

Church of the Promise
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Infusion

Become

Believe

Belong

Befriend

#1 About The Bible

INFUSING THE LIFE FOUND IN CHRIST
THROUGH FAITH IN GOD'S VITAL PRECEPTS,
MAKING EVERY MEMBER WHOLE
SPIRIT, SOUL & BODY

Welcome to:

Church of The Promise

Infusion

Become Believe Belong Befriend

Infusion has the specific purpose of guiding you into a dynamic relationship with God and His church. Each step is designed to inform, motivate and activate your faith. The Infusion experience will offer you four separate opportunities or phases. They are Become, Believe, Belong & Befriend. .

During the **“Become”** phase of the Infusion experience you may be challenged to clear out old perceptions about what a Christian is. This will happen as you encounter some of the most prominent and vital precepts that God has revealed. Christianity is distinct from all other faiths because it is not just something you _____, It is something you _____. This distinction is not that you are now going to “act” Christian but that you will “be” one. The manner a person behaves in, flows directly from their heart.

Christ identifies you as a Christian only when you identify Him as your Lord. When the miracle of new birth takes place the old corrupt & hardened heart is removed and replaced with a new one that is tender toward the things of God. The Holy Spirit guides you through the Word so that you may **“Believe”** the things He directs you toward. The belief systems being built in your mind, (which is being renewed), will help you begin to identify where you **“Belong”** in the body of Christ and fulfill your God given purpose. That calling will lead you to do your part to **“Befriend”** others into the Kingdom of God just as you were.

Along with the sessions there are some books that are recommended that will give you added knowledge and insight. We lend these out for one week at a time. They are normally small and easy to read.

When you complete the **“Become Phase”** you will be given a survey. It will ask four questions before you proceed to the **“Believe Phase”**.

1. What does it mean to be Born Again?
2. What does it mean to be a 3 part being?
3. What is the significance of water Baptism?
4. Why do we celebrate communion?

About the Bible

Session One



The Word of God

Understanding the _____ and _____ of Christ begins with two primary sources that tell us about Him. If these are devalued in any way, the experience of the believer will be filled with doubt and ultimately possible spiritual failure. The primary sources are the Holy Spirit & the Bible.

The Bible is the authentic written Word of God. It was written as the Holy Spirit moved upon the hearts of men. There is not another book like it. You can experience its influence by simply carrying it with you into nearly any public setting. Unlike other books, it will quickly draw a reaction. If you were toting, for instance, a dictionary or any other book, you'd get little notice. But carry the Bible and heads will turn! Comments will be made. Some will be complimentary, others will be hostile. Like your faith in Christ, the Bible itself has _____. You don't even have to open its pages to experience a form of it. People's reactions to you holding it is proof of its power.

The Bible is the revealed will of God. In its pages we find all we need to know to receive life that is connected to God the Father, and knowing the Bible's truths is the only way to be delivered from this corrupt and dying world.

Let's start where God does, the beginning, Genesis:

Genesis 1:1

1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth

The opening subject of the first sentence is _____. He is the central figure through-out all of scripture. There are seven truths found in this verse that are essential to every Christian's faith. Struggles with these precepts must be won for a person to achieve a true perception of God and His will for them.

In this opening verse of the Bible, seven words in the Hebrew establish seven key truths upon which the rest of the Bible is based.

First, God exists. The essential first step in pleasing God is recognizing His existence.

Hebrews 11:6

Now without faith it is impossible to please God, for the one who draws near to Him must believe that He exists and rewards those who seek Him.

Second, God existed before there was a universe and will exist after the universe perishes.

Heb 1:10-12

10. And: In the beginning, Lord, You established the earth, and the heavens are the works of Your hands; 11 They will perish, but You remain. They will all wear out like clothing; 12. You will roll them up like a cloak, But, You are the same, and Your years will never end.

Third, God is the main character in the Bible. He is the subject of the first verb in the Bible (in fact, He is the subject of more verbs than any other character) and performs a wider variety of activities than any other being in the Bible.

Fourth, as Creator, God has done what no human being could ever do; in its active form the Hebrew verb bara', meaning "to create," never has a human subject. Thus bara' signifies a work that is uniquely God's.

Fifth, God is mysterious; though the Hebrew word for God is plural, the verb form of which "God" is the subject is singular. This is perhaps a subtle allusion to God's Trinitarian nature: He is three divine persons in one divine essence.

Sixth, God is the Creator of heaven and earth. He doesn't just modify pre-existing matter but calls matter into being out of nothing.

Psalm 33:6-9:

The heavens were made by the word of the LORD, and all the stars, by the breath of His mouth, He gathers the waters of the sea into a heap; He puts the depths into storehouses. Let the whole earth tremble before the LORD; let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of Him. For He spoke, and it came into being; He commanded, and it came into existence.

Hebrews 11:3

3 By faith we understand that the universe was Or the worlds were, or the ages were created by God's command, Gen 1:1; Jn 1:3; 2Pt 3:5 so that what is seen has been made from things that are not visible.

Seventh, God is not dependent on the universe, but the universe is totally dependent on God.

Hebrews 1:3

3 The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven.

The Bible (*Literally means The Book*) It is a book composed of 66 smaller books, divided into two sections -- The Old and the New Testament. The Old begins in Genesis and ends with Malachi. The New Testament begins with the Gospel of Matthew and ends with The Revelation. The Geneva Bible became the first English translation in

1560 to be divided into chapters and verses to make it simple to find passages. A reference is noted like this *Matthew 5:44* (Book name chapter, then verse).

The Old Testament

The Old Testament is the record of the former “testament”, contract or covenant between God and man before Christ came and fulfilled its requirements.

It consists of:

The Pentateuch (*The five books of Moses*)

Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, & Deuteronomy

The Historical books

Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1&2 Samuel, 1& 2 Kings, 1&2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, & Esther

The Wisdom books

Job, Psalm, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon

The Major and Minor Prophets

Major: *Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, Daniel*

Minor: *Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi*

The New Testament

This section of the Bible is the record of the New Covenant between God and man that was mediated through Jesus Christ. It is divided into the four _____ (*Literally means Good News*), Matthew, Mark, Luke & John, revealing the teachings, life, death and Resurrection of Jesus. The book of Acts describes the birth of the Church. Revelation reveals the end time. The books between Acts & Revelation are known as the

Epistles, letters written primarily by Paul, John & Peter to the early church.

What Is Being Born Again?

When a person finally agrees they are _____ by sin, far from God and His righteousness and don't know how to get right. When they are ready to get sin out of their life then they are ready for Jesus.

The Apostle Paul cried from the depth of his heart, "Oh wretched man that I am!" When King David, with all his power, wealth and women surveyed all that the world's wealth had brought to his heart; he concluded that "they whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered, whose sin the Lord will never count against him." (*Romans 4:7-8*) They are the ones who are truly blessed.

Example of Nicodemus John Chapter 3

Many people think they are Christians because they believe Jesus existed and loves them. Armed with only that knowledge they set out to obey the rules of being a good Christian. They're like Nicodemus, a Pharisee, who secretly met with Jesus but had not been Born Again. You'll find out about him in the book of John, Chapter 3. Nicodemus loved Jesus' approach to the Law. The Law that God gave to the world through Moses on Mt. Sinai.

The Law & The Spirit

When we learn the Ten Commandments we are learning the foundation of the Law. Jesus taught the spirit of the law. He demonstrated the heart and love that the spiritual nature of the law was intended to portray. However, Nicodemus was only capable of understanding it with his carnal nature. He embraced it like you would a system of beliefs and logical rules. Maybe Jesus' set of ideas was intriguing to him because it made Judaism feel a bit more personal. Maybe he noticed he felt a bit closer to God. Jesus knew that Nicodemus was trying by mental assent to be convinced that Jesus was the Messiah. He was trying to embrace

Jesus' teaching with his "natural" understanding. Philosophy is a logical system of understanding, a set of rules, a code of conduct or a mental discipline.

If Jesus hadn't intervened, Nicodemus would've just added more to the Mosaic Law he learned to respect. So how would Jesus get Nicodemus to reach beyond the natural limits of his own mind? How would he set Nicodemus and all who would come to believe in Him free from the bondage of rules and philosophy and the confinements of the natural mind? How would he introduce the Carnal natural mind to the Holy Spirit?

You must be born again

He began by throwing a wrench in the wheel spokes of the Law. He told Nicodemus that to enter the Kingdom of Heaven, "You must be born again." That statement was stunning and perplexing to Nicodemus. Little did he know that obeying the law was never intended to permanently save anyone from eternal condemnation. God knew that we could not obey it. It was designed to be like a mirror that only reflects our spiritual image so we can see the truth of what we are – loveless, depraved and spiritually dead!

When we hear the law, we find out that we are broken and need repair because the law tells us about God's holiness. When we compare ourselves to the holiness of God we soon realize that we are unable to be like Him. _____ is the condition necessary for any being to fellowship with God. Nicodemus, like the rest of us, was trying to find a way to become holy, by obeying the rules. The problem was, in his lost, _____ condition, he could not obey it. He was cursed with the absolute failure produced by the sinful nature.

Now in your natural mind you may be thinking that Jesus must have meant some spiritual analogy. Are you, like Nicodemus, thinking you can't return to the womb to be birthed again? Was he preaching reincarnation?

NO. Being reconciled to God is not about you learning to be good or by

you obeying some rules. In fact, the only thing you can do is let Him give it you. This class will give you the scriptural foundations of the New Birth and help you understand what He meant and how to live as a three part being in unity with the Holy Spirit. Getting the most from these lessons requires you use your faith to embrace His truths and connect with the Holy Spirit.

Most importantly, you will personally begin to discern the voice & will of God. Getting the most from these lessons requires you use your _____ to embrace His truths and connect with the _____.

As you read the Word, ALWAYS invite the _____ to help you understand what you are reading. Ask Him to be your teacher to help you see and hear His truths. Ask for “revelation”.

As you pursue the Lord in reading the Word, at some point you will become aware of the Holy Spirit’s presence as He brings certain scripture to life in your understanding. As you are reading you will find passages that seem to leap off the page right into your heart. This will be the _____ of the Holy Spirit activating your faith to build you up as you encounter Him in the word. A person must come to terms with the fact that you simply DO NOT know what you do not know.

John 16:13

13 But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come

1 Corinthians 2:9-10:

9. However, as it is written: “No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him”

10. but God has revealed it to us by his Spirit.

1 Corinthians 2:10-1:

10. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God.

11. For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the man's spirit within him? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God.

12. We have not received the spirit of the world but the Spirit who is from God, that we may understand what God has freely given us.

13. This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, expressing spiritual truths in spiritual words.

14. The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned.

It is a great comfort to entertain the Holy Spirit as you read the Bible. As you read passages that seem meaningless to your natural mind He will give you understanding. When the Holy Spirit makes the mysterious truths of God found in the Bible known to your Spirit it is _____
_____ That revelation is known as a “Rhema” word. While you will have some understanding of personalities and events simply because of your reading comprehension, the _____ and _____ of God can only be discerned as the Holy Spirit shows it to you. His responses to the people in scripture suddenly become real and personal to you not just as though you’re simply reading about them like a contemporary novel, but as a living emotional part of who you are. He brings them to life and the words seem to capture your heart & mind in a way that infuses His truths into who you are, and transforms your very nature. It empowers you to do without effort what was impossible moments before. Every believer will grow in their “**spiritual comprehension**” as they wrap their faith around the Word as the “Teacher brings what HE CHOOSES to life in you. But “All scripture is God breathed and useful for instruction.” The Word of God will help you discern all truth and the Spirit of God teaches you through it.

Something to keep in mind is every human being will give account for their words & actions as judged by the Word of God. Ignorance of the Word will not work as a defense. The Word of God will help you discern all truth and the Spirit of God teaches you through it.

2 Timothy 3:16-17

16. All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, 17. so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

This is a listing of the books most easily received. They will work to set you free from existing bondages and protecting you from traps the enemy of your soul has laid to make you fail. Hide his Word in your heart. Fully regard it with all respect and you will preserve yourself and others.

Plan for those New to Reading the Bible

Some Bibles are printed with the words that Christ spoke in red ink. Those will highlight the very spoken words of Jesus. Read through the gospels. Then begin reading through the first five books of the Bible. While you are doing that, also read through Proverbs a few portions at a time. While you are reading the first five books you may also want to read portions of Romans. Once you have completed these, move through the other New & Old Testament history & wisdom books. The prophets couple with the History books as they interacted with the Kings of Israel



Gospels (Red Letters)

Matthew, Mark, Luke, John

Pentateuch (1/2)

Genesis, Exodus

NT Epistles

Romans, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1 & 2 Corinthians, *through Jude*

Wisdom books

Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Psalms, Job, Song of songs,

History Books

NT- Acts, OT, 1 & 2 Kings,

1 & 2 Chronicles,

1 & 2 Samuel, Joshua, Judges

Narratives

Esther, Ruth, Jonah, Daniel, Nehemiah

Prophets, Pentateuch & Revelation (2/2)

Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezra, Numbers, Deuteronomy, Leviticus
(from MystudyBible.com Study notes on Genesis 1:1., Seven truths)

EXERCISE:

1. *What is being “born again”?*
2. *Is the Bible just human understanding of God out into a book?*
3. *In the beginning God created.....why is this such an important scripture to know?*

THIS WEEK’S BIBLE READING: Matthew 1-13

Use the Epistles Bible Study tool as you read. The next session will come from a portion of this book. Return your completed form for credit. You will get much more from the time if you prepare in advance by reading prayerfully through the assignment:

ANSWERS:

- Pg 1 Believe, become
Pg. 3 Nature, Mind, power
Pg 4 God
Pg 6 Gospels
Pg 7 Broken
Pg 8 Holiness, Gospels
Pg. 9 Faith, Holy Spirit, Holy Spirit, Supernatural work
Pg 10 Divine revelation, nature, will