

Basic Training Manual

Designed for New Soldiers in the Army of the Lord

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Introduction

Congratulations! You are in the Lord's army now! If you reflect on the natural army, it includes a period of time spent in basic training (preparation). That is what this course is designed to do: prepare you for your new life in Christ, prepare you for your purpose and for spiritual warfare.

You have accepted Jesus Christ as your personal Savior. This is the greatest and wisest decision you have ever made. By doing this, you have been placed in the plan of God and His perfect will for the Saints.

As a new convert, you are starting a new life spiritually, and this will call for some changes in your daily walk. You will need help along the way. Like a new born baby, you will grow in Christ gaining knowledge of God, learning daily the regimen and lifestyle of a good Godly soldier.

This course consists of eleven lessons designed to equip and empower you for success spiritually and naturally. The course can be used for group or self-paced individualized instruction.

We pray the enriching blessings of the Lord God over your life. God bless and congratulations on making the BEST decision of your life in receiving Jesus as your Savior.



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Lesson One



Salvation

Lesson 1: Salvation

Lesson Aim

Upon the completion of this lesson you will:

1. Understand how to be saved
2. Know without a doubt that you are saved.

Study Scriptures

St. John, Chapters 1, 2 & 3
Romans 10: 8-11

Lesson Overview

This lesson focuses on the plan of salvation and what happens to you when you experience salvation.

You cannot save yourself; only Christ can save you. Neither can good works, church membership or trying to be good save you.

The only way to be saved is to repent of your sins and ask Jesus to save you.

How to Be Saved

Admit to be true. All unrighteousness is sin. Romans 3:23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God. Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.

Repent

Be Godly sorry enough to stop wrongdoing. Acts 3:15 *Repent ye therefore and be converted that your sins may be blotted out.*

Confess

Admit, own-up and reveal. I John 1:9 *If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

Forsake	Quit, give up, and leave sin alone once and for all. Be willing to let God take all desire to sin away from you. <i>Isaiah 55:7 Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.</i>
Believe	To rely on, to have faith and confidence in; to put yourself into the hands of another. <i>Romans 10:9</i>
Accept	Take, receive to welcome, claim Jesus as Lord. <i>John 1:12, Rev 3:20, Luke 12:8</i> <i>“A great pleasure in life in doing what people say you cannot do”</i>

Your good works cannot save you!

You attend the church,
 You pray everyday,
 You help those who are in need,
 You serve in your community,
 You religiously follow the church doctrines,
 You obey God’s laws, and
 You did all the good deeds you can think of.

You feel pretty great about yourself. Certainly, you believe that on the day of judgment, God will weigh up all your good works, forgive your sins because you’ve done good, save you from hell and open the gates to heaven. Are you sure you can be saved by doing good works? How certain are you?

If you believe this then THINK again! You are being deceived by evil and have been an unsuspecting victim of his lies because the Bible tells us that good works cannot save you.

Why Is It That Good Works Cannot Save You?

Suppose you prepare an egg omelet. The eggs you cracked were rotten but you don't want to throw them away. To save the rotten eggs, you added fresh eggs to eliminate the rottenness. By doing so, did it really eliminate the eggs' rottenness?

No, the rotten eggs were not made good – they remain rotten. They even ruined the goodness of the fresh eggs.

You can compare yourself and your good works to these eggs. We are all sinners (Romans 3:23) and because of our sins, we became rotten eggs. You don't want to be thrown away in hell so you do good works. Your good works are the good eggs. No matter how much good works you do, they do not eliminate your sins and make you righteous. You still remain a sinner and thus cannot enter the kingdom of God because of your sins. Your good works cannot save you because these good works are like filthy rags before God (Isaiah 64:6) for they are done by you to make you self-righteous.

Our good works have absolutely no effect on our salvation. Our good works cannot save us. If we could be saved by good works, then Christ died for nothing!

Salvation Is A Gift, Not A Reward

The Bible repeatedly says that *we are saved by God's grace through faith and NEVER by good works*. Here are some bible verses to guide you through:

Ephesians 2:8-9

⁸ For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith —and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God —⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast.

Romans 3:28

For we maintain that a person is justified by faith apart from the works of the law.

Galatians 2:16

Know that a person is not justified by the works of the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ. So we, too, have put our faith in Christ Jesus that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law, because by the works of the law no one will be justified.

Titus 3:5-8

⁵ he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, ⁶ whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷ so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life. ⁸ This is a trustworthy saying. And I want you to stress these things, so that those who have trusted in God may be careful to devote themselves to doing what is good. These things are excellent and profitable for everyone.

What Shall I Do To Be Saved?

The only way to be saved is to put your faith in the finished sacrificial work of Jesus Christ on the cross for our sins. You should declare with your mouth that “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, and you will be saved. (Romans 10:9) For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved. (Romans 10:10)

Simple, isn't it? God is ever gentle and humble in heart and He will never heavily burden us. God's yoke is easy and His burden is light. (Matthew 11:30) God loves us so much that He gave His only son Jesus Christ that whoever believes in Him will have

eternal life. (John 3:16) Jesus died in our place at the Cross, bearing our sins and its penalties, and paid a mighty and dear price for us to be saved and have eternal life. Jesus carried all the burdens which are supposed to be ours so that the way to salvation would be simple and easy for us.

If Faith Is The Only Way to Salvation and Not Good Works, Shall I Stop Doing Good Works?

Not at all! Good works are fruits of our salvation. Once saved, we are changed and we will have a change of heart. We become a new creation and the old has gone (2 Corinthians 5:17). This means that our old sinful ways are gone or on their way out as we grow in Christ and struggle against sin. We do good works to honor God and not to be saved or stay saved. We naturally obey God's law and do good works because we are saved.

The Bible clearly states that "faith without works is dead." (James 2:17) If there is no action, it is not really faith but merely a statement, desire, or want. The only way we can show that we have faith is by our works. To be able to demonstrate our faith, and to earn rewards, we must have works.

Please note that James is saying this to all his brothers and sisters (Greek word: *adelphoi*) referring ***to all who believed in Jesus Christ, to all who are already saved***, both men and women, as part of God's family. James teaches us how to truly live a Christian life to be able to receive rewards or blessings from heaven as a true Christian.

The Love of God

Gods Love

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

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.

I John 4:7-10-Beloved, let us love one another; for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love. 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.

None are Good

Romans 3:10-12, 22, 23-As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one. There is none who understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no not one.

Jesus Christ is the Saviour

Matthew 1:21-And she (Mary) will bear a son; and thou shalt call His name JESUS: for he shall save His people from their sins.

I Peter 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.

Isaiah 53:5-But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.

Hebrews 9:22-And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without the shedding of blood is no remission.

I John 1:7-But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his (Gods) Son cleanseth us from all sin.

I Corinthians 5:3-4-For I verily, as absent in body, but present in spirit, have judged already, as though I were present concerning him that hath so done this deed, In the name of our Lord Jesus

Christ, when ye are gathered together, and my spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Acts 5:31-Him hath God exalted with his right hand to be a Prince and Saviour, for to give repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins

Believe, Repent & receive the Savior

Acts 16:30-And brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved? Acts 39, 43 And by him all that believe are justified from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses. Now when the congregation was broken up, many of the Jews and religious proselytes followed Paul and Barnabas; who, speaking to them, persuaded them to continue in the grace of God.

John 3:36-He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.

Acts 17:30-31-And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent: Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained ; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead.

Acts 20:21-Testifying both to the Jews and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.

II Peter 3:9-The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to usward. Not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

John 1:12-But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name.

We invite you to carefully consider and obey Gods message to man.

Consequence of unbelief

John 5:10-He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself: he the believeth not God hath made him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of his Son.

John 3:18, 36-He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.

Hebrews 2:3 How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him.

Revelation 21:8 But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.

If you are not saved, repeat this prayer:

Lord Jesus forgive me for all my sins.

I repent from my ways. Wash me in your blood and cleanse me from all unrighteousness. I believe that you died on the cross, were buried, and on the third day God the Father raised you from the dead. Right now, Lord Jesus I open the door to my HEART and I receive you, into my HEART as my Lord and personal Savior.



Review Questions

1. What happens to those who receive Christ? John 1:12
2. What did John the Baptist call Jesus? John 1:29
3. What is necessary to see the kingdom of God? John 3:3
4. List the two kinds of birth. John 3:6
5. How can we keep from perishing? John 3:16
6. What does a person have if he believes on Jesus? John 3:36

Verses to Memorize: John 1:2, 1:29, (last part); John 3:3, 16, 36

Action: On this week tell (confess) at least three (3) of your friends or family members that you have accepted Christ as your personal Savior.

Lesson Two



Sanctification

Lesson 2: Sanctification

Lesson Aim

Upon the completion of this lesson, you will have a clear understanding of the following specifics of sanctification:

1. Sanctification
2. Who should be sanctified
3. Why is sanctification necessary
4. What is the source of sanctification
5. How to be sanctified
6. The blessings resulting from sanctification

Study scriptures

I Thessalonians 4:3, Hebrews 13:12, II Thessalonians 2:13, John 17:17, I John 1:7, Ephesians 5:26, I Thessalonians 4:4, Isaiah 1:16

Lesson overview

The lesson will provide you with a Biblical definition and examples of sanctification.

Sanctification means to be consecrated or separated from common life or use and dedicated to the service of the Lord. In the Bible days, the altar was consecrated, the vessels, the tabernacle, and its' furnishings. Today the tabernacle is in us, and we are His vessels. Therefore it is essential that we be sanctified, set aside for his Holy use.

This lesson is designed for you to study the scriptures that will reinforce the fact that as a child of God, it is God's will that all saints be sanctified.

You will learn that sanctification is a necessary and continual process, which you must earnestly pursue. Additionally, you will learn some new habits that will be means to your sanctification

You will learn that saints are sanctified and sanctification is for all saints. In other words, you can't be a saint unless you're sanctified.

As we stated previously, you must seek sanctification and it is a continual process in your life. However, sanctification is a provision God has made for us, and there are helps provided in our pursuit of sanctification. Those helps will be discussed in this lesson.

Lastly, we will study the scriptures that talk about the numerous blessings/promises toward the saints, those who are sanctified.

How to be sanctified

Sanctify them through thy truth; thy word is truth. John 17:17. Once again, you are now a child of God and it is the will of God that you become sanctified as stated in I Thessalonians 4:3. For this is the will of God, even your sanctification.

Sanctification means:

1. CLEANSING from sin and all defilement
2. SEPARATION from the world and its lust
3. SETTING ASIDE ourselves for God and His service

This is not only a definite and instantaneous work of Grace, but also a continual process necessary for our spiritual growth. These help in securing your sanctification.

GOD THE FATHER:

Jude 1:1, to them that are sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ.

CHRIST THE SON:

Hebrews 13:12, Wherefore JESUS also, that He might sanctify the people with His own blood, suffered without (outside the city) the gate.

THE HOLY SPIRIT:

II Thessalonians 2:13, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth.

THE BLOOD:

I John 1:7, the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.

**THE HOLY WORD:
(BIBLE)**

Ephesians 5:26, That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the WORD.

What is required of you?

I Thessalonians 4:3, 4. For this is the will of God even your SANCTIFICATION. That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honour. Isaiah 1:16, Wash you, make you clean; put away the evil of your doings from before mine eyes; cease to do evil.

SANCTIFICATION is something that we must pursue or seek earnestly if we are to obtain it. While it is God's work, we have our part in it; to make it the object of our earnest desire and pursuit.

We attain SANTIFICATION through presenting our members as servants (literally slaves) to righteousness and becoming ourselves bondservants unto Christ.

Sanctification & justification

Sanctification follows justification. In justification our sins are completely forgiven in Christ. Sanctification is the process by which the Holy Spirit makes us more like Christ in all that we do, think and desire. True sanctification is impossible apart from the atoning work of Christ on the cross because only after our sins are forgiven can we begin to lead a holy life.

Die to self (flesh)

In sanctification God has to deal with us on the death side as well as on the life side. Sanctification requires our coming to the place of death, but many of us spend so much time there that we become morbid. There is always a tremendous battle before sanctification is realized – something within us pushing with resentment against the demands of Christ. When the Holy Spirit begins to show us what sanctification means, the struggle starts immediately. Jesus said “If anyone comes to Me and does not hate...his own life...he cannot be My disciple” (Luke 14:26).

Strip down

In the process of sanctification, the Spirit of God will strip me down until there is nothing left but myself, and that is the place of death. Am I willing to be myself and nothing more? That is the condition required for sanctification. No wonder Jesus said, “I did not come to bring peace but a sword” (Matthew 10:34). This is where the battle comes, and where so many of us falter. We refuse to be identified with the death of Jesus Christ on this point. We say, “But this is so strict. Surely He does not require that of me.” Our Lord is strict, and He does require that of us

One with Christ

Am I willing to reduce myself down to simply “me”? Am I determined enough to strip myself of all that my friends think of me, and all that I think of myself? Am I willing and determined to hand over my simple naked self to God? Once I am, He will immediately sanctify me completely, and my life will be free from being determined and persistent toward anything except God. (See I Thessalonians 5:23-24)

When you pray, “Lord show me what sanctification means for me?” He will show you. It means being made one with Jesus. Sanctification is not something Jesus puts in me – it is Himself in me. (See I Corinthians 1:30).

Review Questions

1. Sanctification; explain in your own words?
2. In your own words, discuss who needs to be sanctified and why?
3. List at least three (3) “helps” in obtaining sanctification.
4. What are the six (6) means to sanctification?
5. In your own word, list some of the blessings/promises resulting from sanctification?

Verses to memorize: II Thessalonians 2:13

Action: Examine your life. Lay aside everything in you life that is not Holy, sanctify yourself daily.



Lesson Three



The Holy Ghost

Lesson 3: The Holy Ghost

Lesson Aim

Upon the completion of this lesson, you will have a clear understanding of the following specifics related to the Holy Ghost:

- Who is the Holy Ghost
- What is the function of the Holy Ghost within the Trinity
- How do you receive the Holy Ghost
- What is the evidence of the Holy Ghost
- What are the benefits of having the Holy Ghost
- How do you retain or keep the Holy Ghost

You will demonstrate your understanding of the Holy Ghost, his functions and capabilities by answering all of the review questions correctly.

Study scriptures

Matthew 3:16	John 14:26	John 20:22
John 14:16	John 16:13	Acts 1:8
I John 5:7	Romans 8:26	Acts 2:1-4
John 15:26	Acts 11:13	Acts 19:6
John 16:8	John 7:36	Acts 4:31, 33
John 14:16-18	Acts 5:32	Acts 10:46

Lesson overview

This lesson will teach you that the Holy Ghost is a “HE” and discuss some of His character, personality and attributes I.e., He has a will, a mind, thoughts, ability to love, can be lied to, can be grieved, outraged and blasphemed against.

You will learn that although Christ has gone back to sit at the right hand of the Father, through the Holy Ghost He dwells in the bodies and souls of those who will receive Him.

You will learn that the Holy Ghost is equal with the Father and the Son. I John 5:7.

You will realize that it is the will of the Father that we all have the Baptism of the Holy Ghost. He is a gift to the Saints and part of the plan of salvation for all.

You will learn the specific benefits of the Holy Ghost and how to receive and retain this most precious gift.

Benefits of Holy Ghost

1. Comforts – John 14:16-18 “and he shall give you another comforter.” That he may abide with you forever. John 16:8-11 and when he is come, He will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: Of sin, because they believe not on me; of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more; of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged.

1. Teaches – John 14:26, “He shall teach you all things.”

2. Guides – John 16:13, “He will guide you into all truth.”

3. Intercedes – Romans 8:25, “the Spirit itself will maketh intercessions for us.”

4. Empowering you for service-Acts 1:8, “ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost has come upon you.”

5. Direction in selection of leaders-Acts 13:2 “the Holy Ghost said, separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work where unto I have called them.”

6. Pray through-Romans 8:26, “for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groaning which cannot be uttered.”

Spirit gives life-John 6:23, “It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit and they are life.”

How to receive Him

1. Christ the giver—Matthew 3:11, “he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire.”
2. Ask you Heavenly Father in Faith—Luke 11:13, “how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask.”
3. Must be saved from sin—Acts 2:38, “repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ...and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.”
4. Believe according to the scripture—John 7:38, “He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water (Holy Spirit).” James 1:6-8, “But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord. A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.”
5. Obedience to God—Acts 5:32, “And we are his witnesses of these things; and so is also the Holy Ghost, whom God hath given to them that obey him.”
6. Laying on of hands—“You do not have to tarry or wait on the Holy Spirit” Acts 8:17, “...then they laid they their hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost” Acts 10:44—“While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them that which heard the word.” Acts 19:6, “and when Paul had laid his hand upon them, the Holy Ghost came you can receive anywhere once you meet the qualifications (church, home, car) Evidence (speaking in other tongues) as the Spirit of God gives the Utterance.” Acts 2:4, “and they were filled with the Holy Ghost and began to speak with other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance. You must speak in tongues as the Spirit gives utterance, in an unknown language or tongue.” I Corinthians 13:1, “Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels.”

You need the Holy Ghost You need the Holy Spirit in your life. Jesus knew what it would take to build a church the gates of hell could not prevail against and that's exactly what he is doing. After his resurrection he gave some apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers for the perfecting of the saints for the work of the ministry. This means he anointed five ascension gifts to equip and empower you to advance the Kingdom of God. He also sent you the Holy Ghost. Jesus said, "It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart I will send him unto you" (John 16:7). That Comforter is the Holy Spirit.

Jesus received the Holy Ghost

Jesus was the Word of God made flesh. He never became God, He was always God. He was also the Word of God incarnate. "Immanuel; God with us." At the river Jordan we read that Jesus was baptized in water by John the Baptist. John the Baptist was the last Old Testament prophet. This meeting between John and Jesus marked a great transition in the order of things moving from the Old Testament Order of Aaron to the New Testament Order of Melchizedek (Hebrews 7:11) At the water baptism the Holy Ghost descended on Jesus like a dove. The Holy Ghost is not a dove, fire, water, it, thing, or a feeling. His is the third person in the Trinity. Notice the Trinity in this scripture: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. "And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him; And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased" (Matthew 3:16-17)

Third Person of the trinity Again, the Holy Ghost is the third person of the Holy Trinity. John 4:16 and I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you forever. He is as much God as the Father and Son is God. Before Jesus baptized by the Holy Ghost there were no miracles, healings, casting out demons, walking on water, rebuking storms, multiplying bread and fishes or raising the dead. In other words, there was no manifesting the Kingdom of God. The Holy Ghost empowers you to manifest the Kingdom of God. Christ's world changers were eager to get started in ministry but Jesus told them to wait for the "promise of the Father", the Holy Ghost, who would endow them with overcoming power. I John 5:7...for there are three that bear record in heaven,

the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one. 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.

Holy Ghost empowers

This Holy Ghost promise of the Father would empower Christ's disciples to invade, occupy and turn the world upside down for Christ.

“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.” Acts 1:8

I encourage you to receive the baptism of the Holy Ghost with the evidence of speaking in other tongues. This gift is for you right now! A child of God needs the enabling power of the Holy Spirit to live victoriously. The power of God is vital for the challenges that we face when we spread the gospel of Jesus. And, certainly this power that Jesus speaks about is not a one-time phenomenon. In fact, the Bible talks about how the disciples repeatedly sought God from time to time for refreshing. Acts 2:4 “That they were filled with the Holy Spirit.” And after receiving this power, they came back to God for a refreshing against the new threats that they were facing.

Consume the Word of God

God equips you with His power to enable you to proclaim His word successfully. Therefore, it is important that one must soak himself in His Word, which is life in itself. John 6:63 Jesus said “It is the Spirit that gives life, the flesh is of no avail; the words that I have spoken to you are Spirit and life.” The Bible is the word of God and when you read it, you are reading the life-giving power of the Spirit. By soaking in God's word, we activate our faith that helps us walk in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Pursue Gods face

We need to see the face of God diligently and pursue His presence relentlessly. The more we wait on God, the more we renew the power to walk this life in the Spirit. Acts 1:13 All these with one accord devoted themselves to prayer. It was only when the disciples devoted themselves to prayer in Jerusalem during the ten days of waiting in the Upper Room that the power of the Holy Spirit fell on them. Those times that we seek God should be a time

of surrendering and learning to yield to the plans and purpose of the Holy Spirit.

Believe the promise

Galatians 3:5 Paul says, “Does he who supplies the Spirit to you and works miracles among you do so by works of the law, or by hearing with faith?” It is impossible to please God without faith Hebrews 11:6. We cannot walk in the power of the Holy Spirit if we do not walk in the power of God.

Luke 11:13...Jesus says to his disciples, “If you then, who are evil, know how to give good things to your children, how much more will the Heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him! Start by asking today! Ask God to increase your faith. The Lord desires to fill you with His power.

Abide in him

Here’s an important phase that we tend to forget. It is not enough that you receive Gods power once. We need to continue to dwell in Him. You need to take time to study the word and abide in it. John 14 is a chapter that you should study.

Love one another

If you go on reading that verse you will see Jesus gives the commandment John 15:12, This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. It is interesting how then Jesus goes on talking about bearing fruit in verse 16. And then comes back to taking about loving one another in verse 17.

Towards the end of the ministry of Jesus, He took much efforts talking to them about loving each other and even showing them service by washing their feet.

In other words, Jesus does not want us to simply walk in His power but want us walk in His love. Walking in His love is to walk in His power! If we are mightily used by God and do not love one another, the fruits that we bear are sour and do not glorify God wholesomely!

In summary

Retain the fullness of the Holy Ghost by...

1. Feeding on the Word of God
2. Following His directions and leadings
3. Fasting and Praying
4. Witnessing to lost souls daily

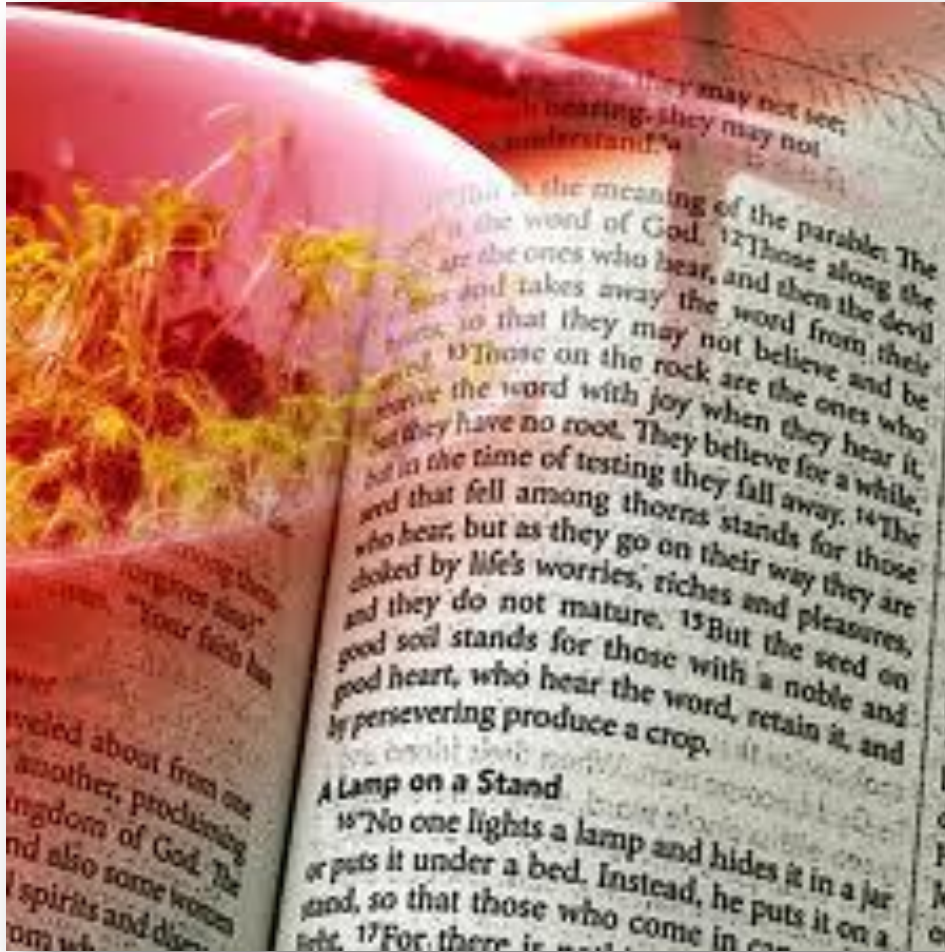
Review Questions

1. In your own words, explain the functions of the Holy Ghost. John 16:8-11
2. What is the initial evidence indicating that the Holy Ghost has come?
Acts 2:4
3. List the benefits of having the Holy Ghost John 14:16-18, John 16:13, Romans 8:26 and Acts 1:8
4. What must a Saint do to retain the Holy Ghost?

Verses to memorize: Acts 1:8, Acts 2:4

Action: If you have not received, ask God to baptize you with the Holy Ghost. If you have received, ask God to refill you daily.

Lesson Four



The Word of God

Lesson 4: The Word of God

Lesson aim

Upon the completion of the lesson, you will understand:

- What is the Word of God
- The importance of the Word of God
- How to study the Bible effectively

How to develop good Bible study habits

Study scriptures

- Mark 13:31
- John 12:48
- John 14:24
- John 8:51
- I John 2:3

Lesson overview

1. What is the Word?
 - Jesus is the Word, John 1:14, Matthew 24:35
 - World created by the Word, Psalms 33:6, Genesis 1:3
 - Word is eternal, Mark 13:31
2. The importance of reading and meditating on God's Word.
 - Word gives life, Psalms 119:11, Deuteronomy 8:3, Psalms 1:1-3
 - Food for the soul, I Peter 2:2
 - Purifies and cleanses, Psalms 119:9, John 15:3, John 17:17, Hebrews 4:12
 - Directs our path, Psalms 119:105
 - Saved by the Word, Romans 1:16, I Peter 1:23
 - Instructs us, James 1:22
 - Defensive weapon, Ephesians 6:17
3. How to Study the Bible effectively



Twelve rules for effective holy bible study

1. **Seek the help of the Holy Spirit.** The spirit has been given to illumine the scriptures and make them alive to you as you study them. Yield to his enlightenment.
2. **Interpret the Bible literally.** Take the words to mean what they do in ordinary usage. Pay attention to the grammar, sentence structure and paragraphs.
3. **Consider the immediate test.** The specific setting of the words IS tremendously important. It will usually show you when a non- literal interpretation is called for and will help you understand the passage you are reading
4. **Keep the whole Bible in mind.** Developing a firm understanding of the total message of the Bible will keep you from building a false doctrine on the wrong interpretation of one verse.
5. **Concentrate on essential truths.** Avoid wrestling with debatable issues, and resist the temptation to become sidetracked with speculative matters.
6. **Remember the original readers.** Look for the one meaning the passage had for the people to whom it was written before you begin making contemporary applications.
7. **Begin with less difficult passages.** You should have a working knowledge of one of the gospels and Romans before you tackle Ezekiel or Revelation.
8. **Move from known to unknown.** Interpret difficult, obscure, and controversial passages in the light of those that are clear and easily understood.
9. **Enjoy Biblical imagery.** Word pictures (metaphors, similes, figures of speech, symbols) help make the Bible sparkle. Use a dictionary to help you find and understand their meaning.
10. **Be sensitive to prophetic patterns.** Try to determine which elements of a prophecy were fulfilled shortly after it was made. Then see which were fulfilled at Christ's first coming. Finally discover which will be fulfilled when He returns.
11. **Get the big picture first.** Read a large section or an entire book in the Bible before you try to deal in depth with the smaller chapter and verse divisions within it. Each writer has his own style and a particular message to convey in each book he wrote.
12. **Realize your limitation.** Recognize that in this life we will never be able to comprehend fully the wonderful truths of this God inspired Book.

Guidelines	for study:	Old Testament
Kind of Writing	Cultural and Spiritual Aspects	Ask yourself these key questions?
HISTORY/BIOGRAPHY (Genesis through Esther, except Leviticus)	God reached down to people where they were and revealed Himself and His truth to them progressively.	What happened? When? Why was it recorded? What does It reveal about God? About human history? What practical lesson does it teach for us today?
LAW (Leviticus, sections of Exodus, Numbers and Deuteronomy)	These laws were given to Israel living in the midst of extremely wicked pagan nations. Some laws were adapted to prevailing practices of that day.	What was the purpose of the law? (Gal. 3:19 – 25). Is the particular law I am reading a basic precept? If it is a civil law, why did God give it? If ceremonial, how does it foreshadow N. T. salvation? What can I learn from it?
POETRY/WISDOM LITERATURE (Job through Song of Solomon)	Imagery abounds in Hebrew poetry. It repeats ideas in different words rather than in rhyme. Proverbs generally expresses principles, not divine promises.	What did this passage mean to people in the ages before Christ? What does it mean to me? What does It tell me about worship? About principles for living? About God?
PROPHECY (Isaiah through Malachi)	Prophecy is not simply prewritten history. The prophecies of distant events were interwoven with events near at hand.	What was the historical context of this prophecy? Was it fulfilled before Christ? In Christ? What elements are still unfulfilled? What can I learn from this prophecy?

Guidelines	for study:	New Testament
Kind of Writing	Cultural and Spiritual Aspects	Ask yourself these key questions
GOSPELS (Matthew thru John) Jesus' birth, teachings, miracles, suffering, death, resurrection, and ascension	Jesus spoke mainly to Jews living under the law of Moses and worshiping in the temple. The Mosaic I system was in force till the close of each gospel.	What did our Lord's acts and words mean to the people of His day? How can I apply them to my life today?
ACTS: The historical record of first-century Christianity	The good news of salvation through Christ was accepted by both Jews and Gentiles. The transition from Judaism to Christianity occurred gradually.	What elements in the experiences and teachings of the apostles had special significance during this transition? Which of them can I apply to my life?
EPISTLES (Romans thru Jude) Inspired letters written to churches and/or their leaders.	The churches and their leaders are given careful instructions from God regarding belief and practice for the entire church age.	Who wrote the letter? Why? To whom? What is the main point? What basic doctrine is taught? How does it apply to my life? To the church? To the non-Christian?
REVELATION: A portrayal of God's end time program in symbolic language.	A message for the churches near the close of the first century and for believers through the ages. It deals primarily with future events.	Why was the book written? To whom was it sent? What does it say? What value did it have for the original readers? What help can we derive from it?

Selecting a Study Bible

Dr. Irving Jensen, Professor of Bible at Bryan College, whose Inductive studies of the Bible have been widely distributed, begins his class on Bible Study Methods by pointing out the four essentials to Bible study:

- (1) your Bible
- (2) your eyes
- (3) a pencil
- (4) paper

The starting place is the Bible.

A believer's personal study Bible must be chosen wisely. He must first consider the translation he will use. Then he may decide to purchase a study Bible. Its explanations and special features will provide useful information, save time, and keep him/her from coming to wrong conclusions. Let's look at translations and study Bibles he/she may wish to use.

Bible Translations

The King James Version. This translation has been in use for centuries, and its picturesque language is familiar to millions. It is helpful to use a reference edition that gives the meaning of archaic words.

The New King James Version. This recent translation, updates the language of the KJV while retaining its unique style.

The New American Standard Bible. This is the most literal translation of the original Hebrew and Greek languages.

The PC Study Bible. This is a computer aided Bible study tool that combines the Bible (all versions), a concordance and numerous Bible study reference tools.

Seven things Bible study does for us

1. Discovers and convicts us of sin (Hebrews 4:12).
2. Cleanses us from the pollution of sin (1 John 1:9).
3. Imparts strength (Exodus 12; Deuteronomy 8:3).
4. Instructs us in what we are to do (James 1:22).
5. Provides a sword for victory over sin (Ephesians 6: 17).
6. Makes our lives fruitful (Psalm 1:1-3).
7. Gives us power to pray (John 15:7).

Bible Study Checklist:

Questions to ask about a Bible passage:

- ✓ **Do I know what all the words mean in the passage I am interpreting?**
- ✓ **Have I read the verses immediately preceding the passage?**
- ✓ **Have I scanned the preceding and following chapters?**
- ✓ **Do I understand the purpose of the book in which the passage appears?**
- ✓ **Do I understand the figures of speech?**
- ✓ **Have I looked up in a Bible atlas all the places mentioned?**
- ✓ **Have I used a Bible dictionary to identify all the people named?**
- ✓ **Have I read the parallel passages?**
- ✓ **Have I consulted other Scriptures on this topic?**
- ✓ **Have I followed the rules for interpreting symbols, types, or prophecies?**
- ✓ **Have I double-checked my interpretation with reliable commentaries?**
- ✓ **Have I kept from focusing on tiny details to the exclusion of basic truths?**

- ✓ **Have I found any promises to claim?**
- ✓ **Are there commands to be obeyed?**
- ✓ **Am I willing to apply these truths to my own life?**
- ✓ **Are there any sins to be avoided?**
- ✓ **Have I identified any Old Testament quotes and checked their context?**

Tools for Bible study:

Bookstores today are filled with publications designed to aid readers in their personal study of the Scriptures. Here are just a few that we recommend.

Concordances

Strong's exhaustive Concordance of the Bible.

This has been the standard Bible study reference tool for decades. Its alphabetical listing of every occurrence of Bible words (KJV text) offers helpful cross-references. A concise Hebrew and Greek dictionary adds to the volume's usefulness.

Young's Analytical Concordance to the Bible.

Cruden's Complete Concordance.

(Other concordances are now available for current translations.)

Bible Encyclopedias

A Bible encyclopedia is often a good starting point for deeper study of a particular book or topic. The Zondervan Pictorial encyclopedia of the Bible (5 volumes), Wycliffe Bible encyclopedia (2 Volumes).

Bible Handbooks

These handy study helps contain introductory material, background, information, charts, maps. Pictures, and brief commentary.

The New International Version.

This translation combines textual scholarship with a readable literary style.

The New Unger's Bible Handbook

Eerdman's Handbook to the Bible

Study Bibles

The New Scofield Reference Bible.

The reliable work of C.I. Scofield was updated in 1966 under the chairmanship of E. Schuyler English. Its footnotes, summaries of doctrines, marginal materials, and maps are very helpful to the Bible student. It is premillennial, pretribulational, and dispensational. Introductions are given to each Bible book, and chapter and section headings are provided.

The Thompson Chain-Reference Bible.

Its main feature is an elaborate system of indexed, topical summaries of 4200 subjects in the Bible. These topics are arranged in a way that makes a wealth of information readily available to the Bible student. Other useful features are an analysis of each Bible book, outline biographies of Bible persons, a harmony of the gospels, and an indexed Rand-McNally Atlas. This is available in both KJV and NIV.

The Ryrie Study Bible.

The footnotes of this Moody Press publication by Charles Ryrie form an abbreviated commentary on the entire Bible. A marginal cross-reference system and valuable index are provided, along with Hammond maps and timeline charts.

Bible Dictionaries

An explanation of the important words of the Bible.
Unger's Bible Dictionary
New Bible Dictionary, Eerdmans.

Bible Commentaries

The Wycliffe Bible Commentary. This is a brief but sound exposition offering background information, outlines, and commentary.

The Bible Knowledge Commentary.

Written by the staff of Dallas Theological Seminary, this work combines fine scholarship with clarity, making it ideal for all levels of Bible students.

Bible Atlas

An atlas can be a valuable guide for putting people and places in proper perspective. Atlas of Bible Lands

Baker's Bible Atlas

Word Studies

For gaining a greater understanding of word meanings in biblical, historical, and linguistic context, the following books are excellent.

An Expository Dictionary of Biblical Words

by W.E. Vine

Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament (2 Vols.)

Dictionary of New Testament Theology (3 Vols.)

Topical Studies

All the verses on a particular topic are collected and classified.

Nave's Topical Bible

Bible Introductions

These works offer insight on authorship, theology, and historical background.

A Survey of Old Testament Introduction

Introduction to the New Testament

New Testament Introduction

Helps for Bible reading:

The Bible is the Message of God to man. II Tim. 3:14-17.

- When in trouble or sorrow, read John 14:1-3, 27; Heb. 12:6-7; Psa. 46.
- When you worry, read Matthew 6:19-34.
- When you have the blues, read Psalm 91.
- When God seems far away, read Psalm 139.
- When you want rest and peace, read Matthew 11:25-30.
- When in sickness, read James 5:14-15; Psalm 41:2-4.
- When in danger, read Luke 8:22-25; Psalm 91.

- When men fail you, read 1 Peter 5:7; Psalm 23.
- When lonely or fearful, read Matt. 6:25-34, 11 :28-30.
- When discouraged or tempted, read I Cor. 10:13, James 1:12; Isaiah 40:28-31.
- When you have sinned, read 1 John 1:8-9; Heb. 7:25; Psalm 51:1-12.
- When you forget your blessing, read Psalms 103.
- When your faith seems failing, read Heb. 11; Psalm 34:17,22.
- When you want courage, read II Cor. 12:9.
- When looking for happiness, read Colossians 3:1-17; Psalms 1
- When leaving home for travel, read Psalm 121.
- When you grow bitter or critical. Read I Corinthians 13.
- If you are not a Christian, read John 3:16; Matt. 10:32-33; 22:35-40; 25:31-46; Rom. 10:9-13; Eph. 2:8..9.
- If you are a Christian soldier, read I Tim. 6:12; II Tim. 2:3; Eph. 6:11-17.
- You have a divine Saviour, read John 6:47; 20:31; Acts 10:43.
- Assurance of God's mercy, read John 5:24; Psalms 40:1-5.
- Assurance of God's protection. Read Matt. 10:29-31; 28:20; Rom. 8:31 -39; Phil. 4:6, 19; Psalms 62; 139:1-12.
- Rewards of a righteous life, read Matt. 5:1-12; 10:42; II Tim. 4:7-8; I Cor. 15:41-58; Psalms 37.

The ABC's of Christina behavior:

Act instead of argue.
Build instead of brag.
Climb instead of criticize.
Dig instead of depreciate.
Encourage instead of envy.
Fight instead of faint.
Give instead of grumble.
Help instead of harm.
Invite instead of ignore.
Join instead of jeer.
Kneel instead of kick.
Love instead of lampoon.
Move instead of mold.
Nurture instead of neglect.
Obey instead of object.

Pray instead of pout.
Qualify instead of quit.
Rescue instead of ridicule.
Shout instead of shrink.
Try instead of tremble.
Undergird instead of undermine.
Vindicate instead of vilify.
Witness instead of wilt.
Exterminate instead of excuse.
Yield instead of yell.
Zip instead of zigzag.

The word lets me know who I am:

1.	GOD'S CHILD FOR I AM BORN AGAIN OF THE INCORRUPTIBLE SEED OF THE WORD OF GOD WHICH LIVETH AND ABIDETH FOREVER - 1 Peter 1 :23
2.	FORGIVEN ALL MY SINS AND WASHED IN THE BLOOD – Eph. 1:1, Heb 9:14; Col: 1 John 2:12; 1:9
3.	A NEW CREATURE – 1Cor.5:17
4.	THE TEMPLE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT – 1 Cor. 6:19
5.	DELIVERED FROM THE POWER OF DARKNESS & TRANSLATED INTO GOD'S KINGDOM - Col. 1:13
6.	REDEEMED FROM THE CURSE OF THE LAW- 1 Peter 1:1B; 19 Gal. 3:1
7.	BLESSED - Deut.26:1-14; Gal.3:9
8.	A SAINT – Rom.1:7;1Cor:1:2;Phil
9.	THE HEAD AND NOT THE TAIL - Deut. 28:13
10.	ABOVE ONLY AND NOT BENEATH - Deut. 28:13
11.	HOLY AND WITHOUT BLAME BEFORE HIM IN LOVE - 1 Peter 1:16; Eph 1:4
12.	ELECT – Col.3:12;Rom8:33
13.	ESTABLISHED TO THE END – 1 Cor. 1:8
14.	MADE RIGH BY THE BLOOD OF JESUS - Eph 2:13
15.	VICTORIOUS - Rev.21:7
16.	SET FREE – John.8:31-33

17. STRONG IN THE LORD – Eph. 6:10
18. DEAD TO SIN – Rom. 6:2,11; 1 Peter 2:24
19. MORE THAN A CONQUEROR - Rom 8:37
20. JOINT HEIRS WITH CHRIST - Rom 8:17
21. SEALED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT OF PROMISE - Eph 1:13
22. IN CHRIST JESUS BY HIS DOING - 1 Cor. 1:30
23. ACCEPTED IN THE BELOVED – Eph. 1:6
24. COMPLETE IN HIM – Col.2:10
25. CRUCIFIED WITH CHRIST- Gal. 2:20
26. ALIVE WITH CHRIST - Eph.2:5
27. FREE FROM CONDEMNATION - Rom. 8:1
28. RECONCILED TO GOD – 11 Cor. 5:18
29. QUALIFIED TO SHARE IN HIS INHERITANCE – Col. 1:12
30. FIRMLY ROOTED, BUILT UP, ESTABLISHED IN MY FAITH AND OVERFLOWING WITH GRATITUDE – Col. 2
31. CIRCUMCISED WITH THE CIRCUMCISION MADE WITHOUT HANDS – Col. 2:11.
32. A FELLOW CITIZEN WITH THE SAINTS AND OF THE HOUSEHOLD OF GOD - Eph. 2:19
33. BUILT UPON THE FOUNDATION OF THE APOSTLES AND PROPHETS, JESUS CHRIST HIMSELF BEING THE “CHIEF CORNERSTONE” - Eph. 2 :20
34. IN THE WORLD AS HE IS IN HEAVEN - 1 John. 4:17
35. BORN OF GOD AND THE EVIL ONE DOES NOT TOUCH ME – 1 John. 5:18
36. HIS FAITHFUL FOLLOWER – Rev. 17:4b; Eph. 5:1
37. OVERTAKEN WITH BLESSINGS - Deut. 28:2 Eph. 1:3
38. HIS DISCIPLE BECAUSE I HAVE LOVE FOR OTHERS – John 4-35
39. THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD - Matt. 5:14

40. THE SALT OF THE EARTH - Matt. 5:13
41. THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD – 11 Cor. 5:1; 1 Peter 2:24
42. A PARTAKER OF HIS DIVINE NATURE – 11 Peter 1:4
43. CALLED OF GOD - II Tim 1:9
44. THE FIRST FRUITS AMONG HIS CREATURES - James 1:18
45. CHOSEN - 1 Thes.1:4;Eph1:4;1Pet
46. AN AMBASSADOR FOR CHRIST- 11 Cor 5:20
47. GOD’S WORKMANSHIP CREATED IN CHRIST JESUS FOR GOOD WORKS- Eph 2:10
48. THE APPLE OF “MY FATHER’S EYE”- Deut. 32: 10; Ps. 17:8
49. HEALED BY THE STRIPES OF JESUS- 1 Peter 2:24; Is. 53:6
50. BEING CHANGED INTO HIS IMAGE – 11 Cor. 3:18; Phil 1:6
51. RAISED UP WITH CHRIST AND SEATED IN HEAVENLY PLACES- Col 2:12; Eph. 2:8
52. BELOVED DF GOD - Col 3:12; Rom 1:7; 1 Thess. 1
53. ONE IN CHRIST! HALLELUJAH! - John 17:21-23

I HAVE:

54. THE MIND OF CHRIST – Phil. 2:5; 1 Cor. 2:16
55. OBTAINED AN INHERITANCE- Eph. 1:11
56. ACCESS BY ONE SPIRIT UNTO THE FATHER - Heb. 4:16; Eph 2:18
57. OVERCOME THE WORLD - I Jn.5:4
58. EVERLASTING LIFE & WILL NOT BE CONDEMNED – John 5:24 NIV: In. 6:47
59. THE PEACE OF GOD WHICH PASSES UNDERSTANDING- Phil. 4:7
60. RECEIVED THE POWER, THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT; POWER TO LAY HANDS ON THE SICK AND SEE THEM RECOVER: POWER TO CAST OUT DEMONS; POWER OVER ALL THE POWER OF THE ENEMY AND NOTHING SHALL BY ANY MEANS HURT ME - Mk. 16:17; 18b;lk. 10:17,

I LIVE:

61. BY AND IN THE LAW OF THE SPIRIT OF LIFE IN “CHRIST JESUS” -

,Rom. 8:2

I WALK:

62. IN CHRIST JESUS - Col.2:6

I SHALL:

63. DO ALL THINGS IN CHRIST JESUS-Phil. 4:13

64. DO EVEN GREATER WORKS THAN CHRIST JESUS- John. 14:12

I POSSESS:

65. THE GREATER ONE IN ME BECAUSE, GREATER IS HE WHO IS IN ME THAN HE WHO IS IN THE WORLD- I John. 4:4

I PRESS:

66. TOWARD THE MARK FOR THE PRIZE OF THE HIGH-CALLING OF GOD Phil. 3:14

67. ALWAYS TRIUMPH IN CHRIST -11 Cor. 2:14
SHOW FORTH HIS PRAISE -1 Peter 2:9

IS MY LIFE:

68. HID WITH CHRIST IN GOD - Col. 3:3

Confession brings about possession

Confess God's word

I _____ decree on this day
_____ that I am a child of the King. I am therefore entitled to all the benefits and promises as set forth in his last will and Testament, which is the word of God. He has given me:

1. **SALVATION** - "For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men." Titus 2:11
2. **JOY**- "These things have I spoken unto you that my joy might remain in you and that your joy might be full. John 15:11
3. **PEACE** - "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you." John. 14:27
4. **PROSPERITY** - "I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth." III John. 3
5. **HEALING** - "But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed." Isaiah. 53:15

6. **ETERNAL LIFE** – “For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son that whosoever believeth on him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” St. John 3:16

**ON THIS DAY I CONFESS AND THEREFORE I POSSESS MY INHERITANCE!
PRAISE GOD.**

Review Questions

1. What is the Word?
2. Why is the Word important?
3. What are some guidelines for Bible study?

Verse to memorize: Psalms 119:11
Romans 1:16
Ephesians 6:17

Action: List your personal plans for consistent Bible study. For example, attend Tuesday night Bible study, attend Sunday School or Home and Foreign Mission.

Lesson Five



Prayer and Fasting

Lesson 5: Prayer & Fasting

Lesson aim

Upon the completion of the lesson, you will understand the importance of and have a desire to consistently fast and pray:

Study Scripture

<u>Prayer</u>	<u>Fasting</u>
Matthew 18:19	Psalms 35:13
Matthew 21:22	Matthew 9:14
Luke 22:42	Isaiah 58:5
Luke 11: 5-13	Matthew 6:16–18
Romans 8: 26-27	Joel 1:14
	Acts 13:2

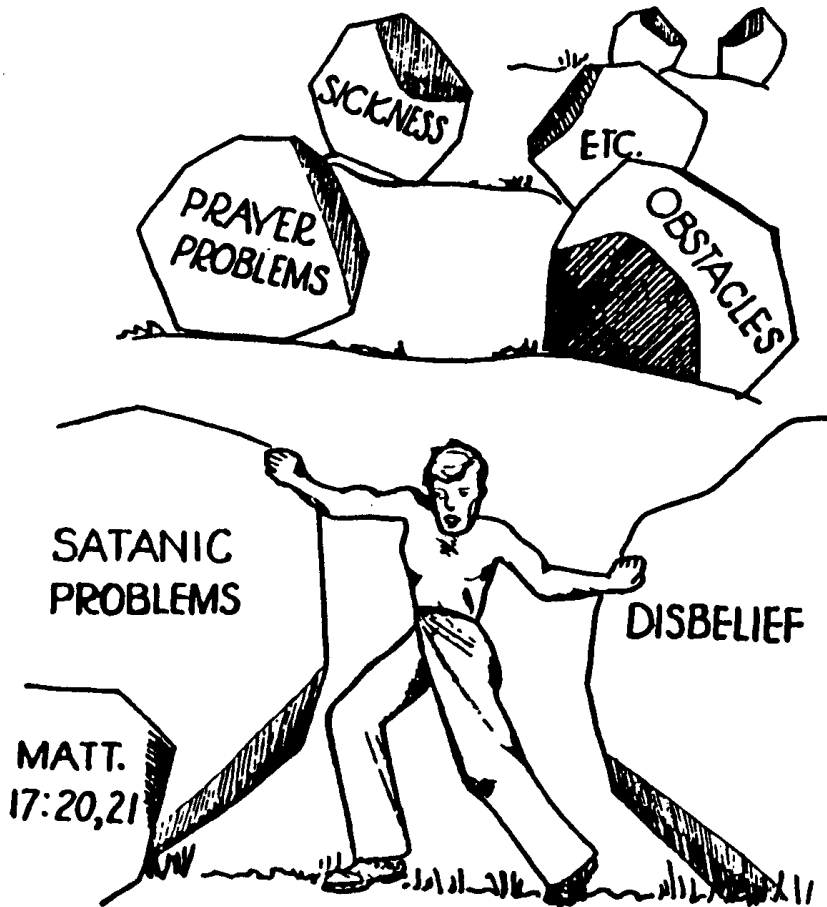
Lesson overview

1. What is Prayer?
 - Two- Way communication with God
 - Go before the throne
 - Make request known, Philippians 4:6
 - Primary key to Spiritual growth (there are many)
 - Part of Spiritual Armour
2. Why Pray?
 - Bible says pray without ceasing, I Thessalonians 5:17
 - Power over enemy
 - Stir-up gifts
 - Feed spiritual man, Jude 1: 20
 - Resist temptation Luke 22: 40
3. Conditions for answered prayer
 - Contrition, II Chronicles 7:14 Faith, Mark 11:24
 - Righteousness, James 5:16
 - Obedience, I John 3:22
4. Causes of Failure in Prayer
 - Disobedience
 - Secret Sin
 - Neglect of mercy
 - Stubbornness
 - Self-indulgence
5. How to Pray
 - Designate a time and place, make an appointment with God
 - Attend prayer service
 - Bind hindrances; Keep mind on God
 - Pray through
 - Be consistent and persistent
 - You need the Holy Ghost to pray in the Spirit, Romans 8:27

6. Notable Prayers in the Bible

- Abraham for Sodom, Genesis 18:23
- Jacob at Peniel, Genesis 32: 24
- Jesus on Cross, Luke 23:34
- Hezekiah when sick, Hab 3: 1

MOUNTAINS OF



A CHRISTIAN'S EXPERIENCE WITH FASTING & PRAYER

Travailing prayer

Nowadays the great excuse is "I am too busy to pray and to fast. No one is ever too busy to live on "THE WORDS OF GOD." (Matthew 4:4) Jesus Christ was busier than the busiest people, yet He always saw to it that HE GAVE A SPECIAL TIME TO PRAYER. When the throngs were crowding around Him, and there were people to be healed, and men and women needed the Gospel preached to them, He would withdraw at such a time from the multitudes and go into the wilderness to pray. Luke 5:15, 16: "But so much the more went abroad the report concerning Him: and great multitudes came together to hear, and to be healed of their infirmities. But He withdrew Himself in the deserts and prayed." It appears that the busier Christ's life was, the more He prayed. No man could be busier than Christ was, yet He always had time to pray. In other words, no person whether king or president, banker or business man, janitor or servant, ever becomes too busy to pray to his Creator.

We should never take time for other things of life such as our work or business, housecleaning, cooking, eating, or any other temporal duty until we first take time to pray. "Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness." Many times our blessed Jesus had not time to eat (Mark 3:20). Sometimes he had no time for needed rest and sleep (Mark 6:31, 33, 46), but He always took time to pray; and the more the work crowded, the more He prayed.

Many a man mightily used of God has learned this secret from Christ, and when the work has crowded more than usual they have set an unusual amount of time apart for prayer.

Christ's very life was but a definition of prayer and fasting. If Jesus the Son of God, needed to fast and pray, how much more do we need to do so.

What is Fasting?

Fasting is abstinence from food or anything of nutritional value. There are a lot of misconceptions about fasting. Based on research, doctors indicate that fasting is good for the physical body. The Bible lets us know that fasting is good for the spiritual part of man. As we fast and pray, it prepares our heart in humility, it whips the flesh into line and helps to get rid of unbelief. Our main objective is to seek God in prayer and the humiliation of the flesh through fasting.

Fasting is a symbol of mourning, going down into repentance and chastening of the heart. One of the main purposes of the fast is to

forsake all pleasures, of which, the eating pleasure is the keystone to all other pleasures.

Types of fasts

There are many different types of fasts. The type of fast you go on should be directed by God. Some of the types are as follows:

- no food or water
- water only - no food
- no pleasant bread (foods which you do not like)
- one meal a day
- juice and water only

Additional study scriptures:

- Psalms 35:13
- Proverbs 30:8, 9
- Matthew 17:21

What to do before you fast

Before the fast there are some very important guidelines to follow:

1. Eat light, do not eat heavy meals. Eat light items such as soup, fruit, salads, juice etc. This will help to avoid that stuffed feeling during the fast. Do not drink any items containing caffeine, such as coffee, coke, *etc.* During a fast, caffeine will concentrate itself in the blood stream and around the brain cells, causing severe headaches. Clean your system before the fast by drinking warm, salty water, taking a laxative, enema, *etc.* You will be more comfortable during the fast. If you are fasting more than three days, an enema should be taken every 3 to 4 days to rid the body of wastes.
2. Months and weeks before going on a long fast, eat nutritious meals and take vitamins. This will help to assure that your body is built up in protein and iron. This will also help to avoid much of the weakness felt during a long fast.
3. Be very prayerful before the fast, so the enemy cannot hinder you from going on the fast. Pray before the fast and anoint yourself with oil. Repent of any sin, forgive and ask for forgiveness, if necessary. James 5:16, Matt 6:17, 18, Ps. 66:18.
4. If possible, plan to take some *time* off work during the fast so that you will have time to pray, shut in and diligently seek the Lord. Ps. 42:1-2. Do not announce to the world that you are going on a fast. Whatever you do in secret, God will reward

openly. You are not obligated to explain to anyone why you are on a fast; this is between you and God. In addition, never ask another saint, "Are you fasting?" Fasting is very personal between you and God.

5. If you are married, obtain your spouses approval for you to go on the fast. I Co. 7:5.

Additional study scriptures:

- Matthew 16:24, 16:14-15

How to fast-during the fast:

There are also some guidelines to follow during the fast. Be very prayerful and don't do a lot of talking. Let your words be few. You can loose the victory and lose your blessing by running your mouth too much. Pray without ceasing. Travail in prayer day and night, Lu. 6:12, Ps.91:15 Watch and pray that ye enter not into temptation.
Mt. 26: 41.

Read the word often and fail not to assemble yourself in the house of God. God will speak to you through his word and give you great revelation knowledge during the fast.
Deut. 8:3, In Deut. 17:17 Talk to God and let him talk to you. Ask the Holy Ghost to lead, guide and direct you and give you specific instructions. Keep a note pad handy - make note of things the Lord gives you during the fast. You may want to keep a diary during the fast for future reference.

Don't try to appear to man as though you are fasting. Anoint your head, wash your face and look your BEST. Matthew 6:16-18 Your father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly,

During a fast, your body will expel toxins through your skin, mouth, nostrils, urine and bowels. It is therefore, essential to keep the body clean by bathing often, brushing the teeth often and using mouthwash, breath spray, etc. If mints are used, use sugarless mints. If you are drinking later during your fast, add a few drops of pure lemon juice to the water. This will help to cleanse the mouth and digestive system of odors. Do not eat a lot of candy and mints, etc. because they contain sugar, which is nutritional, your goal is to deny flesh of any pleasure substances.

Additional study scriptures:

- Corinthians. 6:19
- Corinthians 9:27

How to fast-after the fast:

After the fast, it is very important to break it properly. Many have gone on fasts and broke them incorrectly, too rapidly, too soon, etc., and caused a severe reproach against the power of fasting. This was due to a lack of wisdom or knowledge, some have gotten very sick and others have died because of the failure to break a LONG fast properly.

At the end of the fast, the devil's job is to make you lose the victory and lose the natural and spiritual blessings from the fast. BUT THE DEVIL IS A LIAR. YOU HAVE THE VICTORY RIGHT NOW IN THE NAME OF JESUS.

The devil tried to tempt Jesus after he had fasted for 40 days and 40 nights - Jesus defeated the devil by using the word of God: -IT IS WRITTEN. Matt. 4:1. We have the same power and authority to put the word on the devil.

Breaking the fast:

"IF THOU BE THE SON OF GOD COMMAND THAT THESE STONES BE MADE BREAD." Matthew 4:3.

The devil also said, "Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?" "Ye shall not surely die:" then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil." Gen. 3:1, 4, 5.

Of course Jesus could have turned these stones into delicious lamb chops or anything else He choose. After a complete fast any person is likely to find that true hunger returns in the lame way it did for Jesus.

Many persons have fasted and prayed very earnestly and secured marvelous and definite results, only to have the old devil appear and tempt them so terribly that they overate at the conclusion of the fast and wrecked their bodies though they did not kill themselves.

Temptations from Satan

Satan appeared before Eve, and persuaded her to eat a food and disbelieve God, which caused her and the race to DIE. Satan also tempted Christ in this same way. Now crucial time when the desire for food was so very real. There is no appetite stronger than the returning hunger after the cleansing of all parts of the body through

the fast. This is the most difficult time of the fast. Self-restraint and willpower at this time must be strongly exercised.

Satan chose this very time to attack Jesus. His object was to tempt Christ to the extent He would turn the stones into a heavy food, eat it and destroy Himself. Yes, Satan wanted to kill Him. He failed to destroy Him as a babe and here was another opportunity to do so. Thank Jesus He knew no sin and right here He overthrew the devil by the Word of God. "Man shall not live by bread ALONE." Matt 4:4

Breaking the fast

A new baby has to go into a breaking-in period also, after it is born. The baby breaks a fast. It has to learn to eat for the first time.

The stomach will require very slow and gradual breaking in before it becomes fully adjusted to food again.

Many complications can develop. The only safe way is to take it slowly and easily. The more slowly one regains his weight; the better he will be physically. If nervousness develops or any type of ill effect is noticed, one should remember to retard the breaking in period. It will require almost the same length of time to break into regular eating as the duration of the fast. If one fasted twenty-one days, it will require twenty-one days properly and gradually to break into regular eating. Lost weight, which is about a pound a day, will not be regained in twenty-one days; it will take much longer to regain all the weight lost.

Any machine, while gaining or regaining impetus must begin slowly and work up gradually to higher pressure and speed as it gains momentum. The same is true of the human body. The more slowly it begins its activity, the better. It will be found that if this rule is followed, particularly in relation to digestive activities, troubles will be avoided in the days immediately following the breaking of the fast and in days to come. A bloating tendency may occur in individual cases where the weight returns too rapidly. This indicates the fast is being broken too rapidly or wrongly. This may be corrected by fasting without either food or water, taking enemas and bathing in warm or hot water, then breaking the fast all over again.

One will experience no difficulty if the fast is broken judiciously. Here are some helpful suggestions for the proper breaking of different length FASTS:

AFTER A FAST FROM TWO TO FOUR DAYS:

First day: Three meals of choice fresh fruit, oranges, grapefruit, tangerines, grapes, apples, peaches, tomatoes, or any other agreeable fruit.

Second day: Light vegetable meals. Leave off heavy food for several days.

Breaking the fast (Cont.): AFTER FASTING SEVEN DAYS TO TWO WEEKS:

First day: First two meals or fresh fruit juice in six ounce serving. Third meal, choice or fresh fruit. Prune juice is an ideal bowel regulator.

Second day: Three or four meals of fresh fruit.

Third day: A half pint or any type or milk at each serving, light soups or very small finely chewed green salads. Yogurt restores healthful bacteria.

Fourth day: Vegetable meal that are green or leafy or milk or soup. Choose a vegetable diet for nearly as many days as you fasted; gradually increase quantity from small diet. Never eat between meals.

AFTER A FAST FROM TWO TO THREE WEEKS:

First day: Three meals of fruit juice in four to six ounce servings diluted approximately with equal amount of water.

Second day: Three or four meals of same, somewhat less diluted and in larger quantities.

Third day: Three or four meals of choice fresh fruit. Yogurt or cultured buttermilk- beneficial.

Fourth day: Fresh fruit, milk diet only, soup, or light green salad.

Fifth day: Light vegetable meals, fruit salad, soup or milk diet.

Succeeding days: Same as above, but quantity can gradually be increased. Stay with vegetable diet for approximately as many days as fasted, then slowly go into regular eating but never wrongly as one meals should be four and one half hour or more apart. Tomatoes, ripe melons, berries may be classified as fruit if agreeable.

The longer you stick to vegetable meals. Immediately after the fast, the more benefit you will derive from the fast. And this applies spiritually also. The spiritual success cannot always be measured while fasting, but many glorious experiences of victory are realized afterwards.

Christ observed the Scribes and Pharisees in the way and manner in which they broke their fasts. To break a fast hastily and expect Jesus to forgive us is acting presumptuously. It is like tempting Him.

On a very short fast, suffering may be noticed in the stomach, but on long fasts, sometimes the suffering is not noticed in the stomach but in some deceitful forms that may manifest themselves in an unexpected manner. At times it may not be noticeable until days later.

The breaking of the fast on juices of citrus fruits for several days until the faster has his stomach adjusted to the next step in breaking the fast will require the utmost care. We cannot emphasize this too strongly. One could wreck his health or even kill himself by failing to exercise will power in the manner in which he breaks the fast. This is especially true after a long fast.

When the stomach is ready to receive heavier foods, after the juices and fruits, one should eat "LIVE FOODS." Live foods give life and vitality more quickly than other types of food. Live foods are those which can be eaten uncooked, or in their natural state. These foods give life. Cooked foods sustain life, but do not give much life. Many persons are suffering from the want of more LIFE, because they eat dead foods. They have their place, but should not be eaten all of the time. Cereal meals may be added after fifth day.

AFTER A FAST OF FROM THREE WEEKS TO FORTY OR MORE DAYS:

Use the same method for breaking the three week fast, except smaller quantities should be eaten and a longer period should elapse before eating regular.

Fasting consistently:

It is very important to fast on a consistent basis. Fasting once a year at New Year's will not cut it. You must die daily and mortify flesh often, or flesh will mortify your spirit.

What do we mean by consistent fasting? Fast on the fast days- Tuesday and Friday. Don't let ANYTHING HINDER YOU FROM FASTING THESE DAYS. Ask God to sanctify several fasts for you during the year. God can put you on a fast and you can also put your self on a fast. You know when you need to KILL FLESH - SO KILL IT~ NO ONE HAS TO TELL YOU!

Fast when things are going well, fast when things are not going well - fast when the church calls a fast - fast when God puts you and you alone on a fast. Discipline is very important. You must work at it - the more you do it, the easier it will be for you to fast. We must live a life of prayer and fasting - not just fast when there is an emergency or crisis in your life.

DEMONS CAN BE CAST OUT BY FASTING PRAYER

God works in answer to prayer

God's working in answer to prayer is illustrated in the following brief report of the Irish revival of 1859.

These people in the north of Ireland had never seen a revival and hardly knew how to pray, but they were tired of the hard labor of trying to save souls without an outpouring of the Holy Spirit. They longed for a divine influence to be sent down from heaven, *a breathing upon the slain that they might live* (Ezek. 37:9)

Some of them wanted this so badly that they agreed to pray for it. Never having seen anything of the kind, many were tempted to doubt and give up. At one time the meeting for prayer was so far reduced in numbers that only two came together to call upon the name of the Lord.

They continued to pray, and by degrees the little company increased until it became two bands. They wrestled on until they prevailed with God.

Then the power of God came down like a mighty tornado, and swept one town after another in a way almost unparalleled in history. Those who knew nothing of the prayer that preceded it supposed that it was the sovereign power of God working without human instrumentality, but the instrumentality was the prevailing prayers of those earnest souls.

Review Questions

1. What is prayer?
2. Why prayer?
3. What are some things that can hinder prayer?
4. What is fasting?
5. Why fast?
6. What are some things can hinder fasting?

Verses to memorize:

- Luke 22:42
- Joel 1:14

Action: Set aside a specific time for prayer each day. Attend prayer service. Remember to Fast on Tuesday and Fridays consistently.

Lesson Six



Witnessing

Lesson 6: Witnessing

Lesson Aim

Upon completion of the lesson, you will understand:

- What is witnessing
- The importance of witnessing
- How to witness effectively

Study Scripture

Acts 1:8
John 15
1 Peter 3:15

Lesson Overview

God is looking for fruit from His people, from the trees of His planting. To those who have been saved, born again (John 3:7), the question is not “Are you still spiritually alive, still saved?” but “Are you bearing fruit?” A peach tree produces other peaches. Are you, Christian, producing other Christians, bringing other souls into the kingdom of heaven? Are you in the business of winning other men to Christ?

Our business as Christians is to be fruit bearers unto God. The importance of fruit bearing to God is shown in His verdict: “Every tree which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down and cast into the fire.” Matthew 3:10

Fruit- The Test

In John 15:2, Jesus the Son of God, Jesus the head of the church, says, “Every branch in me that beareth not fruit He taketh away.” Verse 6, “If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch and is withered; and men gather them and cast them into the fire and they are burned.” Notice He says, “Every branch in me.” He is speaking of saved people, for in II Corinthians 5:17, we read, “If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature; old things are passed away; behold, all things become new.”

God is looking for the outflow. There must be an inflow of God’s Spirit into the soul before any fruit can be born. You need the power of the Holy Ghost to be an effective witness (Acts 1:8) God is requiring fruit, fruit and more fruit.

Purging, Pruning

The purging, pruning process on the lives that are bearing fruit for God is for the purpose of causing those lives to produce more fruit. Jesus says, “Unto every one that hath shall be given” (Matthew 25:29). The context shows that he means “everyone that uses what he has for God, shall be given more to use.” These are indeed times when it appears that little or no fruit is being born. The vineyard in California that are pruned down appear to be utterly

ruined, but those vines are fruit bearers and the pruning is to make them more fruitful.

8 Reasons why we should Witness

Glory to God

First, as you witness, you bring glory to God. Jesus says in John 15:8 “ By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.”

Share our Faith

Second, the love of Christ compels us to share our faith. In Paul’s words, “The love of Christ constraineth us.” (II Corinthians 5:14). If you have experienced the love of the Lord Jesus, you will also want to introduce him to others.

Command from Jesus

Third, sharing, your faith is a direct command from Jesus Christ. He says, “follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.” (Matthews 4:19) And, “You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bring fourth fruit-fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you.” (John 15:16)

People are lost

Fourth, people without Christ are lost, Jesus says, “I am the way the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.” (John 14:6) The Word of God declares emphatically, “ Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved.” (Acts 4:12)

Benefits to the lost

Fifth, God wants you witness because of the benefits He offers to those who receive Christ. When you introduce others to Christ, they become children of God and their bodies become temples of God; all their sins are forgiven- past, present and future! They begin to experience the peace and love of God; they receive God’s direction and purpose for their lives; they experience the power of God to change their lives; and they have assurance of eternal life.

Benefits to you

Sixth, God wants you to witness because of the benefits to those who witness. Witnessing stimulates your spiritual growth. Witnessing leads you to pray and to study God’s Word and encourages you to depend on Christ. As you witness in the power of the Holy Spirit, you sow love and joy and peace. According to the law for sowing and reapng, you always harvest what you sow and even more. For example, if you sow love, you will harvest

love. If you sow joy, you will reap joy. If you sow peace, you will reap peace. And always, the harvest is greater than the seed sown.

Privilege of representing Jesus

Seventh, God wants you to witness to experience the tremendous privilege and honor of representing Jesus to the world. In his second letter to the Corinthians, Paul wrote, “ We are Christ’s ambassadors. God is using us to speak to you. We beg you, as though Christ himself were here pleading with you, receive the love he offers you- be reconciled to God.” Most people consider it a high honor to serve as an ambassador for the head of their country- the president or king- but as a believer in Christ, you are an ambassador for the King of kings and the Lord of lords!

Power to Witness

Eighth, God wants you to witness because the Holy Spirit has been given to provide the power for you to do so. Jesus says, “ You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” (Acts 1:8). To fail to witness for Christ is to deny the Holy Spirit His right to empower and to use you to introduce others to our Savior.

How can I be an effective witness for Christ in a lost world?

Have Knowledge of Him

A “witness” is someone who attests to a fact, so in order to be an effective witness for Christ, one must have firsthand knowledge of him. John the Apostle speaks of this in I John 1:1-3, when he says, “That which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at, and our hands have touched- this we proclaim concerning the Word of Life.” Today, we who have experienced new life in Christ give an account of His Love and forgiveness, both verbally and in the way we live our lives. This is witnessing. To be effective in our witness, we should remember several basic things:

The Theme of our witness

1) The THEME of our witness is Jesus Christ. Paul defined the gospel as the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 15:1-4). If we aren’t explaining the sacrifice of Christ, then we’re not really sharing the gospel. (See 1 Corinthians 2:2 and Romans 10:9-10.) An important part of this theme is the fact that Jesus Christ is the only way to salvation, not just one of many ways. “ I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.” (John 14:6)

The Power of our witness

2) The POWER of our witness is the Holy Spirit. It is the Spirit who transforms a life (Titus 3:5), and a transformed life is evident to all. As we witness, we should spend much time in prayer, appropriating the Spirit's power so that we are enabled to let our light shine in such a way that others will recognize the power of God in us (Matthew 5:16).

The Validity of our witness

3) The VALIDITY of our witness will be shown in how we live our lives. Philippians 2:15 sets this goal for us: " That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke in the midst of a crooked and reverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world." The effective Christian witness will live his/her life above reproach in the power of the Holy Spirit, whose fruit we exhibit when we remain in Christ (John 15:1-8; Galatians 5:22-23).

Perhaps most importantly, we must be familiar enough with the Scriptures to be able to accurately and coherently present the gospel to others. " Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have." (1Peter 3:15)

Always being prepared means diligent Bible study, memorizing Scripture, and praying for God-given opportunities to share with those whose hearts have been prepared by the Lord to hear His message of salvation.

7 Steps to The Kingdom

A very effective approach to witnessing is the following 7 Steps to The Kingdom written by Bishop Bob Jackson. Now lets practice using the 7 Steps to The Kingdom.

- Greeting:** 1. (Get a verbal contract). "Hello, May I have one minute of your time?"
- State:** 2. "Did you know that Jesus Christ is Lord- - - Well, He is and He loves you and wants to be your Lord and Savior."
- Say:** 3. Romans 10:9 says: "If you confess with you mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God raised Jesus from the dead, you shall be saved". Do you believe that?

- Ask:** 4. “Can you say Lord Jesus?” (This step brings in the presence of the Holy Spirit)
- Pray:** 5. (Reach out for the candidate’s hand and say) “Let’s pray: repeat after me:” Lord Jesus, forgive me for all my sins. I repent from my ways. Wash me in your blood and cleanse me from all unrighteousness. I believe that you died on the cross, were buried, and on the third day God the Father raised you from the dead. Right now, Lord Jesus, I open the door to my Heart and I receive you, into my Heart, as my Lord and Personal Savior.”
- Question:** 6. (Say to the candidate) “ According to the prayer you just prayed, where is the Lord Jesus now?” The response should be **“He’s in my heart”**. If some other statement is given, repeat Step 5.
- Confirmation:** 7. (When the candidate gives the correct answer, share with them) 1 John 4:4: “Greater is he that is in you than he that is in the world.” Leave them with a tract and an Order of Service Card. “May we take your name, address and telephone number so that we can call you to follow-up with you and pray with you?” **Thank you, and remember: JESUS LOVES YOU AND SO DO WE!**

God Will Reward You For Witnessing

A True Missionary story It’s been told before—but the message is ever new and meaningful. A huge ocean liner pulled into the harbor carrying among others, two very distinguished passengers. One was a well know army general and upon his descending the gangplank, scores, hundreds, thousands greeted him with cheers and welcoming. The other distinguished passenger was a missionary, Henry Clay Morrison. Strangely enough, but no one was on hand to greet him, no cheers, no bands, no welcome committee. The missionary hung his head, and seemingly prayed thus, “Lord, I’ve labored hard for you all these years, I’ve won many souls to Jesus. Here is this army general who gets all kinds of welcoming upon his return home, but when I arrived, not one single person greeted me. God in essence, seemed to say, “Henry ole boy, just wait a while, you aren’t home yet.” Brother Morrison, now home with the Lord is probably still receiving his welcome

God will reward you for your labor (witnessing).

Review Questions

1. What is Witnessing?
2. List three reasons why we should witness to the lost?
3. What is the theme of our witness?

Verses to Memorize: Acts 1:8 & John 15:1-2

Action: Learn the 7 Steps to The Kingdom and practice this approach.



Lesson Seven



Obedience

Lesson 7: Obedience

Lesson Aim That you will walk in obedience to God's every command.

Study Scripture

- Isaiah 1:19
- I Samuel 15:22
- Acts 5:29
- Hebrews 13:17
- I Peter 3:1

Lesson Overview Obedience – Hebrew *sama* which means both to listen to and to act upon, obey.

True hearing or obedience involves the physical hearing that inspires the hearer and a belief or trust that in turn motivates the hearer to act in accordance with the speaker's desires.

In the New Testament, Christ embodies this quality of perfect obedience to God, John 6:37-38. His obedience, the antithesis of Adam's disobedience, provided for mankind's atonement, Romans 5:18–21.

It began at the incarnation (Hebrews 10: 5 -10) and continued throughout His life on earth, including ultimately His death on the cross, Philippians 2: 6 -11. His disciples should in turn walk in obedience, Matthews 16:24.

Benefits of Obedience

Joshua 1:7-9

1. That you may prosper wherever you go
2. That you may make your way prosperous
3. That you may have good success
4. God will be with you wherever you go

Six reasons to obey God

If God saves us by grace, apart from the good works that we do (Titus 3:5), why should we obey him? If there is no condemnation for those in Christ Jesus (Romans 8:1) and our salvation is not in jeopardy, why should we struggle to obey? Lets look at the six reasons:

Duty

1. The simplest reason is: It's our duty. Through his death on the cross, Christ has purchased us (Acts 20:28), and it is only fair that we do what he says. We are children of God, and we are to do what he commands. Of course, we do not obey in order to be saved. Salvation comes first, and obedience should follow. But obedience goes deeper than duty. Obedience should come from the heart, done because we want to, not grudgingly because we have to.

God's command

2. In faith, we believe that God's commands are for our own good. He loves us and wants to help us, not to give us unnecessary burdens. As our Creator, he has the wisdom to know how we should live, what works best and what causes the most happiness in the long run. And we have to trust him in that his perspective is much better than ours. Obedience expresses faith in his wisdom and love. Obedience is what he made us for (Eph. 2:10), and life works better if we are in tune with the way we were made.

Future blessing

3. Obedience also involves hope in a future blessing. If there is no future life, then Christianity would be foolish (1 Cor. 15:14-18). Jesus promised that his disciples would find eternal life worth far more than anything they might have to give up in this age (Mark 10:29-30). Everyone who is saved will have the joy of knowing God in eternal life, but there are also rewards in addition to eternal joy. Jesus encouraged his disciples to "store up for yourselves treasures in heaven"(Matt. 6:19-21). Several of his parables indicate that we will be rewarded for what we do in this life. God rewards those who seek him (Heb. 11:6).

Paul also wrote about rewards: "The Lord will reward everyone for whatever good he does" (Eph 6:8). This is not talking about salvation, but about rewards in addition to salvation. He described the judgment as a fire that tests the quality of every person's work. "If what he has built survives. he will receive his reward: (1 Cor.

3:14). If it is burned up, he will lose it, but he will still be saved (v.15).

Love

4. But reward is not the only reason we work, for we are children of the King, not employees who do only what we get paid for. Our fourth motive for obedience is Love. This includes love for people around us, because they will be better off if we obey God than if we do not.

But most of all, it is our love for God that causes us to want to obey him. He has done so much for us, that we cannot help but be thankful and want to please him. “If you love me,” Jesus says, “you will obey what I command” (John 14:15). “If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching”(v.23). John later wrote, “This is love for God: to obey his commands” (1 John 5:3). “The man who says, ‘I know him,’ but does not do what he commands is a liar.... But if anyone obeys his word, God’s love is truly made complete in him” (1 John 2:4-5). When we are true to Christ, we will be more like he is.

Favorable publicity witness

5. Our love for God means that we want to bring him favorable publicity, so that others will come to love him too. Obedience serves as a witness to God and the gospel. Obedience says that God is great and good and wise, and we adore him. Obedience says that God is important, that he is valuable, and that he deserves our loyalty. Let your good deeds be seen, Jesus said, so that people can see them” and praise your Father in heaven” (Matt. 5:16).

A bad example will bring the gospel into disrepute (Titus 2:5). But a good example can help people be favorably exposed to God. “Live such good lives among the pagans,” Peter wrote, “that, through they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us” (1 Peter 2:12). “Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ” (Phil. 1:27). Help the gospel be associated with good things, not bad.

Eternal life

6. This is the life of the age to come. If we really want to enjoy life in eternity without lying, cheating, stealing and other such behaviors, if we really want that sort of life, then we will want it now, not just

in the future. The Father, Son and Holy Spirit invite us into a life of love and goodness, not a life of selfishness and sin.

The Importance of Obedience

Grow closer to God

Obedience to God and living an obedient life helps a believer grow closer to Christ. Obedience in the Christian walk is important so that you can continue to grow and know God's will. "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.'" (Matthew 7:21) Not everyone who claims to be a Christian is a Christian. Only those who are in a genuine relationship with Christ are true Christians. Those who know Christ will want to obey him and follow His will. This does not mean that a believer will always do the right things or never sin. It only means that believers have been changed by God's grace and now WALK in relationship with him, following him and living the life that he lived.

Love

As previously discussed, obedience shows our love for Jesus. Christians are not just robots, blindly doing what Jesus says without knowing why. We have a love for Christ that so overwhelms that we cannot help but do what he wants. In John 14:21-24, Jesus makes this connection. "If you love me, you will obey what I command... Whoever has my commands and obey them, he is the one who loves me. He who loves me will be loved by my Father and I too will love him and show myself to him."

These are not threats to make us want to love Jesus! Our actions show where our hearts are. When we really understand God's love and the significance of Jesus' death on the cross, we want to obey him—because we love him so much! When you are in a love relationship, obedience becomes a natural thing.

He knows what is best for us

One of the main reason God wants us to be obedient is that He knows what is best for us but also he wants us to live the good life of obedience, holiness and purity.

I Thessalonians 4:3 says, "It is God's will that you should be sanctified; that you should avoid sexual immorality." Sanctified means "set apart" for God. We are in a special relationship with

God and because God is holy he wants us to live holy lives also that are pleasing to him. 1Thessalonians 4:8 says, “For God did not call us to be impure, but to live a holy life.” He has called us to this type of obedience because he loves us and wants what’s best for us.

Sometimes believers do not always do what is right but the Holy Spirit is always there to guide us and convict us so that we will get back on the right track and repent of our sin that grieves God. Start your new WALK with Christ with obedience.

Examples of obedience:

1. Noah – Genesis 6: 9,22
2. Moses – Numbers 27; 12 – 22
3. David - I Samuel 18:14
4. Hezekiah – II Kings 18:6
5. Joseph – Matthews1:24, 2:14
6. Disciples – John 17:6
7. Paul – Acts 23:1
8. Jesus – John 5:30, 12:49 – 50, Hebrews 3:2

Study scriptures-Disobedience

- Romans 5:19
- II Corinthians 10:6
- Ephesians 2:2, 5:6
- Colossians 3:6
- Hebrews 2:2



Review Questions

1. What is obedience?
2. Why should we obey God?
3. What are the consequences of disobedience?

Scriptures to memorize:

- Joshua 1: 7-9
- John 14:15

Action: Always obey God and the leadership he puts over you. Remember the commandments of God.



Lesson Eight



Faith

Lesson 8: Faith

Lesson Aim

Upon completion of this lesson you will understand:

- What is Faith
- How to walk by Faith
- How to resist fear, doubt, and unbelief

Study Scriptures

Hebrews 11
James 1:6
1Peter 1:7
Hebrews 10:35

Lesson Overview

1. What is faith
2. How does Faith please God
3. What the word says about Faith
4. How you will live by Faith
5. What does Faith do

What is Faith

Faith can be defined as "total and complete trust or belief in GOD". Hebrews 11:1 defines Faith as "...the substance of things hoped for; not a shadow nor a feeling; and the evidence of things not seen."

Through faith we understand, the world says "seeing is believing", saints (believers) say, "believe and thou shalt see". By faith we understand that Christ died for our sins, was resurrected and that we have eternal life. "These things have I written unto you that believe that you may know." (I John 5:13)

Faith pleases God

Faith is precious because it pleases GOD. "Without Faith it is impossible to please GOD." (Hebrews 11:6)

FAITH IN GOD has always been and shall always be a requisite for someone to become a Christian, as well as for them to remain a Christian. This is one of the leading characteristics that

distinguishes a child of God from others. It is easily detected for it is reflected in and through their personal experiences, their Christ-like attitudes, life-changing beliefs, blessed and glorious hopes, severe afflictions, and their difficult trials along with their day-by-day decisions.

**To have Faith
In God means**

...trusting him in the shadows, as well as in the sunshine...
...believing him when the going gets tough, as well as when the going is easy...
...relying on him through the bad times, as well as through the good...
...serving him when you don't feel like it, as well as when you do...
...depending on him when you don't understand, as well as when you do...
...obeying him when others don't, as well as when others do.

**Faith is required
to receive from
God**

Whether it be for...
...salvation from sin
...deliverance from temptation
...renewal of strength
...restoration of health
...dissolving of doubts
...removal of fears
or whether it be for...
...victory over satan, it requires FAITH IN GOD

What does the word say about faith

No one can say they do not have faith for the Bible says: "God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith." (Rom. 12: 31) We exhibit faith in humans, machinery, and the services they render us but constantly doubt God, even though His Word says:

- Heb. 11: 6 Without faith it is impossible to please him; for he that cometh to God, must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him.
- Heb. 11:1 Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.
- Rom.10: 17 So then faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the Word of God.
- Eph. 2:8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God.

Faith must be exercised and kept

Let's SAY the word. Faith comes by hearing yourself say the word of God.

- I Thess. 1: 3-We thank God always for you...because that your faith growth exceedingly.
- Heb. 10:35-Cast not away therefore your confidence, which have great recompense of reward.
- James 1:3-Knowing this the trying of your faith worketh patience.
- I Peter 1:7-That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried in the fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ.
- Mark 11:24 What soever things ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.
- James 1:6 Let him ask in faith, nothing wavering, for he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord.
- Matt. 9:29, 22 According to your faith be it unto you. Thy faith has made thee whole.
- I Tim. 6:12 Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life.
- II Tim. 4:7 I have fought a good fight. I have finished my course, I have kept the faith.
- Rebuke fear, doubt, unbelief and replace it with the word.

The just shall live by faith This is a declaration of great magnitude for it means every facet of life -physical, material, spiritual - must be brought under the dominion of faith. Thus God allows testing in each of these realms until His child has conquered all fears and dependence upon people, things and means, and can put complete confidence (faith) in Him and His ability to do and supply ALL THINGS. The 5 senses are the "intercom" system within the body but faith is the

"wireless" connection with the source of ALL POWER and ALL KNOWLEDGE.

Rom. 10:8-The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth and in thy heart; that is, is the Word of faith.

With the heart God's promises must be believed, but the mouth makes the confession. "He shall have whatsoever he saith." Mark 11:23.

Speaking faith and using the name of JESUS, "All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth," produces mighty miracles: "In the name of Jesus, rise up and walk," "In my name they shall cast out devils," "If ye ask anything in my name, I will do it." Power to conquer sickness, circumstances and demons is Faith in the name of Jesus, the Son of God.

Reward faith

Faith that is rewarded is comprised of four (4) essentials:

1. Asking
2. Believing in your heart
3. Confessing with your mouth
4. Acting upon confession

James 2: 26-For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.

I John 3:22-And whatsoever we ask, we receive of Him, because we keep His commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in His sight.

- Power to become sons of God-John 1:12
- Power to do mighty works-John 14:12
- Be kept in perfect peace-Isa. 26:3
- Be kept safe-Pro 29:25
- Assurance of prayers answered-I John 5:14
- Will not be confused-I Peter 2:6

Eph. 6: 13,16 Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day...above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.

Salvation through faith

Ye are saved through FAITH, "By grace are you saved through FAITH and that not of yourselves, it is a gift of GOD." (EPH. 2:8)

The LORD says..." whosoever believeth in HIM should not perish but have everlasting life." (John 3:16). Ye have a GOD and Saviour who is faithful and promised if you are willing and obedient, Ye shall eat the good of the land."

Every believer has been translated by FAITH into the kingdom of HIS dear SON." (Colossians 1:13)

As believers, whatever we ask, we shall receive but it is "according to your FAITH be it unto you". FAITH never fails, it is all sufficient."

All things are possible to him that believeth.

Trying of your faith

By FAITH, Abraham offered up Isaac. Your faith will be tried, but remember the trails and sufferings of your faith are more precious than gold. .."If we suffer with HIM we shall also reign with HIM." In the world ye shall have tribulation, but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world." (John 16:33)

Faith Building Words! Let's read together

What does faith believe

FAITH believes that...
...God's grace is sufficient...
...God's mercy is abundant...
...God's word is accurate...
...God's presence is assuring...
...God's power is astounding...
...God's glory is astonishing...
and FAITH also believes that...
...God's blood is adequate for full forgiveness...!

FAITH...
...believes the Word of God...
...obeys the commands of God...
...stands on the promises of God...
...relies on the mercy of God...
...trusts the wisdom of God...
...accepts the will of God...
and FAITH also...
...enjoys the fellowship of God...!

FAITH always looks beyond what seems to be, and sees what actually is

...FAITH sees the coming...
...Spring, in spite of the current Winter...
...showers, in spite of the current drought...
...prospects, in spite of the current circumstances...
...solution, in spite of the current problems...
...dividends, in spite of the current difficulties...
...good, in spite of the current evil...
and FAITH also sees the coming...
...fruit in spite of the current barrenness...

FAITH sees the future...

...glory, in spite of the present gloom...
...mountain top, in spite of the present valley...
...light, in spite of the present darkness...
...joy, in spite of the present sorrow...
...peace, in spite of the present turmoil...
...healing, in spite of the present sickness...
and FAITH also sees the future...
...crown, in spite of the present cross...

What does faith see

FAITH always looks beyond what can be seen to what can't be seen. FAITH sees what can yet be, in spite of what has already been. FAITH looks beyond the visible to the invisible.

FAITH sees tomorrow's...

...sunshine, in spite of today's clouds...
...freedom, in spite of today's bondage...
...potential, in spite of today's lack...
...victory, in spite of today's giants...
...rest, in spite of today's labor...
...possibilities, in spite of today's limitations...
and FAITH also sees tomorrow's blessings, in spite of today's burdens...

Furthermore, FAITH sees the distant...

...oasis, in spite of the prevailing desert...
...banquet, in spite of the prevailing hunger...
...goal, in spite of the prevailing race...
...comfort, in spite of the prevailing pain...
...delight, in spite of the prevailing drudgery...
...opportunities, in spite of the prevailing disappointments...

and FAITH also sees the distant reward, in spite of the prevailing trials and tribulations...!

Where feelings have failed FAITH IN GOD has conquered Where emotions have frustrated, FAITH IN GOD has sustained.

Where appearances have deceived, **FAITH IN GOD** has assured. Where sensations have disappointed, **FAITH IN GOD** has rewarded.

Where impressions have fooled, **FAITH IN GOD** has enhanced. Where passions have fatigued, **FAITH IN GOD** has strengthened. Where enthusiasm has misled, **FAITH IN GOD** has always proven true.

FAITH...

...believes for the unbelievable...

...reaches for the unreachable...

...asks for the unthinkable...

...looks for the inexplicable...

...hopes for the impossible...

...lives for the incredible...

and **FAITH** also...

...prepares for the unexplainable...

What does faith see (Cont.) What Philosophy can't do, **FAITH IN GOD** can.
What humanism won't do, **FAITH IN GOD** will.
What reasoning is afraid to do, **FAITH IN GOD** isn't.
What positive thinking fails to do, **FAITH IN GOD** doesn't.
What religion comes short of doing, **FAITH IN GOD** does.
What theory isn't able to do, **FAITH IN GOD** is...
And what rationalism isn't sure of doing, **FAITH IN GOD** is sure that He is "able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think."

There has never been...

...a fear that FAITH could not face...

...a temptation that Faith could not overcome...

...a doubt that FAITH could not destroy...

...a burden that FAITH could not carry...

...a ministry that FAITH could not perform...

...a promise that Faith could not believe...

And there has never been...

...a victory that FAITH IN GOD could not win...!

What does faith do

FAITH trusts God to move the mountain...

...send the rain...
...lift the burden...
...supply the need...
...perform the miracle...
...conquer the enemy...
and FAITH trusts God to...
...save the lost...

FAITH will...

...receive what God gives...
...believe what God says...
...trust what God does...
...accept what God supplies...
...accomplish what God wants...
...obey what God commands...
and FAITH will also...
...go where God sends...

Furthermore, FAITH will...

...follow where God leads...
...listen when God speaks...
...give what God expects...
...claim what God promises...
...see what God reveals...
...desire what God offers...
and FAITH will also...
...enjoy...what God loves...

True FAITH does not depend upon circumstances, but upon God,
does not rely upon a church, but upon God, does not trust in a
creed, but upon God...

When God...

...blesses FAITH will respond...
...opens FAITH will enter...
...calls FAITH will answer...
...motivates FAITH will move...
...provides FAITH will rejoice...
...assures FAITH will stand...
and when God...
...inspires FAITH will revive...!

Testimonies of faith

According to the Bible, it required FAITH for...
...Abraham to offer his son as a sacrifice...
...Noah to build and enter the ark...
...Jochebed to hide the infant Moses...
...Joshua to march around the walls of Jericho...
...David to slay the giant of Gath...
...the three Hebrews to brave the flames of fire...
and according to the Bible, it required FAITH for...
...Daniel to face the den of lions...
it was by FAITH that...
...Moses entered into the courts of Pharaoh...
...the Israelites sprinkled the blood of the passover...
...they passed through the midst of the Red Sea...
...water gushed forth from the rock when struck...
...they lived on manna and quail for 40 years...
...their clothes lasted throughout the wilderness wanderings...
and it was by FAITH that...
...they followed the pillar of cloud by day, and the pillar of fire by night...
according to the Word of God, FAITH in God has...
...opened the eyes of the blind...
...unstopped the ears of the deaf...
...loosened the tongues of the dumb...
...revived the muscles of the paralyzed...
...cleansed the disease of the lepers...
...strengthened the feet of the lame...
and FAITH in God has also...
...brought the dead back to life...!



Review Questions

1. How does the devil try your faith in God?
2. Can you have faith and doubt at the same time?
3. What can one do when faith seems weak and victory lost?
4. Is doubt a sin?
5. Can the same faith that saved you also heal you? why or why not?

Scripture to memorize: James 1:6

Action: Practice daily putting all your faith(trust, confidence) in God.



Lesson Nine



Church Doctrines and Ordinances

Lesson 9: Church Doctrines and Ordinances

Lesson Aim

Upon the completion of this lesson, you will have a good understanding of the doctrines of the Church of God In Christ, in regard to:

- Angels
- Demons
- The Church
- The Second Coming of Christ
- Divine Healing
- Miracles
- Baptism of the Holy Ghost
- Doctrines and Practices Disapproved

Study Scriptures

Hebrews 12:14, Luke 4:36, John 6:44
Genesis 3:1, Revelations 4:5, Acts 10:46

Lesson Overview

1. Foundational History of The Church
 - Bishop C.H. Mason
 - The Church of God In Christ
2. Articles of Faith
 - Angels, Demons, Miracles
 - Baptism of the Holy Ghost
3. Doctrines and Practices Disapproved
 - Jehovah Witness Teaching, Seventh Day Adventist Teaching, Unity Teaching
 - Roman Catholicism Teaching, Apostolic Teaching
 - Immodest Dress, Homosexuality, Abortion

Historical Sketch of Bishop C.H. Mason and the Church of God In Christ

Elder Charles Harrison Mason, who later became the founder and organizer of the Church of God in Christ, was born September 8, 1866 on the Prior farm Memphis, Tennessee. His parents converted during the dark crisis of American Slavery, were members of the Missionary Baptist Church of Tennessee. Elder Mason was converted in November, 1878 and baptized by his brother I. S. Nelson, a Baptist preacher. Elder Mason accepted and preached the doctrine of sanctification and later went on to California to attend the revival of Elder Seymour where he tarried for the baptism of the Holy Ghost. After Elder Mason received- the experience of the Holy Ghost and spoke in tongues, he set out to organize a church which would teach sanctification and holiness, with the baptism of the Holy Ghost, speaking with other tongues as recorded in the second chapter of Acts. Elder Mason was given the name "CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST" as he walked down a street in Little Rock, Arkansas seeking for a name befitting for this church. Elder Mason organized the Church of God in Christ with others, was later named its overseer and finally its founder and Bishop. The first national meeting was held at 392 South Wellington Street, Memphis, Tenn. Bishop Mason later spearheaded the building of our national temple, called Mason Temple, which at its building during World War II, was the largest religious convention held owned by Black Americans. The Church of God in Christ has existed in spite of periods of transitional crisis after the death of its founder. Under its first elected presiding bishop, Bishop J. O. Patterson, the Church of God in Christ has grown in every respect. It's the largest and the fastest growing black Pentecostal religious body in America. Bishop Patterson has designed the future structure for the Church of God in Christ. The future structure entail the building of "SAINTS CENTER" which has all the religious headquarters features, such as auditorium, offices, university sites and other facilities.

Doctrinal Tenets of the Church of God In Christ

The Church of God in Christ is a Pentecostal holiness church. It believes in the baptism of the Holy Ghost as it is recorded in Acts 2:4, which we call the Pentecostal experience, the sign and seal of speaking in tongues. We believe in holiness as a way of life, to be taught, practiced and live as recorded in Hebrews 12:14. We believe in the sacredness of the Holy Scriptures, old and new. We believe the word of God to be infallible and inspired by God. We believe in the triune God or the trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. John 14:1 and John 15:26. We believe that the son of God died the

sacrificial redemptive death for the whole world, and provided salvation for all who believe, John 3:16. Hebrews 10:5-10 and that the whole work of salvation by the Grace of God is done by the work of the Holy Spirit John 6:44. We believe the church to be the body of Christ, a body of baptized believers. We believe in the baptism in water and in the Holy Ghost. John 3:15 Believe in what the scripture teaches concerning sin, the fall of man, satan, angels and of salvation and eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. We believe in the second coming of Christ, new heavens and a new earth, where in dwelleth righteousness. II Peter 3:13

Articles of Faith

Angels

The Bible uses the term "angel" (a heavenly body) clearly and primarily to denote messengers or ambassadors of God with such scripture references as Revelations 4:5, which indicates their duty in heaven to praise God; (Psalms 103:20) to do God's will (St. Matthew 18:10) to behold his face. But since heaven must come down to earth, they also have a mission to earth. The Bible indicates that they accompanied God in the creation, and also that they will accompany Christ in his return in Glory.

Demons

Demons denote unclean or evil spirits; they are sometimes called devils or demoniac beings. They are evil spirits, belonging to the unseen or spiritual realm, embodied in human beings. The Old Testament refers to the prince of demons sometimes called Satan (Adversary) or Devil as having power and wisdom, taking the habitation of other forms such as the serpent (Gen. 3:1) The New Testament speaks of the Devil as Tempter (St. Matt. 4:3) and it goes on to tell the works of Satan, The Devil and Demons as combating.

Miracles

The Church of God In Christ believes that miracles occur to convince men that the Bible is God's Word. A miracle can be defined as an extraordinary visible act of Divine power, wrought by the efficient agency of the will of God, which has as its final cause the vindication of the righteousness of God's Word. We believe that the work of God, which were performed during the beginnings of Christianity do and will occur even today where God is preached. Faith in Christ exercised, The Holy Ghost is active, and the Gospel is promulgated in the truth (Acts 5:15; 6:8; 9:40: Luke 4:36; 7:14-15; 5:5-6; St. Mark 14:15)

Baptism of The Holy Ghost We believe that the Baptism of the Holy Ghost is an experience subsequent to conversion and sanctification and that tongue speaking is the consequence of the baptism of the Holy Ghost with the manifestations of the fruit of the Spirit. (Gal. 5:22-23; Acts 10:46; 19:1-6)

The Charismatic manifestations on the Day of Pentecost gave peculiar distinctive qualities to the ministry of those Spirit-filled disciples in Acts, Chapters 4-5. There were as follows:

1. Great Power: "With great power gave the apostles witness of the Lord Jesus." (4:33)
2. Great Grace: "And great grace was upon them all." (4:33)
3. Great Fear: "And great fear came upon all the church." (5:14)
4. Great Increases: "And the believers were the more added to the Lord, multitudes both men and women." (5:14)

We believe that we are not baptized with the Holy Ghost in order to be saved, but that we are baptized with the Holy Ghost because we are saved. Acts 19:1-6, John 3:5.

When one receives a baptism of the Holy Ghost experience, we believe one will speak a language or tongue according to the sovereign will of Christ unknown to oneself. This language may be foreign or unknown.

Doctrines Disproved

The Bible teaches and demands doctrinal agreement and speaks of it as "The pillar and ground of truth" (I Tim. 3:15,4:13). In Ephesians 4, Paul stresses the unity of the Church of God, and gives further emphasis in verse 15: "That we be no longer children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine." The apostle admonishes the Corinthians, that they "All speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among them" (I Cor. 1:10). In I Tim. 6:3-5, Paul gives a stern judgment. "If any man teach otherwise and consent not to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which is according to godliness; he is proud, knowing nothing, but dotting about questions and strife's of words, whereof cometh envy, strife, railings, evil surmising, perverse disputing of men of corrupt minds and destitute of the truth, supposing that gain is godliness; from such withdraw thyself." Unity in doctrine then is evidently regarded as of the greatest importance to the well being of the Church. Unity in doctrine, therefore, involves the confession of a common dogma. Dogma is defined as "Church proclamation, so far as it really agrees with the Bible as the Word of God."

Therefore, anyone who teaches doctrine contrary to the dogma of the Church of God in Christ should be dealt with according to Titus 3:10.

Jehovah Witness Teaches:

1. The person and work of Christ- Christ's Deity, incarnation, atonement, Resurrection and Second Coming are denied.
2. The doctrines of grace relating to our salvation- The witnesses teach the believer does not have everlasting life now, but only at a future time. This is contrary to John 5:24.
3. The future wicked shall have another chance to receive Christ as Savior during the Millennium and under circumstances more favorable than those of today. This is contrary to the teachings in Psalms 9:17; Gal. 5 19-21, John 5:28-29; Hebrews 9:27

Seventh Day Adventist Teaches:

1. The sinful nature of Jesus while in the flesh. This is contrary to the teachings in Heb. 4:15; I Peter 2:21-22; I John 3-5.
2. The atonement was not completed when Christ suffered and bled on Calvary. This is contrary to the teachings Hebrews 7:27, 9: 24-28, 1:10, 12
3. Eternal life is only a future hope. This is contrary to the teachings in John 5:24.
4. Eternal life is obtained by one's "perfect obedience" to the laws of Moses. This is contrary to the teachings in John 6:47-60; John 3:14,15,36, John 17:3.
5. The law is still in force-that it has never been annulled. This is contrary to the teachings in Romans 6:14; 7:4.6. We teach Christ by His death perfectly fulfilled the law, and thus terminated it.
6. Only by observing the seventh day of the week as the Sabbath may one be "sealed with the seal of the living God" and experience true peace within his soul. This is contrary to the teachings in Hebrews 1:22; Matt. 12:1.8; Mark 16:9; I Cor. 16:2.

Unity Teaches:

1. That through perfection of the body, man will become equal with God, with power over mind and body.
2. The Unity School of Christianity, like Christian Science, out of which it sprang, hardly mentions Christ's virgin birth, cross bodily resurrection or His Second Coming, except to "spiritualize" and explain away these divine truths.
3. They falsely teach, "In each of us is Christ, the only begotten Son". "In Spirit and in Truth you are all that God is."
4. Unity devotees affirm. "I am the son of God. I and my Father are one."
5. Like the rich man in Christ's parable. Unity followers in their desire to obtain the good things in this life repeat this formula until mesmerized by its suggestive power. "Pain, sickness, poverty, old age, and death are not real. They have no power over me."
6. Unity's corollary doctrine is reincarnation-countless reincarnations, 'till we all come in the Unity."

Roman Catholicism Teaches:

1. Peter was the first pope, therefore, apostolic succession. This is contrary to the Bible or history for there is no record of Peter ever being in Rome. According to Gal. 2:7-8 and Acts 23:1, Peter was the Apostle of the circumcision and worked among the Jews while Paul, not Peter, went to Rome.
2. Peter was a married man (Mark 1: 29-31), yet they forbid their priests to marry. (Lev. 1:5, 13; I Tim. 4:1-4; II Tim. 4:1-3).
3. Worship of images or relics. This is contrary to Exodus 20:3-5.
4. Purgatory and prayers for the dead. This is contrary to Hebrews 9:27. Concerning prayers, read St. Luke 16:19-31. Abraham could not help the dead; David knew it was no use praying for the dead (II Samuel 12:16, 19, 22, 23).
5. Proper name or title for priest is "Father." This is contrary to St. Matthew 23:9.
6. Mary, the mother of Jesus, is used as a Mediator between God and man. This is contrary to I Timothy 2:5, 6; I John 2:1-3; Acts 4:10,12; John 14:6; II Cor. 5:21.

Apostolic Teaches:

APOSTOLIC CHURCHES of the Lord Jesus deny the Father of Christ. We believe this to be contrary to scripture based on the following Bible passages:

1. Christ is spoken of as the Son of God from a preincarnation standpoint in John 1:14, 18; Gal. 4:2, 4. He is called the "only begotten" Son of God or of the Father, a term that would not apply to Him if he were the Son of God only in an official or in an ethical sense, John 1:14,18; 3:16, 18; I John 4:9. Compare II Samuel 7:14; Job 2:1; Psalm 2:7 Luke 3:38; John 1:12.

2. While Jesus teaches His disciples to speak of God and to address Him as "our Father," He Himself speaks of Him and addresses Him simply as "Father" or "my Father," and thereby shows that He was conscious of a unique relationship to the Father. Matt. 6:9; 7:21; John 20:17.

3. According to Matt. 11:27, Jesus as the Son of God claims unique knowledge of God, and knowledge such as no one can possess.

4. The Jews certainly understood Jesus to claim that He was the Son of God in a metaphysical sense. For they regarded the manner in which He spoke of Himself as the Son of God as blasphemy. Matt. 26:63; John 5:18; 10:36.

5. In a Messianic sense, some passage; apply the name "Son of God" to Christ as Mediator. Matt. 8:29; 26:63 (Where the meaning is combined with the other) Matt. 27: 40; John 1:49; 11:27. This Messiah-Sonship is related to the original Sonship of Christ. It was only because He was the eternal Son of God that He could be called the Son of God as Messiah. It is from the point of view this Messiah-Sonship that God is even called the Father of the Son. II Cor. 11: 31; Eph. 1: 3, and is sometimes mentioned as God in distinction from the Lord. John 17:3; I Cor. 8:6; Eph. 4:5, 6.

6. In a nativistic sense, the name "Son of God" is given to Jesus because He owed His birth to paternity of God. He was begotten, according to His human nature, by the supernatural operation of the Holy Ghost. This is clearly taught in Luke 1:32, 35.

Practices Disapproved

Immodest Dress

1. Christians at all times and in all circumstances are bound to practice modesty in dress. This is because modesty is the badge of chastity. The virtue of chastity is rarely preached unless modesty has first been abandoned. Dressing in a sensually provocative manner produces inclinations to evil desires.

2. Social occasions call for attractive and dignified attire. One attiring oneself on such occasions should always be mindful of the Scripture that admonishes to dress in modest apparel. 11 Tim. 2:9.

3. Public swimming and sunbathing are not occasions for abandoning modesty.

4. Parents should instruct their children from early years on the principles that govern modesty of dress. Parents should be also examples of modesty of dress.

5. Attendance at religious services calls for neat and dignified clothing. We petition our members to make or purchase clothing they wear for going to church a sign of their reverence and their love of God (1 Tim. 2:9-10; 1 Peter 3:3).

We believe that parents should assume the responsibility of interpreting sex education values and facts as wholesome to their own children throughout their formative years; and where inadequate or improper instructions has been given, qualified persons in the Church should teach reverently the beauty of sex in Christian life Ephesians 5:5. "For this ye know that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God".

Homosexuality

The Church of God in Christ in accordance with the Scriptures (Gen. 19, Romans I and II Peter 2:6-10, all which points to the fact that homosexuality has always been an abomination in the sight of God. God has in times past destroyed those kingdoms that permitted it. That God in Christ was warned even the early church, that God's anger (The wrath of God) has been kindled against persons and society that practices homosexuality. Romans 1:18 The Church of God in Christ does not minimize the severity of this terrible sin. Since the Bible gives such a dark black picture of God's rejection and his punishment of the homosexuals, Gen. 19:24-25 we cannot in any way accept homosexuality as normal or accept it as a way of life in keeping with our faith. The New Testament calls it the sin of the "effeminate" I Cor. 6:9.

Abortion

The Church of God in Christ does not accept abortion due to the scriptures stand on the taking of innocent life which is murder or the denying life of any living form. "Thou shalt not kill" Exodus 20 is written, and the denial of even a fetus to form into a human being, is interfering with human life, and as we see it interfering

with the seed of intent. The Church of God in Christ has a very sacred view on human life. It has a definite conviction about tampering with what God has proclaimed as life. We cannot accept any philosophy or rational, concerning the aborting of that life, even the fetus in the womb. We believe only God can give life, and that only God can deny life and we should not try to abort it.

Review Questions

1. _____ is working to combat righteousness and good in anyway, proving to be an adversary of the Saints.
2. What book in the Bible encourages elders to pray for the sick, lay hands upon them and anoint them with oil?
3. When one receives the Holy Ghost, we believe that will _____.
4. If anyone teaches doctrine contrary to the dogma of the Church of God In Christ, what scripture should you use to deal with them?

Verses to memorize: John 6:44 & Genesis 3:1

Action: Study the different types of teaching that you may know the truth and not be swayed by false doctrines.

Lesson Ten



Stewardship

Lesson 10: Stewardship

Lesson Aim

Upon completion of this lesson you will know how to be a good steward in the local church, following the rules and regulations set up by the leadership and ordained by God.

Study Scripture

Hebrews 10:25
Ephesians 5:19-20
Proverbs 22:6
Ecclesiastes 5:1

Lesson Overview

1. Church Attendance: Heb. 10:25, Mk. 1:21
 - The importance of attending church-spiritual growth, hear and learn God's word, strength from testimonies praise and worship God
2. Ministry of Giving: Lu. 6:38, Mal. 3:8-10
 - The importance of giving commanded by God; give so God can bless you (sowing and reaping concept)
 - Be a help to the church and a blessing to others
 - How to give:
 - Cheerfully - 2 Co. 9:7
 - According to income - De. 16:17
 - With simplicity - Ro. 12:8
 - Regularly - I Co. 16:2
3. General Rules of Order
 - Order of Service (Subject to change at direction of Holy Ghost)
4. Rules regarding young children, babies etc. in the church. (control your children during service or take them to church nursery)
5. Church Attire (modest as becoming holiness)
6. Church Etiquette (listening to others; courtesy when rejoicing)
7. The importance of Obeying Leadership (God commanded - obedience is better than sacrifice.) There is only one head.

What is Stewardship?

Christian stewardship is a way of living in which we recognize that everything belongs to God. All resources must be used for His glory and the common good. Solidarity (unity) is the fruit of stewardship.

Stewardship demands a way of life that encourages virtue and bears the fruit of solidarity.

A steward is someone who handles affairs for someone else.

Church Conduct

“Keep thy foot when thou goest to the house of God and be more ready to hear, than to give the sacrifice of fools: for they consider not that they do evil.” Ecclesiastes 5:1

Walking and talking which do not pertain to the worship are the lowest type of disrespect to God and his house. Some people walk in church so that people will see them, their clothes, or that people may see who they have come with. The church is not a place for us to be seen. When we enter the church, our prayer should be: *“Lord, hid me behind the cross, cover me with the blood of Jesus and let men see Christ and Him alone in me.”*

If you must talk, talk to God with your “amen’s” and “hallelujahs” as you feed upon his word.

Eating candy and chewing gum are also disrespectful to God’s house. Chewing gum is like gargling with mouthwash, it should be done in private, not in the lord’s house.

Parents, the bible says “Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.” (Proverbs 22:6)

It is wrong for you to feed your children in the sanctuary. It is wrong for you to bring rattles and other loud toys in the sanctuary. This will disturb the minister while he’s preaching. Take your small child to the church nursery if available.

God has given us this house of worship. Let us show our appreciation by our conduct.

Duties as a member

Each member, without exception, is expected to fill his place in the church in attendance on its appointments, as providence may allow, and also to contribute of his means for the financial support of the church, according to his ability. If, in either of these respects, he fails or refuses, he becomes a covenant-breaker, and is subject to the discipline of the church.

He/She should faithfully attend services & classes: (Based on your Church schedule)

- Sunday School every Sunday morning. YPWW every Sunday evening. II Timothy 2:15-Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.
- Morning and evening worship every Sunday. 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,
- Mid-week Prayer and Bible Band Meeting and pastoral teaching night. Ephesians 5:19, 20-Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord: Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ
- The commemoration of the Lord's Supper-when the bread is broken as a symbol of Jesus; crucified body, and the grape juice symbolizes His blood. I Cor. 11:26-For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come.

Tithes & Offerings

Study scriptures

- Mal. 3:8-12
- Luke 6:38
- II Cor. 9:6-7
- Luke 21:1-4

Every member should know that in the Old Testament a worshipper was admonished to give God one-tenth of his income in whatever form it might be, for his work. This was called the tithe. God teaches us in the New Testament that all we have belongs to God. We do not give to him. We only hand over what belongs to him. We are stewards who manage and control God's property for him. And one day we must render him an account. Therefore, contribute regularly and systematically as God has blessed you.

I Cor. 16:2-Upon the *first* day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come.

Ten reasons to tithe

1. **To honor the Creator.**
“Render...unto God the things that are God’s” (Matthew 22:21).
2. **To acknowledge my heritage.**
“And if ye be Christ’s, then are ye Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise” (Galatians 3:29).
3. **To fulfill the covenant.**
“For if that which is done away was glorious, much more that which remainth is glorious” (II Corinthians 3:11).
4. **To show my love.**
“Many waters cannot quench love” (Songs of Solomon 8:7).
5. **To fulfill an obligation.**
“Ye pay tithe...these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone”(Matthew 23:23).
6. **To escape condemnation.**
“Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me...in tithes and offerings”(Malachi 3:8).
7. **To spread the gospel.**
“So hath the Lord ordained that they which preach the gospel should live of the gospel”(I Corinthians 9:14).
8. **To avoid a curse.**
“Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me”(Malachi 3:9).
9. **To enjoy God’s blessing.**
“Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse...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”(Malachi 3:10) and(Luke 10:38).
10. **To be consistent.**
“Be thou an example of the believers”(I Timothy 4:12).

Relocation

If you relocate to another city or state find a Church of God in Christ at once. Tell the pastor of the church, who you are, and try to become acquainted. The Sunday School or prayer meeting is a better place to get acquainted than at the Sunday service. Write your home (Pastor) church for reference letter, and become a full member of your new church home.

Discussion Questions

1. If someone (sinner or Church member) tries to discourage me from giving, what should I do?
2. What does it mean to give sacrificially? Should I give my last? Should I give my bill money?
3. If God has given me something to do in the church (talent, gift, ministry, etc.), what should I do?
4. What should I do, if I disagree with something or someone at church? How should I handle this conflict and stay saved?



Review Questions

1. Why should I attend Church?
2. What are (5 reasons) to tithe?
3. Why should I follow leadership?
4. Why should I follow the general Church rules and regulations?
5. If I get out of order, how can I correct the situation?

Verses to memorize: Proverbs 22:6 Ecclesiastes 5:1

Action: Find something in your local church that you would enjoy doing. Once this is found do it to the best of your ability centered with the love of Christ in your work. Give your tithe and offering regularly.

Lesson Eleven



Spiritual Growth

Lesson 11: Spiritual Growth

Lesson Aim Upon the completion of lesson, you will have a clear understanding of what your spiritual responsibilities are as a child of God and what you can do to aid your personal spiritual growth. You will understand what will help you grow spiritually.

Study Scriptures

I Peter 2:2	John 1:12
Acts 10:13	John 5:24
I Corinthians 10:31	I Chronicles 4:10
Jeremiah 17:5	Luke 24:49
Acts 4:31	

Lesson Overview It is the will of God that we grow spiritually. If a 6 year old child is still wearing diapers and drinking from a bottle that child is developmentally challenged. It is the will of God that we grow spiritually and not be tossed about by every wind or doctrine. Growth is not automatic. This lesson focuses on the essential keys to spiritual growth. You have the responsibility to activate your spiritual growth by taking these steps.

Steps to Spiritual Growth

Here are essential steps to move you forward toward spiritual growth. Though simple, they are vital to building your relationship with the Lord.

Read your bible daily Find a Bible reading plan that's right for you. A plan will keep you from missing anything God has written in His Word. Also, if you follow the plan you'll be on your way to reading through the Bible once every year! The easiest way to truly "grow up" in the faith is to make Bible reading a priority.

Psalms 119:11 ... They word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against Thee.

Attend church Meet together with other believers regularly. The reason we attend church is to gather with other believers regularly (Hebrews 10:25) for teaching, fellowship, worship, communion, prayer and to build one another up in the faith (Acts 2:42-47). Participating in the body of Christ is fundamental to spiritual growth.

Get Involved in ministry Get involved in a ministry group. Most churches offer small groups and many ministry opportunities. Pray and ask God where

you should “plug in”. It’s the people who really “get plugged in” that find their purpose and soar in their walk with Christ. Sometimes this takes a little time, but some churches offer classes or counseling to help you find the place that’s right for you. Don’t get discouraged if the first thing you try doesn’t seem to fit.

Pray Daily

Pray daily. As we discussed earlier, Prayer is simply talking to God. You don’t have to use big fancy words. There are no right and wrong words. Just be yourself. Give thanks to the Lord daily for your salvation. Pray for others in need. Pray for direction. Pray for the Lord to fill you daily with His Holy Spirit. There is no limit to prayer. You can pray with your eyes closed or open, while sitting or standing, kneeling or lying in your bed, anywhere anytime. So begin to make prayer a part of your daily routine. Luke 18:1...men ought always to pray, and not to faint.

Confess

When conscious of having failed Him, confess it. I John 1:9...if we confess our Sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us sins.

Witness

Be a witness to others. Acts 1:8 ...ye shall be witnesses.

Glorify God

Don’t do anything that will not glorify God. I Corinthians 10:31...whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.

Don’t Tempt God

Don’t try to discover how little Christ will accept, but how much. I Chronicles 4:10.

Follow Jesus

The best man is an unsafe example to follow, so follow Jesus. Seek power from on high. Jeremiah 17:5, Luke 24:49, Acts 2:39, 4:31

Good Works

Fill your life with good works. Titus 3:3

Avoid Bad Influences

Good things as well as bad, you know, are caught by a kind infection. If you want to get warm you must stand near the fire: if you want to be wet you must get into the water. If you want joy, power, peace, eternal life, you must get close to, or even into the things that has them. They are a great fountain of energy and beauty spurting up at the very center of reality. If you are close to it, the spray will wet you: if you are not you will remain dry.

“Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me” (John 15:4).

It is not by effort or by wrestling that this conformity (to the likeness of God) is to be accomplished; it is by assimilation. According to natural law, we grow like those with whom we associate, and the strongest character always exercises the controlling influence.

“Now this is eternal life that may KNOW...Jesus Christ” (John 17:3)

“Evil communications corrupts good manners.” I Corinthians 15:33

Live Lives like mirrors

Our lives are like mirrors, reflecting what we experience, if we turn our mirrors toward the problems and cares of life, that which is negative or violent, or even our own actions, we will reflect that. In contrast, if we turn our thoughts toward the security of God’s love and care, we will reflect peace, joy and love.

Spiritual life as a vine

The Bible characterizes our spiritual life as a vine or tree (John15). The gardener does not beg, plead or pressure fruit to grow. He simply cooperates with the principles that facilitate growing a healthy plant. He waters, fertilizes and makes sure the tree gets enough light. Fruit is a byproduct of those efforts. As with fruit, our actions can’t be forced. Like all things in the spiritual life, they must come naturally.

Abide in God’s love

How do I abide in God’s love? Connecting with God’s love is like putting on a beautiful perfume. As you apply it, you will smell its fragrance. However, even when you are preoccupied with other things there is an awareness of its scent. If you begin to see the beauty of God’s grace it will naturally attract your attention. It will become a pleasant companion that draws your thoughts. All you need to do is foster that.

If you think the focus for change should be on doing, then that is what you will do. If you think it is in abiding in God’s love, your focus will be there. The doers are the religious, the abiders are the spiritual. We were never meant to be “human doings”, preoccupied with our choices. They should take place in the NOW, inspired by the state of our heart. Instead, the Bible calls us to rest in, or abide in, God’s love and care. Resting in God is the obedience of the new covenant. That will inspire right choices, naturally.

Review Questions and Actions

1. List five (5) things you should do as a child of God to grow spiritually.

- Action item: Make a personal commitment to God to do what it takes to stay saved and grow in the Lord. List your planned schedule for prayer, Bible study and Church attendance.

- Action item: Make a personal prayer schedule.

- Action item: Make a personal Bible study schedule.

- Action item: Make a Church attendance schedule.



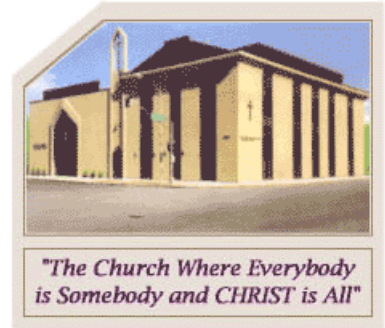


Bishop Lawrence M. Wooten, Ph.D., DD., a native of Saint Louis, is an alumnus of Saint Louis University and served as an educator and administrator in the public school system for 30 years. Bishop Wooten was installed as the Pastor of Williams Temple Church of God In Christ in 1979 following the death of Bishop Columbus Williams. Bishop Wooten was saved at the age of 15 and has been a faithful and committed servant in the Church of God In Christ for over 59 years. Standing by his side and in the gap for him is his much beloved wife, International Evangelist Shirley A. Wooten, who is recognized as an ultimate “God Chaser”, Soul Winner, Evangelist and Prayer Warrior. They are the parents of six (6) children and nine (10) grandchildren.

The local ministry has thrived under the leadership of Bishop Wooten. At this time, the Williams Temple complex is valued at over \$5million dollars. His local Church contains over 50 ministries i.e., Drug Rehabilitation, Health and Nutrition Programs, Award winning GED Program, Housing, Financial Management classes, Feed the Hungry, Adult Day Care, Family Life Center recreation complex, Family and Marital Counseling, Neighborhood Outreach Center and more.

Community Leader:

He has served as Chaplain of the 7th District Police Department and the Board of Directors for both the Father Support Group and the Billy Graham Crusade. He is the President of Ecumenical Leadership Council of Missouri; a member of the St. Louis Black Caucus and is involved in many community improvement projects within metropolitan St. Louis. This is demonstrated by his efforts to rehabilitate the property surrounding the intersection of Union and Dr. M.L. King Dr. He is the proprietor of the LMW Plaza which houses a restaurant, car wash, a hair salon, a barbershop, a jewelry store and a beauty supply store. In February, 2014, Bishop Wooten won a unanimous appointment to the St. Louis County Board of Police Commissioners.

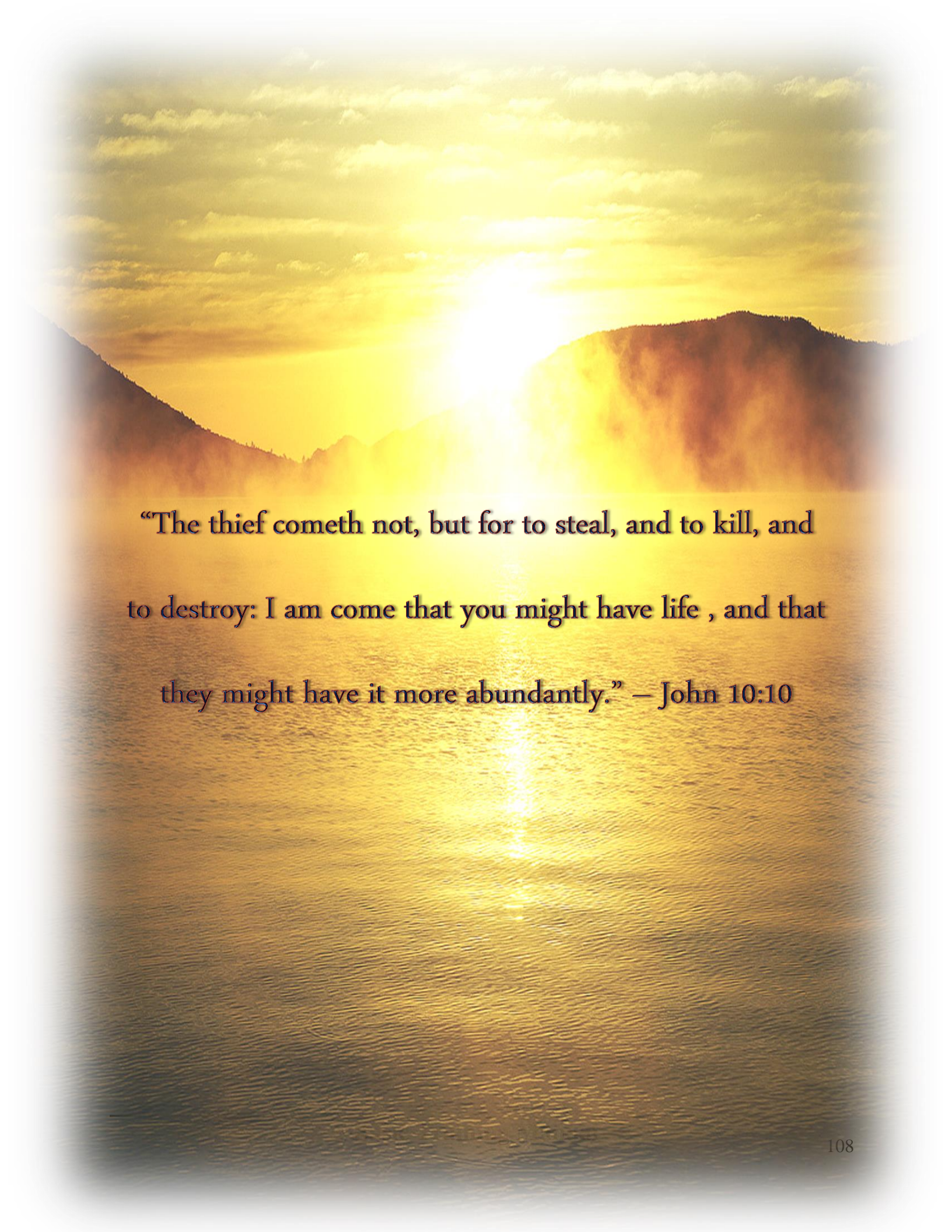


National Ministry:

In the year 2000, he was appointed as the Bishop of the Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction of Eastern Missouri/Western Illinois. Under the leadership of Bishop Wooten, both the local Church and the Jurisdiction have thrived. In 2005, he was appointed Regional Bishop, with the responsibility of providing oversight for five (5) other Ecclesiastical Prelates. In 2012, Bishop Wooten was elected as a member to the General Board (governing board) of the 6.5 million member Church of God In Christ.

International Ministry:

He has ministered internationally in Uganda East Africa, Trinidad/Tobago and The Virgin Islands. For years, Bishop Wooten has sponsored many orphans in East Africa. He and his wife adopted two beautiful orphans, as their youngest daughters, from Uganda and yet they continue to fully support 25 other orphans. Bishop Lawrence M. Wooten is a visionary of great consequence. However, his greatest vision is for souls. Bishop Wooten is often heard to say, “it’s all about souls”.



“The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that you might have life , and that they might have it more abundantly.” – John 10:10