Matt. 16: 24-25 "If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for My sake shall find it"

The key to victory of the exchanged life is death to self.

In Romans chapters 6, 10, 11 tell us of our sin nature (old man) being dead. We count on that death to sin so we can maintain victory over the flesh. In Luke 9:23 & 2 Cor 4:11 we see that as we choose against our natural desire of self and for the Christ life that lies within each believer, His Spirit frees us from the law of sin and death.

Luke 9:23 And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.

2 Cor 4:11 For we which live are alway delivered unto death for Jesus' sake, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our mortal flesh.

We must go to the cross to be freed from the bondage of the self-life. "I count things lost dung that I may win Christ...Phil 3:7-10; count it all joy" ...Jas 1:2,3 partakers of His holiness Heb 12:9-11.

Phil 3:7-10 But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. 3:8 Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom **I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ,** 3:9 And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith: 3:10 That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;

James 1:2-3 My brethren, **count it all joy** when ye fall into divers temptations; 1:3 Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience.

Heb 12:9-11 Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we gave them reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live? 12:10 For they verily for a few days chastened us after their own pleasure; but he for our profit, that we might be **partakers of his holiness.** 12:11 Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby.

Jesus is our example. He experienced great agony in Gethsemane and on the cross but He knew its purpose and its outcome and thus was willing to pay the price. We also who experience the freedom and joy of resurrection life must endure the trials and chastening that lead to an experiential understanding of the Cross. Just as Christ drew strength while suffering on the cross from the knowledge of the victory that lied ahead, so can we draw strength in the knowledge that our victory is secured in Christ as we face the battle with the desires of the flesh on a daily basis. (read Heb 12:3-11 disciplines of life)

None of us want to go to the Cross so we try to train our flesh to do the right things. The following are some of the misconceptions which arise from someone who has learned to manage their flesh.

- a. Talents are mistaken for spiritual gifts.
- b. Persuasive arguments substituted for the Spirit's convincing.

- c. Gravitation to positions of leadership.
- d. Clashing opinions rather than unity in the Spirit.
- e. Enthusiasm is mistaken for spiritual motivation.

Self confidence fosters independence. When a person thinks in himself that he can by his own strength keep himself from sin, such self-confidence leads to the sense of independence from God instead of dependence on the power, presence, and working of the Spirit of God within each believer. As man is a fallen creature, and bent toward sin, self strength will always fall short in the end.

When a person struggles in their own strength and fails to meet the standard eventually a final crisis point is likely to arise bringing the loss of self-confidence, and the painful realization that self is not sufficient. At this crossroad death to self-strength can be an end to suffering. Suddenly, the cross becomes appealing. When we received Christ, we received His death, the work of the cross in us, as well as His resurrection. Rom 6:6.

Rom 6:6 Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.

The flesh and the Spirit are always at war (read Gal 5:17).

Gal 5:17 For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.

Teacher: Draw or Hold up Figure 6 to illustrate the struggle for control of the Soul between the Body (flesh) and the Spirit. (Use Body, Soul, Spirit rectangular chart with body darkened, soul changeable in color between black and white and spirit as white)

BODY: FLESH – (Black for darkness) only concerned with feeding its appetite for food, passion, comfort, it draws to itself, avoids pain and hunger. Fasting puts the body in submission to the Spirit.

SOUL – SELF—(Different shades of gray depending on who has the most control the body or spirit. It is the battle ground for control.

SPIRIT – GOD – (Pure White) Only interested in glorifying God.

We will sense the struggle in our members between the flesh and the Spirit, but when there is no strength left in the flesh to war against the Spirit, we let go of the self-life and exchange it for life in union with Christ. Gal 2:20.

Gal 2:20 I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

LESSON V

Teacher: Begin by reviewing lesson four and go over last 2 wheel diagrams. After reviewing ask the following question and allow for discussion before handing out **Figure 7 (Line Diagram #1)**.

In a moment we will examine a diagram which demonstrates how to exchange your life for Christ's, but first I'd like to ask.....Would someone explain what eternal life is? = No beginning and no end.

Jesus Christ is God and God is the only eternal being. All others are creations of God, therefore coming after God and not eternal in nature. Since eternal life in God always was, it doesn't begin when I'm saved. It is what we enter into and become a partaker of when we accept Christ as our savior. As I receive the life that Christ is when I accept Jesus it is Christ's life in me. Therefore, as I allow the life of Christ to be manifested in and through me, my soul surrenders to the will of the Spirit and the body obeys.

Teacher: hand out **Line Diagram #1 Figure 7**. Explain as follows: The horizontal line across the center of the diagram represents eternal life. The image of the man to the left of the vertical line represents Christ. Read scriptures John 1:1-2, John 1:14, John 17:5, 1 John 5:11-13; Col. 1:15-17; and Heb. 1:2-3. These passages relate to Christ being eternal life. Heb. 9:22b shows us that without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness for sin (see also Rom. 5:8-9 and 1 Peter 2:24).

The following scriptures show that eternal life is in Jesus Christ:

John 1:1-2 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 1:2 The same was in the beginning with God.

John 1:14 And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

1 John 5:11 And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.

Col 1:15-17 Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: 1:16 For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: 1:17 And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.

Heb 1:2-3 Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds; 1:3 Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;

Heb 13:8 Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever.

What does the cross mean to you? - Most Christians know that Christ died on the cross for our sins, but what they don't know is someone else died in Him!

Gal 2:20 I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

Rom 5:8 But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

Heb 9:22 And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission (meaning no forgiveness of sin).

1 Pet 2:24 Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.

Teacher: hand out **Line Diagram #2 Figure 8**. Then explain how the hashmarks represent all the generations of our descendants back to Adam; father, grandfather, etc. to show that we came from and therefore were “in Adam” when he sinned against God. Therefore, all mankind flows from Adam.

For example: If your father died when he was three years old what would have happened to you? = (you would never have existed because the possibility of your birth died in the death of the man that was to be your father. In other words, you were in him.) So, your life was in

your fathers and the potential for your father's life was in his father's life and so on back to Adam. So when Adam sinned, we were in Adam, so we sinned and inherited the fallen sinful state of Adam. Then when we showed up, we were born of the sinful blood-line of Adam, in sin and separated from God by Adam's sinful nature that was passed on to us. Thus our human spirit was dead to the life of God from the moment of our natural birth. Therefore, our human spirit needed to be “born again” it needed to be made alive to the things of God.

Where were we when Adam was in the Garden of Eden? =(in Adam)

Where then were we destined to spend eternity at the moment of our birth? = (in hell!)
The following scriptures show that if we had remained in Adam's spiritual family, we would have died and gone to hell, but God had a better idea...

Rom 3:23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

Rom 5:12 Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:

Rom 6:23 For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Teacher: hand out **Line Diagram #3 Figure 9. Explain as follows:**

When you were “born again,” God took you out of Adam and put you into Christ.

1 Cor 1:30 But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption:

We see this in diagram #3 where the man is taken out of the path of his ancestors which leads to hell and is placed into Christ's eternal life. The arrow in the diagram which points from the center of the cross to heaven represents the fact that the believer is now seated with Christ in God, in heaven even though he is still alive on earth. The spirit has no boundaries as we are made in God's image, and He is spirit. Therefore, though the believer is alive on earth he is in Christ seated in heavenly places.

This God did by doing away with the old you and creating a new you in Christ.

2 Cor. 5:17 Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

At that time, you not only got a new future, but a new past. So now, everything that happened to Christ happened to you. Eph 1:4 says that you were chosen in Him before the foundation of the world. So, when Adam was in the garden, the NEW you was in Christ because He did away with the old you.

Eph 1:4 According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:

So, when Christ was born in Bethlehem, where were you? = (In Christ)

When Christ was crucified, where were you? (In Christ)

Gal 2:20 I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

What does the first phrase tell you? (you were crucified w/Christ)

What does the 2nd phrase tell you? (you were replaced by Christ).

What then was crucified? (the old self; read Rom 6:6,7)

Rom 6:6-7 Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. 6:7 For he that is dead is freed from sin.

You see, you can't be born again unless you die first! 1 Cor 15:36.

1 Cor 15:36 Thou fool, that which thou sowest is not quickened, except it die:

When Christ was buried, what happened to you? (Rom 6:4,5)

Rom 6:4-5 Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. 6:5 For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection:

When Christ rose, what happened to you? (Eph 2:6a; Col 3:1) = (we were raised in Christ)

Eph 2:6 And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:

Col 3:1 If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God.

Were you the same person when you came out of the grave? No, you were a regenerated spirit (born again, alive to God and dead to sin) Rom 6:11, then read Ez 36:26-27.

Rom 6:11 Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Ezek 36:26-27 A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh. 36:27 And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them.

Where is Jesus, and where are you right now? (You, right now, are in Jesus, seated at the right hand of the Father!) Eph 2:6. John 14:20

John 14:20 At that day ye shall know that I am in my Father, and ye in me, and I in you.

Eph 2:6 And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:

Col 3:1-3 If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. 3:2 Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. 3:3 For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God.

Teacher: return to the last two circle diagrams and show the results of the exchanged life. Show the results of the self-centered life and the difference of the Christ centered exchanged life.

Now we'll take an in-depth look at **TOTAL COMMITMENT**; but first discuss the following 2 questions:

Why did God create us?

What does He want from us?

We know He loves us, and certainly it is His desire that we respond to His love.

God's requirement of mankind is to fear Him, to walk in ALL His ways and to love Him and serve Him with all your heart and soul. The following scriptures speak to God's desire for man: He wants us to be totally committed to Him.

Deu 10:12 And now, Israel, what doth the LORD thy God require of thee, but to fear the LORD thy God, to walk in all his ways, and to love him, and to serve the LORD thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul,

Mark 12:30 And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment.

Rom 12:1-2 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. 12:2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

1 Pet 1:14-16 As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance: 1:15 But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; 1:16 Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.

2 Cor 6:16-18 And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. 6:17 Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, 6:18 And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.

Teacher: hand out Total Commitment sheets and instruct students to memorize Gal 2:20 and Rom 12:1,2.

After going over Total Commitment sheets, give Jas 4:4; friendship with the world is hostility toward God; Jas 4:7-8 The cure; submit yourself to God.

James 4:4 Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.

James 4:7-8 Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. 4:8 Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded.

No matter how hard we try to succeed in this life, the only way to obtain victory is to die to self and totally commit to Christ; to cast all your cares upon Him, for He cares for you".

1 Pet 5:7 Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.

Throughout our Christian lives we will battle within ourselves; the flesh warring against the spirit for control over the soul. (Gal 5:17-18).

Gal 5:17-18 For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would. 5:18 But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law.

It's like a tug of war. When we think things are going well, we tend to back off of our total commitment; we figure we can do things on our own; we've studied enough, we know enough, we don't have to read EVERY day. That's when Satan comes in and knocks us for a loop. We need to stay strong in the Word! We need to commune with God every day, without ceasing (1 Thes 5:17); study to show ourselves approved, 2 Tim 2:15....We need Jesus for our strength.. there is NOTHING...NOTHING...we can do without Him (John 15:5)

1 Th 5:17 Pray without ceasing.

2 Tim 2:15 Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

John 15:5 I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.

LESSON SIX

Now that we understand who we were, and who we are in Christ; the next step is to see who we can be; how we can spiritually grow and mature in Christ becoming more like Him.

Key verses: **Eph 4:13** Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:

Rom 8:29 "For to whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the first-born among many brethren;"

We all mature in Christ at a different rate of speed, dependent solely upon how much of ourselves we truly give to Christ; how much time we spend talking to Him, reading His word, and seeking His will and plan for our lives. The more we put Him first, and our interests second, the more rapidly we mature.

Many receive Christ as a crisis act; (to get to heaven) but never go any further in their relationship with Christ. They never enter a growth pattern by asking the Holy Spirit to work in them and through them.

First let's consider God's intention for His creation.... We must go back "before the beginning" where we see how our Eternal Father purposed to share Himself with a vast family. That's right, before God instituted time, before Adam's fall. It was in Our Father's original plan, before man sinned that God purposed to share Himself through His only Begotten Son.

When man turned to his own way, God's plan didn't change. He purposed to share Himself through His Son. He has provided redemption through the cross and the means to grow to full maturity in Christ. When a person comes to true salvation, he believes in, receives, and acknowledges Christ as Lord in his life. God doesn't intend it to end there; He intends for us to move along the path of believing and receiving. If followed, this path would allow a person to daily live by the Life of Christ - the means through which the Father's original intention to live in fellowship with man could be fulfilled.

We have pictured both the finished and the continuous work of Christ. In God's mind He reckons the finished work of Christ as completed, and wants us to reckon the same. Having believed on and received Christ, we are ready to enter the walk of "living by faith," as a believer. The scripture declares, "The just shall live by faith." Following the "act of faith" whereby we were "born again" there is the continuous act of walking by faith.

GOD'S POINT OF VIEW sees the finished work completed in Christ. Whatever Christ is has been imputed to the account of the believer. In other words, I don't stand before the Father on the merit of my righteousness but on the righteousness of the one who never committed sin, on the righteousness of Christ. In the same way my holiness is not that which I achieve through my holy living, as I will always fall short of the requirement of a Holy God. Rather my holiness is that which is Christ. In other words what we have through Christ is our "**Position**" before God. It does not change because it is dependant on the unchanging character of Jesus Christ. It is my "**Heavenly Position**", "**My Standing**" and is a completed act recorded in the heavenly record of my account.

On the other hand, what I experience in my daily life is a progressive working of God in me. It is a constantly changing and growing experience reflecting my current **“State”**. This is sanctification working in my life. Sanctification is God separating me from the world to a life of living and walking with Him. This is my **“Earthly Position”, “My State”** and does not yet reflect the finished work that is already recorded to my heavenly account.

OUR POSITION: We are the same as Christ in the eyes of Our Father.

In Christ we are:

- 1) Justified - Rom 3:24
- 2) Sanctified - 1 Cor 1:2
- 3) Set Free - Jn 8:32
- 4) Crucified - Gal 2:20;6:6.
- 5) Blessed - Eph 1:3
- 6) Ascended - Eph 2:6
- 7) Satisfied - Phil 1:11
- 8) Complete - Col 2:10
- 9) Glorified - 2 Thes 1:10-12; Rom 8:17
- 10) Fullness - Col 2:20
- 11) Buried - Rom 6:4
- 12) Quickened - Rom 6:5
- 13) Risen - Col 3:1-3
- 14) Sufferers - Rom 8:17
- 15) Heirs - Rom 8:17

We are shocked when we do things wrong, but God isn't. God saw us in Himself before the foundation of the earth. Though it may be hard for us to understand, God foreknew that we would exist and that we would receive Jesus as our savior. Therefore, He saw us in Christ long before we were conceived in our mother's womb. When men examine our lives we all have shortcomings, but before God believers are perfect in Christ.

When our purpose in life is to do the will of Our Father; it is evidenced by:

- 1) Change of heart.
- 2) Change of government of our lives. Now Jesus rules instead of self.
- 3) His goals and purposes becomes ours

LESSON VII

In 1 John 2:12-14 he speaks of three different relationships with God as we mature in Christ; they are 1) Infants 2) Young men and 3) Fathers.

1 John 2:12-14 I write unto you, little children, because your sins are forgiven you for his name's sake. 2:13 I write unto you, fathers, because ye have known him that is from the beginning. I write unto you, young men, because ye have overcome the wicked one. I write unto you, little children, because ye have known the Father. 2:14 I have written unto you, fathers, because ye have known him that is from the beginning. I have written unto you, young men, because ye are strong, and the word of God abideth in you, and ye have overcome the wicked one.

1) The infant relationship is a discovery relationship. It is that time when we begin to experience the love of Christ and begin learning about being in relationship with Christ. This is the state of a new Christian and continues until we begin to mature in Him.

2) Young men - (a governing relationship) They are strong in God's Word and have begun to see who God is. They are involved in activity, beginning to experience the power of God. However, they must guard against the pull of the flesh. They begin to understand the purpose of God.

3) Fathers - The purpose of a father is to bring forth children who will become like our Father. God will let us have the same desires and purposes as He has. He wants us to be in His family.

Our view of the work of Christ on the cross will play an important role in our journey toward full stature. If we visualize the cross primarily as an escape from damnation, we will never mature in our walk nor will we reach the full stature of Jesus. We must look at the cross and our salvation as:

A. The beginning of a personal relationship with our Creator. The first step to attaining the full stature of the Lord Jesus Christ. What was accomplished at the cross is expounded on in Romans Ch 5. In fact the whole book of Romans is an exercise in Christian maturity. Romans was written by the Apostle Paul about 58 A.D. It is a doctrinal letter spelling out the basic doctrine of the faith. It is the foundational teaching of Christianity. At that time, Rome ruled the world and there were many Christians there. He wanted the Roman Christians to be doctrinally sound so that the gospel would be correctly disseminated throughout the world.

B. The Cross becomes the doorway to the plan and purpose of God, and is the beginning of our maturing in Christ. The Cross has a two-fold purpose:

- a) It cleanses our sins (Rom 5)
- b) It brings death to our sin nature. Rom 6:17,18. (the old man, flesh).

Some may teach that we must each bear a cross which is described as being a hardship; illness; poverty, bad marriage etc. but that is incorrect. A cross is something we pick up of our own free will....Jesus chose to do the will of His Father when He accepted an agonizing death on the cross. (read Matt. 26:38,39)

What we have NO control over is a trial. Remember, that a trial is not a test meant to tempt, test or solicit evil behavior. Such is not from God but from man's own inner lust.

James 1:13-16 Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man: 1:14 But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. 1:15 Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death. 1:16 Do not err, my beloved brethren.

A trial is for the furtherance of the gospel Phil 1:12 (Paul's imprisonment). Trials produce endurance and perfection. (Jas 1:2,3,12; 1 Pet 1:6,7) God brings trials into our lives to chasten us and to conform us to His image. We can all praise God when things go well, but when things are dark they show what we are really made of. 1 Thes 5:18 God looks at our reaction to circumstances. What matters is how we react to the trial. This reveals where we are in our maturity. When we are weak, then we can be strong in Him. 2 Cor 12:9,10; 2Cor 13:4.

You now ask; "How do I know when it's God's chastening or when it's Satan working against me? Answer: A good father will tell his son why he is being chastened, so when we go through a trial, we should first, be truthful with ourselves before God. If we have been defiant or rebellious then we can expect God's chastening. But if our hearts are pure before God then we can be confident the attack is from the enemy. Remember, God will work all things together for good if we submit ourselves to Him. If it's not from the Lord, we should take authority over Satan.

VISION PERSPECTIVE

God has a unique method of unfolding His vision perspective. It is rarely understood until much time has passed. Divine vision, when first given, is like a flower-bud which can't really be appreciated until it blossoms. What we think we see at the beginning is only a dim reality compared to what we will see and understand at the end.

As examples of this we can look at Joseph, Abraham and Paul.

A. First we'll look at Joseph. This is a wonderful story, found in Gen 37-50. In a dream, God gave Joseph a birds eye view of his future. First, God showed Joseph his brothers as sheaves (tied bundles of grain) bowing down to his sheaf. Then he saw his whole family represented by

the sun, moon and 11 stars, all bowing down to him. (Gen 37:1-11) He told his brothers of his dream and they hated him even more than before. They threw him down an abandoned well planning to kill him, but Judah interceded and said they may as well make money on him. So they seized the opportunity to sell him into slavery. He became Potiphar's personal slave. (Potiphar was an Egyptian officer of Pharaoh, the captain of the bodyguard.) Then Potiphar's wife tried to get him to commit adultery with her but he refused. She in turn was scorned so she lied and said he tried to attack her. He was then thrown in jail and you can read how the story continues. (Gen 39:1-23.)

These events didn't look at all like the dream he had even though when he had this dream it didn't mean much to him. It wasn't until God brought him to the throne of Egypt that Joseph could comprehend his circumstances in the divine perspective. Then he could say that God meant it for good (Gen 45:5-8).

B. Now we'll look at Abraham and how God unfolded his vision.

In Gen 12:1,2 we see the bud of the vision - God gives him a great name and promises him to be a great nation. In Gen 12:7 we see that as Abraham separates himself more unto God, God reveals more of the vision to him. Again in Gen 13:9-16. As we continue to move out of self and into God's perspective we can better understand what God is doing in our lives. Abraham didn't quite let go of his family, he took Lot (his nephew) with him. Lot pitched his tent toward the world and he fell away from God. A good lesson for us concerning our involvement in the world. Abraham experienced the budding of the vision and the beginning of the unfolding, but he was not to experience all of what God promised though God was faithful to fulfill His promise.

C. Paul is our New Testament example.

In Acts 9 Jesus revealed the vision of how he would be used to preach to the Gentiles and how he would suffer for the name of Jesus. Paul continued to follow the vision even though he didn't understand it at the time he received it. Acts 26:13-28 shows how Paul testified of his vision to King Agrippa 27 years after he saw Jesus and first received the vision. As we move away from our self-centeredness and toward God-centeredness, then God can use us.

People with a vision can move others to great accomplishments in God. Experiences come and go, but vision remains. We have been chosen and ordained to be a people of vision who bring forth fruit.

LESSON EIGHT

We are the called according to His purpose (Rom 8:28). There are three callings for each one of us:

The First calling - **General; to be a servant**. “Doulos” is the Greek word for “bondservant.” A bondservant, is one who willingly becomes a servant to one master. Examples: Joshua for Moses, Gehazi for Elisha. Paul for Jesus Christ (Rom 1:1) 1 Cor 9:19 "Though I am free from all men, I have made myself a slave to all, that I might win the more".

The best example of all is Our Lord Jesus Christ as portrayed in Phil 2:1-18. This is known as “the Kenosis”. Kenosis = the emptying of oneself. Christ took on the limitations of humanity, emptied Himself or covered His preincarnate glory and limited His divine prerogatives during the time He was on earth. Read Phil. 2:1-18.

We should regard others as more important than ourselves. We should do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit. (Phil 2:3,4)

The following show the heart of Jesus:

- a) To have humility of mind. (Phil 2:3)
- b) Phil 2:6 He was willing to lay aside His divine attributes to become human flesh.
- c) He laid down His treasures. (Gave up all His rights; Total commitment to The Father).
- d) He took upon himself the form of a man, a much lesser nature than that of Almighty God.
- e) Humility: The essence of God Himself.
- f) He shares His glory with us.
- g) He put aside His glory for humility and became of no reputation.
- h) He took the form of a servant. (Luke 22:27; John 13:5; Phil 2:7)
*Even after He had risen as God the Son, He still serves. Jn 21:9
- i) He humbled Himself.
- J) He became obedient unto death. (Phil 2:8)
- k) He became sin for us (2 Cor 5:21)
- l) He paid the full price and went to hell for us; then God vindicated Him. (Acts 2:27 & 31)

2nd calling - **Specific** - Apostle, prophet, evangelist, pastor, teacher.
Acts 13:1-3. We need to be sent out to serve in our specific calling. This we do under authority as Jesus submitted to the authority of His Father in heaven.

3rd calling - **Special high calling** - (Maturity) Spiritual Fathers. We must grow into fatherhood. It is our heart and responsibility to shepherd others. A maturity that goes past just doing. As one enters that specific phase to fulfill his "high calling", he will be a spiritual father who extends himself into others. The more he senses that reproductive power and priority, the more he will reflect the Lord Jesus.

THE PROCESS OF COMING INTO THE WILL OF GOD

In knowing; God reveals light to us. When we are shown light (given understanding) we also become responsible for what we have received. In other words our knowing requires responsible action. We must apply what we have learned. We are in a continuous pattern of knowing and doing. As we follow His pattern we grow in steps of knowing and doing - knowing – doing

- 1) **How?** - Ps 31:5 When we yield to God, He will live thru us. "Into Thy hand I commit My Spirit.
- 2) **Where?** - Ps 31:8 Thou hast set my feet in a large place. Liberty and freedom come when we trust God in His narrow way. Then the narrow way turns into a broad way.
- 3) **When?** - Ps 31:14,15 "My times are in Thy hand". We need not be anxious about the things of God but yielded and ready to respond when the Holy Spirit moves.
- 4) **Why?** *Key - Ps 31:3 "Thou art my rock and my fortress". Do it for His glory. Our motivation in serving should always be to glorify God, who is our strength. If our heart is right toward God, He will correct our mistakes.

HOW TO KNOW THE WILL OF GOD

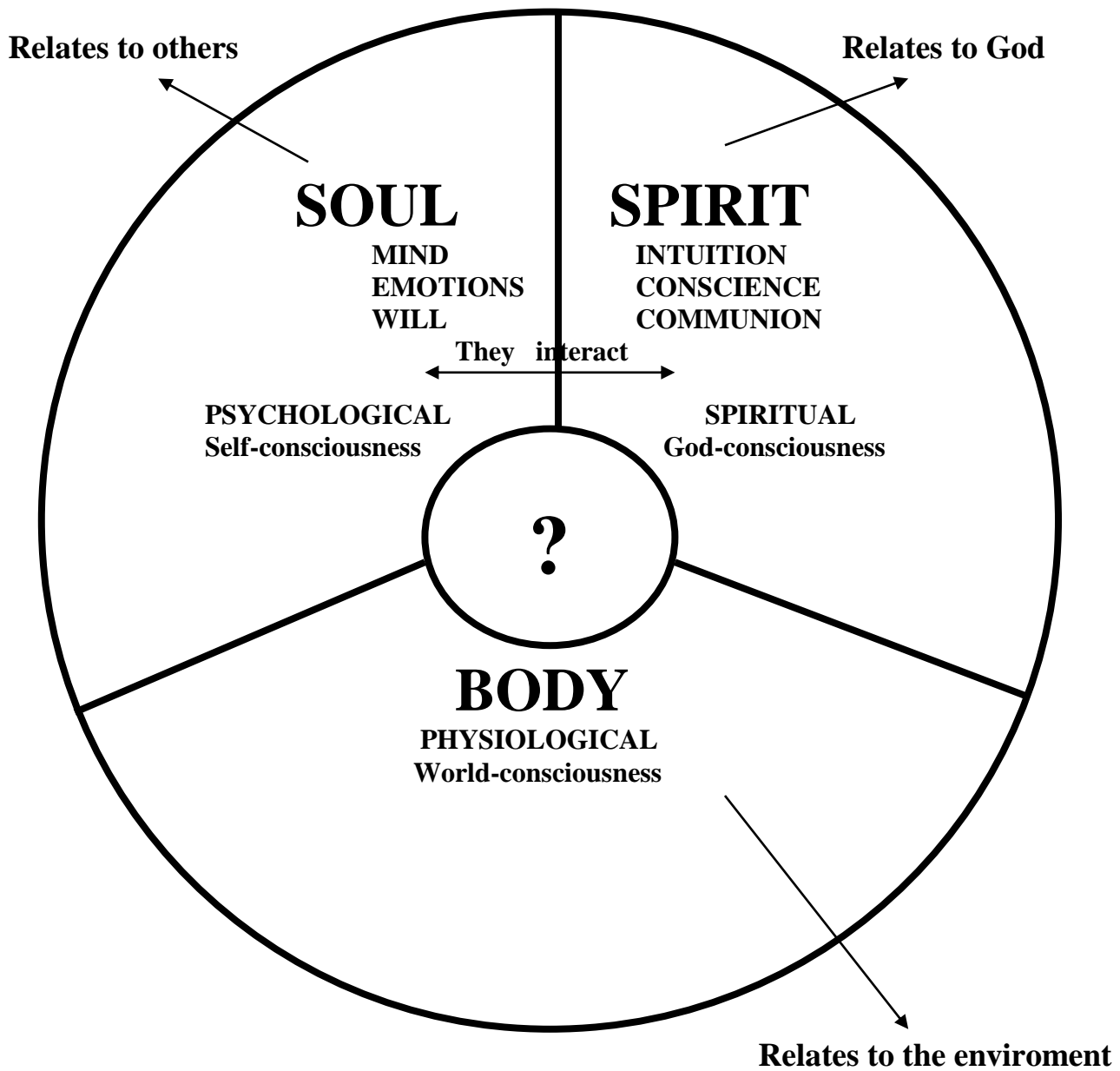
- 1) I must want to know the will of God.
- 2) I must yield my will to God.
- 3) I must not have predetermined choices
- 4) It comes from the inside out; a pure heart before the Lord.
- 5) It's an ongoing process daily, moment by moment, not by big events.
- 6) The will of God comes through obedience.
- 7) God directs us by His peace. Col 3:15 "let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts.
1 Jn 3:19-21. Don't move unless you have God's peace.
- 8) We will be directed by God's word. God will not direct you to transgress His word.
- 9) A "Rhema" word (the experience of reading or hearing something that suddenly takes upon a whole new meaning and you are keenly aware that it was a word from God for your situation) of God for you personally, may come through a dream, His Word, in prayer etc. Ps 40.
- 10) He speaks to us through dreams and visions.
- 11) He directs us through council. There is safety in a multitude of counselors.
- 12) Fasting and prayer - brings spiritual maturity.
- 13) Ask yourself, "What would Jesus do in the same situation?"
- 14) Does it glorify God? Do everything to the glory of God. Don't lead two lives.

- 15) Check your motives.
- 16) The Lord leads us in His will by our desires when in submission to His.
- 17) Wait patiently. Have you looked at it from every angle? God prepares us in a slow process.
- 18) Move slowly - be open to His will while moving ahead slowly. It's not so much a question of being IN His will as making sure we are not OUT of His will.
- 19) God directs us through open and closed doors. Praise God for closed doors. God directs us through divine providence.
- 20) God directs us through signs and fleeces. But be careful. Judges 6:36 -40 Gideon already knew the will of God. A fleece should be used very sparingly and after the pattern of Gideon.
- 21) Is it too complicated? He's not a God of confusion.
- 22) Husband and wife should be in agreement.
- 23) Don't doubt in the dark what God has shown you in the light.
- 24) Will this decision bring you closer to God or will it take you away.
- 25) Does it edify and build up or tear down?
- 26) Remember God is absolutely faithful to perform what He has promised.

The major theme of these past eight weeks has been "Death to Self"!

Every one of us struggle with the "I" syndrome, from the saints that are recognized throughout Christendom to those of us who are average saints. Even the Apostle Paul! We all know him to be the strongest, most committed, selfless apostle for Jesus, yet even he had a bout with the "I" syndrome. Let's look in Romans 7:15-25; in this passage "I" is used 23 times. It's a wonderful example for us and what happens when we put our eyes on ourselves and our circumstances; instead of on Jesus and His word where they belong. This passage should not condemn us, but remind us that no one outside of Jesus Christ is perfect.

Unless we are totally committed to Christ, and He is our first love, Rev 2:4, we can never be used to our fullest potential. We cannot be lukewarm! Rev 3:16 God has given us a free will to chose to follow Him or not.(read Joshua 24:15) ..but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.



Man—a Tri-unity

Figure 1

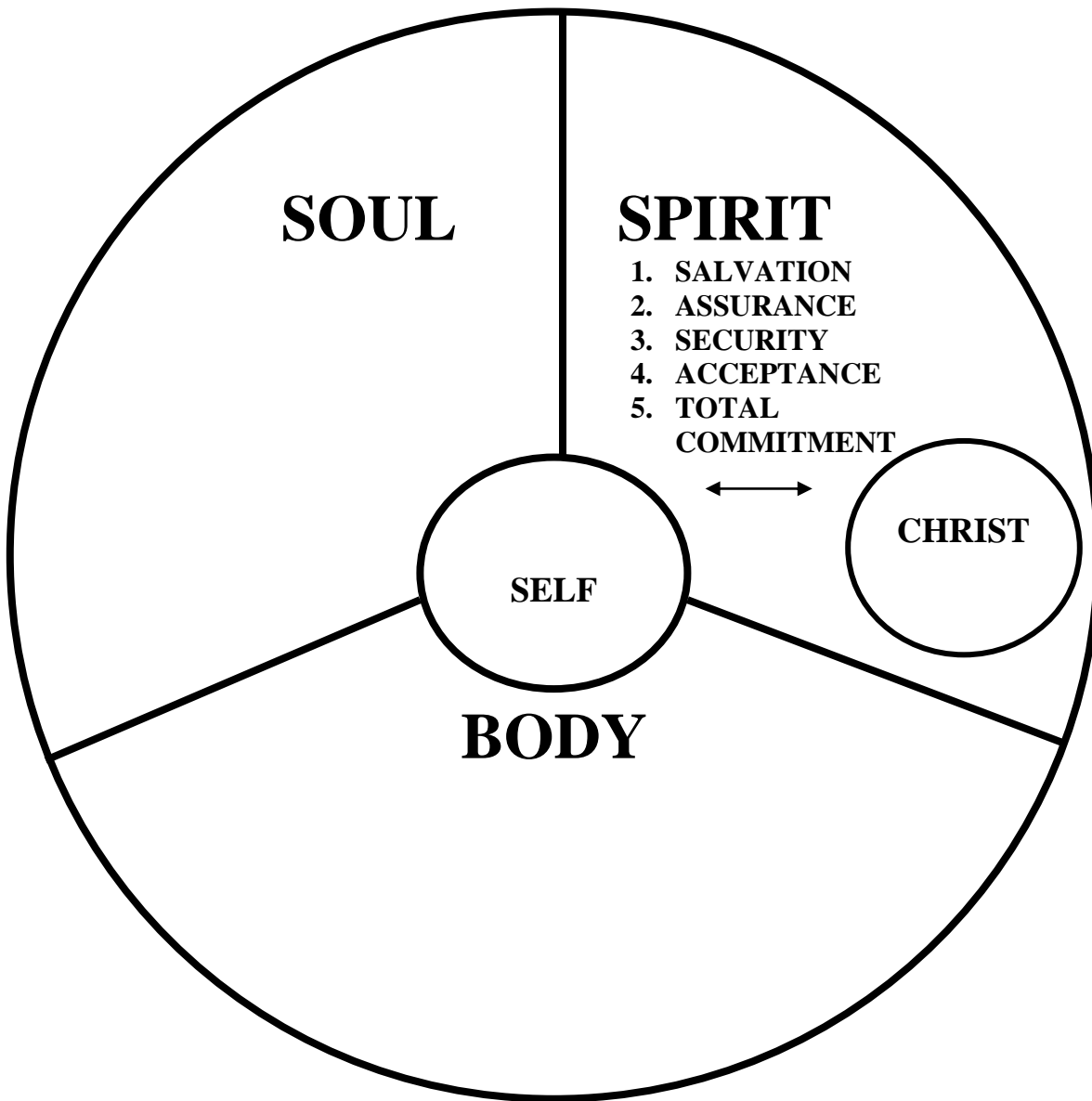


Figure 2

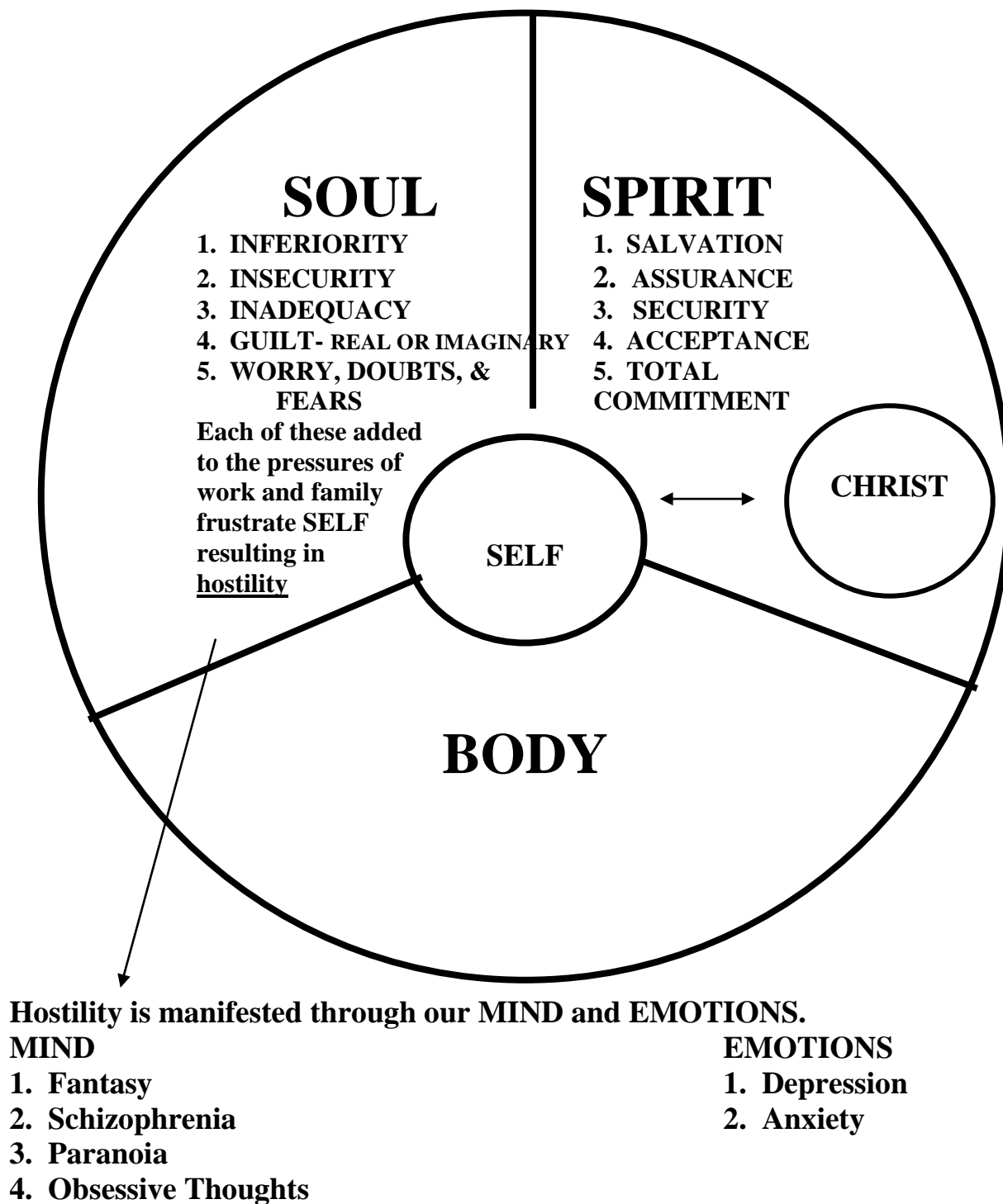
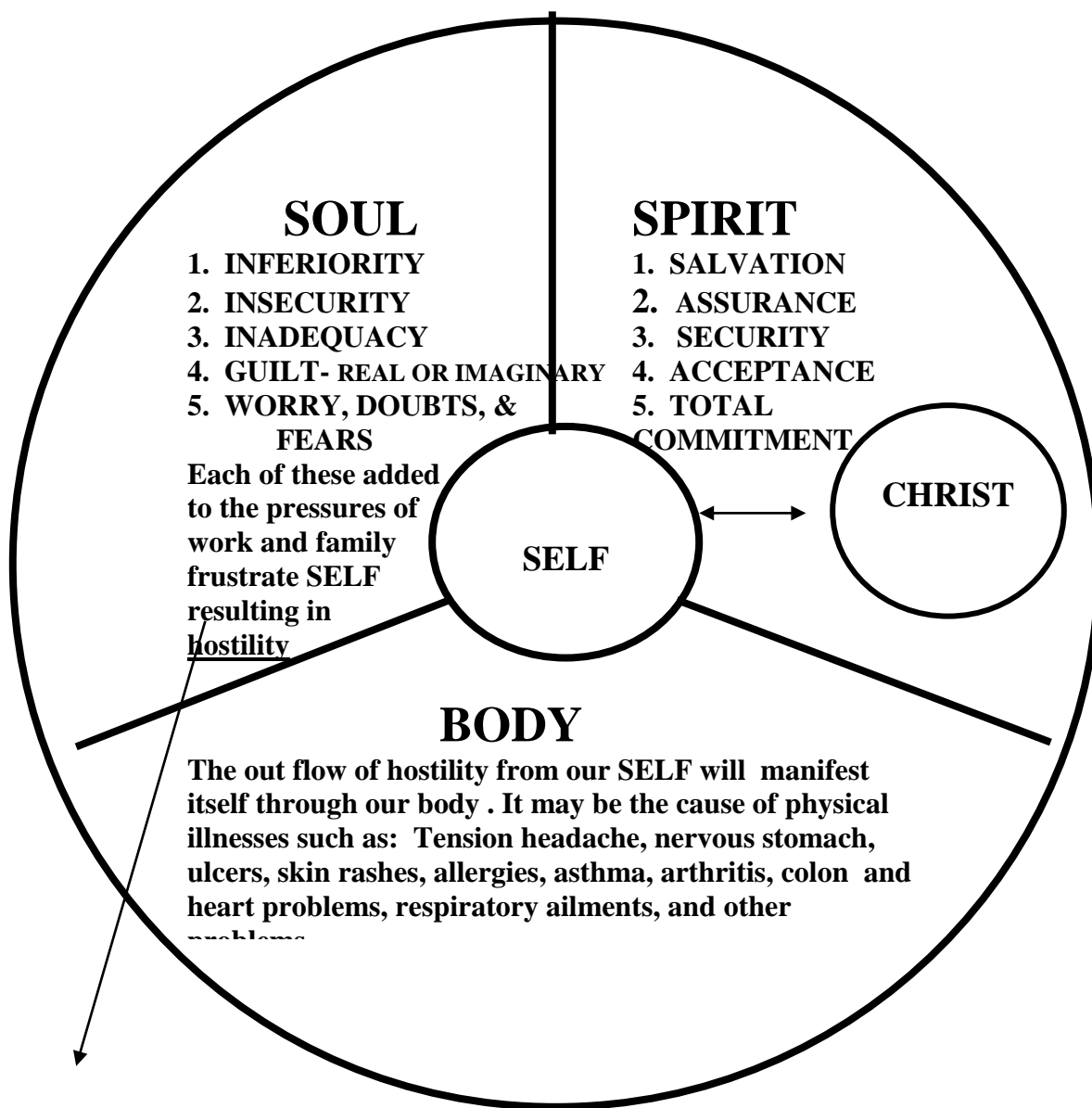


Figure 3



Hostility is manifested through our MIND and EMOTIONS.

MIND

1. Fantasy
2. Schizophrenia
3. Paranoia
4. Obsessive Thoughts

EMOTIONS

1. Depression
2. Anxiety

Figure 4

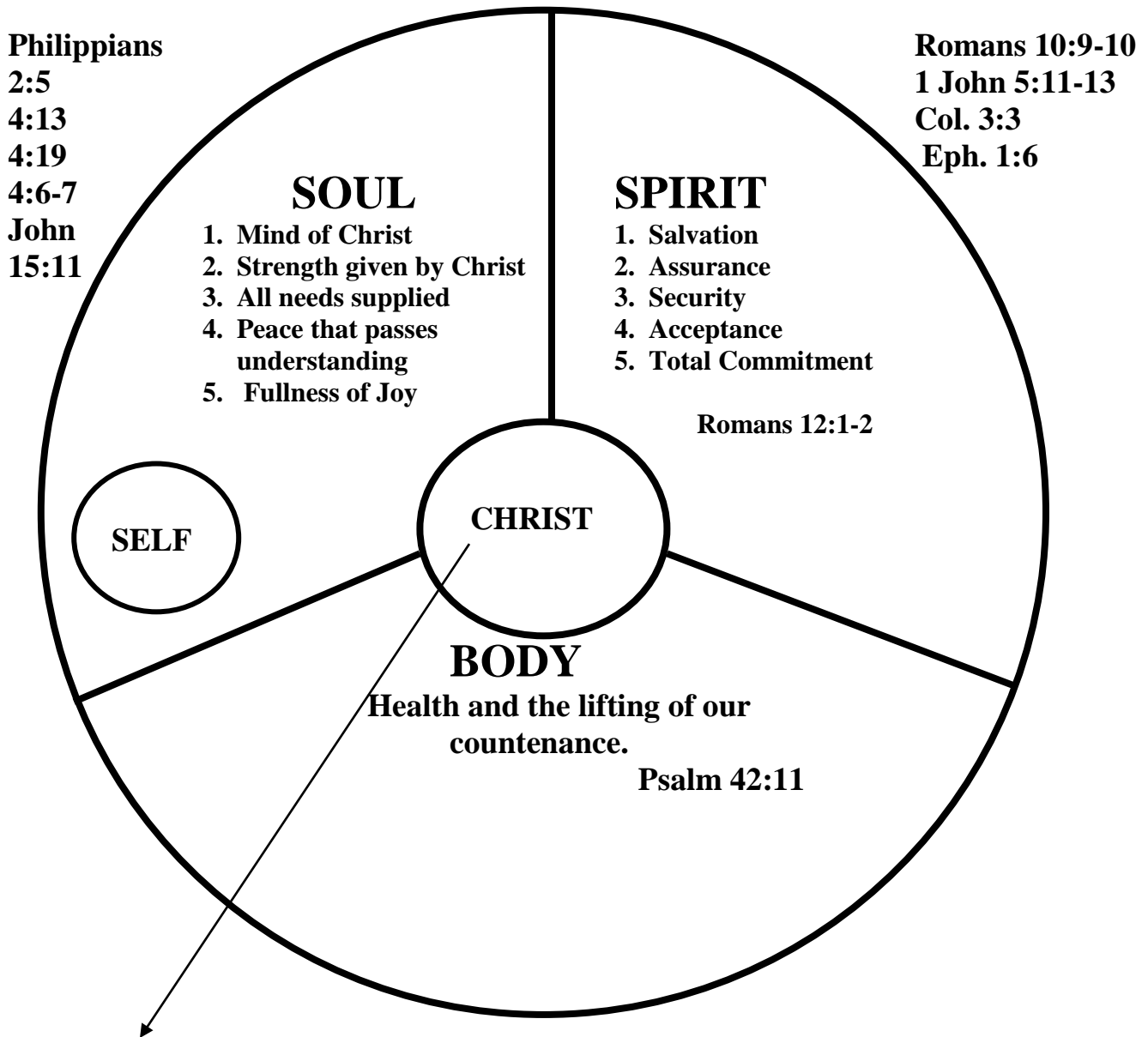


Figure 5

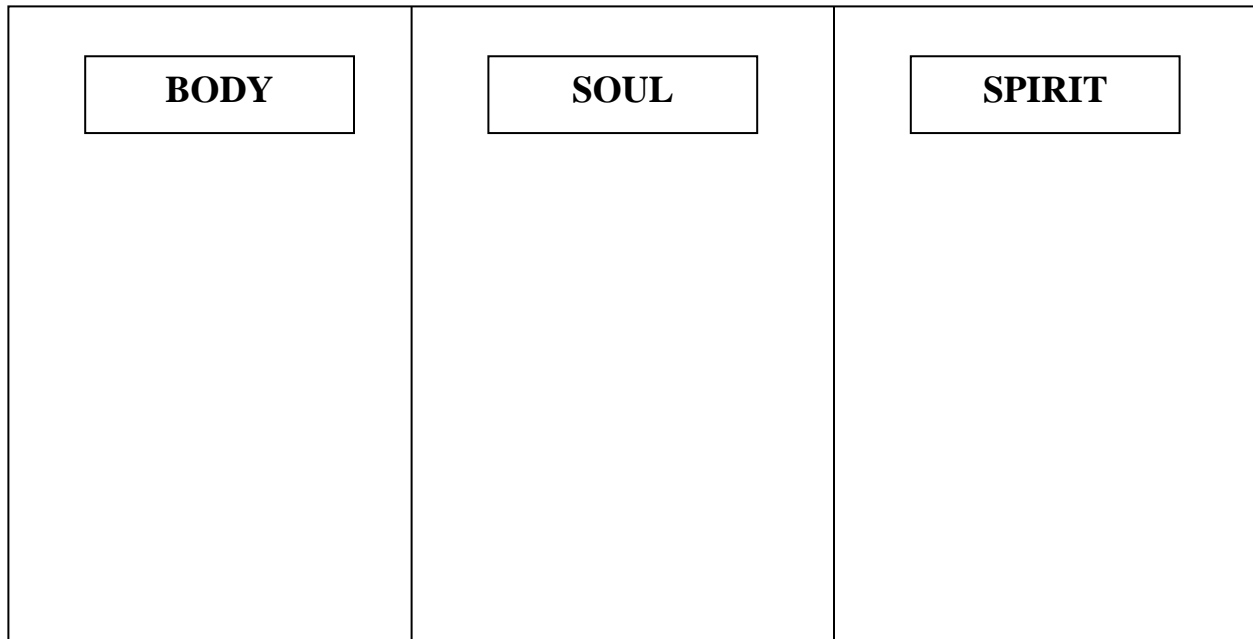
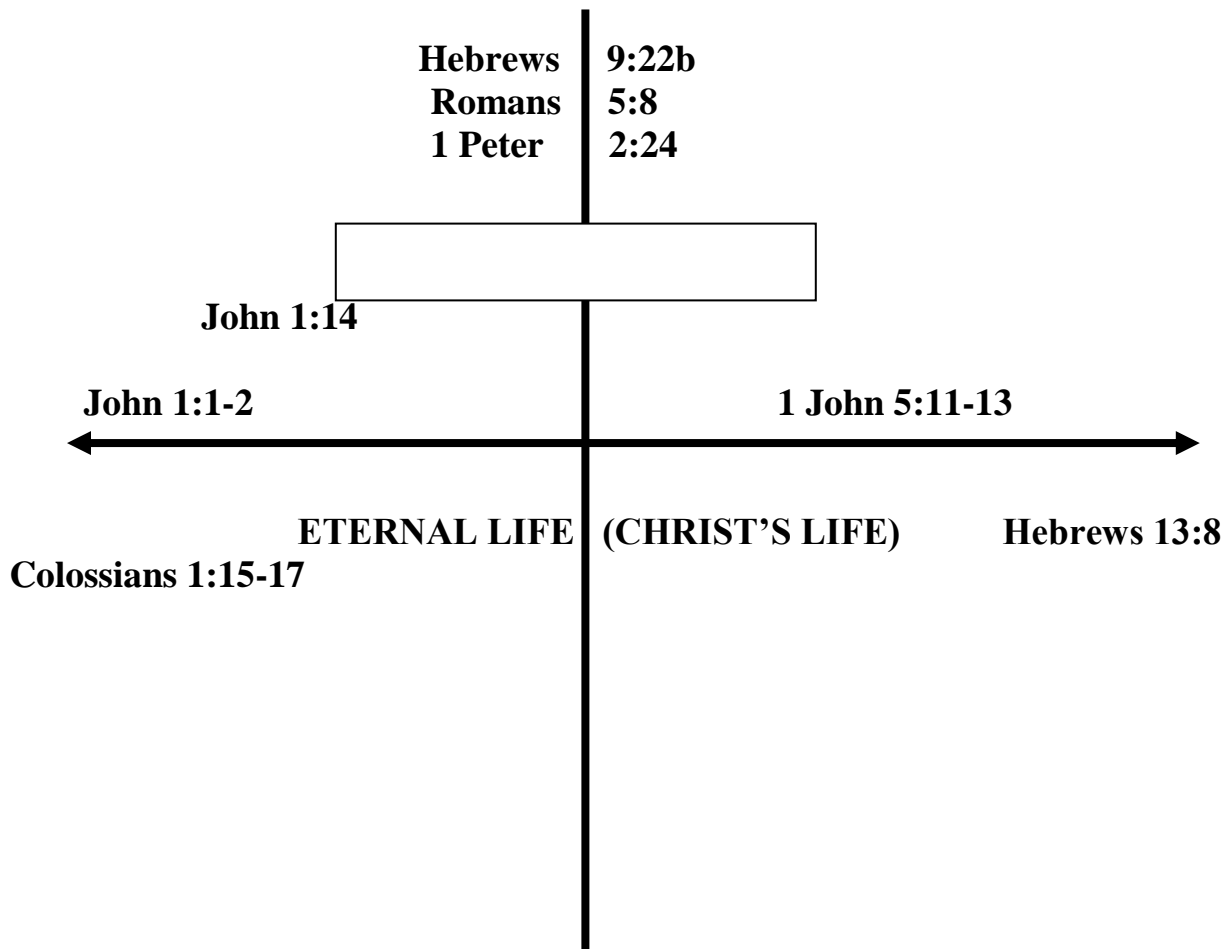


Figure 6

“...Reconciled to God by The Death of His Son...”



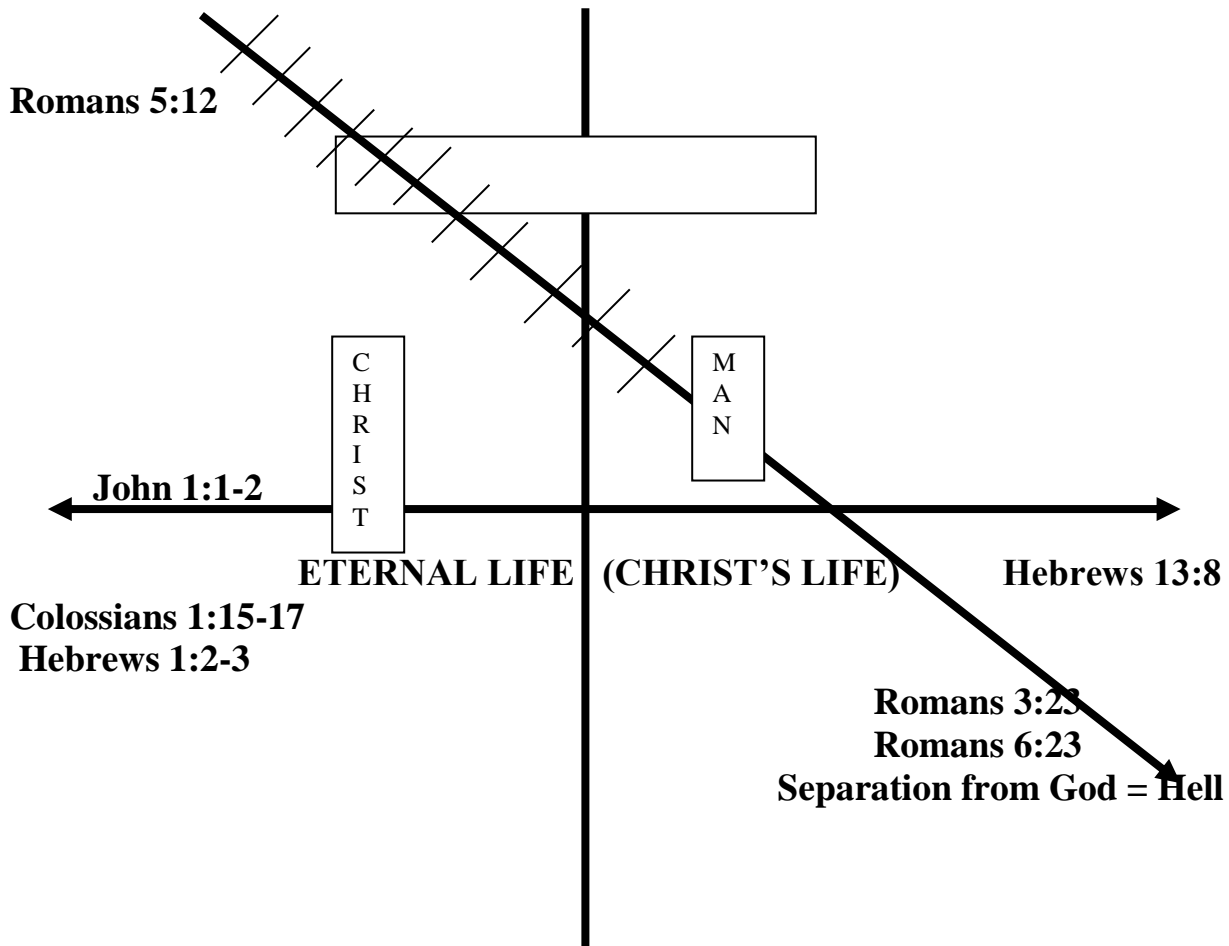
“...So by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous.”

LINE DIAGRAM #1

FIGURE 7

“...Reconciled to God by The Death of His Son...”

LIFE IN ADAM

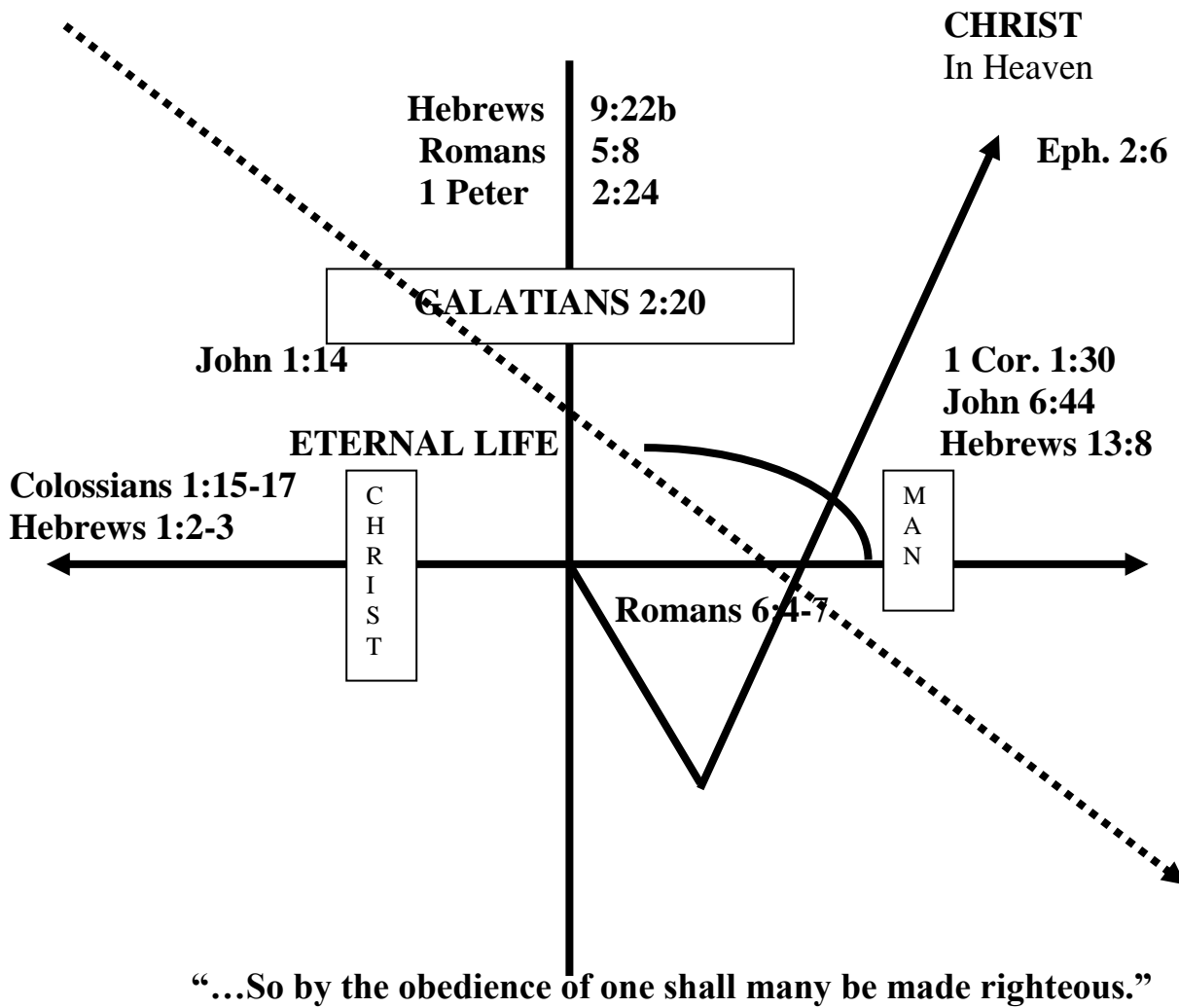


“...For as by one man’s disobedience many were made sinners...”

Line Diagram #2

Figure 8

“...Reconciled to God by The Death of His Son...”



Line Diagram #3

Figure 9

WORKSHEETS FOR DISCIPLESHIP TRAINING

The following worksheets are designed to be used in an ongoing discipleship-training program. I suggest they be given as a take home study after teaching the material in this outline. For example after teaching the material on the Nature of God and God the Father you could provide each student with the two worksheets on “God the Father” that could be done in or outside of the class time. There are 17 worksheets covering 9 of the topics in this material.

TOPICS and number of WORKSHEETS for each:

**God the Father / 2
Jesus our Savior / 1
The Holy Spirit & Holy Living / 1
Salvation / 3
The Baptism in the Holy Spirit / 1
The Bible / 2
Prayer / 4
The Church / 2
Tithing / 1**

GOD THE FATHER

Worksheet # 1

- A.** Can you imagine the awesome creator of the universe as your Father? Some people find that thought comforting. Others find it frightening. Your reaction might depend on the kind of experience you've had with your earthly father. In fact, nearly everyone's image of God is affected to some degree by the personality and characteristics of an earthly father. Sometimes that's positive, but often it does God a terrible injustice.
- B.** Try to imagine a father who is perfectly caring, giving, patient, understanding, encouraging, wise, and forgiving; one who would guide and lovingly correct your wrongdoing without destroying you so that you could develop your full potential. Probably all fathers would like to be this way, but few come close on a consistent basis. However, that description fits God perfectly.

WHO IS GOD?

People have many ideas about who God is. You can find the truth about God by reading the Bible. One word the Bible uses to describe God is "Father."

1. How would you describe an ideal father?

2. What kind of Father is God described as in Matthew 7:11 and James 1:17?

3. Below are some more descriptions of God the Father. Connect the verse with the corresponding description.

God cares

Philippians 4:19

God forgives

2 Corinthians 1:3

God provides

Romans 5:8

God gives

Matthew 7:9-11

God loves

1 Peter 5:7

God comforts

Ephesians 4:32

4. Write your name in each of the blanks: EPHESIANS 1:4

Long ago, even before He made the world, God choose_____to be His very own, through what Christ would do for_____; He decided then to make_____Holy in His eyes, without a single fault_____now stands before Him covered with His love.

5. Check this verse again. Are the following statements are true or false?

True False

God is timeless		
God created the world		
God doesn't forgive some sins		
God makes me holy		
God knew about me before the world began.		

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX END OF WORKSHEET #1 XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

GOD THE FATHER WORKSHEET # 2

From the beginning of time, God wanted you to be His friend. However, you broke that friendship by going your own way and doing things you knew were wrong. Even after you turned away from God, He still wanted to be your friend and so He provided a way to rebuild that friendship.

1. Write your name in the blanks **JOHN 3:16**

For God so loved _____ that He gave _____ His only begotten Son, that if _____ Believes in Him, _____ will have everlasting life.

2. It's great to know that God loved you first and provided it by giving His Son, Jesus, so that you can have a friendship and relationship with God again. How does the above verse (John 3:16) make you feel?

- | | |
|----------------|--------------|
| • Accepted____ | Loved____ |
| • Hopeful____ | Unworthy____ |
| • Confused____ | Secure____ |
| • Thankful____ | Doubtful____ |

3. From Ephesians 1:4, John 3:16, and Romans 5:8, list three truths about what God has done for you so that you can be His child.

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

When you accept Jesus as your Savior, and receive His gift of eternal life, God forgives your sins, rebuilds the relationship that was broken, and becomes your Father. This is called God's grace. Grace is getting what you don't deserve: such as: forgiveness, eternal life, and God's love.

4. Circle the sins you believe God doesn't forgive.

murder
cheating
anger

stealing
abortion
premarital sex

adultery
gossip
lying

Read Colossians 2:13-14. What does this verse say about God's forgiveness?

xxxxxxxxxx**END OF WORKSHEET #2**xxxxxxxxxxxxxx

JESUS THE SAVIOR WORKSHEET # 3

Imagine that millions of people were dying from a deadly disease. It was a disease of the blood. No one had good blood to counter-act the bad blood, so everyone continued to die. Then man came into town whose blood was healthy. He offered blood transfusions to anyone who wanted one. Some said he was a fool and doubted that he could really help them. Others called him a liar, but you believed he spoke the truth. You and the others who took his blood were healed of the disease. That's basically what Jesus did for you.

WORKSHEET--WHO IS JESUS CHRIST?

1. Check "true" or "false" for each statement.

	True	False
Jesus was the Son of God	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jesus was a human being	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jesus made mistakes like everyone else	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jesus should be in control of my life	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jesus was a great man and teacher	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

2. If a friend told you that Jesus was just a man like any other man, or teacher like any other teacher, how would you respond?

Read the following passages in the Bible. It will only take you a few minutes, but you will get a clear and accurate picture of the most unique person who ever lived!

John 1:1-5, 14 Philipians 2:5-11 Colossians 1:13-22

3. When Jesus was on earth, He did some miraculous things. Among them, He fed 5,000 people with just two loaves of bread and a few fish, brought a dead boy back to life, healed a blind man, turned water into wine, and died for you. What does it mean to you that Jesus did these things?

THE HOLY SPIRIT & HOLY LIVING WORKSHEET # 4

- A.** No one likes to use the word “sin” anymore. A decade ago, a prominent psychologist said, “The problem with America is that twenty-five years ago we stopped sinning.” By that Karl Menninger meant that people admitted making mistakes, errors, blunders, or bloopers, but they no longer admitted that their wrongs were sin.
- B.** Sin literally means to “miss the mark.” Imagine an archer trying time and time again to hit the bull’s eye but continuing to miss it. That’s what sin is. It’s failing to be all that God has planned for you to be. It’s anything on our part that fails to meet His standard of Holiness and Righteousness. This includes our thoughts, words, actions, or lack of action.
- C.** Don’t give up or be discouraged when you sin. Though Jesus never wants you to sin, He did provide a way for you to live a life that is holy and acceptable to Him. He gave you the Holy Spirit to live in your heart, and help you become more like Jesus Christ. Holy living is not a boring life, but it actually is a life that is lived as God designed specifically for each person He created. This holy living enables you to realize your full potential.

WORKSHEET—HOLY LIVING

1. Answer the following questions as honestly as possible.

	Yes	No	Don’t Know
Most things are sinful.	_____	_____	_____
Sin hurts God.	_____	_____	_____
If we don’t hurt anyone, it’s not really a sin.	_____	_____	_____
The best things in life are called sinful.	_____	_____	_____
What was sin in the Bible might not be sin today.	_____	_____	_____
We always loose when we sin.	_____	_____	_____
When I’m having fun, I don’t care if I’m sinning.	_____	_____	_____
God doesn’t love us when we sin.	_____	_____	_____

2. Check the areas in which you find it difficult to obey God.

- When I am at parties or social gatherings_____
- When I am with friends_____

- When I am at home____
- When I am at school or work____

WHAT IS HOLY LIVING?

God is only against those things that will hurt us. While some activities are easy to classify as harmful to others or us, some are more difficult to understand. Once we realize that God, the ultimate loving Father, wants the best for us, we can see why we should follow Him. Anything else would be destructive to our well being.

3. Occasionally you may be tempted to return to your old habits, to a way of living that you know is not acceptable to Jesus. When you are tempted to return to your old life, keep 1 Corinthians 10:13 in mind. Put your name in the blanks as you read this verse.

No temptation has come _____ except what is common to man. And God is faithful, he will not let _____ be tempted beyond what _____ can bear. But when _____ is tempted, He will also provide a way out so that _____ can stand up under it.

4. What does James 4:17 teach us about not doing something right when we know we should?

5. What does 1 John 1:9 say we should do when we have given into temptation?

6. Read James 1:13-15.

Does God tempt us? _____ Where does temptation come from? _____ What is the result of giving into temptation? _____

WHO IS THE HOLY SPIRIT?

Most of us know a great deal more about sin than about the Holy Spirit. God gave His Son, Jesus, to help you overcome the penalty of sin. Jesus gave us the Holy Spirit in order for us to become more like Christ. The Holy Spirit is not an “it” a “thing” a “wind” or a “force.” The Holy Spirit is a **person of the Godhead**, a member of the divine triune God,

He is God just as the Father is God and Jesus is God. One God in 3 persons. He lives in every believer and helps you to be like Christ.

- **God the Father**
- **God the Son**
- **God the Holy Spirit**

7. What does 1 Corinthians 3:16 tell us about the Holy Spirit?

8. Read John 14:16-18. Jesus is talking about sending the Holy Spirit to those who receive Him as Savior. Another “Counselor” or ““Comforter” literally means “another Counselor like me.” How would you describe the Holy Spirit?

- He is like the wind____
- He is like Jesus____
- I don’t understand what He is like? ____
- He’s like me ____

5. Ephesians 3:16 describes the Holy Spirit another way. What does this verse say about the Spirit?

Since the Holy Spirit lives in you, He plays a vital part in your Christian life. Without Him, it’s impossible to become all that God wants you to be. Your life is like a house and the Holy Spirit wants to live in that house. He wants to occupy all of the areas of your life such as family relationships [husband, wife, children, outside family members], dating, school, as well as your values [character].

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX**END OF WORKSHEET**XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

**SALVATION
WORKSHEET # 5**

SALVATION THROUGH CHRIST JESUS

Read the following points and answer the questions which follow:

1. **John 3:16** "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."
2. God's desire is to restore us to the holy and fulfilling relationship with Him that He intended when He made us.
3. I Timothy 2:3-4, "For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior; who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth."
4. John 10:9, " I am the door; by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved...."
5. To receive new life in Christ, we must die to our old selfish ways and accept cleansing through His forgiveness.

"When Christ calls a man to Himself, He bids him come die." By D. Bonhoeffer

6. Many individuals feel they are "good" people and have lead "good" lives, while others feel they have done such terrible things that they could never be forgiven.
7. Jesus said in Mark 10:18, " there is none good but one, that is, God." and in Isaiah 53:6 tells us, "All we like sheep have gone astray."
8. Sin separates us from God. I John 1:9 says, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

"Conviction is worthless until it is converted into conduct." Thomas Carlyle

9. Romans 6:23, "for the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."

10. Seven principles to salvation;

1. Realization of Sin:

- a. Psalm 51:4; Isaiah 53:6

Whom have I sinned against? _____

- b. Romans 3:23

Who has sinned against God? _____

c. Romans 6:23

What is the result of my sin? _____

d. Psalm 14:3

What have I and all other sinners done? _____

2. Sorrow for Sin:

a. Psalm 38:17-18

What should my sin lead me to do? _____

b. 2 Corinthians 7:9

What should my sorrow lead me to do? _____

c. Psalm 32:3-5

What are some results of sin which appeared in David's life
(and could also appear in mine?)

d. I Kings 8:37-40

The people of Israel were given instructions for dealing with
their sin. How can I follow this pattern? _____
_____.

3. Confession of sin

a. Psalm 32:5

To whom should I confess my sin? _____

b. Daniel 9:3-5

How will I follow Daniel's example? _____

c. James 5:16

To whom else should I confess? _____

d. I John 1:9

What is the result of confessing my sin? _____

4. Turning Away from Sin

a. Psalm 24:3-4

What kind of people is God looking for? _____

b. Psalm 34:13-14

What do these instructions mean to me? _____

c. Psalm 119:9-11

(REWRITTEN IN MY OWN WORDS) _____

d. Proverbs 28:13

What happens to the people who turn from their sin?

e. Ezekiel 18:31

What is the instruction for me here concerning my sin?

f. Isaiah 1:16

What does the prophet Isaiah say about turning from sin?

5. Asking forgiveness for sin

a. Daniel 9:19

Following Daniel's example, what should be my plea to God?

b. Matthew 6:9-13

What does the Lord's Prayer say about forgiveness?

c. Luke 18:10-14

What was the difference between the Pharisee and the tax collector in their prayers to God?

6. Commitment

a. Psalm 37:5

What does this verse say about commitment?_____

b. Romans 12:1-2

What are some things I should practice as a Christian?

7. Faith

a. Psalm 121:1-8

List some of the ways God displays His care. _____

b. Jeremiah 17:7-8

When I trust in the Lord, what is the result? _____

c. Isaiah 7:9

When I don't trust in the Lord, what is the result?

d. Hebrews 11:6

How does this verse apply to me personally?

e. Hebrews 10:38

How shall I live my new life in Christ?

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX END OF WORKSHEET XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

SALVATION WORKSHEET # 6

Read the following points and fill in the blanks that follow.

1. Two ways to develop assurance and peace about the reality of your salvation.

a. External evidence:

You can verify that you are the child of certain parents by checking the legal document called your birth certificate.

The legal document for the believer in Christ is the Word of God.

Easy promises to memorize:

- John 1:12
- John 3:16
- Romans 10:13
- I John 5:13

b. Internal evidence

Internal evidences begin to show in the life of one who is saved.

- a new hunger to learn more about Christ and the Word.
- an inner drawing toward fellow-shiping with other Christians
- we have a new nature within us, one that wants to live right and honor Christ as the purpose for our life.

2. Sin grieves the Lord

- a.** Confess our sins to him and he will instantly forgive us.
- b.** Our new nature continually hungers for the things of God, even though we might still sin.

3. At times the enemy tries to rob us of the assurance of our salvation by bringing fear in one or more of the following areas:

- a. I fear I have not believed enough. Mark 9:24, "I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief."
- b. I fear I am not committed enough. No one has ever been totally committed to anything, nor has anyone totally committed every area of his life to Christ.
 - Ephesians 2:8-9
 - Titus 3:5
- c. I fear I did not repent enough.
God never intended for repentance to be considered as a separate work apart from God's simple plan of salvation by faith. The term repentance simply means a change of heart or mind.
- d. I did not pray enough. There is no place in Scripture where we are told to pray a certain amount or to "pray through" in order to be saved. John 1:12
- e. I fear I need to make restitution before God can accept me.
Phil 2:12-13 points out that we are to "work out" our salvation (the inference is that this happens after we have received it) for it is God who works in us both to will and to do of his good pleasure. After Zacchaeus trusted Christ, he made restitution, but not before (Luke 19:8-9).
- f. I have not been baptized.
Baptism as an evidence or testimony of salvation rather than a requirement.

Scripture study—fill in the blanks

1. I John 5:13 What external form indicates that you can be assured of your salvation?

2. Romans 10:13 What does God's Word promise will happen to us the very instant we call on the Lord for salvation?

3. John 5:24 What promises are ours if we have heard God's Word about Christ and have believed him by acting on it in faith?

4. John 10:28 What words give security to the believer in this verse?

5. I Peter 2:2 What internal evidence of life does both a baby and a new believer have?

6. I John 3:14 What other internal change develops in the life of the real Christians?

7. Hebrews 7:25 For how long does Christ save us, and what is one of the guarantees that this is so?

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX END OF WORKSHEET XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

SALVATION WORKSHEET # 7

Please read and follow the directions as given.

- 1. John 10:27-31** Provides one of the strongest statements for the security of the believer. List all the reasons Jesus gives for feeling secure in our relationship with God.
- 2.** See if you can figure out what kind of people have the right to feel secure, based on this passage of scripture.
- 3.** What is Jesus saying here about evidences for salvation?
- 4. Memorize the following scripture passages know as the : “Romans Road”**
 - Romans 3:23- All have sinned
 - Romans 6:23- Eternal life is a free gift of God
 - Romans 5:8- Because of love, Jesus paid the death penalty for your sins.
 - Romans 10:9-10- Confess Jesus as Lord and believe God raised him from the dead
 - Romans 10:13- Ask God to save you and He will.
- 5. Christian terms defined—Memorize each term and its meaning**
 - Substitution: One that takes the place of another
 - Redemption: To buy back or return to the original state of affairs.
 - Propitiation: The satisfaction of God's righteous demands.
 - Reconciliation: Exchanging hatred for friendship; the act of God which enables man to fellowship with Him.
 - Forgiveness: To pardon and renounce anger or resentment against another. It also involves forgetting past sins.
 - Justification: The establishment of a right relationship between man and God in which God declares the sinner innocent. as if he had never sinned.
 - Sanctification: To be made holy and set apart for God.
 - Eternal Life: Union with God that is not affected by the temporal boundaries of life.

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX **END OF WORKSHEET** XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

THE BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT WORKSHEET # 8

Student should read and answer each question.

- 1.. Who did John say would baptize you in the Holy Spirit? Matthew 3:11
2. Please read John 14:16-17 and answer the following questions.
 - a. What did Jesus pray for?
 - b. How long would He stay?
 - c. Who would He help?
 - d. What would He do?
3. List some things the Holy Spirit will do in John 14:26.
4. Many things happened to the early Christians after being filled with the Holy Spirit.
 - a. Acts 5:42
 - b. Acts 9:36-42
 - c. Acts 10:45-46
 - d. Acts 20:22-24
 - e. Acts 6:10
 - f. Acts 4:32-33
 - g. Acts 4:31
5. What was the key reason why the early Christians received the Holy Spirit?
Acts 1:8
6. What were some of the results of Peter's preaching after he was filled with the Holy Spirit?
Acts 2:37,41
7. Read John 16:7, 13,14
 - a. Why did Jesus say He should leave?
 - b. List some of the results of the Holy Spirit coming in Jesus' place.
8. To whom is the promise of the Spirit given? Acts 2:39

9. Why should I be filled with the Holy Spirit?

- a.. Luke 11:13
- b. Eph 5:18
- c. I Cor 4:20
- d. II Timothy 1:7
- e. Acts 4:31
- f. Acts 4:8,13

10. I will receive the promise by;

- a. Acts 2:38
- b. John 7:37-38
- c. Acts 5:32
- d. Luke 11:9-13
- e. Acts 8:15-17

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX**END OF WORKSHEET**XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

THE BIBLE WORKSHEET # 9

There is NO course in school that you can take where you can be satisfied that you know all you need to about God. Few of us have ever talked with God face to face to find out what He's like. However, God has taken the initiative to reveal who He is and what He is like. When we read the Bible, we are reading letters to us about Himself and what he expects of us.

WORKSHEET---THE GREATEST BOOK

1. Take a minute and see what you understand the Bible to be. Check those statements that indicate how you believe the Bible came into being.
 - Good men wrote what seemed right to them____
 - Religious teachers wrote what they thought was true____
 - Men wrote down what they thought God wanted____
 - God used people to write down His thoughts, using their words. It's a collection of stories passed down____
 - It's always been around____
 - Men wrote their thoughts and said the thoughts came from God____
2. You'll hear different phrases that refer to the Bible. Check the ones you have heard people use.
 - Scripture____
 - Word of God____
 - Good News____
 - The Book____
 - Old & New Testaments____
 - The Gospel____

IS THE BIBLE TRUE?

3. Turn in your Bible to 2 Timothy 3:16. According to this verse, where did the Bible come from?

The translation of 2 Timothy 3:16 says the Bible is "God breathed." Although the exact method is unknown, the entire Bible is God's thoughts given to us through

people. The Bible claims to be divinely inspired. Notice carefully that it doesn't say the Bible is "inspiring," but "inspired" (literally meaning "God breathed"). This means that God spoke through the writers of the Bible to communicate absolute truth to us. This truth includes things about Himself, people, and life (both present and eternal)

We don't know the exact method that God used to inspire men to write His Word. You can be certain that because God inspired the Bible, it is the primary source that can accurately help you get to know Him better. Other books may be helpful, but if they conflict with the Bible in any point, it is the Bible that must be trusted as the final authority.

4. Read 1 Thessalonians 2:13. Check the box that indicates what was special about these people.
- They loved each other___
 - They believed Paul's teachings were from God___
 - They gave money___
 - They did their own thing___

WHY SHOULD I READ THE BIBLE?

5. The following is a list of several subjects covered in the Bible. If the subject is something people deal with today, mark it with an "R" for relevant.

___marriage	___addictions	___sex outside marriage
___lying	___how to handle stress	___dating
___how to forgive others	___money management	___how to love others
___how to deal with guilt	___cheating	___happiness
___how to get to know God	___family relationships	___education
___friendship	___purity	___time management

It may surprise you that God deals with each of these issues in His Word. The more you read the Bible, the more answers you will find to similar issues in his Word. The more you read the Bible, the more answers you will find to issues with which you are struggling.

6. Read 2 Timothy 3:16, 17 again. List five benefits of reading the Bible.

7. What does 1 Peter 1:24-25 say about the Word of God?

HOW SHOULD I STUDY THE BIBLE?

Do you realize that there are 144 ten-minute segments in each day of your life? How about giving one of those each day to reading the Bible? These ten minutes can be very helpful in your Christian walk.

8. When do you think is the best time for you to do this?

___at school
___after work
___after bed

___early morning
___after dinner
___after school

9. Take a couple of minutes and try this exercise. Read James 1:22-24 and answer these two questions. What does this passage teach me?

10. What does this passage ask me to believe or do?

Here is a suggested daily devotional called Take 10. Take ten minutes each day to:

1. **FOCUS** on God.
Spend one minute asking God to guide you as you read.
2. **FIND** God's truth.
Spend seven minutes reading the verses you've chosen for that day.
3. **FOLLOW** through on what God wants you to do.
Spend the final two minutes asking God to help you apply what you learned.

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX**END OF WORKSHEET**XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

**THE BIBLE
WORKSHEET # 10**

1. It's important to read God's Word daily so that you may grow in the things of God.

a. What is God's promise to you regarding His Word? Proverbs 1:23

b. What does I Timothy 3:16 tell you about God's Word?

c. Why can we trust God's Word according to II Peter 1:20-21?

d. In Acts 17:10-11 the Word of God speaks of a group of people called the Bereans. What were the Bereans known for?

2. We must have a love for God's Word.

a. In what did the Psalmist delight? Psalm 1:1-2

b. How much did King David value the Word?

c. Psalm 119 speaks of the Word of God and list several different affections that King David had for the Word of God?

3. Learning to memorize the Word is a key to victory.

a. How can you keep your life pure? Psalm 119:9,11

b. How can you keep from acting independent from God?

c. When you stay in God's Word what will be the benefit? II Timothy 3:14-15

d. Why should you memorize God's Word? I Peter 3:15

4. Meditating on God's Word is different from Memorizing His Word.

a. Meditation involves effort and desire and will allow a person to find hidden treasures. Memorizing God's Word will help you to understand more what He is like and will eventually become an integral part of your thoughts, words and actions.

b. Joshua 1:8 gives us an understanding of when a good time to meditate is.

c. What happens if you meditate as often as Joshua 1:8 requires?

d. Who is the teacher that will help the believer learn? John 14:26

e. Why is it important to meditate in God's Word? II Timothy 3:16-17

f. Make a list of the results of meditation. Joshua 1:8

Psalm 1:2-3

Psalm 63:5-6

Psalm 119:9,11

Psalm 119:98

Psalm 119:99

Psalm 119:165

Proverbs 16:22

I Timothy 4:15

5. The importance of being obedient to the Word of God.

a. How can you know you are a friend of Christ? John 15:4

b. How long will the Word of God last for? Matthew 24:35

c. How did Joshua influence the people around him and how can you be an example? II Kings 23:2-3

d. How should I respond to the Word? Exodus 24:7

e. What is one of the results of being obedient to God's Word? Joshua 1:7

6. God's Word is full of power.

a. King David prayed the Word of God. What was his reasons for praying God's Word? Psalm 119:49-50

b. Why did Solomon pray God's Word? I Kings 8:26

c. When the church was experiencing persecution they prayed God's Word. Acts 4:23-31.

d. The prophet Isaiah also felt it was important to pray God's Word. Isaiah 40:8

e. What does Hebrews 4:12 mean to you?

f. If you abide in God's Word, He tells us that we will be John 8:31,32

7. Teaching God's Word is vital to life.

a. Deuteronomy 6:6-9 tells us that we should do what with the Word?

b. Six things that the Word is useful to do.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

c. What does Ezra 7:10 tell us about teaching God's Word?

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX**END OF WORKSHEET**XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

PRAYER WORKSHEET # 11

Communication is easy to have when you live across the street from a friend, or on the same block, or go to the same school. Imagine though, that your friend moves away. Communication breaks down because of the distance between you and your friend. The same would be true in your relationship with Christ were it not for the special means of communication He's given you called prayer. All you have to do is open your mouth, and communication is there. Prayer is simply talking to God.

WORKSHEET---THE GREATEST OPPORTUNITY

1. Do you consider prayer to be (check all that apply)

an obligation____	a waste of time____	begging for things____
a chore____	a mystery____	special opportunity____
boring____	second nature____	talking to yourself____

2. Look back at the past 24 hours. How many times do you remember praying? If you don't remember praying at all in the past 24 hours, why do think you didn't?

I don't know____	I didn't feel a need to pray____
I didn't feel like it____	There wasn't enough time____
It never occurred to me____	I don't know how to pray____

3. If I could be assured of an answer to any prayer, I would pray for:

4. The bible teaches some important lessons on prayer. Read the following verses and fill in each blank with the correct word.

Luke 18:1-8_____ (Persist, Resist, Desist) in prayer.

John 17:9-19 By following Jesus' example, we should pray for
_____(others, the impossible, only our own interests).

1 John 5:14-15 Pray in God's_____(language, direction, will)

God was under no obligation to provide a way for you to communicate with Him. However, God loves you and created you with the capacity to talk to Him. God can understand the language you use. AS your friend, He wants you to confide in Him. That

means talking to Him about anything in any language you are comfortable with---you don't have to use words like "thee" and "thou." Simply be yourself.

HOW SHOULD I PRAY?

Usually when you talk to someone, you keep in mind who the person is, and the nature of your relationship. You might talk one way to your parents, another way to a spouse, another way to your best friend, and yet another way to the President. When you talk to God, even though He is the Creator of the entire universe, He is your heavenly Father. You don't need to be scared or fearful, but we should honor and reverence Him as Almighty God. We come to Him knowing He has invited us to come into his presence, and welcomes us as His children.

6. In Matthew 6:9-13, Jesus gave us an example of how to pray. Draw a line to connect the verse with the insight He gave.

Vs. 9. Pray along these lines. "Our Father in heaven, we honor your holy name.

Ask for forgiveness

Vs. 10. We ask that your kingdom come and that your will be done here on earth, just as it is in heaven.

Ask for God's provision

Vs. 11. Give us this day our daily bread

Honor God as your Father

Vs. 12. And forgive us our sins just as we forgive those who have sinned against us.

Ask for God's will to be done

Vs. 13. Don't bring us into temptation, but deliver us from evil ...

Ask God to meet your needs

7. Write your own short prayer. The prayer should include a time of:
Praising Repentance Asking Yielding

PRAISE (thank Him)

Dear Father, I thank you that you are:

REPENT (confess your sins)

**We haven't forgiven others
We are simply not asking
We ask with wrong motives
We are disobedient to Him**

**If _____ remains in me and my words remain in _____ ask
whatever you wish and it will be given _____**

- 1. Prayer is dialogue between you and God.**
- 2. Prayer is talking honestly with God.**
- 3. Prayer is talking about specific things with God.**
 - 1. Prayer can be done in any posture.**
 - 2. Prayer can happen in anytime.**
 - 3. Prayer can happen anywhere**

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PRAYER WORKSHEET # 12

A. Use the model Jesus gave us

Six parts of prayer taken from Matt 6:9-15, "This, then, is HOW you should pray...."

1. Praise: I begin by _____

"Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name...."

- a. adoration- praising God for who he is.
- b. thanksgiving- praising God for what he has done.
- c. Psalm 100:4, " Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise. Be thankful unto him, and bless his name."
- d. How to praise god:
 - 1. As you read your Bible, make a list of God's character qualities that you discover and then review them when you pray.

Examples

God is patient -	Numbers 14:18
God is merciful	Numbers 14:18
God is forgiving	Numbers 14:18
God knows everything	I Sam 2:2
God is loving	I John 4:8

- 2. Remind yourself and affirm the promises God has made that are contained in the meaning of his names.

Eight Hebrew names of God: Declaring who he is:

- Jehovah-Shammah "God is present with me"
You are here. I am not alone. Ezekial 48:35
- Jehovah-Rohi "God is my Shepherd"
You lead, feed and protect me. Psalm 23:1
- Jehovah-Jireh "God is my provider"
You see what I need before I even ask. Gen 22:14
- Jehovah-Rophe "God is my healer"

You can heal my body, emotions, and relationships. Exodus 15:26

- Jehovah-Tsidkenu- "God is my Righteousness"
You accept and forgive me because of Jesus. Jeremiah 23:6
- Jehovah-m'Kiddish- "God is my sanctification"
You make me holy and like Jesus. Lev 20:8
- Jehovah-Shalom- "God is my Peace"
You give me peace in spite of circumstances. Judges 6:24
- Jehovah-Nissi- "God is my Banner"
You are my victory in conflict and confrontation. Exodus 17:15

3. Make a list of all that you are thankful for and review them when you pray.

2. Purpose:

I commit myself _____

- a. "Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven..."
- b. Pray for God's will to be done... in my family, church, ministry, job, future, city, nation and the world.
- c. Rom 12:2 "Offer yourself as a living sacrifice to God, dedicated to his service and pleasing to him. This is the true worship that you should offer.

3. Provision:

I ask God to _____

- a. "Give us today our daily bread....."
- b. What needs can I pray about? _____
- c. Phil 4:19 What does this verse say to me? To whom was this promise given? Are you giving to missions?
- d. James 4:2 What does God want me to learn here?
- e. Write down your requests, with a promise you are claiming from the Bible, and expect an answer.
- f. Phil 4:6 What are we to worry about?

4. Pardon:

I ask god to _____

- a. "forgive us our debts..."
- b. 4 steps to forgiveness
 - 1. Ask the Holy Spirit to _____ every sin. Psalm 139:23-24
 - 2. confess each sin. Prov 28:13
 - 3. Make _____ to others when necessary. Matt 5:23-24
 - 4. By faith, _____ God's forgiveness. I John 1:9

5. People:

I pray for _____.

- a. "as we have also forgive our debts."
- b. I Tim 2:1
- c. If you want to know how to pray for others
(Eph 1:15-19; Col 1:3-12; I Thess 1:2-3; II Thess 1:11-12)
- d. Make a prayer list of people you want to pray for. You might pray for different people on different days of the week.

6. Protection:

I ask for _____.

- a. "And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from the evil one."
- b. As believers in Jesus Christ we face spiritual battles daily. The Enemy (Satan) has lost us to eternal salvation, but he would like to hinder us from moving on in the Lord. It is important for us to pray for protection from the plans of the enemy.
- c. I John 4:4

xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx END OF WORKSHEET xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

PRAYER WORKSHEET # 13

1. Prayer- be committed to it as it is the most important speech a person ever utters.

2. Best done early in the day.

- a. Psalms 63:1 A psalm of David, when he was in the wilderness of Judah.
O God, You are my God; early will I seek You; My soul thirsts for You;
My flesh longs for You in a dry and thirsty land Where there is no water."
- b. Proverbs 8:17, "" I love them that love me; and those that seek me early shall find me."
- c. Seeking God early in the day helps to prepare our heart and spirit for the day otherwise we enter the day ill-prepared.

3. Make a list or keep a prayer journal.

- a. I Samuel 1:27, "For this child I prayed; and the Lord hath given me my petition which I asked of him:"

Hanna petitioned God for a son- she prayed specifically, not in general abstract terms, but rather sought precisely what she desired of God.

- b. Ecclesiastes 5:2, "do not be rash with your mouth, and let not your heart utter anything hastily before God. For God is in heaven, and you on earth;
Therefore let your words be few."

We need not to pray volumes to impress God or to pay some sort of religious servitude in order to be heard of God. In fact, Matt 23:14 says, "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you devour widows houses, and for a pretense make long prayers. Therefore you will receive greater condemnation."

4. Prayer that is not self-centered.

- a. James 4:3, "Ye ask , and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts."

b. We need to be careful not to only seek God when we want for ourselves, but rather "seek ye first the kingdom of heaven."

1. Begin with praise and worship
2. Follow with confession and asking for forgiveness
3. Then petition for things that are on God's heart, then other's needs and finally your own.
4. Always praying according to his will not mine: I John 5:14-15, " Now this is the confidence that we have in Him. that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that he hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked Him.

5. Ask believing, with boldness, and confidence in God.

a. Matt 21:22 , "And whatever things you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive."

It is vital that we believe, and not allow doubt to rob us of god's blessing: Mark 11:22-24, "So Jesus answered and said to them, "Have faith in God. for assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, ' Be removed and be cast into the sea, ' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says, Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them."

1. Doubt says " I can't" But faith says Phil 4:13
2. Doubt says " I don't have" but faith say Phil 4:19
3. Doubt says "I haven't enough faith" But faith says, II Tim 1:7
4. Doubt says "I haven't enough faith" But faith says Rom 12:3
5. doubt says " I am weak" But faith says Psalm 27:1; Daniel 11:32
6. Doubt says " Satan is stronger that me" But faith says I john 4:4
7. Doubt says " I lack wisdom" But faith says I Cor 1:30 and James 1:5
8. Doubt says, " I am defeated" But faith says II Cor 2:14

9. I pray that we don't allow doubt to rob us, but rather we would turn to the Word of God and remember Matt 21:22, "And whatever things you ask in prayer, believing you will receive."

Heb 4:15-16, "For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need."

In 1 John 5:14-15 the word "know" means: absolute beyond the shadow of doubt knowledge. We know that when we pray according to God's will- He hears us!

6. Ask continuously- until the answer comes

- a. I John 5:14-15 , The word "ask" in the Greek is the word "aieto" which means "continuous asking" and is used again in verse 15. Luke 18:1 Gal 6:9
- b. God desires that we keep on asking according to his will until the answer arrives. Remember:
1. Hanna petitioned God for a son
 2. Jacob wrestled with God and would not let go until God blessed him.
 3. The widow who went to the judge continually until the judge finally gave in and avenged her lest she weary him by her constant asking.

7. Take a few moments to be still before God

- a. Psalm 46:10 Be still and know that I am God.....
- b. Take time to hear from God--often we spend our entire prayer time talking to God, but never take the time to let God speak to our hearts.

8. Approach prayer with the right attitude.

Matt 6:5-8, (verse 5) "When you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by men."

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX END OF WORKSHEET XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

**PRAYER
WORKSHEET # 14**

1. " I sought to hear the voice of God and climbed the topmost steeple; But God declared; Go down again- I dwell among the people." John Henry Newman

2. The Life-Breath of the Soul is prayer.

a. Read Daniel 6

1. How important was prayer to Daniel? _____

2. What happened because He prayed? _____

3. How can I apply this to my life? _____

b. I Thessalonians 5:17 How important should prayer be in my life?

_____.

3. The Battle is won in prayer.

a. Genesis 32:24-30

1. Why did Jacob wrestle with the angel ?

2. What principle of prayer is shown in this passage?

b. Daniel 10:12-14

1. What was one reason why Daniel's prayer was not immediately answered?

4. Jesus sets the example in prayer

a. Luke 11:1

Matt 14:23 _____

Mark 1:35 _____

Mark 6:46 _____

Luke 6:12

1. _____
2. _____

2. _____

5.

6

7

THE CHURCH WORKSHEET # 15

- A.** A log in a fire burns brightly as long as it stays in the fire. But if the log is removed from other logs, it begins to smolder and burns out. In the same way, we need to worship and meet together so we don't end up just blowing smoke.
- B.** The church is not a building, but a community of believers. Groups of believers can meet in a building that we normally call a church, but they can meet in a home, park, or any other place. It's important that you meet regularly with other Christians. This allows us to strengthen one another, worship and praise God in unity, learn from His word, and give back to the Lord's work from the increase He has given to us.

WORKSHEET—THE CHURCH

1. Which of the following do you think are the reasons to attend church?
I need to get recharged to face life's difficulties ____
I need to be taught God's Word ____
I need to worship God ____
I need fellowship with other Christians ____
You meet interesting people in church ____

2. Circle the statements which best describe your attitude now concerning church?

I am bored	My mind wanders
I hate the songs	I am focused on God
I am critical	I am enthusiastic
I go through the motions	I wish I had a book to read
I am attentive	I look at my watch

3. Read Ephesians 4: 12-14. The church should be a place where we:

Are built up ____	Are taught ____
Are nurtured ____	Enjoy being with other believers ____
Are encouraged ____	Are equipped to work for Jesus ____

4. Is going to church really that important? Yes ____ No ____ Not Sure ____

5. What does Hebrews 10:24-25 say about the importance of church attendance?

6. The Bible tells us how Christians should treat each other at all times, including in the Church:

- Serve one another
- Confess sin and pray for one another
- Love and honor one another
- Be patient, humble, gentle, making allowance for one another
- Be kind and forgiving of one another

The church is a great place for growing up! First, because it's got the greatest "How To" manual in the world [the Bible] on the topic of how to grow up. Second, it has the greatest Change Agent in the world [God] to help that growth take place. Third, it's got the greatest group of people in the world [Christians] who have experienced the pains and gains of spiritual growth, and who can help new believers understand what the process of growth means to them.

As Christians, we can experience the power of God through the Bible, the Holy Spirit, and other Christians to produce slow, steady consistent, and incredibly satisfying growth in our lives. Always remember that the church is not a building. It is the body of Christ on the earth composed of many members, all those who have placed their faith in Jesus Christ. We are His hands, His feet, His legs, and His mouth. A healthy church will provide you opportunities to share your God given gifts and talents being of service to the whole body.

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX**END OF WORKSHEET**XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

THE CHURCH WORKSHEET # 16

THE CHURCH IS—The following worksheet can be used as the format for class discussion or group study. Students should read each verse and record their understanding. **Use the worksheet as the lesson guide for instruction.**

A. WE WILL EXAMINE FIVE ASPECTS OF THE CHURCH

1. The Body of Christ
2. A Victorious Army
3. A Community of Believers
4. An Orderly Gathering of People
5. A Local Assembly

B. The Body of Christ:

1. What is the church called? Ephesians 1:20-23
2. Who is the head of the church? Eph 4:15
3. How do you know you are part of God's family? Romans 8:15-16
4. According to this verse we are members of what? Romans 12:5
5. What does God promise when we meet together? Matthew 18:20
6. What are Christians called in this verse? I Corinthians 12:27
7. Here are some scriptures that also refer to the church.
 - a. I Timothy 3:15 _____
 - b. Ephesians 2:22 _____
 - c. Ephesians 2:20-21 _____
 - d. I Peter 2:5 _____
 - e. I Peter 5:2 _____

C. The Victorious Army

1. Soldiers in the Army of God have many characteristics. Write down several from II Timothy 2:3-4 and Ephesians 6:13-18

2. In Ephesians 6:11-12., who is the battle directed towards?

3. What is the authority of the church according to Luke 10:19?

D. The Community of Believers

1. How should we treat one another in the Body of Christ? Phil 2:3-4

2. How would you personally apply Romans 12:10 with other believers in the church?

3. When reading Galatians 6:2 what does this scripture say to your heart?

4. How does the Bible define true religion in James 1:27?

5. What practical ways can display our love for the Lord? Matthew 25:34-40

6. What is the greatest benefit to the church being a community? Acts 4:32,34,35

7. What is the blessing of ministering to the saints? Hebrews 6:10
-

E. An Orderly Gathering of Believers.

1. In reading Eph 4:11-13 what types of ministries did Christ appoint over His church?
-

2. What are these ministries to do?
-

3. What will be the results and benefits if these ministries function properly?
-

4. What other types of leadership did Christ set up in the Church? Acts 14:23
-

5. What are the responsibilities of the elders Acts 20:28 and Hebrews 13:17?
-

6. What are the responsibilities of a deacon?
-

7. How are we to deal with a brother or sister in the Lord who continually lives a life style of sin? I Cor 5:9-13
-

8. James 5:19-20 gives us several benefits to watching out for one another, what are a few?
-

F. A local assembly

1. Hebrews 10:24-25 gives us the reasons why we should meet together.

2. Read I Cor 12:14-21 and answer the following questions.

- a. What makes up the body?

- b. Give several reasons why you are needed in the body?

- c. Can different members function on their own? why?

- d. What kind of church is Jesus coming back for? Eph 5:27

- e. What does Jesus tell us about giving? Acts 20:35, II Cor 9:7 and Matt 10:8

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX**END OF WORKSHEET**XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

**TITHING
WORKSHEET #17**

A. What does Jesus tell us about giving? Acts 20:35

B. What should be our attitude in giving? II Cor 9:7 and Matt 10:8

C. Read Malachi 3:8-10 and answer the following questions.

- a. How can someone rob from God?
- b. What will be the benefit of being obedient to God?
- c. What does this scripture command us to do?
- d. What happens when we disobey?
- e. What else, besides tithes should we give to the Lord?

D. In Luke 6:38 we see what happens when we give to God?

E. Who are we responsible to give to?

Numbers 18:21, 24 _____
Malachi 3:8-10 _____
Matthew 5:42 _____
Matthew 19:21 _____
Romans 12:20 _____
Romans 12:13 _____

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX **END OF WORKSHEETS** XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

The following material (The total Commitment Contracts) are included for future use by our graduates. They indicate the new place the believer has in relationship to life in this present world and his life in Jesus Christ. As a believer in Christ we are dead to this world and alive unto Christ. This requires our total commitment to Christ. These can be used at the end of a discipleship teaching to encourage each new disciple to make a total commitment for Christ by signing a “Total Commitment Contract.” The second contract is designed for teenagers.

TOTAL COMMITMENT CONTRACT
ROMANS 12:1

I COMMIT:

My thoughts, emotions, feelings,
 Will, and decisions to Christ.
My body as my reasonable service
My future plans, hopes, and dreams
My home, marriage, spouse, and children
 Matthew 10:37
recreation & entertainment
My career
My past successes, failures, and hurts
 Philippians 3:13
My habits—I will seek to be pliable in His hand.
My finances—teach me to be a good steward
My problems—1st Peter 5:7
My time—Psalms 31:15
My integrity, character, and attitudes to reflect
 the person of Christ
My business conduct, and relationships
My Christian walk—Psalms 119:105
My response to authority—Romans 13:1-2

I GIVE UP:

My right to possessions
My right to a good reputation
My right to acceptance
My right to be successful
My right to pleasant
 circumstances My
My right to life itself
My right to presume on His will
My right to beauty
My right to strength
My right to have friends
 My right to be heard
My right to take offense
My right to avoid reaping what
My right to be right
My right to see results.

Lord God, I give you permission to do anything You wish, to me, with me, in me, and through me that would glorify You.

At one time I claimed all these rights as mine. Now they belong to You, and I yield control of them to You. You can do with them and me, as You please. Help me to ever so live to bring glory and honor to Your name. By Your mercy and grace I make this commitment.

Date_____ **Signature**_____

Total Surrender Contract FOR TEENAGERS

I CHOOSE TO SURRENDER TO YOU. LORD JESUS:

My Spirit, Soul and Body, my future hopes, dreams and plans. I am giving to you my privacy (my bedroom), my parents, my boyfriend/girlfriend, my singleness, my child or children. I further surrender to you the neighborhood where I live, my hang-out time, my reputation, my character, my attitudes, my school conduct and my response to my teachers, my Christian walk and response to all authority.

Lord,

I FURTHER SURRENDER TO YOU THE FOLLOWING "RIGHTS":

My Right	to possessions such as; certain clothes, stereo, tv, car, jewelry, computer, money.
My Right	to a good reputation.
My Right	to have acceptance by others and to be liked by everyone.
My Right	to be successful in what I do.
My Right	to have pleasant and comfortable circumstances.
My Right	to have a relationship or get married.
My Right	to tell the Lord what His will for my life is.

My Right	to beauty, good looks, to be thin, and to strength.
My Right	to have friendships.
My Right	to take up an offense or to hold onto unforgiveness.
My Right	to avoid reaping from what I have done wrong.
My Right	to be right and to get the last word in.
My Right	to see (immediate) results.
My Right	to tell others what to do and how to do it.
My Right	_____.
My Right	_____.
My Right	_____.

LORD, I GIVE YOU PERMISSION to do anything you wish to me, with me, in me or through me. I claimed the above items once as mine. Now they all belong to you and are under your control. You can do with them anything you please. I willingly make this commitment in the Name and authority of the Lord Jesus Christ, and I recognize that this is an agreement with you that can never be broken. Now that I have surrendered ownership of my life to you, and because you love me too much, You will never give it back to me. Amen

date:_____

signature:_____

accountability partner:_____