

# Basic Biblical Discipleship

Guidance for Growth in God's Word

## Book One: Lessons 1-10

*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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## Book One: Lessons 1-10

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# Preface

*And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. 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 always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.* Matthew 28:18-20

The following discipleship lessons have been adapted from other widely distributed discipleship courses produced by various churches and individuals. We are much indebted to whoever may be responsible for the “original” work on the format of this study. While there is nothing particularly special about these discipleship lessons, there is something very powerful about the pure words of God and this power is often manifested in a life-changing way when believers gather around its truths and study its precepts with the help and direction of the Holy Spirit. This series of lessons should provide the learner with a good introduction to that which we as believers have been commanded to observe. The lessons will be most effective when taught by one believer to another (or a small group of others). If the scripture references are viewed and read the outline will pretty well teach itself. Each lesson is followed by some simple questions covering the principles addressed in the lesson. Another important part of these lessons is the memory work at the close of each study. Memorizing the assigned scriptures will be essential to getting the most out of this discipleship course. It should be remembered that discipleship is not a series of lessons, but a commitment to follow the Lord Jesus Christ and a process of growth as He leads us in the Christian life. The completion of this material will not necessarily make anyone a disciple of Jesus Christ; but a disciple is a learner and contained in the scriptures provided herein are some of the truths that are an essential part of walking with the Lord. We hope that it will be approached prayerfully and that the Lord might use it to be a blessing as you ***grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ*** (2 Pet 3:18).

# Lesson One: Salvation, Part One

## What does it mean to be saved?

The most important decision that anyone ever makes is the decision to receive Jesus Christ personally. This lesson is designed to explain why Jesus Christ came to save us and how we can receive this free gift of salvation.

### I. Before a person can be saved he must know that he is a sinner.

Jesus said, *I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.* Luke 5:32

See Romans 3:10, 23, Galatians 3:22

The law of God gives us the knowledge of sin (Romans 3:20, 7:7). This can be illustrated by comparing ourselves to the Ten Commandments (Romans 13:9, Exodus 20:1-17).

Sin is what we must be saved *from* in order to spend eternity in heaven with God.

Jesus said, *For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.* Luke 19:10

### II. The consequence of man's sin is death.

*For the wages of sin is death...* Romans 6:23

Death means "separation".

- Adam's sin has brought about physical death for all men (see Romans 5:12).
- Our sin has brought about spiritual separation from God (see Ephesians 2:1).

- Someday our sin will separate us from God forever in a lake of fire (see Revelation 20:14-15, 21:8).

### **III. We are helpless to save ourselves.**

If we could simply be good enough to save ourselves, then Jesus would not have needed to die. See Galatians 2:21, 3:10, James 2:10, Ephesians 2:8-9, Titus 3:5, Romans 4:4-8.

### **IV. Jesus Christ died for our sins and rose again from the dead.**

*For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:*

1 Corinthians 15:3-4

Jesus Christ, God's sinless Son, took our place of death and condemnation so that we might be saved. See 1 Peter 3:18, Romans 5:8, 2 Corinthians 5:21.

### **V. God expects us to repent and receive Jesus Christ.**

*... repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.* Acts 20:21

Repentance means to change our mind and agree with God about our sin and how to be saved. See Luke 13:3 and 2 Peter 3:9. Repentance has to do with the way that we respond to the first three points in this lesson (I-III above). See Romans 3:19-20.

Repentance is to be accompanied by faith in Jesus Christ (Romans 3:21-22). To have faith in Jesus Christ or to believe on Jesus Christ means to *trust* Christ **alone** (Ephesians 1:13). This is how we receive Jesus Christ.

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

Salvation is by faith **alone** through Christ **alone**. See Romans 3:28, 5:1, Galatians 2:16, 3:24. (Note: “Justified” means to be declared righteous.)

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

# Lesson One Questions

1. What is it that we must be saved from in order to spend eternity with God in heaven?
2. What is the meaning of death in the scriptures? List three types of death in the Bible.
3. The gospel is defined in First Corinthians 15:3-4; list the three parts of the gospel below.
4. What does it mean to repent?
5. How does a sinner receive Jesus Christ?
6. Write out a short account of your testimony (your life before you received Christ, how you came to receive the Lord, and how your life has changed since receiving Christ).

## Memory Verses for Lesson One

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

*Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.*  
John 3:3

# Lesson Two: Salvation, Part Two

## What happens to me when I get saved?

Receiving Jesus Christ as one's Saviour completely transforms our relationship with God. This lesson is designed to explain how a person's relationship with God changes when they are born again.

### I. Salvation is a new birth into God's family.

Your sin made you a part of the wrong family. See Ephesians 2:1-3, 5:6.

But when you received Jesus Christ you were born again. See John 1:12-13, 3:3-7, 3:14-16.

### II. Now God is your Father.

*For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.*  
Galatians 3:26

This relationship is pictured by the earthly relationship between a father and his child.

- A. A good father loves and cares for his child (1 Peter 5:7).
- B. A good father protects his child (Matthew 18:6).
- C. A good father provides for his child (Philippians 4:19).
- D. A good father guides and teaches his child (John 14:26).
- E. A good father helps his child (Psalm 46:1).
- F. A good father encourages his child (Colossians 3:21).
- G. A good father disciplines his child (Hebrews 12:5-11).

- H. A good father feeds his child (Matthew 4:4).
- I. A good father has a plan for his child. (Romans 8:28-29).

Our Heavenly Father never makes a mistake in dealing with us as his child. See Matthew 7:11.

### **III. Now you have eternal life.**

Our first birth gave us temporal, physical life. Our new birth gave us eternal, spiritual life.

Eternal life is not just a future promise, it is a present possession.

See John 3:36, 5:24, 6:47, Romans 6:23, and 1 John 5:12.

### **IV. Now you have the Holy Spirit living inside of you.**

*The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:* Romans 8:16

The Holy Spirit living inside of us empowers us to be Christ-like. We will have a future lesson on the Holy Spirit.

### **V. Basic Questions**

#### **A. Now that I am saved will I still sin?**

*My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:* 1 John 2:1

Because God has made us free from sin (Romans 6:22), we do not have to sin. However, we still have a sinful nature, or an “old man”, that can lead us in to sin.

See Ephesians 4:22-24 and Galatians 5:16-17.

## **B. How does sin affect my relationship with my Father?**

Sin does not change your *relationship* with your heavenly Father (He's still your spiritual father by birth). But sin will affect your *fellowship* with your heavenly Father (your ability to enjoy interacting with Him). See First John 1.

## **C. What should I do when I sin?**

Confess your sin to God. See 1 John 1:9, Proverbs 28:13.

Forsake it and ask God to give you a hatred for it. See 2 Corinthians 10:3-6, Psalm 119:104.

## Lesson Two Questions

1. What is the water birth of John 3:5 (in light of John 3:6)?
2. List three things that God does for us as our Father.
3. When does a person receive eternal life?
4. What should you do when you sin after you have been saved?

## Memory Verses for Lesson Two

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.

*Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.*  
John 3:3

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

# 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. 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

# Lesson Seven: The Word of God, Part One

## What kind of book is the Bible?

We are greatly privileged to have an absolute written authority from God Himself – the Bible. Apart from the scriptures we would not know who Jesus Christ is or what He has accomplished on our behalf. This lesson is designed to help us understand what kind of Book the Bible is and how it is active in our salvation.

### I. The Bible is the Word of God

The Bible contains the very words of God and those words are pure and absolutely reliable.

- A. The word of God is given by inspiration of God (2 Timothy 3:15-17, Proverbs 30:5-6).
- B. The words of scripture have been preserved to every generation (Psalm 12:6-7, 119:160, Matthew 24:35, Isaiah 40:8).
- C. The words of scripture are never to be altered or removed by men (Deuteronomy 4:2, Proverbs 30:5-6, Revelation 22:18-19).
- D. The written word of God is even “more sure” than an audible voice from heaven (2 Peter 1:16-21).
  - This means that all doctrines and experiences must be judged by the infallible standard of the Bible.
  - The Bible *alone* is the believer’s final authority in all things.

## II. The Bible is the Greatest Book Ever Written

- A. It is unified. Though the Bible is like a library (with 66 books) it is still one Book. It was penned by 40 different writers over a period of about 2,000 years, and yet it never contradicts itself.
- B. It is prophetically accurate. One of the greatest proofs of inspiration is fulfilled prophecy (Isaiah 46:10). From the rise and fall of kingdoms, to the birth, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, no other book on earth is able to tell the future with absolute accuracy and one-hundred percent fulfillment.
- C. It is scientifically accurate. The Bible speaks of “the circle of the earth” (Isaiah 40:22), which hangs “upon nothing” (Job 26:7). It speaks of underwater sea currents (Psalm 8:8), wind currents and the water cycle (Ecclesiastes 1:6-7), and even the laws of physics (Hebrews 1:10-12). All of these things were written in scripture thousands of years before they were discovered by “modern science”.
- D. It is historically accurate. The Bible is a book of history before it is a book of religion. There are a great deal of secular historical sources, as well as archaeological discoveries that provide evidence of the historical accuracy of the Bible.

- E.** It is honest. The Bible does not avoid the faults and failures of its most important characters. We learn of the successes and failures of men like Noah, Abraham, Moses, David, and Peter. Man alone would never write a book that so fully condemned his own race.
  
- F.** It is indestructible. No book has ever been so hated and yet so widely distributed. Emperors and dictators have sought to destroy it and scholars have attempted to discredit it, but without success. It is the most widely published book in the earth's history.

### **III. The Bible is the Seed of the New Birth**

- A.** It is the agency of the new birth (1 Peter 1:23, James 1:18, 21).
  
- B.** It is the source of true faith (Romans 10:17).
  
- C.** It is the vehicle of the gospel (1 Corinthians 15:3-4 1 Peter 1:24-25).

Apart from the scriptures, we would not know who Jesus Christ is. In order for a man to be saved he must believe what the Bible says about his sin and God's Son.

## Lesson Seven Questions

1. According to Psalm 12:6-7, who is responsible for preserving God's pure words?
2. In 2 Peter 1:18-19, what is the written word of God "more sure" than?
3. List four features that make the Bible the greatest book ever written.
4. In what ways is the Bible active in salvation?

## Memory Verses for Lesson Seven

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.

*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 perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works. 2 Timothy 3:16-17*

# Lesson Eight: The Word of God, Part Two

## What is the role of the Bible in my day-to-day life?

The Bible not only reveals the way of salvation, it provides an absolutely authoritative standard for living. It is impossible to live the Christian life and grow spiritually apart from the influence of the scriptures. This lesson is intended to give you a basic knowledge of how the Bible should serve to guide your every day life.

### I. The Word of God Provides the Believer with Nourishment

Scripture is often likened to food (Job 23:12, Jeremiah 15:16). As you can see below the Bible provides every believer with a well-balanced spiritual diet.

- A. Water (Isaiah 55:10-11, Ephesians 5:26) - Essential to maintain life.
- B. Bread (Luke 4:4) - The most basic source of nourishment.
- C. Milk (1 Peter 2:2) - The lightest food.
- D. Meat (1 Corinthians 3:1-2, Hebrews 5:13-14) - The heaviest food.
- E. Apples (Proverbs 7:2, 25:11) - Strengthens against sickness.
- F. Honey (Psalm 119:103) - Sweet to the taste.

Imagine sitting down to a feast made up of all the different foods to which the word of God is compared. Now imagine sitting down to such a feast and starving to death! The only way that the Bible nourishes us is if we partake of it. Spiritual health cannot be maintained apart from the Bible.

## II. The Word of God Cleanses the Believer

*Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.* John 15:3

- A. While we are forever washed in Christ's blood (Revelation 1:5), we still become defiled by our walk in this world (John 13:10).
- B. It is the source of true faith (Romans 10:17).

It has been said, "The Bible will keep you from sin, or sin will keep you from the Bible." The word of God serves as a cleansing agent in which we should wash regularly (John 15:3, 17:17, Psalm 119:9, 11).

## III. The Word of God Equips the Believer for Battle

*And take... the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.* Ephesians 6:17

- A. We will be defenseless against spiritual attacks apart from the word of God. Jesus Christ answered the Devil's attacks with scripture (Matthew 4:4,7,10).
- B. The battle concerns our thoughts and motives (Hebrews 4:12).

#### **IV. The Word of God is a Book to be Read and Studied**

Reading and studying the Bible is not like reading or studying a textbook or a newspaper. The Bible is a spiritual book (John 6:63). This means it must be spiritually discerned (1 Corinthians 2:9-16).

- A.** The Holy Spirit is our teacher and guide in Bible study (John 14:26, 16:13-15, 1 John 2:27). None but the author of any given work is perfectly qualified to interpret its content.
- B.** The Bible is a self-defining, self-interpreting book. We discover its meaning by comparing scripture with scripture (1 Corinthians 2:13).

#### **V. The Word of God Must Be Applied Personally**

- A.** The foremost key to Bible study is obedience to the word (John 7:17)
- B.** God did not give us the Bible just to fill our heads with knowledge (1 Corinthians 8:1). The word of God is intended to make us godly (2 Timothy 3:16-17).
- C.** Understanding everything is not what is primarily important. There are some things you may not be prepared to understand (John 16:12). Be patient; God will show you these things when you are ready. The most important thing to remember is to put into practice what you *do* understand (James 1:22-25).

# Lesson Eight Questions

1. List two ways in which the Bible keeps the believer healthy.
2. Who is our foremost teacher and guide in Bible Study?
3. How does the Bible define and interpret itself?
4. What is the most important thing to remember in learning, reading, and studying the Bible?

## Memory Verses for Lesson Eight

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.

*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 perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.* 2 Timothy 3:16-17

*Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word.* Psalms 119:9

# Lesson Nine: Prayer

## What is the role of prayer in my fellowship with Jesus Christ?

Communication is an important part of any healthy relationship. This is true of our relationship with God. This communication is two way. When we read the Bible, God speaks to us. When we pray, we speak to God. Prayer is our direct communication to God and it is an important part of spiritual growth. This lesson is intended to provide you with a basic understanding of the discipline of prayer so that you might maintain an open line of communication with God.

### I. Prayer is Possible through the Lord Jesus Christ

- A. The Creator of the universe desires fellowship with you. He is willing to listen when you speak and answer you personally.
- B. This is only possible through what Jesus Christ accomplished for us on the cross (Hebrews 10:19-22).

*Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession. For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need. Hebrews 4:14-16*

- C. This means that you can go directly to God through Jesus Christ when you pray (1 Timothy 2:5).
- You do not have to be in a particular place (like church) and you do not have to have pray through a mediator (like a priest or a saint). You can speak directly to God through Jesus Christ.

## II. Four Different Types of Prayer

*I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men;*  
1 Timothy 2:1

- A. Supplication – This is an earnest, specific request; asking God to “supply” a need that you have (Phil 4:6, ex. 2 Corinthians 12:7-10, Matthew 26:36-44).
- B. Prayer – This is simply you talking to God. You do not have to be asking for something to speak to the Lord. He wants to hear from you at all times.
- C. Intercessions – This is when you pray for others. Do not just focus on your own needs. Prayer is a ministry that every believer should have. See Romans 1:9, Hebrews 13:18, 1 Samuel 12:23.
- D. Giving of Thanks – This is thanking God for who He is and what He has done for you (Psalm 100:4, 1 Thessalonians 5:18).

## III. God Works in Our Lives Through Prayer

Prayer is not about changing God's mind to conform to your will, but it has great power to change our hearts to conform to His.

- A. Prayer admits a dependency upon God. It serves to draw us close to Him, so that He can prove His sufficiency for every need (Matthew 6:8, Psalm 50:15).
- B. Prayer is the way that we cast all our care upon the Lord (1 Peter 5:7).
- C. Prayer provides us with God's peace in our hearts and minds (Philippians 4:6-7).

#### **IV. Principles for Proper Prayer**

- A. Pray constantly (1 Thessalonians 5:17, Luke 18:1, Romans 12:12).
  - We should develop a lifestyle of communicating with God. Our first reaction to any trial or success should be to go to God in prayer.
  - We should make time for extended seasons of prayer (Matthew 6:6), but God can hear our prayers at any time and in any place (Nehemiah 2:4)
- B. Don't pray just to impress others (Matthew 6:5).
  - Public prayer can be a help to others (1 Corinthians 14:15-16, ex. John 17), but we must remember that prayer is talking to God.

**C.** Don't use vain repetitions (Matthew 6:7).

- Your prayer does not need to be expressed in special religious terminology.
- Prayer is not religious, it is relational.

**D.** Talk to God as you would talk to a loving Father (Matthew 6:9, Galatians 4:6-7).

**E.** Pray in Jesus' name according to the will of God (John 14:13-14, 15:16, 16:23-24, 1 John 5:14).

- This involves more than just tacking Christ's name onto the end of a prayer. It has to do with praying consistently with His character and for His glory.
- We know the will of God and the character of Christ from the word of God. Therefore, we should pray consistently with the word of God.

**F.** Be assured that even when you struggle in prayer, God knows your heart and the Holy Spirit is praying with you and for you (Romans 8:26-27, Jude 20).

## **V. Hindrances to Prayer**

Prayer is one aspect of our fellowship with God. Oftentimes when other areas of our fellowship are not in order, it will hinder our prayers. Below are some common hindrances to prayer.

- A. Not asking (James 4:2).
- B. Asking with selfish motives (James 4:3).
- C. Asking without faith (James 1:5-7).
- D. Unconfessed sin (Psalm 66:18, Isaiah 59:2).
- E. An unforgiving heart (Matthew 6:14-15).
- F. Bitterness toward your spouse (1 Peter 3:7).
- G. Insensitivity toward God's word (Proverbs 28:9).

## VI. God Answers Prayer

*And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive.* Matthew 21:22

*Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.* Mark 11:24

*And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.* 1 John 5:15

These prayer promises are to be read and applied in light of the conditions and hindrances to prayer already mentioned. What is clear from these passages is that God really does answer the prayers of His people. He does not always answer them in the manner or the timing that we expect. Sometimes his answer is “No”. Time will often reveal why God has answered a certain way, just as a child comes to understand why his parents did not give him everything he asked for.

## **VII. Some Thoughts and Tips that Might Help**

- A.** Pray first. Begin everyday by talking to God.
- B.** Listen carefully. While God will not speak to you in an audible voice, we can experience two-way communication with God through prayer and Bible-reading if we will be attentive to the leadership and direction of the Holy Spirit.
- C.** Pray with others. There is something special about corporate prayer (Matt 18:20). Praying with other believers will be a great help to your prayer life.
- D.** Keep a prayer list. It will help you to pray more consistently if you have a list (or multiple lists) that help you to remember specific needs.
- E.** Keep a journal. Sometimes it is helpful to record prayers and answers to prayer that can reinforce your faith that God is listening.

## Lesson Nine Questions

1. How do we have access directly to God in prayer? Provide scripture.
2. List the four different types of prayer.
3. In what way does God often change us through prayer?
4. What does it mean to pray in Jesus' name?
5. List seven hindrances to prayer found in God's word.
6. Does God always answer our prayers? Does He always answer them the way we want or expect?

## Memory Verses for Lesson Nine

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.

*If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me:*

Psalms 66:18

*Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.* Philippians 4:6

*Pray without ceasing.* 1 Thessalonians 5:17

# Lesson Ten: The Church

## What is my relationship to the church?

The local church is at the center of God's program for this age. God's plan for every believer is best fulfilled in connection with a Bible-believing local church. The purpose of this lesson is to give you a basic understanding of the doctrine of the church and to help you see the importance of the local church in your personal relationship with God.

### I. What is "the Church"?

The word "church" means "a called out assembly". It is not a physical building (Acts 14:27) or a denominational organization. This word is used in two ways in the New Testament.

- A. The universal church is made up of all saved people everywhere (Hebrews 12:22-23).
  - 1. This is the church which Christ founded (Matthew 16:18).
  - 2. The universal church constitutes the spiritual body of Christ (Ephesians 1:22-23, 5:23, 27, 30, Col 1:18, 24).
  - 3. An individual becomes a part of this body through the baptism of the Holy Spirit when they believe on the Lord Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 12:13).
  - 4. Membership in a local church has no bearing on one's membership in the body of Christ. It is entirely possible to be a

member of a local church and still go to hell, if you have never been saved.

5. There are three primary pictures for the church in the New Testament:
  - a. A Body – Romans 12:4-5, 1 Corinthians 12:12-27 – Illustrating unity.
  - b. A Building – Ephesians 2:19-22, 1 Pet 2:4-8 – Illustrating indwelling.
  - c. A Bride – 2 Corinthians 11:2, Ephesians 5:22-32 – Illustrating intimacy.

**B.** A local church is a group of believers gathered in a specific geographical location (Hebrews 10:25).

1. It is important to understand the truth about the universal church. However, the vast majority of the more than 100 references to the “church” in the New Testament are references to a local assembly.
2. Every member of the universal church should be a member of a local church.
3. Whatever we might learn about the body of Christ from the New Testament is best experienced within a local church.

## **II. What is the Purpose of the Church?**

In Acts 2:41-47 we get a description of the practice of the early church. The church has some distinctive purposes in the word of God.

- A.** The foremost role of the church is to teach the word of God (Acts 2:42, 4:2, 5:21, 42, 6:4, 11:26, 18:11, 20:20, 28:31).
1. The first priority of the local church is the perfecting of the saints and this is carried out by the teaching of God's word by gifted men within the church (Ephesians 4:11-12).
  2. This teaching takes in "all the counsel of God's word" (Acts 20:27).
  3. This will include the teaching of truth, as well as the correction of error (2 Tim 3:16-17).
- B.** Another purpose of the church is corporate prayer (Acts 1:13-14, 2:42, 3:1, 4:23-24, 6:6, 12:5, 12, 13:1-3, 16:16, 20:36).
- C.** The final purpose of the church is worship (John 4:20-24, Philippians 3:3). This will include the observance of the ordinances such as baptism and the Lord's Supper. Worship is associated throughout scripture with sacrifice and the church has spiritual sacrifices that it is to offer.
1. Souls (Romans 15:16) – Soul-winning and missions is the responsibility of the church.
  2. Your Body (Romans 12:1-2)
  3. Money (Philippians 4:15-18, 1 Corinthians 16:1-2)

4. Praise and Thanksgiving (Hebrews 13:15, Acts 2:47)
5. Doing Good (Hebrews 13:16, 10:24-25)

### **III. Where Do I Fit into the Church?**

**A.** Every believer has a part to do in the body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12:14-27).

1. Each member has a different function (v. 14-20).
2. No one member can function alone (v. 21).
3. Each member's part is important (v. 22-24).
4. A properly functioning body operates as a unit (v. 25-27).
5. The body principle is best practiced in a local church setting. One thing every believer *can* do, is be in faithful attendance (Hebrews 10:25).

**B.** Grow in your relationship to the Lord, learn what your strengths and gifts are, and make yourself available to the church leadership to lead or participate where you are needed most.

### **IV. What if I Don't Have a Church or Have to Move to a New Location?**

Being in a good local church is critical. Finding a good Bible-believing church to be a part of should be a priority. Here are some tips for finding one:

- A.** Seek the Lord for wisdom and guidance (James 1:5).
- B.** Look for evidence of evangelism and outreach (Matthew 28:19-20, Mark 16:15).
- C.** Make sure the leadership believes the word of God and encourages the people to read and study it for themselves (Titus 1:9, 2 Timothy 2:15).
- D.** Look for a church that ministers to one another's needs.
- E.** Look for a church that is engaged in worldwide missions.

# Lesson Ten Questions

1. What does the word “church” mean?
2. What are the three primary pictures for the church and what is the lesson communicated by each picture?
3. Briefly explain the difference between the universal church and the local church.
4. List the three purposes of the church listed in this lesson.
5. How does the New Testament church worship God?
6. List three lessons that can be learned from First Corinthians 12 where the church is compared to a body.

## Memory Verses for Lesson Ten

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.

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

*And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:* Ephesians 4:11-12