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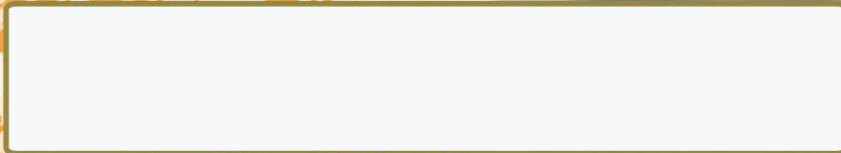
# Infusion

Become

Believe

Belong

Befriend



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



### Become

*Establish HOW we have the power to overcome temptations and RULE over personal sin as Christ did because His divine nature is deposited in EVERY born-again believer. Three-part being, nature of prayer, Bible covenants*

1. About the Bible – *Matthew 1-13*
2. A Matter of Birth - *Matthew 14-28*
3. New Creation – *Genesis 1-10*
4. The Body of Christ– *Genesis 11-30*
5. Promise Kept– *Genesis 31-50*
6. Renew Your Mind - *Mark*
7. Pray with Understanding - *Luke*
8. Free from Hurts – *John*
9. Pray, New Way-*Proverbs, Psalms Chapter/Day*
10. Confession and Transparency-*Ecclesiastes*
11. Laws of Love & Faith -*Deuteronomy*

### Believe

*Christ empowerment for Supernatural living through the Holy Spirit and the future events as foretold in scripture*

1. Bait of Satan – *Jeremiah*
2. Overcoming, Devil & his strategies - *Exodus*
3. The power of spoken words - *Joshua*
4. Strengthen and increase your faith - *Judges*
5. Receive and Activate Spiritual Gifts - *Ruth*
6. Healing by the word of faith – *1 Kings*
7. New Future - *Jonah & Esther*
8. The End of Evil – *1 Samuel*
9. New Heaven – *2 Samuel*
10. The Anointing of the Holy Spirit - *Isaiah*

### Belong

*Infusing into the purposes & plans of Christ in and FROM His Church about my Fathers work, pursuit of calling.*

1. Under Cover – *1 & 2 Timothy*
2. The Law of Brokenness & Service - *Ephesians*
3. Spiritual Warfare – *1 Thessalonians*
4. Entering the Vision - *Malachi*
5. Designed by God–Personality Discovery -*Acts 1-8*
6. Designed by God–Motivational Gifts *1 Corinthians*
7. What about Trials-*2 Corinthians*
8. Praise & Worship -*Philemon*
9. The mystery of Grace- *Revelation 1-3*
10. Biblical Financial Stewardship – *Acts 9-17*
11. A New Kingdom - *Acts 18-28*

### Befriend

*Leading others to what you have found in Christ "Because they have Love one for another" relationship in the kingdom*

1. The Why of Evangelism - *Galatians*
2. Walk in Love's Fruit -*Romans 1-8*
3. Winning the Lost begins in prayer-*Romans 9-16*
4. The Ways of Evangelism...part 1 -*Colossians*
5. The Ways of Evangelism...part 2 -*Philippians*
6. Honors Reward - *1st, 2nd, 3rd John & Jude*
7. Generational Bondages- *James, Titus*
8. Shepherding a Heart – *1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Peter*
9. The Missionary World Changers-*2 Thessalonians*
10. Fear of the Lord – *Hebrews*



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# Teacher Training:

## **Prepare their hearts to receive:**

Remind students that they will see God confirm His word each week. As they apply it to their lives and put matters of difference to prayer, God will create circumstances that confirm what they have been taught. Someone may echo the same thoughts they heard in class. Some circumstance will fall perfectly into place. Many times Pastor steps into the pulpit and unknowingly repeats a key precept discussed the same morning. These miraculous assurances, by the Holy Spirit, will also build your own confidence that God is indeed present with you as you teach this course.

## **Expect God to do Great Things During the Session**

The word of God is a sure thing. When you teach it you can be sure He will confirm it. When you teach on the supernatural like the Gifts of the Spirit, Baptism in the Holy Spirit, Healing, Salvation, Deliverance, Forgiveness; you can expect God will move in accordance to the faith of those hearing the Word.

## **Get Supplied**

Take the time to pre-read the material so you have a keen understanding of the lesson. Also, check for lesson materials needed for this class and for the coming week, to be sure you have ample supplies. Make enough to have a few extra for your class.

## **Prepare Your Own Heart to Receive**

Prepare your heart by reading the lesson and thinking of how the material has impacted you personally. Examine growth and measure it against where you want to be. Is there room yet to take what you are about to teach others to a higher level for yourself. Determine to put it into practice.

## REPORT Editing Needs

Make notes of any typos, rough editing spots, thoughts & illustrations that could be added in your teacher's manual and discuss with Sister Cindy so updates can be made.

## Keep Records

Record the attendance of your students. You may ask one of them to help you with this. Also, keep up with Students completing and turning in the surveys. These tools help them take the word deeper and also help you know if you are being effective in your teaching methods. Keep attendance & materials in the designated place so it can be located by staff if needed.

## Stay Connected

The students in your class are on a journey to draw closer to God. The pastors are the authority for this local church. Notify them of anything troubling or that creates a safety issue for other people attending.

If you are having trouble directing the flow of the class or staying on the authorized material consult Sis. Cindy. She will be able to help you overcome those hindrances. Don't let disruptions continue. Everyone is counting on you to succeed. The Pastors are there to help you.







## International School of Ministry®

This is a Biblical Ministry training that is accredited through Vision International is recognized and accepted by Church of the Promise and many other churches & institutions globally. It features a strong Bible based Missions and Local Church emphasis to equip Believers to fulfill their calling.

The internationally-recognized name for the International School of Ministry® which is the world's largest video Bible school with more than 17,000 training sites in 145 nations.

## BIBICAL STUDIES COURSE:

As Students go through the Infusion Course there will be self-directed Bible reading and Essay assignments available to be completed each week between sessions. These are optional but may be counted as Credits through Vision International and possibly be accepted with I.S.O.M. A student may receive this credit through satisfactorily completing lesson assignments. If they choose to acquire the credit, they may include it as one course electives at their ISOM registration should you choose to complete the ISOM Training through Church of the Promise. Normal Course fees will apply if credit is sought. If no course credit is requested; then there are no required fees for participation. All extra



Welcome

to:



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 believe, it is something you become. 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 #1



### The Word of God

Understanding the nature and mind 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 power. 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 God. 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 Gospels (*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 broken 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. Holiness 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, natural 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 faith to embrace His truths and connect with the Holy Spirit.

As you read the Word, ALWAYS invite the Holy Spirit 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 supernatural work 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 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.*

***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*

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 *divine revelation*. 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 *nature* and *will* 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

1. from *MystudyBible.com* Study notes on Genesis 1:1., Seven truths

## EXERCISE:

1. What is being "born again"? (*birth into spiritual life; Holy Spirit comes to live inside of you*)
2. Is the Bible just human understanding of God out into a book? (*it's written by humans inspired by God.*)
3. In the beginning God created.....why is this such an important scripture to know? (*as a Christian you have to get this settled in your heart firmly...I believe God created. Without this foundational truth being firmly settled in the heart of a believer, you will not be able to believe anything else the Bible says and will not be able to take God's truths as your own.*)

## 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.*



# Matter of Birth

## Session #2



### I. A Matter of Birth or Adoption?

- a. There are many religions in the world but only one has a God who died for you. Others require you to die for them. Only one transforms your life by infusion of the Holy Spirit.

*John 1:11, 12*

*"He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God."*

In this passage the two requirements for becoming a child of God are to receive and believe.

The only entrance to **EARTH LIFE** is by **NATURAL BIRTH**:

The only entrance to **SPIRITUAL LIFE** is by **SPIRITUAL BIRTH**:

Becoming a Christian is a matter of receiving.

Being a Christian is a matter of believing.

- b. **New Birth**, getting Saved, Born Again, Encounter with Christ – What ever words you use to describe it, it is an EXPERIENCE! The very instant you receive Christ, the life and nature of God gives life to your spirit. You were recreated – born again! In the sight of God all sin and every vestige of your past life was blotted out. All you had been ceased to exist and you became a new creation, a new human being in Christ Jesus.

*Titus 3:3-5:*

*3. At one time we too were foolish, disobedient, deceived and enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures. We lived in malice and envy, being hated and hating one another.*

*4. But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared,*

*5. he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit,*

*6. whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior,*

*7. so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.*

*2 Corinthians 5:17:*

*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!*

**John 3:6:**

*Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit.*

c. **Physically, we are born of human parents, and we partake of their human nature.** Spiritually, we are born of God, and we partake of His nature. The moment you accept Jesus Christ as your Savior and confess from your heart that He is your Lord, you are born again. At that moment the Redemption that Jesus provided for you 2000 years ago becomes a reality to you. The very Life and Nature of God is imparted into your spirit. In **Genesis 2:7**, "God breathed the breath of life into Adam and he became a living soul." In **John 20:22** Jesus said "...as the Father has sent me, I am sending you." And with that He breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit..."

d. **Before being born again**, you are what the Bible calls a natural being, consisting of spirit, soul and body, but your spirit is dead in trespasses and sin. Now the power of the Holy Spirit causes your spirit to become alive to God. In other words the very life of God enters into your spirit making it alive. All things inside became new and you passed from death to life. Jesus offers a New Birth, giving each of us the incomparable opportunity to have God's image and likeness renewed in us.

**Romans 8:10:**

*And if Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the spirit is life because of righteousness.*

**Ephesians 2:1:**

*Once you were dead because of your disobedience and your many sins. (NLT)*

**Ephesians 2:5:**

*made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions--it is by grace you have been saved (KJV).*

**1 John 3:1:**

*We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love our brothers. Anyone who does not love remains in death. (NIV)*

e. **Before being born again**, you are a citizen of the Kingdom of darkness following its mandates which are abhorrent to God.

f. **The first man Adam was created in God's image with a will, the power of choice, and the ability to choose.** His transgression was done in the light of absolute knowledge. He was not deceived by Satan. He understood the steps that led to the crime. **1 Timothy 2:3, 14.** Satan desired to bring Spiritual death in the life of man because of his bitter hatred toward God. Knowing what man meant to the Father, Satan's objective has been to separate the union between God and man and bring man under bondage to himself and to destruction. When Satan tempted Adam and Eve, they chose to believe that Satan was right. They chose to disobey God's way and this disobedience was sin. When they sinned, they died spiritually. It was 930 years later when Adam died physically because his body had become mortal, that is doomed to die.

g. **Spiritual death** occurred when Adam's spirit was separated from the Spirit of God. And since Adam and

Eve were spiritually dead, all of their children were born subject to the same condition. You are one of their kids. First spiritual death came and then physical death. Spiritual death is not a state of non-existence; it is a condition of separation from God and in union with Satan. **Romans 5:12**, "sin entered by one man, Adam, and death by sin." Sin, as well as death is universal!

**Romans 5:12**

*Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned.*

- h. **Just as sin**, entering the mind of Lucifer caused his fall, sin entering man caused man's fall. Even in his fallen state as a sinner, man was still the choicest of God's creation and the chief object of His love. Fallen, but not beyond HOPE! Two Reasons:

**FIRST**, man had not invented sin. His fall wasn't from a desire completely his own as Lucifer's was, but by temptation of Satan. **Gen.3:1-6**.

**SECOND**, even though man committed sin, he did not identify with sin, but fled from it as something foreign to his nature. Man was NOT a devil. He could feel what sin was doing to him and made efforts to get away from it. **Gen.3:7-10; 19**.

Now Christ offers to restore spiritual life to us. With our spirit reborn and growing in Him we become a complete three part being once again; Spirit, Soul and Body.

- i. **In John chapter 3** Jesus asked Nicodemus a question that He knew he couldn't answer. He wanted Nicodemus to recognize his spiritual condition.

**John 3:10**

*"You are Israel's teacher," said Jesus, "and do you not understand these things? (NIV)*

Jesus is causing a spiritually blind man to recognize that he can not see spiritual things. Because you were spiritually dead you were unable to receive or understand the spiritual truths of God. Scripture says Satan had us blinded.

**Ephesians 2:2**

*wherein ye once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the powers of the air, of the spirit that now worketh in the sons of disobedience ;( KJV)*

**John 12:40**

*"He has blinded their eyes and deadened their hearts, so they can neither see with their eyes, nor understand with their hearts, nor turn--and I would heal them."(NIV)*

**2 Corinthians 4:4**

*In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of the unbelieving, that the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should not dawn upon them.(A.5)*

j. Now Jesus goes on to tell him who He is, what He knows, and how God will change things through Him.

**John 3:11-12**

*I tell you the truth, we speak of what we know, and we testify to what we have seen, but still you people do not accept our testimony.*

*12. I have spoken to you of earthly things and you do not believe; how then will you believe if I speak of heavenly things? (NIV)*

k. He was saying that Nicodemus had only seen things on earth and only understood the physical realm. But Jesus was divine and had been in heaven and could share spiritual truths; if Nicodemus would not believe Jesus about Natural things how would he understand him in Spiritual things?

The answer to Jesus' question was, you can not because your spirit is dead, but God has a plan to change that if you will receive it

**John 3: 13-15**

*13. No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven--the Son of Man.*

*14. Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the desert, so the Son of Man must be lifted up,*

*15. That everyone who believes in him may have eternal life. (NIV)*

l. We know how Christ went to the cross, died, was buried and rose again. And this is the plan that would make it possible for your spirit to be re-born.

## YOUR CONDITION AFTER THE NEW BIRTH.

Answer the following T-True, F-False.

T F 1. Receiving Christ and being born again are two ways of saying the same thing. *(John 1:11-13)*

T F 2. The New birth is one way of being part of God's kingdom but not necessary. *(John 3:3-7).*

T F 3. At the moment you are born again you have passed from death to life. *(John 5:24)*

## The Big Picture

i. Man had a problem

According to scripture **ALL** are guilty.

**Romans 3:12**

*All have turned away, they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good, not even one."*

**Romans 3:23**

*For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;*

Sin cost us our **Life.**



**Romans 6:23**

*For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

ii. God had a plan

He sent His Son to make a way for us to have life again.

**John 3:16**

*"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.*

**Romans 5:8**

*But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*

**1 Peter 2:24**

*He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed.*

**1 Peter 3:18**

*For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive by the Spirit,*

iii. Man's response

If we believe in our heart and confess with our mouth that Jesus  
Is Lord, we shall be saved.

**Romans 10:8-10**

*8. But what does it say? "The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart, "that is, the word of faith we are proclaiming;*

*9. That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.*

*10. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved. (NIV)*

IV. God's Answer

No one can condemn you.

**Romans 8:1, 2**

*1. Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus,*

*2. Because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death. (NIV)*



**(Object Lesson):**

Our new spirit is similar to the physical property of this glass. It is clear just as our spirit is pure and clean. It has no sin and is free from the effects of sin. The glass itself will stay transparent even if something sticks to its surface. What can and does commonly happen is Christians fall into a very subtle deception. Because the flesh is not yet changed; it is still weak and must be transformed. This transformation is a growth process known as sanctification. To sanctify something is to separate it for a specific

purpose. A healthy Christian's mind and body are daily being renewed through the word. We will cover this subject in more detail in following chapters. The deception is that the weakness of the flesh becomes evident; the sin seems to be through and through. Soon the unsuspecting Christian forgets their spirit has been brought back to life and their flesh will be made new in the resurrection. They can succumb to living under the law and the bondage it brings. So for now we must learn to rule our minds and bodies through the **New Creation, New Man, Inner Being, or Spirit man**. All these terms are used in scripture to describe your spirit that was made righteous when you were born again. Without this knowledge when a Christian is convicted of known sin they can easily believe that they are destined for Hell, because sin has not let go of them or it has regained control. The weakness of their flesh has not been dealt with by the power of the spirit and faith in the Word to change the attitudes of their minds. When a person in this condition looks at his condition in light of the commandments, they believe they are condemned. The deception is that they cannot see themselves anymore as being righteous in Christ because the enemy has them focused on the flesh.



In this picture, the clear glass is covered with mud. The properties of the glass did not change. It is simply coated on the outside. All that needs to happen is that it be washed. It is the same with a Christian who is under condemnation. They simply need to be washed with the renewing power of the Word. As we come into agreement with the principles of the Bible, it will wash away the attitudes we have that prompt us to be sinful.

Now you need to know that God is not partial to one person or another. Everyone has equal opportunity.

*Romans 3:22 This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference, (NIV)*

### **Exercise:**

1. Ask the Holy Spirit to give you full understanding of the three part being and the New Birth.
2. What will walking in the spirit do for you?
3. Share your understanding with your group leader and after that with any one who will listen.
4. Practice teaching someone else about the saving knowledge of Christ.
4. Write a salvation prayer for someone who needs the Lord.

### **THIS WEEK'S BIBLE READING: Matthew 14-28**

*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.*

# A New Creation

## ONE BEING; Three Parts

### Session #3

~ ~ ◆ ✘ ◆ ❄ ◆ ✚ ◆ ❄ ◆ ✘ ◆ ~ **BECOME** ~ ◆ ✘ ◆ ❄ ◆ ✚ ◆ ❄ ◆ ✘ ◆ ~ ~

*\*\*One of the greatest strategies Satan uses to cause born again Christians to live defeated is their lack of understanding concerning their 3 part being. This lack will allow them to be subjected to "condemnation". Condemnation is when a Christian lives as though he is still under the judgment of the Law instead of the freedom of the Spirit. In an older believer they can begin to walk in a "religious spirit" that is really their own flesh. They become as the Pharisees. This happens because they are relying on their ability to "DO" what the law requires instead of the Spirit's ability to cause us to "BE" what is required. Both ways are "SELF righteous and lead to a defeated Christian walk. So in this session we will look at ...*

- What happens to New Believers?
- What can be expected?
- How to continue to grow?

#### I. What happens to New Believers? *John 3:1-21*

- a. Understanding what happens to a person who is Born Again is VERY important to being able to live a life that reflects on the outside what has occurred on the inside. Exposure to the requirements of God's Holiness will either soften or harden the heart. People exposed to it will either choose to resist & run from God or they will choose to cry out to him for forgiveness.

*"The same sun that hardens the clay softens the clay".. The Bible is the most powerful book ever written. No other book draws the reactions that the Bible does. Take the Bible out of church, into any other crowd of people and you will get a reaction of one sort or another. Even without the actual book the word that is in you will also draw reactions and so will the Spirit of God. Exposure to God's ways creates response and we should do everything to be sure that our response is the right one, and that it comes from the child like faith in us that Christ spoke of.*

- b. They must take on the faith of a child Jesus spoke of.

*In the gospels we read that Jesus took a child upon his knee and told the crowd that to enter the kingdom of God they must become as the child. He didn't mean their "goodness" because we all know that small kids are BAD! He meant in the total dependence of the child upon the parent to provide for them and make decisions for them. A child may argue with a parent about a decision but they don't normally oppose the parent's right to make them. They are dependent upon them to make choices for them. We must in the same way become dependent upon the Lord to make decisions for us too. "In all your ways acknowledge Him and He shall direct your paths." There is a way that seems right to a man but the end of it is destruction."*

- c. The Lord has provided a way for you to have the ability to trust Him through the renewed Spirit. *You can now bring your rebellious heart under the authority of the Love of God. This is what the Bible says the Lord will do when we do bring it to Him:*

***Ezekiel 36:26-***

*I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your impurities and from all your idols. I will give you a new heart and put a New Spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh.*

- d. Those who ask God to receive them will experience the rebirth of their spirit that was dead because of sin. He makes NO differences between one sinner or another. Anyone who asks will receive this MIRACLE.

***Acts 15:9***

*and He made no distinction between us and them, cleansing their hearts by faith*

- e. It is a miracle. The Spirit of God brings back to life the spirit that was dead before because of sin. The death that Adam & Eve were warned about in the garden of Eden that happens to every human being is spiritual death. This FIRST death of the spirit is the separation of Man from God, and has the same effect spiritually as separating a vital organ like your heart or brain from the rest of your body. It brings instant Spiritual death. All humanity is under the curse of human depravity caused by the separation of mankind from God.

*Before a person is born again they are no different than the beast of the field since they have no way to communicate with God. They are only body & soul*

- f. Jesus told us about the NEW BIRTH in *John chapter 3* so we would understand the distinction between our soul & spirit. Our mind doesn't detect the difference.

*Think about the first time YOU heard the term "Born again". It probably sounded absurd to your natural mind and it was supposed to. Jesus was trying to describe unseen things with things that are seen.*

***John 3:6***

*Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit.*

## II. What can be expected?

- a. When a person surrenders to Christ they will receive the miracle of new birth. This experience is often flooded with emotion as the humiliating weight of guilt & shame from sin that had previously separated them from God is lifted. It is replaced by the overwhelming presence of God's love because the Holy Spirit literally begins to live within the new Christian.

***John 3:6***

<sup>6</sup> *Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit.*

- b. Shaking, tears, sobbing, and brokenness are common overwhelming emotions that result from this and all other encounters with the Lord that follow. It is the work of the Person of the Holy Spirit. God is doing the work in person as the Holy Spirit.

**1 Peter 1:2:**

*<sup>2</sup> who have been chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through the sanctifying work of the Spirit, to be obedient to Jesus Christ and sprinkled with his blood: Grace and peace be yours in abundance*

- c. Once a person is born again the natural expectation is that the life they once lived will be different now. Well, that is true. It certainly will be. But the first changes have happened deep in the "inner man".

**Colossians 3:10**

*and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator*

**2 Corinthians 5:17**

*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!*

- d. Though they are the same in basic outer appearance, the condition in the spirit of the person completely changes. The inner man is made alive and new.

**2 Corinthians 4:16**

*So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day.*

- e. Most people first experience a love & zeal for the Lord. One evidence, is peaked interest in the things of God, such as sermon messages that used to be of no interest. Now they seem to be suddenly filled with truth that is inspiring and impacting. That is because it is the work of the Holy Spirit to make His truth known to the believer. His truth can only be discerned by a person who has a renewed spirit.

**1 Corinthians 2:14**

*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.*

- f. More evidence is a deep appreciation comes for others who also love the Lord.

**John 13:34-35**

*34. "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, 35. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."*

- g. They find themselves more aware of the Lord's very presence in times when they are speaking to the Lord. Prayer life is no longer a vain occupation but an active conversation with a loving and Holy God.

**John 6:44**

*"No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up on the last day."*

### III. How to continue to grow?

- a. Sometimes new believers don't know what the word says about their new state of being. So they can be deceived into thinking that they are powerless to overcome sin. It is very important for them to know that their new Spirit is not corrupt. However, not only is their old carnal nature still corrupt, but it also wars to regain control.

#### *Galatians 5:17*

*For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want.*

#### The Balloon Illustration: (Teacher Instructions)

Blow air into a balloon to stretch it. Let air out. Take a toy person and push it into the balloon. Blow air into the balloon until the toy can bounce freely inside. Pinch to begin lesson.

Show how the toy (Spirit man) has no control. The balloon (flesh) does. The balloon is like the flesh when it is strong. But when you hand control over to God, (hand balloon to someone else & let the air out) the toy now controls the balloon. Stretch the balloon so the shape of the figure inside is imposed on the balloon. While the carnal nature is corrupt we do not have to obey it. We simply lean on the leadings of the Holy Spirit and not our own understanding and we will then be able to be free from the control of the sinful nature that dominated us before Christ.



- b. While the carnal nature is corrupt we do not have to obey it. We simply lean on the leadings of the Holy Spirit and not our own understanding and we will then be able to be free from the control of the sinful nature that dominated us

before Christ.

*This toy man in the balloon is like our inner man or renewed spirit. When the flesh is in control our spirit is subject to it. The word of God works to defeat the hold flesh has by renewing our mind. Like a baker punches down bread dough the Holy Spirit will use the Word to change how we think and give our spirit control.*

#### *Proverbs 3:6*

*In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.*

- c. If you are not constantly aware of His presence, and submitting to His will, then you are living as a God-less person. This is changed as we submit to the Holy Spirit and allow Him to grow our "inner man".

#### *1 Peter 2:2*

*Like newborn babies, you must crave pure spiritual milk so that you will grow into a full experience of salvation. Cry out for this nourishment.*

### IV, DISCERNING the FLESH by responding in FAITH

- a. God's answer to your prayer is normally not what you want to hear. A mature person has outgrown self-centered, demanding tantrums. Good parenting has this behavior under control by the time a child reaches four years old. But in the heart, if you are angry, disappointed or discouraged when anyone doesn't give you the answer you wanted, then like an ungoverned child, you were never asking to begin with. Loving-kindness respects the "WILL" of others. Satan wants EVERYONE beginning with God to BOW to his satanic will. When you expect God or others to bow to your will you are in agreement with satanic thought. When you won't allow God's messengers to speak the CLEAR word of God into your life you are in rebellion directly against God. That's a really bad place to be. This is the condition of a person

who lives apart from the spirit with an *un-surrendered will*. That cursed condition is the case for all humanity; so the person who lives this way has plenty of company. But God has made a way for us to *escape* this condition.

**1 Corinthians 10:13**

*There has no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that you are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that you may be able to bear it.*

- b. God gives free will to ALL men. He also gives full warning regarding consequences of the choices made. He put YOU in control of YOU!

*There was a father whose son became old enough to drive and asked to use his father's car. So the son went in the car to meet some other fella's. These fella's took the keys from him and set the young man on foot as they drove off to have fun. When he got home he told the father about it. He thought the father would go take care of the matter for him. But instead the father grabbed the spare set handed it to the son and told the son you lost the car now you go get the car back. In the same way Adam let the devil take the earth from Him. Jesus hands the authority back to us and says now go get the earth back. That son won't let the car be wrestled from him so easily again.*

- c. You are a speaking spirit that has a soul and lives in a body.

**Galatians 5:18**

*But if you be led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. If the desire of the Spirit prevails.*

**Romans 8:14** *Those led of the Spirit are the sons of God and are free from the law.*

- d. Choose to be cherished by the heart of your Father. Free yourself from wants that drive you to sacrifice, but lead only to temporary satisfaction.

**Colossians 3:2**

*Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.*

**Matthew 6:20**

*But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal.*

- e. Pursue instead the greater gain of simply knowing Him. It is joy that lasts, Pleasure that never fades, Freedom that will not be lost and Peace that cannot be disturbed. God IS in control of your life as you stay yielded in the Spirit.

**Genesis 4:7**

*If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must master it."*

- f. It is more than important that we seek repentance and not only relief from our problems. It is vital to our lives that we seek the Lord and His counsel. He will turn your troubles into opportunities that will bring you more than you hoped for if you remain in His will.
- g. A person who won't surrender to the Lord, WILL surrender to EVERY evil. A person who lives without the counsel of the Word of God lives outside the Will of God. Outside of God's will there is only

circumstance and odds to grant anyone success and the "odds" are stacked against them to the point that there is no hope.

## V. BREAKING UP WITH "SELF"

- a. You can't follow Jesus anywhere until you are willing to deny yourself.

***Matthew 16:24-26***

*Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will find it. What good will it be for a man if he gains the whole world, yet forfeits his soul? Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul?"*

- b. The word "deny" is the same word as "disown". Christianity literally begins with giving ownership over to God.

***1 Corinthians 6:19b-20a***

*"You are not your own; you were... bought at a price."*

- c. Setting your heart to seek the Lord and His will begins with a truly repentant heart. This example is one of King David's prayers for help in surrendering to God. It should resonate in your heart as you echo the same thoughts.

***Psalms 51:1-13***

*"Create in me a clean heart Oh God, and renew a right Spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence Oh Lord. Take not Your Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of my salvation. Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will turn back to you."*

- d. Those who receive the new birth experience receive assurance of their salvation, because the spirit within them is now infused with permanent life. It is made permanently pure as we feed it the Living Word of God.

***1 Peter 1:23***

*"For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God."*

***Titus 3:5***

*"He saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of His mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit."*

- e. A person who is born again must direct the very thoughts of their mind to be in agreement with the Holy Spirit. If they do not they will live life still directed by the CARNAL NATURE. The sinful nature will reign as though it's undefeated in their lives.

***Romans 8:5***

*<sup>5</sup> Those who live according to the flesh have their minds set on what the flesh desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires.*

- f. More evidence of the Spirit being in control is maintaining a heart that is Humble before God and men.



*Psalm 34:18*

*"Jehovah is near to those that are of a broken heart, and save them that are of a contrite Spirit."*

- g. Christianity is not about doing it is all about being.

*Acts 17:28*

*"In Him we live and move and have our being."*

## VI. A MATTER OF BEING

- a. Being a new creation, being in Christ, being forgiven, being filled with the Holy Spirit, being child-like in faith, being transformed by the renewing of your mind, being accepted, and being in the spirit lets you BE a doer of the word. Some of these "being" are verbs.

*Romans 12:2*

*Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is--his good, pleasing and perfect will.*

- b. "Be" transformed by the renewing of your mind. It indicates that God is in the process of transforming you. But you are also "being" transformed.

*2 Corinthians 3:18*

*And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.*

- c. This session was intended to help you get to know what to expect when you experience re-birth. Now here are passages that sum this lesson up.

*Ephesians 4:21-24*

<sup>21</sup> *Surely you heard of him and were taught in him in accordance with the truth that is in Jesus.*

<sup>22</sup> *You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires;*

<sup>23</sup> *to be made new in the attitude of your minds;*

<sup>24</sup> *and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.*

*Romans 6:4*

*Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.*

### Exercise:

1. Briefly describe what takes place when a person receives Christ.

*(become a born again “speaking spirit” that lives in a body and has a soul. All Christ’s righteousness is credited to you.)*

2. What happens as you read the Word of God?  
*(renews your mind and transforms your thinking to God’s way of thinking.)*

**THIS WEEK’S BIBLE READING: Genesis 1-10**

*Use the 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 3 Child, spirit, spiritual death
- Pg 4 New Birth
- Pg 5 Inner Man, suddenly filled
- Pg 7 un-surrendered will, escape
- Pg 9 deny yourself
- Pg 10 doing, being



# The Body of Christ

## A New Family

### Session #4



Just as you were physically born into a family, so it is when you are spiritually born. You enter into a new family, the family of God. By the means of the New Birth you were translated out of the Kingdom of Darkness into the Kingdom of Light.

Just as a new born baby needs to be nurtured by a family, so your faith needs to be nurtured. This is so that you can grow and develop spiritually.

All Christians belong to one body and Jesus is the head. As a member of his body, which is known as the church, you should become a member of a local New Testament church that believes the word of God and exalts Jesus as the Way, the Truth and the Life.

#### *Acts 4:12*

*Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved."*

As a Christian we have spiritual membership with other believers.

#### *Romans 12:5*

*So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one member's one of another.*

A Christian should have regular fellowship with other Christians.

#### *Hebrews 10:25*

*Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.*

## I. New Father

#### *Acts 16:31*

*Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you shall be saved.*

As we covered in sessions on the NEW BIRTH; *Romans 10:9,10* says that if you confess that Jesus is LORD, you will be saved. It's not enough to simply believe in Him like a child believes in the tooth fairy.

He must be Lord over your life. Believing in Jesus as Lord means to trust in, surrender to, and rely upon Him as Savior from sin, and Master and Ruler of your life.

Before receiving Jesus, you thought you were your own master. You believed you made decisions by your own will and emotions. When actually, you were under the dominion of Satan and were a subject in his Kingdom.

*Colossians 1:12,13*

*12. giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the kingdom of light.*

*13. For He has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son He loves, (NIV)*

Now that Jesus is Lord and you have been birthed into the Kingdom of Heaven, you must moment by moment allow Christ to direct your life.

*Proverbs 3:6*

*In all thy ways acknowledge him and he will direct thy paths.*

The response of a New Spirit toward Christ is submission.

*2 Corinthians 5:15*

*And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.*

We should give him worship.

*Romans 12:1, 2*

*1. Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God--this is your spiritual act of worship. (NIV)*

*2. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is--his good, pleasing and perfect will. (NIV)*

Your new Spirit finds it easy to obey God's commands, and this is the evidence of your love of God. Your spirit is very willing, but your flesh is weak.

*John 14:21*

*Whoever has my commands and obeys them, he is the one who loves me. He who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love him and show myself to him."*

What do you think pleases Him most calling Him Lord or doing what He says?

*Luke 6:46, 47*

*46. And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?*

*47 I will show you what he is like who comes to me and hears my words and puts them into practice.*

A person is truly loving God, when they come to him, Hear what He says, and then they DO IT!

In the passage that follows Jesus describes the man who puts his words into practice, as a man who built his house on a rock so that it stands through storms.

Three areas of our lives that should show evidence that Christ is Lord are:

*Our time            Ephesians 5:16*

*Our interest        Philippians 2:3-4*

*Our welfare        Romans 8:28*

The scripture basis for the reality of Christ as Lord and dwelling in us and our having a completely regenerated life is

*Galatians 2:20*

*20. (Paraphrased) ...I, myself, am no longer living, but Christ lives in me and the real life within me is a result of trust in Christ who died for me.*

**The cost of making Jesus Lord:**

A disciple of Jesus must forsake all else:

*Luke 14:33*

In the same way, any of you who does not give up everything he has cannot be my disciple.

There are three things necessary to follow Jesus:

*Luke 9:23*

*Then he said to them all: "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.*

1. *Deny Self*
2. *Take up your cross.*
3. *Follow Jesus.*

Following Jesus means The Holy Spirit will lead us to stop doing some things and sometimes to start doing some things. At all times we should be committed to Him and His perfect will for our lives. We must have open hearts, activated faith, and willing minds.

If we follow Jesus we will receive rewards now and in the world to come.

*Mark 10:30*

*but he shall receive a hundredfold now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life.*

**GOD'S CHILDREN SHOULD BE DIFFERENT FROM THE WORLD.**

How will the world know that you are a disciple of Jesus?

*John 13:35*

*by this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."*

What should be your attitude toward other Christians?

*1John 3:14*

*We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not abideth in death.*

*Romans 15:7*

*Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God.*

What should your attitude be toward fallen Christians?

*Galatians 6:1*

*Brothers, if someone is caught in a sin, you who are spiritual should restore him gently. But watch yourself, or you also may be tempted.*

Should you keep company or have close fellowship with a Christian that is living in sin?

*1 Corinthians 5:11*

*But now I am writing you that you must not associate with anyone who calls himself a brother but is sexually immoral or greedy, an idolater or a slanderer, a drunkard or a swindler. With such a man do not even eat.*

What should your relationship be to the unbelievers?

*II Corinthians 6:14*

14. Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness?
15. What harmony is there between Christ and Belial? What does a believer have in common with an unbeliever?
16. What agreement is there between the temple of God and idols? For we are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "I will live with them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they will be my people."(NIV)

What relationship should we have with those who cause division?

**Romans 16:17, 18**

17. I urge you, brothers, to watch out for those who cause divisions and put obstacles in your way that are contrary to the teaching you have learned. Keep away from them.
- 18 for they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple.

Jesus prayed that believers should be kept from the evil one.

**John 17:15-17**

15. My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one.
16. they are not of the world, even as I am not of it.
17. Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth.

**I. THE PURPOSE OF THE CHURCH**

- A. To get together with other Family Members.

**Acts 2:46, 47**

46. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts,
47. Praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

- B. When you faithfully attend you will be built up by others in the faith.

**Hebrews 10:24, 25**

24. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds.
25. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.



- C. Your faith will grow by hearing God's word.

*Romans 10:17*

*So, then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.*

- D. Fellowship helps us stay clean.

*1 John 1:7*

*but if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.*

- E. God inspires the messages given by the speaker. You can think of them as divine appointments where you will get specific instructions for the next assignment corporately and individually. Missing them leads to a dry spirit and disaster.

## II. New View of the World

- A. Jesus wants you to relate to the world with the same mission He had.

*John 17:18*

*as you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world.*

- B. Jesus came into the world to save it.

*Luke 19:10*

*For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost."*

- C. God is patient toward the lost.

*2 Peter 3:9*

*The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.*

- D. Can the lost be saved without someone telling them?

*Romans 10:14*

*How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?*

## III. Who is over the church?

- A. The church is organized by Jesus!

*Matthew 16:18*

*and I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.*

B. *Jesus* is the head of the church.

*Colossians 1:18*

*And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy.*

C. *Jesus* is the foundation of the church.

*1 Corinthians 3:11*

*for no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ.*

D. Jesus is the way of salvation and is the Head of the church and His commands are to be obeyed.

*Matthew 28:19, 20*

*Mark 14:16*

*Acts 1:8*

*John 7:37-39*

*Acts 1:4, 5 & 2:1-4*

#### IV. Committing to my Church

**Introduction:** The word church means something different to most people than what Christ intended it to be to us. We should compare our thoughts to the days of the early church. In this class we will ask and answer the following questions.

- 1) What is the Biblical local church?
- 2) Why do you need a local Church?
- 3) How do you become a good citizen in the Kingdom of God?

##### I. What is the Biblical local Church?

"The church is not a building, nor a religious institution, nor an ethnic group. It is the company of the committed, or the covenant community, where we are brothers and sisters because we are in fellowship with Christ. The church is the people--the redeemed people of God. It is God's primary program in, or on the earth. It is the visible expression of the rule of Christ (author unknown).

A. Church comes from the Greek word "*Ecclesia*" which means "*called out ones*." The church, then, is a group of individuals "called out" of the spiritual darkness of sin to be a separated people for God.

Please take a moment here and think about this. Church then is not just a place where you go to attend your preferred style of worship services. But it is where you connect to both Christ's body and His will for your life. The "FINDING MY PLACE" seminar will help you discover your gifts and abilities.

##### II. Why do you need a local church?

Your church presents the teaching of the Bible and gives you opportunity to explore and embrace much more of God's Word than you could on your own. Teachers, pastors, apostles, prophets and the

testimonies of believers presenting what they have gained from their walk with the Lord are abundant. All glean from the richness of Christ working among them as He leads them to enrich and strengthen each other.

A. The truths you will learn to live in will destroy attitudes Satan's Kingdom. Attitudes in which the church can give protection:

1. Pride--Proverbs 6:17; Matthew 7:22
2. Independence--*Proverbs 3:5, 28:26*
3. Hardened heart--*Mark 7:6*
4. Rebellion--*I Samuel 15:23*
5. Moral impurity--*Romans 1:18-32*
6. Gullibility--*Proverbs 14:15*

B. You receive *pastoral* care.

1. *Hebrews 13:17*

*says that godly pastors care for and look after your spiritual condition, giving an account unto the Lord for your soul.*

2. People need love, security, direction, friendship, fellowship, and help during troubled times (*Romans 12:13; Hebrews 13:2; Acts 2:44-46, 4:32*). *You will be both receiving from and giving to others.*

3. There is spiritual protection under the shelter of the local church community. Without the covering of the local church, one is exposing themselves to an onslaught of the devil's attacks, such as:

- Evil spirits (*Acts 19:12-16*),
- Deception (*I Timothy 4:1*),
- Spiritual storms (*Matthew 7:24, 25*),
- False teaching (*II Peter 2:1*),
- & even death (*II Corinthians 7:10*).

C. *Your family is strengthened.*

1. *Teachings on such subjects as family relations, youth, and children are provided in a local church in order to strengthen your family.*

III. Being a good citizen in the Kingdom

Just as any community has boundaries and ideals that maintain peace and healthy living known as citizenship; the church community also has such ethics. Except, in His kingdom, the Lord Himself leads us in peace and unity both by His Spirit and through the leadership He put in place.

- A. God leads and calls people to a local church. If you believe that God has called you to connect with this body then you should exercise your faith and commit to it. It is your Daddy's house. Leadership can recognize those who know they are in their Father's house because they will:
  - 1. Commit to and support the vision of the house (proverbs 29:18).
  - 2. Attend services regularly.
  - 3. Be drawn to and connect to ministry groups in the church. (*Philemon 1:2, Romans 16:5, Colossians 4:15*). This may be a group that studies the word such as Sunday School Class, Youth, Men's or Ladies' Bible Study Group meetings or a home fellowship, or it may be a group that ministers by serving needs, Pantry helps, Fellowship workers, building projects, Prison ministry and so on.
  - 2. Pitch in your talents to help make His Kingdom greater.
- C. Accept God's designated place for you in the Body of Christ.
  - 1. God sets members in as it pleases Him (*I Corinthians 12:11, 18*).
  - 2. We are to think soberly of ourselves. Ask the Lord to show you your gifts as well as your limitations (*Romans 12:3,4*).
- D. Pray for the church's leadership, the members, and the various ministries (*II Corinthians 13:7, Colossians 1:9*).
- E. Make the work of the leadership easier by readily following their lead. (*Hebrews 13:7, 17; I Peter 5:5; Ephesians 5:21*).
- F. Financially support the ministries of the local church through tithes and offerings (*Genesis 14:18-20, 28:22; Proverbs 3:9; Malachi 3:8-12; Matthew 23:23; Luke 6:38*).
- G. Be faithful (*Proverbs 20:6, I Corinthians 4:2, II Timothy 2:2*).

VII. Submit to one another.

- A. Develop a servant spirit, serving the Body of Christ in love (*I Corinthians 13*).
- B. Edify members of the Body. Encourage others and help them grow strong and mature in Christ (*I Corinthians 14:3-5; Romans 14:1-3, 7-8, 12-21; Ephesians 4:12, 15, 16*).

**D.** Exhort members of the Body. If a Christian you know becomes involved in sin and falls away from the Lord and the Body of Christ, look for opportunities to help them get back into fellowship with God and the church. But do stay in touch with leaders who can assist you so that you yourself don't fall or disrupt what God may be doing. More help on this is coming in the **Believe & Belong** level. (*Galatians 6:1, Ruth 4:15, Isaiah 58:12, Psalm 23:3*)

### The Church is a safe haven.

What did Jesus say? "And I tell you that you are Peter, (a small stone) and on this Rock (large boulder) I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it" (*Matthew 16:18*) The same word is used for rock in *1 Cor. 10:4*, "that Rock was Christ" was used in Peter's confession "Thou art the Christ, and upon this Rock will I build My church." The Gates of Hades is a real landmark in Israel. It is a massive cave opening that seems to be bottomless. It is likely that Jesus was referring to this landmark which was known as a picture of hell itself. It is a gaping cavern of doom. Wide is the way that leads to destruction. Jesus probably used this physical place as a picture to say as big as the gates of Hades or it won't be big enough to swallow the church that He will build. The Hebrew word also brings out the thought of "making a hedge or a fence in order to protect and guard that which is valued and loved."

### Exercise:

What is the overall purpose for the Church?

What vision does this church have?

### **THIS WEEK'S BIBLE READING: Genesis 11-30**

*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.*





### 3. RESURRECTION – new eternal life cleansed from sin.

This picture, at first glance, is somewhat unsettling. It is a disturbing because we instinctively run from death and this image provokes on lookers say, "What are you doing to her?" It seems like she is being drowned. But the truth is she's being delivered by God's covenant power safely into His hands. Not that Baptism itself saves, but that it is a picture of what Christ does. This is the evidence of a clear conscience answering the call of God into His salvation.

On second glance, it captures a glimpse of what Christ love & power is like. Reaching into the grasp of death to protect and deliver. Submerged beneath the waters, her frailty & vulnerability is clear. Just as we are helpless in sins deadly submersion. The warm glow of light surrounding & embracing her as she waits to be lifted from the life threatening position is similar to the light of the Gospel shed into our hearts and made real by the Holy Spirit.

While beneath the water seems split seconds become so much longer as it encloses about her. A pastor's strength, gently lowering her as a sinner condemned to die... the penalty for sin... into the waters that represent defeat and death.

He is Fully aware of her anxiousness and that she is trusting his hand. Trusting, he'll raise her up set free from death's grasp, washed & purified. And He too, knows he can and will do exactly that.

Jesus will baptize us also through the reality of death & raise us up into eternal life, delivered from its grasp, cleansed & made Holy. Those loving hands take us into and through the only thing that can deliver us from sins hold.. Baptism is a living picture contract of faith with God. That we will be delivered from Death.

Water Baptism also testifies of this inner spiritual death, burial, and resurrection to these **FOUR AREAS**:

Testifies:

1. To Satan – I no longer belong to him
2. To God – I now commit all to you.
3. To the World – I am committed to God.
4. To Myself – I hereby identify with Christ

Baptism does not save you but is necessary to the believer as an act of obedience; an outward sign of an inward work as circumcision was in the Old Covenant. Faith was and still is the legal tender. Faith validated circumcision and now validates water Baptism.

*Romans 6:3-6:*

<sup>3</sup> Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? <sup>4</sup> We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.

<sup>5</sup> For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly also be united with him in a resurrection like his. <sup>6</sup> For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin—

Baptism is similar to a wedding where the Bride & Groom publicly exchange their vows. Without faith in the commitment, and their existing relationship, the ceremony is meaningless.

*Colossians 2:10-15*

<sup>10</sup> and you have been given fullness in Christ, who is the Head over every power and authority.

<sup>11</sup> In him you were also circumcised, in the putting off of the sinful nature, not with a circumcision done by the hands of men but with the circumcision done by Christ,



<sup>12</sup> *having been buried with him in baptism and raised with him through your faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead.*

<sup>13</sup> *When you were dead in your sins and in the un-circumcision of your sinful nature, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins,*

<sup>14</sup> *having cancelled the written code, with its regulations, that was against us and that stood opposed to us; he took it away, nailing it to the cross.*

<sup>15</sup> *And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.*

The scripture declares baptism as the outer statement of an inner clear conscience to God. Like giving of marriage vows we are publicly declaring that we have accepted God's offer of salvation.

### *1 Peter 3:21:*

*and this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also--not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a good conscience toward God. It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ.*

Baptism is a physical picture of what God has done and will continue to complete in those who have received New Life. (*\*He made your spirit alive in Christ, and will continue to work to transform you with His power until He returns for His people*):

### *Philippians 1:6:*

<sup>6</sup> *being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.*

## The Lord's Supper:(Communion)

The Lord's Supper is also the covenant that Jesus instituted. Jesus was crucified on Passover fulfilling the former covenant that came through Moses known as Passover. On the last evening in captivity the Lord commanded Israel to slaughter a lamb and smear it's blood on the door post to show that they were under a blood covenant and the angel of death would pass over them and spare their first born. The curse had come to Egypt and the only way to escape was to be under the blood. This last meal had exact commands that had to be carried out. These things were symbolic of the promises or covenant that God was entering into with the Jewish Nation. The Jewish people were commanded to maintain this covenant. It was called Passover. When Jesus was crucified on Passover, He fulfilled this covenant because He was the ultimate Passover Lamb. Now, it is not the blood of animals given up as a temporary solution, but the body and incorruptible blood of Christ given as an eternal and final substitution.

### *Luke 22:7-21*

*7. Then came the day of Unleavened Bread on which the Passover lamb had to be sacrificed.*

*8. Jesus sent Peter and John, saying, "Go and make preparations for us to eat the Passover."*

*9. "Where do you want us to prepare for it?" they asked.*

*10. He replied, "As you enter the city, a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him to the house that he enters,*

*11. and say to the owner of the house, 'The Teacher asks: Where is the guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?'*

*12. He will show you a large upper room, all furnished. Make preparations there."*

13. They left and found things just as Jesus had told them. So they prepared the Passover.
14. When the hour came, Jesus and his apostles reclined at the table.
15. And he said to them, "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer.
16. For I tell you, I will not eat it again until it finds fulfillment in the kingdom of God."
17. After taking the cup, he gave thanks and said, "Take this and divide it among you.
18. For I tell you I will not drink again of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes."
19. And he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me."
20. In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you.

When we gather and participate in the Lord's Supper, Christ partakes with us through the Holy Spirit living in communion with us. It is also a time when we "sup with Him" in His very presence because He is present in Spirit. This covenant celebrates His death which replaced the Passover lamb until He literally returns. There will also come a day when He shall come again and we will share in His supper in our resurrected bodies.

#### *1 Corinthians 11:20,23-26*

20. Likewise also the cup after supper, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you.
23. For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread,
24. and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me."
25. In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."
26. For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

This covenant proclaims the Lord's death until He comes. It looks to the second coming and the Marriage supper of the Lamb with his bride, which is the church. These events will be discussed in greater detail in the chapter "New Future."

Both Baptism and Communion are symbols of the promises that are yet to be completely manifested. Keeping these covenants proclaims the gospel and the hope of His imminent return.

While the acts in themselves do not save you, they are necessary as acts of obedience to Christ's commands. We are saved by faith in His grace alone.

## Sacred Ceremonies of the Pastoral Ministry

Birth	Baptism	Marriage
Communion	Ministry Ordination	
Salvation	Anointing the Sick	

## **EXERCISE:**

1. Discuss the importance of the Jews who kept God's covenants in spite of great trials. (*Jews, being Israelites in Old Testament?-crossing Red Sea, there time in the desert*)
2. Remember the Martyrs who would not deny their faith and love for Christ unto their deaths. (*ie.. The apostles, Stephen, Foxes book of Martyrs list others, voice of the Martyrs list many modern martyrs*)
3. Remember those who gave their lives to protect the integrity of the written word. (*You may want to examine the historical artifacts hanging in the lobby.*)

## **THIS WEEK'S BIBLE READING: Genesis 31-50**

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# Renew Your Mind

## Session #6

~ ~ ◆ ✘ ◆ ❄ ◆ ✞ ◆ ❄ ◆ ✘ ◆ ~ **BECOME** ~ ◆ ✘ ◆ ❄ ◆ ✞ ◆ ❄ ◆ ✘ ◆ ~ ~

### I. You are a Three Part Being

When you were born again your inner spirit came alive again and you became a complete three part being. You are now body, soul and spirit. Your new spirit is healthy and pure. Your flesh (*body & soul*) are not yet, but are accounted as righteous in Christ. The flesh nature remains un-regenerated and must be conformed to the nature of Christ through the renewing of our mind.

**Spirit** - the intangible part of you that connects and communicates with the Holy Spirit.

**Soul** - your mind & will or intellect.

**Body** - is the physical container that houses both soul and spirit.

You are a speaking spirit that lives in a body and has a soul.

#### 1. Before you were Born Again the devil had your mind defeated.

*2 Corinthians 4:3,4*

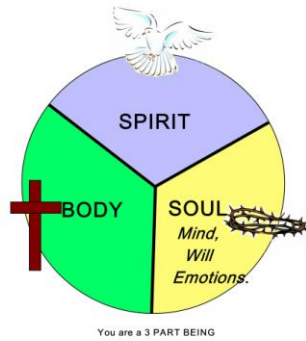
*3But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost:*

*4The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.*

2. Now that you have the Spirit of God you have been given the ability to transform your way of life by renewing your mind.

Romans 12:2

Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is. His good, pleasing and perfect will.



### 3. Recognize you are a three part being.

The Holy Spirit has separated the un-regenerated part of you from your new spirit. The Spirit part of you is righteous, but the flesh (*body & soul*) are righteous only by faith, and are counted as dead in Christ. You may now mix your faith with the Word of God and experience a renewing and transforming of your mind. Then you must align your Spirit with the Holy Spirit.

Hebrews 4:12

For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.

## II Your mind must be made new.

Cross provides for New Birth



You must renew your mind because it is in the flesh that sin still tries to reign in you but God has given you the ability to change the way your flesh responds.

Romans 7:5 For when we were controlled by the sinful nature, the sinful passions aroused by the law were at work in our bodies, so that we bore fruit for death.

1. Before the New Birth our flesh was dead by sin because our spirit was dead.

The Holy Spirit has separated the un-regenerated part of you from your new spirit. The Spirit part of you is righteous, but the flesh (*body & soul*) *righteous only* by faith, are counted as dead in Christ. You may now mix your faith with the Word of God and experience a renewing and transforming of your mind. Then you must align your Spirit with the Holy Spirit.

Hebrews 4:12

For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. (NIV)

Now our spirit is alive and our flesh is being counted as dead. That is why we no longer have punishment for our sin in our future. Therefore, we are not going to suffer the penalty of the law against sin. We are now free to be changed. So now we may begin to grow Christ's nature.

Romans 7:6

But now, by dying to what once bound us, we have been released from the law so that we serve in the new way of the Spirit, and not in the old way of the written code.

2. You will be able to do this because God has removed your old hard as stone heart and replaced it with a NEW heart of flesh.

### **Ezekiel 11:19**

*I will give them an undivided heart and put a new spirit in them; I will remove from them their heart of stone and give them a heart of flesh.*

3. Now the un-regenerated flesh has no lasting control over sin.

Even though our soul desires righteousness it is powerless to live up to the holy requirements of the law of God because of the sinful nature of the flesh. Paul wrote:

### **Romans 7:14-23**

*14. We know that the law is spiritual; but I am unspiritual, sold as a slave to sin.*

*15. I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do.*

*16. And if I do what I do not want to do, I agree that the law is good.*

*17. As it is, it is no longer I myself who do it, but it is sin living in me.*

*18. I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out.*

*19. For what I do is not the good I want to do; no, the evil I do not want to do--this I keep on doing.*

*20. Now if I do what I do not want to do, it is no longer I who do it, but it is sin living in me that does it.*

*21. So I find this law at work: When I want to do good, evil is right there with me.*

*22. For in my inner being I delight in God's law;*

*23. but I see another law at work in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within my members.*

4. Paul has described a life that is ruled by the un-regenerated flesh.

But he has noted in verse 22 of Romans 7, that his spirit man is not in agreement with his flesh. This person feels powerless because of the condemnation he is living under.

*Romans 7:22*

*22 What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death?*

*25. Thanks be to God- through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself in my mind am a slave to God's law, but in the sinful nature a slave to the law of sin.*

Romans 8:1

*Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus,*

This is the answer to how to be set free from that "Body of death".

There is no condemnation because your spirit is alive made clean and free from the penalty of death. Through the righteousness of your spirit man you can see your whole self transformed.

*Romans 8:2-11*

*2. Because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death.*

*3. For what the law was powerless to do in that it was weakened by the sinful nature, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful man to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in sinful man,*

*4. in order that the righteous requirements of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the sinful nature but according to the Spirit.*

*5. Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what that nature desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires.*

*6. The mind of sinful man is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace;*

*7. the sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so.*

*8. Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot please God.*

*9. You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ.*

*10. But if Christ is in you, your body is dead because of sin, yet your spirit is alive because of righteousness.*

*11. And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit, who lives in you.*

5. It's as simple as saying so.



Paul tells how this is done in *Romans 10:6-13*. The power is not up in heaven any more that we have to wait for it. Look at the example of Jesus healing the man at the Pool of Bethesda. He was waiting for an angel to come and stir the waters. We don't wait for it any longer. The authority for that was given in the Old Testament passage. *Deuteronomy 30:11-14*. You don't need the anointed man of God to bring it to you.

*Romans 10:8-10*

8. *But what does it say? "The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart," that is, the word of faith we are proclaiming:*

9. *That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.*

10. *For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.*

6. In Deuteronomy the Lord responds with an option of

Life or death.

*Deuteronomy 30:19* says:

*This day I call heaven and earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live*

7. He has given us the freedom to make the choice and has told us what His will is, choose life.

8. If you're thinking but He only gives that to special people and you're not one of them then here's His answer.

*Romans 10:11-13*

11. *As the Scripture says, "Anyone who trusts in him will never be put to shame."*

12. *For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile--the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him,*

13. *for, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."*

### III. Take your thoughts captive

*Ephesians 4:20-32*

1. We now know that:

a. You can choose life and blessing.

b. Your choice is confirmed by your believing and speaking what God's word says about you.

2. Now we need to take our thoughts captive.

*2 Corinthians 10:5*

*Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ;*

### 3. Don't allow thoughts that do not line up with the word to remain.

Rebuke them, take them captive and throw them away. Plead the blood of Jesus over your mind. And use the blood of Jesus to quench the fiery darts the enemy sends at you.

Ephesians 6:16

In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.

Satan will actually attack you with thoughts to influence your flesh but you can use your faith to extinguish them and destroy the power of those thoughts.

*James 1:13-15*

*13. When tempted, no one should say, "God is tempting me." For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone;*

*14. but each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed.*

*15. Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death..*

### 4. Deal with the thought and you end the sin.

Lustful thoughts produce Lustful feelings that grow until they become strong passions that the flesh will not want to resist. Replace those thoughts with God's, "I Love You's from scripture. His word will protect you from sin.

Psalms 119:11

11. I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.

## IV. Put off the Old Man and Put on the New

1. Paul in *Ephesians 4:20-32* states some things that Christians should stop and some things Christians should do. List the Negatives and positive statements from each of the following verses.

#### Negative

Vs. 25 falsehood

Vs. 26-27 anger

Vs. 28 steal

Vs. 29 unwholesome talk

Vs. 30 grieve the Holy Spirit

Vs. 31 bitterness, rage, anger

brawling, slander, & malice

#### Positive

vs. 25 truthfully

vs. 26-27 protection

vs. 28 useful hands

vs. 29 building up

vs. 30 you were sealed

vs. 32 kind,

compassionate forgiving

2. After becoming a Christian you can put off the old man put on the new man. *Eph 4:22-24* It means you stop doing certain things. It means dying to the old life of sin and living a new life with resurrected Christ in control. *Gal; 2:20*

A. Jesus taught that it did not help to worry.

*Matt 6:25-30*

25. *"Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more important than food, and the body more important than clothes?"*

26. *Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?"*

27. *Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life?"*

28. *"And why do you worry about clothes? See how the lilies of the field grow. They do not labor or spin.*

29. *Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these.*

30. *If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith?"*

B. Jesus tells you to seek first His kingdom and righteousness.

*Matt 6:32-34*

32. *For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them.*

33. *But, seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.*

34. *Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.*

C. If we do seek Him first, He promises that all these things will be given to us as well.

**THIS WEEK'S BIBLE READING: Mark**

*Use the 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:**

- p.2 defeated
- p.4 dead
- p. 5 flesh
- p. 7 life or death
- p.8 choose life; thoughts
- p.9 blood of Jesus

p. 10 worry

p.11 His Kingdom and righteousness; all



# Pray With Understanding

## Session #7



### ***I. PRAY with your Understanding***

When you receive the Baptism of the Holy Spirit your level of communication with God greatly increases. The Bible instructs us to pray in the Spirit and also with our understanding. So for now we will survey the topic of prayer that is simply of your own mind & will. Although many people pray to God in their own way, It is important to understand what God is seeking from us in our talks with Him, our times in prayer.

#### **SPEAKING WITH GOD**

##### **A. Conversation with God**

It is vital for every born again spirit to communicate with their Father through the Holy Spirit. As you have visitation with God, He will lead you & help you with wrong attitudes, fears, hurts and other issues of the heart. He will give you wisdom, guidance & bring healing to your heart and mind. As you hear His life giving thoughts you will find yourself increasing in joy, peace, contentment, wisdom, courage and love. As each encounter leads you and you cooperate in obedience you will overcome obstacles in life. This will help your natural will (flesh) learn to crave the voice and presence of God as much as your spirit does.

##### **B. Hearing His voice**

He will speak to you as you persist in your talks with Him and as you listen patiently. Learning to recognize His presence & thoughts as He responds to you, often takes time. The more often you make effort to listen, the greater the responses from Him will be. So then we need to know how God Speaks to people? Does he use audible sound you can hear with your natural ears? That is possible and scripture records rare moments when God did speak audibly. That is out loud where He could be heard with our natural ears. But, most frequent way is the inspiration of scripture. It is the revealing of truth hidden in plain sight. The Bible becomes His living instrument of RHEMA truth. He also speaks directly to your heart in prayer. He gives thoughts that suddenly answer you without your thinking them. This statement will make sense when you experience it.

## II. Developing Faith that leads to Answered Prayer

### A. How do we get answered prayer?

Of course this is what most people want to know. How does God answer our request? Especially when we are needing help in a crisis. However, a person must always remember that God is not a "Genie in a Lamp" waiting to grant your request, nor is He your personal "Trunk Monkey" ready to pop out when you press the release button to relieve you from your troubles. He is your Father who came to earth as a Man for the sole purpose of rescuing you from eternity in a fiery hell. So, now that He has redeemed your life, His will for you is to seek His purpose for your life and thankfully live it out.

- 1) First certain truths must be accepted.
  - a) God is not a man that He should lie! *Numbers 23:19*
  - b) He is the AUTHOR and Finisher of Our faith. *Hebrews 12:2*
  - c) No is an answer
  - d) God is never wrong.
  - e) If you didn't get the answer you want, check the question.

There may be times in your walk you will need Him to do something. Maybe you'll need a miracle or a healing. You may need 'favor' with a disgruntled family member, boss or employee. There are spiritual gifts that function in the church for this purpose. You will learn more about them in the **Believe** Sessions. God will also meet your needs through your own simple, faith drenched prayer.

You will NOT get a yes to every request! "NO" is a good answer.

1. In the Gospels, Jesus instructs us to ask for what we need. In the **Epistles** (*Letters to the New Testament churches*), we are told that we don't have what we need because we don't ask, and that when we do ask we ask "amiss". It's a right request but for the wrong motives. Jesus told us one thing is certain, if we ask God for what he already wants to give us then we can be sure we will receive what we ask for. God only hears our request when we are in agreement and He examines our motives before cooperating with us.

*James 4:3*

**3. When you ask, you do not receive, because *you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.***

2. A selfish motive equals disagreement with God. His first desire is to always work for our good. We can trust our benefits to Him. Let God handle what is good for us. A "no" is always for our good.

*Romans 8:28*

28. *And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.*

3. When you ask for what God wants to do it's an automatic yes. So discovering the will of God is our first priority for a healthy prayer life.

*1 John 5:14,15*

14. *This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us.*  
15. *And if we know that he hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of him.*

*Matthew 7:21*

21. *Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.*

- b. The Name of Jesus is required. All authority is placed in His Name.

Another very important precept is to pray in the authority given to the Christian through Jesus Name. **Pray in the name of Jesus**

*John 16:26,27*

26. *In that day you will ask in my name. I am not saying that I will ask the Father on your behalf. 27. No, the Father himself loves you because you have loved me and have believed that I came from God.*

*Acts 4:12*

12. *Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved."*

*Phil. 2:9-11*

9. *Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name,*  
10. *that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,*  
11. *and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*

- C. *Pray in unity or agreement with heaven and other believers.*

24. *Matt. 18:18-20.*



25. 18 *"I tell you the truth, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.*
26. 19. *"Again, I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven.*
20. *For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them."*

### *John 16:23-24.*

- 23 *In that day you will no longer ask me anything. I tell you the truth, my Father will give you whatever you ask in my name.*
27. *Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete.*

#### D. Ask in faith

Faith in what we are asking opens the heart of God. It excites him when we simply believe His will and respond in faith to it. Faith & answered prayer are inseparable.

#### *Mark 11:23*

23. I tell you the truth, if anyone says to this mountain, 'Go, throw yourself into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart but believes that what he says will happen, it will be done for him.

#### *James 1:5-8*

5. *If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him.*
6. *But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind.*
7. *That man should not think he will receive anything from the Lord;*
8. *he is a double-minded man, unstable in all he does.*

#### E. Know that God's will and timing are perfect

He is an 11:59 God! He often waits until the last second to stretch our faith to the limit. He is always right on time! HIS TIME!

## Two other Types of Prayer, Intercession & Thanksgiving

**a. Prayer that is Interceding for others**

Intercession is praying for others. Sometimes even believers need prayer covering. They may be under a demonic attack. They may be struggling in an area and need spiritual intervention. Your prayer gives God permission to send ministering angels on their behalf. There may be times when you will feel a strong need to pray but have no idea what you should pray. Praying in the language the Holy Spirit gives you allows your spirit come into perfect agreement and pray the exact will of God in the matter.

**b. Prayer of Thanksgiving is also Praise & Worship.**

An emotionally & spiritually healthy person enjoys expressing deep, heartfelt gratitude. God encourages expressions of joy and gratitude for His goodness toward you. Worship Him because He is wonderful, gentle, powerful, mighty & just. Anything you good that you think of first came from Him. If it's good, it's from God. He is so amazing. Thinking about His majesty fills the heart with overwhelming joy, deep inner peace and quietness of heart. When you speak those things to him it is praise and as you thank Him for it is thanksgiving. The interesting thing is, the more we do this the better we feel. That is just how God wants it, when we praise Him for His kindness toward us. His kindness He sowed into our hearts grows & grows. Worshipping God increases our joy. Worshipping our self interest makes us miserable. It may seem to satisfy our desires but it will be temporary where worshipping God brings lasting peace. So make the greatest part of your time in prayer, praise, thanksgiving & worship.

**Exercise:**

1. Give an example of a time when you experienced worship like this session described.
2. Write out names of people you want to begin to intercede for.
3. Commit to your memory,

*Hebrews 12:2*

*"Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God."*

**THIS WEEK'S BIBLE READING: Luke**

*Use the 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 - Interceding

Pg Worship





*1 Peter 4:14* If you are reproached for the name of Christ, you are blessed; because the Spirit of glory and the Spirit of God rest upon you.

*Galatians 4:29* But as then he that was born after the flesh persecuted him that was born after the Spirit, so also it is now.

C. Thirdly, Your conflict may be God directed for your Benefit. You look silly if you're getting mad at the Stop sign especially when God put it there.

## **2. Why is it important for you to forgive others**

1. It is the only way you can protect yourself and others from being a victim twice. "Offenses must come" in other words you will be hurt. But forgiveness allows life of the Holy Spirit to come into your soul where death tried to reign. He will remind you and counsel you with the words of life but you will make the choice to live instead of abiding in the stench of death that exudes from un-forgiveness.

*John 14:26* But the *Counselor*, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.

2. If you don't forgive others, God won't forgive you. God requires you to forgive everyone for every offense committed.

*Matt. 6:12, 14-15* "Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins."

*Ephesians 4:32* "Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ, God forgave you." (NIV)

**1. Biblical example - *Matthew 18:21-25*: A servant was forgiven an enormous debt, but he in turn refused to forgive a fellow servant a small debt. As a result, his master delivered the unforgiving servant to tormentors in prison until he had paid**

all that he owed.

*Matthew 18:35* Jesus said, "This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother from your heart."  
(NIV)

2. Jesus said to forgive people "Seventy times seven." which is another way of telling us to forgive others without counting how many times they have offended us.

*Matthew 18:21-22* "Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, 'Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother when he sins against me? Up to seven times?' Jesus answered, 'I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times'" (NIV)

3. You can only love and lead to Jesus, those whom you have forgiven. Forgiveness releases the love of Jesus in your heart for others.

### 3. How un-forgiveness works destruction in your life

One of Satan's most effective snares is to tempt us into un-forgiveness.

1. It produces a root of bitterness in you.

*Hebrews 12:15* "See to it that no one misses the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many"( NIV)

2. This root of bitterness must be fed and watered by you for it to continue to grow. These roots grow quickly when you harbor resentment, rehearse hurts, and seek to justify your un-forgiveness. Resentment is like a fire - it needs to be supplied with fuel to live. To maintain an attitude of resentment, you must continually feed on negative, judgmental thoughts, feelings and desires either toward God, your fellow man or your situation.
3. If not dealt with, bitterness will cause a weakening, socially, mentally and physically in your life. It has the effect of poisoning your life.
4. Un-forgiveness and the resulting bitterness cause your family, friends and those around you to be poisoned as well. *Please don't share your bitterness. Do not repay evil for evil! You are to fight back with forgiveness*

*and love. This will effectively disarm the Satan's attacks in both of you.*

5. Holding on to hurts and past wounds raises walls in your relationship with God & others. It also robs you of joy, peace, and love.
6. Resentment and bitterness (the fruits of un-forgiveness) act together to form prison bars for your soul.
7. Un-forgiveness allows Satan access into your life to build strongholds from which he can exert controlling influences in and from your life to others. You become his weapon.

*II Corinthians 10:4 "For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds" (KJV)*

8. Bitterness gives way to fear which is contrary to faith. It takes your power to believe God's love for you and others away from you.

It is very common for a person who does not forgive his offenders to become a perpetrator of the same offense. A person who is bitter will often reproduce that bitter seed by finding someone to hear about their hurt and agree with their right to be bitter. Once that agreement has taken place the hearer is now also embittered. Bitterness is a poison. Forgiving is the antidote.

#### **4. How to overcome un-forgiveness and bitterness.**

*Ephesians 4:31. Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice.*

*32. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.*

1. Repent of all un-forgiveness and bitterness. The little offences are just as powerful as the big ones and because they often go unnoticed can do the most damage.



2. **Confess** your sin to God and, if necessary, to the person/s it has harmed.
3. Ask for their forgiveness (be specific). Be careful that you emphasize your sinful attitude and behavior. Do not use this time as an occasion to make others aware of their wrong doings. You are the one who has been convicted by the Holy Spirit, not them.
4. Receive God's forgiveness.

*1 John 1:9 "If we confess our sins. He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness" (NIV)*

## 5. **PRAY FOR, not just about, them!**

It's for your own good! Theirs too! Praying for them will release God to show you things about them that you didn't consider. Also it releases God to bless you both. He can not bless you or them if you have bound yourself to them with bitterness. Luke 6:28 says, "pray for those who mistreat you." It's counter intuitive. But Faith will release remarkable results if you trust God in this.

6. Resist un-forgiveness. Do not allow ill feelings to take hold of you. Deal aggressively with negative feelings and attitudes. You may need assistance from other believers or counselors to whom you can be accountable. This is an important principle concerning a chronic sinful behavior in the life of a believer.
7. Fill your mind with good thoughts. In Philippians 4:8 you are given a catalog of thoughts that you should entertain in your mind:

*Philippians 4:8 "Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable - if anything is excellent or praiseworthy - think about such things."*

## 6. **Positive steps to completing the forgiveness process confess the following out loud:**

- I have been forgiven of my sins by God. Therefore, I choose to forgive others who have done me wrong.

- I release from all personal judgment those who have wronged or hurt me.
- I pray prayers of blessings on those who have wronged me.

FINALLY:

A very effective way to combat & defeat an unforgiving attitude is to keep an attitude of thanksgiving.

We are not to be thankful FOR all things. Some things ARE evil and we are not thankful for them. But IN all things we are to offer thanks to God as we make our request to Him.

*Philippians 4:6*

*<sup>6</sup>Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.*

As we thank Him no matter what we are going through WE are hidden in Christ. Our eternal destiny is secure. Nothing is happening to you that God did not approve. Unless you approved something He did not authorize. When we thank Him we don't change God's attitude. We change ours. Through thanksgiving we can have peace and assurance through any conflict. Whether ours is a conflict with people or with heaven; whether is a personal conflict or a violation of Biblical principle & precept thanking God for Who He is and what He has done for you AND YOUR OFFENDER will keep you from sinking into a Victim Syndrome and allow God to have HIS will in both of your lives.

Also as you offer Him that sacrifice of praise & thanksgiving you will release yourself from the agonizing repetition of poisonous thoughts and feelings and receive wonderful peace and joy. The more you thank him in your difficulties the greater the peace will grow.

We don't thank Him for the circumstance we thank Him in it.

Count your blessings count them one by one

Count your blessings see what God has done.

*Romans 8:28*

*<sup>28</sup> And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.*

More Than Conquerors

*Roman 8:31-38*

<sup>31</sup>What, then, shall we say in response to this? If God is for us, who can be against us?

<sup>32</sup>He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? <sup>33</sup>Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. <sup>34</sup>Who is he that condemns? Christ Jesus, who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. <sup>35</sup>Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? <sup>36</sup>As it is written:

"For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered."<sup>[J]</sup> <sup>37</sup>No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. <sup>38</sup>For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons,<sup>[m]</sup> neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, <sup>39</sup>neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

### **Exercise:**

1. In small groups share briefly the area in which you have had the greatest trial regarding forgiving someone. Afterwards, pray one for another.
2. Take time this week to search your heart through prayer to see if you have unforgiveness, resentment, bitterness or anger toward another person or group. If God reveals to you an area where you have bitterness, go through the steps given in this lesson and let God cleanse you and free you.

### **THIS WEEK'S BIBLE READING: John**

*Use the 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.*



# Pray in a New Way

## Session #9

~♦✠♦✠♦✠♦✠♦✠♦ ~ BECOME ~♦✠♦✠♦✠♦✠♦✠♦ ~

### **Introduction:**

This session will cover another way we are able to communicate with God. In one of the Become session, you learned about Praying with Understanding. But there are two ways to pray: One is With Understanding and the other is In the Spirit. One is directed by you and the other is directed by The Lord. The one that is directed by Him, in the Spirit is what we will discuss today. So 1<sup>st</sup> lets back that up with the scripture.

1 Corinthians 14:15

*What is it then? I will **pray** with the **spirit**, and I will **pray** with the **understanding** also: I will **sing** with the **spirit**, and I will **sing** with the **understanding** also.*

This shows that there are two distinct methods and even sources of our prayer. They are as we have already said, praying with the \_\_\_\_\_ (*Understanding*) and with the \_\_\_\_\_ (*Spirit*). With that truth, we want to know what that really means. We believe one when we pray from our own thoughts and needs... when we pray what is on our mind. When we pray from what we already understand, our understanding. The second source that we are talking about today is when we pray from another source. We believe the phrase with the SPIRIT refers to the Holy Spirit. Scripture teaches this to be the Holy Spirit praying through inspiring our own Spirit. This gift comes to us when we receive the Baptism in the Holy Spirit. So we are going to talk about that some in this session.

### **Pray in the Spirit**

When a person experiences the new birth (or becomes born again) they have received NEW LIFE in their SPIRIT... so the Bible teaches they have been given a renewed, or New, Spirit and are now able to live free from sin & darkness because of this miraculous event. It is important to maintain that freedom by receiving the POWER of the Holy Spirit through the Holy Spirit's baptism. This is not the same as the covenant of physical Baptism in water taught in the Keeping the Promise Session. This Baptism is not about repentance and salvation. But it is an immersion, not in water but in the Holy Spirit. When we are baptized in the Spirit, we are totally immersed in the Holy Spirit Himself. Just as in water Baptism we are immersed under the water showing our passage through death of being in sin. The Baptism in the Holy Spirit IS our immersion, or our passage into ETERNAL LIFE in the HOLY SPIRIT.

So now we want to see if what we have just said is found in scripture. If it is not there we certainly do not want to go any further. But it is certainly there and in several places. Maybe you have heard the phrase, "Baptism in the Holy Spirit" or read it in the New Testament? Maybe you already are wanting to know exactly what it is and if it is for you as a Christian, as a disciple of Christ. We hope to help you start on this today. We will start with answering a question. What IS the Baptism in the Holy Spirit according to the Bible.

### *THE BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT*

## **So, What Is The Baptism In The Holy Spirit?**

That's great question! Let's look at a few answers found in the Bible.

### **1. The Baptism in the Holy Spirit is the fulfillment of Jesus' words concerning the "Promise of the Father".**

Luke 24:49

*49. I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."*

### **2. The Baptism of the Holy Spirit is the Endowment of God's power!**

The passage you just read says you will receive POWER. Jesus is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit, and with His power in us, the kingdom of God is manifested through our lives.

- A. The Holy Spirit baptized us into Christ when we were born again and then Christ, if we receive it, baptizes us in the Holy Spirit. When this occurs, we are totally filled and surrounded by God.
- B. After receiving the baptism in the Holy Spirit, we have the power to witness, to resist sin and to resist the devil, and to be all that God intended for us to be in His kingdom. The phrase *baptism in the Holy Spirit*, as we already said, means to be immersed in the Holy Spirit. So then, it is a saturated relationship, filled to overflowing with His power & presence. *(We need to seek daily for God to fill us with His Holy Spirit & power)*
- C. It is separate and distinct from being "baptized into Christ by the Holy Spirit"

*Galatians 3:26,27*

*26. for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. 27For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.*

*1 Corinthians 12:13*

*3. Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking in the Spirit of God ever says "Jesus is accursed!" and no one can say "Jesus is Lord" except in the Holy Spirit.*

The Holy Spirit must be present to even acknowledge Jesus as Lord which is required "Confess with your Mouth that Jesus is LORD," part of the Salvation. This initial baptism refers to our "born again" experience into the body of Christ, His church.

## 2. What are some distinctions between the two?

*Acts 1:4: On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about"*

In Acts 2:1-4, the followers of Christ were baptized with the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost, fulfilling Jesus' command to wait in Jerusalem for this endowment of power.

*<sup>1</sup> When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. <sup>2</sup> Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. <sup>3</sup> They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. <sup>4</sup> All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.*

### The greatest distinction:

between Salvation's baptism into New Life in Christ and Christ's Baptism into the POWER of the Holy Spirit is; When they were filled with the Holy Spirit, they began to speak in tongues. That word TOUNGUES literally means "Languages". These "tongues" were not languages that they had learned, but a Spirit-inspired language that came directly from God Himself. Let's continue reading the passage in Acts 2:

*5. Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven. 6. And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one was hearing them speak in his own language. 7. And they were amazed and astonished, saying, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? 8. And how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language? 9. Parthians and Medes and Elamites and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, 10. Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, 11. both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabians—we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God." 12. And all were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" 13. But others mocking said, "They are filled with new wine."*

### Peter's Sermon at Pentecost

*14. But Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them: "Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and give ear to my words. 15. For these people are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day. 16. But this is what was uttered through the prophet Joel:*

*17. "And in the last days it shall be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall*

*see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams; [18](#). even on my male servants and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit, and they shall prophesy. [19](#). And I will show wonders in the heavens above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and vapor of smoke; [20](#). the sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the day of the Lord comes, the great and magnificent day. [21](#). And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.'*

SO, we see it happened on the Day of Pentecost, that when the Holy Spirit was poured out, they each began to speak in languages that they themselves did not know. So then, the Bible says it happened.

But was this a ONE TIME even that initiated the Holy Spirit coming into the CHURCH for the 1<sup>st</sup> time? Was it a unique event that we should not expect again. Was it just for that one Day of Pentecost? If it was supposed to end there, then the Apostle PAUL didn't know it. He wasn't in that upper room, to receive from that initial outpouring. Yet, we see Him teaching and ministering the Baptism on the Holy Spirit in later passages.

## The Apostle Paul in Ephesus

*Acts 19:1-6 (ESV)*

[1](#). *And it happened that while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul passed through the inland country and came to Ephesus. There he found some disciples. [2](#). And he said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" And they said, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit." [3](#). And he said, "Into what then were you baptized?" They said, "Into John's baptism." [4](#). And Paul said, "John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, Jesus." [5](#). On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. [6](#). And when Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they began speaking in tongues and prophesying.*

## Paul taught that this "Tongue or language" is a language from God, to God.

It has a Great Purpose and EVERY Believer ought to pursue receiving it because it will build your faith!

1 Corinthians 14:2

*2. For anyone who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God. Indeed, no one understands him; he utters mysteries with his spirit.*

Jude 1:20

*20. But you, dear friends, build yourselves up in your most holy faith and pray in the Holy Spirit.*



Paul taught that Speaking in tongues strengthens the believer, EVERY ONE WHO HAS THIS BAPTISM, because it is God praying His perfect will for you, and is most often the initial physical evidence that someone has received the baptism in the Holy Spirit.

## 4. Why Speaking In Tongues?

Jude 1:19-20

19 *These are the men who divide you, who follow mere natural instincts and do not have the Spirit.*

20. *But you, dear friends, build yourselves up in your most holy faith and pray in the Holy Spirit.*

*(so you will not follow your flesh , build your faith up by letting God pray for you )*

Acts 9:10-12, 17 is the account of Paul's infilling of the Holy Spirit and though it does not say in this passage that he spoke in tongues, we must conclude that he did, for in 1 Corinthians 14:18, he tells us he speaks in tongues "more than you all!"

God, through the Name of Jesus and by the power of the Holy Spirit, gives us a tool to build us spiritually. It's the ability to speak in a language unknown to the speaker as the Holy Spirit inspires the speech. He does this for us because we are limited and do not always know what we should pray for. This gift allows us to pray the perfect will of God for ourselves and for others.

Romans 8:26, 27

26 *In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express.*

27 *And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God's will.*

1 Corinthians 2:14,15

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.*

15. *The spiritual man makes judgments about all things, but he himself is not subject to any man's judgment:*

*(we receive spiritual discernment, to test a spirit to see if it is from the spirit of God or not. Holy Spirit helps us rightly divide truth from error.)*

## 5. Summary of The Baptism In The Holy Spirit:

- A. If you are saved, you already have the person of the Holy Spirit (*1 Corinthians 3:16, Romans 8:9*).  
( *now you need to be filled with Holy Spirit and power*)
- B. The gift of the Holy Spirit is a promise for all who ask (*Luke 11:11-13*).
- C. Any believer may receive the gift of the Holy Spirit (*Joel 2:28-29*).
- D. The Holy Spirit gives us the power to witness (*Acts 1:8*).
- E. The Holy Spirit helps us to pray (*Romans 8:26*).
- F. A person may be water baptized and saved but not yet be baptized in the Holy Spirit (*Acts 8:14-16*).
- G. Speaking in tongues, prophesying and praising God are all signs, or evidences, of the baptism in the Holy Spirit (*Acts 10:44-46*).
- H. Some believers may receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit before they are baptized in water (*Acts 10:46-48*).
- I. The word *baptize* means "to put under, to cover or to immerse." When a person is baptized in the Holy Spirit, he is totally immersed, or enveloped from the inside out, in the Spirit of God.
- J. Speaking in tongues is not the only manifestation but it is the one most often reported in the New Testament examples of believers who received the baptism in the Holy Spirit. It is the common factor.
- K. When you speak in tongues, you speak to God, and at the same time, you build up your inner man.

## 6. Steps to Help You Receive

### A. Remove all barriers.

1. Sin, un-forgiveness, doctrinal hang-ups, pride, or any unclean thing in you that may block you from receiving.
2. Why not pray right now and confess your sin, renouncing anything from your past that would hinder you from receiving the baptism in the Holy Spirit?

### B. Request

1. Jesus said that all we had to do is ask, and we would receive.
2. Tell the Lord that you want to be baptized in the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues.

## C. Receive

### How Do You Receive this Baptism in the Holy Spirit? What can you do to receive and Speak In Tongues?

- A. Many have raised questions about how someone speaks in tongues. First, you must understand that it is the Spirit of God that "gives the utterance." In other words, the Holy Spirit gives you the words to say. You must speak them, but He is faithful to give them.
- B. Just as your mind tells you what to say when you want to speak, the Holy Spirit will give you the words to say when you speak in tongues. However, you must be the one to speak the words. When you speak, your voice box, tongue, lungs, and mouth all work together to form words. When this happens, the very words that you want to speak come out. The same thing happens when you speak in tongues. Without your having to think about it, the Holy Spirit will direct (*not control*) all your speaking faculties to speak the words of the Spirit. You will speak, but it is Him, not your mind, who will give you what to say.
- C. In **John 7:38-39**, Jesus tells the disciples, "*He that believes on Me, as the scripture has said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.*" The Greek word for *belly* is defined as the "innermost part of a man; the soul; the heart as the seat of thought, feeling, and choice."
- D. Imagine what Jesus meant when He said that "out of your belly," rivers of living water would flow. The baptism in the Holy Spirit is a biblical experience that fulfills the desire of Jesus for believers to receive the power of God in their lives.

Luke 11:13

*If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"*

## D. Release

- 1. Don't analyze it with your mind, but allow your spirit to receive this gift. Worship the Lord, and keep your mind on Him. As you yield your tongue to the Spirit, it is common to feel a wonderful release of worship. Peace and joy, two fruits of the Spirit, flood you with a new sense of the presence of God. You will never be the same!
- 2. Reach out by faith and take hold of this gift that God freely gives to all those who believe in Him. By faith, stop praying in English (or your native language), and begin speaking in tongues. You may at first have only a few words or syllables, but go ahead and speak those in faith, and others will follow.

## EXTRA Study Helps-

*Matthew 28:19, 20 19.*

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20. and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

## Acts 1:8

*But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."*

## John 7:37-39

*37. On the last and greatest day of the Feast, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink.*

*38. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him."*

*39. By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified.*

## Acts 1:4, 5 4.

*On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about.*

*For John baptized with water, but in a few days, you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."*

## Acts 2:1-4

*1. When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. 2. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. 3. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. 4. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.*

Look up & read - [Mark 14: 12-16](#) (*The Lord's Supper*)

### Early church examples:

These passages are accounts that took place in the early church after the initial outpouring of the Holy Spirit in Jerusalem at the Feast of Pentecost.

Acts 8:5-8, 12 (This took place 8 years after Pentecost)

Acts 10:44-46 (10 years after Pentecost)

Acts 19:1-6 (20 years after Pentecost)

### There are also other uses for this ability

Believe #5 will discuss all of the supernatural gifts of the Holy Spirit listed in the book of [1 Corinthians 12](#). Then the ways that God uses the gifts publicly will be taught. Since it is a gift that we can choose to operate in on a personal and public level, this portion of scripture gives us the "public courtesies" of speaking, worshiping or praying in tongues. You may want to preview [1 Corinthians 14](#) since it specifically deals with using the gift of tongues as a public message.

### Exercise:

4. Give examples of the results of praying in a language that was unknown to the person. How did God use this gift?

5. Why should you speak in tongues? (*Gives you power; Prays Gods perfect will for you life when you do not know what to pray; builds up faith; helps to discern right way to walk in*)

**THIS WEEK'S BIBLE READING: Proverbs & Psalms Chapter a Day**

*Use the 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.*

**Answer Key:**

*Pg 1 -Understanding, Holy Spirit*

*Pg 3 - Power*

*Pg 6 - Name of Jesus Christ*





of you, my child." He washes away all traces & evidence of it from heaven's records. Shame has no place in the redeemed because sin is gone, but only if there is complete honesty between God & you. You must agree with God on the point of sin's hold on you before you can be freed from it. Denying sin only gives it permission to stay. Repentance begins with admitting it to the deepest part of you. Holding nothing back & there is no want to continue participating in sin. It is not enough to just know you are in sin you must admit it is not something you want at all in your life and that it has separated you from God and you no longer want to be separated from Him. From this place speak to God about your sin, tell Him what it is that you are guilty of then ask Him to forgive you and cleanse you from it. We have this promise that God is both \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ to do exactly that.

**Faithful:** He's going to do it.

**Just:** He is right to do so.

**YOUR Testimony** helps you overcome & encourages others in faith.

Jesus' and the example of biblical characters such as Mary Magdalene, the apostle Paul, and others display high levels of openness and transparency. When reading about them you may think that was a very natural thinking for them. But when you read closer you find that shame had them locked in a prison. Hiding from people who would expose them to others. Jesus was willing to also expose them but not to make them ashamed. He uncovered them from their hiding places for a different purpose. His exposure meant cleansing & finally, freedom from shame.

### *Revelation 12:11*

*They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death*

Many people come to church and hear great testimonies of victories won and amazing answers to prayer. These true stories of life altering encounters with God inspire and create an awareness of what God can do. That is perhaps something we have not come to expect for ourselves yet. However, the weaknesses that all of us possess, our secret shortcomings, even areas of our lives that need God's immediate intervention also inspire others. When anyone allows pride & shame to silence us about those, they consequently fail to find freedom for themselves but also reduce the chances for countless Christians who could have been inspired by their stories. They may be attending church but still feeling defeated and condemned.

## II. TESTIMONY:

Testimonies are simply how we praise God for his goodness.

### *I Chronicles 16:8-12*

*8. Give thanks to the LORD, call on his name; make known among the nations what he has done. 9. Sing to him, sing praise to him; tell of all his wonderful acts. 10. Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice. 11. Look to the LORD and his strength;*

They are the individual unique stories of how a person came to know Jesus as Lord & Savior. They have a lasting effect on the one who tells the story and the ones who hear it. Testimonies release the love and



power of God to transform another life, both before and after meeting Jesus. They reveal the importance and beauty of being able to be honest and transparent before others.

The person sharing their testimony will convey how God the Father has shown His compelling desire to help them. Many overwhelming odds withstand every soul that leaps into the captivating heart of God. No matter what the obstacles may have been God is faithful to help us overcome them all. Events, people who shared the hope of Christ, how prayer was answered, and more are told in every unique testimony.

We've selected a few of the many Biblical testimonies.

### 1. Jesus Christ (*Matthew 26:36-39*)

- A. Christ disclosed to His disciples that His soul was "grieved to the point of death."
- B. He did not try to hide this aspect of His nature from them.

### 2. Mary Magdalene (*Mark 16:9*)

- A. She was referred to as "the one He had cast seven demons out of."
- B. Obviously, Mary did not mind this. She had been healed and became more than comfortable with a high degree of transparency concerning her past and what the Lord had done for her.

### 3. Genesarsene Démoniac (*Mark 5:1-19*)

- A. Jesus instructed him to go to his people and inform them concerning the wonderful things God had done for him.
- B. He was expected to be extremely transparent with others after his initial encounter with Jesus.

## I. The Bible defines sin for us (*James 4: 1 7*).

1. The Bible also explains how sin becomes a reality in a person's life (*James 1:12-15*).
2. Sin is devastating to individuals, marriages, families, and whole communities. Many will defend or cover up sin their when it becomes socially normal in their circles. But the ultimate end of sin is death (*Romans 6:23, James 1:15*); however, its effects from the start are horrendous. Almost without exception, innocent victims also suffer due to the repercussions of sins committed. This is especially true in closely-knit relationships, such as friendships, marriages, families, and churches, where people let down their defense mechanisms, granting one another varying degrees of trust and vulnerability.
3. Sin should be treated as a spiritual cancer; it is life threatening to the spiritual life of the believer as well as to those he relates to interpersonally. *Romans 6 The Message Bible*

### CAUTION:

Transparency should not include detailed depictions of anything sinful or in any way inappropriate.

Don't create images that may become a unintended temptation for the people you share with. Stories do create pictures in our imaginations as we hear them. And graphic imagery is often very hard to release from our memory. This is the very thing that makes our stories so impacting. However, that impact must be framed with purity. It is enough to say an area or event without describing too many details that may damage the hearers.

## **Telling Your Story**

### **FOR CHRISTIANS WHO CAN TRACE THEIR CONVERSION TO A SPECIFIC POINT**

#### **1. Attitudes & actions before I became a Christian**

Describe your life before Jesus. What was your life like- what were your feelings, attitudes, actions and relationships? What caused you to begin considering a solution to your needs?

## 2. Circumstances surrounding my conversion

Consider the time, date, place, people, motivation, etc. What realization did you come to that finally motivated you to commit your life to Christ? Maybe you can summarize gospel here: death, burial, rising to life, forgiveness of Jesus. Verbalize how YOU prayed to God.

## 3. Changes in my attitude and actions since my conversion

What benefits have you experienced since becoming a Christian? How is your life different? Describe how Jesus is blessing and looking after you today.

## **PEOPLE WHO BECAME A CHRISTIAN AT A YOUNG AGE**

### 1. Encounter with Jesus

Describe your early life and when and how Christianity was involved. If appropriate, include family or church background. Avoid naming denominations.

### 2. Circumstances surrounding a crisis or special encounter with Jesus

Describe one or more events that brought you to a deeper trust in Jesus. What realization did you come to that finally motivated you to seriously follow Jesus? Verbalize how you made you deeper commitment to Him. Consider the time, date place, people, motivation, etc. Maybe you can Summarize gospel here: death, burial, raising to life, forgiveness of Jesus. Verbalize how YOU prayed to God.

### 3. Changes in my attitudes and actions since my conversion

What benefits have you experienced since becoming serious about Jesus. How is your life different? Describe how Jesus is blessing and looking after you today.

**THIS WEEK'S BIBLE READING: Ecclesiastes**

*Use the 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. 2 Shame;

Pg. 3 Faithful, Just





stopped him and the messenger from God. This passage is what the angel said would happen because Abraham had not made his only son more important to him than God.

*Genesis 22:16-18*

*"By Myself I have sworn, declares the LORD, because you have done this thing and have not withheld your son, your only son, 17indeed I will greatly bless you, and I will greatly multiply your seed as the stars of the heavens and as the sand which is on the seashore; and your seed shall possess the gate of their enemies. 18"In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice."*

The faith that Abraham placed in God was so intense that God chose his faith D.N.A. to be the model. How important is this act of "Faith"? It was recorded 4 times in the New Testament.

[Romans 4:3](#) ... For the Scriptures tell us, "Abraham **believed God**, and **God counted** him as righteous because of his faith." ...

[James 2:23](#) ... And so it happened just as the Scriptures say: "Abraham **believed God**, and **God counted** him as righteous because of his faith." He was even called the friend of ...

[Galatians 3:6](#) ... In the same way, "Abraham **believed God**, and **God counted** him as righteous because of his faith." ...

[Hebrews 11:11](#) ... Abraham trusted that **God** would keep his promise, conceive seed when she was past age, since she **counted** him faithful.

Jesus dealt with the error of walking in the natural alone and claiming a heritage that was Natural DNA alone and not a heritage based in sincere faith alone.

**John 8:39**

*They answered and said to Him, "Abraham is our father." Jesus said to them, "If you are Abraham's children, do the deeds of Abraham."*

## **The LAW of LOVE**

Moses was given 10 commandments carved in stone. It was a picture of the permanent and enduring love of God. In these 10 eloquent and simple Laws, we find the heart of God. We find them first in Genesis given to Adam as they were written on his heart. Adam enjoyed daily fellowship. "walked with God in the cool of the day."

When sin entered in we can see their hardening take place within Adam's heart and every generation that followed. Until God, from a bush that appeared to be burning on Mt. Sinai, gave them again. This time they were on the outside of the heart carved on cold stone so much like the stone-cold heart of man.

Our sinful nature is fully at odds with them. The Bible records how the Israelites wobbled in and out of alignment with the heart of Love found in the commandments. There was a steady resistance in their hearts like trying the resistance when trying to mash the same end of two magnets together. When they did try keeping them they became cruel and harsh, so they would wobble instantly over to the other side to permissiveness, hiding from Love's constraint. In the modern church we can find the same hard hearted reaction to God's law. Some even use scripture to support their error.

At first glance they seem simple and very desirable. Who would not want to live among a people who kept them? Honored by your children, No adultery, No Murder, No stealing, No Falsehood, not even a covetous thought from others. When God gave them He told us to meditate upon them day & night. Why do you think He wanted us to do this? What is there to think about? They are simple enough to memorize. How are we to contemplate them day and night for a life time? We should start with understanding our common allergic reaction to them

Let's first understand our duplicity of mind. We mostly think just like the rich young ruler, that we have kept them. We say if this is the rule then we have no sin and therefore make God out to be a liar because He says all have sinned.

These define sin. The modern church, like the Israel of Jesus' day, preferred their own explanations and traditions than the law. Unless the law served them as a basis to execute someone.

These ten simple laws of love are God's defense for capital punishment. When you let them soak in, we may find within ourselves a severe allergic reaction to them. Don't believe me? Imagine the severest consequence of death being applied to yourself, your child, spouse or parent over breaking any of them and you may quickly find yourself decide they need softening. Yet on the other hand, you will want all of the rest of humanity to keep them in regard to your loved ones and yourself.

This is what Jesus explained when He said all the law and commandments are summarized in these two statements. Love the Lord your God with all your heart mind soul and strength and love your neighbor as yourself. In another place, He said, "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you."

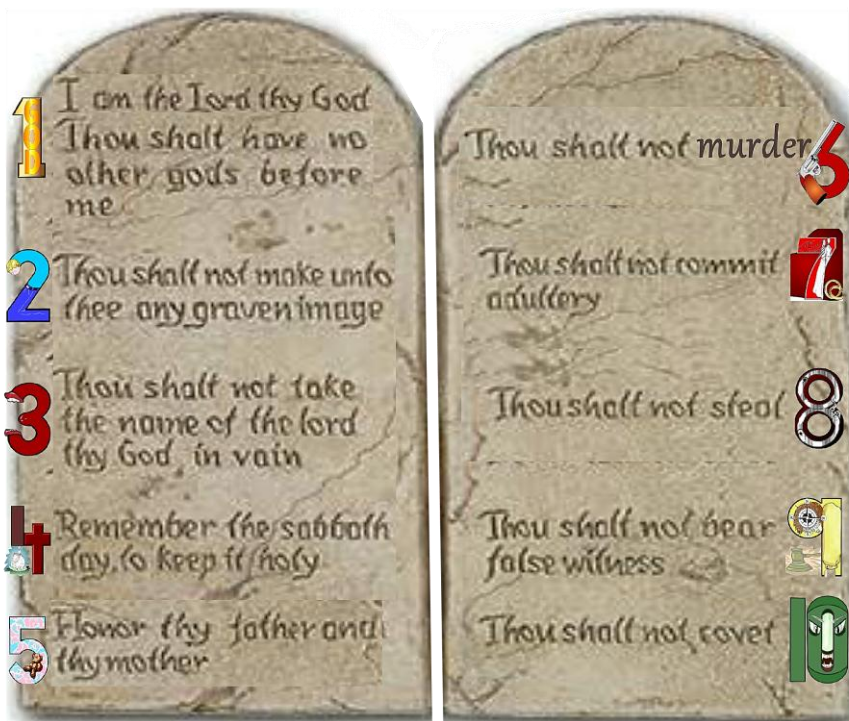
Jesus spent a large amount of His ministry expanding, summarizing, and republishing the MORAL law so that when you received your NEW heart you would recognize His Law of LOVE and rightly use your faith to apply the message it carries.

The commandments teach us what the highest affection that God should have from us ought to look like by telling us mostly what it is not. So then from "Shalt not" limits we can turn and move toward the Shall! #5 is the only "Thou Shalt" in the 10 and it comes with a promise of a bonus reward. The condensed, quick topic version is "Honor your Father & Mother." Most people have deeply offended their parents at some point in their lives and might have blamed their parents for their reaction to the dishonor, God has also been severely offended. Great doses of dishonor given Him instead of our highest affection.

Let's look at the Commandments: (Open your Bible & read them)

*Deuteronomy 5 & Leviticus 20*





Which of them do people think are unnecessary?

Which of them do you believe should not bear the penalty of eternal separation from God which is greater than death alone, but death and the next step being eternally in the unyielding grasp of Hell along with the devil & his angels? Which of them do you find not so very important? The scales of justice are equal penalty for equal value. A life is worth a life.

### Q: DID HE REMOVE THE PENALTY?

Jesus did not remove the need for capital offense at their breaking he simply took our place and fulfilled the RIGHTEOUS requirements of it. He did not acquit us, that is to declare us innocent and negate the Law, He validated the Law when He took our place.

#### Matthew 5:17-19

*17. "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. 18. For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished. 19. Therefore whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. 20. For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.*

Our God is the same yesterday today and forever. The God of the Old Testament is the same loving God of the New Testament. We can even see the pattern of his strategy to reach us in this simple verse in Micah that says what is required of us.

#### Micah 1:8

*What does the Lord require of you?*

- *Do justly (Law)*
- *Love mercy (Love)*
- *Walk humbly with your God (Faith)*

The cross is where the death penalty is applied. But was it removed? NO! Anyone who does not have His selfless act of redemption applied is still under the death penalty. Does this mean that the Moral code is no longer in effect? If that were true, then it would negate the need for the cross. If the LAW of God could be suspended, then God could not be still Holy. God does not abandon Holiness and become less loving to adopt humanity. He brings holiness to mankind through the cross. Just as Abraham received it, we receive it, by faith. A person who has been Born Again receives the very person of the Holy Spirit living in side of them. He causes the person's spirit that died when they committed their first sin against God to be made alive again. But now with both His power and faith in His Word they are made WELL ABLE to walk free from the bondage of Sin. The book of Romans discusses this matter very thoroughly as also Galatians and Hebrews. The understanding of our newness in Christ empowering us to be able to command SIN's desire to release its hold on us is essential. That will take the simple but great humility to activate the faith to believe God for His tender mercies. There is no room for dependence upon our own ability. As a new, born again, believer you no longer are under the power of sin and can live a life that keeps the heart of God's Moral Law, the 10 Commandments. And with that new-found strength that faith affords you can bring the message that offers the gift of righteousness to others.

Up till now we have mentioned the "Law" as on entity. But the Law that Jesus spoke of has three parts or functions. When Jesus said, "*I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.*" he understood how laying down His own life would complete the "requirements". The "requirements" are the "**Ceremonial**" portion. That's the sacrificial system that required the shedding of blood to wash sin away. The **Moral** portion of Moses' written law will never go away since it is the very nature of God described in them. There was also a civil portion that when applied was in essence the moral and ceremonial in practical application... for instance those start with certain plausible situations. Most are easily recognized because they begin with "if". Rules that start with statements like "If your neighbor's ox gores your neighbor then..." The **Civil** Law is subject to changes but still give us examples to follow even in our modern times. Today the statement might read, "If your neighbor runs over your pet in his car then..."

So then:

- The **Moral** Law is Perpetual
- The **Ceremonial** Law is Fulfilled
- The **Civil** Law amends to current circumstances

We have mentioned in this lesson the 6 commandments that concern our heart toward others but have not yet brought our attention around to the ones that are concerning our heart toward God. The first 4 speak about how we demonstrate our love for God. It may seem at 1st hearing that there is no benefit to us but that they are only beneficial to God. Making sure that He is always 1st priority is how Abraham was able to have a faith that succeeded. The prophets often compare the human

betrayal of God's affection through Idol worship to being like spiritual adultery. This gives us a clue to the offensive nature of our unfaithfulness & disloyalty. The 3rd commandment deals with the sincerity of our heart that is displayed in the manner we handle the use of His name. That could be in the simplest absent minded use of it without regard to His presence or the great act of taking His name as our identity when we claim Him and say we are Christian. Does our life bring that name honor or shame? Then finally there is the 4th. This command bridges the first ones that deal with loving God and the last that deal with loving People because it actually covers both. It deals with our sincere worship of God in regular practice of assembling. It is the way we see His betrothal to us shown before man. We are practicing our desire to meet with Him. These may seem not very essential to you. But let's apply the "golden Rule" that Jesus taught to them. If you were God would you find it appealing to give all that you are to a people who would give their highest devotion & worship to false gods and man-made idols?

Would you want to be around someone who would readily disgrace your name as though you would not know or who had no desire to be in your presence? When we allow our heart to recognize how putrid our natural state of being is to God we may be more inclined to agree with Him that we are in desperate need of a Savior and a removal of our sin hardened heart to be replaced by a new heart. A new heart that wants to Love God in return for the Love He has given to us. The Moral Law is a mirror to view our natural condition apart from the Holy Spirit so that we will readily cooperate with His Love even when it is frighteningly foreign to our carnal nature. We can now "lean not to our own understanding but in all our ways acknowledge Him".

## **The LAW of FAITH**

It is absolutely necessary that we understand that keeping the Law is not how we receive or keep salvation. It is gained by faith in God's love. Faith and FAITH alone... Not by works (keeping the Law) so that no man may boast. But our righteousness is the result of Jesus obedience to God to fulfill the Law upon the cross and our receiving the earnings of it through faith. If our faith is sincere, it will be alive and growing. With the leading of the Holy Spirit we will find our holiness will also be growing along with obedience to a presentation of God's love will look like what the 10 commandments teach and that looks like Jesus example. An unending love is only lived with a completely surrendered life and constantly active faith.

This is a brief introduction to these two laws of Faith and Love and in no way comes close to being complete. We recommend you take serious the request of the Lord to tie them to your thought life and your heart. They become the spiritual diagnostic kit as you gain better understanding of each. Know that God will never lead you into temptation.

The New Testament republishes both the Moral and even makes amendment to some of the Civil law. But the Ceremonial law is completed and is no longer kept and even became a point of contention among the apostles when there appeared to be a wavering over them in the book of Acts. The Galatians were rebuked by Paul for returning to some of its practice. Several times you will see the writings of the apostles address the need for FAITH alone. Yet, James balances by saying that Faith

will produce good works. But good works cannot produce faith and without faith it is impossible to please God.

### **A SAMPLE OF A PENITANT PRAYER:**

My Father, My God,

I consider in my heart, both your goodness and your severity, your holiness and your love. I see both Your Law of Love and your Law of Faith displayed in the cross. I call our own hearts to sorrow over my injurious behavior toward you and even the whole of humanity. You have the greatest love for each person including me. I no longer want to be offensive to you or the others you also love. I know that I have done so to my own great sorrow. I ask you now to forgive me. I also ask that you assure my heart and soul of your great salvation. That through faith your love is firmly mine for the sincere asking in your son's name. I know that what you have determined, nothing can overcome and you have determined to place your affection upon me and I receive it. I thank you for it. As I read your word, I believe your affection will grow in my own heart toward you and I sincerely hope that great love of yours will be seen in me toward others.

In Jesus Name, I Pray AMEN

### **PRACTICE:**

Read complete 10 Commandments and Learn the condensed version of them.

Read Romans

Focus on one commandment each day ask the Lord to reveal His heart is including it in the ten.

### **Study Questions:**

1. The 1st Commandment speaks of God being a jealous for us. How does this differ from a person who might be jealous of covetous of us?
2. How does the Christian obey the keeping of the Sabbath?
3. Is self-defense murder? Does the 6th commandment apply to soldiers and police who kill in the line of duty?
4. What do the 8th and 10th Commandment have in common?
5. What are some false gods (Living precepts & ideology) and forms of Idolatry still commonly practiced today?
6. How did Jesus define adultery and is it only committed after marriage?
7. How can our faith in Jesus' love help us destroy sin's grasp on our life?

8. How can the commandments direct our response to God and others?

**THIS WEEK'S BIBLE READING: Deuteronomy**

*Use the 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.*

**ANSWER KEY:**

Pg 1 - Justice, Love