

# Basic Discipleship

**Matthew 28:19-20**

*Jesus said, “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I commanded you....”*



**Introduction to teaching of  
the word of God for new believers  
and young Christians.**

This training manual is ideal to use in local Church fellowships and small group studies.

**Revival Ministries Australia**

# BASIC DISCIPLESHIP

## A TEACHING AND TRAINING MANUAL FOR ALL BELIEVERS

This manual is the first in a series of two manuals, designed to bring all believers to a level of maturity *"in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord"* 2 Peter 1:2. After the second manual has been studied, there are many other manuals available that will take the saints on in maturity.

**This series of teachings have been compiled  
for the discipling of new believers  
and for those believers who have not had the  
opportunity to be taught the word thoroughly,  
beginning with the Biblical foundations of the faith.**

### How to use this manual:

1. Best used with a leader facilitating each session
2. Useful for individual study, but best used in small groups
3. Take time to look up every Scripture reference, when the full reference is not quoted in the lesson, and when you do not know the context of the full reference.
4. This manual has been designed as a work book; take time to answer the questions in the spaces provided. Take time to check the answers. [If each disciple does not have a copy of the manual, ask the questions and have the disciples write the answers on note paper]
5. Take time to discuss the content and to answer questions that are relevant to the content.
6. In most sessions there is a memory verse, and we encourage every disciple to learn the memory verses.

**This manual** has been written to be an aid to local church pastors and leaders to teach new believers and others who have not been discipled, the basic teachings of the faith. In **Acts 2:42** this is called the 'apostles' doctrine'.

**The goal:** we are all called to grow from being a baby Christian to a mature believer, able to minister to and teach others. This manual will begin that process.



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These some of the ministry team of SHILOH apostolic company, Australia, who contributed the original material that was used in the compilation of this manual.

This manual has been written and published by

**Revival Ministries Australia**  
**an apostolic ministry to the nations**

**Our mandate:**

- Making disciples, Matt. 28:18-20,
- Training & equipping workers for the harvest, Matt.9:37–10:40, Lu.10:1-20
- Bringing the church to maturity by fathering sons, Gal.4:10 & 1Cor.4:14-17

This manual is available for use in all churches and Christian ministries

**Publication Policy**

RMA advises that all of our teaching and study manuals are copyrighted. However, they are offered to the Body of Christ in obedience to the LORD's command to make disciples *"teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you,"* Matt. 28:20.

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LESSON ONE

# WHAT DO YOU SAY ABOUT JESUS?

## There are many views

People have many different views about who Jesus Christ is.

Some say that Jesus was:

- A good man
- A prophet
- A teacher of good ethics
- A miracle worker
- An important figure in history
- A religious leader
- Someone who rose from the dead
- The judge of the living and the dead
- God in the flesh
- Son of God
- Messiah or Christ
- The Saviour who came from heaven
- *Can you think of any other views or titles of Jesus to add to this list*
- .....
- .....

Let us understand **who Jesus is** by studying the testimony of those who knew Him when He walked on the earth.

## Who do you say Jesus is?

Even in Jesus' day there was much confusion. He asked His disciples one day, ***"Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?" (Matt.16:13-14).*** They replied with all sorts of answers suggesting that he was a prophet from a long time ago who came back to life. But then He asked them directly, ***"But who do you say that I am?" (v.15)***

*Write in your own words who you say Jesus is. ....*  
.....

## Knowing who Jesus is changes you!

At this point, the apostle named Peter got a revelation. Jesus said that this sort of revelation is not taught by men but it comes from heaven, from God (**Matt.16:17**). It suddenly dawned on Peter who Jesus was. He said, ***"You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God!"*** He saw Jesus for who He was and this changed him forever – in fact Jesus had changed his name from Simon to "Peter", which means a "stone", when He first met Peter (**Jn.1:42**). Now there was something solid in his life. He knew the truth of who Jesus was!

*Have you had a revelation concerning who Jesus is? Please share .....*  
.....  
.....

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### **There are eyewitness accounts of Jesus that tell us about His life on earth**

In the Bible there are four books called GOSPELS that give accounts of Jesus' life, ministry, death and being raised from the dead [resurrection]. Two of these books, Matthew's account and John's, are primary resources.

This means they were actually there with Jesus. They were a part of Jesus' closest company. Mark and Luke, while they themselves were not in Jesus' company, were in company with those who were with Jesus and they simply delivered what they had been told and taught by the early apostles.

*It is good to read the gospels. Mark is good to start with as his gospel is full of exciting stories. Begin to read the gospels for yourself: at least one chapter per day, but many more chapters if you can.*

### **Understanding Jesus is the most important thing for every person**

Understanding "who Jesus is" is of prime importance to every individual on the face of the earth. The future and destiny of your soul depends upon who you believe Jesus to be. He was no ordinary man! As you come to know who He is and what He did, like the apostle Peter, your life will be radically changed!

The apostle John wrote down what John the Baptist had to say of Jesus, "***He who comes from above is above all; he who is of the earth is earthly and speaks of the earth. He who comes from heaven is above all. And what He has seen and heard, that He testifies; and no one receives His testimony. He who has received His testimony has certified that God is true***" John 3:31-33.

### **Jesus came from heaven to testify of what He had seen and heard of God! If you receive Jesus' testimony you are agreeing that God is true!**

The apostle Paul tells us in his letter to the **Romans** that there are two most important facts about Jesus that we need to know by revelation.

Paul says, "***that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved***" Romans 10:9.

What are the two important facts?

- 1) Jesus is the Lord: this means that we have yielded our life to Him and He is now our Lord: that means that Jesus is in charge of our life now.
- 2) Jesus rose from the dead: this proves that Jesus is God and when we believe that we are saved by faith.

Do you believe that Jesus rose from the dead? .....

Have you made Jesus, Lord of your life? .....

We ask you to pray the following prayer: *Lord Jesus, I believe you came down from heaven; I believe you died on the cross for my sins; I believe you rose from the dead. I now ask you to forgive me for my sins, to come into my life, and be Lord of my life.*

***Memory verse: "If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved" Romans 10:9***

### LESSON TWO

# Who is Jesus? – His life {Part 1}

## JESUS WAS A FLESH AND BLOOD MAN WHO HAD A MOTHER

- **Jesus was born of a Woman**

“Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with Child of the Holy Spirit.” *Matthew 1:18*

“But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, **born of a woman.**” *Galatians 4:4*

- **This Man did not have an earthly father. He was not conceived the natural way.**

“An angel of the Lord appeared to him (Joseph) in a dream, saying, “that which is conceived [begotten] in her is of the Holy Spirit.” *Matthew 1:20*

### **Jesus was to be called the Son of God from His birth**

**He is called the Son of God because God’s Spirit conceived Him in Mary’s womb. God became a man, born as a baby.**

“And the angel answered and said, ‘The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God.’” *Luke 1:35*

### **Son of God means that Jesus is God in the Flesh**

“And without controversy, great is the mystery of Godliness; God was manifested in the flesh.” *1Timothy 3:16*

## THREE PROPHETIC ASPECTS OF JESUS EVEN AS A BABY

### **1) JESUS IS GOD SAVING US!**

**The name JESUS was chosen for Him because it reveals who He is: one who will save us from our sins.**

“And she (Mary) will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins.” *Matthew 1:21*

**Jesus is the name of God and it is only in this name that you can be saved from sin and punishment!** The name “Jesus” means He is the Saviour – that He is “God’s Salvation” to us. When you call out the name of Jesus, you call out to God who saves you!

“Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is **no other name** under heaven given among men by which we must be **saved.**” *Acts 4:12*

### **2) JESUS IS GOD WITH US!**

**Jesus fulfilled things written hundreds of years before He came that told us that He would be “God with us”.**

“So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying, ‘Behold, the virgin shall be with Child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel.’ Which is translated ‘God with us.’” *Matthew 1:22-23*



### 3) JESUS IS KING!

Wise men came from far away to find Jesus. They had seen a star in the sky which they knew was a sign that a great king had been born. Even creation was pointing to the awesome event of this great King coming into the world.

“Where is He who is born king of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the east and have come to worship Him.” *Matthew 2:2*

When looking for this king they consulted the leaders of the Jews and they told them what men of old had written as to where He would be born.

“In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it is written by the prophet: ‘But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judea, are not the least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you shall come a Ruler who will Shepherd My people Israel.’” *Matthew 2:5-6*

As a Child, Jesus was worshiped by these men when they found Him! This is so significant because we are to only worship God, never a man.

“And when they had come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and fell down and worshiped Him.” *Matthew 2:11*

Many years later Jesus told the devil when He was being tempted that you should only worship God. Jesus was worshiped because He is God.

“Then Jesus said, ‘Away with you Satan! For it is written, ‘You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve.’” *Matthew 4:10*

A king at the time of Jesus’ early childhood, named Herod, wanted to kill Him because he was scared of losing power. But God protected Jesus by giving Joseph (Jesus’ step father) a dream.

“...an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream saying, ‘Arise, take the young Child and His mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I bring you word; for Herod will seek the young Child to destroy Him.’” *Matthew 2:13*

Jesus grew up in a family in a place called Nazareth which is still here to this day.

“And he came and dwelt in a city called Nazareth...” *Matthew 2:23*

### Questions from Jesus in His life

Was Jesus a flesh and blood man? What Scriptures declare that?

.....

Why is Jesus called the Son of God? Give a Scripture reference.

.....

.....

Is it right to worship Jesus? Was He worshiped while He lived on the earth?  
Give Scripture reference.

.....

.....

.....

### LESSON THREE

## Who is Jesus? – His life {Part 2}

### JESUS GREW AS A BOY IN A FAMILY!

#### → Jesus as a child grew strong in character and spirit

“And the Child grew and became strong in spirit, filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was upon Him.” *Luke 2:40*

#### → At 12 years of age a change happened!

Jesus reached a new stage of growth where He wanted to understand more about His Father, God!

At 12 years of age Jesus went to the temple (the place where the Jews worshiped God) and began asking many questions and answering many questions about God. People were amazed at Him because of His mature understanding. *“And all who heard Him were astonished at His understanding and answers.” Luke 2:47*

When Jesus was at the temple His mother and Joseph went home, thinking Jesus was with them. They suddenly realised He was missing and became very worried. When they found Him in the temple they anxiously asked Him what He was doing. They did not quite understand who He was and He responded, *“Why did you seek Me? Did you not know that I must be about My Father’s business?” But they did not understand the statement which He spoke to them” Luke 2:49-50.*

#### → After this Jesus continued to grow

As a youth, Jesus was submitted to Joseph and His mother. “Then He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was subject to them ... And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and men.” *Luke 2:51-52*

#### → He also had half brothers and sisters and worked as a carpenter

“Is this not the carpenter, the Son of Mary, and brother of James, Joses, Judas, and Simon? And are not His sisters here with us?” *Mark 6:3*

### HOWEVER, JESUS WAS NO ORDINARY MAN!

At 30 years of age He came for baptism at the River Jordan and heaven opened to Him while He was on the earth! (*Matt.3:16*)

This meant that, as a Man, He had come to a mature age where the fullness of God’s Spirit could be released in Him! Now He was ready to walk in the full responsibility as the Son of God, able to represent His Father, God, fully.

From that time if you saw Jesus, you saw God in His fullness. That is why He was declared to be the SON OF GOD!

### Jesus’ baptism

“When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him. And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, “This is My Beloved Son in whom I am well pleased.” *Matthew 3:16-17*

### His first task was to overcome the devil’s temptations in the earth as a man

“Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.”

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**Matthew 4:1.** (also **Luke 4:1**).

Jesus never sinned! He fully conquered the devil by overcoming the temptations. This shows us that we also can have victory over the devil with God's help in Christ.

### **Adam and Eve failed to defeat the devil**

In the beginning Adam and Eve failed to defeat the devil's temptations but now there was a man who conquered all that the devil threw at Him! He did not sin against God!

1. He was tempted with food after not eating for 40 days – His response, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.'" **Matthew 4:4**
2. He was tempted to test God in a prideful way – His response, "It is written again, 'You shall not tempt the LORD your God.'" **Matthew 4:7**
3. He was tempted with being given all the power in the world if He would worship Satan – His response, "Away with you, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve.'" **Matthew 4:10**

***"Then the devil left Him, and behold, angels came and ministered to Him."* Matthew 4:11**

**Jesus can relate to us in our weakness and temptations because  
He became a man and has been tempted just as we are.**

"For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathise with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin." **Hebrews 4:15**

### **THE MINISTRY OF JESUS**

Having been filled with the Holy Spirit at His baptism and having won the victory over the devil, Jesus came out of the wilderness with great power to help others – including you! ***"Then Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit to Galilee, and news of Him went out through all the surrounding region"* Luke 4:14.**

#### **i) He was anointed with the Spirit of God**

This anointing enabled Jesus to help people to be free in their lives, to overcome sin, to have victory over the devil and to be healed of all sickness. Jesus spoke of the anointing that He had received in the synagogue in Nazareth, which was His home town.

***"The Spirit of the LORD is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the broken hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed; to proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD."* Luke 4:18-19**

#### **ii) He taught with authority.**

"And they were astonished at His teaching, for His Word was with authority." **Luke 4:32**

#### **iii) He had authority to forgive sins.**

"When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, 'Son, your sins are forgiven you.'" **Mark 2:5**

#### **iv) He commanded evil spirits to leave people who were tormented by them.**

"For with authority and power He commands the unclean spirits, and they come out." **Luke 4:36**

#### **v) He healed many people of all kinds of diseases.**

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“...and healing all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease among the people.” *Matt.4:23*

**vi) He had authority over death.**

“...He cried with a loud voice, ‘Lazarus, come forth!’ And he who had died came out...”  
*John 11:43-44*. See also *Luke 7:11-17*.

**vii) He received worship from men.**

“And behold, a leper came and worshiped Him...” *Matthew 8:2*

“Then he [a man who was healed of blindness] said, ‘Lord I believe!’ And he worshiped Him.” *John 9:38*

**viii) He preached the kingdom of God**

“Jesus went about all Galilee ... preaching the gospel of the kingdom” *Matthew 4:23*

### **This is Jesus in His life!**

#### **Questions from Jesus in His life**

What are the names of Jesus’ brothers? .....

.....

What happened immediately after Jesus’ baptism? *Matthew 4:1*

.....

Where did Jesus’ power come from? *Luke 4:14*

.....

**Name eight areas of the ministry of Jesus:**

i) .....

ii) .....

iii) .....

iv) .....

v) .....

vi) .....

vii) .....

viii) .....

*Memory verse: “Then Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit to Galilee, and news of Him went out through all the surrounding region” Luke 4:14.*

### LESSON FOUR

## Who is Jesus? – His death {Part 1}

### GOD WAS WITH JESUS!

- **Jesus only ever did good to people.**

“...God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.” *Acts 10:38*

- **He came to serve men and help them.**

“For even the Son of Man [Jesus] did not come to be served but to serve...” *Mark 10:45*

- **He did many wonderful things for people.**

For three and a half years Jesus as a Man served men powerfully, healing diseases, casting out evil spirits, raising dead people to life, walking on water, feeding thousands with a few loaves of bread, making people free and teaching men about the kingdom of God.

- **These things were a proof that He was God’s Son**

This was because He only did what God, His Father, would do. Jesus said, “Most assuredly I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do; for whatever He does, the Son also does in like manner.” *John 5:19*

### GOD HAS A PLAN FOR US THROUGH JESUS!

#### i) To put the blame for the sin of the world on Jesus

Jesus came in to the world to die, to take the punishment for our sins upon Himself. Jesus had to die in order to save us from being judged in our sin. “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whoever believes on Him will not perish but have everlasting life.” *John 3:16*

“John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, ‘Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!’” *John 1:29*

“He was delivered up for our offenses [sins, faults]” *Romans 4:25*

#### ii) It was God’s plan for Jesus to die at the hands of evil men.

“Him [Jesus], being delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God, you have taken by lawless hands, have crucified and put to death.” *Acts 2:23*

Jesus had told His disciples during His time of ministry that He must be killed and suffer many things.

“The Son of Man must suffer many things, and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised the third day.” *Luke 9:22*

“Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and all things that are written by the prophets concerning the Son of Man will be accomplished. For He will be delivered to the Gentiles and will be mocked and insulted and spit upon. They will scourge and kill Him. And the third day He will rise again.” *Luke 18:31-33*

### **JESUS WAS BETRAYED!**

#### **One of the twelve**

Jesus had spent three years with His disciples, teaching, training and being a father to them but then He was betrayed by one of the twelve men who were closest to Him. “Assuredly, I say to you, one of you will betray Me...He who dipped his hand with Me in the dish will betray Me...Then Judas said, ‘Is it I?’ He said to him, ‘You have said it.’” *Matthew 26:21-25*

#### **His disciples deserted Him**

They left Him to suffer alone. This was written in the Scriptures long before it happened. But He left them with hope that He would not remain dead!

“All of you will be made to stumble because of Me this night, for it is written: ‘I will strike the Shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.’ But after I have been raised, I will go before you to Galilee.” *Matthew 26:31-32*

#### **Even Peter denied Him**

Peter was one of the closest three men to Jesus; Jesus had foretold that he would deny Him three times on this same night. “Peter answered and said to Him, ‘Even if all are made to stumble because of You, I will never be made to stumble.’ Jesus said to Him, ‘Assuredly I say to you that this night, before the rooster crows, you will deny Me three times.’” *Matthew 26:33-34*

#### **This was fulfilled**

Later that night and when Peter realised what he had done he wept bitterly. When asked if he knew Jesus, Peter responded:

1. ‘Woman, I do not know Him.’” *Luke 22:57*
2. “And after a little while another saw him and said, ‘You also are of them.’ But Peter said, ‘Man, I am not!’” *Luke 22:58*
3. “Then after about an hour had passed another confidently affirmed, saying, ‘Surely this fellow also was with Him, for he is a Galilean.’ But Peter said, ‘Man, I do not know what you are saying!’ Immediately, while he was still speaking, the rooster crowed.” *Luke 22:59-60*

“And the Lord turned and looked at Peter. Then Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how He had said to him, ‘Before the rooster crows, you will deny Me three times.’ So Peter went out and wept bitterly.” *Luke 22:61-62*

### **JESUS CHOSE TO DIE TO FOLLOW GOD’S PLAN.**

**He did not have to die; He did it for you!**

#### **Jesus was troubled about fulfilling God’s purpose**

Jesus chose to fulfil God’s purpose, after struggling in His soul. He chose to go to the cross.

God responded to His prayer with a voice from heaven saying that God would be glorified [revealed] by His death! “Now My soul is troubled, and what shall I say? ‘Father, save Me from this hour’? But for this purpose I came to this hour. Father, glorify Your name. Then a voice came from heaven, saying, “I have both glorified it and I will glorify it again.” *John 12:27-28*

### **Jesus surrendered Himself to God's will**

On the night before Jesus was killed He prayed and surrendered Himself to go through with God's plan. There was no other way to save mankind! "Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless not My will, but Yours be done." *Luke 22:42*

### **God, as a man, humbled Himself to die on the Cross!**

He did not have to die, He chose to. "And being found in appearance as a Man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to death, even the death of the Cross." *Philippians 2:8*

### **JESUS WAS AN ORDINARY MAN**

When it came time to arrest Jesus, they needed a sign to tell Him apart from His disciples. He was not someone special to look at! He was a normal looking man!

He did not wear king's clothes nor was He physically outstanding by the world's standard. "He has no stately form or splendour; and when we see Him, there is no beauty that we should desire Him." *Isaiah 53:2-3*

Jesus was betrayed by a kiss because they could not tell Him apart from the rest of the disciples. It was a sign to those who were to arrest Him. "Now His betrayer had given them a sign, saying, 'Whomever I kiss, He is the One; seize Him.'" *Matthew 26:48*

### **JESUS WAS ARRESTED**

#### **They came with swords and clubs**

He was arrested by many men with clubs and swords. One of His disciples tried to defend Him, cutting off the ear of one of the men. "And while He was still speaking, behold, Judas, one of the twelve, with a great multitude with swords and clubs, came from the chief priests and elders of the people...And suddenly, one of those who were with Jesus stretched out his hand and drew his sword, struck the servant of the high priest, and cut off his ear." *Matthew 26:47, 51*

#### **Jesus healed the man whose ear was cut off!**

Jesus was not afraid for His life but even thought of helping His enemies! And Jesus rebuked His disciple for doing it. "And He touched his ear and healed him." *Luke 22:51*

"But Jesus said to him, 'Put your sword in its place, for all who take the sword will perish by the sword.'" *Matthew 26:52*

#### **He could have called on many angels to help Him**

Jesus submitted Himself to the will of God. He did not use His supernatural power, but wanted to remain in God's plan.

"Or do you think that I cannot now pray to My Father, and He will provide Me with more than twelve legions of angels? How then can the Scriptures be fulfilled, that it must happen thus?" *Matthew 26:53-54*

#### **The disciples left Him**

"Then all His disciples forsook Him and fled." *Matthew 26:56*

### **The mystery of Christ dying for us**

Jesus, who was in the form of God before He became a man, purposefully humbled Himself to come down from heaven and be born in the world as a human person. He was God but He became a man, and as a man He humbled Himself even further to die on the cross for all people. The facts concerning His arrest and trial and crucifixion are horrific, but He did this purposefully for all of us.



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### Questions from Jesus in His death:

What was Jesus anointed with? .....

Who betrayed Jesus? .....

Who left Him when He was being arrested? .....

Who denied Him three times? .....

Was it a choice for Jesus to allow Himself to be killed? .....

Was it easy for Him to decide? .....

What did Jesus pray to God three times in the garden of Gethsemane?

.....  
.....

*Memory verse: For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whoever believes on Him will not perish but have everlasting life. John 3:16*



### LESSON FIVE

## Who is Jesus? – His death {Part 2}

### JESUS WAS FALSELY ACCUSED

**The leaders of the people looked for reasons to kill Him.**

“Now the chief priests, the elders and the council sought false testimony against Jesus to put Him to death...” *Matthew 26:59*

### He was brought before the High Priest

The high priest was the head of the Jewish religion at that time and held a very authoritative position. False witnesses spoke against Jesus, but Jesus remained silent and would not answer their interrogations.

“But at last two false witnesses came forward and said, ‘This fellow said, ‘I am able to destroy the temple of God and to build it in three days.’ And the high priest arose and said to Him, ‘Do You answer nothing? What is it these men testify against You?’ But Jesus remained silent.” *Matthew 26:60-63*

### JESUS TESTIFIED TO THE HIGH PRIEST

**To be the Christ and the Son of God**

“And the High Priest said to Him, ‘I put You under oath by the living God: Tell us if you are the Christ, the Son of God!’ Jesus said to him, ‘It is as you said’” *Matt.26:63-64*.

### Seated on the throne of God.

Jesus told the High Priest that later he would see that Jesus is seated on the throne of God. That is what it means to be **“at the right hand of the Power”**.

“Nevertheless, I say to you, hereafter you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Power, and coming on the clouds of heaven.” *Matthew 26:63*

### He was accused of blasphemy

He was beaten by the Jewish officials and they were enraged against Him. “He has spoken blasphemy! What do you think?” They answered and said, ‘He is deserving of death.’ Then they spat in His face and beat Him; and others struck Him with the palms of their hands” *Matthew 26:65-67*

### JESUS IN PILATE’S COURT

#### 1. Jesus spoke to a Roman Governor, Pontius Pilate

Jesus told the Governor that He was a king. “Jesus answered, ‘My kingdom is not of this world... You say rightly that I am a king.’” *John 18:36-37*

#### 2. A custom to release a prisoner

At the time of the Jewish Feast of Passover, it was the custom to release a prisoner to the Jews. Pilate asked the crowd of Jews which prisoner they wanted released: Jesus or a robber named Barabbas. “But you have a custom that I should release someone to you at the Passover. Do you therefore want me to release to you the King of the Jews?” *John 18:39*

#### 3. The crowd chose Barabbas

Barabbas, a notorious prisoner, who was an insurgent, a murderer and a robber, was chosen by the crowd to be released. (*Jn.18:39-40*)

### 4. The torture of Jesus

Pilate scourged Him and the Roman soldiers mocked Him and beat Him also. “So then Pilate took Jesus and scourged Him. And the soldiers twisted a crown of thorns and put it on His head, and they put Him in a purple robe. Then they said, ‘Hail, King of the Jews!’ And they struck Him with their hands.” *John 19:1-3*

### 5. Pilate found no fault in Jesus

The Jews cried out to “Crucify Him!” “Therefore when the chief priests and officers saw Him, they cried out, ‘Crucify Him, crucify Him!’ Pilate said to them, ‘You take Him and crucify Him, for I find no fault in this Man.’” *John 19:6*

### 6. Pilate became afraid

The Jews told Pilate that Jesus claimed to be the Son of God. This made him very afraid. He then questioned Jesus more but Jesus remained silent.

“The Jews answered him [Pilate], ‘We have a law, and according to our law He ought to die, because He made Himself the Son of God.’ Therefore when Pilate heard that saying, he was the more afraid, and...said to Jesus, ‘Where are You from?’ But Jesus gave him no answer.” *John 19:7*

### 7. Pilate’s authority was from God

Pilate tried to show his authority but Jesus revealed that **all authority is under God’s authority**. “Then Pilate said to Him, ‘Are You not speaking to me? Do you not know that I have power to crucify You, and power to release You?’ Jesus answered, ‘You could have no power at all against Me unless it had been given you from above’” *John 19:10-11*

## JESUS WAS CRUCIFIED

### Pilate handed Jesus over for Crucifixion

Finally Pilate was persuaded by the Jews to crucify Jesus even though he had found nothing wrong in Him. “Then he delivered Him to them to be crucified. So they took Jesus and led Him away.” *John 19:16*

### Jesus carried His Cross [the execution stake]

The place of crucifixion was called “Golgotha”, and there He was crucified. “And when they had come to a place called Golgotha, that is to say, Place of a Skull...Then they crucified Him.” *Matthew 27:33, 35*

### His crime was written above His head

“And they put up over His head the accusation written against Him: THIS IS JESUS THE KING OF THE JEWS.” *Matthew 27:37*

### He was crucified between two criminals

Jesus prayed for the forgiveness of those who persecuted and abused Him. He loved mankind to the end! “And when they had come to the place called Calvary, there they crucified Him, and the criminals, one on the right hand and the other on the left. Then Jesus said, ‘Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do.’” *Luke 23:33-34*

### Jesus cried out

Because Jesus had the weight of the sin of the world on Him, God left Him to die, to bear the punishment on our behalf. “My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?” *Matthew 27:46*

### **It is finished!**

The work Jesus came to do was finished! This was the work of redemption, which could only be accomplished by the shedding of His blood. “So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, ‘It is finished!’” *John 19:30*

### **JESUS DIED**

#### **Jesus became sin on our behalf**

So that God could reconcile the world to Himself, Jesus had to die on our behalf. God makes peace with us through the blood, shed by Jesus on the Cross.

“God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them...For He made Him [Jesus] who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him [Jesus].” *2Corinthians 5:19, 21*

“For it pleased the Father that in Him [Jesus] all the fullness should dwell, and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself...through the blood of His Cross.” *Colossians 1:19-20*

#### **Jesus yielded His spirit to God**

“And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice, and yielded up His Spirit.” *Matt. 27:50*

“And when Jesus had cried out with a loud voice, He said, ‘Father, into Your hands I commit My Spirit.’ Having said this, He breathed His last.” *Luke 23:46*

#### **He died for our sins.**

“Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures.” *1Corinthians 15:3*

#### **Isaiah foretold this 700 years before it happened.**

He is despised and rejected by men, a Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him (*Isaiah 53:3*).

#### **He bore our griefs, pain, and died for our sins**

Surely He has borne our griefs (pains) and carried our sorrows (sicknesses); yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God and afflicted. But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed (*Isaiah 53:4,5*).

#### **Through Jesus’ death we can come back to God**

All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned, everyone, to his own way; and the LORD (the Eternal God) has laid on Him the iniquity of us all...When You make His soul an offering for sin...” *Isaiah 53:6,10*.

- God was with Jesus
- God’s plan was to have Jesus die at the hands of evil men
- He had no special outward appearance
- He was betrayed and denied by those closest to Him
- He did not have to die but chose to
- He testified before Jews and Romans

- He was falsely accused
- He was beaten, abused and crucified
- He cried out
- He died
- He was punished for our sins
- His soul was an offering to bring us peace with God

### **This is Jesus in His death!**

#### **Questions from Jesus in His death**

**What did Jesus do to a man who was arresting Him? What does this show about Jesus?**

.....  
.....

**Did Pilate find anything wrong in Jesus? .....**

**What did the people desire to see happen to Jesus?**

.....

**What do you think Jesus meant when He said, *It is finished*?**

.....  
.....

**What were Jesus' last words before He died?**

.....  
.....

*Memory Verse: "And when they had come to the place called Calvary, there they crucified Him, and the criminals, one on the right hand and the other on the left. Then Jesus said, 'Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do.'" Luke 23:33-34*

LESSON SIX

## Who is Jesus? His Resurrection {Part1}

### JESUS, AS A MAN, LITERALLY DIED AND WAS BURIED!

- **Jesus was laid in a tomb by a rich man who believed in Jesus**

“Now when evening had come, there came a rich man of Arimathea, named Joseph, who himself had also become a disciple of Jesus...when Joseph had taken the body (of Jesus), he wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, and laid it in his new tomb which he had hewn out of the rock; and he rolled a large stone against the door of the tomb” *Matthew 27:57-60*

- **This was foretold by Isaiah the Prophet also**

“And they made His grave with the wicked – But with the rich at his death, because He had done no violence, nor was any deceit in His mouth.” *Isaiah 53:9*

- **Those who agreed to His death, feared that He would rise from the dead!**

The religious leaders feared what Jesus has said about rising from the dead. “On the next day which followed the Day of Preparation, the chief priests and Pharisees gathered together to Pilate, saying, ‘Sir, remember, while He was still alive, how that deceiver said, ‘After three days I will rise.’” *Matthew 27:62-63*

- **They pleaded for guards to be stationed at the tomb**

They wanted to make sure no one stole the Body of Jesus. Pilate told them to do all they could to secure it. “Therefore command that the tomb be made secure until the third day, lest His disciples come by night and steal Him away, and say to the people, ‘He has risen from the dead.’ Pilate said, ‘...make it as secure as you know how.’ So they went and made the tomb secure, sealing the stone and setting the guard.” *Matthew 27:64-66*

- **Jesus as a Man was in the tomb for three days and three nights**

This was prophetically illustrated through the example of Jonah’s life who lived hundreds of years before Jesus. Jonah was the one swallowed by a great fish. A book in the Old Testament called the book of **Jonah**, tells this story.

“For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.” *Matthew 12:40*

- **Two women came to see the tomb on the third day after His death**

“Now after the Sabbath, as the first day of the week began to dawn, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to see the tomb.” *Matthew 28:1*

- **Death could not hold Jesus!**

The tomb stone was rolled away! “And behold, there was a great earthquake; for the angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat on it.” *Matthew 28:2*

### JESUS IS RISEN!

i) **The tomb was empty**

Angels spoke to the women who went to find Jesus’ Body. “Then they went in and **did not find the Body of the Lord Jesus**. And it happened, as they were greatly perplexed about this, that behold, two men stood by them in shining garments. Then, as they were

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afraid and bowed their faces to the earth, they said to them, ‘**Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here, He is risen!**’ *Luke 24:3-6*

### ii) **Jesus was seen by eyewitnesses!**

**Mary Magdalene** was the first to see Jesus alive from the dead. “Now when He rose early on the first day of the week, He appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom He had cast seven demons.” *Mark 16:9*

The disciples did not believe Mary. “She went and told those who had been with Him, as they mourned and wept. And when they heard that He was alive and had been seen by her, they did not believe.” *Mark 16:10-11*

**Jesus appeared to two others** walking on the road. “After that He appeared in another form to two of them as they walked and went into the country.” *Mark 16:12.*

The disciples did not believe these two either! “And they went and told it to the rest, but they did not believe them either.” *Mark 16:13*

### iii) **Jesus appeared to the disciples!**

Jesus came into a room without using the door! They were really scared and thought He was a ghost. “Now as they said these things, Jesus Himself stood in the midst of them, and said to them, ‘Peace to you.’ But they were terrified and frightened, and supposed they had seen a spirit.” *Luke 24:36-37*

### iv) **Jesus was a real man, not a spirit!**

Jesus **showed them the wounds** on His Body and told them to touch Him to find out for themselves! “And He said to them, ‘Why are you troubled? And why do doubts arise in your hearts? Behold My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself. Handle Me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see I have.’” *Luke 24:38-39*

Jesus **ate some food with them**, showing them His Body was a real Body! “But while they still did not believe for joy, and marvelled, He said to them, ‘Have you any food here?’ So they gave Him a piece of broiled fish and some honeycomb. And He took and ate in their presence.” *Luke 24:41-43*

### v) **Jesus appeared to many**

Jesus rose from the dead and was seen by many people. On one occasion He was seen by up to 500 at once!

“He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures, and that He was seen by Cephas (Peter), then by the twelve. After that **He was seen by over five hundred brethren at once**, of whom the greater part remain to the present, but some have fallen asleep. After that He was seen by James, then by all the apostles. Then last of all He was seen by me also (Paul)...” *1Corinthians 15:4-8*

## **JESUS WAS RAISED FROM THE DEAD**

### **To make us just as if we had never sinned!**

He was raised for our justification, making us free of sin to live a new life. “He was delivered up because of our offenses, and He was raised because of our justification.” *Romans 4:25*

### **To give us a new life!**

Through believing and being baptised in Jesus’ name we receive the same life and power that raised Jesus from the dead! We live by His life! “Therefore we were buried with

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Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life!" *Romans 6:4*

### Questions of Jesus in His Resurrection

Did Jesus as a man literally die? .....

Where was He buried? .....

Why did the people want guards stationed at the tomb?

.....

When women went to find Jesus' Body, what did they discover? Give reference.

.....

Who was the first person to see Jesus alive from the dead? .....

After the resurrection, what did Jesus do to prove that He was in a real body?

.....

.....

What was the biggest number of people He appeared before at one time? 1Cor.15:6

.....

*Memory Verse: "Jesus was delivered up because of our offences, and was raised because of our justification" Romans 4:25*



### LESSON SEVEN

# Who is Jesus? His Resurrection {Part 2}

## JESUS IS ALIVE TODAY! WHERE IS HE NOW?

**Jesus sits at the right hand of God in heaven.**

This is the place of complete authority over all things in heaven and earth! “So then, after the Lord had spoken to them, He was received up into heaven, and sat down at the right hand of God.” *Mark 16:19*

“according to the working of His mighty power which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places far above all principality and power...” *Ephesians 1:19-21*

## WHAT IS JESUS DOING NOW?

### 1) Jesus is ruling as king over all heaven and earth.

This means that all presidents, prime ministers, kings, dictators and governments are ultimately accountable to Him. He is the king!

“Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth.” *Revelation 1:5*

“God now commands all men everywhere to repent, because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has appointed. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead.” *Acts 17:30-31*

“And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, ‘All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.’” *Matthew 28:18*

### 2) Jesus is with those who preach the good news

Disciples of Jesus are to preach the good news of His life, death, burial and resurrection. He works with them by doing mighty deeds to confirm the truth of His Word. “And they went out and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the word through the accompanying signs. Amen!” *Mark 16:20*

“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age. Amen.” *Matthew 28:19-20*

### 3) Jesus sends His Spirit

Jesus sent His Spirit to live in all those who believe and obey Him. You can receive the Holy Spirit and be filled with His life and power today! “Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but wait in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high.” *Luke 24:49*

“And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, ‘which,’ He said, ‘you have heard from Me; for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now. But you shall receive POWER when the Holy Spirit has come upon you” *Acts 1:4-5, 8*



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“And we are His witnesses to these things, and so also is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey Him.” *Acts 5: 32*

### **4) Jesus is remaining in heaven**

Jesus is remaining in heaven until all things are restored and brought back into line with God’s original purpose. “that He [God] may send Jesus Christ, who was preached to you before, whom heaven must receive until the times of restoration of all things, which God has spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began.” *Acts 3:20-21*

### **5) Jesus is waiting until all His enemies are made a footstool for His feet.**

The last enemy to be destroyed is death itself. God will have a perfect people in the earth with no enemies left to destroy nor hurt anymore. “For He must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet. The last enemy that will be destroyed is death.” *1Cor. 15:25-26*

“But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God, from that time waiting till His enemies are made His footstool.” *Heb.10:12-13*

“They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain, for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD [the Eternal God, Jesus] as the waters cover the sea.” *Isaiah 11:9*

## **THE FINAL RESULT IS EVERY ONE KNOWING WHO IS IN CHARGE**

“Therefore God has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every other name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.” *Philippians 2:9-11*

## **God wants you to believe that He raised Jesus from the dead!**

- ➔ **If you believe, you will be saved**
- ➔ **you can be born again of His Spirit**
- ➔ **you can receive the power of the Holy Spirit**
- ➔ **you can live a new life, in the power of Jesus’ resurrection**

- Jesus died and was buried
- Death could not hold Him
- He is Risen from the dead
- He was seen by eyewitnesses
- He appeared to His disciples
- He rose in a real body – He was not just a spirit
- He appeared to many
- He is at the right hand of God
- He is ruling over heaven and earth
- He is working with those who preach the gospel
- He is sending His Spirit to live in those who believe and obey Him
- He is waiting until all His enemies are defeated

**This is Jesus alive from the dead!**

**Questions of Jesus in His Resurrection – Part 2**

**How does He confirm the gospel being preached? Mark 16:20**

.....

**What gift does Jesus send to those who believe and obey Him? Acts 1:4-8**

.....

**What is the last enemy to be destroyed? 1Cor.15:26 .....**

**What is Jesus doing now? List five things that He is doing:**

1. ....
2. ....
3. ....
4. ....
5. ....

*Memory verse: "But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God, from that time waiting till His enemies are made His footstool." Heb.10:12-13*

LESSON EIGHT

# Truth Revealed

## THE TRUTH CONCERNING JESUS

### 1. Jesus was no ordinary man

Even though Jesus was a man, He was no ordinary man. He was *“the firstborn over all creation”* and *“the image of the invisible God”* Colossians 1:15. The apostle Paul said that this Jesus was *“the Lord from heaven.”* 1Corinthians 15:47.

### 2. Jesus is God in a man

There is a great mystery to be revealed in Jesus. The fact that He was conceived supernaturally by the Holy Spirit, lived a life of perfect relationship with God and was always obedient to God demonstrates to us that He was of a different nature to normal humans. Jesus is God in a Man!

*“And without controversy, great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifested in the flesh.”* 1Timothy3:16

The mystery is that God became a Man! This is what it means to call Jesus “the Son of God”. Jesus came to reveal who God is. Understanding who Jesus is means understanding who God is!

### 3. If you see Jesus, you see God!

If you have seen Jesus for who He is, you have seen God! Jesus said to one of His disciples, Philip, *“Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father...”* John14:9

### 4. God became a man to take away sins

The apostle John also says that *“He [God] was manifested to take away our sins, and in Him there is no sin.”* 1John3:5 God became a Man in order to take away our sins. He did this by offering Himself up as a sacrifice on the Cross. He decided to take our sin, rebellion, hurt, hate, pain, guilt and shame upon Himself and bear the punishment we deserved. He died in our place.

*“God demonstrates His own love towards us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”* Romans5:8

### 5. Jesus destroyed the power of death by rising from the dead!

But Jesus not only died, He rose from the dead, showing us His victory over death because He could not remain a dead man. Death only conquers those who sin for *“the wages of sin is death”* Romans 6:23, but Jesus had no sin in Him. Three days later He came back up and was seated at God’s right hand being in charge of everything. He has *“abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.”* 2Timothy 1:10

### 6. It is time to change the way you think about Jesus!

God now *“commands all men everywhere to repent [change their minds], because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead.”* Acts17:30-31

### 7. It is time to know the truth about who Jesus is and believe in Him

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Many people have all kinds of thoughts on who Jesus is. The truth is that He is God in the flesh and that He is also the King who now reigns over all: He is seated at God's right hand. He truly came into the world and was seen, heard and touched (**1John1:1**). John said that if you believe that Jesus is the Christ [King], the Son of God [God in the flesh] then you will have LIFE in His name.

**If you want real life, you need Jesus!  
Believe in Him!  
Believe the testimony that He has given of  
God!  
LIFE will enter into you!**

### Questions

**What is the mystery of Godliness? 1Tim.3:16 list six points:**

- 1) .....
- 2) .....
- 3) .....
- 4) .....
- 5) .....
- 6) .....

**Jesus said "If you have seen Me, you have seen ....."**

**Why did God become a man? 1John 3:5 .....**  
.....

**What does God command every person in the world to do now that Jesus died and rose again? Acts 17:30-31**

.....  
.....  
.....

*Memory Verse: "Jesus said to him, 'Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, Show us the Father?'" John 14:9*

### LESSON NINE

# Where do I go from here?

***Jesus wants to get into your life!  
It is time to get a revelation of Jesus!  
It is time to encounter Him in reality!***

#### **Jesus is reality, not a concept**

- Jesus is not a concept or a religion or a set of beliefs (**Ephesians 2:20**)
- Jesus is a real living Person who is alive today (**1Corinthians 15:45**)
- Jesus is reality and He is God (**John 20:28**)
- When you come to Him you are not joining a system, organisation or a human institution (**1Peter 2:4-5**)
- You are coming to God who made you and formed you and created you to be like Him (**Genesis 1:26-27**)

#### **You cannot hide from God**

It is no use trying to hide from God. He is real and whether you believe in Him or not He remains the same; He does not change (**Hebrews 13:8**). He sees you, knows you and loves you deeply (**Jeremiah 31:3**), and wants to get inside of you (**Galatians 2:20**).

#### **Real hope and satisfaction is in Jesus, the God of love and power**

All people fill themselves with something. Some fill themselves with drugs, alcohol, movies, sex, false religions, occult, theories and philosophies. These things may satisfy your appetite for a while but their end is in destruction, breakdown of relationships, hurt and loneliness. They come out of our selfishness and only wanting to please ourselves. They do not provide the hope that is in the gospel.

- ***The hope of the gospel is that you can live a different life.***
- ***It is a life lived by the same power that raised Jesus from the dead.***
- ***The reality of the gospel is that you can enter into a new life that will last forever.***
- ***Love and power will be released into your life as you receive God who is love and power.***

### **SAUL – A KILLER OF CHRISTIANS, TO PAUL – AN APOSTLE OF JESUS**

#### **Saul, a man who hated Christians**

Sometime after Jesus rose from the dead, there was a man named Saul who absolutely hated people who believed in Jesus. Saul was involved in the death of Stephen, the first martyr for Jesus (**Acts 7:58**). He started arresting believers and putting them in prison (**Acts 8:3**).

He was a religious man who thought that He knew who God was and he was bent on arresting and even killing people who were turning to Jesus in their hearts.

#### **Saul was “suddenly” confronted with reality – Acts 9:3-5**

One day he had a transformational moment. This is a moment when something “suddenly” happens to change your whole destiny. He was on his way to arrest some people in a city who believed in Jesus when SUDDENLY, A LIGHT FROM HEAVEN HIT HIM! It

knocked him to the ground and he was instantly confronted with the reality of God. He said, ***"Who are you, Lord?"***

### **"I am Jesus" – Acts 9:5**

The voice answered, ***"I am Jesus."*** This man hated people who believed in Jesus. He did not believe that Jesus was God but then SUDDENLY he was confronted with reality – with truth. He knew this experience was from God because he said, ***"Who are you, Lord?"*** He called Him Lord, but he did not know who He was. He believed in God, but he still did not know who God was.

### **Saul a changed man – Acts 9:6-18**

But now his whole world was changed. He was physically blinded by that event for three days but for the first time in his life he could see reality clearly.

### **He could see that Jesus is God! – Acts 9:20**

As a result of that revelation he stopped wanting to kill Christians; he got filled with the Spirit of God and was baptized in Jesus' name to wash away all his sins – to wash away his rebellion against God (**Acts 22:16**). And not only that, God then used him to make Jesus known in the world. He became known as Paul and became an apostle of Jesus, being sent to many people to declare the reality of God.

### ***JESUS GOT INSIDE OF PAUL! JESUS WANTS TO GET INSIDE OF YOU!***

- **Jesus is in charge**

The truth is that Jesus is King – He is in charge. You are not! He is bigger than you and created everything.

- **He offers forgiveness**

He offers you forgiveness if you will receive Him but if you reject Him you are condemning yourself by keeping your sin.

- **You need Jesus!**

It is not the time to be playing around with your life. It is the time to get real with your life. **You need Jesus!** You need Him to save you from destroying yourself. You need Him to save you from being deceived into a life of selfishness and pleasing yourself. Whether you are poor or rich, healthy or sick, you need a revelation of Jesus so you can see the reality of life.

### **IT IS TIME TO RECEIVE A NEW LIFE**

- ➔ It is the time for you to be born again; born from heaven above by getting a revelation of Jesus.
- ➔ Call on the name of the Lord Jesus and you will be saved; God will forgive you for rebelling and not acknowledging Him.
- ➔ He will give you a new life and Jesus will come to live inside of you by His Spirit.

### **Begin by talking to God**

Begin to talk to God and be honest with Him. You may find it difficult because you will realise that He is so good and in comparison you are so dirty inside. When you realise how good God is compared to you, do not be afraid but ask Him to forgive you. That is why Jesus died: so God could forgive the mess you have made of your life and then begin to change you by giving you His Spirit.

### **Then obey His command to be baptised**

Do not delay! After Saul had his encounter with Jesus and believed that He was God, he was then baptised into Jesus Christ. Saul was told, **“And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptised, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord.”** (Acts 22:16)

Baptism is going through what Jesus went through – death, burial and resurrection! We are to go down into the water to be united with Jesus in death and burial and to come up out of the water to be united with Jesus in resurrection life! It is choosing to die to our old life and rise into a new one! This will give you the power to walk a new life, a Jesus life! **(Romans 6:3-14)**

### **Be like Jesus**

When Jesus was baptised **the heavens opened** and **the Spirit of God came down** and remained on Him and **a voice was heard** declaring Him to be the Son of God.

### **When you are baptised**

- your sin is completely removed
- the heavens will be open over you;
- you will receive the power of God’s Holy Spirit
- you will be able to hear His voice to comfort and guide you in your life!

**I pray that you may see the reality of God in Jesus!**

**I pray that you will experience Him in reality  
and be born again into a new life of His resurrection!**

**I pray that you will experience the joy of having your sins forgiven  
and walking a new life with Jesus!**

***Review:** Have you come to know Jesus personally?  
Are you able to talk to your family and friends about Jesus?  
Have you been baptised since you believed?  
{Some people are baptised before they personally believe in Jesus.  
If you are one of those people you may consider re-baptism  
– this happened in the Bible in Acts 19:1-7}*

### LESSON TEN

# What is the Bible?

## The Bible is:

- God's Word to man
- a collection of 66 books with the longest book being the book of Psalms – 150 chapters long [actually a collection of songs] – and four books (Philemon, 2John, 3John, Jude) being single page letters.
- a compilation of sacred writings given by God through His Spirit to holy men of old *“Prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of old spoke as moved by the Holy Spirit”* 2 Peter 1:21
- called the Scriptures and all of Scripture is given by inspiration of God *“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God”* 2Timothy 3:16

## Who wrote the Bible?

- **The first writer** of the Bible was Moses, the great prophet of God who led the people of Israel out of slavery in Egypt in the 15<sup>th</sup> century B.C.
- **Moses** wrote the first 5 books of the Bible [*Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy*] after spending forty days and forty nights in the personal glorious Presence of God on the holy mountain. He did not eat or drink for that forty days as he was totally caught up in the Spirit.
  - *So he was there with Yahweh [LORD] forty days and forty nights; he neither ate bread nor drank water. And he wrote on the tablets the words of the covenant, the ten commandments”* Exodus 34:28

## The Book of Genesis is the book of beginnings

It was in the time that Moses was with God that God revealed to Moses the book of **Genesis**. It covers:

- the creation of the world, the sun, moon and stars;
- the history of mankind from approximately 4000B.C. when God created our first parents, Adam and Eve.
- It ends in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century B.C. when Jacob, the father of the 12 tribes of Israel went to Egypt because of famine in the land.

After Moses, various prophets, some priests, at least two kings and a governor wrote the rest of the Old Testament, *but in reality God is the author of all the books of the Bible!*

There are 39 books in the Old Testament and all those books had been written by 400B.C.

There are at least 44 men who wrote the various books of the Bible over 1500 years. Amazingly, all books of the Bible flow together, giving us a deep understanding of God.

## NEW TESTAMENT

### Gospels

The New Testament consists of 27 books: four **Gospels, Matthew, Mark, Luke, John**, which are testimonies of what Jesus said and did including the *extraordinary facts concerning His birth and His resurrection from the dead.*



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## Basic Discipleship

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### Acts of the Apostles

The Gospels are followed by the book of “**The Acts of the Apostles**” which is an exciting historical account of the beginning of the church: how thousands of people were transformed by believing the message of the gospel which had been preached by apostles who had been appointed and trained by Jesus.

In the **Gospels** and the **Acts** *there are many supernatural signs, extraordinary wonders, healings and miracles and deliverances from evil spirits.*

### The Epistles

Then there are 21 “**Epistles**” or “**Letters**” written by apostles of Jesus. The Epistles explain the Christian faith and the church. *It is remarkable how different the church of the New Testament is to the “churches” we see in the nations today.*

### Revelation

The last book of the Bible is “**a revelation of Jesus Christ [Messiah]**” **Revelation 1:1** The book of Revelation is the most complex book in the Bible as it is a series of visions that John received in heaven.

### Old and New together

- ➔ *The New Testament is found in the Old Testament*
- ➔ *The Old Testament is fulfilled in the New Testament*
- ➔ *The Old and New Testament Scriptures fit together, making a perfect whole.*

### The Bible is a book of revelation

The Bible speaks with an authority no other book has. There are many other sacred and spiritual books that teach something of God and the spiritual realm. But the Bible is a book of revelation given by God to man so that we can “**know Him who is from the beginning**” (1John2:12-14), that is, the One who is the Creator of all things and has created us to be like Himself.

- ***The Bible is an open book;***
- ***anyone can read the Bible***
- ***God will speak to you through the Bible by His Spirit. This is the miracle of the Bible.***
- ***You can come to know God through His Word written in the Bible.***

*Begin to read the Bible for yourself. The BIBLE is written for every person.*

*It is God's book written to you, for you.*

*Begin to read the New Testament, starting at Matthew's gospel.*

*Read at least one chapter per day; more as you can manage it.*

*Once you are more established in the gospel, you will want to read the whole Bible through.*

*We follow a simple reading plan that enables us to read the whole Bible through each year.*

***The BIBLE never loses its power, its mystery;  
the Bible is unique in making GOD known to us.***

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### LESSON ELEVEN

# TO BE BORN AGAIN

### The Story of Nicodemus, John 3:1-9

There was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. This man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, *“Rabbi, we know that You are a teacher come from God; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with Him.”*

Jesus answered and said to him, *“Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.”*

Nicodemus said to Him, *“How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born?”*

Jesus answered, *“Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’ The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit.”*

Nicodemus answered and said to Him, *“How can these things be?”*

### WHY MUST I BE BORN AGAIN?

Jesus says that unless we are born again:

- *“You cannot see the kingdom of God” v.3*
- *“You cannot enter the kingdom of God” v.5*

### What does it mean to be born again?

#### 1) Born from above

The expression “born again” literally means to be **“born from above”**. Jesus makes a clear distinction between

- natural birth – *“That which is born of the flesh is flesh” John 3:6*
- spiritual birth – *“that which is born of the Spirit is spirit” John 3:6*

#### 2) We are born again by receiving Jesus

The apostle John tells us *“But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name” John 1:12.*

The condition for this right to become children of God is to receive Jesus by His Spirit into our lives. On the basis of believing, we are then able to receive Jesus and thus be born again.

#### 3) We are born of God

*“We are born not of blood, not of the will of the flesh, not of the will of man but of God” John 1:13.* That is, we are **born from above** or **born again**.

### WHAT HAPPENS WHEN I AM BORN AGAIN?

Once I am “born again”, that is “born from above”, I am:

- No longer in darkness: *“Delivered from the power of darkness and conveyed into the kingdom of the Son of His love” Colossians 1:13.*

## Basic Discipleship

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- It is no longer I who lives, I become a new creation; Christ now dwells in me (**Galatians 2:20**).
- I do not sin because: ***“I have been born of God” 1 John 3:9***, and His seed remains in me (**1 John 3:9**). I guard myself from sin and the evil one cannot touch me. ***“But he who has been born of God keeps himself, and the wicked one does not touch him” 1 John 5:18.***
- I have love for others because I know God. ***“Everyone who loves is born of God and knows God” 1John 4:7.***
- I live in victory. ***“For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world – our faith” 1 John 5:4.***
- I am a spiritual being. Jesus said ***“That which is born of the Spirit is spirit” John 3:6.***
- I now live in a supernatural realm (**Ephesians 1**). I have:
  - ✓ Every spiritual blessing from God **v.3**
  - ✓ Been chosen in Christ **v.4**
  - ✓ Been adopted as a son **v.5**
  - ✓ I have received every grace **v.6**
  - ✓ Redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins **v.7**
  - ✓ Received wisdom and understanding **v.8**
  - ✓ Received revelation knowledge of the mystery **v.9**
  - ✓ Received a supernatural inheritance **v.11**
  - ✓ Been sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise **v.13**
  - ✓ Supernatural wisdom and revelation of God **v.17**
  - ✓ I have come to know the hope of His calling **v.18**
  - ✓ I have been seated in Christ in heavenly places **Eph.2:6**
  - ✓ Equal access with all mankind to God the Father through Jesus Christ the Son **Eph.2:18**
- I am free because I have been born according to the Spirit. ***“So then, brethren, we are not children of the bondwoman but of the free” Galatians 4:31.***
- I become a child of God ***“But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God” John 1:12.***

We have already seen that to be born again means that we are born from above. I am born again because God desires this. ***“Of His own will He brought us forth by the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of His creatures” James 1:18.***

***“God desires all men to be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth” 1 Timothy 2:4.*** We are born of the will of the Father (**John 1:13**).

### WHAT MUST I DO TO BE BORN AGAIN?

- **Believe:** I believe in the name of Jesus Christ (**John 1:12**)
- **Receive:** I receive Jesus into my life (**Jn.1:12**)

Nothing can destroy my ‘born again’ relationship with God because it is based upon the word [incorruptible seed] of God which is totally reliable. By faith I receive the promise

## Basic Discipleship

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of God's word [the seed] and receive Jesus [the Seed] into my life. ***"I am born again of incorruptible seed through the word of God which lives and abides forever"*** 1 Peter 1:23.

God had promised this Seed and the victory He would win, in the garden of Eden. ***"I will put enmity between you (Satan) and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head and you shall bruise His heel"*** Genesis 3:15. This is a clear prophecy concerning the coming of Messiah Jesus and what He would do to the enemy.

**To be born again means that I receive this victorious Seed [Jesus] into my life and live my life in the victory that He has won over sin and death.**

*Memory verse: Jesus answered, 'Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. John 3:5*

### Question:

How can I be born again? According to John 1:12 there are two important steps:

1. ....
2. ....

What kind of birth is it – to be born again? .....

Name five blessings that come to us when we are born again.

- i. ....
- ii. ....
- iii. ....
- iv. ....
- v. ....

### LESSON TWELVE

# WHAT MUST WE DO TO BE SAVED?

#### Peter preaching on the day of Pentecost

In **Acts 2** on the day of Pentecost, Peter preached to all those who gathered when they heard and saw the Holy Spirit come upon the disciples. {Please read **Acts 2**}

As he preached, all those gathered received revelation and understanding about Jesus Christ:

- His death, ***“Him you have crucified and put to death” Acts 2:23***
- His resurrection ***“Whom God raised up because it was not possible that He should be held by it [death]” Acts 2:24***
- His exaltation [going into heaven to be King]. ***“The LORD said to my Lord, “Sit at My right hand till I make Your enemies Your footstool.” Acts 2:34-35.*** Peter quotes this verse from **Psalms 110** in the Old Testament. Peter is saying that when Jesus went to heaven, He sat down on the throne of God.
- And the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. ***“Therefore being exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He poured out this which you now see and hear” Acts 2:33.*** When Jesus went back to heaven, He sent the Holy Spirit.
- Jesus is both Lord and Christ. Peter declared to the Jews – there were many thousands of them listening to him preach in Jerusalem. ***“God has made this Jesus whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ” Acts 2:36.*** When they heard this they were cut to the heart, because they realized they had killed the very one they had been waiting for and expecting to come.

#### What must we do to be saved? – Acts 2:38

Peter said to them

- ➔ Repent – this means to have a full change of mind about God
- ➔ let every one of you be baptized – this is baptism in water by immersion
- ➔ in the name of Jesus Christ – we are to be baptised in the revealed name of God
- ➔ for the remission of your sins – true baptism washes away our sins
- ➔ you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit – the Holy Spirit is given to every believer

Three thousand people joined the believers that day by being baptised, and the church was founded as the people heard and understood the basic doctrines of the gospel (**Acts 2:41**).

**Hebrews 6:1-2** says that the basic doctrines of the faith are:

1. the foundation of **repentance** from dead works,
2. and of **faith** toward God,
3. the doctrine of **baptisms**,
4. the **laying on of hands**,
5. of **resurrection** of the dead,
6. and of **eternal judgement**

In **Hebrews 6:1** we are encouraged to ***“go on to perfection”***, which is maturity in Christ. ***“This we will do if God permits” (v.3).*** God’s goal for the church is for the church to grow up to maturity in every way. God will only permit us to go on to maturity when the

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## Basic Discipleship

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foundations are properly laid. God is the master builder, and He is the one who gives the permit to go on. Jesus is building His own church, ***“I will build My Church”*** Matt.16:18.

### **Biblical faith is doing what Jesus says**

- We need to experience the reality of repentance and the reality of faith in our lives;
- We need to be baptised in Jesus’ name and receive the Holy Spirit through the laying on of hands;
- We need to walk in the knowledge of the resurrection of the dead and the reality of eternal judgement.

The first four foundations are meant to be experienced when we come to faith in Jesus Christ. These foundations can be summarised in the following way:

***Repent and Believe; be Baptised and Receive the Holy Spirit!***

### **Further understanding of the foundations:**

1. The deepest foundation is the **word of God**; the word digs deep into our lives, commanding us to have a change of mind and to turn around to face God – this is **repentance**. The word of God is like a mirror: it causes us to see who God is and who we are (**James 1:23-25**).
2. God provides the way. **Jesus is the way (Jn.14:6)**. Faith is toward God through Jesus Christ. The foundation of **faith** is laid upon the foundation of repentance.
3. We desire **baptism**, that is, **immersion in water** to wash away our sins and to break the power of sin in our lives, placing us into the resurrection life of Jesus Christ. This is a victorious life, no longer dominated by sin.
4. The **Holy Spirit is received** through the **laying on of hands**. Through His Spirit, God gives us His power to witness to Jesus Christ and to live a victorious life
5. The next foundation is experiencing **resurrection life** – we are baptised into the resurrection of Jesus (**Rom.6:5**) – and understanding resurrection of the dead. One day everybody will be raised (**Jn.5:28-29**).
6. **Eternal Judgement** is the final foundation that we need to understand before we can go onto maturity. Eternal judgement **refers to the eternal states**: living with God forever in His kingdom or living in total separation from God in hell.

The church that has the foundations laid according to the word of God and in obedience to the word of God will be fruitful in ministry.

### **JESUS TEACHES ABOUT BUILDING ON THE ROCK**

The Bible speaks of our lives as buildings; ***“We are His house”*** Hebrews 3:6 and we are ***“God’s building”*** 1Cor.3:9. We must build according to the teachings of Jesus to have the right foundation, and build a house [a life] that will stand.

**Luke 6:46** ***“Why do you call Me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and not do the things which I say?”***

We cannot say “No” to Jesus if He is indeed Lord of our lives.

**:47** ***“Whoever comes to Me, and hears My sayings and does them, I will show you whom he is like”*** We are to come; hear & obey.

**:48** ***“He is like a man building a house who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock.”*** We are to remove every blockage between ourselves and the Rock,

## Basic Discipleship

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who is Christ. This involves repentance – having faith in Jesus, the Rock of our salvation.

***“And when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently against that house, and could not shake it, for it was founded on the rock”.*** The life based on faith in Jesus Christ cannot be destroyed by the trials of life.

**:49 *“But he who heard and did nothing is like a man who built a house on the earth without a foundation, against which the stream beat vehemently, and immediately it fell. And the ruin of it was very great”.***

Jesus wants us to build our lives and the church on firm foundations.

List the six foundations that are described in **Hebrews 6:1-2**

1. ....
2. ....
3. ....
4. ....
5. ....
6. ....

*Memory verse: Acts 2:38*

***“Then Peter said to them, ‘Repent and let everyone of you be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit’”***

*Can you remember the story that Jesus told about building on the rock? What are the main points?*

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LESSON THIRTEEN

# REPENTANCE FROM DEAD WORKS

## What is repentance?

- Repentance is a turning away from sin, rebellion and disobedience and a turning back or toward God.
- Repentance means: a change of mind, including a feeling of regret for past behavior which was not good [sin].
- Sin literally means “missing the mark.”
- Against whom have we sinned? *“Against You, You only, have I sinned” Psalm 51:4*

### 1. Does every person need to repent?

*“All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” Rom.3:23.* The apostle Paul says: *“Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent” Acts 17:30.*

### 2. Repentance is God’s will for everyone

We know that it is God’s desire for all men to come to repentance. *“The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance” 2 Peter 3:9.*

### 3. Repentance is to be preached

John the Baptist prepared the way for the coming of the Messiah. *“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand” Matthew 3:2.*

Jesus began His ministry commanding repentance. *“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand” Matthew 4:17.*

The disciples went out preaching repentance. *“So they went out and preached that people should repent” Mark 6:12*

Jesus commissioned His disciples to preach the message of repentance to all nations.

*“Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and rise from the dead the third day, and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations” Luke 24:46-47.*

On the day of Pentecost, Peter preached repentance as a condition for being baptized and receiving the Holy Spirit. *“Repent, and let everyone of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of your sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit” Acts 2:38.*

### 4. Do Christians need to repent?

Read **1 John 1:8-10** *“If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us” v.8. “If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us” v.10.*

Verse 9 tells us what to do when we do sin, *“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”*



### 5. All disobedience to the law of God is sin

Sin separates us from God. *“For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one point, he is guilty of all” James 2:10.* Jesus teaches about the things that come *“out of the heart of men”* and these evil things *“defile a man”*.

❖ **Mark 7:21-23** what things defile a man?

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❖ **Romans 1:29-32** what happens when men choose to ignore God’s laws?

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❖ **Revelation 22:14-15** what will stop us from entering the Kingdom of God?

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### How does sin affect us?

- Earthly sorrow – we bring punishment on ourselves and others often suffer, too.
- Godly sorrow – we admit our sins and God forgives us, **1 John 1:9**.  
*“For Godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death” 2 Corinthians 7:10.*

### Repentance involves a change of mind

Repentance involves a change of mind where we turn completely from what we have been doing and turn to what God wants us to do.

#### i) **Zacchaeus is a good example**

When he received Jesus, he changed his way of life and gave back all he had stolen and much more (**Luke 19:8**).

#### ii) **The prodigal son – Luke 15:11-24**

The story of the prodigal son is an example of a man who had wasted his possessions and was living immorally. He repented and was totally changed [converted].

The son:

- *“came to his senses” (v.17)*, a response because of worldly sorrow
- made some good choices (**v.18-19**), repented in his mind
- acted upon his decision (**v.20**), turned - he was converted

### What are the results of true repentance?

- A new love for God and a desire to please Him.
- We offer our bodies to God daily to do His will, **Romans 12:1-2**
- Freedom from guilt and shame, **Romans 8:1**
- Jesus promises us peace, **John 14:27**

### Repentance leads to Baptism

- ❖ Jesus said: Repent and believe in the gospel, **Mark 1:15**
- ❖ Peter said: Repent and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit, **Acts 2:38**
- ❖ Paul said: Repent, turn to God and do works befitting repentance, **Acts 26:20**
- ❖ Repentance is a gift from God which we receive by faith.

*Memory verse: "The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance" 2 Peter 3:9.*

*What is the main thing you have learnt about repentance?*

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### LESSON FOURTEEN

# FAITH TOWARD GOD

## WHAT IS FAITH?

- Faith is having a conviction based on hearing.
- It has to do with **trusting** and **believing**

In the Bible the word “faith” is used to refer to God or Jesus Christ or to things spiritual.

As we see and recognize our sins we experience godly sorrow and we repent. But unless we believe that we are forgiven, our repentance is in vain.

Unless we believe that Jesus has taken our sin, our guilt and our shame, our efforts to be free from sin will only end in failure.

***Repentance is the turning away from sin and faith is turning to God.***

By faith:

- we receive Jesus Christ exactly as He is in the gospels
- we trust Him and surrender to Him
- we accept God’s promises to us through Him

## How does the Bible describe faith?

- ***“Now faith is the substance [something solid] of things hoped for, the evidence [proof] of things unseen” Hebrews 11:1.*** The future and the unseen become real because we trust in God.

## Faith in God

- We believe that God keeps His promises. ***“But the Lord is faithful” 2 Thess. 3:3.***
- We believe that God is able to do what He has promised He will do. ***“Being convinced that what He has promised, He is also able to do” Romans 4:21.***

## A person cannot be saved without faith.

- i) ***“He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.” Mark 16:16***
- ii) Salvation is a gift received by faith. ***“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God” Ephesians 2:8.***

## A person cannot please God without faith

***“But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him” Heb.11:6.***

## How do we receive faith?

***“So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God” Romans 10:17.***  
The word of God is what God says, that is, the Bible is to be read and believed as it is written. God is continually speaking to us through the Son, who is the living Word (**Heb.1:2, Jn.1:1**), and Jesus said: ***“Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God” Matthew 4:4.***

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## Basic Discipleship

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- We hear God speak personally to us as we read the Bible.
- We receive faith to act on what we hear.
- Jesus becomes real to us. He is *“the word become flesh.”* John 1:14

Simply having information does not guarantee salvation! *“You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe - and tremble!”* James 2:19

### Faith is:

- ➔ A choice to receive the word we have heard
- ➔ responding by trusting the One who spoke into our hearts
- ➔ Turning to God and changing as we trust Him to fulfil His word
- ➔ rewarded by discovering that God is faithful and keeps His promises.

### ABRAHAM – THE FATHER OF ALL WHO BELIEVE

In **Romans 4**, Paul illustrates the walk of faith through the example of Abraham:

- ❖ God counted Abraham as a righteous man because he believed God. (v.3)
- ❖ Abraham heard and received the word from God. (v.13 & 21)
- ❖ Abraham turned in faith from his seemingly hopeless situation. (v.18-20)
- ❖ Abraham believed and held on to the promise God gave to him in **Genesis 15:3-6** (v.18)
- ❖ *“He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief”* (v.20)
- ❖ *“but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God.”* (v.20)

### Hebrews 11:8-9

- ❖ *“By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went not knowing where he was going.”*
- ❖ *“By faith he dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country.”*

### Other men of faith

**Hebrews 11** tells the story of other men of faith. These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth (v.13).

*“And all these, having obtained good testimony through faith, did not receive the promise, God having provided something better for us, that they should not be made perfect apart from us”* v:39-40.

### JESUS IS THE FULFILLMENT OF THE “something better”

When Jesus began His ministry with a miracle at the wedding feast at Cana, we read that *“His disciples believed in Him.”* John 2:11.

The disciples asked Jesus what they must do to work the works of God. Jesus answered them: *“This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent.”* Jn 6:29.

### What Jesus says about believing and trusting [faith]

- *“Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed”* John 20:29
- *“Be of good cheer, daughter, your faith has made you well”* Matthew 9:22
- To the blind men: *“According to your faith let it be to you.”* Matthew 9:29

## Basic Discipleship

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- Jesus said to the centurion *“Go your way; and as you have believed, so let it be done for you”* **Matthew 8:13.**

### What Paul says about faith

- *“That your faith should not be in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God”* **1Cor. 2:5**
- *“And if Christ is not risen, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins.”* **Cor.15:17**
- *“For by faith you stand.”* **2 Cor. 1:24**

### What James says about faith

- *“Let him ask in faith, with no doubting.”* **James 1:6**

### By faith in Jesus Christ we receive:

- |                                  |                          |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| ❖ the promise of the Holy Spirit | <b>Galatians 3:14</b>    |
| ❖ Sonship                        | <b>Galatians 3:26</b>    |
| ❖ Salvation                      | <b>Ephesians 2:8</b>     |
| ❖ Access to the Father           | <b>Ephesians 3:11-12</b> |

### By faith in Jesus Christ:

- |   |                   |
|---|-------------------|
| ❖ We are justified                        | <b>Romans 5:1</b> |
| ❖ We have peace with God                  | <b>Romans 5:1</b> |
| ❖ We have access to the grace of God      | <b>Romans 5:2</b> |
| ❖ We rejoice in hope of the glory of God. | <b>Romans 5:2</b> |

Once we have laid the foundation of repentance in our lives, we are made right with God by our believing. God requires that we now live as Abraham did: *“fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform”* **Rom.4:21.**

*The genuineness of our faith may be tested, but if we remain faithful, what is the result?*

*Memory verse: “Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, receiving the end of your faith – the salvation of your souls.”* **1 Peter 1:8-9**

*Write a definition of faith from what you have just learnt:*

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### LESSON FIFTEEN

# DOCTRINE OF BAPTISMS

The Scripture speaks of a number of baptisms:

- Baptisms in water – the baptism of John, Jesus’ baptism and believer’s baptism
- Baptism in or with the Holy Spirit
- Baptism with fire
- Baptism into the Body of Christ
- Baptism of suffering.

The doctrine of baptisms referred to in **Hebrews 6:2** has specifically to do with water baptisms, that is, washing in water.

**Baptism literally means immersion; to baptize is to immerse.**

### JOHN’S BAPTISM

John’s baptism was a call to the people of his day to change their way of life in preparation for Messiah. It was **a baptism of repentance**; it was a sign baptism showing the people’s willingness to receive the Messiah.

The practice of baptism was not new when John the Baptist came, but it was new for Jews to be baptized as a sign of repentance. They had presumed that only Gentiles needed to repent and believe in the true God.

John came, saying: ***“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand”*** **Matthew 3:2.**

Once John had baptized Jesus, John’s ministry began to decrease and Jesus’ ministry began to increase (**John 4:1-2**). John had introduced the Messiah to Israel.

### JESUS’ BAPTISM

Jesus did not need to repent. He was a sinless man.

Why was He baptized? Jesus said: ***“Permit it to be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness”*** **Matthew 3:15.**

Jesus was baptised according to the will of God and to fulfil the law of God: this was to fulfill the law that required a priest to go through a ceremonial washing at the age of thirty.

What happened when Jesus came up out of the water? Immediately following His baptism Jesus was anointed sovereignly by the Holy Spirit.

**Matthew 3:16-17**

- ***“Jesus came up immediately out of the water;***
- ***the heavens were opened to Him***
- ***and He saw the Spirit of God descending***
- ***like a dove and alighting on Him.”***

***“And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, ‘This is My beloved Son in whom I am well pleased.’”*** God acknowledged Jesus to be His Son. Jesus was now manifest as God in the flesh. From the time of His baptism, Jesus walked as God in the earth.

We are to obey the Lord’s command to be baptized by faith, and as a result of our baptism we will walk with Christ in us, in the earth.

### THE COMMAND TO BAPTISE

Jesus Himself gives the command to baptize after He has risen from the dead. He instructed His disciples: ***“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit”*** **Matthew 28:19**

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## Basic Discipleship

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Jesus makes it clear that this baptism follows:

- **Repentance** - *“Repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations” Luke 24:47.*
- **Believing, that is, faith** - *“Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved” Mark 16:15-16.*

Genuine repentance (change) comes before saving faith. The one who is baptized must be a repentant (changed) and believing person first. An infant is not able to repent or believe.

### THE PRACTICE OF BAPTISM IN THE BOOK OF ACTS

#### **(1) The Day of Pentecost – Acts 2:14-41**

- Peter preached (v.14-36).
- The people were convicted *‘What shall we do?’* (v.37).
- Peter replied *‘Repent, and let everyone of you be baptized’* (v.38).
- The people obeyed and 3000 souls were added to the church that day (v.41).

#### **Note:**

- Baptism was on that day
- Baptism was the entry into the church – the body of Christ
- Baptism was in the name of Jesus Christ.

#### **(2) In Samaria – Acts 8:5-17**

- Philip preached (v.5)
- The people who believed were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus (v.12,16)
- The apostles came and laid hands on them to receive the Holy Spirit (v.17)

#### **(3) The man from Ethiopia – Acts 8:35-38**

- The Ethiopian was reading the word of God (v.30-33)
- Philip preached Jesus to him (v.35)
- He believed in Jesus and wanted baptism (v.36)
- He was baptized on the basis of his confession of faith in Jesus Christ as the Son of God (v.37-38)

#### **(4) Saul in Damascus – Acts 9:5-18**

- Saul received a revelation of Jesus Christ (v.5-6)
- Ananias baptized Saul (v.18)

#### **(5) Gentiles are baptised - Acts 10:34-48**

- Peter preached (v.34-43)
- The Holy Spirit fell upon those who heard the word (v.44)
- Those gathered spoke with tongues and magnified God (v.46)
- Peter baptized them in the name of the Lord (v.47-48)

#### **(6) Re-baptism in Ephesus – Acts 19:1-7**

- Paul met some disciples in Ephesus (v.1)
- These disciples had already been baptized with John’s baptism, i.e. a baptism of repentance (v.3)
- Paul preached about believing in Christ Jesus (v.4)
- They were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus (v.5), in water.
- They then received the gift of the Holy Spirit (v.6), through the laying on of hands.

### CHRISTIAN BAPTISM or BELIEVER'S BAPTISM

The command to baptize was given:

- by Jesus (**Mk.16:16, Matt.28:19**)
- after His death, burial and resurrection (**Mk.16:14, Matt.28:18**)
- after His ascension and exaltation, the apostles and disciples practised baptism (**Acts 2:38,41**)
- in the name of Jesus Christ (**Acts 2:38**); they understood the revealed name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Christian baptism comes after repentance and is on the basis of repentance.

It comes after a person has been born again by faith in Jesus Christ.

**Repentance + Faith → Baptism**

### It is the blood of Jesus Christ that makes Christian baptism real

All previous baptisms and ceremonial washings were symbolic, including John's baptism. They could not wash away a person's sin. Without the shedding of blood there can be no forgiveness of sin (**Heb.9:22**).

Christian baptism signifies the washing away of sin because the person being baptized has already been forgiven through the blood of Jesus Christ.

### Identifying with Christ through baptism

Paul is speaking to believers and reminding them what happened at their baptism.

#### Romans 6:1-12

- :3 we are baptized into the death of Christ Jesus
- :4 we are buried with Him
- :4 we are raised to new life with Him
- :5 we are united with Him in His death and His resurrection
- :6 our old man was crucified with Him – sin is done away with
- :7 we are free from sin
- :8 we died with Christ: we live with Christ
- :9 Jesus Christ has conquered death
- :10 He died to sin once for all: He lives to God
- :11 we also reckon ourselves to be dead to sin and alive in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Jesus said, “He who believes and is baptised will be saved” **Mark 16:16**

*Memory verse: “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit” Matt. 28:19*

*What comes before baptism?*

*Luke 24:47 ..... Mark 16:16 .....*

*In what three ways do we identify with Jesus in baptism? See Rom. 6:3-5*

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### LESSON SIXTEEN

# THE LAYING ON OF HANDS

The believer repents and turns towards God through faith in Jesus Christ and is baptized. The next step to maturity is to **be filled with and empowered by the Holy Spirit**. The doctrine of the laying on of hands is primarily referring to the coming of the Holy Spirit to new believers. The gift of the Holy Spirit is received by the laying on of hands, although sometimes God sovereignly fills a person with the Spirit without the laying on of hands.

### The Jews on the Day of Pentecost

The initial outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost as recorded in **Acts 2** came sovereignly from heaven and the 120 believers in the upper room all received the Spirit spontaneously.

**There were a number of signs:**

- i. sound of a rushing wind,
- ii. tongues as of fire;
- iii. speaking in other tongues

But the recognisable sign of having received the Holy Spirit that endures to this day, was the **believers spoke in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance (Acts 2:1-4)**.

This outpouring was upon Jewish disciples of Jesus.

### Upon the Gentiles

There was another sovereign outpouring of the Holy Spirit recorded in **Acts 10**. A group of Gentiles had gathered in the house of Cornelius to hear the apostle Peter speak about Jesus.

- i. They believed Peter's preaching
- ii. while he was still speaking, they received the Holy Spirit
- iii. they began speaking in other tongues.

Because of this sign Peter and the Jewish believers with him recognised that the Gentiles had received the Holy Spirit in the same way that they had in the beginning.

These two sovereign outpourings were not through the laying on of hands, but all other recorded instances of receiving the Holy Spirit in the book of Acts were through the laying on of hands.

Therefore the fourth foundation is to receive the Holy Spirit through the laying on of hands, but until this day God still chooses sometimes to pour out His Spirit sovereignly upon individuals or upon groups who are seeking Him.

### The Holy Spirit is the ***"promise of the Father"*** Luke 24:49

Jesus told the disciples to wait till they were clothed with power from on high. ***"Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high"*** Luke 24:49.

Jesus commanded the disciples not to depart from Jerusalem, ***"but to wait for the Promise of the Father, 'Which you have heard from Me; for John truly baptised with water, but you shall be baptised with the Holy Spirit not many days from now'"*** Acts 1:4-5

John the Baptist spoke of this baptism that would come with Jesus Christ. ***"One mightier than I is coming, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to loose. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire"*** Luke 3:16

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## Basic Discipleship

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The gift of the Holy Spirit is normally imparted to believers through the laying on of hands. The believer receives the gift of the Holy Spirit, and the gifts of the Holy Spirit become evident in the believer. However, specific gifts are released by the laying on of hands.

### LAYING ON OF HANDS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

#### To impart a blessing

Jacob blessed Joseph's sons by laying his hands on them and he spoke prophetically about the future of the nations (**Genesis 48:14-16**).

#### To set people apart for specific ministry.

Moses asked God to set a man over the people when he knew it was time for him to die (**Numbers 27:15-23**). God gave instructions: *"Take Joshua the son of Nun with you, a man in whom is the Spirit, and lay your hand on him" v.18. "And you shall give some of your authority to him" v.20.*

Moses was obedient to God's command. *"So Moses did as the LORD commanded him" v.22.* Moses did this in the presence of the priest and the people. *"And he laid his hands on him and commissioned him, just as the LORD commanded by the hand of Moses" v.23.*

*"Now Joshua the son of Nun was full of the spirit of wisdom, for Moses had laid his hands on him" Deuteronomy 34:9.*

### LAYING ON OF HANDS IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

#### Jesus

- Raised the dead. In **Matthew 9:18** the ruler expected Jesus to restore his daughter to life. *"My daughter has just died, but come and lay Your hand on her and she will live".*
- He healed the sick. *"When the sun was setting, all those who had any that were sick with various diseases brought them to Him; and He laid His hands on every one of them and healed them" Luke 4:40.* See also **Luke 13:13**.
- He blessed the children. *"Then little children were brought to Him that He might put His hands on them and pray" Matthew 19:13.*

#### Jesus commissioned the disciples to the laying on of hands

Jesus said various signs would follow those who believe: *"And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they ... will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover" Mark 16:17-18.*

Jesus has promised to empower the believer to fulfill these promises.

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

#### Laying on of hands to receive the Holy Spirit

- Peter and John came to the believers in Samaria. *"Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit" Acts 8:17.* The sorcerer, Simon, *"saw that through the laying on of the apostles' hands the Holy Spirit was given" Acts 8:18.*
- Paul received the Holy Spirit through the laying on of the hands of Ananias (**Acts 9:17**).
- Paul laid hands on the rebaptised believers in Ephesus and they were filled with the Holy Spirit, speaking in tongues and prophesying (**Acts 19:4-6**).

## Basic Discipleship

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### Believers are ordained and set apart for ministry

1. **Acts 6:2-7** – Seven men were appointed to help the apostles in ministry; when they had prayed, they laid hands on them.
2. Ministers were sent out to minister in obedience to the Holy Spirit (**Acts 13:2-3**). As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Spirit said, ***“Now separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.”*** Then having fasted and prayed, and laid hands on them, they sent them away.
3. God bestowed a gift on Timothy through the laying on of Paul’s hands. ***“Therefore I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands” 2Tim.1:6.*** He reminds Timothy not to neglect the gift that is in him through the laying on of hands by the eldership. ***“Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you by prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the eldership” 1Tim.4:14***

### Believers healed others in the name of Jesus through the laying on of hands

- ➔ The believers laid hands on the sick in obedience to the command of Jesus
- ➔ Paul received his sight as Annanias layed hands on him. **Acts 9:17-18**
- ➔ Paul laid hands on Publius’ father and he was healed. **Acts 28:8-9**

***The apostles, disciples and believers are all to minister through the laying on of hands.***

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

### Questions:

Did the new believers in Samaria receive the Holy Spirit when they were baptised?

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How did they receive the Holy Spirit? .....

.....

.....

Have you received the Holy Spirit? .....

Did you receive the gift of speaking in tongues? .....

### LESSON SEVENTEEN

# RESURRECTION OF THE DEAD {Part 1}

#### The resurrection of Jesus Christ is central to our faith

- Resurrection of the dead is dependent upon the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- Without His resurrection, there is no resurrection of the dead and therefore nothing for the believer to hope for.

The apostle Paul says: *“For if the dead do not rise, then Christ is not risen. And if Christ is not risen, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins”* 1 Corinthians 15:16-17.

#### What is resurrection?

A raising up; to raise from the dead; to come back to life.

#### There are three key aspects to the doctrine of the resurrection of the dead

- The resurrection of Jesus Christ
- The spiritual resurrection of the believer in Jesus Christ
- The ultimate resurrection of *“all that are in the graves”* John 5:28-29

### THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS CHRIST

When the women came to see the tomb after Jesus died, an angel spoke to them. *“He is not here; for He is risen, as He said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay”* Matt. 28:6.

Jesus is the first to rise from the dead. *“But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep”* 1 Cor. 15:20.

Death could not hold Jesus. *“Whom God raised up, having loosed the pains of death, because it was not possible that He should be held by it”* Acts 2:24.

#### What proof is there that Jesus rose from the dead?

He spoke to the apostles. *“He also presented Himself alive after His suffering by many infallible proofs, being seen by them during forty days and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God”* Acts 1:3.

#### Jesus was seen by many people.

- Cephas: *“He was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve”* 1 Cor. 15:5.
- Five hundred others: *“After that He was seen by over five hundred brethren at once, of whom the greater part remain to the present, but some have fallen asleep”* 1 Cor. 15:6.
- James: *“After that He was seen by James, then by all the apostles”* 1 Cor. 15:7.
- Saul on the road to Damascus: *“Then last of all He was seen by me also, as one born out of due time”* 1 Cor. 15:8.

#### What was His body like when He rose from the dead?

##### 1) He had flesh and bones

Jesus shows Himself to His disciples. *“Now as they said these things, Jesus Himself stood in the midst of them, and said to them, ‘Peace to you.’ But they were terrified and frightened, and supposed they had seen a spirit. And He said to them, ‘Why are you troubled? And why do doubts arise in your hearts? Behold My hands and My feet, that it is*

*I Myself. Handle Me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see I have”*  
**Luke 24:36-39.**

**2) He ate**

He ate fish in their presence (**Luke 24:41-43**)

**3) He carried the wounds**

Jesus told Thomas to touch His hands and side. *“Reach your finger here, and look at My hands; and reach your hand here, and put it in My side. Do not be unbelieving, but believing”* John 20:27.

### **Old Testament Prophets speak of the resurrection of the Lord**

**Isaiah 53:10** – The one who was bruised and died, will *“see His seed, He shall prolong His days, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in His hand.”* This is speaking of someone who has died but who rises again; it speaks of the resurrection of the Messiah.

**Psalm 16:10-11** – The Holy One of God would not be left *“in Sheol”* [Sheol is the place of the dead]; His body would not *“see corruption”*. Write v.10

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**Psalm 68:18** – Speaks of someone who *“ascended on high”*. This speaks of someone ascending. It is a prophetic reference to Jesus ascending back into heaven.

### **What does the resurrection of Jesus Christ teach us?**

1. He is the son of God – *“Declared to be the Son of God with power according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection of the dead”* Rom.1:4. The resurrection is the proof that Jesus is God.
2. Death is defeated – *“Christ, having been raised from the dead, dies no more. Death no longer has dominion over Him”* Rom.6:9. This is good news for the human race: death has been defeated.
3. Jesus Christ is supreme over all living beings – Please read **Matthew 28:18** & **Ephesians 1:20-23**. Both these passages show us that Jesus Christ has all authority in heaven and earth, including over all demonic powers.
4. There is a man on the throne of the universe – Jesus Christ, *“after He had offered for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God”* Heb.10:12. The ‘right hand’ means the place of ultimate authority.
5. Believers are justified – Jesus was *“delivered up because of our offences, and was raised because of our justification”* Rom.4:24-25. By dying Jesus took away our sins and by rising He gave us new life.

## Basic Discipleship

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6. There is real hope for mankind because God has *“begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead” 1Pet.1:3*. This hope is eternal not temporal.
7. Future judgement is assured – **Acts 17:31**. Because Jesus rose from the dead, He has the right to judge *“the world in righteousness”*.
8. We are able to identify with His resurrection – **Rom.6:5**. We are baptised into His death and we are raised *“in the likeness of His resurrection”*.

### Question:

What does the resurrection of Jesus Christ literally mean? **Matthew 28:6**

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Give three proofs that Jesus Christ rose from the dead.

1. ....
2. ....
3. ....

*Memory verse: “He also presented Himself alive after His suffering by many infallible proofs, being seen by them during forty days and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God” Acts 1:3*

### LESSON EIGHTEEN

# RESURRECTION OF THE DEAD {Part 2}

The first key aspect of the resurrection of the dead is the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Because Jesus Christ rose from the dead, He has made it possible for people to be born again. From the resurrection of Jesus Christ we can receive spiritual resurrection.

### THE SPIRITUAL RESURRECTION OF THE BELIEVER

The spiritual resurrection of the believer begins with the new birth. When we experience the forgiveness of God for our sins, we experience the life of God in Jesus Christ.

- We are made alive – *“And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins” Eph.2:1*. Previously we were spiritually dead because of sin, but through faith in Jesus Christ we are made alive.
- We have been raised up into the heavenly places – *“God, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus” Eph.2:5-6*. This is a spiritual resurrection.
- Through baptism we come to live with Christ – *“Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him” Rom.6:8*. Baptism is a death, burial and resurrection; it is a spiritual process that God takes us through when we are baptised.
- All our sins are forgiven – *“You, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all your trespasses” Col.2:13*. Once our sins are forgiven we are able to experience new life.
- Christ lives in me – *“For I through the law died to the law that I might live to God. I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me” Gal. 2:19-20*. Christ lives in us spiritually and this reality grows as we grow in the faith.

### God worked mighty power in Christ when He raised Him from the dead

1. God wants every believer to know that power - *“what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places” Eph.1:19-20*
2. That same power works in us, *“Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us” Eph.3:20*

### The spiritually dead receive life when they hear the word concerning Jesus Christ

Jesus said: *“Most assuredly, I say to you, the hour is coming and now is, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God; and those who hear will live” John 5:25*. This refers to the sinner coming to life when they hear the word of God – they are born again.



### There will be evidence of resurrection life in the believer

- An attitude of faith is established and maintained – **Rom.6:11**
- A new life is manifest – **Rom.6:4**
- A new Master is served – **2Cor.5:15**
- A new life purpose is chosen – **Col.3:1-2**

## THE RESURRECTION OF EVERY PERSON WHO HAS DIED

The third aspect of the resurrection of the dead is the future reality that all who have ever died will rise.

### All in the graves

*“The hour is coming when all in the graves will hear His voice and come forth – those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation” John 5:28-29.*

### The just and the unjust

*“I have hope in God, which they themselves also accept, that there will be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and the unjust” Acts 24:15.*

### When does the resurrection of the believer take place?

- *“at the last day” John 6:39,40,44,54*
- when we believe in Jesus. There is a real sense that we begin to experience resurrection life from when we first believe in Jesus **John 11:25-26**.
- When we are baptised: we are baptised into the resurrection of Jesus Christ **1Pet.3:21**
- *“those who are Christ’s at His coming” 1Cor.15:23*. This refers to the resurrection of the body of those believers who have already died.
- the dead in Christ will rise when *“the Lord Himself”* descends from heaven; that is, at His coming **1Thess.4:16**.

### When does the resurrection occur of those who are not Christ’s?

*“For the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice and come forth – those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation” John 5:28-29*

**Revelation 20:12-15**: this passage speaks of a time when *“a great white throne”* appears, and all the dead are brought before it for judgement. This is a vision of the final judgement. Remember that visions are mostly not to be understood literally.

### Who raises the dead?

- 1 Cor.6:14** – God raises us up *“by His power”*.
- 2 Cor.1:9** – *“God who raises the dead”*.
- 2 Cor.4:14** – *“He who raised up the Lord Jesus”*.

### The first apostles preached the resurrection of the dead

- Acts 4:2** – Peter and John *“preached in Jesus the resurrection from the dead”*
- Acts 17:18** – Paul preached *“Jesus and the resurrection”*

### What kind of body will believers have?

#### 1 Corinthians 15:42-49

- It is raised in incorruption (v.42)
- It is raised in glory (v.43)
- It is raised in power (v.43)
- It is raised a spiritual body (v.44)
- We shall bear the image of the heavenly Man (v.49)

#### Jesus transforms our body

*“The Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ, will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself” Phil.3:21.*

*“Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.” 1Jn.3:2.*

#### Question:

What are five aspects of the spiritual resurrection of the believer?

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*Memory verse: “Most assuredly, I say to you, the hour is coming and now is, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God; and those who hear will live” John 5:25.*

LESSON NINETEEN

## ETERNAL JUDGEMENT

**Understanding eternal states: living eternally in the heavenly kingdom with God; or living forever in hell – eternal separation from God.**

Scripture tells us that there are rewards for the righteous in heaven based on their service and obedience to the Lord during their lifetime.

Scripture also tells us that there is punishment in hell based on the person's treatment of Christ and His brethren.

Jesus warns two groups of people:

- *“Those who did not feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, take in strangers, clothe the naked, visit those who were sick or in prison” Matthew 25:41-46.*
- *“Those who see and hear but do not repent” Matthew 11:20-24.*

### Who is judged?

In **John 3:16-21** Jesus said: *“He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God” v.18.*

*“Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of His saints, to execute judgement on all who are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have committed in an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him” Jude 14-15.*

### Who is not judged?

In **John 5:24** Jesus said: *“Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgement.”*

Faith leads to freedom from condemnation, that is judgement, and this brings life instead of death. *“There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit” Rom.8:1.*

### Understanding the judgement

#### Believers

Believers are judged according to *“the things done in the body, according to what he has done whether good or bad”*. The Scripture says, *“We must all appear before the judgement seat of Christ” (2Cor.5:10).*

*“Therefore we make it our aim, whether present or absent, to be well pleasing to Him” 2Cor.5:9.* As believers we need to live our lives, knowing that there is a future accountability for our service as believers.

#### Unbelievers

Unbelievers are already judged by their refusing to believe in Jesus Christ. The Bible speaks of a final great judgement where all the dead are judged by God. John said, *“Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened” Rev.20:11-12.*

# Basic Discipleship

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## What is the answer

All unbelievers will face a final judgement, but the important thing is that as soon as we come to faith in Jesus Christ we are delivered from judgement, because Jesus took our sins on the cross. That is why we must preach the gospel.

All have sinned and come short of the glory of God (**Romans 3:23**). All have broken God's law. The penalty for sin is death (**Rom.6:23**): spiritual and physical death leading to eternal spiritual death.

If we believe in Jesus Christ and we accept the forgiveness of our sins through His sacrifice on the cross, we are saved from death into life. We are delivered from condemnation and the judgement we deserve.

## There are judgements and rewards for Christians

1. **Eternal life** – *“the righteous into eternal life”* **Matthew 25:46**. *“Whoever believes in Him [Jesus Christ] should not perish but have everlasting life”* **John 3:16**.
2. **Give account** – *“So then each of us shall give account of himself to God”* **Rom. 14:12**. We are not to judge one another, but to understand that each one is answerable to God.
3. **Things done in the body** – *“For we must all appear before the judgement seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done whether good or bad”* **2 Corinthians 5:10**.
4. **Crown of righteousness** – *“Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing”* **2 Timothy 4:8**.

## The Christian's work will be judged

*“If anyone's work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward”*  
**1Cor.3:14**.

*“If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire”* **1Cor.3:15**.

## What is heaven like?

- God is in heaven; heaven is filled with His presence – **Matthew 6:9**
- It is God's throne; God's will is perfectly done in heaven – **Isaiah 66:1**
- Heaven rules earth – **Daniel 4:26**; God's will is to be done on earth as it is in heaven – **Matthew 6:10**
- Heaven's life is eternal life – **John 6:51**
- Jesus came from heaven – **John 6:51**
- Heaven is a place of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit; we can experience these characteristics of heaven by being born again into the kingdom of God here on the earth – **Romans 14:17**

## Basic Discipleship

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- There is no pain, weeping, death or sorrow because God is very present and looks after His people perfectly; this is how John explains what it will be like when God is dwelling in the earth with His people: heaven will come to earth – **Revelation 21:3-4**

*The kingdom of God and the kingdom of heaven both refer to heaven. Therefore the Scriptures about the kingdom of heaven and about the kingdom of God help us understand what heaven is like. It is God's purpose for heaven to be experienced in the earth. This is the gospel of the kingdom and our experience of the heavenly kingdom begins with the new birth.*

### How does God judge?

- According to the light people have received – **Rom.2:12**
- According to the truth – **Rom.2:1-2**
- According to deeds – **1Pet.1:17, Rev.20:12**
- God has no favourites – **Rom.2:11,**
- He looks at the heart – **1Sam.16:7**
- In righteousness – **Acts 17:31**
- According to our obedience to the gospel – **2Thess.1:8**
- He judges those who destroy the earth – **Rev.11:18.**

### What is hell like?

- Everlasting punishment – **Matthew 25:46**
- Everlasting destruction away from the presence of the Lord – **2Thess.1:8-9**
- A lake of fire – **Revelation 20:15**
- Fire that is never quenched and worm that does not die – **Mark 9:43-48**
- A place of total frustration – **Proverbs 27:20**
- A place of death and wickedness – **Psalms 55:15**
- A place of torment – **Luke 16:23-24**
- A life of selfishness is the doorway to hell – **Luke 16:25**
- A place of desperate separation from all that is good – **Luke 16:26**
- A place of sorrow – **Psalms 18:5**
- Folly leads to hell – **Proverbs 9:18**
- A place of condemnation – **Matthew 23:33**

### The antidote for judgement is mercy

We are to preach God's great mercy to save and forgive now! God's mercy is such that He is *"willing for none to perish but that all should come to repentance"* (**2Peter 3:9**). Men can be saved by coming to the knowledge of the truth (**1Timothy 2:4**). We are able to reach others with the testimony of Jesus, firstly through prayer and secondly by preaching.

*Memory verse: "Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing" 2 Timothy 4:8.*

### Questions:

Write **John 3:16** .....

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What does this verse teach us about eternal judgement? .....

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How did Jesus describe hell in **Mark 9:43-48**

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What is the crown promised in **2 Timothy 4:8**? .....

What does **Romans 14:17** tell us about the kingdom of heaven?

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### LESSON TWENTY

# LET US GO ON TO PERFECTION {Part 1}

*“Therefore, leaving the discussion of the elementary principles of Christ, let us go on to perfection, not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, of the doctrine of baptisms, of laying on of hands, of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgement” Hebrews 6:1-2.*

Once the foundations are laid, we are to move on to perfection, that is, full maturity. We need to take the Scriptural steps as laid out in these foundational teachings, so that we can go on to maturity.

#### Repentance from dead works

Faith toward God

Doctrine of baptisms

Laying on of hands

Resurrection of the dead

Eternal Judgement

Going on to perfection .....

*“And this we will do if God permits” Hebrews 6:3.*

- i. We must be obedient to the word of God to repent and be water baptized;
- ii. We need to walk by faith, and understand and experience the reality of the new birth through the Holy Spirit.
- iii. As we grow, we come to understand the reality of the resurrection of the dead and of eternal life, realising that these realities affect our daily lives.

#### What are we meant to be like?

Once we are established in the elementary principles of Christ, we are equipped to grow in maturity. God said: *“Let us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness” Genesis 1:26.*

Through sin man has fallen away from God’s original plan, but God has never changed His plan. Because God loves us with an everlasting love, He wants to include us in His eternal plan:

- we have been called according to His purpose – **Romans 8:28**
- we have been predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son – **Romans 8:29**
- we have been justified through the death and resurrection of Jesus – **Romans 4:25**
- we have been glorified through His resurrection and the taking of His precious blood into heaven and placing it upon the mercy seat – **Hebrews 9:11-12,24**

Once the foundations are laid in our lives, we go on to be changed into His likeness. Jesus said: *“Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect” Matt.5:48*

#### A SCRIPTURAL GUIDE TO A MATURE LIFESTYLE – Romans 12:9-21

In this passage in **Romans**, Paul the apostle teaches us how to behave as Christians. He gives us many powerful instructions in a brief manner. We do well to meditate on these verses and to ask God to release His grace in our lives so that we can behave as Christians.



## Basic Discipleship

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1. ***“love without hypocrisy” v.9:*** Love is the word *agape* and means ‘affection and benevolence’. It is God’s kind of love and it is the love that we are to have toward one another; it is mature love.  
**James 3:17** tells us that the wisdom from above is without hypocrisy. A hypocrite is a pretender.
2. ***“abhor what is evil” v.9.*** Abhor means to ‘detest utterly, to dislike intensely’. It means ‘to shudder at’. This needs to include the evil that pervades the television screen, and many DVDs. Take care what you watch.
3. ***“cling [cleave] to what is good” v.9.*** A man and a woman are to cleave to one another in marriage. We are to cleave to what is good with the same intensity.
4. ***“be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love” v.10.*** In the Old Testament God was known for His kindness and tender mercies toward us – He is still the same today. In **2 Pet.1:2-11**, Peter tells us the steps to maturity – to live in “charity” (KJV). Brotherly kindness is the last step before being able to function in true Christian love.
5. ***“in honour giving preference to one another” v.10:*** Paul tells us in **Philippians** to ***“esteem others better than oneself”*** and ***“look for the interests of others”*** (2:3-4). We are to ***“bestow greater honour on those members of the body which we think to be less honourable”*** **1Cor.12:23**.
6. ***“not lagging in diligence” v.11*** [KJV–***“not slothful in business”***]. We are to ***“be diligent [study] to present ourselves approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth”*** **2Tim.2:15**. Do you have a committed relationship with the word of God? Is it your daily necessary food?  
Believers are to be diligent in practical work: ***“if anyone will not work neither shall he eat”*** **2Thes.3:10**. We are to work with our hands ***“what is good, that he [we] may have something to give him who has need”*** **Eph.4:28**.
7. ***“fervent in spirit” v.11.*** Fervency speaks of zeal. Sometimes our zeal can be soulish and lead to striving and disappointment. Our zeal needs to be the fervency in our spirit. It is the word of God that divides between soul and spirit (**Heb.4:12**).
8. ***“serving the Lord” v.11.*** Paul said ***“whom I serve with my spirit in the gospel of His Son”*** **Rom.1:9**. As sons ***“shall we not much more readily be in subjection to the Father of our spirits and live?”*** **Heb.12:9**. The Christian life begins with a new birth by the spirit of God enabling us to receive Jesus. We are born again to serve.
9. ***“rejoicing in hope” v.12.*** Many make the mistake of hoping in things temporal and when that which they hope for does not eventuate, they become disappointed. True hope is for things eternal, things pertaining to the kingdom of God and true hope ***“does not disappoint”*** (**Rom.5:5**). If our hope is based upon the word of God, it is as ***“an anchor for our soul”*** (**Heb.6:19**). We are to ***“hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm to the end”*** **Heb.3:6**. It is this holding fast the hope that establishes our place in the house of God (**Heb.3:6**).
10. ***“patient in tribulation” v.12.*** The word ‘tribulation’ means pressure. I think we all know the pressures and stresses of life but probably have not realised that such things are the tribulation the Bible speaks of. God gives us grace through faith in Jesus Christ to ***“glory in tribulation, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance [patience]; and perseverance, character; and character hope. Now hope does not disappoint because***

## Basic Discipleship

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*the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us” Rom.5:3-5.* Notice the place of hope and notice what produces hope.

11. *“continuing steadfastly in prayer” v.12.* Prayer is to be continual and like the persistent widow (**Lu.18:1-8**), it is the one who continues committedly to whom God responds. There are many exhortations to pray in both Old and New Testaments. Is your life characterised by constant prayer?
12. *“distributing to the needs of the saints” v.13.* The first church *“sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need” Acts 2:45.* Each of us is to have paid work so that we can *“give him who has need” (Eph.4:28).*
13. *“given to [pursue] hospitality” v.13.* We are to pursue hospitality, even not forgetting *“to entertain strangers, for by so doing some have unwittingly entertained angels” Heb.13:2.* We find that both in our home and in our training centre, having meals together in fellowship is so vital to building relationships in the body and introducing ‘strangers’ to the apostolic teaching.
- 14a. *“bless those who persecute you” v.14.* Jesus said, *“Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you” Matt.5:11.*  
b. *“bless and curse not” v.14.* Jesus said, *“Bless those who curse you, and pray for those who spitefully use you” Lu.6:28.*
- 15a. *“rejoice with those who rejoice” v.15* When a member of the body is honoured *“all the members rejoice” 1Cor.12:26.*  
b. *“weep with those who weep” v.15.* When a member of the body suffers, *“all the members suffer with that one” 1Cor.12:26.*
16. *“be of the same mind toward one another” v.16.* As we walk in maturity, we *“have this mind .... let us walk by the same rule; let us be of the same mind” Phil.3:15-16.* There is a mature mind – attitude of mind – that we are to have. We are to be of a sound and disciplined mind, not changing from day to day.
17. *“do not set your mind on high things” v.16.* But come to Jesus who is *“meek and lowly in heart” (Matt.11:29).* We are to pull down the ‘high things’ and the strongholds that are in our minds, and we are to *“take every thought captive to the obedience of Christ” 2Cor.10:4-5.*
18. *“associate with the humble” v.16.* James warns us that God *“has chosen the poor of this world to be rich in faith and heirs of His kingdom” Ja.2:5.* We need to associate with the ones God has chosen. *“For you see your calling, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called. But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise” 1Cor.1:26-27.*
19. *“do not be wise in your own opinion” v.16.* Wisdom comes from above and is not dependent upon our ability, our learning or anything of ourselves (**Ja.3:17**). God will give wisdom liberally to anyone who asks in faith (**Jam.1:5-6**).
20. *“repay no one evil for evil” v.17.* It is said of Jesus *“when He was reviled, He did not revile in return” 1Pet.2:23.*
21. *“have regard for good things in the sight of all men” v.17.* Paul instructs us to meditate on *“whatever things are true ... noble ... just ... pure ... lovely, whatever things are of good report ...” Phil.4:8.*

## Basic Discipleship

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22. ***“live peaceably with all men” v.18.*** The proverb says ***“when a man’s ways please the LORD, He makes even his enemies to be at peace with him” Pro.16:7.***

23a. ***“do not avenge yourselves” v.19.*** Why? Because your judgement may be wrong and you may punish the wrong person.

23b. ***“but give place to wrath, for it is written ‘vengeance is Mine, I will repay’ says the Lord” v.19.*** God judges righteously; He knows the heart of every man.

Wrath on our part is anger seeking revenge. God says, ***“Be angry and do not sin” (Eph.4:26).*** God calls us to show mercy and to forgive, committing the one who has hurt us to God’s justice – **He will repay.**

24. ***“Therefore, if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him a drink; for in so doing, you will heap burning coals on his head” v.20.*** Such behaviour is contrary to the natural man. We do not want to feed our enemy; we do not want to give him a drink! But God says if we do such, our kindness will actually bring God’s judgement on the enemy if he does not repent.

25. ***“Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good” v.21.*** Jesus has ***“through death destroyed him who had the power of death, that is the devil, and released those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage” Heb.2:14-15.*** Because Jesus has destroyed the power of the devil (1Jn.3:8b), we also are able to overcome evil. A simple maxim we should seek to follow is: when someone comes against you in an aggressive [evil] way, respond in the opposite spirit. ***“A soft answer turns away wrath” Prov.15:1.***

John says ***“whatever is born of God overcomes the world”*** and ***“the victory that has overcome the world – our faith” 1Jn.5:4.***

*Discuss together these instructions and share your experience  
and your challenges in living as true believers*

### Question:

Can you say that the foundations have been laid in your life? Please explain:

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Is there a particular area from the passage in Romans that challenges you? Write a prayer, asking God to help you. You will then rejoice when you experience God’s help.

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### LESSON TWENTY ONE

## LET US GO ON TO PERFECTION {Part 2}

There are a number of passages in the New Testament that encapsulate the lifestyle and way of life of true believers. In the previous lesson we have studied **Romans 12:9-21** and found much practical instruction as to how we should live.

In the passage we are going to study from **Colossians**, the context is more spiritual. It is dealing with the 'old man', which is the old nature that governed our lives before we were saved, and the 'new man', which is the new nature of the Christ life now dwelling in us and re-forming our lives.

### A NEW LIFE IN CHRIST – Colossians 3:1-17

In a different way to the instructions in **Romans**, Paul teaches us in **Colossians 3** how to live as Christians. He tells us:

- ➔ Seek those things that are above, ***“where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God” v.1***. In a real way, the Christian is to stay focused, having Christ as central to our life in whatever we are doing. Jesus told us to do this by ***“seeking first the kingdom of God and His righteousness” (Matt.6:33)***.
- ➔ ***“Set your mind on things above” v.2***; we are not to focus on earthly things that do no honour Christ. **Philippians 4:8** tells us the sort of things we should meditate on.
- ➔ ***“For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God” v.3***; we have an inner spiritual life now that is real, enabling us to live a different way. If we will be faithful to do this, there is a great reward: ***“When Christ our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory” (Col.3:4)***.
- ➔ We are no longer to be involved in fleshly sins such as: ***“fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire and covetousness” v.5***. ***“Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience” v.6***. Such was our lifestyle in the past, but no longer.
- ➔ **Put off the old man** – such things as anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language, lying **v.8-9**. These things characterise what we were like without Christ. We are to put such things off now and pursue ***“righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of pure heart” 2Tim.2:22***.
- ➔ **Put on the new man**: renewed in knowledge, tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering, bearing with one another, forgiving one another **v.10-13**. These are the practices of the new man. We must practise them. In the natural they sound impossible, but with Christ dwelling within us, they become possible.
- ➔ ***“But above all these things put on love which is the bond of perfection” v.14***. Love is the ultimate. Love is of God, ***“for God is love” (1Jn.4:8)***.
- ➔ ***“Let the peace of God rule in your hearts” v.15***. This peace is a supernatural peace that transcends our mental and emotional state. This peace is found by ***“being anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, making our requests known to God” (Phil.4:6-7)***.

## Basic Discipleship

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- ➔ ***“To which also you were called in one body” v.15:*** our calling is corporate. We are part of a body and it is as we function in the body that all members can help and benefit each other, enabling each other to walk in the peace.
- ➔ ***“And be thankful” v.15.*** Being grateful is such an important ingredient to successful living in Christ. Being thankful is a grace released in us by the Holy Spirit. [See **Ephesians 5:18-21**, note **verse 20**].
- ➔ ***“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord” v.16.*** The word of God works in us powerfully, enabling us to teach and admonish one another in the Lord. This happens through sharing the word, but in this verse, sharing the word in ***“psalms and hymns and spiritual songs”***. Spiritual singing is an important characteristic of the spirit filled believer [see again **Eph.5:19**].
- ➔ ***“And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him” v.17.*** We have a different mindset now: we are living for God, no longer for ourselves.

### SOUND DOCTRINE

After the instructions of **verses 1-17** in **Colossians 3**, Paul goes on to give practical instructions in sound doctrine to wives, husbands, children, fathers, bondservants [employees] and masters [bosses or employers].

1. **Wives:** ***“Submit to your own husbands, as is fitting in the Lord” v.18.*** A wife’s submission is in the Lord; it is not without condition; it is ***“in the Lord”***. This means that if the husband is making ungodly demands on the wife or treating her in a rough and violent way [physically and verbally], it is not fitting for her to submit to such treatment.
2. **Husbands:** ***“Love your wives and do not be bitter toward them” v.19.*** A husband is to love his wife ***“as Christ loved the church and gave Himself for her” (Eph.5:25)***. This means that the husband is to humble down and endeavour to lift up his wife, ***“giving honour to the wife as to the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life” (1Pet.3:7)***. A husband will only become bitter toward his wife if he has a wrong expectation of her.
3. **Children:** ***“Obey your parents in all things, for this is well pleasing to the Lord” v.20.*** All of the Ten Commandments are important, but one particular Commandment has a promise, and that is the Commandment to ***“Honour your father and your mother”***. The promise is ***“That your days may be long upon the earth which the LORD your God is giving you” (Exodus 20:12)***. This Commandment is for all of our life, but it has particular relevance to children growing up in the family – they are to be trained to obey their parents.  
*Obedience*, in the Greek New Testament, has to do with ‘how we hear’. Parents must give clear instructions to their children and set clear boundaries for the children.
4. **Fathers:** ***“Do not provoke your children lest they become discouraged” v.21.*** Many fathers have too high an expectation of their children. When this is so, the tendency is to be harsh when the children cannot live up to the expectation.



## Basic Discipleship

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Also in the discipline of children, fathers must not discipline out of anger but out of love. When punishment is necessary it must be measured according to the disobedience.

5. **Bondservants:** *“Obey in all things your masters according to the flesh, not with eye-service, as men-pleasers, but in sincerity of heart, fearing God” v.22.* A bondservant refers to an employee or a servant in the modern context. We should do everything as unto the Lord (v.23), *“knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ” (v.24).* When we are disobedient to our masters, it is Christ who repays us, *“and there is no partiality” (v.25).*

6. **Masters:** *“Give your bondservants what is just and fair, knowing that you also have a Master in heaven” Col.4:1.* A good boss is someone who is serving the Lord Jesus Christ in the market place, treating his employees justly and fairly.

### Continuing in the walk to perfection

In **2 Peter**, Peter gives us another understanding and way of growing fruitfully in the faith. In **verses 5-7**, he gives us seven steps that we must take as we grow up in Christ. We are not going to study those now, but recommend that you read that passage carefully.

Peter says: *“For he who lacks these things is short sighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins” 2Pet.1:9.* The things we have studied through in this session are things that we all need to do as true believers in Jesus Christ. We need to practice the word of God; we need to live according to the word of God. Otherwise our claim to salvation is meaningless.

*“Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble; For so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ” 2Peter 1:10-11.* Let us continue to put into practice the things we learn from the Scripture. Our victory is through faith. As we continue to believe in Jesus Christ, He will give us the grace to live a victorious life and overcome and change old habits and negative aspects of our lives.

**LET US GO ON TO PERFECTION!**

### LESSON TWENTY TWO

# THE FIRST WORKS OF THE CHURCH

On the day of Pentecost as Peter the apostle was preaching concerning Jesus Christ, His death, burial and resurrection and exaltation to the throne of God, many of those who were listening *“were cut to the heart”* (Acts 2:37), being convicted that they had crucified their Messiah. Peter instructed them as to how to be saved. The response that he expected was that they would be baptised.

*“Then those who gladly received his word were baptised; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them”* Acts 2:41. It was those who received the word who were willing to change and make the required response. Note that baptism was not an option; baptism was not something that we might do later; baptism was the required response.

*“And they continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread and in prayers”* Acts 2:42. There are five important parts to this verse.

- I. **They continued steadfastly:** this refers to their commitment to go on in the Christian life; this shows that they changed their priorities and lifestyle.
- II. **In the apostles’ doctrine:** this refers to the teaching of the apostles; the apostles were continually teaching *“all things that Jesus had commanded them”* (Matt.28:20).
- III. **In the fellowship:** this refers to the nature of the Christian community that formed immediately after the day of Pentecost. The believers *“were together, and had all things in common”* (Acts 2:44).
- IV. **In the breaking of bread:** this refers to the Lord’s Table, commonly called the Communion today; also called the Lord’s Supper.
- V. **In prayers:** prayer is a fundamental part of the Christian life. Prayer is our communication with God and needs to be exercised both personally and in prayer meetings.

These five aspects of the Christian life make up the foundational practices of the Christian church. If we give ourselves in a committed way to the apostles’ doctrine, which is the teaching of the word of God, to the fellowship of the believers, to the regular participation in the Lord’s Table and in prayers, we will experience the love and reality of the Lord Jesus Christ in the midst of us.

Therefore the apostles’ doctrine in summary is the teaching that you have been going through since you began this discipleship manual. In this session we will briefly look at the nature of the **fellowship**. In the following session we will introduce the **breaking of bread** and then there will be sessions on **prayer**.

### Continuing in FELLOWSHIP

*Fellowship comes from the Greek word ‘koinonia’ SC #2842.*

*Means: sharing, unity, close association, partnership, participation, a society, a fellowship, contributory help, the brotherhood.*

**‘Koinonia’:**

- *unity brought about by the Holy Spirit;*
- *the individual shares in common an intimate bond of fellowship with the rest of the Christian community.*
- *cements the believers to the Lord Jesus and to each other*



### The nature of the fellowship

#### → Apostles' Doctrine

The early believers *"continued steadfastly in the fellowship"* of the **apostles' doctrine**. It was their adherence to the teaching of the apostles that was the core agent of change in their life. We all need to give ourselves continually to the reading and study of the word of God and specifically the teaching of the apostles.

Much of the modern church has not received the apostles' doctrine. As a result the teaching in many churches is not bringing forth a fellowship equivalent to that which the early church experienced.

The fellowship that results from brethren receiving the apostles' doctrine is a **fellowship of revelation and understanding of the will of God**. This results in a deep and rewarding relationship with God and with our fellow believers.

#### → Breaking of bread

The early believers *"continued steadfastly in the fellowship"* of the **breaking of bread**. They participated regularly in the breaking of bread, even daily, *"So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house"* (Acts 2:46). As well as participating in the Lord's Table, they took their meals together. In the early church the Lord's Table was mostly celebrated in the context of a fellowship meal of the believers together.

Coming together to break bread regularly enables the fellowship among the brethren to remain close and open. The apostle John tells us, *"If we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin"* 1Jn.1:7.

Whenever we break bread together, it is an opportunity to clear our hearts of any sinful attitudes towards others. The breaking of bread guarantees open fellowship between believers.

#### → Prayers

The early believers *"continued steadfastly in the fellowship"* of **prayers**. The early church regularly prayed together. We practice corporate prayer regularly in our ministry and fellowship.

There is much to learn in the fellowship of prayer, that is, learning to pray together in meaningful and powerful ways, being led by the Holy Spirit.

When we learn to be effective in shared prayer, we see God rewarding us openly. The fellowship of prayer is a very powerful component of church life, and needs to be practiced and developed.

### Caring and sharing

*"Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need"* Acts 2:44-45.

The early church quickly developed a strong community wherein all the members were cared for by the other members. The nature of the fellowship was a deep level of **caring** and **sharing**. The needs of individual members were met by other members of the Christian community.

### Financial distribution is overseen by apostles

The distribution of financial help was overseen by the apostles who were the leaders of the church, having been appointed by Jesus. *"Nor was there anyone among them who lacked; for all who were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the proceeds*

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## Basic Discipleship

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*of the things that were sold, and laid them at the apostles feet; and they distributed to each as anyone had need” Acts 4:34-35.*

### **The widows were looked after**

In **Acts 6**, we learn that the early church was very involved in social welfare: there was a daily distribution of food to widows (**Acts 6:1**). The apostles were committed to this distribution of food and because this welfare ministry had grown so big, they appointed seven new ministers to look after the business (**Acts 6:2-6**).

### **Tithes and offerings**

An important part of the fellowship is the financial contribution of the members of the church. Some are motivated by the Holy Spirit to literally sell houses and possessions and give the proceeds to the apostles for distribution among the brethren (**Acts 2:45; 4:34**).

However the common Biblical way that we contribute to the upkeep and wellbeing of the Christian community, ensuring that the work of the ministry is able to continue, is through **each member making a basic contribution of a tithe** of what they receive.

### **Tithing**

The practice of tithing is first referred to in the Bible in **Genesis 14:18-20** where Abraham the father of the faith, gave a tithe to Melchizedek. Melchizedek was a figure who appeared to Abraham, representing Jesus Christ.

Tithing was required under the Law of Moses but we as Christians are not under the Law of Moses in that sense.

### **God promises to bless**

**Malachi 3:10-12** speaks of tithing on a voluntary basis. God challenges us to *“bring all the tithes into the storehouse, and try Me now in this, ... if I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you such blessing that there will not be room enough to receive it” v.10.*

### **Tithing is by faith**

Tithing for believers is an issue of faith: once we have received a revelation of Jesus Christ, we respond to Him as God by giving to Him the tithe of all that we receive. [The tithe is a tenth; whatever we receive we give to God the first tenth].

### **The storehouse**

We give our tithe to those ministers who are leading us and guiding us in the Christian walk and feeding us the word of God.

### **Offerings**

Offerings are always voluntary and given freely according to the decision of the giver.

In some churches or ministries, much pressure is put on the people to give beyond their means and often false promises are made to the givers. Beware of such malpractice.

If you are ever put under pressure to give, you can be assured in your heart that it is not coming from the Lord, but is coming from men who want your money.

*Memory verse: “And they continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread and in prayers” Acts 2:42*

### LESSON TWENTY THREE

# THE BREAKING OF BREAD

- ❖ The breaking of bread refers to the **Lord's Table**
- ❖ It is also called the **Lord's Supper**
- ❖ In the modern church it is often referred to as the **Holy Communion**

### The Passover Meal

#### Given on the night Jesus was betrayed

Jesus Christ gave us the Lord's Supper on the night that He was betrayed by Judas Iscariot; that was the night before He went to the cross. Jesus had gathered together with His disciples to celebrate the Passover Meal.

#### A remembrance meal

The Passover was a remembrance meal that the Jews, as the people of God, were to celebrate annually to remember their deliverance from Egypt. Their forefathers were slaves in Egypt and God sent Moses to lead them out. The actual deliverance of the Israelites was brought about by God providing a means of deliverance through the shed blood of a lamb. This historic event is recorded in **Exodus 12**. Take time to read this chapter to understand the first Passover.

#### Saved by the blood; strengthened by the body of the lamb

Every Israelite house was to take a lamb, shed its blood and eat its flesh. The blood was to be put upon the doorposts and lintel of every house, and the members of the household were to gather, dressed ready for travel, and eat the flesh of the lamb to be strengthened for their journey. The most amazing thing was that the blood on the doors of the houses protected the household from death. Every household in Egypt that was not covered by the blood suffered the loss of their firstborn.

#### Jesus is the Lamb of God

This is the context in which Jesus Christ gave us the Lord's Supper. Jesus was showing His disciples that He was to be the fulfillment of the Old Testament Passover.

When John the Baptist saw Jesus, he recognized Him as *"the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world"* (**Jn.1:29**). Jesus is the Lamb who shed His blood to save us and gave His body for our healing and strength.

#### The institution of the Lord's Supper

It is recorded in:

**Matthew 26:26-30**

**Mark 14:22-26**

**Luke 22:14-20.**

The records of the three gospels are confirmed by the apostle Paul in **1Corinthians 11:23-26**. Paul gives further instructions concerning the Communion Table in **verses 27-34**.

#### The common components of the Lord's Supper

##### ➔ Bread

*"The Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed, took bread; and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, 'Take eat, this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me'" 1Cor.11:23-24.*

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The bread represents the body of Jesus. Whenever we eat of this bread we are to remember the Lord Jesus.

### ➔ The cup

*“In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, ‘This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me’ 1Cor.11:25.*

The cup represents the blood of Jesus. His blood seals the new covenant, which is God’s agreement with men, whereby God forgives us because of the blood of Jesus and brings us into covenantal relationship with Himself. The blood was shed *“for the remission of sins” (Matt.26:28).*

### Remembering Jesus

1. In every reference to the Lord’s Table, the breaking of bread and the drinking of the cup are given to us **to remember Jesus**.
2. How often should we remember Jesus? The first church remembered Jesus **every day**. They broke bread *“daily” (Acts 2:46).*
3. Where did the early church break bread? *“From house to house” (Acts 2:46).*

### Sharing a fellowship meal

The breaking of bread in Scripture is mostly in the context of the disciples, and later the believers, sharing a fellowship meal. Jesus gave us the Lord’s Supper in the context of the Passover Meal, and Paul’s instructions in **1Corinthians 11** are in the context of the church breaking bread in the midst of a fellowship meal. In **Acts 2:46**, the early church broke bread and were taking their meals together.

### Common practice today

The common practice in the church today is to have the Communion as a remembrance meal by simply taking a sip from a cup and a small piece of bread or biscuit to acknowledge the body and blood of Jesus and to remember His sacrifice for us. It is not common practice to have the communion as part of a shared meal. However as more and more believers return to meeting in the house, in small groups, it is becoming more common to have the communion in the context of the fellowship meal.

### His coming

We are also meant to remember, that is, keep in mind His coming. *“For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death till He comes” 1Cor.11:26.* Often the communion mistakenly features a calling to mind of our sin. We are not to focus on past sin but to remember the victory of the Lord’s death and resurrection and be focused in our hearts, being prepared for His coming.

### What drink can we use?

When Jesus instituted the Lord’s Supper, He said, *“I will not drink of the fruit of the vine” (Matt.26:29).* The fruit of the vine is some sort of wine and so today many use grape juice. However other forms of juice and drink can be used if grape juice is not readily available.

### What bread is acceptable?

Jesus used the unleavened bread which was part of the Passover meal. Unleavened bread was used by the Israelites at special times according to God’s instructions.

Some churches make it a rule to only use unleavened bread in Communion, but in reality, the purpose of the breaking of bread is to remember Jesus, not to keep some religious

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rule. Therefore any form of bread or grain biscuit is acceptable because the need of all of us is to remember Jesus regularly, daily if possible. Because of this, we can reverently remember Jesus every time we eat and drink.

### Who can share in the breaking of bread?

Throughout church history, men have made rules about Holy Communion. Many of our practices have been inherited from men and have hidden from us the truth and reality of the breaking of bread and its intimate relevance in our daily walk with the Lord Jesus.

#### Children

Every believer is welcome at the Lord's Table, including children. Can you imagine Jesus coming to your home and eating and drinking with you but chasing your children away?

When God gave instructions about eating the Passover lamb in Egypt, did He exclude the children? Were they to go hungry? The purpose of eating the flesh of the lamb was to strengthen all of the family for their journey.

Were the children not protected by the blood on the door of the house? Of course they were – no children of an Israelite family died that night.

#### Baptised believers only?

What about believers who are not baptized? Again there is no rule in the Bible that excludes people from the table. We eat and drink by faith.

Furthermore, there should only be believers who are not baptized because there has not been an opportunity for them to be baptized. In the book of **Acts**, those who believed were mostly baptized on that very day, so that there were no un-baptised believers in the midst. Today we need to return to the Scriptural practice of baptizing new believers immediately.

### Who can minister the breaking of bread?

#### All are priests

Unfortunately the church has developed and accepted a clergy class who are separate from the people of God and have made many spiritual and religious functions the responsibility of the ordained clergy only. There are no such divisions in the New Testament church, and in Scriptural reality, we are all **“kings and priests”** (**Rev.1:6**). Therefore any member of the body of Christ can minister the Lord's Table.

### The key is to remember Jesus!

We encourage the breaking of bread from house to house, daily. There are no religious rules. The key aspect of the breaking of bread is **to remember Jesus Christ, His death, His glorious resurrection and the promise of His coming!**

#### Questions:

What are the two necessary components of the Lord's Table? .....

What do the two components represent? 1) .....

2) .....

What is the Scriptural background to the Lord's Table?

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### LESSON TWENTY FOUR

# WHAT IS PRAYER?

#### Prayer – communication with God

- Prayer is the means God has given the believer to **communicate** with Him.
- Prayer is a **dialogue**; it is two way communication, involving both speaking and listening.
- It is through communicating with God that the believer **maintains a relationship** with Him.
- Through prayer, the believer **knows the will of God**.
- It is in **obedience to the will of God** that the believer advances the kingdom of God.
- For the believer, prayer becomes **a way of life**.

#### Prayer – relationship with God

To build a relationship with someone, we need to spend time with that person; likewise to grow in relationship with God we need to spend time with Him in prayer.

- **He is our Father**  
Jesus taught us to pray to God as our Father, *“When you pray, say: Our Father in heaven” Luke 11:2.*
- **Pray believing**  
We need to pray with faith in our heart, *“But let him ask in faith, with no doubting” James 1:6.*
- **Abide in Him**  
*“If you abide in Me and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you” John 15:7.* This comes out of relationship with Him. If His words are abiding in us then we can pray His word; reminding Him of what He says in His word. ‘Father, your word says ...’.
- **We are thankful**  
*“Giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light” Col.1:12.* The Scriptures encourage us to always pray in the context of thankfulness to God for all He has done for us.

#### Jesus is our example

##### Jesus spent time in prayer

Jesus knew the importance of being in relationship with God. Jesus regularly drew aside to pray to His Father, *“He went out to the mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God” Lu.6:12.*

##### Jesus knew the will of God from prayer

It was out of this particular time of intense seeking the Father’s will that He appointed the twelve who became His apostles (**Lu.6:12-13**). When we draw aside to seek God’s will, expect Him to speak to you.

##### Jesus prepared Himself for ministry through prayer

Mark 1:35 tells us that *“Now in the morning having risen a long while before*



*daylight, He went out and departed to a solitary place; and there He prayed.”* After this time of prayer He said to the disciples, *“Let us go into the next towns that I may preach there also, because for this purpose I have come forth”* (Mk.1:38).

### **Jesus prepared Himself for great suffering through prayer**

In the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus *“began to be sorrowful and deeply distressed”* (Matt.26:37). He poured out His soul to God in prayer (v.38-44). He aligned Himself to the will of God through continual prayer.

God sent an angel from heaven to strengthen Jesus (Lu.22:43).

### **How do we pray?**

#### **1. Persevering in prayer**

Jesus taught that we should persevere in prayer, *“Then He spoke a parable to them, that men always ought to pray and not lose heart”* Luke 18:1. Read the Parable of the Persistent Widow from Luke 18:2-8. Why was this woman heard?

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#### **2. Pray in faith – expecting answers**

*“Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?”* Luke 18:8. God is looking for a people of faith.

James 5:16 tells us that *“the effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much”*. Our righteousness comes through believing in Christ. When we pray in faith we can expect to see answers to our prayers.

#### **3. Ask, believing**

*“Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them”* Mark 11:24. When we pray we need to ask the Holy Spirit how we should pray, or what we should pray. Then we can pray believing, because we are praying according to His will.

#### **4. Ask in His Name**

We need to know and understand the power of His Name. His name is JESUS!

*“And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask anything in My name, I will do it”* John 14:13-14. There is no other name by which we can be saved, healed, delivered. We are to confess His name, the name that is above every name.

#### **5. Pray with authority**

We are to know the authority we have been given by Christ and to pray in assurance of this authority. *“Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you”* Lu.10:19.

### **Question:**

Write your own definition of prayer. ....

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### LESSON TWENTY FIVE

## THE LORD'S PRAYER {PART 1}

In Luke's account of the Lord's prayer, the disciples asked Jesus: ***"Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples"*** Luke 11:1. In Matthew 6:9, Jesus said: ***"In this manner, therefore pray:"***

Throughout history, this prayer has been recited with sincerity and great faith. It also has been used as a model in the prayer life of the church. Unfortunately, sometimes it is just prayed from memory as a religious duty without recognizing the power of the prayer.

In His teaching, Jesus has given us a summary of important issues to be prayed into by believers. These issues are real in all of our lives.

In this study, we will look at and interpret each verse according to Scripture, so that you can pray with enlightened understanding.

### A) FOCUS ON GOD, COMING INTO RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM

#### "Our Father"

Jesus draws us into family relationship with God Almighty, Creator of the universe, through Himself. We are to call God, "Our Father".

We receive ***"the Spirit of adoption [sonship] by whom we cry out, 'Abba, Father'"*** (Rom. 8:15). The Spirit of God, who is within us, reveals God to us.

We are given an assurance of a place in the family of God. As we reflect on this relationship, we are filled with awe as we recognise the inheritance that has been given to us. ***"Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us that we should be called children [sons] of God"*** 1 John 3:1.

#### God is "In heaven".

God dwells in heaven, His eternal home. ***"Heaven is My throne and earth is My footstool"*** (Is.66:1). We see God in all His glory enthroned on high, in heaven, yet esteeming and wanting to dwell with the humble and contrite of heart (v.2).

We remember that Jesus has already risen and is seated at the Father's right hand in heavenly places (Eph. 1:20); and we have been raised up and made to ***"sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus"*** (Eph.2:6).

***"Our citizenship is in heaven"*** (Phil.3:20) and we are to keep our minds fixed on heavenly things and seek ***"those things which are from above where Christ is sitting at the right hand of God"*** (Col.3:1-3). We lift our eyes from earthly things to focus on God's rulership of all things.

#### Some passages of Scripture describe heaven

Neither Ezekiel nor John (who both received visions of heaven) could find adequate words to describe what they saw in their visions. They tell of things that are "like" or "having the appearance of" (Ez.1:27-28). ***"Like the appearance of a rainbow in a cloud on a rainy day, so was the appearance of the brightness all around it. This was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the LORD"*** v.28.

We are given the impression of a place of inexpressible beauty and we can meditate on what they describe:

- the inhabitants worship non-stop (Rev.5:14)
- the radiance of God and of the Son provides the light (Rev.21:23)
- the throne of God is central (Rev.4:2)
- streams of living water flow from this throne with water for healing (Rev. 22:1-2).

This is where we are meant to be living: at the throne of God, receiving the living waters as life to our spirit. Jesus prepared this place for us when He went to the cross. Now through the new birth, He has drawn us to Himself to be with Him in the spirit.

### **B) WE WORSHIP GOD BY HALLOWING HIS NAME**

***“Hallowed be Your name.”***

His name is special. Jesus is telling us to praise and honour God’s name

***[hallow: means to make holy, to venerate, be holy, sanctify. Gk.#37 SC]***

We have very clear pictures of worship in heaven where heavenly beings hallow the name of the Lord. ***“And they do not rest day or night, saying: “Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come!” Rev.4:8:***

#### **The Name of God**

God told Moses His name was ***“I AM WHO I AM” (Exodus 3:14)***. Since that time God has revealed Himself in His name in a number of ways on various occasions. His names reveal His nature and His character.

#### **Some Names Of God:**

- ❖ **Yehovah - Yireh:** the LORD will provide (**Gen.22:14**)
- ❖ **Yehovah - Rophe:** the LORD who heals you (**Ex.15:26**)
- ❖ **Yehovah - Nissi:** the LORD is my banner (**Ex.17:15**)
- ❖ **Yehovah M’Kaddesh:** I am the LORD who sanctifies you (**Lev.20:8**)
- ❖ **Yehovah - Shalom:** the LORD is peace (**Judges 6:24**)
- ❖ **Yehovah - Tsidkenu:** the LORD our righteousness (**Jer.23:6**)
- ❖ **Yehovah - Rohi:** the LORD is my shepherd (**Ps.23:1**)
- ❖ **Yehovah - Shammah:** the LORD is there, He is present (**Ezek.48:35**)

#### **The Name of Jesus**

***“His Name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace” (Is.9:6).***

***“The virgin shall bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel” (Is.7:14).*** God is with us.

#### **The full title given to the Son of God**

**Lord** – supreme in authority, controller, master

**Jesus** – Yehovah is salvation

**Christ** – Messiah, the promised one

As His name is truly acknowledged the Father is glorified, because the name of Jesus is the name of the Lord in the New Testament.

#### **The Name above every name**

***“Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every other name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father” Phil.2:9-11.***

In Jesus, God has fulfilled all that He revealed Himself to be in the Old Testament. In truth, the Lord Jesus Christ has become my provider, my healer, my banner, my righteousness, my peace, my sanctifier, my shepherd, my everything.

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Jesus has declared to us the Father's name (**John 17:26**), which in fact, is the name given to the Son.

Jesus prayed that the Father would keep (protect) us through His name (**Jn. 17:11**). There is safety and deliverance through His name. ***"The name of the LORD is a strong tower; the righteous run to it and are safe"*** (**Prov.18:10**).

As we lift His name high, Jesus will draw all men to Himself (**John 12:32**). As we praise God and hallow His name we give others the opportunity to hear about Him and thus the opportunity to know Him.

### C) WE PRAY FOR HIS KINGDOM TO COME

#### ***"Your Kingdom come"***

We are praying for the Kingdom that will reflect all the attributes of the King of Kings and Lord of Lords (**Revelation 19:16**). Only this King has the right and authority to claim divine worship. John the Baptist prepared the people for the coming of Jesus warning them that ***"the kingdom of heaven is at hand"*** (**Matt.3:2**). Jesus began His ministry by preaching repentance ***"for the kingdom of heaven is at hand"*** (**Matt.4:17**). In other words, the kingdom came (was revealed) in Jesus, the King.

We are praying for the rule and authority of God to be manifest in the earth. God's kingdom is eternal but through Jesus Christ, the kingdom has been established in the earth in a real and conscious way. We must be born again to see and enter that kingdom and to live our lives under the rule of God.

### D) WE PRAY FOR HIS WILL TO BE DONE

#### ***"Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven."***

We discover what God's will is in His word - the Bible. The word of God transforms us by the renewing of our minds that we ***"may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God"*** (**Rom.12:2**).

We are to ***"understand what the will of the Lord is"*** (**Eph.5:17**). As we receive revelation through the word of God, we become more like Jesus and God's will is done on earth.

The word of God reveals His will for:

- Those in authority: it is God's will for them to be saved (**1 Tim.2:1-6**)
- All to be saved (**1 Tim.2:4; 2Pet.3:9**)
- His followers to ***"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations"*** (**Matt.28:19-20**)
- Believers to live in victory (**1Jn.5:4-5**)
- Righteousness and peace to cover the earth (**Rom.14:17**)
- Believers to ***"prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers"*** **3 Jn.2.** [health refers to soundness of doctrine; soundness of words; soundness in the faith.]

Share your understanding of the Lord's prayer so far:

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LESSON TWENTY SIX

## THE LORD'S PRAYER {PART 2}

### E) WE PETITION GOD FOR OUR NEEDS

***“Give us this day our daily bread”.***

What is our daily bread? Jesus tells us not to be anxious about our temporal needs in **Matthew 6:25-32**. Please read these verses and note how many times Jesus says **not to worry**. .....

What things are we not to worry about? .....  
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Jesus has promised that if we seek first His Kingdom, then everything else will be added unto us (**Matt.6:33**).

God desires for all people to be His people and to enjoy His care and provision. In **Matthew 6:25-32**, Jesus makes it clear that God wants all to be fed and clothed and to have shelter. In the modern world, we can also ask God for basic education for our children as all need to be able to read. This is important: every Christian can confidently ask God, with thanksgiving, for their daily needs of food, clothing, shelter and yes, even education for their children.

#### **The true bread of life is a Person**

***“For the bread of God is He who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world”*** **John 6:33**. Jesus is the bread of life. We are to eat and drink of His life daily.

Read **John 6:50-56**, and note the key things Jesus says about life.

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Jesus said: ***“The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life”*** (**John 6:63**).

As well as asking God in faith for our daily temporal needs, we also need to ask God for our daily spiritual food. His word is food to nourish our spirits and our souls.

Please write **Matthew 4:4**. .....  
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.....

### F) WE SEEK FORGIVENESS

***“Forgive us our debts [trespasses], as we forgive our debtors [those who trespass against us]”.***

The use of the word ‘debtors’ is in an old sense of the word; it means more than

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somebody owing us money; it refers to people sinning against one another.

### **Forgive others first**

We need to recognise that forgiving others is necessary for us to receive forgiveness ourselves. Jesus emphasises this in **Matthew 6:14-15**, after He has taught us the Lord's Prayer. He speaks again about the importance of forgiveness: *"For if you forgive men for their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses"*. This is confirmed in **Mark 11:25-26**.

Jesus told a parable about an unforgiving servant, after instructing Peter that we need to be willing to forgive our brother *"up to seventy times seven"* (**Matt. 18:22**).

Please read the parable told in **Matthew 18:23-35**.

### **Forgiveness releases healing**

Many times healing and deliverance come as a person forgives someone who has hurt them, or someone whom they feel owes them something. There are occasions when the hurt or abuse has been so great that we need special grace from the Lord to be able to forgive. When we choose to forgive, God gives this grace to enable our forgiveness to be real. Forgiveness does not mean we agree with the wrong done. God hates sin, but forgives the sinner. Therefore with God's grace we can forgive the one who has sinned against us.

As we focus on the cross, we see that Jesus died for the sin of the whole world. That includes the sin committed against us. *"While we were still sinners, Christ died for us"* (**Rom. 5:8**). Through the grace of God, when we forgive someone, the pain and hurt begin to fade from the memory.

## **G) WE ASK FOR GUIDANCE**

### ***"And do not lead us into temptation"***

God does not tempt us, and we must not put ourselves in the way of temptation. *"For all that is in the world - the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life - is not of the Father but is of the world"* (**1 John 2:16**). We must learn to avoid those things that would draw us away from Jesus Christ.

How are we tempted? **James 1:14** .....

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What advice does Paul give to Timothy? **2 Timothy 2:22** .....

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What will God do for us when we are tempted? **1 Corinthians 10:13** .....

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## **H) WE PRAY FOR DELIVERANCE FROM THE EVIL ONE**

### ***"But deliver us from the evil one"***

Jesus prayed for our protection: *"I do not pray that You take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one"* **John 17:15**.

As we see what Jesus has done we focus on Him, recognising His great power to deliver and save us from the evil one. At the cross Jesus won total victory over Satan and over all that is evil. Now through faith in His name, we can walk in that victory.

### James tells us how to overcome the devil

What do we do? **James 4:6-8**

- i. Humble yourself to receive grace (**v.6**).
- ii. Submit to God and resist the devil (**v.7**).
- iii. Cleanse your hands; purify your hearts, drawing near to God (**v.8**).

### Paul tells us how to overcome the devil

- We use the weapons God has given us, for they are *“mighty in God for pulling down strongholds”* (2 Cor. 10:4).
- We bring *“every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ”* (2Cor.10:5).
- We use *“the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God”* (Eph.6:17).
- *“Overcome evil with good”* (Rom.12:21).

### I) WE CONCLUDE IN WORSHIP

***“For yours is the Kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.”***

We began the prayer by relating to God personally as our Father and now at the end of the time of prayer.

- ❖ We focus on the Lord God, recognizing that the kingdom of God is real and relevant in our lives; that all authority belongs to Him (**Matt.28:18**).
- ❖ We recognize that the power that is now at work in our lives is the power of God, quickened in our inner man by the Holy Spirit (**Eph.3:16**).
- ❖ We give all the glory to God, recognizing that every good thing comes from Him (**James 1:17**); and His will for us is *“good, acceptable and perfect”* (**Rom.12:2**).

### INDIVIDUAL EXERCISE

*Go to a quiet place alone. Write the Lord’s Prayer leaving space between each verse. In the spaces write your thoughts, prayer points, scriptures and anything else that comes to you. Talk with the Lord as you do this prayer exercise. Remember, prayer is communication with God, two-way dialogue. Ask the Lord to speak to you and guide you.*



### LESSON TWENTY SEVEN

## WHO IS THE HOLY SPIRIT {Part1}

*“Now on the last day, the great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, ‘If any man is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, ‘From his innermost being [literally – out of his belly] shall flow rivers of living water.’ But this He spoke of the Spirit, whom those who believed in Him were to receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified” John 7:37-39.*

In this Scripture Jesus confirms and develops Old Testament references to water and rivers [and rain] as indicative of the ministry of the Holy Spirit into and through the lives of people. The ministry of the Holy Spirit brings forth the word of God from the spiritual heart of the believer.

### THE FATHER’S PROMISE

- **Acts 1:4** Jesus said to wait for *“the promise of the Father”*: the Father had promised the Holy Spirit.
- **Luke 24:49** *“Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high.”*
- **John 14:26** *“But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.”*

### The Holy Spirit is the promise of the Father

Some Scriptures from the Old Testament that contain the promise of the Spirit:

- **Joel 2:28** God says *“It shall come to pass afterward that I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh”*. In **Acts 2:17-21** Peter quotes from Joel.  
What does Peter say in **Acts 2:16**? .....  
.....
- **Ezekiel 36:26-27** *“I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgements and do them.”*
- **Jeremiah 31:31-34** refers to the New Covenant. God will write His laws on our hearts and in our minds. God does this by sending the Holy Spirit to dwell in us once we have received Jesus. [These verses are quoted in **Hebrews 8:8-12, 10:16**]
- **Zechariah 4:6** *“not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit.”* ‘Might’ refers to human strength, especially an armed force; ‘power’ refers to human ability.
- **Isaiah 43:19b** promises *“rivers in the desert.”* [Compare this with **John 7:38**] It is the Holy Spirit who brings forth the new life that comes from God. It is likened to rivers in the desert.
- **Isaiah 12:3** *“therefore with joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation”*, speaking of living water. The wells of salvation are within the spiritual heart of the believer.



### THE HOLY SPIRIT IN THE WORLD

The Holy Spirit was active in creation, *“The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters”* Genesis 1:2.

The Holy spirit worked in the world throughout the times prior to Jesus’ coming; but it appears He was not revealed fully nor was He able to bring God’s purposes to fulfilment until the Son of God had come to enact redemption for this world.

The Spirit had not previously come in the fullness of the way God intended because it was not time. From **John 7:39** we know **He could not come until Jesus was glorified**; this means that He could not come until Jesus had died for our sins on the cross and returned to heaven in glory.

### The Holy Spirit at work in the Old Testament

When we look at some examples in the Old Testament we see the action of God through His Spirit prior to Jesus coming:

- ➔ **Judges 6:34** *“But the Spirit of the LORD came upon Gideon: then he blew the trumpet.”*
- ➔ **Judges 14:6**, speaking of Samson: *“and the Spirit of the LORD came mightily upon him, and he tore the lion apart,”* and v.19 *“then the Spirit of the LORD came upon him mightily, and he ... killed thirty men.”*
- ➔ **The Holy Spirit “came upon” these men and empowered them** to do mighty acts, giving them strength and boldness that they did not naturally have.
- ➔ When Jesus came He said there would be *“rivers of living water flowing out of your innermost being,”* (**Jn.7:38**), as a result of His redemptive work. The Holy Spirit would **‘come within’** every believer, giving us strength and boldness that we do not naturally have.

Notice the change: in Old Testament times the Holy Spirit **‘came upon’** certain chosen ones to enable them to do God’s work; in New Testament times the Holy Spirit **dwells within** every believer, enabling everyone who believes to be a prophet, priest and king!

### JESUS AND THE HOLY SPIRIT

- ❖ John recognised Jesus through the coming and manifestation of the Holy Spirit, (**John 1:32-34**). The Father had told John what to look for: *“upon whom you see the Spirit descending, and remaining on Him, this is He who baptises with the Holy Spirit”* (v.33).
- ❖ Jesus received the Holy Spirit in a manifest way at His baptism (**Matt.3:16**).
- ❖ Jesus received the Spirit *“without measure”* (**Jn.3:34**).
- ❖ Jesus was led by the Holy Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil (**Lu.4:1**).
- ❖ Jesus came out of the wilderness in the power of the Spirit (**Lu.4:14**).
- ❖ Jesus was anointed with the Spirit for His ministry and mission in the world: *“the Spirit of the LORD is now upon Me because He has anointed Me ...”* (**Lu.4:18**).

***Jesus did not begin His public ministry until He was filled and empowered by the Holy Spirit.***

### **WHO IS THE HOLY SPIRIT?**

Jesus clearly spoke of the Spirit as:

- a **Person**, just like Himself (**Jn.14:16**)
- the **Comforter**, a *paraclete*, one who comes alongside to help (**Jn.14:16, 15:26**)
- a **Teacher**, who will teach us all things and remind us of what Jesus said (**Jn.14:26, Lu.12:12**)
- a **Guide**, who will guide us into all truth (**Jn.16:13**)
- the **Spirit of Truth**, who will dwell in us (**Jn 14:17, 15:26**)

***The Holy Spirit is the very Spirit of God Himself.  
Jesus was God manifest in the flesh  
Now God comes to us by His Spirit  
Jesus Christ is made known through His Spirit***

*Memory verse: "The Spirit of the LORD is upon me, because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed; to proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD" Luke 4:18-19*

### **Questions:**

What is the Father's promise? .....

What is the change from the Old Testament to the New Testament in the way the Spirit came?

.....  
.....

What was the manifestation that the Father had told John the Baptist to look for so that he would recognise Jesus? Write out **John 1:33**

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

LESSON TWENTY EIGHT

## WHO IS THE HOLY SPIRIT {Part 2}

### JESUS SPOKE OF THE COMING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT & HIS MINISTRY

*“And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper [Comforter] that He may abide with you forever” John 14:16.*

The Greek word for ‘Helper’ is ‘*parakletos*’ SC.#3875: The word signifies an intercessor, comforter, helper, advocate, counsellor. In non-biblical literature ‘*parakletos*’ had the technical meaning of an attorney who appears in court on another’s behalf. The Holy Spirit leads believers to a greater apprehension of gospel truths. In addition to general help and guidance, He gives the strength to endure the hostility of the world system. (Word Wealth, Spirit Filled Life Bible, p.1605)

The Greek word for ‘Another’ is ‘*allos*’ SC #243. Means: one besides, another of the same kind. Jesus’ use of *allos* for sending another Comforter equals “*one besides Me and in addition to Me but one just like Me. He will do in My absence what I would do if I was physically present with you.*”

In other words, Jesus is telling the disciples that He will come by His Spirit to be with them.

**i. He will dwell in you**

He is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, “*but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you*” Jn.14:17. This is very interesting language: Who was dwelling with the disciples? It was Jesus! But when Jesus sends the Spirit, that would enable Jesus to dwell in each one of us.

**ii. He will remind you of all things**

He is sent by the Father and is our Helper, Teacher and the One who will “*bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you*” Jn.14:26.

**iii. He bears witness to Jesus**

He is the Spirit that comes from the Father and bears witness to Jesus (Jn.15:26).

**iv. He could not come until Jesus returned to heaven**

He was not able to come until Jesus returned to heaven, “*It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you*” Jn.16:7.

**v. He will convict the people of the world**

He is the Spirit who will convict the world of sin and of righteousness and of judgment Jn.16:8-11.

**vi. He will guide the disciples into all truth**

He is the Spirit who “*will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come*” Jn.16:13.

**vii. He will reveal the things of Jesus**

The Holy Spirit will always glorify Jesus, “*He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you*” Jn.16:14. “*All things that the Father has are Mine. Therefore I said that He will take of Mine and declare it to you*” Jn.16:15.

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## Basic Discipleship

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- the Holy Spirit has come from the Father;
- the Holy Spirit has been sent by the Son when He returned to *“the Father’s bosom”* (Jn.1:18);
- the Holy Spirit comes to make God known to us and to speak His word into us.

### THE NEW COVENANT

God had a plan to restore humankind to Himself; it is through **rebirth** by the Holy Spirit (Jn.3:5-6), bringing us into fellowship and communion with God Himself.

God promised through the prophets that He would make a new covenant with all people. The new covenant is **‘in the Spirit’**.

*“God is spirit and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth”* Jn.4:24.

Through the New Covenant God would be revealed to His people in a way that the Old Testament saints only saw in vision and prophecy.

### Humankind was fallen in the flesh, at enmity with God

The Spirit is the answer for humankind’s problem.

- *“Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfil the lusts of the flesh”* Gal.5:16.
- *“The flesh lusts against the Spirit and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another”* v.17.
- *“If you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law”* v.18.
- *“Those who practice such things [the works of the flesh v.19-21] will not inherit the kingdom of God”* v.21b.

We need the Holy Spirit within us to teach us God’s word and speak into our hearts and minds. Without Him it is impossible to overcome the world.

### The New Covenant is in the Spirit

God promised the Spirit to His people (Ezek.36:26-27) and promised a better Covenant, a New Covenant whereby the Spirit would come and indwell God’s people.

It required the death of the Saviour, Jesus, to redeem humankind, His blood cleansing us from sin, so that we could receive the Spirit of God.

### The promise!

When we respond to the gospel we receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. *“Repent, be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”* The promise is for *“you and your children and all who are a far off”* Acts 2:38.

### Repent of sins first

We cannot receive the Spirit of God into our lives unless we have repented of our sin and have received forgiveness through Christ’s death on the cross.

### Believe and be baptised in the name of Jesus

In Acts 19:1-6, the disciples whom Paul found in Ephesus had not yet heard the gospel; they had only received the teaching of John the Baptist. They had to believe in Jesus and be baptised in His name before they received the Spirit.

- Note they had to be re-baptised because Christian baptism is only effectual because of the cross – the shedding of blood – and John’s baptism was not equivalent to Christian baptism.

## Basic Discipleship

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Describe the re-baptism of the disciples in **Acts 19:1-6** .....

.....

.....

### OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

- 1) The Holy Spirit can be **grieved**. Grieving is a deep emotional response. Paul clearly personalises the Holy Spirit in **Ephesians 4:30** ***“Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.”*** Remember the Holy Spirit is the Person of God, manifest in the earth.
- 2) The Holy Spirit is given to us as **the seal of our redemption (Eph.1:13-14)** signifying God’s ownership of us – we were bought with a price.
- 3) The Holy Spirit cares for us and **sanctifies** us (**Rom.15:16**).
- 4) We can have **fellowship** with the Holy Spirit (**2 Cor.13:14**): we can share, talk to and receive from the Holy Spirit and enjoy His presence in our lives. He brings the presence of God into our lives.
- 5) The Holy Spirit can be **quenched**. If we cut off what the Spirit is offering us individually or corporately, we ***“quench Him” (1Thess.5:19)***. It is important that we grow in sensitivity to the direction and promptings of the Holy Spirit, valuing the gift of the anointing in our lives and learning to flow with the Spirit in our meetings and in our relationships.
- 6) We are equipped and **enabled** by the Holy Spirit to be servants of the New Covenant.
  - You are an epistle of Christ (**2Cor.3:3**)
  - Written by the Spirit of the Living God (**2Cor.3:3**)
  - Not on tablets of stone but on the heart (**2Cor.3:3**)
  - Our sufficiency is from God (**2Cor.3:5**)
  - He has made us ministers of the New Covenant by the Spirit (**2Cor.3:6**)
  - The Spirit gives life (**2 Cor.3:6**)
- 7) We can only **pray** effectively **by [in] the Spirit**; ***“Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit.” Eph.6:18***
- 8) It is by the Spirit that we **worship**, ***“being transformed into the same image from glory to glory just as by the Spirit of the Lord.” 2 Cor.3:18***
- 9) God desires us to have His Spirit in our lives, to **live and walk** by the Spirit (**Gal.5:25**). Without Him we cannot experience and live the Christian life.
- 10) We need the Spirit in our lives so that we can enjoy **His fruit** in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control (**Gal.5:22-23**).
- 11) We need the Holy Spirit in our lives because He distributes spiritual gifts to us to edify the body of Christ (**1Cor.12:7-11**)

*God longs for us to receive and be led by His Spirit*

### LESSON TWENTY NINE

# THE HOLY SPIRIT COMES

## HOW TO BE FILLED

Before Jesus ascended into heaven He gave a promise to His disciples, *“Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high”* Lu.24:49. Receiving the Holy Spirit would be an experience of receiving supernatural power from God.

In Acts 1:4 Jesus said to wait for what the Father had promised: He said *“you shall be baptised with the Holy Spirit not many days from now”* (v.5). In the same context He said *“You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth”* Acts 1:8. The power of the Holy Spirit is given to believers for the purpose of witness: telling others the truth about Jesus Christ.

- Jesus told His disciples to expect to receive the Holy Spirit
- the Father’s promise is the Holy Spirit
- they were to be empowered by the Holy Spirit
- the empowerment is to witness to Jesus

### HOW DID THE HOLY SPIRIT COME?

In Acts 2 we see the first fulfilment of the promise of the Holy Spirit coming. The Holy Spirit came on the day of Pentecost.

#### He came with power, supernatural signs and gifts.

He came with a sound as of a mighty rushing wind, and tongues as of fire were seen upon the disciples; and they were *“filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak in other tongues”* (Acts 2:2-8).

#### Speaking in languages they did not know

The initial manifestation of the Spirit in the believers was ‘speaking in tongues [languages]’: *“Everyone heard them speak in his own language”* (Acts 2:6). The hearers said, they are *“speaking in our own tongues the wonderful works of God”* (Acts 2:11).

The disciples were speaking in the languages of men. There were sixteen different national groups present on that day, and they all heard the gospel being preached in their own language.

#### Preaching the gospel boldly

As a result of being filled with the Holy Spirit, Peter was able to preach boldly concerning Jesus. Peter presented a powerful profile of Jesus the man *“attested by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs”*; Jesus: *“crucified and put to death, whom God raised up”* (Acts 2:22-24); he then spoke of the ascended Lord who is ruling and reigning over His enemies (Acts 2:33-35). He then proclaimed *“therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ”* (Acts 2:36).

In Acts 2:37 the listeners were convicted by the Spirit-empowered word. Those who received the word were baptised (v.41). *“Then fear came upon every soul and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles.”* v.43



## Basic Discipleship

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The result of the Holy Spirit coming:

- **signs and wonders**
- powerful, convicting **preaching of the gospel** of Jesus Christ, resulting in many baptisms.

### HOW DO I RECEIVE THE HOLY SPIRIT?

1. **By asking:** *“It you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!”* **Lu.11:13.**

The heavenly Father promises to give us the Holy Spirit. Jesus said we are to ask God for the Holy Spirit

2. **By keeping Jesus commandments:** Jesus said, *“If you love Me, keep My commandments. And I will pray the Father and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever – the Spirit of truth”* **Jn.14:15-16.**

Receiving the Holy Spirit comes as a result of our believing in Jesus and wanting to be fully committed to Him. We need the Holy Spirit to be able to live for Jesus.

3. **By realising the Spirit already abides with you:** we come to faith in Jesus by the working of the Holy Spirit in our lives. Jesus said, speaking of the Holy Spirit, *“But you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you”* **Jn.14:17b.**

At that time Jesus was dwelling with the disciples, but He could not dwell in them because He had come to the earth in the form of a human person. However He was the full manifestation of all of God and He was wanting the disciples to understand that when the Spirit came, it would be Jesus coming, now able to live in them.

4. **By repenting and being baptised in the name of Jesus:** thereby we receive the forgiveness of sins and are able to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit (**Acts 2:38**).

The coming of the Holy Spirit to every believer is meant to happen at our baptism. In the Scriptures, new believers received the gift of the Holy Spirit in the context of their repentance and believing in Jesus, and being baptised in His name.

5. **Through the laying on of hands:** once you have believed in Jesus and been baptised, those baptising you should lay hands on you so that you can receive the Holy Spirit.

*“They had only been baptised in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit”* (**Acts 8:16-17**). When Paul met some disciples in Ephesus, he found they had not received the Holy Spirit. Paul asked about their baptism and saw that these disciples needed to believe in Jesus and be baptised in His name. Then Paul laid hands on them for the receiving of the Holy Spirit (**Acts 19:1-6**).

6. **By believing the preached word concerning Jesus:** the Gentiles in the house of Cornelius received the Holy Spirit while listening for the first time to the message of Jesus Christ. The Spirit fell on them (**Acts 10:44-45**).

This still happens today: sometimes a believer is sovereignly filled with the Holy Spirit as they seek the Lord.

### THE BAPTISER WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

Jesus is clearly the one who baptises us with the Holy Spirit:



- *“He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire” (Matt.3:11)*
  - *“I indeed baptised you with water, but He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit” (Mk.1:8)*
  - *“He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire” (Lu.3:16)*
  - *“Upon whom you see the Spirit descending and remaining on Him, this is He who baptises with the Holy Spirit” Jn.1:33.*
  - *“Behold I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are clothed with power from on high” (Lu.24:49)*
- We are to seek Jesus to be filled with the Holy Spirit.

### **Being filled with the Spirit is an ongoing experience**

We need to be filled with the Holy Spirit on a daily basis. We see in the book of **Acts** that some of the disciples who received the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost were filled again to enable them to do the work of the ministry.

For example: *“Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit”* began to testify before the rulers of Israel (**Acts 4:8**); and a whole group of disciples as they prayed: *“they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness”* (**Acts 4:31**).

### **Effective ministry comes out of being filled with the Holy Spirit**

When the ministry of the church had grown and there was a need for more ministers to be appointed, they were chosen on the basis that they were *“full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom”* (**Acts 6:1-4**).

### **After being saved we still need to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit**

Many responded to the gospel being preached in Samaria; they were saved and baptised, but they still needed to receive the Holy Spirit. This happened when apostles came and laid hands on them (**Acts 8:12-18**).

Saul had a saving experience on the road to Damascus. As a result of that experience, he needed healing for his eyes: he needed to be filled with the Holy Spirit; and then to be water baptised. He received the Holy Spirit through the laying on of hands (**Acts 9:17-18**).

### **The Spirit enables us to live and walk as Christians**

*“Do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit” Eph.5:18.* When we are filled with the Spirit on a daily basis, we will manifest the life and joy of the Spirit in our life and conduct. We will be singing *“psalms and hymns and spiritual songs”* (v.19); we will be thankful in every situation (v.20); and we will be *“submitting to one another in the fear of God”* (v.21).

## **SPEAKING WITH NEW TONGUES**

On the day of Pentecost, the disciples spoke with other tongues when they received the gift of the Holy Spirit: *“And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance”* **Acts 2:4**.

Paul the apostle declared in **1Corinthians 14:18**: *“I thank my God I speak with tongues more than you all.”* We can assume that Paul received the gift of speaking in tongues when he was filled with the Holy Spirit at the beginning of his Christian walk (**Acts 9:17**).

Speaking or praying in tongues, or in an unknown language, is a common manifestation of being filled with the Holy Spirit in the Scriptures. At Cornelius’s house,

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## Basic Discipleship

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Peter and the circumcised believers recognised that the Holy Spirit had come when the Gentiles began to speak with tongues and exalt God (**Acts 10:44-46**).

When the disciples of John the Baptist believed in Jesus, they were rebaptised, “***And when Paul had laid hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke with tongues and prophesied***” **Acts 19:6**. One of the initial signs that these disciples had received the Holy Spirit was that they spoke with tongues.

Sometimes brethren ask: ‘Must I speak in tongues?’ The answer is: There are no rules! However, the Holy Spirit is promised to every believer and He wants to give to every believer the wonderful grace of the gift of tongues. This gift enhances and enriches the prayer life of the believer, enabling the believer to draw close to God via the gift that the Holy Spirit has given.

### **Question:**

How can I be filled with the Holy Spirit? Write the six ways that the Scripture gives us to receive the Holy Spirit:

- 1) .....
- 2) .....
- 3) .....
- 4) .....
- 5) .....
- 6) .....

### ***Some encouragement:***

*Baptisms should be ministered in the Biblical expectation that the new believers being baptised will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. If you are the person responsible for the baptism, it is important that you preach in such a way that the baptismal candidates will go into baptism expecting to come forth as new creations, full of the Holy Spirit.*

*If you are a believer and you have been baptised but you have not yet received the gift of the Holy Spirit, then we encourage you to study this lesson carefully, allowing faith to grow in your heart as you believe the word of God. Feel free to ask your discipleship leader and others who are filled with the Holy Spirit to lay hands on you. If you still do not receive then seek the Lord personally, knowing that He has promised to give you the Holy Spirit and empower you to be a witness.*

### LESSON THIRTY

# HOW DOES GOD GUIDE?

God's guidance is very important in the life of the believer. We all want to know and be assured that we are walking in the will of God.

When we are making plans for our life, we should not do it independently of God, for we *"do not know what will happen tomorrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away."* Rather than making up our own minds, we *"ought to say, 'If the Lord wills, we shall live and do this or that'"* (James 4:14-15).

### How can we know that we are in the will of God?

There are three important factors that we need to consider to know we are in the will of God:

1. We receive God's guidance through the Bible which is **the word of God**
2. We receive the confirmation of God's guidance through the word of God by **the Holy Spirit bearing witness** and giving us an inner peace that cannot be unsettled
3. We are able to go forward in the will of God when **the door opens**, that is, circumstances enable us to do what we believe is the confirmed will of God

## 1. THE BIBLE – THE WORD OF GOD

The Bible is God speaking to us. It is written by men who were inspired by the Holy Spirit.

*"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work"* 2 Tim.3:16.

**Romans 15:4** says that everything that is written in the Bible is for us to learn *"that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope."*

### (a) God's word guides us

*"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path"* Ps.119:105. God has promised to put His word in our hearts and His law in our minds (Jer.31:33).

### (b) It is God's expressed will

God has clearly expressed His will in His word. We don't need any further instructions about how we are to behave in many areas of our lives. For example **Galatians 5:19-21** gives moral guidelines and warns of the punishment for disobedience.

### (c) It is God's letter to man

The Bible records the deeds of God and man. It is called **"The Word of God"** because it also records the different ways in which God has spoken to man.

From the beginning in the book of **Genesis**, we see God seeking man (Adam) to speak with him (**Gen.3:9**).

God gave very specific instructions to Noah *"who walked with God"* (**Gen.6:9-22**). God spoke clearly to Abraham on a number of occasions, prophesying concerning Abraham's descendants in the ages to come (**Gen.12 – Ch.22**).

### **(d) It reveals the nature of God**

This is important because it is out of our knowing what God is like that we are able to bring our behaviour into line with His nature. In **Colossians 3:10-15** the Scriptures tell us clearly how to behave as new men and women, created in the image and likeness of God.

### **(e) God gives clear instructions**

There are many **conversations between God and man** recorded in Scripture. We read things like *“God said to....”* and *“The word of the Lord came to...”*. In fact, in reprimanding Aaron and Miriam, the Lord said of Moses, *“I speak with him face to face, even plainly, and not in dark sayings”* (**Num12:8**).

**Examples in Scripture** of important conversations between God and men that revealed the will of God to those men specifically:

- God warned Abraham of the fate of Sodom and Gomorrah (**Gen18:23-32**);
- God revealed his glory to Moses, in response to Moses’ request (**Ex33:12-23**);
- God revealed to Jeremiah the nature and scope of Jeremiah’s prophetic calling (**Jer.1:4-10**);
- The Lord Jesus instructed Ananias to go and help Saul [Paul] to become founded in the Christian faith (**Acts9:10-16**).

These examples are very important conversations through which God was revealing very grave and important things. However many times God will speak to us even concerning seemingly small issues to enable us to know His will.

When God makes His will known to us and we obediently do what He says, the course of events in human affairs will be changed, and God’s will, will be done.

### **The will of God is made known to us through the written word of God**

God’s instructions are very clear. For example, He commands all disciples to *“Go and make disciples of all the nations”*; He commands us to baptize those who believe; He commands us to teach them *“to observe all things that I have commanded you”* (**Matt.28:19-20**).

All of our behaviour and all of our ministry work must be in obedience to the written word of God. The will of God can only be known through that which is written.

## **2. THE HOLY SPIRIT**

### **The quickened word**

Jesus said that the Holy Spirit would be our Helper, our Counsellor and our Guide: *“He would guide us into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak and He will tell you things to come”* (**Jn.16:13**).

The Holy Spirit is the One who quickens the written word to us. When He does that, it becomes a ‘rhema’ word, that is, a word direct from the mouth of God. *“Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God”* **Matt.4:4**. This is a wonderful experience to hear God speaking in the Spirit. There is an inner knowing that is unique to the Christian who is being led by the Holy Spirit.

### The Holy Spirit speaks through dreams, visions and prophecies

*“And it shall come to pass afterward that I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions” Joel 2:28.*

It is common for the born again Christian to receive dreams from the Holy Spirit; it is not uncommon for Spirit-filled Christians to see visions given by the Holy Spirit; and at times, the Spirit will speak directly through a prophetic word.

- Joseph, the husband of Mary, received a number of dreams. They were very clear and required immediate, literal obedience. The life of the Child Jesus was at stake.

See **Matthew 1:19-25; 2:13-15**

Not all dreams are literal. In fact, most dreams come in symbolic words and visions and often need interpretation.

- Paul the apostle received a vision in which *“a man of Macedonia stood and pleaded with him, saying, ‘Come over to Macedonia and help us.’ Now after he had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go to Macedonia, concluding that the Lord had called us to preach the gospel to them” Acts 16:9-10.*

This vision was literal and required immediate obedience. Paul and his team obeyed.

Before Paul received the vision which gave him clear guidance, he had been trying to go into Asia, but he was *“forbidden by the Holy Spirit”* (v.6). Then Paul *“tried to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit did not permit them”* (v.7).

***Truly the Spirit will guide us in the perfect will of God.***

### Peace of the Holy Spirit

If the Holy Spirit gives us guidance, what is revealed will always line up with Scripture and will leave us with peace. God never brings confusion or doubt to us. The Holy Spirit guides us when we are in tune with God. He convicts us of sin and error, but never condemns us.

When the **Holy Spirit** convicts, He is **always specific** and shows us how to rectify the situation. **He restores our peace**, whereas condemnation leaves us with unease and there does not seem to be a way out of the situation.

We are to seek God through prayer to know His will, *“Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God will guard your hearts and mind through Christ Jesus” Phil.4:6-7.*

## 3. CIRCUMSTANCES

### God's timing

There are times when **God opens doors** and gives us **opportunities** to go ahead with something that He has given us a desire to do. These doorways open in **God's timing**.

For example, Peter received a vision from God and an interpretation of that vision from the Spirit of God. Confirmation of the vision soon came when Gentile visitors arrived to invite him to go with them to the house of Cornelius. **The door opened for Peter to obey** and fulfill the vision. This was the beginning of the gospel going to the Gentiles. Read this account in **Acts 10:9-48**.

### **Our circumstances come into line**

When God opens the door, our circumstances come into line with what God has put in our heart to do.

### **A testimony**

We witnessed a powerful example of this in SHILOH Apostolic Company in 2010. A mature sister who is single, had a desire in her heart to go to Zambia where she had served some years previously.

When she first shared her desire, we affirmed her but also challenged her to wait on God for His timing, which would mean that her circumstances would come into line and the door clearly open.

For some months, our sister tussled somewhat to be sure of the will of God. She had planned to go by a certain date but her circumstances did not allow her.

However, soon after that, she came to a place of submission to God and her heart was sealed with the peace of the Holy Spirit. Then all of her circumstances began to fall into place. She could afford the fare and support was set in place for her to be away for twelve months.

### **Jesus opens the door**

Jesus is the One who holds the key of David; it is *“He who opens and no one shuts, and shuts and no one opens”* Rev.3:7.

He said *“See I have set before you an open door, and no one can shut it”* (v.8). When Jesus opens the door, we can proceed.

*To be sure we are in the perfect will of God,*

❖ *these three things:*

➔ *the Word of God,*

➔ *the confirmation that the Holy Spirit gives,*

➔ *and our circumstances,*

✓ *must all line up,*

➤ *enabling us to do the will of God.*

### **Question:**

Have you had an experience of God guiding you? Share your experience.

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## WHAT IS NEXT?

Now that you have completed this Basic Discipleship Course, we encourage you to enrol for an advanced discipleship course. The second manual will take you into a deeper understanding of the word of God.

The Bible says: ***“For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart” Heb.4:12.*** There is nothing else in the earth like the word of God. Therefore we need to study diligently the word (2Tim.2:15).

Jesus said: ***“If you abide [continue] in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth will make you free” Jn.8:31-32.*** If we receive the word of God and continue in it, we will walk in great freedom as disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The writer to the Hebrews was surprised that the Hebrew believers had not grown to the level of maturity whereby they were able to teach others. He said: ***“For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food”***

It is important as believers that we continue to grow, because God’s goal for us is to become a mature believer who is able to teach others also. ***“And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also” 2Tim.2:2.***