

FAITH

5 WEEK COURSE

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INTRODUCTION

The Bible is the world's best seller. It consistently outsells any other book. Yet millions have never read it. The Bible has been translated into more languages than any other book in the world. It was originally written in three languages – Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek.

This Bible has been translated by dedicated people so that you can know about someone who cares for you so much. He gave his life for you. This one who loves you very much has a special plan for you and your nation. This person is the Creator-God of Heaven who made the world, the moon, the planets, the sun and stars and all that is upon them.

This Book (the Bible) explains how you can know Him and be blessed. It also explains how you can bless your nation and other nations. Doing what this Book says, and teaching these things to others, can make nations prosperous, progressive, wonderful places to live.

If you teach others what is in this Book, everybody will be well cared for in your nation. Poverty will be replaced with prosperity. Hunger will be replaced with plenty of food. Sickness will be replaced with health. Sin will be replaced with righteousness. Greed, lust and pride will be replaced with generosity, thoughtfulness and humility.

These facts make this the most important book ever written. To Those Who Teach Others: This New Believers Manual contains well-organized Bible Studies for you.

ABBREVIATED NAMES FOR THE BOOKS OF THE BIBLE

The following abbreviations will be found in this booklet

Guide

OLD TESTAMENT

Gen Genesis
Exo Exodus
Lev Leviticus
Num Numbers
Deut Deuteronomy
Josh Joshua
Judg Judges
Ruth Ruth
1Sam 1 Samuel
2Sam 2 Samuel
1Ki 1 Kings
2Ki 2 Kings
1Chr 1 Chronicles
2Chr 2 Chronicles
Ezra Ezra
Neh Nehemiah
Esth Esther
Job Job
Ps Psalms
Prov Proverbs
Ecel Ecclesiastes
Song Song of Solomon
Isa Isaiah
Jer Jeremiah
Lam Lamentations
Eze Ezekiel
Dan Daniel
Hos Hosea
Joel Joel
Amos Amos
Obad Obadiah
Jon Jonah
Mic Micah
Nah Nahum
Hab Habakkuk
Zeph Zephaniah
Hag Haggai
Zech Zechariah
Mal Malachi

*** NEW TESTAMENT ***

Matt Matthew
Mark Mark
Luke Luke
John John
Acts Acts
Rom Romans
1Cor I Corinthians
2Cor II Corinthians
Gal Galatians
Eph Ephesians
Phil Philippians
Col Colossians
1Ths I Thessalonians
2Ths II Thessalonians
1Tim I Timothy
2Tim II Timothy
Titus Titus
Phile Philemon
Heb Hebrews
Jas James
1Pet I Peter
2Pet II Peter
1Jn I John
2Jn II John
3Jn III John
Jude Jude
Rev Revelation

Chapter 1 – The Bible Is The Word Of God

A. GOD'S SPECIAL BOOK

The Word of God – the Holy Bible – is God's special Book. It is not like other books, but is a supernatural Book. It was written by many different people, who wrote by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit (see 2 Timothy 3:16). The Bible is the world's best seller. It consistently outsells any other book.

The Bible has been translated into more languages than any other book in the world. It was originally written in three languages – Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek. The Bible you have has been translated by dedicated people so that you can have God's words, thoughts and plans.

The Bible is also one of the oldest books in the world. The most ancient portions of the Bible date back almost 4,000 years. Yet it is still the most modern book in the world today; for in it we find the answers to life's greatest questions:

“Where did I come from?”

“Why am I here?”

“Where will I go?”

Even though the Bible is made up of 66 smaller books, it has only one central theme: God's loving plan to rescue mankind. At the front of the Bible you will find a list of the 66 books that can be found in the Bible. The Bible is divided into two sections: The Old Testament and The New Testament.

The Old Testament tells us about God's work with His people before the birth of Jesus. The New Testament tells us about Jesus' birth, His life, His great ministry of healing and forgiveness for sick and sinful people, His death on a cross, His being raised from the dead and His ascension (going back to Heaven).

It also tells us about the continuation of His healing, forgiving ministry through those who saw Him after His resurrection. Those who follow Jesus' teaching do many miraculous works just as He said they would (see John 14:12). The teaching of those who saw Him after He was raised from the dead is contained in the Epistles (Letters).

These were written within the first fifty years after Jesus' resurrection. These make up about half the New Testament.

B. STUDY THE BIBLE

The most important relationship you can have in this life is with God. Through reading the Bible you come to understand what God is like – His thoughts, His plans and His promises for you. The list (index) in the front of the Bible will help you find the page number of the part of the Bible you may wish to study.

To help you find specific parts of the Bible, the translators organized the text into:

- Books.
- Chapters within the Books, and
- Verses within the Chapters.
- For instance, if you see a reference like “Genesis 3:15”, this would mean
- The BOOK of Genesis,
- CHAPTER three, and
- VERSE fifteen.

C. HERE IS THE WORLD’S GREATEST PROMISE

“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.”(John 3:16)

D. THE PURPOSE OF THE WORD OF GOD

“And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:” (2 Tim 3:15, 16).

“According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.”(2Pet 1:3,4).

E. THE WORD OF GOD PRODUCES LIFE

“...the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.” (John 6:63).

“By the word of the LORD were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the breath of his mouth. For he spake, and it was done; he commanded, and it stood fast.” (Ps.33:6,9). See also Hebrews 11:3.

F. THE WORD OF GOD IS LIKE WATER

1. It cleanses

We start life in the Kingdom of God totally “washed clean” by the Word of God.

“Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.” (John15:3). See also Ephesians 5:25-27.

2. It Keeps Clean

The Word of God, planted in our hearts, keeps us free from sin.

“Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed thereto according to thy word. Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.” (Ps.119: 9,11).

G. THE WORD OF GOD IS LIGHT FOR OUR LIVES

“We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts.” (2 Pet 1:19)

3. It Gives Understanding In A Dark World

“...the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes.”(Ps. 19:8).

“Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path. The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple.” (Ps.119:105, 130)

H. THE WORD OF GOD IS SPIRITUAL FOOD

“But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.” (Matt 4:4).

4. It Causes Spiritual Growth

“And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ. I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it...” (1Cor.3:1-2).

“As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word that ye may grow thereby.” (1 Pet 2:2).

God’s aim for each of us is expressed in Ephesians 4:12-15:

“...for the edifying of the body of Christ: Till we all come in the unity of the

faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ: That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ.”

I. THE WORD OF GOD IS SEED

In Luke 8:14, 15, Jesus told His disciples the parable of the sower. In Luke 8:11 He said: “The seed is the word of God” God’s will for our lives is fruitfulness (Psalm 1:2,3).

J. THE WORD OF GOD IS LIKE A SWORD

“And take... the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God” (Eph 6:17). See also Hebrews 4:12.

Note how Jesus used the “sword” against Satan in His temptation in the wilderness (Luke 4:1-14)

K. THE WORD OF GOD HELPS US TO PRAY

“If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.” (John 15:7).

‘Ask whatever you will’ literally means to ‘ask as one who has the right – with authority (to command)’.

Now the creative word is in OUR MOUTH!

L. THE WORD OF GOD IS STRONG IN US

“Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock.” (Matt 7:24, 25). See also Matt 7:26, 27.

Jesus said that the wise man who built his house on the rock was a picture of those who hear His Word and obey it. The word of God builds inner concrete within our lives so that no matter what may come against us we will stand strong.

Chapter 2 – God

God is far too great for us to fully understand. He has no beginning and He has no end. There is no place where His presence is not felt.

The Bible asks in Job 11:7: “Canst thou by searching find out God? canst thou find out the Almighty unto perfection?”

God lives in Heaven and He rules over the whole earth. The Bible tells us:

“Thus saith the LORD, “The heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool...” (Isaiah 66:1).

“God reigneth over the heathen: God sitteth upon the throne of his holiness.” (Psalm 47:8).

In this study we are going to be looking at special truths about God. These are facts about God’s unchanging character. Through these you will understand more of what God is like. You will come to understand God and how He cares for you personally.

A. WHAT IS GOD LIKE?

1. God Is The Creator Of Everything.

“Thou, even thou, art LORD alone; thou hast made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host, the earth, and all things that are therein, the seas, and all that is therein, and thou preservest them all; and the host of heaven worshippeth thee.”(Neh 9:6).

“For thou hast possessed my reins: thou hast covered me in my mother's womb.”(Ps.139:13) (Read whole Psalm 139).

2. God Is All-Powerful

“...For who hath resisted his will? ... Hath not the potter power over the clay...?” (Rom 9:19-21).

“Thine, O LORD, is the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty: for all that is in the heaven and in the earth is thine; thine is the kingdom, O LORD, and thou art exalted as head above all.” (1 Chr 29:11).

“Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us” (Eph 3:20).

3. God Is All-Knowing

“Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do.” (Heb 4:13).

“...God is greater than our heart, and knoweth all things.” (1 Jn.3:20).

4. God Is Holy

“There is none holy as the LORD: for there is none beside thee: neither is there any rock like our God.” (1 Sam 2:2).

5. God Is A Spirit

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

6. God Is A Person You Can Know

“Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you...” (Jas 4:8).

“The LORD is nigh unto all them that call upon him, to all that call upon him in truth.” (Ps.145:18).

7. God Is A Loving Father

“Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.” (1 Jn3:1).

B. GOD IS TOO GREAT TO LIVE IN TEMPLES

“God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands; Neither is worshipped with men's hands, as though he needed anything, seeing he giveth to all life, and breath, and all things; For in him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also his offspring.” (Acts 17:24,25,28)

C. WE ARE:

1. Created By God

“I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvellous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well. My substance was not hid from thee, when I was made in secret, and curiously wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. Thine eyes did see my substance, yet being unperfect; and in thy book all my members were written, which in continuance were fashioned, when as yet there was none of them.” (Ps.139:14-16).

2. Owned By God

“What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.” (1 Cor 6:19,20).

3. Called To Worship God

“Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.” (Rev 4:11).

D. MAKE A DECISION

“Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.”(Matt 22:37).

The Bible tells us about a man called Joshua. He was a great leader of the nation of Israel. The people had been wandering for forty years in the wilderness, without a land of their own. Joshua, under God's direction, led them in victory against the evil nations living in Canaan, and possessed their land for the homeless nation of Israel.

Joshua then challenged all the people to make a decision:

“And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: BUT AS FOR ME AND MY HOUSE, WE WILL SERVE THE LORD”(Josh 24:15).

The same challenge comes to each of us. Will you make the same commitment as Joshua this day?

MY COMMITMENT

This day I give my worship to the only true God of heaven and earth, and surrender my will, my life and possessions to Him. From this day I determine never to worship any other gods. My worship is for Him only, and I will teach others the truths about God.

A FINAL WORD

Remember the law of multiplying the Kingdom of God. It is your turn to teach someone else about God and teach them to teach another person.

Chapter 3 – Man and Satan

A. MAN - THE IMAGE OF GOD - MADE TO HAVE DOMINION

God had a very real reason for creating man (male and female). He had a wonderful plan and purpose for them. Because God is love. He desired to have beings of like-mind and like-heart with whom He could share His life... all that He is and all that He is involved with ... who would rule the heavens and the earth with Him like sons. So He created man - in His own image.

"And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them." (Gen 1:26,27).

B. LUCIFER

God created the angels - spirit beings whose purpose is to fulfill God's will. Angels worship God and serve Him continually (Rev 5:11-14).

However, Lucifer, one of the great leading angels rebelled against God. He wanted to be above God's Throne. He wanted to rule all creation from above God's Throne in Heaven. When Lucifer rebelled, God cast him out of Heaven. At the same time, one-third of the angels joined in his rebellion and were cast out with Lucifer (Rev 12:4).

"How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High." (Isa 14:12-14).

Lucifer was cast to the earth, where he is now known as 'Satan' or 'The Devil'. Separated from the glory of the Creator God, he lost the beauty and light he had once had (Eze 28:11-17) and became evil and full of darkness. The angels who fell with him also lost their glory and became evil spirits, in God's newly created world.

But Satan's evil ambition did not change and so he set about with another plan to try and usurp (unlawfully take) God's Throne - he went after the man God had created.

C. THE TEMPTATION

God gave His first man and woman (Adam and Eve) authority over all the earth, and told them to keep it under His dominion. God planted two special trees in the garden where Adam and Eve lived. God called them 'The Tree of Life' and 'The Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil' (see Genesis 2:9,17).

The Tree of Life represented the Life and Authority of God Himself - so in eating its fruit, Adam and Eve would be filled more and more with God's strength and love and glory. The Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil represented Satan's life and authority. The dominion of the whole Creation would always be theirs if they obeyed their loving Creator God (Heb 2:8).

"And the LORD God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it. And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die." (Gen 2:15-17).

However, Satan deceived Eve. He told her the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil wasn't really bad - rather it would make them like gods. She believed the lie and ate the fruit of the Tree. Adam, although he knew it was a lie, also ate of the tree (1 Tim 2:14).

"And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat." (Gen 3:6).

D. THE RESULT

Through that one act of sin, man lost the glory and image of God and the dominion over the Creation. Satan then took the throne vacated by Adam and Eve and exercised his dominion over the earth, and death filled the world (Heb 2:14,15).

"...as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned." (Rom 5:12).

All generations following Adam and Eve inherited their fallen nature. All came under the power and dominion of Satan "And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins; Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others." (Eph 2:1-3).

People's hearts, everywhere, are now filled with:

1. Idolatry

"Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things." (Rom 1:21-23).

2. Immorality

"Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves: Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen. For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet." (Rom 1:24-27)

3. All Kinds Of Wickedness.

"And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient; Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers, Without understanding, covenantbreakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful: Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them." (Rom 1:28-32).

E. GOD'S GREAT PLAN TO RESTORE

God did not give up man because of his sin. No! Instead, He put into action another great plan - the plan to save mankind from Satan's power and to restore him to His original plan of being His sons and sharing His Throne. He began to prepare the world for the coming of the Savior - Jesus. "For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive." (1 Cor 15:22). The New Testament records the story of Christ, the one who would come to save us from our sins.

Chapter 4 – Jesus

A. JESUS IS THE SON OF GOD

Two thousand years ago a man appeared on the scene of history. He was born into the world and grew up into manhood just like every other person, but this man was different to anyone else. He was no ordinary man. A virgin conceived by the Holy Spirit to bring Him to birth. He was God, Himself coming to the earth in human form. He was the "Son of God" (Luke 1:26-35).

"In the beginning was the Word (Jesus), and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth." (John 1:1,14).

B. JESUS CAME TO THE WORLD FOR A SPECIAL PURPOSE

1. To Rescue Mankind From Satan's Power

"For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost." (Luke 19:10) See also Colossians 1:13.

2. To Give His Life As A Ransom to Buy Us Back

"...the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many." (Matt 20:28).

3. To Destroy The Works Of Satan In Our Lives

"He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil." (1 Jn 3:8).

4. To Give Us Eternal Life

"And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life." (1 Jn 5:11,12). See also John 3:16,17 and John 10:10

5. To Give Us New "Birth" Into The Family Of God

"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: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God." (John 1:12-13). See also 1 John 3:1,2.

6. To Restore Our Fellowship With God The Father

"That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ." (1 Jn 1:3).

C. JESUS CAME TO SHOW US WHAT GOD IS LIKE

"If ye had known me (Jesus), ye should have known my Father also: and from henceforth ye know him, and have seen him ... he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Shew us the Father? Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? the words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works..." (John 14:7-11), see also John 1:18.

1. He Showed Us God's 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. Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins." (1 Jn 4:9, 10). See also Romans 5:8.

2. He Showed Us God's Power

1. He healed the sick, the lame and the blind. "And his fame went throughout all Syria: and they brought unto him all sick people that were taken with divers diseases and torments, and those which were possessed with devils, and those which were lunatick, and those that had the palsy; and he healed them." (Matt 4:24). See also John 9:1-7.
2. He Cast Out Evil Spirits. "And he healed many that were sick of divers diseases, and cast out many devils; and suffered not the devils to speak, because they knew him." (Mark 1:34). See also Mark 5:1-17.
3. He Performed Miracles. "And there arose a great storm of wind, and the waves beat into the ship, so that it was now full....he [Jesus] arose, and rebuked the wind, and said unto the sea, Peace, be still.' And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm... they [His disciples] feared exceedingly and said one to another, What manner of man is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?' (Mark 4:37-41). See also John 6:1-21.
4. He Raised The Dead "...he (Jesus) cried with a loud voice, Lazarus, come forth. And he that was dead came forth, bound hand and foot with graveclothes: and his face was bound about with a napkin. Jesus saith unto them, Loose him, and let him go.' (John 11:43,44).

D. JESUS SHARED OUR SUFFERINGS IN HIS LIFE.

During His life on earth Jesus experienced all the troubles of life that we face, and so understands how we feel.

"For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin." (Heb4:15). See also Mathew 8:17.

E. JESUS DIED ON THE CROSS FOR US

Wicked men took the Lord Jesus and executed Him by nailing Him to a wooden cross like a common criminal. He could have saved himself, but He did not, for it was through His death on the Cross that God was going to save the world. Jesus died for us! (Read Mark 15:16-39)

"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." (1 Pet 2:24). See also Isaiah 53:5,6.

F. JESUS ROSE FROM THE DEAD FOR US

After three days in the tomb God raised His Son from the dead! (Read Matt 28). This, too, was for us!

"But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, ...And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus..." (Eph 2:4-6), see also Romans 6:4

G. JESUS OPENED THE DOOR OF HEAVEN FOR US

When His work on earth was completed, Jesus returned to Heaven to be with God, His Father. But this, too, was for us ... for He opened the way into God's presence for us, where we can live now and forever!

"Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh...Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith..." (Heb 10:19-22). See also John 14:1-3.

MY COMMITMENT

Today I acknowledge that Jesus is the Son of God and that He came into the world to meet my great need of a Saviour. I will also tell others that He came to the world for them.

Chapter 5 – The Cross

When Jesus Christ was put to death by being nailed to a wooden cross, wicked men thought they were just executing a man who was disturbing their way of life. They did not realize that the Cross was planned by God from the beginning of the world.

A. GOD DEALS WITH ALL SIN

Through His Son's death on the Cross, the great Creator God was dealing with every person's sin, suffering and sorrow. Jesus was dying in the place of every individual in the world. Receiving personally what He has done on the Cross brings the answer to all our needs.

1. God Reveals His Power Through The Cross

"For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God." (1Cor 1:18) See also Romans 1:16.

2. God Shows His Love On The Cross

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

3. God Removed Our Sorrows On The Cross

"Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted." (Isa 53:4).

4. Jesus Took The Punishment For Our Sins On The Cross

"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. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all." (Isa 53: 5,6). See also 1 Peter 2:24.

B. NEW RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD THROUGH THE CROSS

Because God is so holy and righteous, sin separates us from Him. No one with sin in their hearts is able to be in His presence. So, not only by dying on the Cross did Jesus suffer for our sins in our place; but also He made it possible for us know God personally and to experience the love, peace and joy which fellowship with Him brings.

1. We Become Acceptable To God Through the Cross

"For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him." (2 Cor 5:21).

2. We Receive Forgiveness Through The Cross

"Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son: In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins:" (Col 1:13,14). See also 1 John 2:1,2.

3. We Become Members Of God's Family Through The Cross

"For both he that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified are all of one: for which cause he is not ashamed to call them brethren, Saying, I will declare thy name unto my brethren, in the midst of the church will I sing praise unto thee." (Heb 2:11,12). See also John 1:12

4. Racial Barriers Are Broken Through The Cross

"But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ. For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us; Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace; And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby."(Ephesians 2:13-16).

C. FREEDOM THROUGH THE CROSS

Jesus' death on the Cross was a great victory for us. Because God dealt with our sin on the Cross, it means also that all the misery and suffering which is a result of sin was also dealt with. The Cross has won great freedom for us!

1. Freedom From Satan

"And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it." (Col 2:15). See also Colossians 1:13.

2. Freedom from Past Sins

"If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed." (John 8:36). See also Colossians 2:13.

3. Freedom From Present Sins

"For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace." (Rom 6:14)

4. Freedom From Sickness

"That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esaias the prophet, saying, Himself took our infirmities, and bare our sicknesses." (Matt 8:17).

5. Freedom From The Curse

"Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree" (Gal 3:13) See also Deuteronomy 28:15-68.

6. Freedom From The Judgment

"For then must he often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself. And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment" (Heb 9:26,27)

7. Freedom From Everlasting Death

"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." (John 3:16).

D. LOVE AND JUSTICE MEET AT THE CROSS

The Cross is the place where the love of God and the righteous judgment of God meet. His righteous judgment demanded the death penalty for sin - the shedding of blood. His love met His own demands and Jesus, the Son of God, died in our place.

"But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him. For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life. And not only so, but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the atonement." (Rom 5:8-11)

E. THE CROSS IS THE CENTER OF HISTORY

The Cross of Jesus Christ is the center point of mankind's existence on earth. From the moment the first man and woman sinned (see Genesis 3), it was pre-planned by God that Jesus would die on the Cross.

From that time on, people looked forward in faith to what God promised he would do on the Cross to save them. Today we look back and, by believing what Jesus has done for us on the Cross, receive forgiveness and new life.

MY COMMITMENT

Today I put my whole trust in what God was doing for me when Jesus died on the Cross. I believe He took the punishment for my sin. I receive the forgiveness that God is offering to me. And I thank Him for the relationship this now gives me with Him. I make a decision today that I will live each day in this personal relationship with God and commit myself to share this truth with others.

Chapter 6 – The Blood of Christ

The shedding of Jesus Christ's blood on the cross was a factor in order for us to receive forgiveness for our sins and acceptance into the presence of God...."without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness" (Heb 9:22).

A. LIFE IS IN THE BLOOD

"For the life of the flesh is in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls: for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul." (Lev 17:11)

When we sin, we earn death. "The wages of sin is death" (Rom 6:23). Jesus paid this penalty for us by shedding His blood (dying for us by shedding His blood (dying for us - in our place). Atonement (at-one-ment) means to be made AT ONE with God. Jesus gave His life (shed His blood) on the Cross for our AT ONE MENT (atonement).

This made it possible for us to be AT-ONE with God. Jesus' blood means we are no longer His enemy but His friend, his sons and daughters. By faith we accept what He did for us.

B. WHAT SIN DOES TO OUR LIFE

1. Separates Us From God

"But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear." (Isa 59.2).

2. Makes Us Feel Guilty

"For mine iniquities are gone over mine head: as an heavy burden they are too heavy for me." (Ps 38:4)

3. Allows Satan To Accuse Us

"...for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night." (Rev.12:10)

4. Demands The Death Penalty

"...the soul that sinneth, it shall die." (Eze 18:4).

The blood of Christ meets all of our needs.

5. Leads to hell

"And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal." (Matthew 25:46)

C. THE BLOOD IS FOR GOD

The blood of Christ wholly satisfies God's law - which requires a penalty for breaking the law. 1 John 3:4 says "sin transgresseth also the law" The blood protects us from the penalty of breaking the law (death).

In Exodus 12, God commands the people of Israel to put the blood of a lamb on their door-posts to protect them from the destroyer - who would kill all the first-born. This lamb was a picture of the Lamb - Jesus - Who would come later. God said, "and when I see the blood, I will pass over [protect] you..." (Ex. 12:13).

1. Fellowship Is Restored

"But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him." (Rom 5:8,9).

2. We Are Redeemed - purchased back from slavery

"In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace" (Eph 1:7).

D. THE BLOOD IS FOR MAN

The blood has satisfied God; now it is to satisfy us in the cleansing of our conscience from guilt.

1. The Blood Cleanses From Guilt

"How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?" (Heb 9:14).

2. The Blood Sanctifies Us – Makes us holy

"Wherefore Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people with his own blood, suffered without the gate." (Heb 13:12).

3. The Blood Brings Us Close To God

"...by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven. And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled." (Colossians 1:20-21).

4. The Blood Gives Boldness To Enter God's Presence

"Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh; And having an high priest over the house of God; Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water." (Heb 10:19-22).

5. The Blood Perfects Us In The Sight Of God

"For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified." (Hebrews 10:14).

E. THE BLOOD IS FOR THE DEVIL

Satan's most strategic activity in this age is as the accuser of the brethren (Revelation 12:10) and the Lord confronts him in His special ministry as High Priest through His own blood (Heb 9:11-14).

1. The Blood Puts God On Man's Side Against The Devil

"...If God be for us, who can be against us? Who shall lay anything to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth. Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us." (Rom 8:31,33,34).

The devil has no ground for accusation against those who have received the work of Christ's shed blood for them.

2. The Blood Dissolves All Satan's Legal Rights Of Ownership

"In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins" (Col 1:14).

'Redemption' means 'to buy back'. We are under new ownership, and the price that was paid for us was the shed blood of Jesus.

"...the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood." (Acts 20:28). See also 1 Corinthians 6:19,20; 1 Timothy 2:6).

F. WHAT THE BLOOD OF CHRIST HAS BROUGHT US

1. Purity Of Heart

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

2. Eternal Life

"Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you. Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day." (John 6:53,54).

3. Access To God

"But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ." (Eph 2:13).

MY COMMITMENT

I now understand what the shed blood of Jesus means to God, to Satan and to me. I make my commitment to share with others the truth concerning the blood of Christ. I will remind myself often of the covenant God has with me, to forgive my sin and cleanse me from sin and protect me from Satan's harm.

Chapter 7 – The Resurrection

After His death on the Cross, Jesus lay in the grave for three days (Matt 12:40). Then - God raised His Son from the dead! (Read Mathew 28.)

“And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead.” (Rom 1:4)

A. GOD RAISED YOU UP TOGETHER WITH CHRIST

Jesus' death was for you. So was His resurrection!

"And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins; Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air ... But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus." (See Eph 2:1-6; Colossians 3:1-3).

1. To Give You New Life

"Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began, But is now made manifest by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel." (2 Tm 1:9,10).

2. To Give You New Birth

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead" (1 Pet 1:3).

3. To Give You A New Beginning

"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." (2 Cor 5:17).

4. To Overcome Satan:

- a. Victory Over Satan. "Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world [Satan]. For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith. Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?" (1 Jn 4:4;5:4,5). See also Colossians 2:13-15.

- b. Authority Over Satan. After His resurrection, "...Jesus Christ...is gone into heaven, and is on the right hand of God; angels and authorities and powers [this includes Satan] being made subject unto him." (1 Pet 3:21,22). See also Luke 10:17-19.
- c. Power Over Satan. "The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know... And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power, Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places, Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come: And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all." (Eph 1:18-23) See also Mark 16:15-18, Acts 1:8 and Acts 4:33.

5. To Make You A Son And Heir In God's Kingdom

"For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together." (Rom 8:15-17).

B. THE RESURRECTION MEETS EVERY NEED OF LIFE

1. It Is Your Deliverance From The PAST

"Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. For he that is dead is freed from sin. Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him: Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him. For in that he died, he died unto sin once: but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God. Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord." (Rom 6:4-11). See also Ephesians 2:1-7 and Colossians 2:12-15.

2. It Is Your Power For The PRESENT

Because Jesus is ALIVE we have now received the power of His Spirit to live a life of victory over sin and all Satan's attacks against us.

“What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us? He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things? Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth. Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.” (Rom 8:31-37).

3. It Is Your Hope For The FUTURE

The resurrection of Jesus gives us great hope for the future. He is called “the first born from the dead” (Col 1:18). In His resurrection, he was opening the way for all those who would believe in Him to follow after Him – to also be raised from the dead!

One wonderful day in the future, Jesus Christ will return to the earth again – not as a baby this time, but revealing to the whole world who he really is – the glorious God and ruler of all creation. At that time all those who have died, believing in Him, will be raised to life again!

“And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins. Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished. If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable. But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept. For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming.” (1 Cor 15:17-23). See also 1 Corinthians 15:50-57 and 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18.

MY COMMITMENT

Because of the resurrection of Christ, I make a commitment today to receive the fullness of my new life and liberation in Him. I will stand fast in this truth and share it with everyone I can.

Chapter 8 – Repentance

Repentance is the first step we take to receive the salvation that God offers to us in the Lord Jesus Christ.

"...God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ. Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do? Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost." (Acts 2:36-38). See also Acts 17:30.

A. WHAT REPENTANCE IS NOT

1. Not Just Feeling Guilty

Feeling guilty about our sin comes before repentance, but is not repentance itself. No one repents unless they first feel guilty about their sin, but not all who feel guilty actually repent.

"And as he (Paul) reasoned of righteousness, temperance, and judgment to come, Felix trembled, and answered, Go thy way for this time; when I have a convenient season, I will call for thee." (Acts 24:25). Felix felt guilty but did not repent.

2. Not Just Being Sorry For Your Sin

Some people are very sorry because of the consequences of their sin, or because they have been caught. Many people are sorry, not for what they have done wrong, but for the penalty they receive in being caught.

"For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death." (2 Cor 7:10).

3. Not Just Trying To Be A Good Person

Many people try in their own strength to become a better person and change their way of life. Any self-effort has a root of self-righteousness in it, which does not acknowledge the need of repentance from sin.

"But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away." (Isa 64:6).

4. Not Becoming Religious

The Pharisees in the Bible were extremely religious in behaviour and practice. They fasted and prayed and had many religious ceremonies, yet never repented.

“But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees come to his baptism, he said unto them, O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance: And think not to say within yourselves, we have Abraham to our father: for I say unto you, that God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham.” (Matthew 3:7-10). See also Matthew 5:20).

5. Not Just Knowing The Truth

Having an intellectual head-knowledge of truth does not necessarily guarantee that the truth has become a living reality in one's life. Believing with the head and believing with the heart are different (see Romans 10:10).

“Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble. But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?” (Jas 2:19,20)

B. WHAT TRUE REPENTANCE IS

1. Being Sorry To God For Your Sin

True repentance is a sorrow not just toward one's self, or toward another person, but first and foremost it is true sorrow towards God.

“Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy lovingkindness: according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin is ever before me. Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done this evil in thy sight: that thou mightest be justified when thou speakest, and be clear when thou judgest.” (Psalms 51:1-4). See also Psalms 38:8.

2. Being Truthful About Your Sin

“I acknowledged my sin unto thee, and mine iniquity have I not hid. I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the LORD; and thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin.” (Ps 32:5). See also 1 John 1:9.

3. Turning Away From Your Sin

“He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy.” (Prov 28:13).

4. Hating Sin

“Thou hast loved righteousness and hated iniquity, therefore...God has anointed thee...” (Heb 1:9). “...and ye shall lothe yourselves in your own sight for all your evils that ye have committed...” (Eze 20:43).

5. When Possible, Paying Back To others What You Owe

“And Zacchaeus stood, and said unto the Lord; Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have taken any thing from any man by false accusation, I restore him fourfold.” (Luke 19:8) See also Leviticus 6:1-7).

C. WHAT REPENTANCE INVOLVES

1. Turning From Sin

“Be ye not as your fathers, unto whom the former prophets have cried, saying, Thus saith the LORD of hosts; Turn ye now from your evil ways, and from your evil doings: but they did not hear, nor hearken unto me, saith the LORD.” (Zechariah 1:4). See also Galatians 5:19-21 and Ephesians 5:5.

2. Turning From The World

“Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.” (1 Jn 2:15). See also James 4:4.

3. Turning From Yourself

“And that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again.” (2 Cor 5:15) See also Luke 14:26.

4. Turning From The Devil

“To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God...” (Acts 26:18). See also Colosians 1:13.

5. Turning to God

“Therefore say thou unto them, Thus saith the LORD of hosts; Turn ye unto me, saith the LORD of hosts, and I will turn unto you, saith the LORD of hosts.” (Zech 1:3).

6. Turning To Right-Living

“Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God.” (Rom 6:13).

MY COMMITMENT

Today I decide to repent and will keep turning from sin as God reveals wrongdoing to me.

Chapter 9 – Faith

Faith has always been the mark of a disciple of Jesus. The early disciples were known as BELIEVERS.

“Jesus said unto him, If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth.” (Mark 9:23).

Faith means total dependence on God. When Adam sinned, he stepped out of God-dependence into in-dependence (which is unbelief). This is the reason God has placed such a high priority on faith. Faith is the way we come back into relationship with God (God-dependence).

This dependence on God is called faith. Faith advances you beyond your five senses of seeing, hearing, tasting, smelling and touching. Faith releases you from your limited capacities. By faith you move from in-ability to His-ability. This is the walk of faith to which all of us are called – where “nothing shall be impossible” (Matt 17:20).

A. WHAT IS FAITH?

Faith is obedient action in response to what God has said. True faith is expressed in

- 1) Obedience and
- 2) Action, in response to
- 3) Hearing God's word (voice).

“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.”(Heb 11:1).

Faith means having trust, assurance or confidence in another person or that person's words. Having faith in God involves an exchange of self-trust for God-trust. We stop trusting in ourself and trust Him. We abandon reliance on our limited source of knowledge and start receiving from His unlimited source.

B. TWO KINDS OF KNOWLEDGE

“And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power: That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God. Howbeit we speak wisdom among them that are perfect: yet not the wisdom of this world, nor of the princes of this world, that come to nought: But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory.” (1 Cor 2:4-7). See also 1 Cor. 2:8-16.

1. Sense Knowledge

All knowledge that comes to natural man comes to him through the five senses – seeing, hearing, tasting, smelling and touching. This is limited knowledge, described as 'man's wisdom'

2. Revelation Knowledge

This knowledge is not based on the five senses, nor on natural reasoning but on an alternative source – the TRUTH of the Word of God. It is received through man's spirit, and is described as 'God's wisdom' - "For we walk by FAITH, not by sight" (2 Cor 5:7).

C. THE BASIS OF FAITH

Faith in God is based on three important realities:

1. The Nature of God

"For when God made promise to Abraham, because he could swear by no greater, he swore by himself." (Heb 6:13).

- a. He Cannot Change. "For I am the LORD, I change not..."(Mal 3:6). See also James 1:17)
- b. He Cannot Fail. "I know that thou canst do everything, and that no thought can be withholden from thee." (Job 42:2). See also 1 Chr 28:20).
- c. He Cannot Lie. "God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do it? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?" (Num 23:19). See also Titus 1:2.

2. The Redemptive Work Of The Son Of God

"Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God." (Heb 12:2).

Christ has become the source of our faith in God. The fact of His death and resurrection provides ground for our believing.

"...Christ Jesus... who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption" (1 Cor 1:30). See also Romans 5:1,2.

3. The Word Of God

“Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.” (Matthew 24:35). See also Isaiah 40:8.

“Then said the LORD unto me, ‘...I will hasten my word to perform it.’”(Jeremiah 1:12).

His Word stands true forever. Faith comes when God brings a specific word – out of all He has ever said - directly to us in our circumstances. Spoken in this way, the Word of God comes alive to us releasing our faith.

D. HOW FAITH WORKS

The principle of faith (Rom 3:27) is to operate in our lives continually, no matter what the circumstances (see 2 Corinthians 5:7 James 1:5,6). It works in the following way:

1. God Gives Us Faith

“For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.” | “...the just shall live by his faith.” (Compare Romans 1:17 and Habakkuk 2:4).

The righteous live by HIS faith - that is the faith HE gives us as a gift.

“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God” (Eph 2:8). “...according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.” (Rom 12:3).

2. Faith Comes By A Word From God

Firstly, God encourages us by speaking a “word” relevant to our circumstances.

This may come as you read the Bible or by hearing the voice of the Holy Spirit inside your spirit. “...faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.” (Rom 10:17). See also Genesis 15:3-5; 17:15-21; Joshua 1:8.

3. Obedience To The Word

For faith to operate in our situation, we must obey that word. Faith is ACTIVE, not passive. Most of god's promises are conditional – He will do His part, if we do our part.

“...faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.” (Jas 2:17). See Jas 1:22-25; Genesis 15:6, Mathew 7:24-27.

4. The Crisis, Or “Trial Of Our Faith

This is a period of testing. Everything happening around us appears contrary to what God has said, and there seems to be no natural evidence for our believing. At this point, our faith rests completely on God's word (what He has spoken to us).

“Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations: That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ.” (1 Pet 1:6,7). See also Romans 4:16-21; Psalms 105:17-19.

In faith we cast ourselves on HIS FAITHFULNESS. In our times of doubt and struggle, God is faithful and does not abandon us.

“If we believe not, yet he abideth faithful: he cannot deny himself.” (2 Tim 2:13).

He was faithful to Thomas and Peter when their faith was tested. Jesus didn't abandon them. “I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.” (Heb 13:5).

5. The Result

The end result is always victory on the part of the believer, bringing glory to God (see also James 1:2-4, James 1:12; Genesis 21:1-3; Psalms 105:19-22; Acts 3:16; Hebrews 6:13-15).

“For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.” (1 Jn 5:4).

MY COMMITMENT

Today I decide to live by faith and trust God in all areas of my life. I acknowledge my need to be totally dependent on God – which is faith in action. In problems, challenges and difficulties I will rely on His faithfulness. God's response will be His grace – His enabling power. I will teach others also to rely on God's faithfulness and walk with faith in God.

Chapter 10 – Grace

“And with great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus: and great grace was upon them all.” (Acts 4:33).

“And thence sailed to Antioch, from whence they had been recommended to the grace of God for the work which they fulfilled.” (Acts 14:26).

Why was the grace of God so important in the experience of the early Christians? Why did the church in Antioch pray that the GRACE of God would be upon Paul and Barnabas, and later on Paul and Silas, as they set out on their missionary journeys?

A. THE MEANING OF GRACE

The most common understanding of the word “grace” is “God's unmerited favor” - in other words, even though we were sinners, deserving of judgment, God looked upon us in love and forgave us. This, however, is only half its meaning. It also means “God's enabling power.”

“Now our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God, even our Father, which hath loved us, and hath given us everlasting consolation and good hope through grace, Comfort your hearts, and stablish you in every good word and work.” (2 Ths 2:16,17).

Not only does His grace make us accepted into the family of God, but it also provides the power we need to live the Christian life. Two scriptures indicate the two aspects of God's grace in every believer.

1. God's Unmerited Favour

“For by grace [God's unmerited favour] are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.” (Ephesians 2:8,9).

2. God's Enabling Power

“Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.” (Eph 1:5-6). Read also the whole chapter, which describes all that we have received by grace (by His enabling power).

In salvation, not only is God's unmerited favor expressed (that we receive forgiveness and restored relationship with Him even though we don't deserve it), but so also is God's enabling power – for it is only by HIS power that we can be transformed.

“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.” (2 Cor 5:17).

This principle of grace continues throughout our walk with God. In every area of our Christian lives, it is God's grace that causes us to grow and be strong – God's enabling power given to us without any merit on our part.

“...grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ...” (2Pet 3:18).

B. GRACE IS GIVEN TO THE HEROES OF FAITH

This operating force of grace is revealed in the lives of men and women throughout the whole Bible. Every hero of faith began his walk with God aware of his own weakness and inability. It was only through him allowing God's grace – His enabling power – to work in his life that he was able to become the kind of person that God wanted him to be, and to fulfill the plan and purpose God had for his life.

C. GRACE IN THE LIFE OF MOSES

Read Exodus 3:11-13; 4:1-13. The command the Lord gave Moses was no small task. Egypt was the ruling empire of the day. It was an evil nation, and Pharaoh, its satanic leader, held authority that was claimed to be divine. Every nation in the known world lived in fear of Pharaoh.

When God told Moses to go down to Egypt and tell Pharaoh to let His three million people go free from slavery, Moses' immediate response – out of his own weakness and inability – was as follows:

Exodus 3:11 “Who am I?”

Exodus 3:13 “What is your name?”

Exodus 4:1 “they will not believe me”

Exodus 4:10 “I'm not eloquent”

Exodus 4:13 “O my Lord, send, I pray thee, by the hand of him whom thou wilt send.”

But with God's grace, Moses did go down to Egypt, and with signs and wonders brought the people of Israel out as God told him to.

D. GRACE IN THE LIFE OF GIDEON

Read Judges 6:1-24. The call of God came to Gideon to deliver His people from the conquering armies of Midian. Israel had known only defeat for many years. Gideon's response to God's word in verse 13 reveals his initial unbelief:

“But sir,” Gideon replied, “If the Lord is with us, why has all this happened to us? Where are all his wonders that our fathers told us about when they said, Did not the Lord bring us up out of Egypt? But now the Lord has abandoned us and put us into the hand of Midian.” Even when the Lord encouraged him and promised to be with him, Gideon said unto him, “Oh my Lord, wherewith shall I save Israel? behold, my family is poor in Manasseh, and I am the least in my father's house.”

(see Judges 6:15). But despite his fear and inability, with God's grace (enabling power) Gideon saved Israel. And he did it with just a small band of men. It was GRACE that made the difference!

E. GRACE IN THE LIFE OF THE APOSTLE PAUL

Read Acts 15:40. Before Paul and Silas set out on their missionary journey together, the church at Antioch prayed for them and “being recommended by the brethren unto the grace of God.” for the work that was ahead of them.

Read Paul's description of his experiences in 2 Corinthians 11:22-33. It is understandable that he was first commended to the grace of God! He needed it to survive! The Lord's answer to Paul's confession of weakness is His promise for us too:

“...My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness...” (2 Cor 12:9).

F. GRACE RELEASED IN OUR LIVES

In our relationship with God – as we walk with Him each day – we constantly meet situations that would try to overwhelm us. Our response to God is to trust His Word. We express our trust through obedience. This proves we believe what God's Word says despite what the circumstances might indicate – His enabling power, his Grace causes us to triumph in every situation.

G. TWO IMPORTANT PROMISES

1. We Have Bold Access To The Throne Of Grace

“Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.” (Heb4:16).

2. God Is Able

“And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work” (2 Cor 9:8).

MY COMMITMENT

Today I decide to receive God's grace – His enabling power – into every area and problem that arises in my life, and teach others to do the same also.

Chapter 11 – Water Baptism

Jesus commanded all those who believed in Him to be baptized in water.

"And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth." (Matt 28:18,19). See also Acts 2:38-41.

To be "baptized" means to be "totally immersed." When a person repents from his sin and believes Jesus died for him, before many witnesses, he (or she) is to be taken to water, put right under it and brought up again. Why would Jesus command that His believers do such a strange thing?

A. UNDERSTANDING WATER BAPTISM

Understanding what water baptism is all about is the key to a victorious and liberated Christian life. The act of going under the water and rising up from it again is a picture demonstrating what has happened to the Christian believer.

B. FOUR STAGES OF CHRIST'S WORK PICTURED

1. He Died... I Died In Him

"Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. For he that is dead is freed from sin." (Rom 6:6,7).

2. He Was Buried ... I Was Buried with Him

"Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death..." (Rom 6:3,4).

3. He Was Raised ... I Have A New Life In Him

"...that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection." (Rom 6:4,5).

4. He Ascended ... I Ascended In Him

"And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus." (Eph 2:6). See also Colossians 3:1.

C. WATER BAPTISM IS...

1. Your Funeral Service!

A burial service is not to kill a man off. It is only performed when the man is dead already. And so, because you have "died" in Christ, you bury your old life in water baptism.

2. Your Resurrection To New Life!

You rise out of the water demonstrating and declaring you are a new creation in Christ!

"Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him: Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him. For in that he died, he died unto sin once: but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God. Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord." (Rom 6:8-11).

D. THE TWO KINGDOMS

"Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son" (Col 1:13).

Every man and woman born into the world is born into the Kingdom of Darkness; born slaves of the dictator Satan. There is no way out of this kingdom except by DEATH, and there is no way into the Kingdom of God except by BIRTH. And so Jesus became both our death and new birth - and this we declare in water baptism!

E. THE TWO RACES

As there are two kingdoms, so within each kingdom is a different race of people. The Adamic Race populates the Kingdom of Darkness, and the New Creation populates the Kingdom of God.

1. The First Adam

"For as in Adam all die..." (1 Cor 15:22). See also Romans 5:12.

Adam was the father of us all, the entire human race. Adam's sin alienated us all from God. Because of his sin, we all inherited his rebellious and diseased nature and became subject to death. Adam's off-spring are called "the Adamic Race".

2. The Last Adam

"For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly." (Rom 5:6).

There was no way God could change the fallen Adamic Race. He had to put an end to that race and begin a whole new race of humanity. Jesus was the Last Adam. He came as the lastborn of the Adamic Race and the firstborn of a new race.

As He hung upon the Cross, He hung there as the last Adam - the last born of the Adamic Race. When He died on the Cross, the Adamic Race and the Adamic sinful nature died. God put to death the fallen creation in Him. The Adamic Race died in Christ.

3. The Second Man

"...so in Christ shall all be made alive." (1 Cor 15:22). Jesus came as God's new Man, through which a new race would be created. Jesus was raised from the dead - not as the last Adam - but as the Second Man, the Head of the New Creation.

"And so it is written: The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam (Christ) was made a quickening spirit. Howbeit that was not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural; and afterward that which is spiritual. The first man is of the earth, earthy: the second man is the Lord from heaven. As is the earthy, such are they also that are earthy: and as is the heavenly, such are they also that are heavenly. And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly." (1 Cor 15:45-49).

4. The New Creation

"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." (2Corinthians 5:17). See also Ephesians 2:10.

In water baptism we declare to all our friends and acquaintances that we are no longer part of Adam's race and the Kingdom of Darkness. We are a New Creation in Christ, belonging to the Kingdom of God!

MY COMMITMENT

Through this study I now realize that my old life with its sin and judgment has been put to death in Jesus' death, and now because of Jesus' resurrection I have a whole new life to live. Because this is what water baptism pictures, I made this commitment to be baptized in water and to share this truth with others.

Chapter 12 – The Holy Spirit

After Jesus rose from the dead, He appeared to His disciples for 40 days. Then, when they were all gathered together with Him on the top of a high hill. He was taken up into Heaven before their eyes (Read Acts 1:1-11). However, before He left, Jesus gave His believers a very special and wonderful promise:

"And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; Even the Spirit of truth..." (John 14:16-17)

"...I tell you the truth; 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)

Jesus has not left us alone in the world. He has sent us the Holy Spirit.

A. THE HOLY SPIRIT IS GOD

The very first thing we must understand about the Holy Spirit is that He is indeed God.

"But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost...thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God." (Acts 5:3,4). See also 2 Cor3:17.

God has chosen to express Himself to mankind as Father, as son and as the Holy Spirit. These are the expression of three distinct Persons (Personalities), yet the three are one.

B. THE GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

The Holy Spirit is God's gift to every believer. When a person believes in Jesus, and receives the salvation He offers, the Holy Spirit comes to live in the believer, imparting spiritual life.

"Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call.' (Acts 2:38,39). See also John 7:37-39.

C. THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

1. In The Believer's Personal Life

The Holy Spirit comes to dwell with the believer to minister to him personally:

- a. He Testifies Of Our Relationship With God. "Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God" (Rom 8:16). See also 1 John 3:24.

- b. He Teaches. "But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you." (John 14:26).
- c. He Guides. "For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God." (Rom 8:14).
- d. He helps Us Live A Life Pleasing To God. "This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh." (Galatians 5:16). See also Gal 5:17-25.
- e. He Helps Us In Prayer. "Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered." (Rom 8:26).
- f. He Gives Life To Our Bodies. "But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you." (Rom 8:11).

2. In The Believer For Service

As well as giving the Holy Spirit to dwell in the believer, God also wants to fill and baptize the believer with the Holy Spirit to empower him to serve and glorify God in the world.

- a. The Holy Spirit Gives Power And Boldness To Witness. "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). See also Acts 2:14-40.
- b. He Introduces The Supernatural Realm. "Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit; To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit; To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues." (1 Cor 12:4; 8-10). See also Acts 2:4; 10:46; 19:6.
- c. He Testifies That Jesus Is Alive. "The God of our fathers raised up Jesus, whom ye slew and hanged on a tree. Him hath God exalted with his right hand to be a Prince and a Saviour, for to give repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins. Him hath God exalted with his right hand to be a Prince and a Saviour, for to give repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins. And we are his witnesses of these things; and so is also the Holy Ghost, whom God hath given to them that obey him. " (Acts 5:30-32). See also Acts 4:31-33.

- d. He Brings A Fresh Understanding Of the Word Of God. "...as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God." (1 Cor 2:9,10). See also John 16:13.
- e. He Fills Our spirit with True Worship To God. "be filled with the Spirit, speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord" (Ephesians 5:18,19)
- f. He Glorifies Jesus. "Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come. He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you. All things that the Father hath are mine: therefore said I, that he shall take of mine, and shall shew it unto you." (John 16:13-15). See also John 15:26.

D. HOW TO BE BAPTIZED IN THE HOLY SPIRIT

God wants His Holy Spirit, Who indwells you because you are a believer in Jesus, to fill you to overflowing with power to serve Him (Eph 5:18).

1. It Is A Gift Promised By God; So Ask For It

"...how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?" (Luke 11:13). See also Luke 9:12.

2. Begin to Praise God As You Receive In Faith

"And they worshipped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy: And were continually in the temple, praising and blessing God." (Luke 24:52,53).

3. You Will Speak With A Supernatural Language

"...the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues..." (Acts 19:6). See also Mark 16:17; Acts 2:4; 10:45,46; 1 Corinthians 14:5,18.

MY COMMITMENT

I thank God for the Gift of the Holy Spirit in my life. I make a decision today to respond to the Holy spirit's prompting and directing. I determine to learn to listen for the voice of the Holy spirit in my heart. I choose to be filled with the Spirit. I now open my spirit to be filled with the Holy Spirit.

Chapter 13 – Temptation

A. SATAN ATTACKS

Satan attacks the individual Christian mostly through temptation. and he focuses this assault in two spheres:

1. The Desires Of the World

He will seek to tempt a believer to become absorbed into the world's system:

- to make the material blessings that the world offers a central desire;
- to make the honor and recognition of this world an important goal; and
- to make the comfort of being one with those of this world our basis for security.

"Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him." (1 Jn 2:15).

See also James 4:4, 5 and 1 Timothy 6:6-11.

2. The Desires Of The Flesh

Through Christ's work on the Cross, the true Christian is delivered from the results of sin, and from the power of sin (Rom 6:6-14). But he still lives in a physical body that is subject to natural appetites and desires. Satan will use these to try and get a Christian to place greater importance upon them than upon the promptings of the Holy Spirit within him (Romans 8:5-9). See also James 1:14; Ephesians 2:3.

B. SATAN'S ORIGINAL VICTORY

It was in the areas of the world and the flesh that Satan won his original victory in the temptation of the first man and woman, and these are still his tactics today.

"For all that is in the world, the LUST OF THE FLESH (craving for sensual gratification), and the LUST OF THE EYES (greedy longings of the mind) and the PRIDE OF LIFE (assurance in one's own resources or in the stability of earthly things) is not of the Father, but is of the world" (1 Jn 2:16).

Compare Eve's Temptation With This Verse:

Genesis 3:6
GOOD FOR FOOD
Pleasing TO THE EYE
Desirable for GAINING WISDOM

1 John 2:16
"Lust of the flesh"
Lust of the eyes
"Pride of life"

Since the fall of Adam and Eve, all mankind has been governed by their flesh (the three things outlined above). The flesh is also corrupted by a sinful nature (Galatians 5:19-21)

C. VICTORY WON BY CHRIST

1. Through His Life

Jesus was tempted in everything, exactly as we are, "yet without sin" (Heb 4:15).

Compare Jesus' Temptation With This Verse:

Luke 4:1-13	1 John 2:16
Stones to bread	"Lust of the flesh"
Kingdoms of the earth	"Lust of the eyes"
Pinnacle of the temple	"Pride of life"

2. Through His Death And Resurrection

Faith that claims and receives Christ's work releases the Christian from the power and dominion that sin had over him (Rom 8:9). He is now free to choose to walk in obedience to God (Rom 6:8-14).

"For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit." (Rom 8:3,4).

D. THE CHRISTIAN'S CONTINUAL VICTORY.

Based on the foundation of this great victory won for us by Christ, the Christian can now defeat any attack from the enemy. Here are seven keys to continual victory.

1. Know The Victory Is Already Won

Because of his defeat at the Cross, the devil's only strength now is found in a Christian's ignorance (Hos 4:6). But when a Christian knows the complete work of the Cross and Resurrection in his life, the devil is stripped of any weapon against him.

2. Walk In Step With The Spirit

A new power is placed within the Christian - the Holy Spirit Himself. We are to walk in obedience to His inner prompting day by day (Gal 5:22-25).

3. Recognize Temptation For What It Is

Temptation is NOT sin. YIELDING to temptation is sin (Jas 1:15). See Gen 4:6,7

4. Understand There Is A Way Of Escape Provided

"There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it." (1 Cor 10:13).

James 4:7 gives the way of escape. Submit to God, resist the devil and he shall flee!

5. Keep The Right Focus In Life

"If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth." (Col 3:1,2). See also Philippians 4:8; 1 Timothy 6:11,12 and 2 Peter 3:11-13.

6. Keep Away From Obvious Area Of Temptation

"I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes" (Ps 101:3). See 1 Tim 6:9-11.

7. Be Aware Of Satan's Schemes

It is important for us to know the tactics that the enemy uses against us so that we are not outwitted by him (2 Cor 2:11).

1. He is a liar (John 8:44)
2. He is a slanderer and accuser (Rev 12:10)
3. He is a deceiver (Rev 12:9)
4. He is a tempter (Matt 4:1-11)
5. He is an oppressor (Acts 10:38)
6. He is a hinderer (1 Ths 2:18).
7. He is as a roaring lion (1 Pet 5:8)
8. He can transform himself into an angel of light (2 Cor 11:14).

As Christians, we are called to live in VICTORY! Through Christ, this victory is ours:

- Over the world (1 Jn 5:4)
- Over the flesh (Gal 5:16).
- Over the enemy (Eph 6:11,13).

MY COMMITMENT

I thank God for His promise to deliver me during time of temptation. I commit myself to respond to His help which is always available so that I can live in victory. I will share this truth with others also.

Chapter 14 – Fellowship

A. THE PURPOSE OF FELLOWSHIP

The fellowship of Christians together is very important, for it is in our unity together that...

1. The Believer Is Encouraged And Grows In Christ

"For I long to see you, that I may impart unto you some spiritual gift, to the end ye may be established; That is, that I may be comforted together with you by the mutual faith both of you and me." (Rom 1:11,12).

2. The World Comes to Know That Jesus Was Sent Of God

"And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one: I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me." (John 17:22,23).

B. CONDITIONS OF FELLOWSHIP

1. A Basic Commitment To One Another

"Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another"(Rom 12:10).

Without a basic trust there can be no fellowship. The depth of fellowship will vary according to the depth of commitment.

2. Our Commitment Must Be Based On 'Agape'

'Agape' is a one-way love, which loves 'in spite of', not 'because of'. Such a commitment therefore will not be affected by the other person's inconsistent behavior.

"A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another." (John 13:34).

3. True Fellowship Is Christ-Centered

Our fellowship with one another is founded in our common commitment to Christ.

"...and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ." (1Jn 1:3). See also Phillippians 2:1,2.

4. Walking In The Light

Our fellowship embraces the need to be open, honest and truthful with one another. This at times may mean:

- a. Confessing Our Own Sins To Others. Or Lovingly Covering Another's Sin. "If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin." (1 Jn 1:6,7). See also Matthew 18:15.
- b. Obedience To The Light - general and specific commandments God has given.
- c. The Removal Of Any Masks Or False Coverings. So much of the world's fellowship is hypocritical - acting out a role, and is not genuine. "Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently" (1 Pet 1:22).

5. A Genuine Interest In The Other's Well-Being

There should be no hidden motives of self-gain. Our desire should be to give, not to get.

"Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others." (Phil 2:3,4).

6. A Willingness to Lay Down One's Life

"This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you. Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends." (John 15:12,13).

Life involves more than physical life. It also includes our material possessions, our personal interests and preferences, etc. (Jas 2:15,16). This also means a willingness to openly share of one's self. We can only know people to the extent that they are prepared to reveal themselves.

C. FELLOWSHIP IN THE CHURCH MEANS...

1. Sharing All Things

There were three stages of development in their fellowship in Acts 4:32 - firstly, they were of one heart (spirit), then they were of one soul (mind), and then followed the physical expression of having all things in common.

"And all that believed were together, and had all things common; And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need." (Acts 2:44,45).

2. Laying Down their Lives

"Greet Priscilla and Aquila my helpers in Christ Jesus: Who have for my life laid down their own necks: unto whom not only I give thanks, but also all the churches of the Gentiles." (Rom 16:3,4).

3. Devoted To Serving The Brethren

"...ye know the house of Stephanas, that it is the firstfruits of Achaia, and that they have addicted themselves to the ministry of the saints"(1 Cor 16:15).

4. Being A Channel Of Supply To Others In Need

"But by an equality now at this time your abundance may be a supply for their want, that their abundance also may be a supply for your want: that there may be equality" (2 Cor 8:14). See also 1 Corinthians 16:17.

5. Sharing In Suffering

"Notwithstanding ye have well done, that ye did communicate with my affliction." (Phil 4:14).

6. Sacrificial Giving

"How that in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded unto the riches of their liberality. For to their power, I bear record, yea, and beyond their power they were willing of themselves"(2 Cor 8:2-3).

7. Practicing Hospitality

"Beloved, thou doest faithfully whatsoever thou doest to the brethren, and to strangers" (3 Jn5). See also Hebrews 13:2.

8. Building Up And Encouraging One Another

"So being affectionately desirous of you, we were willing to have imparted unto you, not the gospel of God only, but also our own souls, because ye were dear unto us." (1Ths 2:8). See 2 Timothy 3:10-14.

D. RESULTS OF FELLOWSHIP

The results of fellowship in the early Church were:

- a fear of God (Acts 2:43);
- joy (Acts 2:46);
- favor with all people (Acts 2:47);
- addition of new believers (Acts 2:47);
- all needs supplied (Phil 4:19);
- emergence of leadership (1 Cor 16:15, 16).

MY COMMITMENT

Through this study I now understand the importance of having fellowship continually with other Christians. Today I commit myself to being a part of a group of believers to whom I will give my loyalty, my love and my service.

Chapter 15 – Generosity

"The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork. Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge." (Ps 19:1,2). Read also Ps 19:3,4.

From this psalm, we learn that God's creation (the heavens and the earth)

- declare the glory of God,
- proclaim the work of His hands;
- pour forth speech, and
- display knowledge.

We can learn from God's Creation if we examine it carefully. Just as there are physical laws which bring order out of the chaos in the universe, God has also put into motion spiritual laws which govern life. One of these is the Law of Generosity, this teaches us that "he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully" (2 Cor 9:6).

A. PARTNERSHIP

As partners with God (1 Cor 3:9; 2 Cor 5:20; 2 Cor 6:10), it is important for us to understand where responsibilities lie:

1. Ownership Is With God

"The earth is the LORD'S, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein." (Ps 24:1). See also Ps 89:11; Job 41:11; 1 Chronicles 29:10-14.

We are not owners, but stewards. All ownership is with God. Every single created thing, living or not, ultimately belongs to Him - including everything material or immaterial that we may personally have in this life: possessions, careers, families.

He has given us all these things for us to enjoy (1 Tim 6:17); and when we realize that they still belong to God, we can rest in the assurance that God also has ultimate responsibility for them.

2. Stewardship Is With Us

We are not owners, but stewards. A steward manages and takes care of that which belong to someone else. God owns everything; but as stewards, we manage and take care of it for Him. We have an obligation to be faithful in this stewardship.

The Lord holds us accountable for the special responsibility of managing and taking care of the things He has given us (read Matthew 25:14-30). When we understand this Owner-steward relationship that we enjoy with God's property, then it becomes easy to give.

Before God, stewardship covers every single thing that belongs to us:

- a. Our Life (Acts 17:25; 1 Cor 6:19; Gal 2:20; Job 33:4).
- b. Our Time (Ps 90:12; Eph 5:15,16; Col 4:5).
- c. Our Talents And Abilities (1 Pet 4:10; 1 Cor 12:4-7, 11).
- d. Our Possessions (Matt 6:19-21; Col 3:1,2).
- e. Our Finances (1 Tim 6:6-10, 17-19; Matt 6:24).
- f. The Message Of the Gospel (1 Cor 4:1; 9:16,17; 1 Tim 6:20).

Even so, many Christians still struggle to give (tithe), no matter how much they may want to. But the action that releases a believer into the full blessings of good stewardship is SURRENDER - the unreserved submission of one's entire life, possessions and plans to God's will and purpose.

It is only when we give OURSELVES that we learn what it means to give some of the possessions (or money) God has given us.

B. GIVING IN THE EARLY CHURCH

"And all that believed were together, and had all things common; And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need... neither said any of them that ought of the things which he possessed was his own; but they had all things common." (Acts 2:44,45 and Acts 4:32).

This basic attitude of the early Christians laid the foundation for every expression of giving that was to come later. As the number of Christians multiplied, different methods of giving appeared. But all their giving expressed their understanding of STEWARDSHIP - that everything ultimately belongs to God.

1. The Church Supported The Needy

In the early Church, special men were chosen to serve as "deacons" - helpers in the distribution of offerings and gifts for the widows and needy (Acts 6:1-3). These men made it their ministry to channel all the giving to where there was practical need.

2. Churches Gave Sacrificially To One Another

When the Jewish Christians in Jerusalem were in famine, the poor, suffering Gentile church helped them.

"How that in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded unto the riches of their liberality. For to their power, I bear record, yea, and beyond their power they were willing of themselves" (2 Cor 8:2,3). See also 2 Cor 8:1,4.

3. The Church Supported Traveling Ministries

The Apostle Paul traveled from place to place establishing new churches. On some occasions he worked with his hands to provide his own support (Acts 18:3; 2 Ths 3:7-9). On other occasions the Philippian church showed the true spirit of giving which God commends, by supporting travelling ministers such as Paul.

"But I have all, and abound: I am full, having received of Epaphroditus the things which were sent from you, an odour of a sweet smell, a sacrifice acceptable, wellpleasing to God." (Phil 4:18). Read also Phil 4:15-17.

4. Christians Worked To Be Able To Give

"Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth." (Eph 4:28).

5. Giving Was The Proof Of Their Love

"...that now at this time your abundance may be a supply for their want... Wherefore shew ye to them [by giving] ... the proof of your love..." (2Cor 8:14,24). (See also 2Cor 8:7-15; 1 Corinthians 16:1,2; 1 John 3:17,18).

C. GOD'S PRINCIPLES OF GIVING

In 1 Corinthians 10:11, we are told to learn from Israel's example. We are to apply the principles given them by God. At the same time we are to avoid the mistakes Israel (and the leaders) made in the wilderness. In the area of giving, we find some excellent guidelines that can help us in our giving:

1. God Expects Us To Begin With A Percentage

"Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it." (Mal 3:10).

2. We Are To Give Systematically And Regularly

"Then Hezekiah commanded to prepare chambers in the house of the LORD; and they prepared them, And brought in the offerings and the tithes and the dedicated things faithfully..." (2Chr 31:11,12).

3. We Are To Give The First And Best To The Lord

"Honour the LORD with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase: So shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine." (Prov 3:9,10).

MY COMMITMENT

I realize, through this study, the importance of having a generous heart and attitude towards others. Today I commit myself to begin a life of giving by starting to tithe (give a tenth of my income to the Lord's work). I will also encourage and teach others to do the same.

"But ye are a chosen generation, ...a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:" (1 Peter 2:9).

Chapter 16 – Kingdom Living

A. CHANGE OF AUTHORITY

We have been delivered from Satan's dominion (rulership or headship). We are now under a whole new authority - that of the Lord Jesus. As a believer begins growing in his new life in the Lord, he soon discovers that the only way we enjoy living in God's Kingdom is in right RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS (Ephesians 1:17; Phil 3:10).

At the very beginning of our new life with God, this relationship takes two distinct forms:

1. Savior

This is the very first relationship we can ever have with Jesus. We cannot know God as Father or Friend until we first have had a revelation of Jesus as Savior – the One who died for us and rescued us from Satan's kingdom, Jesus has saved us from:

- a. God's Judgment (1 Ths 1:10; 1 Ths 5:9; Rom 5:9).
- b. Satan's Power (Acts 26:18; Col 1:13; Heb 2:14; 1 Jn 3:8).
- c. Our Own Selves (Phil 3:19; 2 Cor 5:15; Titus 3:3-6; Ephesians 2:1-5 1 Peter 1:18,19).

"Though he were a Son... he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him" (Heb 5:8,9). See also Hebrews 2:10; 2 Timothy 1:10.

2. Lord

Knowing Jesus as Savior brings us into God's Kingdom, but that is not where our relationship with Him ends. Once we are inside His Kingdom, that relationship takes on dramatic new changes. Now we know Him not merely as Savior, but as Lord – OUR Lord! He is KING in His Kingdom (Col 2:6).

"Wherefore I give you to understand, that no man speaking by the Spirit of God calleth Jesus accursed: and that no man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost." (1 Cor 12:3). See also John 13:13; Romans 1:4; 1 Corinthians 8:6; 1 Corinthians 4:5.

When we enter the Kingdom of Light, we can enjoy what we were created for - a loving relationship with the Lord. Because of this, when Jesus becomes Lord of our life, we find that His dominion in our lives brings us out of the chaos of sin into divine order and peace. See Colossians 2:9,10 and 1 Corinthians 8:6.

B. THE MODEL CITIZEN

"Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:" (Phil 2:5). Jesus, though King of the Kingdom, became a servant. He is the example of what the true citizen of His Kingdom is like.

"You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord' and rightly so, for that is what I am Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you" (John 13:13-15). Read also John 13:5-17; Luke 22:27.

C. SUBJECTS OF THE KING

As members of Christ's Kingdom, we enter into a Master-servant relationship with Him (Matt 6:24). Jesus came to do His Father's will (Heb 10:5-9). In His day-to-day life, He displayed what the lifestyle of the Kingdom is all about: living to please God (Ephesians 5:8-10).

We are to have this servant-heart, just as He had a servant's heart. Many Christians do not like the concept of being a servant because it seems to make one person inferior to another. But in the Bible, we find four interesting paradoxes:

1. In Slavery, There Is Freedom

"But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life" (Rom 6:22). Read also verses 16-23; 1 Corinthians 7:22; 2 Corinthians 3:17.

2. In Being A Servant, There Is Greatness

" But Jesus called them unto him, and said, Ye know that the princes of the Gentiles exercise dominion over them, and they that are great exercise authority upon them. But it shall not be so among you: but whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister; And whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant:" (Matt 20:25-27) See also Matt 23:11,12; Mark 9:35; Mark 10:42,43; John 12:26.

3. In Humility, There Is Exaltation

"Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven." (Matt 18:4). See also Luke 18:14; Proverbs 29:23; James 4:10; 1 Peter 5:5,6; Mathew 19:30.

4. In submission, There Is Authority

The Roman Centurion (a military leader over 100 soldiers) who came to Jesus understood this principle.

"Wherefore neither thought I myself worthy to come unto thee: but say in a word, and my servant shall be healed. For I also am a man set under authority, having under me soldiers, and I say unto one, Go, and he goeth; and to another, Come, and he cometh; and to my servant, Do this, and he doeth it." (Luke 7:7,8).

Because the Centurion was under authority, he was able to exercise authority, and he readily submitted to Jesus' authority. Read also Luke 7:1-10; Jas 4:7. The lifestyle of the Kingdom of God is an attitude of SUBMISSION and OBEDIENCE TO GOD (See Matt 12:50; Hebrews 13:21; 1 John 2:17).

We submit ourselves to God's will - NOT reluctantly – because of fear or duty - but rather:

- a. Because Of All God Has Done for Us (Rom 12:1; Eph 4:1),
- b. Because In Doing So We Find fulfillment (Ps 40:8).
- c. Because of Love (John 14:15; 1 Jn 5:3).

D. FRUIT OF THE KINGDOM

"As ye know how we exhorted and comforted and charged every one of you, as a father doth his children, That ye would walk worthy of God, who hath called you unto his kingdom and glory." (1Ths 2:11,12).

In Matthew 21:43, Jesus said that the Kingdom would belong to those who "bringing forth the fruits" the fruit of the Kingdom is explained in a number of scriptures:

- Love, joy, peace (Gal 5:22,23).
- Goodness, righteousness, truth (Eph 5:9; Jas 3:13-17).
- Righteousness, peace, joy (Rom 14:17; Heb 12:11).

Since we were created by God, we were also made for His Kingdom and its life-style. The fruit of that Kingdom is simply the natural outworking of the miracle of rebirth that the Holy Spirit has performed in us (see Galatians 5:22). Our responsibility as citizens of God's Kingdom is to live like the people we now are! (1Pet 2:11).

"That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God" (Col 1:10). See also Col 2:6.

MY COMMITMENT

I realize, after studying about Kingdom living, that I am to submit my life to the service of others, just as Jesus did. I commit myself to being a willing, joyful servant of Christ and others.

Chapter 17 – Worship

A. BLESSING GOD

"Bless the Lord, O my soul! and all that is within me, bless his holy name" (Ps 103:1). It is awesome to consider that we have the ability to bless our Creator, and time after time in the Scripture we are exhorted to do just that. We bless Him through our praise and worship of Him. See Psalm 34:1-3.

B. PRAISE

Praise is an expression of admiration and appreciation. When we praise someone, we tell them how wonderful we think they are, or how great their accomplishments are. It is the same with the Lord. Praise has to do with acknowledging God's character and power.

"Because thy lovingkindness is better than life, my lips shall praise thee. Thus will I bless thee while I live: I will lift up my hands in thy name." (Ps 63:3,4).

1. Why do We Praise God?

- a. Because Of who He Is. "Sing praises to God, sing praises: sing praises unto our King, sing praises. For God is the King of all the earth: sing ye praises with understanding." (Ps 47:6,7).
- b. Because Of what He Does. "Bless the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name. Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits: Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases; Who redeemeth thy life from destruction; who crowneth thee with lovingkindness and tender mercies; Who satisfieth thy mouth with good things; so that thy youth is renewed like the eagle's" (Ps 103:1-5).

2. Who Is To Praise God?

- a. Those Who Seek God. "...they shall praise the LORD that seek him..." (Ps 22:26).
- b. Everything That Has Breath. "Let everything that hath breath praise the LORD. Praise ye the LORD." (Ps 150:6).

3. When Do We Praise God?

- a. At All Times. "I will bless the LORD at all times: his praise shall continually be in my mouth." (Ps 34.1).
- b. In Every Circumstance. "Rejoice evermore. Pray without ceasing. In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you." (1 Ths 5:16-18).

4. Where Are We To Praise God?

- a. Surrounded By God's People. "I will declare thy name unto my brethren:

- in the midst of the congregation will I praise thee.' (Ps 22:22)
- b. Among The Nations "I will praise thee, O Lord, among the people: I will sing unto thee among the nations." (Ps 57:9).
 - c. On Our Beds. "Thus will I bless thee while I live...and my mouth shall praise thee with joyful lips: When I remember thee upon my bed, and meditate on thee in the night watches." (Ps 63:4-6).

C. WORSHIP

Whereas praise is an expression of admiration and appreciation, worship is an expression of love and adoration. It is possible to admire someone and appreciate what they are without being in love with them. In the same way, worship has to do with our love of the Lord. It can be expressed only with the giving of our whole heart and life to Him.

"And to love him with all the heart, and with all the understanding, and with all the soul, and with all the strength, and to love his neighbour as himself, is more than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices." (Mark 12:33).

The religious rituals and ceremonies of Israel in the Old Testament became detestable to the Lord because their heart was far from Him (Isaiah 1:10-15; Isaiah 29:13). Today, also, God is only interested in the genuine and sincere worship that comes from the heart.

"But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in SPIRIT and in TRUTH." (John 4:23,24). Read also John 4:4-25.

1. In Spirit

Our spirit is called the "inner man" (Eph 3:16). True worship takes place when the inner man, in response to the prompting's of God's Spirit, expresses love and adoration to God. This can take the form of spoken words, a love-song to the Lord, or silent adoration.

True worship requires the action of the Holy Spirit on our spirit. So, only those who have been "born of the Spirit" through faith in Jesus Christ can truly worship God (John 3:5-8).

2. In Truth

To worship God in truth is to worship Him as the Bible says we should. Nadab and Abihu (the sons of the high priest) offered strange fire before the Lord and died (Num 3:4; Num 26:61). This sober warning illustrates the need to study God's plan (the Tabernacle of Moses) for priestly ministry.

There was sacrifice, cleansing, anointing and clothing before worship (Exodus 30:17-38). You will note in Revelation 1:5,6 that we are "...and washed us from our sins in his own blood" before being made "...priests unto God".

An apostle / teacher in the United States was training lots of leaders how to heal the sick and perform Miracles. A prophetess said to him: "The Lord says to you, 'How dare you teach those who are unclean to do my works! Stop it'". There was much preparation of the priests before they could go into the Holy Place to worship the Lord. To ignore the steps outlined was perilous. We must worship in truth - in the Bible way.

D. EXPRESSIONS OF PRAISE AND WORSHIP IN SCRIPTURE

1. With The Mouth

- a. Singing(Ps 9:2,11)
- b. Praising(Ps 103:1)
- c. Shouting(Ps 47:1)

2. With The Hands

- a. Lifting (Ps 63:4)
- b. Clapping(Ps 47:1)
- c. Musical instruments (Ps 150)

3. With the Body

- a. Standing (Ps 134:1)
- b. Kneeling, bowing(Ps 96:6)
- c. Dancing and leaping for joy (Ps 30:11)

"Who is like unto thee, O LORD, among the gods? who is like thee, glorious in holiness, fearful in praises, doing wonders?...Sing ye to the LORD, for he hath triumphed gloriously..." (Exo 15:11,21).

"Among the gods there is none like unto thee, O Lord; neither are there any works like unto thy works... For thou art great, and doest wondrous things: thou art God alone... I will praise thee, O Lord my God, with all my heart: and I will glorify thy name for evermore." (Ps 86:8, 10, 12).

MY COMMITMENT

The greatest thing I will ever do in this life or in eternity is to worship God. I determine today to be a true worshipper and to make this my supreme goal in life. I will teach someone else this vital way of life also.

Chapter 18 – Prayer

"He shall call upon me, and I will answer him... and shew him my salvation." (Psalm 91:15,16). The time we spend with the Lord in prayer can release the most dynamic, history-changing power this world has ever shown.

The Bible describes many different operations of prayer, but in this lesson we are going to look at prayer as an individual first. Our prayer as a Body together can only be as strong as our personal time with the Lord.

A. THE SECRET PLACE

"But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly." (Matt 6:6).

We have been invited into intimate prayer by none other than the Lord Himself. This kind of "secret" prayer presupposes and ensures:

1. The Right Motives(Matt 6:5)
2. A Right Relationship With God As Father(Luke 11:11-13)
3. A Real Trust In The Lord (Ps 55:16,17)
4. Removing False Fronts (Mark 7:6,7)

As we express our feelings and burdens in conversation with God, it can be in the form of adoration (Ps 34:1-4), confession (1 Jn1:9), request (Matt 7:7), or thanksgiving (Eph 5:4-20).

B. FIVE COMMANDS RELATED TO PRAYER

1. Watch And Pray Always

"Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man." (Luke 21:36). See also Mark 13:35-37.

2. Pray Lest You Fall Into Temptation

"Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." (Matt 26:41).

3. Pray for Workers

"Therefore said he unto them, The harvest truly is great, but the labourers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth labourers into his harvest." (Luke 10:2).

4. Pray For Those In authority

"I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty." (1Tim 2:1,2).

5. Pray For Your Enemies

"Bless them that curse you, and pray for them which despitefully use you." (Luke 6:28)

C. WHEN TO PRAY

The Bible gives many examples of people who prayed. Many of the heroes of faith can be observed to have had regular times of the day set aside specifically for prayer, often three set periods a day - at morning, noon and evening.

"As for me, I will call upon "God; and the Lord shall save me. Evening, and morning and noon, will I pray and cry aloud: and he shall hear my voice" (Ps 55:16,17). See also Daniel 6:10.

The best example of a daily pattern of regular, whole-hearted prayer - prayer that avoids meaningless religious ritual - can be found in the Lord Jesus Himself:

1. Early In the Morning (Mark 1:35)
2. All Night (Luke 6:12)
3. Before Each Meal (Mark 6:41)

D. WHAT TO PRAY

1. For Ourselves

"And Jabez called on the God of Israel, saying, Oh that thou wouldest bless me indeed, and enlarge my coast, and that thine hand might be with me, and that thou wouldest keep me from evil, that it may not grieve me! And God granted him that which he requested." (1 Chr 4:10).

2. For One Another

"Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another...(Jas 5:16).

3. For The Ministries In The Body Of Christ

"Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may have free course, and be glorified, even as it is with you" (2 Ths 3:1).

4. For The Sick And Distraught

"Is any among you afflicted? let him pray... Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up... pray one for another, that ye may be healed..." (James 5:13-16).

5. For Those Ensnared By Sin

"If any man see his brother sin a sin which is not unto death, he shall ask, and he shall give him life..." (1 Jn 5:16).

E. HELP IN PRAYER

"Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered." (Rom 8:26).

Part of the Holy Spirit's purpose is to teach us (Luke 12:12), guide us in prayer (Rom 8:27), and to help us in our faith (Eph 3:16, 17). The Holy Spirit will sometimes anoint a believer's prayer in a special way, and this is called "praying in the Holy Ghost" (Jude 20; Eph 6:18).

To help us in prayer, the Holy spirit has also provided a special gift to the believer:

The Gift of Tongues - speaking in another language to the Lord in prayer. (See 1Corinthians 12:4-11).

"... the prayer of the upright is his delight ... He heareth the prayer of the righteous" (Prov 15:8,29).

F. YOKEFELLOW

Two joining together in prayer provides some very real advantages: " Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching anything that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven" (Matt 18:19).

G. THE CHURCH PRAYING

If there is tremendous power when two people pray, what about the whole assembly of God's people? See Acts 4:24. Today God is calling His people to prayer! The Church's mission is to change individual lives, families, communities, cities and nations through prayer!

MY COMMITMENT

Through this study I realize the wonderful opportunities of prayer - not only in my relationship with God, but also the supernatural results that follow. I commit myself to make prayer always a priority in my life.

Chapter 19 – Defending The Faith

A. WHAT IS THE ANTICHRIST?

1. Someone who comes to replace Christ, who is a false Christ or religion

Christ warned us while on the earth that many false Christs would come after him, teaching false doctrine and religion to attack the faith of genuine Christians “For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.” Matthew 24:24

2. People who emerge from within the church, but who deviate from the truth

Acts 20:30 Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them.

1 John 2:18 Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time. 19 They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would no doubt have continued with us: but they went out, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us.

B. THE ORIGINAL ANTICHRIST

Roman Catholicism is the earliest imitator, closest to the truth, and yet a total deception. Roman Catholics use the same terms as real Christians do, but they have a completely different meaning. A Roman Catholic says they have been born again, they have received Christ as their Saviour and they have received the Holy Spirit. But unless you stop and ask them exactly what they mean, you could easily be deceived:

1. Being Born again – Our Relationship with the Father

When a true Christian speaks of being born again, it is by faith. “Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.” (John 1:13)

But to a Roman Catholic, being born again means being water baptized, normally as an infant.

2. Receiving Christ as Saviour – Our Relationship with the Son

Roman Catholicism says when you eat the piece of bread in communion that you are receiving Christ as your saviour. Therefore they teach that you cannot be saved except by eating the communion. The truth is that simply believing in the name of Jesus IS receiving him, and he is your Saviour by faith alone:

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:

3. Receiving the Holy Spirit

When a Roman Catholic receives confirmation, usually at an adolescent age, the priest will lightly slap the cheek and say “Peace be with you” to mimic the words of Christ when he appeared after the resurrection (John 20:21, 22). At this point, the Roman Catholic has received the Holy Spirit.

But for the true Christian you receive the Holy Spirit by believing in Jesus alone: “He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.” (John 7:38)

C. THE IDENTITY OF JESUS

The most definite way to know the truth from the lie is to understand what the religion says about Jesus.

1. The Trinity: Jesus is God (Lord)

God exists as three persons, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. So the first important truth about Jesus is that Jesus is God. Any group which denies this is a false group, teaching false doctrine, and does not have the Holy Ghost.

1 Corinthians 12:3 “Wherefore I give you to understand... that no man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost.”

But wait, don't the Roman Catholics believe in the Trinity? Don't they believe that Jesus is God? Again it comes back to the Roman Catholic definition of things. Yes, the Father is God, Jesus is God, and the Holy Spirit is God, but who is the Father?

The pope is the Father, and the pope is Jesus and the pope is also the Holy Spirit. The title of the pope is the “Vicar of Christ” this means the one who takes the place of Christ, who Jesus said is the Holy Spirit. In addition, the pope is called the Holy Father, by Catholics, and the pope is Jesus to every Catholic. So yes, Catholics believe in the Trinity, but it is a different Trinity to the trinity of the true Christian. The Catholic's trinity is the pope.

2. The Death and Resurrection of Jesus

As mentioned earlier, to a Roman Catholic, the piece of bread in communion IS Jesus, fully, and bodily. Not only is Jesus “received” by eating the bread, but Jesus is also SACRIFICED repeatedly when the bread is placed on the altar. It is called the Mass (which means “death sacrifice”) because the central Roman Catholic doctrine repeats the death of Jesus continually, nullifying the resurrection of Jesus

Hebrews 9:12 Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us.

Not only does the Mass nullify the resurrection of Jesus, but it also REPLACES the real blood of Jesus that was shed only ONCE, to obtain eternal redemption for us. Clearly, Catholicism is the one who comes to replace the real Christ.

3. The forgiveness of sins through Jesus Christ as our mediator

The Roman Catholic priest is given two powers. The first power is to create a mass – to offer Jesus to be received as piece of bread, and then to sacrifice Jesus again. The second power is to forgive sins. Nobody else can forgive sins apart from a Roman Catholic priest. But what is the truth? It is not the Roman Catholic priest who can create Jesus or forgive sins, it is Jesus ALONE:

1 Timothy 2:5 For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;

Again, the Roman Catholic will agree that Jesus alone can forgive sins. However, the problem is the meaning of Jesus. To them, Jesus is the priest.

D. CULTS AND SECTS

Cults and sects follow the same pattern of deception as the Roman Catholic Church. Here is a short list. Although they are each packaged differently, we will notice the similarities in the essential points. If we lay aside the packaging for a moment and focus on these points, we'll quickly be able to avoid the false, even in the newer groups which are emerging:

	The Trinity: Jesus Is God	The Resurrection of Jesus	Forgiveness of Sins through Jesus
Muslims	No, only a prophet. The Holy Spirit was the angel Gabriel	Somebody else died for him, he did not even die. He went up to heaven without dying	No sacrifice for sin, no mediator between God and man
Jehovah Witnesses	No, he was the angel Michael. The Holy Spirit is not a person	He did not physically rise, only spiritually	Jesus paid a 'ransom' for all, but is mediator only for the 144,000 (spiritual Israel)
Mormons	The Father, Son and Holy Spirit are not the same God	Not resurrected in flesh (Luke 24:39 proves he was flesh)	Jesus only progressed to a higher level as an example for us. Paid in Gethsem. not on cross
Seventh Day Adventists	He is God, but he is also the angel Michael	He rose again but in a glorified body (John 20:17, John 7:39 prove he was not yet glorified)	The final payment has still not been done. Jesus is only a temporary mediator. Satan will pay for sin
Hinduism, Buddhism etc.	Everyone is a god	<i>(before Jesus)</i>	<i>(before Jesus)</i>

E. THE BIBLICAL TEST

1. If we know what the group teaches about Jesus, we can tell if it is true or false. Do they teach that Jesus is the Christ, meaning Jesus is God?

1 John 2:22 Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist, that denieth the Father and the Son.

2. Do they teach that Jesus came in the flesh, meaning he died and rose again in the same body of flesh?

1 John 4:3 And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world. (also see 2 John 1:7).

3. Do they teach that Jesus came in the flesh to pay the price for our sins IN FULL through his death and resurrection?

Hebrews 2:14 Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil;

Thank God for the great work he has done, God coming in the flesh, and dying and rising again in the flesh, and paying for all our sins for total forgiveness, once for all!

1 Timothy 3:16 And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.

F. ADDITIONS TO THE GOSPEL

There are many false things which the Roman Catholic Antichrist has introduced, which other church denominations have adopted. Here are the most significant ones:

- Making Sunday a day of rest
- Celebrating Easter and Good Friday
- Birthdays (dates back to Roman times and the ancient Egyptians)
- Christmas and the three wise men
- The symbol of the cross (crucifix)
- Worshipping dead people by calling them “saints”
- Modern bible translations (every bible produced in the 20th century is based on Roman Catholic Greek manuscripts)
- Celibacy (this is not God’s plan, see the next chapter and 1 Tim 4:1-3)

MY COMMITMENT

I make a commitment to help people involved in cults and sects to know the error of their beliefs and to pray for them to receive the true salvation. I will remind myself that God has saved me from the Antichrist and I will continually thank him for showing me the truth.

Chapter 20 – Gender Purity

A. THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN MAN AND WOMAN

The difference between man and woman is clearly taught in the Bible. It is hardly mentioned today, but this difference must be recognized in order to avoid sexual sins, particularly fornication.

B. THE CREATION OF MAN AND WOMAN

1. Adam was a son of God

Adam is called a son of God (Luke 3:38) because he had no natural father, but was created directly by God in his image. Jesus Christ is also a Son of God, however, Jesus was begotten and not created, and therefore Jesus is God. In Christ, both men and women now become sons of God by adoption (John 1:12).

2. There was no daughter of God

Eve was created from the man and not directly from God, so there is no possibility of a daughter of God. She came out of the man

Genesis 2:21-22 And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof; And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man.

3. Other sons of God married Adam's daughters. These were other beings created directly by God, similar to Adam:

Genesis 6:2,4 "That the sons of God saw the daughters of men that they were fair; and they took them wives of all which they chose ... There were giants in the earth in those days; and also after that, when the sons of God came in unto the daughters of men, and they bare children to them, the same became mighty men which were of old, men of renown."

Only Noah, Adam's descendant was saved from the flood, with his three sons (see Gen 6:1-18). Therefore we all descended from Adam.

C. NEW TESTAMENT TEACHING

1. A man is the image of God, because he was once a son of God, as Adam

1 Corinthians 11:7 For a man indeed ought not to cover his head, forasmuch as he is the image and glory of God: but the woman is the glory of the man.

2. A woman is made from the man

She came out of the man or from the man, she was never created directly by God. 1 Corinthians 11:8 “For the man is not of the woman; but the woman of the man.”

3. A woman is made for the man

She was formed after him, in response to his need

1 Corinthians 11:9 Neither was the man created for the woman; but the woman for the man.

1 Timothy 2:12 But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence. 13 For Adam was first formed, then Eve.

4. A man must honour a woman

A man's role is to protect and provide for the woman he is married to. A man and a woman are equal in the future kingdom of Christ

1 Peter 3:7 Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered.

Galatians 3:28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.

D. ABUSE OF THE ROLE OF A WOMAN

Western views of women and the women's liberation movement have destroyed the divine creation and function of a woman. This is especially true in many modern churches. A Christian woman is therefore easily susceptible to temptation to usurp the authority of man in several ways:

1. Not praying with a covered head

1 Corinthians 11:13 Judge in yourselves: is it comely that a woman pray unto God uncovered? (also see 1 Corinthians 11:4-15)

2. Abuse of the attractiveness to men she naturally possesses

Women often wear revealing clothing in public, disguised as fashion. They also adorn themselves more than men, with artificial things such as earrings, make up, and hair attachments.

1 Peter 3:3 Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel;

3. Teaching a congregation of men without a head covering

1 Corinthians 11:3 But I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman is the man; and the head of Christ is God.

1 Corinthians 14:34 Let your women keep silence in the churches: for it is not permitted unto them to speak; but they are commanded to be under obedience, as also saith the law.

4. When the headship of the man was lost, it brought him to poverty

Genesis 3:17 And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life;

Proverbs 6:26 For by means of a whorish woman a man is brought to a piece of bread: and the adulteress will hunt for the precious life.

E. FORNICATION

1. Fornication is where a family lineage is uncertain and in confusion (Babylon), for instance when a woman (potentially) has children from different men at the same time, by prostitution or multiple partners

John 8:41 Ye do the deeds of your father. Then said they to him, We be not born of fornication; we have one Father, even God. (Also see Rev 17:4-5 and Rev 19:2)

In the Old Testament there were cases where men had more than one wife, but women never had more than one husband, because no one would know the father of the children.

2. Fornication comes from the Greek word “porn-e” which is merely a show to several men of a woman in sex

Fornication is when a woman is no longer subordinate to one man, but gives herself to many men

3. Wearing revealing clothing in public is virtual fornication

This is one manifestation that spiritually a woman is not subordinate to a man, because she is giving herself to the eyes of several men

4. A woman who has not kept her virginity for marriage is a fornicator

If she is not with the man she gave her virginity to, she is a fornicator. In these cases she is recommended to remain single or be reconciled to her first man.

1 Corinthians 7:11 But and if she depart, let her remain unmarried, or be reconciled to her husband: and let not the husband put away his wife.

F. YOUR BODY NEEDS TO BE PRESENTED ACCEPTABLE BEFORE GOD

Romans 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

Fornication is sinning against your body

1 Corinthians 6:18 Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body. 19 What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? 20 For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

G. THE FUTURE STATE

The bible teaches men to love their wives as the weaker vessel and equal heir of a world where there will be no marriage (1 Pet 3:7, Gal 3:28). To act in fear, not to force the wife, not to command her, but to ask her, like Jesus Christ asks us to obey. As she is an equal heir, her spirit and soul is also made in the image of God. The only difference is her body.

MY COMMITMENT

I make a commitment to avoid all forms of fornication. As a woman, I am now aware that it is important to present my body acceptably. I decide to no longer wear revealing clothing even if it is for fashion. I do this as a sign of obedience to the man. As a man I will not seek a woman who exposes her body publically.

Chapter 21 – Hell

Hell is one of those subjects that makes people uncomfortable, but hell is definitely taught in the Bible. Hell burns because of the holiness of God against sinners. It is not separation from God, but it is the place where God punishes unpardoned sinners.

Psalms 9:17 The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God.

A. THE WORDS ASSOCIATED WITH HELL

The Hebrew word for hell is “ge-hinnom” meaning “Valley of Hinnom.” It was a place to the southwest of Jerusalem. This place was once called “fireplace” (“Topheth” in Aramaic). The New Testament adopted the Hebrew word for this place. The word for hell in the New Testament language is “Gehenna”.

Jesus also uses the word “Hades” (“sheol” in the Old Testament) to describe hell four times: Matt. 11:23, Matt. 16:18, Luke 10:15, Luke 16:23. The other six occur in Acts 2:27, 31, Rev. 1:18, Rev. 6:8, Rev. 20:13, 14. Hades or Sheol has many meanings in Scripture: the grave, the underworld, the state of the dead.

B. HELL IS ETERNAL CONSCIOUS TORMENT

Perhaps the most common objection is that a loving God would never punish people in eternal torment. We agree that God is love (1 John 4:8), but He is also just (Neh. 9:32-33, 2 Thess. 1:6) and eternal (Psalm 90:2, 1 Tim. 1:17). God punishes the evildoer (Isaiah 13:11), and this punishment will be eternal.

1. The wicked descend alive into Sheol

Num. 16:30, "But if the LORD make a new thing, and the earth open her mouth, and swallow them up, with all that appertain unto them, and they go down quick into the pit; then ye shall understand that these men have provoked the LORD."

Num. 16:33, "They, and all that appertained to them, went down alive into the pit, and the earth closed upon them: and they perished from among the congregation."

2. Cast to outer darkness with weeping and gnashing of teeth

Matt. 8:12, "But the children of the kingdom shall be cast out into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

3. Those cast into the fire suffer consciously

Matt. 13:41-42, "The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity; And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth." (See also Matt. 13:50).

C. HELL LASTS FOREVER

1. Everlasting Punishment

Matt. 25:46, "And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal."

2. Everlasting destruction

2 Thessalonians 1:8 In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: 9 Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;

3. Tormented day and night without rest

Rev. 14:9-11, "And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand, The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb: And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name."

D. HELL IS A PLACE OF ETERNAL FIRE

The word "eternal" means without beginning and end, that which always has been and always will be.

1. Hell Fire

Matt. 5:22, "But I say unto you, That whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment: and whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca, shall be in danger of the council: but whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire."

Matt. 18:8-9, "Wherefore if thy hand or thy foot offend thee, cut them off, and cast them from thee: it is better for thee to enter into life halt or maimed, rather than having two hands or two feet to be cast into everlasting fire. And if thine eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast it from thee: it is better for thee to enter into life with one eye, rather than having two eyes to be cast into hell fire."

2. Unquenchable Fire

Matt. 3:12, "Whose fan is in his hand, and he will thoroughly purge his floor, and gather his wheat into the garner; but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire."

3. Everlasting Fire

Matt. 25:41, "Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels."

4. Eternal Fire

Jude 7, "Even as Sodom and Gomorrha, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire."

5. The Lake of Fire

Rev. 20:10, "And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever."

Rev. 20:15, "And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire."

Rev. 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."

E. ONLY BELIEVING IN JESUS CAN SAVE A PERSON FROM HELL

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."

John 5:24 "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life."

Acts 4:12 "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved."

F. THE RICH MAN AND LAZARUS

In Luke 16:19-31 is the story of the rich man and Lazarus. Lazarus is a poor man who suffers during life. The rich man is, of course, rich. They both die. The rich man goes to Hades. Lazarus goes to Abraham's bosom, another term for paradise. In Hades, the rich man lifts up his eyes and sees Lazarus far off. He cries out to Abraham and asks for mercy because he is in agony in flame. Abraham says no. Then the rich man asks if someone from the dead could rise and go tell his brothers not to come to this terrible place. Abraham teaches him that that will not be done either.

Once in hell there is no way out. Even believing in Jesus is impossible in hell.

CONCLUSION

Hell is a real place. It is not mere unconsciousness. It is not temporary. It is eternal torment. Perhaps that is why Jesus spoke more of Hell than Heaven and spent so much time warning people not to go there.

Jesus said, "And if thy right eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell. And if thy right hand offend thee, cut it off, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell." (Matt. 5:29-30).

MY COMMITMENT

I now understand what hell means and that God is displeased with sinners. I make my commitment to share with others the truth concerning hell. I will remind myself often that God so loved me, that he gave his only begotten Son Jesus to forgive all my sins and cleanse me, and save me from hell (John 3:16).

Chapter 22 – Heaven

"...God is in heaven, and thou upon earth... but fear thou God" (Eccl 5:2,7).

A. WHAT IS HEAVEN?

1. Heaven Is The Dwelling Place of God

"Is not God in the height of heaven? and behold the height of the stars, how high they are!" (Job 22:12). See also Deuteronomy 26:15.

2. Heaven Is The Throne-Room Of God

"The LORD hath prepared his throne in the heavens; and his kingdom ruleth over all." (Ps.103:19). See also Isaiah 66:1

3. Heaven Is The Place Of God's Full Glory

"I beheld till the thrones were cast down, and the Ancient of days did sit, whose garment was white as snow, and the hair of his head like the pure wool: his throne was like the fiery flame, and his wheels as burning fire. A fiery stream issued and came forth from before him..." (Dan 7:9,10). See also Acts 7:55.

4. Heaven Is The Home Of The Righteous (Believing) Dead

"For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens." (2 Cor 5:1).

5. Heaven Is The Future Home Of All Believers

"After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands; And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne..." (Rev 7:9,10).

B. THE NATURE OF HEAVEN

Heaven is like a place far beyond anything we can possibly conceive (1 Cor 2:9; 1 Cor 13:12). Heaven is a place of holiness, full of glory and without end. But though the Bible doesn't describe all the details of what Heaven is like, it does give us some clues as to its nature. It is:

1. A Place Of Great Glory

"Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Who hath ears to hear, let him hear." (Matt 13:43).

2. A Place of Continual Worship

"And after these things I heard a great voice of much people in heaven, saying, Alleluia; Salvation, and glory, and honour, and power, unto the Lord our God. And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude, and as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of mighty thunderings, saying, Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth."(Rev 19:1, 6). See also Revelation 5:11,12.

3. A Place That Will Never End

"For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ." (2 Peter 1:11). See also 1 Peter 1:4.

4. A Place Untainted By Evil

"And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life." (Rev 21:27). See also Ephesians 5:5, and 1 Cor 6:9,10 and Galatians 5:19-21.

The Book of Revelation describes the New Jerusalem, coming out of Heaven, as a place without:

- a. Night(Rev 22:5)
- b. Curse (Rev 22:3)
- c. Pain (Rev 21:4)
- d. Crying, sorrow (Rev 21:4)
- e. Death (Rev 21:4)

This is because the nature of Heaven is a product of the nature of God. Since Heaven is the full manifestation of His presence, what God is like, Heaven is a place of holiness, full of glory and without end.

C. OUR LINK WITH HEAVEN

As believers, we now live our lives in a special relationship with Heaven, because:

1. We Belong There

"But ye are come unto... the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels, To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven..." (Heb 12:22,23). See also Philippians 3:20.

2. We Are Enthroned There

"And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus" (Eph 2:6).

3. We Have Our Source Of Life There

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ" (Eph 1:3). See also Colossians 3:1-4.

4. We Have Our Names Recorded There

"Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven." (Luke 10:20). See also Hebrews 12:22,23.

5. We Have Been Sent By Jesus Who Lives There

"They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world." (John 17:16,18).

6. We Have Our Eyes Fixed There

"For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal." (2 Cor 4:17,18). See also Hebrews 11:9, 10, 14-16.

7. We Have Our Treasure There

"...his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope... To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you" (1 Pet 1:3,4). See also Matthew 6:19-21.

8. We Are Being Called There

"...but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." (Phil 3:13,14).

Jesus Himself, before returning to Heaven, made a very special promise to every believer: "Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also." (John 14:1-3). See also John 17:24.

MY COMMITMENT

I decide today to set my affections on things in Heaven, not on things of this earth. I realize my life on earth is only temporary, so I will live by priorities established by this truth. I will share with others the good news about this wonderful eternal home Jesus offers to all who will believe on Him.

Chapter 23 - Deliverance and Healing

In addition to salvation from sin, we have needs in our physical bodies and daily lives which are also fulfilled through the knowledge of Jesus Christ. These include

- Mental and Physical Healing
- Prosperity in Family, Relationships and Marriage
- Financial blessings

A. CASTING OUT DEVILS (DELIVERANCE)

Devils (or demons) are a big cause of the needs in the lives of both unbelievers and believers. In response to this, the ministry of Jesus while on the earth included casting out devils in over 100 verses of the Bible. To cast out devils is Deliverance.

After he ascended to heaven, Jesus gave his disciples (you and me) the same task to cast out devils in combination with preaching the Gospel.

Mark 16:17-20 “And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover. So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God. And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen.”

B. DEVIL POSSESSION

Devils are not cast out through medical treatment, because devils inhabit the spirit of the person who is possessed by the devil. The devil OWNS the individual in certain areas, and compels that individual to act against their own will. A devil can control the body or the voice of the person, so that it is no longer them speaking

Mark 9:18 **And wheresoever he taketh him**, he teareth him: and he foameth, and gnasheth with his teeth, and pineth away (becomes thin): and I spake to thy disciples that they should cast him out; and they could not. (also see Matt 17:15, Mark 5:4,5)

That person's will and life is brought back under proper control once the devil is cast out by the power of God through the name of Jesus Christ. It is a violent process (a spiritual fight) which is why the devil is “cast out”. It is not a friendly encounter.

C. HOW TO CAST OUT DEVILS

Devils are not cast out by teaching sound doctrine alone. Devils are only cast out through a prayer battle, by engaging the enemy directly with the word of God

Matthew 8:16 When the even was come, they brought unto him many that were possessed with devils: and **he cast out the spirits with his word**, and healed all that were sick:

In every case with Jesus, there was a clear distinction in the Scripture between preaching the gospel and casting out devils. And in many cases, preaching and casting out devils are mentioned together. Therefore casting out devils is just as essential as preaching sound doctrine:

Mark 1:39 And **he preached in their synagogues** throughout all Galilee, **and cast out devils**. (also see Mark 3:14,15)

There are a few examples in the New Testament which show the nature of the battle. "The devil threw him down, tare him... and then departed" (Luke 9:42) "The devil cried out with a loud voice" (Mark 1:26) "The devil besought him (begged him)" (Matt 8:31)

D. PRACTICAL INSTRUCTIONS

Even if you are not possessed by a devil because you have a totally free will of your own, you can still benefit from deliverance. The devil still tries to get into your life when he can, by bringing external problems to weaken your ability to live.

Take the scriptures below and read one verse first, including the reference. This must be done out loud. Then read over the underlined part a second time out loud. Then read through the bold part a third time out loud. Do this for the next verse and continue till the end. Do this exercise every day with additional scriptures (supplied separately). Do the exercise in your private prayer times and in public deliverance prayer meetings. Attend these special meetings which concentrate you on the deliverance scriptures with an open heart. Very soon as faith rises in your heart, you will see deliverance happening to you. You will also help those around you as you begin to actively participate in this ministry of deliverance.

E. WARNING

Be sure that the deliverance session only uses quotations from the bible, and not the words of the preacher. This is the only way to be sure you are getting deliverance from God's power and not Satan's power. Also be sure to use the (Old) King James Bible scriptures alone. Do not introduce other bible versions. Satan can only deceive people when the words of the preacher are not the (Old) King James Bible. And Satan very often does deceive people this way. So please beware. Now begin:

Matthew 8:16 When the even was come, they brought unto him many that were possessed with devils: and **he cast out the spirits with his word**, and healed all that were sick:

Matthew 8:31 So **the devils besought him**, saying, **if thou cast us out**, suffer us to go away into the herd of swine.

Matthew 9:33 **And when the devil was cast out**, the dumb spake: and the multitudes marvelled, saying, It was never so seen in Israel.

Matthew 10:8 Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, **cast out devils: freely ye have received, freely give**.

Matthew 12:28 But if I cast out devils by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God is come unto you.

Mark 1:34 And he healed many that were sick of divers diseases, and cast out many devils; and suffered not the devils to speak, because they knew him.

Mark 1:39 And he preached in their synagogues throughout all Galilee, and cast out devils.

Mark 3:15 And to have power to heal sicknesses, and to cast out devils:

Mark 6:13 And they cast out many devils, and anointed with oil many that were sick, and healed them.

Mark 7:26 The woman was a Greek, a Syrophenician by nation; and she besought him that he would cast forth the devil out of her daughter.

Mark 9:38 And John answered him, saying, Master, we saw one casting out devils in thy name, and he followeth not us: and we forbid him, because he followeth not us.

Mark 16:9 Now when Jesus was risen early the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom he had cast seven devils.

Mark 16:17 And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues;

F. HEALING

While doing deliverance, Jesus also healed physical sicknesses while he was on the earth. Like with deliverance, Jesus also gave his disciples (you and me) the same task to continue *healing the sick* (read Mark 16:17-20), because sickness is what Jesus destroyed:

Deuteronomy 28:59-61 Then the LORD will make thy plagues wonderful, and the plagues of thy seed, even great plagues, and of long continuance, and sore sicknesses, and of long continuance. Moreover he will bring upon thee all the diseases of Egypt, which thou wast afraid of; and they shall cleave unto thee. Also every sickness, and every plague, which is not written in the book of this law, them will the LORD bring upon thee, until thou be destroyed.

The Scriptures show that healing the sick usually happened after casting out devils. Casting out devils and healing the sick are two separate things, but they happen in the same session. As you read through the following scriptures, out loud, in the same way as before, your faith will rise to experience the same healing power of Jesus in your own body:

Matthew 4:23 And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all manner of sickness and all manner of disease among the people.

Matthew 9:35 And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people.

Luke 6:17 And he came down with them, and stood in the plain, and the company of his disciples, and a great multitude of people out of all Judaea and Jerusalem, and from the sea coast of Tyre and Sidon, which came to hear him, and **to be healed of their diseases**;

Luke 6:19 And the whole multitude sought to touch him: for there went virtue out of him, and **healed them all**.

Luke 9:6 And they departed, and went through the towns, preaching the gospel, and **healing every where**.

Acts 28:8 And it came to pass, that the father of Publius lay sick of a fever and of a bloody flux: to whom Paul entered in, and prayed, and laid his hands on him, and healed him. 9 So when this was done, **others also, which had diseases** in the island, **came, and were healed**:

Matthew 8:16 When the even was come, they brought unto him many that were possessed with devils: and he cast out the spirits with his word, and healed all that were sick: 17 That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esaias the prophet, saying, Himself **took our infirmities, and bare our sicknesses**.

Matthew 12:15 But when Jesus knew it, he withdrew himself from thence: and great multitudes followed him, and **he healed them all**;

Matthew 14:14 And Jesus went forth, and saw a great multitude, and was moved with compassion toward them, and **he healed their sick**.

Matthew 15:30 And great multitudes came unto him, having with them those that were lame, blind, dumb, maimed, and many others, and cast them down at Jesus' feet; and **he healed them**:

Matthew 19:2 And great multitudes followed him; and **he healed them there**.

Matthew 21:14 And the blind and the lame came to him in the temple; and **he healed them**.

Luke 5:15 But so much the more went there a fame abroad of him: and **great multitudes came together** to hear, and **to be healed by him of their infirmities**.

Luke 9:11 And the people, when they knew it, followed him: and he received them, and spake unto them of the kingdom of God, and **healed them that had need of healing**.

James 5:16 Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, **that ye may be healed**. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.

1 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**.

Matthew 9:36 And besought him that they might only **touch the hem of his garment**: and as many as touched were made perfectly whole.

Mark 3:10 For he had healed many; insomuch that they pressed upon him for to touch him, as **many as had plagues**.

Luke 4:40 Now when the sun was setting, all they that had any sick with divers diseases brought them unto him; and **he laid his hands on every one of them, and healed them**.

MY COMMITMENT

I decide today to live in the deliverance power of Jesus. I believe his power casts out devils in me, restores my life, and heals my body completely.

Chapter 24 - When Jesus Returns - The Second Coming

"For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death TILL HE COME" (1 Cor 11:26).

G. THE PROMISE OF HIS RETURN

The Second Coming of the Lord Jesus to the earth is one of the most important subjects for the Christian. The writers of the New Testament discussed it more than 300 times, and the language used was almost always imperative. The first thing we need to know about the Second Coming is that it is CERTAIN!

1. Jesus Spoke About His Own Return

"And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory." (Matt 24:30). See also John 14:2,3).

2. Angels Foretold It

"And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven." (Acts 1:10,11).

3. The Early Christians Encouraged One Another With It

"For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words." (1 Ths 4:16-18). See also Revelation 1:7.

4. The Holy Spirit Bears Witness Of It

"For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens... Now he that hath wrought us for the selfsame thing is God, who also hath given unto us the earnest of the Spirit." (2 Cor 5:1,5).

"And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely." (Revelation 22:17).

H. HOW WILL JESUS RETURN?

1. Unexpectedly

"But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you..For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night.For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them..." (1 Ths 5:1-3) Read also verses 4-11.

2. Like The Lightning

"For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be." (Matt 24:27). See also Luke 17:24.

3. In The Same Way That He Left

"...this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven." (Acts 1:11).

4. With Great Power And Glory

"And then shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory." (Luke 21:27).

5. In Full View Of All

"Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen." (Rev 1:7).

I. DRAMATIC EVENTS TO TAKE PLACE

1. The Mystery Of The Ages Will Be Completed

"...there should be time no longer: But in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he shall begin to sound, the mystery of God should be finished, as he hath declared to his servants the prophets." (Rev 10:6,7)

2. God's People will Enter Their Full Glory

" For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself." (Philippians 3:20, 21). See also 1 Corinthians 15:35-53.

3. The Dead In Christ Will Be Raised To Life

"Knowing that he which raised up the Lord Jesus shall raise up us also by Jesus, and shall present us with you." (2 Cor 4:14). See also John 6:40; John 11:25 and 1 Ths 4:13-16.

4. Those Believers Still alive will Be Caught Up to Meet Him

"And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other." (Matt 24:31). See also 1 Ths 4:17.

5. Creation will Be Set Free From Its Bondage

"For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God. For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected the same in hope, Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God." (Romans 8:19-21). Read also Romans 8:22 and Isaiah 35:1-2.

6. Every Enemy Will Be Destroyed

"Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power. For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet." (1 Cor15:24,25). See also 2 Thessalonians 2:8.

7. Satan Will Be Bound and then Cast Into the Lake of Fire

"And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years" (Rev 20:1,2).

"And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever." (Rev 20:10).

8. Judgment will Be Given

"Seeing it is a righteous thing with God to recompense tribulation to them that trouble you; And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power" (2 Ths 1:6-9).

9. A Kingdom Will Be Set Up That Will Never Be Destroyed

"And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever." (Dan 2:44). See also Revelation 19:15,16.

MY COMMITMENT

The Second Coming of Jesus is my great hope for the future. I will tell as many people as possible about Jesus, my Savior, before he returns again. I am committed to Him and look with excitement for that day of His Coming.

Chapter 25 – Call Of God

God has a plan for the life of every individual believer in the Lord Jesus Christ. Not only does His call involve a wonderful purpose for us throughout eternity, but we also have an expression of that call upon the earth now.

"Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace..." (2 Tim 1:9).

"And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ... And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the CALLED ACCORDING TO HIS PURPOSE" (Rom 8:17, 28). See also Rom 8:29,30.

A. GOD HAS CALLED US

1. From The Foundation Of The World

"According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will" (Eph 1:4,5). See also Eph2:10 and Matthew 25:34.

2. To Be Separated Unto Him

"But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light" (1 Pet 2:9). See also Romans 9:23-26.

3. To fulfill His Purpose

"Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me his prisoner: but be thou partaker of the afflictions of the gospel according to the power of God; Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace..." (2 Tim 1:8,9). See also Romans 8:28, Philippians 3:14.

B. OUR CALL ON EARTH

"Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated unto the gospel of God" (Rom1:1).

In describing his own ministry, the Apostle Paul gives us an example of the call that is upon EVERY believer. It has three aspects.

1. The General Calling - "A Servant Of Christ"

Jesus paid a high price for us: His own life.

"For he that is called in the Lord, being a servant, is the Lord's freeman: likewise also he that is called, being free, is Christ's servant. Ye are bought with a price..." (1 Cor 7:22,23). See also 1 Corinthians 6:19,20.

When Paul calls himself a servant of Jesus Christ, he is pointing to an even deeper meaning. According to the custom of his day, if a servant came to the time when he could be set free, but because of love for his master chose not to accept his freedom, he then received a mark pieced in his ear. This was the sign that he was a "love-slave" to his master for life (Exo 21:5,6; Deut 15:16,17). The Apostle Paul, by choice, declared himself a love-slave of the Lord Jesus.

2. The Special Calling - "Called To Be An Apostle"

Just as the Apostle Paul had a special calling upon his life, so does every believer. Paul was called to be an apostle, but there are many different callings in the Body of Christ. See Romans 12:3-8; Ephesians 4:7-16. the special part that God has for us to play will be revealed to us as we earnestly seek His will.

3. The Particular Calling - "Separated To The Gospel"

Within each special calling there is a particular calling. For example, Peter and Paul were both apostles, but one was the apostle to the Jews and the other to the Gentiles. See Romans 11:13; 1 Timothy 2:7. We move into our special and particular calling only as we prove ourselves as "love-slaves," for we must first learn to be wholly under the authority of Christ before we can be SENT by Him. See Matthew 28:18,19.

C. WHY DOES HE CALL US?

1. Because The World Is In Darkness

"And we know that we are of God, and the whole world lieth in wickedness." (1John 5:19). See also Ephesians 6:12 and Colossians 1:13.

2. Because People Are Hungry And In Need

"But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd." (Matt 9:36).

3. To Prove His Wisdom

"To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God, According to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Eph 3:10,11).

4. Because The Time Is Short

"Say not ye, There are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest." (John 4:35). See also John 9:4.

D. WHAT HAPPENS WHEN WE ARE CALLED?

1. We Are Made By Him

"And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." (Matthew 4:19). See also Jeremiah 18:1-10.

2. We Are Taught By Him

"But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you." (John 14:26). See also 1 Corinthians 2:12; 1 John 2:27.

3. We Are Sent By Him

"As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world." (John 17:18). See also Mark 16:15.

When God calls, He comes and interrupts our lives. Some examples of this in the Scripture are:

Moses (a shepherd in the desert): "Go, set my people free" (Exo 3:1-12).

Samuel (a boy serving in the temple): "Wake up, speak for me" (1 Sam 3:1-19).

Ezekiel (a captive in a foreign land): "Stand up, I am sending you" (Eze 2:1-7).

Disciples (businessmen, fishermen): "Come, follow me" (Luke 5:27,28; Matt 4:18-22)

Saul (an enemy of the Church): "Go, I will tell you what you must do" (Acts 9:1-9).

MY COMMITMENT

Now that I realize that God has had a plan for my life even before the foundation of the world, I now make a total commitment to this plan and will follow the Lord all the way. I will teach others also about God's call for their lives.