

Basic Biblical Discipleship

Guidance for Growth in God's Word

Lessons 3-6

*But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of
our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be
glory both now and for ever. Amen.*

2 Peter 3:18

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Lesson Three: Eternal Security

Can someone who is truly saved ever be lost again?

In order to be effective in serving the Lord and bringing Him glory we must *know* that we are saved. Having this assurance is rooted in our security in Christ. This lesson is designed to show you how your relationship with God has been finally, eternally, and unchangeably established by God's salvation and how God has promised to keep us saved.

I. You Are Eternally Secure in Jesus Christ

A. The life God gives is *eternal* life.

Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life. John 6:47

If you were to die and go to hell after believing on Christ, then the life you received could not have been eternal. See John 3:16, 36, and Romans 6:23.

B. You can never change who your birth father is.

Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. John 1:13

God has likened our salvation to a physical birth. You cannot change your spiritual birth Father any more than you can change your physical birth father. See John 3:3-7.

C. Salvation was not based on *our* works, but upon Christ.

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

If we did not earn our salvation through our good works, we cannot keep our salvation by our works. Nothing we do could add to or take away from Christ's sacrifice. See John 19:30 and Galatians 3:1-3.

D. Jesus Christ has promised us security.

The Lord Jesus Christ has promised never to leave us.

... for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. Hebrews 13:5

The Lord Jesus Christ has promised us that he will never cast us out.

... him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out. John 6:37

The Lord Jesus Christ said that no one could pluck us from His hand.

And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand. John 10:28-29

Notice in this passage, that:

1. Eternal life is a gift.
2. “Shall” is absolute.
3. “Never” is absolute.
4. We’re in the hand of Christ.
5. We’re in the hand of the Father.
6. No one is greater than God!

E. Nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ.

For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 8:38-39

This verse makes it clear that we cannot lose our salvation.

1. Death – You can’t lose it when you die.
2. Life – You can’t lose it while you’re alive.
3. Angels – Angels cannot take it from you.
4. Principalities – The government cannot take it from you.
5. Powers – The devil cannot take it from you.
6. Things present – Nothing happening right now can take it from you.
7. Things to come – Nothing in the future can take it from you.

8. Height – Nothing above you can take it.
9. Depth – Nothing below you can take it.
10. Nor any other creature – This should cover everything else!

This wonderful love is found in Christ Jesus our Lord. That is precisely where you are located spiritually! See 1 Corinthians 12:12-13, Ephesians 2:6, 5:30, and 2 Timothy 2:13.

F. The Trinity keeps us saved.

The power of God keeps us.

To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. 1 Peter 1:4-5

The Son of God keeps our salvation.

For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day. 2 Timothy 1:12

The Holy Spirit has sealed us until Christ comes.

And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption. Ephesians 4:30

G. God will finish what He has started.

God has predestinated us to be conformed to the image of His Son. See Ephesians 1:3-14 and Romans 8:23-30.

Receiving the gift of eternal life is only the beginning. The ultimate goal is for ever believer to be like Christ.

Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ. Philippians 1:6

II. Basic Questions

A. How can I know for sure that I'm saved?

You'll simply have to believe what God has said about salvation.

These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God. 1 John 5:13

If you've done what God said to do in order to get saved (receive Christ by faith), then believe what He said He would do (save you!).

B. What if my emotions don't match up with what the Bible says?

Salvation is not based on feelings. This is illustrated in the Ethiopian Eunuch's conversion in Acts 8:26-39. In this passage you find:

1. The fact (“scripture” – v. 35): This is what the word of God says.
2. The faith (“believe” – v. 37): I believe what the word of God says.
3. The feeling (“rejoice” – v. 39): My emotions begin to respond to what I believe (most of the time!).

God gives us a witness in our heart. See Romans 8:15-16. But even this witness is based upon the word of God. See 1 John 5:9. God is trustworthy!

And this is the promise that he hath promised us, even eternal life. 1 John 2:25

Lesson Three Questions

1. How did you become God's child? Provide scripture to support your answer.
2. Give three scripture references where Christ promised that you could not lose your salvation.
3. How does the Trinity keep us saved? Include scripture references.
4. How can a person know that he is saved?
5. What two things must be present to have the Biblical "feeling" of salvation? Does the order matter?
6. Can someone who is truly saved ever be lost again?

Memory Verses for Lesson Three

Work hard this week at committing the following Bible verses to memory. It may help to use a note card system and to write them out over and over again. Meditate on the verses as you memorize them.

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

My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand.

John 10:27-29

Lesson Four: Baptism

What is the meaning and importance of baptism?

There are many different religious ideas about baptism. It should be our desire to know what the Bible teaches about baptism. The purpose of this lesson is to set forth the Biblical teaching of water baptism, explaining its importance, its purpose, and its method. It will also introduce the subject of Spirit baptism, which places us supernaturally in to the body of Christ.

I. The Importance of Baptism

A. Water baptism is *not* essential for salvation.

Water baptism is a good work. The New Testament makes it very clear that salvation is by grace, *apart from works* – including baptism.

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

If you read on through Ephesians 2:10 you'll see that good works should follow salvation, not precede it.

The gospel message does *not* include baptism. The Apostle Paul defines the gospel in 1 Corinthians 15:3-4 and baptism is not included.

For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel... 1 Corinthians 1:17a

Compare this to Romans 1:16. Baptism has nothing to do with getting saved.

- Water baptism does not cleanse from sin (1 John 1:7, Revelation 1:5).
- Water baptism does not impart the new birth (John 1:13, 1 Peter 1:23).

The penitent thief would be a good example of someone that got saved, but was never baptized (Luke 23:39-43).

B. Water baptism *is* an important step for believers.

1. Baptism is an important step of obedience and submission.

God's word does command us to be baptized.

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

Jesus Christ set an example in Matthew 3:13-15 that we should follow (1 Peter 2:21, 1 John 2:6). Notice in this passage that John's baptism is a baptism of *repentance* (see v. 11 - this is different from believer's baptism). Jesus Christ didn't have to repent! Yet he submitted himself to baptism in order fulfill all righteousness (v. 15).

Interestingly, Jesus Christ did not begin his public ministry until *after* he was baptized.

2. Baptism is an important step of identification with Christ's death and resurrection.

In Romans 6:1-7 we learn what is represented by baptism: the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Each of these parts is pictured in water baptism.

Baptism is one way in which a believer publicly identifies with the Lord Jesus Christ as their Saviour. While the salvation of a soul cannot be observed with human eyes, baptism is a visible public testimony of a believer's faith in the gospel of his salvation.

II. The Scriptural Method of Baptism

A. Believer's Baptism is for Believers Only

The most clear-cut example of a sinner's salvation and baptism in the Bible is that of the Ethiopian Eunuch in Acts 8. In that passage the Eunuch asks Philip what hindered him from being baptized. Philip's answer makes the pre-requisites for baptism crystal-clear:

And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. Acts 8:37

There are NO Biblical cases of unbelievers being baptized in the Bible. This would include babies. (Ex. Acts 8:12, 9:18, 16:25-33, 18:8)

B. Believer's Baptism is by Immersion Only

The word "baptize" means to immerse, to dip, or to put into.

When the Ethiopian Eunuch was baptized it states,

...they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him. Acts 8:38

When Christ was baptized it states the following,

And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: Matthew 3:16

(See also John 3:23.)

Since water baptism is intended to be a picture of the death, burial, and resurrection, the picture would be incomplete if the one being baptized was sprinkled or poured. Only immersion conveys the full picture of the gospel (1 Corinthians 15:3-4).

III. The "One Baptism" That Saves

Interestingly, most of the references to baptism in Paul's epistles have nothing to do with water.

There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; One Lord, one faith, one baptism, Ephesians 4:4-5

As we shall see, while there are many different types of baptism, there is only one baptism that saves and that saving baptism is the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit. 1 Corinthians 12:13

This baptism places us supernaturally into the body of Jesus Christ. See also Romans 6:3-4, Galatians 3:27-28, Colossians 2:11-12.

IV. The Doctrine of Baptisms

There is more than just one baptism (Hebrews 6:2). In this lesson we have spoken of at least two different baptisms: believer's baptism (Matthew 28:19) and Spirit baptism (1 Corinthians 12:13). If you turn to Matthew 3:11-12 you'll find three baptisms in two verses. These different baptisms are among the scriptural truths that must be rightly divided (2 Timothy 2:15).

Lesson Four Questions

1. Why isn't water baptism essential for salvation? Provide scriptural support.
2. Name two important reasons we should be baptized.
3. What is pictured by believer's baptism?
4. What does the word baptize mean?
5. How do we know that immersion is the proper method of baptism?
6. What is the one baptism that saves? Where does this place us? Provide scripture.
7. Can you find the three baptisms mentioned in Matthew 3:11-12?

Memory Verses for Lesson Four

Work hard this week at committing the following Bible verses to memory. It may help to use a note card system and to write them out over and over again. Meditate on the verses as you memorize them.

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

Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen. Matthew 28:19-20

For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.

1 Corinthians 12:13

Lesson Five: The Holy Spirit, Part One

What is the role of the Holy Spirit in my life?

The moment that you received Jesus Christ by faith the Holy Spirit took up permanent residence inside your body. The doctrine of the Holy Spirit is an often misunderstood or neglected subject, but it is of great importance to you as a believer. The purpose behind this lesson is to give you a basic understanding of what the Bible teaches about the person and work of the Holy Ghost.

I. The Holy Spirit is God

This is the biblical doctrine of the trinity. The Bible teaches us that the one true God is in three persons.

For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one.

1 John 5:7

The plurality of the trinity can be seen in such places as Genesis 1:26, 11:5-7, Isaiah 48:16, Matthew 3:16-17, 28:19, and 2 Corinthians 13:14. Man, as created in God's image, is also a three-part person (Genesis 2:7, 1 Thessalonians 5:23). It is important to understand the Holy Spirit is God.

- He is not an impersonal force.
- He is not a warm, fuzzy feeling.

He can be lied to (Acts 5:3-4), He can be grieved (Ephesians 4:30), He can speak (Acts 13:2, 21:11), etc.

II. The Holy Spirit Dwells Inside Every Believer

A person that does not possess the Holy Ghost does not belong to Jesus Christ (Romans 8:9). The body of the believer is the temple of the Holy Ghost:

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

This was Christ's promise to the disciples in John 14 before he went to the cross. Turn to John 14:16-17 and observe where the Holy Spirit dwells and for how long He dwells there.

III. The Holy Spirit Has an Important Role in the Life of the Believer

- A.** The Holy Spirit reproves sinners of unbelief and convicts saints of sin (John 16:7-8).
- B.** The Holy Spirit regenerates us (gives the new birth) when we get saved (John 3:3-8).
- C.** The Holy Spirit baptizes us into Christ's body at the time of conversion (1 Corinthians 12:13).
- D.** The Holy Spirit seals us unto the day of redemption (Ephesians 1:13-14, 4:30).
- E.** The Holy Spirit bears witness that we are children of God (Romans 8:16, Galatians 4:6, 1 John 4:13).
- F.** The Holy Spirit is our teacher (John 14:26, 16:13, 1 Corinthians 2:9-14).
- G.** The Holy Spirit intercedes for us (Romans 8:26-27).
- H.** The Holy Spirit empowers us for Christian service (Ephesians 3:16, Acts 1:8, 4:8, 31, Romans 15:13).

Lesson Five Questions

1. Give scriptural support for the doctrine of the trinity.
2. According John 14:16-17 where is the residence of God's Holy Spirit and how long does He dwell there?
3. In what ways does the Holy Spirit direct our fellowship with God and equip us for Christian service?

Memory Verses for Lesson Five

Work hard this week at committing the following Bible verses to memory. It may help to use a note card system and to write them out over and over again. Meditate on the verses as you memorize them.

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

Lesson Six: The Holy Spirit, Part Two

What is the role of the Holy Spirit in my life?

Apart from the Holy Spirit, it is impossible to live the Christian life. This lesson continues the subject of the Holy Spirit, focusing on the fruit of the Spirit and what it means to be filled with and walk in the Holy Spirit.

I. The Holy Spirit Produces Fruit in the Life of the Believer

God desires to reproduce His character in our lives to make us like Jesus Christ (Philippians 2:13). We cannot be like the Lord Jesus apart from the Holy Ghost. In Galatians 5:22-23 there are nine fruit of the Spirit listed. These character qualities will be produced in us as we submit ourselves to His control:

- A. **Love** – A divine assurance of God’s love (Romans 5:5) as well as a divine ability to love others (Matthew 5:46).
- B. **Joy** – Not an emotion, but a state that is independent our circumstance (Romans 14:17, 1 Thessalonians 1:6).
- C. **Peace** – Assurance and stability that passes understanding (Philippians 4:7, John 14:27).
- D. **Longsuffering** – Patience with the shortcomings and offences of others (Colossians 1:10-11).
- E. **Gentleness** – Relating to others with kindness and tenderness (Psalm 18:35).

- F. **Goodness** – The ability to do good toward others, both saved and lost (Romans 15:14).
- G. **Faith** – Believing God’s word and God’s faithfulness (1 John 5:4).
- H. **Meekness** – The proper attitude and approach toward God and others (2 Corinthians 10:1).
- I. **Temperance** – Spirit-inspired self-control in the fear of God (1 Corinthians 9:25-27).

Notice that these character qualities are only manifested as we interact with others. The fruit of the Spirit allows us to have a good testimony toward the lost (Colossians 4:5, 1 Thessalonians 4:12). It also allows us to cooperate with other believers for the cause of Christ, especially as a part of a local church (Galatians 6:10, 1 John 3:16). There will be a future lesson on the local church.

II. Walking in the Spirit

The scriptures command us to be filled with the Spirit.

And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit; Ephesians 5:18

If it is a sin to be drunk with wine, then it is equally sinful not to be filled with the Holy Spirit. This is not an emotional experience. This is not about you receiving more of the Holy Spirit – but it has everything to do with the Holy Spirit having more of you through your conscious submission to His leadership.

A. Expect evidence rather than an experience.

Having a sensational religious experience is not the same as being filled with the Holy Spirit. The influence of the Holy Spirit should not be measured by a feeling, but manifested by fruitfulness.

1. When God's people were filled with the Holy Ghost in the book of Acts, they became bold witnesses for Jesus Christ (Acts 4:8, 31, 13:9-10).
2. In Ephesians 5, the scripture gives a series of ways in which the fulness of the Spirit is manifested: joy (v. 19), gratitude (v. 20), submission (v. 21), and transformed relationships (v. 22-6:4).

B. Immerse yourself in the word of God. The word of God and the Spirit of God are always in agreement because the Holy Ghost is the author of the Holy Bible. We can not know the mind of the Spirit if we fail to know the words of the Scripture. The Bible and the Holy Ghost are so closely associated that they are often represented by the same figures (ex. light, water, breath). The scripture commands us to be filled with both and the results are shown to be the same (Colossians 3:16, Ephesians 5:18-19).

C. Place no confidence in your own fleshly ability.

The difference between walking after the flesh and walking in the Spirit is *one step*. This is why we must live a life of utter dependency upon God's power in us (Philippians 3:3, Romans 6:13, 16, 19, Galatians 5:16-18).

D. Stay with it. A life that is surrendered to the power of the Holy Ghost requires patience and persistence. We are engaged in a growth process and it does not happen overnight. Learn from your mistakes and keep your eyes on Jesus Christ. The ultimate goal of the Holy Spirit is to make you more like Christ (Galatians 5:25, Romans 8:29, 2 Corinthians 3:18).

Lesson Six Questions

1. List the characteristics that the Holy Spirit reproduces in the life of the believer according to Galatians 5.
2. In your own words, explain briefly what it means to be “filled with the Spirit”.
3. What is the ultimate goal of the Holy Spirit in the life of the believer?

Memory Verses for Lesson Six

Work hard this week at committing the following Bible verses to memory. It may help to use a note card system and to write them out over and over again. Meditate on the verses as you memorize them.

This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh. Galatians 5:16

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