

**Foundations  
of the  
Faith 101  
Bible Study Workbook**



*April 2007*

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\*Note: Study #12 is taken directly from the small pamphlet by this title currently in circulation at CCW.

## BIBLE STUDY #1

### Salvation and the New Birth

One of the most important habits to get into that will help you grow as a new Christian is memorizing Bible verses. In Psalm 119:11 the Bible says, "I have hidden Your Word in my heart that I might not sin against You." Memorizing Bible verses and doing what they say, will help you to fight against temptation and instruct you to do what is right. We encourage you to memorize the verse below to give you a better understanding of the topic of salvation.

#### Part I: Salvation

John chapter 3, verse 16, or abbreviated, it would look like this: 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."*

John 3:3, 7 – In reply Jesus declared, "I tell you the truth, unless a man is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God...You should not be surprised at my saying 'You must be born again.'"

Our Lord Jesus Christ commanded us saying, "You must be born again." In this lesson you should learn:

- A. Why we need to be saved.
- B. How God has provided for our salvation.
- C. How we can have that salvation personally.

Before you start, **PRAY**. Ask God's Holy Spirit to open your heart to receive His Word and to show you how to apply it in your life. Do not copy the scriptures, but answer the question briefly and in your own words.

Sin is the failure to obey any of God's commandments or laws.

1. How does the Bible describe sin?

I John 3:4 \_\_\_\_\_

2. What is the result of sin?

Romans 6:23 \_\_\_\_\_

James 1:15 \_\_\_\_\_

To better understand the effects of sin, think of death as

#### **SEPARATION.**

- A. Spiritual death -- Your sins have **separated** you from God.
- B. Physical death -- It **separates** the spirit and soul from the body.
- C. Eternal death -- If you remain lost in your sins, they will **separate** you from the mercy of God forever.

(This is the greatest punishment of Hell.)

**RIGHTEOUS** means "the character or quality of being right or just", or being "right" before God.

3. How many of us are righteous? Romans 3:10 \_\_\_\_\_

4. How many of us have sinned? Romans 3:23

\_\_\_\_\_

5. What word explains why God would send His only Son to die for us? John 3:16

\_\_\_\_\_

6. Does He love us as sinners or do we have to become good enough for God to love us?  
Romans 5:8

\_\_\_\_\_

7. Read each of the verses below and indicate if we are saved by Jesus only or if God allows another way for salvation.

I Timothy 2:5 \_\_\_\_\_

Acts 4:12 \_\_\_\_\_

John 14:6 \_\_\_\_\_

*God's Word says sin causes death. Jesus took that penalty upon Himself in our place.*

8. How did Jesus take the penalty of sin for us? I Corinthians  
15:3 \_\_\_\_\_

9. What must we do to have Him save us from the penalty of sin?

Romans 10:9 \_\_\_\_\_

Acts 16:30-31 \_\_\_\_\_

**BELIEVE** means "to cling to, trust in and rely on." **CONFESS** means "to openly acknowledge."

10. The Bible uses several words to show the contrast between "works" and "faith." Next to each of the following scriptures write the words that describe how we are saved.

Ephesians 2:8 \_\_\_\_\_

Titus 3:5 \_\_\_\_\_

11. Why does the Bible say we are not saved by our works?

Ephesians 2:9 \_\_\_\_\_

**JUSTICE** is getting what we deserve. If God were only a just God, we would all perish.

**MERCY** is not getting what we deserve. It is by His mercy He can forgive us.

**GRACE** is getting something we don't deserve at all. By God's grace (not our own merit) He sent us His Son.

**FAITH** is accepting as truth, things which cannot be proved by the senses. Faith is trusting God. Faith is believing what God has said and acting upon it.

12. What should be the result of God's goodness and kindness to us? Romans 2:4

\_\_\_\_\_

**REPENTANCE** means "a change of mind." It is through change in the hearts of men, away from sin and toward God. It should include:

- A. A genuine sorrow for our sins.
- B. Cleansing from continually sinning.
- C. A desire to submit to God's will.

13. When we repent, what happens in Heaven?  
Luke 15:10 \_\_\_\_\_

Have the angels rejoiced over you? All you have to do is pray this simple prayer and mean it in your heart: "Jesus, I know I am a sinner. Forgive my sins and take control of my life, Amen."

From memory write out your memory verse from page 1.

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## Part II: The New Birth

This section explores the question: "What happens when you are born again?"

When you, in faith, receive Jesus Christ as your Savior, many radical and significant changes occur. One of the important truths to know and understand regarding our salvation is that God has made full provision for our every need in His gift of salvation. This includes a. transferring us from the kingdom of this world into His family, b. full provision for our every need in our life on earth, and c. final glorification when we leave this life to be with Him.

In the passages of the New Testament, the following phrases are synonymous:

"born again"  
"new birth"  
"born from above"  
"born of God"  
"born of the Spirit"

I John 3:9 "Whoever is born again is \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_."

This means that we have a new life within that comes directly from God. It is referred to in John 3:16 as eternal life. Because we now have the "seed of God", we are now of the same essence/being as God and are called his children. This is similar to our natural birth in which we have the seed of our natural parents and are like them in many ways.

We are now a part of the family of God.

The family of God has many members, both male and female, Jew and Gentile, slave and free. Since there are other children in God's family, what does that make your relationship with them?

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And...you can now call God your \_\_\_\_\_.

Read the following passages and fill in the blanks.

I Pet. 2:9 God has transferred us from darkness into \_\_\_\_\_.

John 5:24 God has given us \_\_\_\_\_ in place of death.

John 3:18 The verdict upon us now is not condemnation but \_\_\_\_\_.

Rom. 5:19 We are no longer regarded by God as sinners but as \_\_\_\_\_.

I Pet. 2:10 Instead of children of wrath, we are now children of \_\_\_\_\_.

I Pet. 2:10 We were formerly "not a people". We are now the "\_\_\_\_\_."

I Thess. 1:10, Rom. 5:6 Formerly, we were unholy and ungodly. Now we are \_\_\_\_\_.

Some other things that occur:

- The Holy Spirit comes to live within your spirit.
- All of your sins are forgiven and the judgment due to you because of your sins is removed.
- You now have access to the Father through Jesus the Son.
- Jesus is now your shepherd.
- Jesus is at the right hand of the Father continually interceding for you in your life on earth.
- Jesus will work within you by the Holy Spirit to conform you to His likeness.
- Since the Spirit of God is now within you, you will begin to see evidences (fruit) of His presence. These evidences will include (but not be limited to) such things as love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, brotherly kindness.
- You will see changes in your affections and desires.
- The Holy Spirit, working within you, will help you to put to death the "old nature."
- The promises of God as recorded in scripture are now available to you. e.g. "Ask and it will be given, seek and you shall find, knock and the door shall be opened to you." (Matt. 7:7)

Salvation begins with our new birth and is truly a new beginning.  
Our lives are changed radically.

God is now our Father, Jesus is our older brother and the Holy Spirit is now at work within us to change us and make us like Jesus.

We are members of the family of God with an imperishable hope of living forever in the kingdom of God in heaven.

## BIBLE STUDY #2

### Faith and Assurance

Begin memorizing I John 5:12-13

*"He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God, does not have life. I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life."*

Hebrews 6:18-19 – *He has given us both his promise and His oath, two things we can completely count on, for it is impossible for God to tell a lie. Now all those who flee to Him to save them can take new courage when they hear such assurances from God; now they can know without doubt that He will give them the salvation He has promised them. This certain hope of being saved is a strong and trustworthy anchor for our souls, connecting us with God Himself behind the sacred curtains of heaven (THE LIVING BIBLE paraphrased).*

It is a comfort to know that God intends for us to be sure of our salvation. He simply wants us to have faith, **trusting Him and believing He will do everything He said**. In this lesson you should learn:

- A. God is faithful and keeps His promises.
- B. He promises us eternal life.
- C. We obtain His promises by faith.
- D. We can know we have the eternal life He promises.

**PRAY** before you start! Answer the questions briefly and in your own words.

**ASSURANCE** means to have the evidence and proof to know for certain that something is true.

**FAITHFULNESS** refers to the character of someone who has shown he is trustworthy and can be relied upon to keep his word.

1. How is God described regarding His promise?

Hebrews 10:23 \_\_\_\_\_

2. If we don't believe or have faith, what happens to God's faithfulness?

II Timothy 2:13 \_\_\_\_\_

3. What does God promise us?

I John 2:25 \_\_\_\_\_

Titus 1:2 \_\_\_\_\_

4. How do we obtain or inherit the promises of God for ourselves?

Hebrews 6:12 \_\_\_\_\_

Faith is the key that opens the treasure chest of God's promises. Faith means to "have trust in"; "to be convinced of". Faith that pleases God is faith in Jesus Christ.

5. What pleases God?

Hebrews 11:5-6 \_\_\_\_\_

6. Where do we get our faith?

Romans 10:17 \_\_\_\_\_

7. Where does faith reside?

Rom 10:9 \_\_\_\_\_

Our feelings and emotions change from day to day. On some days we may not “feel” like God loves us. DO NOT be deceived by feelings and emotions. The devil can use them to put doubt (opposite of faith) in our minds to try to destroy our faith. We should not put our trust in feelings that will change.

8. Who or what should we trust in, that never changes?

I Peter 1:24-25 \_\_\_\_\_

Hebrews 13:8 \_\_\_\_\_

While our feelings come and go, we can have our faith steady and solid by basing it on what God has said in His Word. Here are a few of the things God has told us.

9. When we come to Jesus, what is the one thing He has promised NOT to do?

John 6:37 \_\_\_\_\_

10. What can separate us from the love God has for us?

Romans 8:38-39 \_\_\_\_\_

11. When we yield to God’s Spirit and let Him lead us, who does the Bible say we are?

Romans 8:14 \_\_\_\_\_

12. We are told to love one another. What does the Bible say about those who have God’s love?

I John 3:14 \_\_\_\_\_

I John 4:7 \_\_\_\_\_

13. Because God (our Father) disciplines us when we go against His will, what does this tell us about our relationship with Him?

Hebrews 12:6-7 \_\_\_\_\_

14. How can we be sure that we know God?

I John 2:3 \_\_\_\_\_

15. If we have Jesus in our hearts and believe in Him, what do we have?

John 3:16 \_\_\_\_\_

I John 5:12 \_\_\_\_\_

16. Jesus is called the Good Shepherd. How do we know we are His sheep?

John 10:27 \_\_\_\_\_

17. Are you one of His sheep? \_\_\_\_\_

How do you know for sure? \_\_\_\_\_

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For more about **FAITH**, read Hebrews 11:1-40.

From memory, write out your memory verse below.

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## BIBLE STUDY #3

### Who is God the Father?

If you have received Jesus as your Savior, you have been rescued from the kingdom of darkness and transferred into the kingdom of light, God's kingdom, God's family. You are now a child of God and He is your heavenly Father.

This lesson addresses the question: "Who is God the Father?"

The only one who knows the complete answer to this question is God Himself. Human thought and language fall far short in their efforts to define God. Fortunately for us, God has revealed enough of Himself in the world and in His Word to enable us to understand some aspects of His being. We have access to enough information about God to satisfy our life needs and our search for meaning.

In this lesson, we will begin by looking at the words used for "father" in the Old and New Testaments and how they are defined. We will look at some of the names of God to begin to know something of our new Father, who He is and what He does. We will look at how God has revealed Himself both in the Word Book (Bible) and in the World Book (Creation).

Our objective is not just to learn facts about Him, but "to know" Him. In the context of the Bible, this means to have an intimate relationship with Him.

#### I. Definition

##### A. Old Testament

The key word for father in the OT is "*ab*." (Note similarity to the Greek word "*abba*.") This word occurs almost 1200 times in the OT, usually indicating a father or grandfather. It was also used as a title of respect for a ruling authority, a priest or a prophet.

It is used to indicate the father or founder of a tribe or family group (e.g. Abraham). It can also indicate the originator of a guild. Hence, Jubal is "the father of those who play musical instruments." (Gen. 4:21)

In the OT, the father was the dominant family member. He was the "head of the house." (Josh. 24:15)

He was responsible for the well-being of the family unit (Deut. 1:31) and for its discipline. (Deut. 8:5)

The father's primary responsibility was religious, as family priest and as the teacher of the faith.

The father guarded and provided for his family. But his primary responsibility was to communicate a living faith in Yahweh to the next generation.

##### B. New Testament

The primary Greek word which corresponds to "*ab*" is "*pater*." Its secular uses parallel the uses of "*ab*" in the OT. The most significant use of this word in the NT is its profuse use in reference to God.

OT references to God focus on His creative acts that describe Him as the originator. NT references to God (use of "*pater*") reveal His nature and the depth of relationship to which He invites us.

The Father:

1. \_\_\_\_\_ people to come to Jesus. (Jn 6:37, 44, 65)
2. \_\_\_\_\_ us to share in the inheritance of the saints. (Col. 1:12-13)
3. is the one who \_\_\_\_\_ us from the power of \_\_\_\_\_. (Col. 1:12-13)
4. is the architect of our \_\_\_\_\_. (Eph. 1:4-5)

The awesome one whose name pious Jews would not even pronounce, is now presented in a most loving and intimate way. John tells us that He will “come and make His abode in us.” (John 14:23)

Jesus often referred to God as His Father. (Matt. 7:21; 10:32-33; 12:50; 16:17; 18:10,19)

When Jesus taught his disciples to pray in Matt. 6, His first words were “Our Father.” He identified God as the Father to whom we should pray.

When believers are baptized, we are to baptize them in the name of the Father, the son and the Holy Spirit. God the Father is the first person in the Holy Trinity.

Read the following passages and record the implications of God’s fatherhood in our lives:

- Matt. 6:1 \_\_\_\_\_  
John 15:2; Heb. 12:7-11 \_\_\_\_\_  
Matt. 6:6, 18:19 \_\_\_\_\_  
Matt. 6:8; Luke 12:3 \_\_\_\_\_  
I John 3:1; Jude 1 \_\_\_\_\_  
Matt. 7:11; Luke 11:13 \_\_\_\_\_  
Matt. 10:29-30 \_\_\_\_\_  
Luke 6:36 \_\_\_\_\_  
Luke 12:32 \_\_\_\_\_  
John 16:27 \_\_\_\_\_  
I Pet. 1:17 \_\_\_\_\_

## II. Names of God

### A. The Word Book (Special Revelation)

Throughout scripture, God provides us glimpses of who He is by the use of His various names. Look up the following scriptures and record the name of God and how it portrays God, showing who He is and/or what He does.

1. Gen. 1:1 \_\_\_\_\_

In this passage, the Hebrew word for God is *Elohim*. It is the primary word used for God in the OT. “El” means strong and the plural ending (Hebrew) is an indication that God is more than one.

The first chapter of Genesis reveals God as the Creator of the universe and the great “life-giver.” In His creative acts, he uniquely creates man for fellowship with Himself. This purpose has not changed over the ages. Note that the Bible does not try to prove the existence of God. It simply affirms that He exists. (“*In the beginning, God...*”)

From “What Calvary Chapel Teaches” by Chuck Smith: “We believe that God is eternally existent in three separate persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.” Also: “We believe that God the Father is the personal, transcendent and sovereign creator of all things.”

2. Gen. 14:20 \_\_\_\_\_

The name for God in this passage is *El Elyon* which means *God Most High*. This name tells us that God is the sovereign ruler of the universe. It is *God Most High* who has delivered Abraham's enemies into his hands.

Read Dan. 4:34-35 to see what Nebuchadnezzar understood about who God is after God had returned his senses to him.

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3. Gen. 17:1 \_\_\_\_\_

God revealed Himself to Abraham as *El Shaddai*, the strong, all sufficient One. *Shaddai* indicates One who pours forth blessing. Whenever you see the English translation Almighty God or God Almighty, it is *El Shaddai*, our father God who is sufficient for our every need.

4. Gen. 16:13 \_\_\_\_\_

Hagar now knows God as *El Roi*, the God who sees. This name gives us assurance that God does see us. As we study other scriptures we discover that God not only sees us but that He has intimate knowledge of us.

5. Gen. 15:2 \_\_\_\_\_

In this passage, Abraham calls God *Adonai*, the Hebrew word for Lord which means master. This word indicates a relationship in which He is our Lord and Master.

6. Ex. 3:14 \_\_\_\_\_

When Moses asked God: "Who shall I say has sent me?" God revealed Himself as the Self-Existent One, *Jehovah* (also *Yahweh*). This phrase "I Am Who I Am" indicates that God has no beginning or end. This is the most common name for God in the Old Testament and is used almost 7000 times. This is the name by which He revealed Himself as the faithful, covenant-keeping God.

7. I Sam. 17:42-47 \_\_\_\_\_

David, as he goes to battle with Goliath, refers to God as the Lord of Hosts (*Jehovah-Sabaoth*). "The Lord of Hosts is with us. The God of Jacob is our stronghold." (Ps.46:7) This name means not only that he is our deliverer but also our judge.

8. Ps 23:1 \_\_\_\_\_

He is *Jehovah-raah*, our shepherd. A shepherd is one who takes care of sheep. He does this by providing food, shelter and protection. He also takes care of them when they are sick or suffering from an infestation of parasites.

9. I John 4:8 \_\_\_\_\_

While this is not a name of God (*agape*), it does tell us who God is in His very nature. This is good news because everything God does flows out of a heart of love for His Creation. He is not capricious or mischievous as some of the mythical gods are described. He is perfectly reliable and dependable in every action.

B. The World Book (General Revelation)

1. Genesis 1 \_\_\_\_\_

God (Elohim) is revealed as the One who has created all things...heavens, stars, planets, the earth, trees, fish, animals, and most of all, mankind.

2. Rom. 1:19-20 \_\_\_\_\_

Paul speaks of God's creative results and says that in them (all of creation) we can see God's eternal power and deity.

This creation reveals to us that God has no limits, that he is beyond us (transcendent) and that He is a God of order and purpose. He is shown as a God of power who speaks into existence something out of nothing.

3. Ps. 8:3 The \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ are the work of His fingers.  
8:5 He made \_\_\_\_\_ a little lower than the \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Ps. 19 The \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_ declare the glory of God.

In Psalm 19:4, what does the phrase “their line has gone out through all the earth” mean?

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### III. A Special Psalm

Psalm 145 was written by David near the end of his life. This Psalm reflects his experiences of a life-time of learning to know God.

Read this Psalm and observe the many different words that describe who God is and what He does. (There are approximately 40 of them.)

### IV. God in the Old and New Testaments

The God of the New Testament is the God of the Old Testament.

God begins to reveal Himself to us in the acts and descriptive words of the OT. In the NT, God is still the same eternal, sovereign, loving and righteous God revealed in the OT. But, in the NT, God’s attributes are further explored and the implications of each are developed.

In the OT, we see his righteous dealings with the sinning generations in Israel. In the NT, we see His righteousness in a new light, as the son offers up His life as payment for the sins of a lost humanity.

We saw God’s love operate in His free choice of Israel as His own special people. Now we see God’s love in its full glory as Jesus comes with the gospel call to all mankind.

In the OT, the conviction of who God is focuses on His creative activities and that He is the source of everything, the giver of life. In the NT, “Father” is a relational term that emphasizes the intimacy of the relationship we have with God in Christ.

The OT hints at God’s triune nature. The NT presents the Son and the Holy Spirit as persons in their own right, yet linked in undivided unity with the Father.

The God who began to communicate Himself to us in the OT acts and descriptive words now shares Himself fully with us in Jesus and in the NT. Jesus said: “If you have seen me, you have seen the Father.”

**V. Conclusion:**

These are just a few of the many names and descriptions of God that begin to tell us who God is and what he does. His revelation to each of us is progressive throughout our lives.

As you continue your walk with God, remember that He is the Creator, the Sovereign ruler of the universe, always sufficient for every need and that he sees us in our every circumstance. He is our Lord and master. He has no beginning or end. He will never cease to exist.

He helps us in our times of difficulty and He truly is our Father, our good shepherd, feeding, protecting, guiding and healing us.

## BIBLE STUDY #4

### Who Is Jesus?

Begin memorizing Philippians 2:10-11

*“That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”*

Matthew 16:13-16 – *When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, “Who do people say the Son of Man is? They replied, “Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” “But what about you?” He asked. “Who do you say I am?” Simon Peter answered, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”*

It is very important to know who we believe in. If Jesus is **ONLY** a man or a teacher or a prophet or a philosopher, then our faith is in vain, but He is much more! In this lesson you should learn:

- A. What others said about Jesus.
- B. What Jesus said about Himself.
- C. The Bible teaches that Jesus is God.

**RABBI** means teacher or master.

**MESSIAH** or **CHRIST** means the Anointed One, the One promised of God as the Great Deliverer.

1. What are these people saying Jesus was?

John (John 1:29, 34) \_\_\_\_\_  
Andrew (John 1:40-41) \_\_\_\_\_  
Nathaniel (John 1:49) \_\_\_\_\_  
Samaritans (John 4:42) \_\_\_\_\_  
Peter (John 6:68-69) \_\_\_\_\_  
Thomas (John 20:28) \_\_\_\_\_

2. Who did the Father say Jesus was?

Matthew 3:16-17 \_\_\_\_\_  
Matthew 17:5 \_\_\_\_\_

3. What terms did Jesus use to describe Himself?

John 4:25-26 \_\_\_\_\_  
John 6:33-35 \_\_\_\_\_  
John 9:5 \_\_\_\_\_  
John 10:7 \_\_\_\_\_  
John 10:11 \_\_\_\_\_  
John 10:36 \_\_\_\_\_  
John 11:25 \_\_\_\_\_  
John 13:13 \_\_\_\_\_  
John 14:6 \_\_\_\_\_

4. Read John 10:22-33. The Jews asked Jesus for a plain answer. How did He answer them in verse 30? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

The Jews knew exactly what He meant by that answer. Who was He claiming to be in verse 33? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

In Exodus 3:13-14 Moses asked God what he should tell the Israelites His name was. God said His name was "I AM." Jesus also refers to Himself by saying "I AM!" In some translations the word "he" is added in italics after I AM for clarification. The word "he" does not appear in the original Greek text.

5. What happened when Jesus answered "I AM" to the Roman soldiers? John 18:4-6  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

6. How did Jesus respond to the Jews question of how Abraham had seen Him? John 8:58  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Jesus also claimed to be "I AM" in John 8:24, 28.

7. What characteristics of the Father can be seen in the Son?

Hebrews 1:3 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

8. What does Jesus say about anyone who has seen Him?

John 14:8,9 \_\_\_\_\_

The Greek word **LOGOS** translated **WORD** in the book of John means "divine expression."

When John refers to Jesus as the **LOGOS** or **WORD**, he means Jesus is the exact image of the invisible God. The Father chose to reveal Himself to us through the Son.

9. Read John 1:1-5, 14, 18 and answer these questions:

How long has the **WORD** been around?

Verse 1 \_\_\_\_\_

Who does the Bible say the **WORD** is?

Verse 1 \_\_\_\_\_

What things were made by the **WORD**?

Verse 3 \_\_\_\_\_

What can be found in the **WORD**?

Verses 4-5 \_\_\_\_\_

Did the **WORD** stay in Heaven only?

Verse 14 \_\_\_\_\_

Who has the Son revealed to us?

Verse 18 \_\_\_\_\_

Read Colossians 1:15-20 and compare it to the scriptures in the last question.

10. Who do you say Jesus is? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

From memory, write out your memory verse below.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**BIBLE STUDY #5**

**The Person and Filling Of The Holy Spirit**

**Part I. The Person and Work of the Holy Spirit**

**I. Who is the Holy Spirit?**

Look up the following scriptures and record what is shown about the Holy Spirit:

1. I Cor. 2:12 He is the Spirit who is \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Matt. 28:19 What does this verse indicate about the Holy Spirit?  
\_\_\_\_\_

From "What Calvary Chapel Teaches": We believe that God is eternally existent in three separate persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

3. John 16:5-15

Note the use of the personal pronouns He and Him.  
What does this tell you about the Holy Spirit?

\_\_\_\_\_

4. Acts 1:8 Jesus used two words to identify the one that would come upon them. What are these words and what do they indicate?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

5. Names of the Holy Spirit

Review the following scriptures and identify the names of the Holy Spirit:

- a. Rom. 1:4 \_\_\_\_\_
- b. John 14:17; 16:13 \_\_\_\_\_
- c. Rom. 8:9 \_\_\_\_\_
- d. Rom. 8:15 \_\_\_\_\_
- e. Gen. 15:2 \_\_\_\_\_

6. Acts 2:38; 10:45; John 14:16; Gal. 3:2

What special feature do the 4 scriptures above reveal about the Holy Spirit?

\_\_\_\_\_

What does this mean for you? \_\_\_\_\_

7. John 7:38-39 What are the "rivers of living water" spoken of in the above passage? \_\_\_\_\_

Who will have these "rivers of living water"? \_\_\_\_\_

What is the source of the "rivers of living water"? (where will they come from?)

\_\_\_\_\_

8. The Bible uses 3 words to describe the position of the Holy Spirit relative to persons. Review the following 2 scriptures and see if you can identify the 3 words that describe His position.  
John 14:16-17; Acts 1:8

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**II. What does the Holy Spirit do?**

We know that the Holy Spirit is active in the affairs of God upon the earth. Look up the following scriptures and identify what the Holy Spirit does.

1. John 16:7      a. \_\_\_\_\_  
                         b. \_\_\_\_\_  
                         c. \_\_\_\_\_
  
2. I Cor. 2:13      \_\_\_\_\_  
   John 14:26      \_\_\_\_\_  
   Rom. 8:13        \_\_\_\_\_  
   John 16:13      \_\_\_\_\_  
   Acts 1:8          a. \_\_\_\_\_  
                         b. \_\_\_\_\_  
  
   II Cor. 3:18      \_\_\_\_\_  
   John 16:8        \_\_\_\_\_  
   John 16:13      \_\_\_\_\_  
   John 16:14      \_\_\_\_\_  
   Eph. 1:13-14    \_\_\_\_\_  
   Rom. 8:26        \_\_\_\_\_ (Intercession)  
   Rom. 8:16        \_\_\_\_\_  
   Rom. 5:5 &      \_\_\_\_\_  
                         15:30              \_\_\_\_\_
  
3. I Cor. 12:4-11    What does the Holy Spirit give to men?  
                         \_\_\_\_\_  
  
                         How many gifts are listed in this passage? \_\_\_\_\_  
  
                         I Cor. 12:7      Who can have Spiritual gifts? \_\_\_\_\_  
                                            What is the purpose of the gifts given by the Holy Spirit?  
                         \_\_\_\_\_
  
4. I Cor. 12:3      How are we able to say: "Jesus is Lord."?  
                         \_\_\_\_\_

**III. Closing Comments**

Please note that many of the works by the Holy Spirit shown in this study indicate that He is a communicator. He does reveal to us the plans and purposes of God for us.

We can hear from the Holy Spirit.

In his book "Living Water", Chuck Smith makes the following statement:

"The Holy Spirit is God's gift to you to enable you to overcome sin, to be conformed to the image of Christ and to transform you into a powerful witness for the Lord."

He is given to you so that you might have the power to live for Jesus.

He is not given to you so that you might have an ecstatic spiritual experience.

## Part II: The Filling of the Holy Spirit

Begin memorizing Acts 1:8

*“But you shall 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.”*

Acts 1:4-5 – *On one occasion, while He was eating with them, He gave 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.”*

Jesus did not want His disciples to immediately begin telling others about Him. He told them to wait for the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, because He knew the **POWER** they were to receive was essential for the task ahead of them. In this lesson you should learn.

- A. Who the Baptism of the Holy Spirit is for.
- B. What the Baptism of the Holy Spirit is for.
- C. How to receive the Baptism of the Holy Spirit.

**BAPTISM** means to be immersed or dipped into something.

So that you will not become confused, you need to know that there are several terms which refer to “The Baptism of the Holy Spirit,” and they all mean the same thing.

- Acts 2:4 – “Filled with the Holy Spirit.”
- Acts 2:33 – “The promise of the Holy Spirit.”
- Acts 2:38 – “The gift of the Holy Spirit.”
- Acts 11:15 – “Holy Spirit fell (came) on them.”
- Luke 24:49 – “The promise of my Father.”

1. Who does the Bible say the Baptism of the Holy Spirit is for?

Acts 2:38-39 \_\_\_\_\_  
Has God called you to salvation? \_\_\_\_\_  
Is this promise for you? \_\_\_\_\_

In John 14:16-17, Jesus told His disciples that the Spirit had been **WITH** them and would soon be **IN** them. The Spirit came inside them in John 20:22. After Jesus had been resurrected, He spoke to them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit.” Before we are saved, the Holy Spirit is **WITH** us calling us to Jesus. When we are born again, the Spirit comes **INSIDE** us to teach and guide us. All true believers have the Holy Spirit living inside them. But Jesus went on to tell His disciples in Acts 1:8 that the Spirit would also be **ON** or **UPON** them.

2. What did Jesus tell His disciples they would receive when the Holy Spirit came ON them?  
Acts 1:8 \_\_\_\_\_

The Greek word for **POWER** is “dunamis,” where we get our words “dynamite” and “dynamic.” It is also translated strength, ability, authority, and might.

Jesus knows our weaknesses and that we do not have the strength we need to continually follow Him or do things for Him, so He supplies us with the **POWER** (dunamis) we need. We do not have to do it on our own!

3. The Father strengthens us through the power of His Spirit in our inner being for what purpose? Ephesians 3:16-17 \_\_\_\_\_
4. After the disciples received this power, what would it give them the ability to be? Acts 1:8 \_\_\_\_\_

**WITNESS** – To be a witness, means to testify that something is true. The disciples went out testifying that Jesus was the Christ, the Son of God and Savior of the world.

5. When Peter and John were released from jail, they gathered together and prayed. What did they pray for the Lord to enable them to do? Acts 4:29 \_\_\_\_\_
6. The Lord answered Peter and John’s prayer almost immediately. What did the Lord do to give them the boldness they asked for? Acts 4:31 \_\_\_\_\_
7. When Saul (later his name was changed to Paul) was filled with the Holy Spirit, what did he begin doing right away? Acts 9:17, 20 \_\_\_\_\_

Another aspect of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit is that the Holy Spirit wants to give each of us “spiritual gifts” or supernatural abilities to **EDIFY** (build up faith or strengthen) ourselves and other believers. The Bible refers to believers as the “body of Christ.” Jesus is the head and each of us is given a gift (or gifts) that empower us to function as a part of that body.

8. Who decides which spiritual gifts each of us will have in the body of Christ? I Corinthians 12:18 \_\_\_\_\_
9. What are some of the gifts that the Spirit gives to different parts of the body? I Corinthians 12:8-10 \_\_\_\_\_
10. What should we desire to do with our spiritual gifts? I Corinthians 14:12 \_\_\_\_\_
11. When all the spiritual gifts are working properly in the body of Christ, what will the body do for itself? Ephesians 4:16 \_\_\_\_\_
12. How can we be filled with the Holy Spirit? Luke 11:11-13 \_\_\_\_\_

If you want to know more about the Body of Christ, read Romans 12:4-8 and I Corinthians 12:1-31.

The Holy Spirit is like a wall outlet in your house. The power is always there, all you have to do is plug into it. With the power of the Holy Spirit, your “plug” is faith. When you ASK, believe God will answer your prayer, and you will plug into His power.

In Ephesians 5:18 the Bible commands us to “be filled with the Holy Spirit.” It is better translated “be continually being filled with the Holy Spirit.” It is talking about REFILLS. It is not just a one time filling, but we are continually in need of God’s power. We get refills in the same way we get the first filling, JUST ASK!

If you have not already been filled with the Holy spirit or if you need a refill, just pray a simple prayer like this: "Father, my power is not enough. Fill me with your Holy spirit and give me the power I need. In Jesus' Name, Amen."

From memory, write out your memory verse below.

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## BIBLE STUDY #6 The Church

102...count them (if you will)... different names for the church in the Bible; 35 in the OT and 67 in the NT. Review the selected NT passages below and record the name given to the church in each passage. Consider what each name means and what characteristic or quality it describes about the church.

Matt. 16:18	_____
Mark 13:20	_____
John 10:16	_____
Rom. 8:14	_____
Rom. 9:25	_____
Rom. 12:4	_____
Eph. 5:3	_____
I Pet. 1:4	_____
Rev. 5:10	_____
Rev. 19:7	_____

In this proliferation of names describing His bride, we see the evidence of Jesus' tremendous love for His people, His chosen ones, His called out ones, His holy ones.

Outline of this lesson:

- I. What is the church?
- II. Who is in the church?
- III. Purpose and vision of the church
- IV. Structure of the church
- V. What does the church do?
- VI. Summary

### I. What is the church?

The church is not a building or place, an institution, or "groups of Christians who have formed their own beliefs and forms of worship."

The English word church comes from Greek *kuriakos* meaning "belonging to God"

In the NT, the new community of Christians broke with the Greek meaning of *ekklesia* (a political assembly), and infused the word with new, distinctive Christian meaning. The gospel proclamation called lost people out of the world to gather together in a unique fellowship. Joined-together believers formed a new community, a community committed to Jesus and the radical lifestyle expressed in God's Word.

In the Christian community, *ekklesia* came to mean the "called out assembly", the community of believers. The church is therefore, those who are called out by God, those who belong to Him. In a broad sense, it refers to all Christians. In the local sense, it indicates a local congregation of Christians.

When we speak of the church today, we infer the New Testament church, the congregation of the New Covenant, those who have believed the gospel of Jesus Christ, those who have been washed by His blood and have experienced the new birth. These believers are called to live in

relationship with one another in a community that is the visible expression of a supernatural body.

The church is not a specific denomination (e.g. Baptist, Presbyterian, Lutheran), but people who have received life through Jesus Christ. As such, it is a living organism, both physical and spiritual.

- IMPORTANT:**
1. God started it. (Acts 2)
  2. God powered it. (Acts 2)
  3. God guided it. (Acts 10:19ff; 13:2-4)
  4. It is God-grown. (Acts 2:47b)

**II. Who is in the church?**

1. Read 1 Cor. 1:2 and record your findings.

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2. Unique - exclusive

The church is unique in that it is exclusive, only Christians are a part of it; and yet, it is open to all.

How: Not by filling out a form or going through a class – but by receiving the new birth. Receiving the new birth ushers you into the family of God.

**III. Purpose & Vision of the Church**

Read the following passages and record the purpose and vision.

Matt 28:19-20 \_\_\_\_\_

Acts 2:42 \_\_\_\_\_

Eph 4:11-16 \_\_\_\_\_

Picture of a healthy church

- Apostles (sent out), prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers – exercising their unique gifts and ministries
- Working together (unity) to build up and strengthen the people in:  
    FAITH – KNOWLEDGE – DOCTRINE - TRUTH
- Results – personal spiritual growth, a joining together, people being saved and added to the church
- Building up one another in love
- Having an effect on the world around us...making known the manifold wisdom of God to principalities and powers in the heavenly places. (Eph 3:8-13)

**IV. Structure of the Church**

1. Who is the head of the church?  
Eph. 5:23 \_\_\_\_\_
2. Are there to be leaders?  
I Pet. 5:1-4; Acts 20:27-28 \_\_\_\_\_

(There are to be leaders, appointed by God, submitted to God, who are to serve as shepherds of God's flock.)

Who selects leaders and the specific roles that people will fill in the church?

**Eph 4:11** \_\_\_\_\_

What is the responsibility of those appointed to positions of leadership?

James 3:1-2 \_\_\_\_\_

What is the responsibility of those they oversee?

**Heb 13:17** \_\_\_\_\_

**V. What does the church do?**

A. Practice – in the Service

1. Assemble together (see I Cor. 5:4, Heb. 10:23-25)
2. Worship God (see Ps 84:4; Ps 95, Ps 150)
3. Teach the Word (Col 3:16; Acts 2:42)  
Note from Rom. 10:14-15: A primary focus in the church is the teaching of the word first to those who are unsaved.

And secondly to the elect: 2 Tim 4:1-2

What is the purpose of teaching the Word?

2 Tim 3:16-17 \_\_\_\_\_

1 Tim 4:13-16 \_\_\_\_\_

4. List the activities of the early church as delineated in Acts 2:43.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

B. Practice – anytime

1. Minister to one another  
1 Peter 4:9-10 What does this verse teach us to do? \_\_\_\_\_  
1 Cor 14:11-12 What is the purpose for ministering in spiritual gifts?

Heb 10:23-25 What does this verse tell us we should do?

James 5:13-18 \_\_\_\_\_

2. Judge – assisting in disputes  
Not judging as in *krino* “to condemn (See James 4:11-12)  
But to *diakrino* – to discern, to examine and make a determination  
(assisting discernment) 1 Cor 6:1-4

See also Matt 18:15-17

The church is the place where believers can come to have a problem resolved by Godly counsel, where we can bring our dispute to the church leadership who will (hopefully) discern with the word of God and the Holy Spirit and help us to work out solutions that will be a blessing and bring reconciliation to the body.

The Objective: reconciliation – rejoin – healing of the body

Correction – see Heb. 12:5-6; Gal. 6:1; I Cor. 5:1-6

Why: If there is sin within the body that would defile the body (as in the example Paul gives us in I Cor. 5), that person must be removed so as not to defile the body of Christ.

C. Relationships – Unity

Read 1 Cor. 12:12-26

This significant passage regarding the body of Christ tells us:

1. That we are all connected, Paul calls it the “fellowship of the Spirit” (Phil 2:1)
  - a. We are connected to one another by the Spirit of God – just as He pleased.
  - b. We cannot say that we are independent. (“Let nothing be done of selfish ambition...let each esteem others better than himself” Phil 2:3)
2. In the church, we are inter-connected in ways that we don’t fully understand.
3. Problems occur when one part decides to act independently, not considering the body.
4. Being connected has its advantages because the weaker parts can be strengthened by the stronger.

D. Relationships - love and encourage one another

All of this coming together and working together speaks of a special relationship born of the Spirit. As members of one body, we ought to love one another.

Read 1 John 4:7-11

1. We know God through love.
2. We love, not to earn merit from God, but because He loves us!

Read Gal 5:22 How is love defined in this passage? \_\_\_\_\_

- a. We cannot make ourselves love. It is against our nature.
- b. But as we stay close to the Lord, we take on His nature
- c. We can “see” – “everyone who loves is born of God and knows God”

Read 1 John 3:16 How is love described in this passage?  
\_\_\_\_\_

What do the following verses instruct us to do?

Col 3:14 \_\_\_\_\_  
Eph.4:31-32 \_\_\_\_\_

These verses speak directly to our interpersonal relationships.

- a. “bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking” These are all things that are not characteristics of God, but rather of Satan.
- b. “put them away” - because of our sin nature, these feelings may well enter into your heart.
- c. When they do – YOU HAVE A CHOICE – will I embrace them, or put them away?

And instead, by the power of God’s Spirit that lives in me, to “be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.”  
These are in the nature and character of God.

As I grow, becoming more like Christ with more of His character and nature in me, then His nature and character are manifested in my life!

*Col 3:12-15 "Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; 13 bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do. (we are to forgive!) 14 But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection. 15 And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful."*

## **VI. Summary**

*We have examined a large selection of instruction from the word of God regarding the "beloved of God", the bride of Christ:*

- Names and metaphors for the church
- Purpose: preach the gospel, make disciples, equip the saints
- Submitted to church leaders and Christ
- Assembling together – Worship/Word/Prayer
- Ministering to one another
- Praying for one another
- Judging (assisting discernment) one another
- Correction
- Unity – loving and nurturing – the bond of peace
- Love

In all of this we see the tremendous love of God for His people and His incredible design and plan for the ages. It is our great privilege and responsibility to be a part of what God is doing in the world, to be a part of His kingdom, to be His child.

Eph 4:11-16

*11 And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, 12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, 13 till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; 14 that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, 15 but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head -- Christ -- 16 from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.*

BIBLE STUDY #7  
**Prayer and Devotions**

**Part I: Prayer**

Begin memorizing Philippians 4:6-7

*“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving present your requests to God and the peace of God which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”*

Luke 11:1 – *One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When He finished, one of His disciples said to Him, “Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples.”*

Jesus set an example in His prayers. The disciples saw that His prayers were intimate, like talking with a close friend. They wanted to learn how to have the same close relationship with the Father that Jesus did. In this lesson you should learn:

- A. Reasons why your prayers aren't answered.
- B. How to be sure your prayers are answered.
- C. The different types of prayer.

1. Why would God not give us what we ask Him for? (Give two reasons) James 4:1-3

\_\_\_\_\_

Psalm 66:18 – *“If I regard wickedness in my heart the Lord will not hear.”*

Isaiah 59:2 – *“But your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hid His face from you, so that He does not hear.”*

2. From the above scriptures do you think God hears our prayers when we are living in continual disobedience to His Word?

\_\_\_\_\_

3. If there is sin in our lives, what should we do before bringing our requests to the Father? I John 1:9

\_\_\_\_\_

Read about the prayer of the tax collector in Luke 18:9-14.

4. What is one reason that the Lord wants to give us what we pray for? John 16:24

\_\_\_\_\_

5. When we have needs that need to be met, what should our attitude be when we come to God in prayer? Hebrews 4:16

\_\_\_\_\_

6. How can we pray so that we will be sure God will answer our prayers? I John 5:14-15

\_\_\_\_\_

7. When we don't know what God's will is or how we should pray about something, who will intercede for us?

Romans 8:26-27 \_\_\_\_\_

8. What three words describe what we need to do to receive good gifts from our Heavenly Father? Matthew 7:7-12

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Verse 7 in the Greek could be better translated “keep seeking, keep knocking, and keep asking.” In other words, be persistent!

Read the parable about persistence in Luke 18:1-8.

Sometimes God answers prayer with “WAIT!” If we believe our prayers are in accordance with God’s will and He doesn’t answer with a definite “yes” or “no”, we should be patient and wait for His answer. Keep asking! The Lord not only has the perfect answer, He has the perfect time to give His answer.

9. What happens when we pray for something to the will of God in the name of Jesus? John 16:23

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10. Why do we pray in the name of Jesus? I Timothy 2:5

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To ask “in the name of Jesus” means to come to the Father based on the righteousness and finished work of Jesus, not our own righteousness or merits.

11. What promise does Jesus give us if we will abide or remain in Him? John 15:7

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Read John 15:1-17 to see what abiding means.

**ABIDE** means to remain in one place and not change. A good example of abiding is a tree. To abide in Christ means to continue in His teaching and not wander from it.

12. What two things should we do to be sure the Lord hears us? Mark 11:24-25

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**AMEN** comes from the Hebrew word for “true” or “faithful.” When we use it in prayer, it is our way of saying we believe the Lord will answer our prayers.

13. Who is glorified when our prayers are answered?  
John 14:13

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14. What are the different types of prayer? I Timothy 2:1

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- A. **SUPPLICATION, PETITION, or REQUEST**, is when we ask God to supply our needs.
- B. **INTERCESSION** is when we pray for others, such as for healing or salvation.
- C. **THANKSGIVING and PRAISE** is giving God the glory He deserves for what He has done and for who He is. This is part of worship.
- D. **PRAYER** is talking with God and not just to Him. It is time spent in His presence.

15. According to the Bible, when is a good time to pray?  
I Thessalonians 5:17

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For more about prayer, read Matthew 6:5-15 to see what Jesus has to say about it.

From memory, write out your memory verse below.

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## Part II : Devotions

Begin to memorize: Isa. 40:31 *“But those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength. They shall mount up with wings as eagles. They shall run and not be weary. They shall walk and not faint.”*

I. Devotions: What is it and why have a devotion

### Definitions

Devote: To give or apply one’s time, attention or self entirely to a particular activity, pursuit, cause or person; to dedicate; to consecrate. (from *The American Heritage Dictionary*)

Devotion: an act of religious observance or prayer, especially when private

A devotion is often referred to as “having a quiet time alone with God.” It is not a command of scripture. It is an expression that we have adopted to designate a daily time to be alone with God.

Often in the gospels, we see Jesus going to a private place, a garden, a hillside, a place away from the crowds, where He could be alone to commune with His Father. The example He gave us was a life in total dependence upon the Father. He did only the things that He was taught by the Father. (John 8:28-29) His was a living, dynamic, daily relationship with God, the Father.

So, we too, must live in daily fellowship with God. If we are not in a living, active relationship with Him, our lives will be out of focus and misdirected. We will dry up and wither as a branch that has been severed from the vine.

The purpose of having a devotional, a quiet time alone with God, is to know God, to fellowship with Him and to learn how to live each day in a way that pleases Him. He is the source of our life. As we come to Him daily, we are refreshed, strengthened, instructed and equipped for our kingdom service.

II. What should I do in my quiet time with God?

There are a variety of ways to spend our time of devotion. Worship, prayer, reading and meditating on the Word of God, and waiting and listening for God’s guidance are some of the most common ways people spend their devotional time.

A. Worship

In Matt. 6, the disciples asked Jesus to teach them to pray. He began His model prayer by an act of worship, hallowing the Name of the Father. (Hallow means to regard as holy.)

Worship comes from a root word which means to prostrate oneself in homage, to bow down, to kiss towards. To worship means to give honor, reverence or obedience to another.

*Vines Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words* defines worship as “the direct acknowledgement to God of His nature, attributes, ways and claims, whether by the outgoing heart in praise and thanksgiving or by deeds done in such acknowledgment.”

We speak to God regarding His matchless character and His awesome deeds. We acknowledge His great worth. We declare God's "worship." We rehearse the goodness of God and His remarkable ways in the lives of mankind.

There are many Psalms that can be used in worship. (e.g. 8, 19, 23, 95-100, 145-150) A good place to begin is Psalm 145 in which David uses approximately 40 descriptive words to proclaim God's greatness in His character and in His mighty deeds.

Giving thanks to God can also be a part of our time of worship as we recall the things He has done for others and for us. (see Ps. 112, 113, 116, 135, 139, 145, 150)

Singing songs of praise is another way to worship God in your time alone with Him. Many of the saints of old have used the words of the great hymns in their devotions.

## B. Prayer

Praying is communicating with God. We talk with God about the issues of life. This includes petition (for ourselves) and intercession (for others).

As we bring our petitions and intercessions before God, we can plead the promises He has given us in His Word

- our confidence "Ask and it will be given to you." (Matt. 7:7),
- call upon His character, "The Lord is...slow to anger and great in mercy..." (Ps 145:8b),
- remind Him of His ways, "The Lord upholds all who fall..." (Ps 145: 14a)

We can pray back His Word to Him. (See the Psalms for specific issues in our lives.)

Another key help to prayer is to use the Lord's instructional prayer in Matt. 6:5-15 as your guide.

## C. The Word, meditation, waiting

God's communicates with us in many ways, but the primary way He communicates with us is through His written Word.

God gives us a very significant promise regarding prayer in John 15:7: "*If you abide in Me and My words abide in you, ask what you will and it shall be done for you.*"

From this verse we see that effective prayer can spring forth from the Word of God as it abides in us. As we remain, continue, stay in the Word of God, we can know how to pray and have an assurance that our prayers will be effective.

One consistent way to stay in the Word is to have a yearly plan for reading through the Bible. Reading approximately 3 chapters a day will keep you in the Word and will give you the whole counsel of God. (Note that there are many ways to read through the Bible. See specialty books which provide a variety of plans to find one that best suits your needs.)

Another way to use the Word is to personalize significant passages that address current issues you are facing. One of the best resources for this is the activity of personalizing the Psalms. (When you pray a Psalm, exchange plural words for first person, singular words. e.g. exchange "we" for "I".)

Meditating on God's Word is another devotional activity we can employ. So often, we read through a passage and quickly forget what we've read or don't understand the meaning of the text. Slowing down to seriously think on a passage, memorize a verse, to reflect on it, to consider its meanings and application to our lives will enrich our devotional times. It also provides an opportunity for us to wait quietly before the Lord to understand how He would speak to us through a passage.

The following passages speak of the activity of waiting for God:

Ps 33:20 "Our soul waits for the Lord. He is our help and our shield."

Ps 52:5 "My soul, wait silently for God alone."

Isa. 64:4 "...Nor has the eye seen any God besides You who acts for the one who waits for Him."

Lam. 3:25 "The Lord is good to those that wait for Him, to the soul that seeks Him."

God will speak to you as you dwell in His Word, as you "wait before Him." He often will "quicken" a passage to you such that you sense it is speaking directly to you. At other times, He will direct you to passages that provide wisdom or guidance for a specific issue you may be facing.

#### D. Listening, hearing from God

A remarkable feature of the Christian faith is that God, our Creator, can and does speak to His children. However, we need to spend time alone with God and learn how He speaks to each one of us.

In I Kings 19:11-12 God revealed to Elijah that one of His modes of communicating was "a still small voice." This shows us the importance of "quietness" if we are to hear from God.

As we wait in quietness before God in our time of devotion, He may speak to us in different ways:

- (1) He may bring a scripture passage to our mind that bears upon the issue with which we are concerned;
- (2) We may sense a quiet confirmation in our heart that confirms God's direction/word to us;
- (3) We may have a thought, a sense or strong impression to do a certain thing.

As with all directions we receive, we need to test them for consistency with God's Word. He will never lead us to do something that is inconsistent with his holiness, love, mercy, justice or is contrary to His own attributes.

### III. Some final questions regarding a devotion

A. When - This is best answered by trial and error on your part, what works best for you. Many people prefer to begin the day with their thoughts focused toward God in a daily devotional. Others, due to strenuous or difficult schedules find the evening hours to work for them.

B. How long - Again, this is a matter that pertains specifically to you, to your preferences. Do some experimenting in your personal life and see what provides a good fit for your needs and schedule. I suggest, as a start, a minimum of 10 minutes. If you use more than one of the elements of a devotional described in this section, you will find the time of communion "flying by."

C. What order - How to order your quiet time is something you can experiment with until you find what works best for you. Some begin in the Word. Others say that praying is the best beginning for them. The order is what you make it and it may vary from time to time.

What is truly important is that you continue to have a daily time of devotion with God and learn to abide in an ever-increasing intimacy with our Father.

### IV. Memory work

From memory, write the memory verse for this lesson below. (Isa. 40:31)

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Recommended Additional Reading: "A Quiet Time With God" – a short booklet published by Kay Arthur.

## BIBLE STUDY #8

### What God Expects (incl. Giving/Tithe)

#### Part I. What God expects

Begin memorizing Matthew 22:37

*“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.”*

Deuteronomy 10:12 – *And now, Israel, what does the Lord your God require from you, but to fear the Lord your God, to walk in all His ways and love Him, and to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul.*

As Christians we should always remember what God expects from us. In this lesson you should learn:

- A. We should fear God.
- B. We should love Him and obey Him.
- C. We should serve Him from our hearts.

**FEAR** does not mean to be afraid or frightened of God. To fear God means to respect Him, have reverence for His holiness, to be in awe of His majesty and glory.

1. What does God promise for those who fear Him?

Luke 1:50 \_\_\_\_\_  
Acts 10:35 \_\_\_\_\_

2. When God judges the whole truth, who will He have rewards for? Revelation 11:18 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Proverbs 1:7 – *“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge.”*

Proverbs 9:10 – *“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.”*

3. What is produced by fearing the Lord? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Proverbs 15:16 – *“Better is a little with the fear of the Lord than great treasure and turmoil with it.”*

**LOVE** – The Greek word **AGAPE**, translated **LOVE** (or **CHARITY** in some translations), means the self-less, giving love that comes from God. It is a sacrificing, caring love that seeks what is best for others and not itself. Read I John 4:7 – 5:5 to get a better idea about **AGAPE**.

I Corinthians 13:4-7 defines **AGAPE**. Read it and substitute the name Jesus in the place of love (or charity) to see if He fits the definition. Then try it with your own name and see how it fits you!

4. Why do we love God? I John 4:19 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. What did Jesus say the most important commandment was? Mark 12:29-30 \_\_\_\_\_
6. What other commandment did He say was also important? Mark 12:31 \_\_\_\_\_

7. If we are to love God, what else must we do? I John 4:20-21

\_\_\_\_\_

8. What will we do if we truly love the Lord?

John 14:23 \_\_\_\_\_  
I John 5:2-3 \_\_\_\_\_

To serve God involves putting our faith into action. Our faith demonstrates itself through our good works. Read James 2:14-26.

9. James said we should not just be hearers of God's Word. What else should we do? James 1:22 \_\_\_\_\_

10. What does Jesus say about the man who hears His words and then puts them into action? Matthew 7:24-27 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

11. When we do good works or deeds for others, who does Jesus say we are really serving? Matthew 25:31-40 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

12. What was God's purpose for creating us in Christ Jesus?

Ephesians 2:10 \_\_\_\_\_

13. If a Christian does a lot of good works, but love (agape) is not the reason for doing them, what does the Bible say about that person? I Corinthians 13:1-3 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

14. The Bible says we are to do good works. Are we saved by doing them? Ephesians 2:8-9 \_\_\_\_\_

Titus 3:5 \_\_\_\_\_

Proverbs 21:2-3 – *Every man's way is right in his own eyes, but the Lord weighs the hearts. To do righteousness and justice is desired by the Lord rather than sacrifice.*

All works should be from inside your heart, not just an outward show for others to see. When your works are judged by the Lord, He does not see the outward appearance of the work, but the inward motive. The outward actions of going to church, witnessing, doing good works, etc., do not make you a Christian. Going to church does not make you a Christian any more than going to McDonald's makes you a hamburger! You are a Christian because Jesus has come inside your heart. Your outward actions show others what has happened inside your heart.

15. When we serve God from a true heart, what will unbelievers do when they see our good works? Matthew 5:16, I Peter 2:12

Write out your memory verse below.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Part II. Giving (includes tithing)**

When Christ touches our life, He touches all of it. Everything we possess, families, homes, gifts and abilities, education, resources, etc. comes under his ownership. However, we remain the stewards of that which has been placed into our hands.

We learn from scripture that as stewards we must be “found faithful”. A significant principle of scripture is that “He that is faithful in that which is least is also faithful in much.” (Luke 16:10) This includes the area of finances.

We also learn from the scriptures that we cannot outgive God. In a significant passage in Mal. 3:10, God challenges us to try Him in the matter of giving and see if He will not so bless us that we will not have room to receive it.

This section of study lesson 8 provides introductory material on the area of giving.

**I. The Biblical Attitude in Giving**

**A. Ownership**

Review the following scriptures and record what you discover about God’s ownership?

1. I Chron. 29:11-12; Genesis 1 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. Ps 24:1 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. Ps 50:10-12; Genesis 1:24-25 – 6<sup>th</sup> day of creation \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. Hag. 2:8 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

How would you sum up the lessons of the scriptures relative to God’s ownership?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**B. Personal Attitudes**

Read the following passages and record your observations regarding a Biblical attitude in giving.

1. Matt. 23:23 – Pharisees (spices in the garden) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. I Cor. 13:3 \_\_\_\_\_

3. II Cor. 8:1-5 Church of Macedonia – “How they gave” \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. II Cor. 9:1-15 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

5. Acts 20:35 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

How can we assure that we have the appropriate attitude towards giving?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## II. The Benefits of Giving

The obvious benefit of giving with a right heart is that this pleases our heavenly Father.

The scriptures indicate that benefits do come to those engaged in giving.  
Read the following scriptures and summarize the benefits identified.

1. Prov. 11:24-25 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. Matt. 6:20 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. Luke 12:34 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. I Tim. 6:18-19 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

5. Isa. 58:6-11 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## III. Guidance in Biblical Giving

1. Some questions regarding giving:

Do I have to give?  
When should I give?  
What should I give?  
Should we give a tithe (tenth)?

God loves a cheerful giver and New Testament passages encourage us to give willingly and liberally. I Cor. 13 cautions us regarding our attitude in giving that if I give all that I have but don't have love, it would be a meaningless gesture.

So, in beginning, we need to assure that what we are giving is done with a right heart.

Read Mal. 3:8-10 What does this passage teach about the tithe?  
\_\_\_\_\_

Record your observations in the following NT passages regarding the tithe?

1. Heb.7:6-9 \_\_\_\_\_  
2. Lk. 11:42 \_\_\_\_\_

Read the following scriptures and record what they teach about financially supporting your church and those who teach the scriptures.

1. Num. 18:8-10, 24 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. Gal. 6:6 \_\_\_\_\_

3. I Tim. 5:17-18 \_\_\_\_\_

A review of the instructions for giving (worship) in the OT reveals that a tithe (10 per cent) was given for the support of the priesthood. This provides an example of the community of faith supporting those who minister in the temple (church).

In addition, there were tithes at other intervals to support widows, orphans and other needy persons within the community of faith.

Add to this the sacrificial offerings for sin, the free-will offerings and other instances of giving in the Old Testament and it is estimated that the Israelites were giving approximately 20-25% of their increase.

**Conclusion:**

It is clear from scripture that giving is a characteristic of the spiritual person. As we grow in likeness to Christ, we will become like Him in His example of giving. He constantly gave to the multitudes that came to Him and His giving reached its ultimate expression when He gave His life on the cross for the sins of all mankind for all time.

## BIBLE STUDY #9

### Grace

#### I. Introduction

The purpose of this lesson is to introduce the student to the theme of God's grace and briefly address some of the issues related to the application of this grace in our lives.

In this lesson, we will address the following questions:

What is grace?  
What is the law and its purposes?  
Where does grace come from??  
What does it achieve?  
Good day – bad day syndrome

The theme of grace runs throughout the Bible, from Genesis to Revelation.

In the creation account, God fashions His world and then gives man dominion over all that He has made. Man has done nothing to merit this position of prominence nor has He earned the awesome privilege of being created in the likeness of God Himself.

Adam and Eve sin. Immediately, we find, in the judgments, the grace of God at work to provide a solution to the problem of man.

God's grace is seen in the choice of Abraham who would be the Patriarch of God's family, the chosen nation. God's multiplied graces come to the wilderness Hebrews who were a complaining nation within days of their deliverance from Egypt. David, who sought the Lord with his whole heart and yet became an adulterer and murderer, found God's grace of forgiveness. The history of Israel in the OT is filled with the repetition of their idolatry and God's subsequent graces of deliverance.

Paul, in many of his letters to the churches begins and concludes with the petition and desire for grace to be with the readers. Romans is a book abounding in grace.

The NT closes with these words: "The grace of the Lord Jesus be with God's people." (Rev. 22:21)

#### II. Definition

"*Charis*" is the Greek word translated grace. It means a gracious favor or benefit given. The verb "*charizomai*" means to show kindness or favor.

Grace "*Charis*" 5485 (Strong's Number)

To rejoice, joy, favor

Acceptance

Kindness granted or desired

Grace, a favor done without the expectation of return

Absolute freeness of the lovingkindness of God to men finding its only motive in the bounty and freeheartedness of the giver

Unearned and unmerited favor

Charis (grace) stands in direct anti-thesis to "erga" (works) and in contrast to "eleos" (mercy) which is concerned with the misery brought upon a sinner as a consequence of sin.

In grace, God gives us that which we don't deserve.

In mercy, God doesn't give us what we do deserve.

### III. Law and Grace

#### 1. Law:

The Hebrew word for law is "*torah*." Its basic meaning is teaching or instruction. It denotes instruction focused on how one should live rather than on abstract or academic subjects.

The *torah* generally refers to the first five books of the Bible but can also indicate the commands and statutes contained within these books.

The torah is God's gift to mankind and is intended to show Israel how to live a holy and fruitful life in this world.

Record the intended results of the *torah* in the following passages.

Prov. 3:1 \_\_\_\_\_

Prov. 13:14 \_\_\_\_\_

If we think of the law as a cold, rigid set of rules we have missed the true heart of the law.

Record the true heart of the law from the following passages:

Deut. 4:5-8 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Psalms 19:7-11 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

The problem for the religious leaders of Jesus' day was that they thought keeping the law (works) made them righteous and justified before God.

According to Paul, is this true? Rom. 3:20 \_\_\_\_\_

Instead, what does Gal. 3:10-12 say that the law does? \_\_\_\_\_

What then, is the purpose of the law? Rom. 3:19-20 (1) \_\_\_\_\_

(2) \_\_\_\_\_

(3) \_\_\_\_\_

What else does the law do? Rom. 3:24 (4) \_\_\_\_\_

Rom. 4:15 (5) \_\_\_\_\_

II Cor. 3:6-7 (6) \_\_\_\_\_

I Tim. 1:8-10 (7) \_\_\_\_\_

The purpose of the Law was never to make a man right with God.

All the law can do is to declare a standard and condemn a person for failure.

What does Rom. 10:4 say was Jesus' effect on the law? \_\_\_\_\_

#### 2. Grace: "On what basis is a person made acceptable to God?"

Rom. 3:23-24 \_\_\_\_\_

How was Abraham justified?

Rom. 4:3, 9 \_\_\_\_\_

Rom. 4:20-22 \_\_\_\_\_

What does Rom. 5:1-2 say about how a person is justified? \_\_\_\_\_

Rom. 5:20 *"Moreover, the law entered that the offense might abound. But where sin abounded, \_\_\_\_\_ abounded much more, so that as sin reigned in death, even so \_\_\_\_\_ might reign through righteousness to eternal life in Jesus Christ or Lord."*

Grace: God gives to man a standing of total acceptance as a gift through faith in Jesus Christ.

Paul says we are not under law but under grace. (Rom. 6:14)

The following chart provides a comparison of grace with “man’s efforts at justification.”

	<b>Grace</b>	<b>Religion of man</b>
<b>View of Mankind</b>	Basically sinful, Unable to please God	Basically good Able to please God
<b>Associated Concepts</b>	Promise Gift Faith	Law Works Obligation
<b>Focus</b>	Jesus	Self
<b>Results</b>	Forgiveness Life Righteousness	Condemnation/a curse Death Sin
<b>Definition</b>	God’s free action – based upon Jesus’ death and resurrection and motivated by love – to redeem all who believe and to make them righteous.	Man’s effort to do good and by his own works to merit salvation as a deserved reward for his behavior.
<b>Gifts</b>	Always unearned and undeserved	I get gifts from God if I do good/right

A part of the difficulty with understanding grace is with our understanding of salvation.

Salvation has 3 aspects:

1. Initial – We enter into the kingdom of God by grace through faith. (saved from the kingdom of the world into God’s kingdom) - settles our eternal destiny
2. Salvation from sin in this life – power to live this life controlled by the Spirit and not the flesh. (also known as sanctification, working out your salvation, dying to self and putting on Christ)
3. Glorification – upon leaving this life, God gives us our glorified body

What does Paul say had happened to the Galatians?

Gal. 3:3 \_\_\_\_\_

This means that they had entered into Christ by faith but were now, in their daily lives (in phase 2 – salvation from sin), trying to gain their acceptance with God by works.

Did they lose their salvation? \_\_\_\_\_

Explain your answer. \_\_\_\_\_

What did Paul tell them to do? (See Rom. 5)

v.1 \_\_\_\_\_

v.16 \_\_\_\_\_

v.18 \_\_\_\_\_

Faith and grace are how we are to continue living our life in Christ.

At no time do we ever gain our acceptance in Christ by our works.

Under law, a man works to be accepted by God.

Under grace, a man serves because he is already accepted by God.

Good day – bad day syndrome.

One of the traps we fall into is the good day – bad day syndrome. In it, we feel that if our day is going well, we have a good time of prayer and meditation in the morning, we even get to share our testimony with a person at work...then we are well-positioned to receive God's gifts and blessings. However, if we wake up on the wrong side of the bed, are late to work, spill our coffee, don't do well in our job, we now feel that God can't or won't bless us or give us gifts.

The truth of the matter is that our worst days are never so bad that we are out of reach of the grace of God and our good days are never so good that we are beyond the need of God's grace.

God's gifts always come from His heart of love and are never based on our good works or doing well enough to deserve them.

We are not only saved by grace but we live by grace from day to day.

What does Eph. 5:2 say about our position with regard to grace? \_\_\_\_\_

**IV. What grace achieves**

Summarize the grace of God in action in the following passages in the book of Matthew:

- 11:28-30 \_\_\_\_\_  
18:21-34 The Unforgiving Servant \_\_\_\_\_  
20:1-16. The Workers in the Vineyard \_\_\_\_\_

In Paul's letter to the Romans, he quotes the OT to show that all people are sinners and in need of God's salvation. No one has a way among themselves to obtain this much-needed redemption. God acted to provide a righteousness in Jesus that comes by faith. Only God's decisive act in Christ— an act of grace – could win our redemption. (3:23-26)

Our salvation is continually presented as a gift that comes to us through Jesus Christ and is an expression of God's grace.

Fill in the blanks below to see some of the many facets of God's grace.

- Rom. 3:24 We are \_\_\_\_\_ by His grace.  
Rom. 4:13-16 We have \_\_\_\_\_ of descendants (heirs).  
Rom. 5: 15-17 We have the gift of \_\_\_\_\_ by His grace.  
Rom. 5:21 "...even so grace might reign through righteousness to \_\_\_\_\_."  
Rom. 6:14 grace releases us from \_\_\_\_\_.  
Rom. 6:14 We are no longer under \_\_\_\_\_ but under grace.  
Rom. 11:5 "...there is a \_\_\_\_\_ (Israel) according to the election of grace."  
Rom. 11:5 \_\_\_\_\_ is by grace  
Rom. 12:6 "Having then \_\_\_\_\_ differing according to the grace that is given to us..."  
Rom. 15:15 Paul can be a \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ because of the grace given to him.  
Eph. 2:4-5 "It is by grace you are \_\_\_\_\_ through faith. It is the gift of God."

## **V. Conclusion**

The Biblical concept of Grace is much greater than the simple definition of unmerited favor.

Grace expresses a radical view of life and relationship with God.

Grace teaches us that God's attitude towards us is one of acceptance and love (in His Son).

Grace is a dramatic statement about the human condition, our desperate need. Everyone is helpless, trapped in sin and incapable of pleasing God or gaining His favor.

Grace is a proclamation, the triumphant announcement that God in Christ has acted and has come to the aid of all who will trust Him for their eternal salvation.

Grace is a way of life. Relying totally on Jesus to work within us, we experience God's own unlimited power, vitalizing us and enabling us to live truly good lives.

The message of grace provides a totally different outlook on a relationship with God than is found in any religion of human invention. Understanding the nature of grace, we decisively reject any confidence in ourselves and we trust ourselves totally to Jesus, who alone is able not only to declare us truly righteous men and women of God but also to make us so.

## BIBLE STUDY #10

### Worship

This session will focus on the following:

- I. What is worship?
- II. Why should we worship?
- III. How should we worship?
- IV. How can I have a heart of worship?

#### Introduction:

Worship was at the very core of God's plan in creation. It was the will of God that men and women, created in the image of God, would desire fellowship with Him above all else. His plan was a fellowship based upon adoring worship of the Creator and Sustainer of all things.

An age-old question has been stated in this way: "What is the chief end of man?"  
The answer in the church instructional is:

"to glorify God and to enjoy Him forever."

We were born to worship. God has placed the desire to worship within the hearts of every person on the face of the earth. Worship is not unique to Christians. Throughout history, mankind has proven a need to have a "supreme being" to be the object of his worship.

#### I. What is Worship?

In the OT, the most common words for worship are *salah* and *sahah*.  
The principle meanings of these words are:

- to bow down
- to prostrate oneself out of respect
- to serve

In the NT, the primary word for worship is *proskuneo*.

Pros –towards

Kuneo – to kiss

Therefore: "to kiss towards"

This word is used approximately 60 times in the NT, 24 of those being in the book of Revelation.

Worship can be defined as showing/giving honor, reverence and homage in thought, feeling or act.

Worship can be shown towards men, angels, or other "spiritual" beings and figuratively to other entities, ideas, powers or qualities.

For the Christian, worship is directed specifically and supremely to God.

Read Ex. 20:1-6 to see God's explicit instructions to His people regarding worship.

Summarize your findings \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Read Num 25:1-4

While at Shittim, what did the people do? \_\_\_\_\_

What did God tell Moses to do? \_\_\_\_\_

From these examples we know that God has established our worship to be offered only to Him, and that that we are to put nothing else before Him.

Worship is to be our expression of love, honor, gratefulness and submission to God.

**II. Why Should We Worship?**

Rev. 4:11a \_\_\_\_\_

Rev. 4:11b \_\_\_\_\_

Ps 22: 3 \_\_\_\_\_

Ps 115:1 \_\_\_\_\_

(Dethrones our flesh)

II Chron. 20:20-2 \_\_\_\_\_

Ps 145 \_\_\_\_\_

(Who He is and what He does)

Ps 18:1-3 \_\_\_\_\_

**III. How should we worship?**

Worship is not restricted to what we do in our church services. Worship is a way of life - we are called to be worshippers. It can have a variety of different forms.

Read the following passages and identify the act of worship.

Luke 10:39 \_\_\_\_\_

Ps. 107:32 \_\_\_\_\_

John 12:3 \_\_\_\_\_

Hab. 3:17-18 \_\_\_\_\_

Worship can be expressed though a number of different ways.

Read the following passages and record how worship is shown.

Ps. 33:2-3 \_\_\_\_\_

Ps 95:1-6 \_\_\_\_\_

What do the physical postures of this verse indicate? \_\_\_\_\_

Ps 150:4 \_\_\_\_\_

Ps 150:5 \_\_\_\_\_

What did David establish for the worship of God?

I Chron. 25:1-7 \_\_\_\_\_

Who should praise Him? Ps 150:6 \_\_\_\_\_

What did Hezekiah do when the temple was restored?

2 Chron 5:11-14 \_\_\_\_\_

What was the result of this action? \_\_\_\_\_  
Was God pleased with the worship? Explain your answer \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Music is simply a method that we use in unison with the act of our worship to God in our church service. It ushers in the presence and the move of God – not because of the music, but because God’s people are worshipping Him.

“Our hearts are bowed – our hands raised – we are acknowledging that He is our God – we love Him – and that we are forever committed to love and serve Him.”

It is a beautiful expression:

- an overflow of a Spirit filled life.
- an outflow of what’s in our heart – the Spirit of God, a love for God.
- evidence of God working in our hearts.
- refreshes – reinforces – rebuilds.

An important thing to remember is - **We are the choir – God is the audience!**

IN FACT - All of creation worships God naturally, instinctively – man is the only created thing that has a choice. If we choose NOT to worship God, we live at a level below the rocks and the trees.

Read John 4:21-24

What does this mean? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Ps 47:7 \_\_\_\_\_

What was the problem of Isa. 29:13 \_\_\_\_\_  
What should we do to correct this problem if it exists in our own worship?  
\_\_\_\_\_

#### **IV. How can I have a Heart of Worship?**

A heart of worship is not brought about by having good praise music, nor is it a gift that only some have. God desires that we ALL be worshipers.

In 1 Peter 2:9-10 we are told how we were chosen “so that we may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness.”

As noted earlier, mankind is inclined to worship a “supreme being,” but the only true worship is that which is given to a true God – the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob - YAHWEH.

A heart of worship is a byproduct of our love for the Lord. If He is in us, and we in Him, then our fruit will be apparent – including a desire to worship Him:

- A heart of worship is obtained by developing a relationship with the object of our worship
- We become like what we worship

2 Cor 3:18 “But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord. “

“Worship is all-consuming, because God is all-deserving. So, we live our lives eager to breathe every breath, think every thought and do every deed for the glory of God.”

Our worship will be a natural outpouring of our love for the Lord, as we have embraced the truth of our God and we are prompted by the Holy Spirit.

Worship is a state of the heart. We are able to worship when we:

- acknowledge that God is the creator of all and the one true Lord of Heaven and earth,
- accept Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior and receive His Holy Spirit,
- understand that He created us in His image,
- acknowledge that He is the **only one** worthy of our love, adoration, devotion and allegiance,
- willingly submit ourselves to Him, mind, body and spirit, and
- rejoice that He created us, that we belong to Him and that He wants to dwell with us.

## BIBLE STUDY #11

### Trials

Begin memorizing I Corinthians 10:13

*“No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; He will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, He will also provide a way out so you can stand up under it.”*

I Peter 4:12-13 – *Dear friends, do not be surprised at the painful trial you are suffering, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice that you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when His glory is revealed.*

Soon after we are born again the Lord begins to TEST our faith. He often removes the emotions and feelings we have been experiencing to cause us to walk by faith. This does not mean He has deserted you! In this lesson you should learn:

- A. What trials are.
- B. How God uses trials.
- C. What we should do when we are in the middle of a trial.

A **TRIAL** is when God allows temptations, tribulations, (hardship or affliction) or our relationship with other people to **TEST OUR FAITH**. It is the process He uses to refine us, make our faith stronger and teach us to trust Him more.

1. Becoming a Christian does not mean we will stop having troubles. How did Jesus describe our lives in this world? John 16:33 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. What should be our attitude when we are having our faith tested by trials or temptations? Why? James 1:2-4 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. What are some of the results of trials? II Corinthians 4:17-18, I Peter 1:6-7 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**PATIENCE** or **PERSEVERANCE** means steadfastly enduring adverse circumstances, holding to a course of action.

One aspect of trials, is enduring hardship and affliction. When the Lord is dealing with us as His children, He will allow tribulations to chasten or discipline us.

**CHASTEN** or **DISCIPLINE** in Greek means to train, educate, instruct, correct, reprove or admonish. It is a positive, loving method of eliminating evil and encouraging good. It is **NOT** harsh punishment.

4. When our Father disciplines or chastens us, He is demonstrating our relationship to Him. What is that relationship? Hebrews 12:5-8 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Why does God discipline or chasten us? Hebrews 12:9-10 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**HOLINESS** means morally perfect or free from sin.

6. What are the end results when our Father disciplines us?  
Hebrews 12:11 \_\_\_\_\_

Another way God tests our faith, is by allowing Satan to tempt us. Each time the Lord helps us resist another temptation, we learn to trust Him more. He uses it to build our faith in Him.

**TEMPTATION** occurs when Satan tries to get us to sin. He may tempt us by something we see. He may tempt us by putting evil thoughts in our minds. He may tempt our flesh or our pride. He has many temptations. It is **NOT** a sin to be tempted! It is only a sin when we give in to the temptation.

7. Satan's temptations are strong, but what promise do we have that is stronger? I John 4:4 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. Read I Corinthians 10:13 and answer the following questions:  
Are your temptations ever new, something no one else has gone through before? \_\_\_\_\_  
Will the Lord allow your temptations to be so strong that you will be unable to resist it? \_\_\_\_\_  
What will the Lord provide when you are tempted? \_\_\_\_\_
9. When we ask our High Priest, Jesus, for help with our temptations, how can we be sure He understands what we are going through? Hebrews 4:15 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. In Matthew 4:1-11 when Jesus was tempted by Satan, what did He use to respond to Satan's temptations? Matthew 4:4, 7, 10 \_\_\_\_\_
11. What results when we give in to temptation? James 1:13-15  
\_\_\_\_\_
12. If we find that we have sinned, what should we do about it? How will Jesus respond to us? I John 1:9 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

II Corinthians 4:17-18 tells us three things about trials?

- A. They are **trivial** compared to the sufferings of Christ and the glory we are to have in heaven.
  - B. They are **temporary** compared to the eternity Jesus has prepared for us.
  - C. They are **transforming**. They cause us to be conformed to the image of God's Son, Jesus Christ.
13. What encouragement does the Lord give us concerning every event and circumstance that happens to us in the world? Romans 8:28 \_\_\_\_\_
14. We see that God uses **ALL** the events in our lives to shape us and mold us. Whose likeness is He trying to make us into? Romans 8:29 \_\_\_\_\_

Jesus told us in John 14:27 that the peace He gives us is not like the peace the rest of the world has. His peace does not depend on favorable circumstances. His peace comes from knowing, that regardless of how things appear, God is still in control and we can trust Him to see us through the rough times. The hardships we suffer are not a surprise to Him. They are part of His plan. By them He prepares us, not for a temporary life of comfort, but for an eternity of holiness.

If you find yourself in a trial, seek guidance from God's Word and from Him in prayer. You might pray something like this: "Lord help me to learn from this, help me to become what you want me to be, help me trust you through everything."

From memory, write out your memory verse below.

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## BIBLE STUDY #12

### How to Study the Bible

(Note: The information below was taken from The Alliance for Saturation Church Planting - Omega Course - Bible Study Methods and How to Study the Bible by John McArthur.)

#### **I. How to Study the Bible**

There are two ways to study any subject and come to conclusions. They are called the *deductive* and *inductive* methods. Deductive reasoning moves from the general to the specific, and inductive goes from the specific to the general. Both methods are used by Christians to study the Bible, even though they are usually unaware of how each method affects their study and conclusions.

#### **A. Deductive Approach**

In general, the deductive approach moves from the general to the specific. That is, it starts with the known and accepted idea or premise. That pre-existing understanding is then compared to a particular situation, and a conclusion is formed. In other words, the general idea controls, or at least strongly influences the way we look at the particular situation.

For example, since snow-covered steps are usually slippery, we will approach any set of snow covered steps with caution - even if we have never slipped on that particular set of steps. Our general experience with snowy steps leads us to this logical and reasonable conclusion.

Deduction has a major weakness. If our general understanding is wrong, so will be our conclusion. For example, suppose a Russian hears someone talk about a doctor. In Russia, most doctors are women. Therefore, it would be logical for him to deduce that the doctor is a woman. Often, however, he will be wrong. There are also male doctors in Russia, and in some countries most doctors are men. In this case, the influence of our prior experience can often lead us in the wrong direction. We assume we know the answer, rather than continuing to look for other clues to the correct answer.

**Note:** Because the Word of God is so important in a Christian's life, it is important that we don't let preconceived ideas, denominational beliefs, and traditional teachings on subjects determine what we think the Bible says. God is speaking to each of us in His inspired, perfect Word. It is the only book in the world, in all of history that is "alive". We want to read it, study it, with a heart that says, "Holy Spirit, You and You only be my Teacher". He will amaze you with the truth that He gives you individually when we go to His Word from the next approach - Inductive Reasoning.

#### **B. Inductive Approach**

The inductive method is superior to the deductive method because it makes the Scriptures the authority, rather than our understanding. It is also better because it matches the process of understanding and applying biblical principles to our lives. As we study the Bible, we look at how God dealt with people in a particular situation, at a particular time, and in a particular culture. Our task is to take these facts and to form from them a biblical principle. We then translate that principle into our equivalent situation so that we can correctly apply it to our lives. The process of the inductive Bible study method is therefore:

- **Observation** of the facts in the Scriptural context.
- **Interpretation** to find the principle that the passage teaches.
- **Application** of the principle to equivalent situations in our lives.

### **1. Observation: What does it say? The FACTS.**

The key to this step is to ask an endless series of questions such as “Who?, What?, Why?, Where?, When?, etc.” These questions help us focus on what the Bible says, rather than bringing our ideas to it. We also look closely at the context of the verse, paragraph, chapter, and book to discover and understand the situation in which it was written. At this stage, it is very important not to interpret or apply the text.

#### **For example:**

- Who are the persons mentioned in the passage?
- Who is the author speaking to?
- What event is taking place?
- What is the theme of the paragraph?
- What do the preceding verses talk about?

### **2. Interpretation: What does it mean? PRINCIPLE.**

Prayer, sensitivity to the Holy Spirit, and practice are necessary in order to develop the ability to sift through all the facts from the observation stage, identify the most important ones, and understand the main message of the passage.

**What subject is the author writing about?**

**What is he saying about that subject?**

#### **General Principles of Biblical Interpretation:**

- The Bible is the authoritative Word of God.
- The Bible is its own best interpreter, reflecting the character of God.
- Saving faith and the Holy Spirit are necessary to understand the Scripture.
- You should interpret history, actions, attitudes, personal experience, etc., in the light of Scripture and not Scripture in the light of these things.

***The primary purpose of the Bible is not to increase our knowledge, but to change our lives.***

### **3. Application: What should I do? TASK.**

Application should always be made to oneself, rather than only to others. If we do not apply the scriptures to ourselves first, we become hypocrites. Whatever we teach others should always flow out of what we have already learned and applied in our own life.

An important point is to make sure that our context is the same as the original context. We cannot, and must not apply a message given to biblical characters to our own lives unless our situation is equivalent. Therefore, much of the application stage consists of asking “What in my life is similar to the situation described in the passage?”

### **Application Topics:**

- **Faith:** What can I learn about personal faith?
- **Attitudes:** What attitudes are good or bad? What are their results? How can I change negative ones?
- **Actions:** What should I start doing? What should I stop doing?
- **Sins:** What sin(s) have been pointed out to me? How can I right things with God/others?

### **General Questions to Ask:**

- Is there an example for me to follow?
- Is there a sin to avoid?
- Is there a promise to claim?
- Is there a prayer to repeat?
- Is there a command to obey?
- Is there a condition to meet?
- Is there a verse to memorize?
- Is there a challenge to face?
- What does the teaching of this verse say personally to me about my personal relationship with God the Creator?
- What does this verse say to my personally about my call to ministry?
- What does this verse say personally to me about God's will for my life?

## **II. BIBLE HELPS**

First of all, nothing can take the place of your Bible. There are many choices regarding publishers and version, we recommend a Study Bible with a concordance and footnotes. Here are a few ideas. Note that this list is not all-inclusive:

- Life Application Study Bible (KJV, NKJV, NIV)
- Nelson's Study Bible (KJV, NKJV)
- The Open Bible - Study Edition (KJV, NKJV)
- The Scofield Study Bible (KJV)
- Thompson Chain Reference Bible (KJV, NIV, NKJV)

*Note: At Calvary Chapel of Wilmington, the NKJV is the version most often used..*

There are many tools and helps that can assist in the process of interpretation. These include:

**Commentaries** - A Commentary provides a deeper explanation or comments about the scriptures. Commentaries explain a verse in more detail than the average Bible notes. Many bibles have some commentary at the bottom of the pages.

**\*Caution about commentaries:** A commentary can assist you in finding background information, scripture cross references, and even interpretation...but remember that a commentary is NOT the inerrant Word of God. It is a man's interpretation of the Word of God, and is subject to that man's possible pre-held position of the scripture.

**Handbooks** - A handbook gives you more information about the people, places, and customs of the bible. Some recommendations are Haley's Bible Handbook, Nelson's New Illustrated Bible Dictionary and Holman's Bible Handbook and Holman Bible Dictionary.

**Dictionaries** - Sometimes it helps to have a regular dictionary available when you encounter words that you don't understand or just want a better understanding of what the word/s mean.

**Concordance** - This enables the reader to locate almost any scripture passage in the Bible. The best is The New Strong's Exhaustive : Concordance of the Bible.

**Greek and Hebrew Lexicons:** A Lexicon is a type of dictionary that helps the user develop a better understanding of the original *Greek or Hebrew* word. A Lexicon uses the Strong's reference numbers to identify and define the term.

**Cross Reference:** Usually found in the margin of your bible, they give a reference of other scripture with the same theme as the verse you are reading.

**The Treasury of Scripture Knowledge** - This tool gives you a cross reference of a *phrase of a verse*, with the same or similar theme of the phrase in question. (Ex: John 1:1 "In the beginning", references to Gen 1:1 "In the beginning")

**Internet Study Helps:** If you use a computer and have access to the internet, then you have a virtual biblical study library at your disposal. Most of the above mentioned study helps are available for use. A few recommendations are:

www.studylight.org  
www.blueletterbible.org

**\*Caution about internet study:** A search engine is a wonderful tool, but it can lead you to unsound doctrine: *Anyone can put their opinion on the internet*. Just because you read something on a web site does not mean it is truth! If you stay with known, trusted authors and study helps, you will avoid the pitfalls of unscriptural teaching and doctrine.

These are tools to help you understand the Bible; but these tools should not replace your applying the steps of observation, interpretation, and application. *They should not do the work for you!*

### III. SIMPLE STEPS

#### **Find a place to start**

Perhaps start where the pastor is currently teaching, where you can read ahead before the scripture is taught. If you have never studied before on your own, a good place to start would be the book of John and get to know Your Redeemer, Father, and Friend in a deeper way. Most bibles have, at the beginning of the chapter, the historical and informational facts that will help you understand the author, date, setting, theme, and background information of that book.

#### **Observation**

- **Commit a time (preferably in the beginning of your day) to be alone with the Lord daily.**
- **Pray before you open the Word of God.** Ask the Holy Spirit, who teaches us all things we need to know, to teach you personally what He has for you that day.
- **Read** through the chapter, even several chapters, to get a feel for the overall message. Then, read a small portion of the chapter and meditate on it. Read over anything that you found unclear or interesting. Then continue to read the entire chapter.
- **Write down** some of the answers to the questions you should ask. Who, What, When, Where, etc.

#### **Interpretation**

- **Look up the cross - references** for specific verses that God makes jump off the page to you. Begin to ask and pray regarding what does the author mean? What spiritual principles/doctrines are being taught?

- **Look up** any words that seem to be key words—what is the meaning of the word?
- **Read** the notes at the bottom of the page of your Study Bible. This can also be a time when you look at other Bible helps and define terms, etc.

### **Application**

- **Seek to know the author**, which is our Lord, of the pages more than gathering the facts. Knowledge is good, but we want to know the person, not just facts. What message does My Lord want to teach me that I can apply to my life to be more like Himself.
- **Close in prayer** for God to help you apply what He spoke to your heart. Praise Him for His Word that is living and active in your life. Confess your sins to Him as He reveals them, and lay them at His feet. There is no condemnation in Christ, but humbling ourselves before Him in our weakness brings forgiveness, power and victory. Ask Him for what you need, and for Him to guide your day moment by moment. Pray for those Christians that He brings to your mind and heart.

**Don't rush God.** He says for us to be still and know that He is God. Allow at least 30 minutes to an hour to really study and pray. A devotional and quick prayer is a great place to start with the Lord, but this will only grow you to a point. We need to seek Him for ourselves, and let His truths become personal to us, and then no one or no circumstance will ever be able to take them away from us...because they did not come from man, but from God Himself through His Pure Word.

### **IV. CLOSING**

As we focus on the Word of God, the effect He will have in our lives is incredible. As we meditate on it, it empowers us. It's like the old computer saying, "GIGO" garbage in-garbage out. Whatever we put into our hearts will come out in our lives. As we feed on the Word of God, it's going to come right back out in our lives.

But, for this to become real to us personally, and not just hearsay, we have to study the Word of God. It is life changing for us to discover for ourselves that the Word is the source of truth, the source of happiness, the source of victory, the source of growth, the source of power, and the source of guidance.

## THE BIBLE... WE MUST:

### **BELIEVE IT- John 6:67-68**

*67 Then Jesus said to the twelve, "Do you also want to go away?"*

*68 But Simon Peter answered Him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.*

### **HONOR IT- Job 23:12**

*12 I have not departed from the commandment of His lips; I have treasured the words of His mouth More than my necessary food.*

### **LOVE IT- Ps 119:97**

*97 Oh, how I love Your law! It is my meditation all the day.*

### **OBEY IT- 1 John 2:5-6**

*5 But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him.*

### **FIGHT FOR IT- Jude 3**

*3- Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints.*

### **TEACH IT- 2 Tim 4:1-3**

*2 Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching.*

### **STUDY IT- 2 Tim 2:15-16**

*15 Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.*

