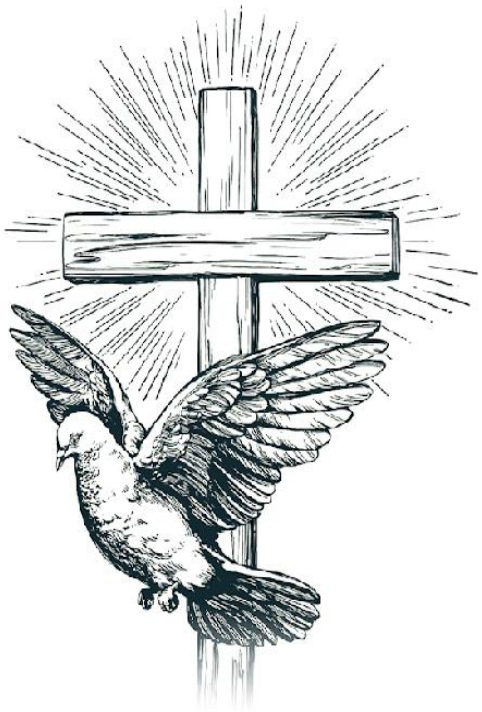
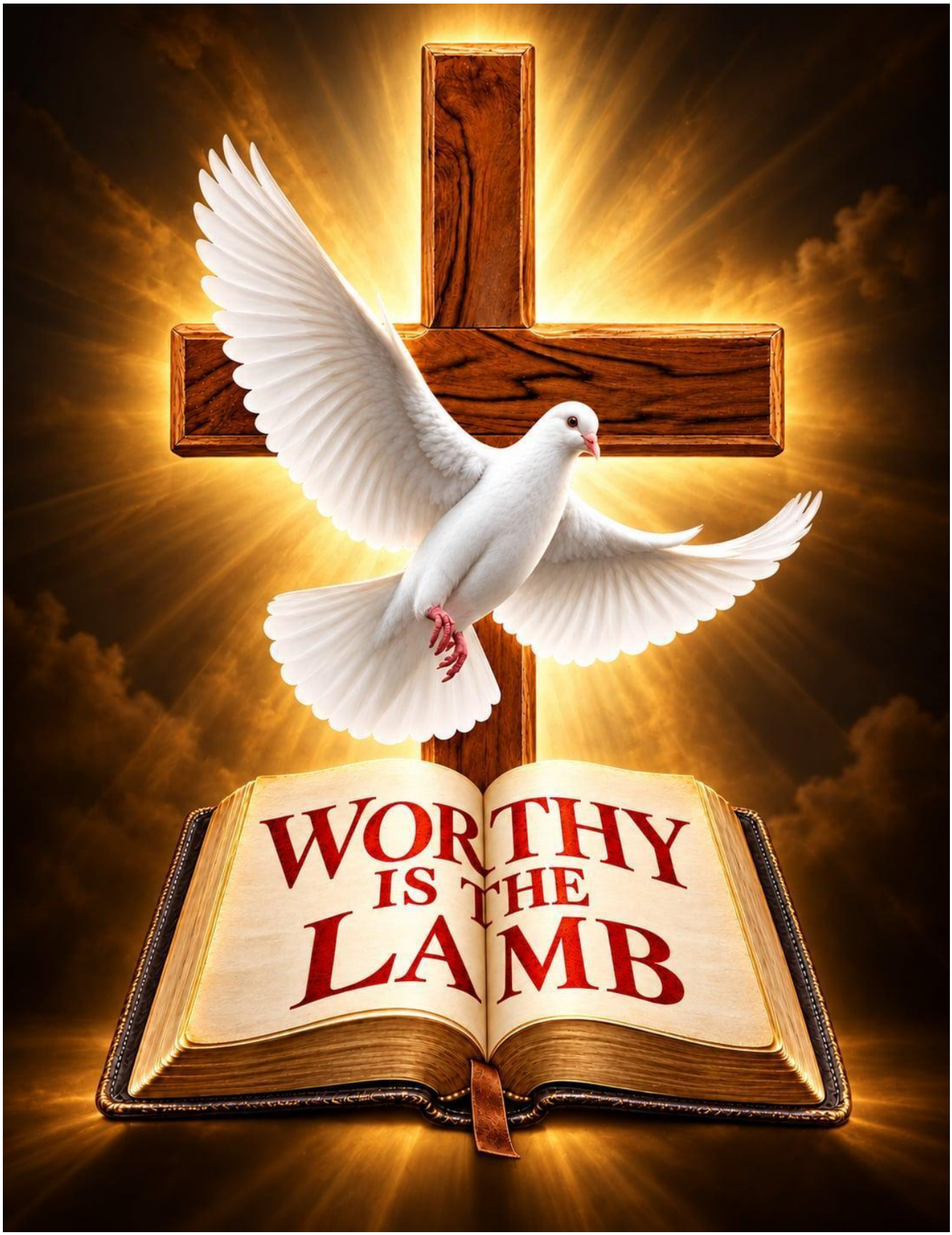
THE FOUNDATIONS OF OUR CHRISTIAN FAITH



PASTOR JAMES CLELL O'CONNOR

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equppingthesaintsinternational.com
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WORTHY
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ENDORSEMENTS

Having had the privilege of translating "The Foundations of Our Christian Faith" in French, Swahili, Kirundi, and Chichewa, and using it extensively in pastors' conferences and leadership training across Burundi and other African countries, I have become convinced that this is not simply a book full of words; it is a book filled with the Word of God. Over the past two years, I have not only taught and interpreted this material; I have personally been taught, challenged, corrected, and strengthened by it. The process of translating its foundational truths has deepened my understanding of Scripture and Christian doctrine and strengthened my burden for the theological health of the African Church. I have also witnessed pastors, particularly in places with little or no access to formal theological education, grow in their understanding of Christ, Scripture, sin, grace, salvation, the Church, and Christian service through this resource.

But my appreciation for this book is also deeply connected to the man who wrote it. Having interacted with Pastor Jim many times, face to face and in person, I have had the privilege of observing his faith, prayer life, humility, and devotion to Christ. I believe the maturity and spiritual depth found in this book are not merely theological ideas written on pages; they reflect something of the transformation God has worked in his own life. Pastor Jim is not simply pointing us toward truths about Jesus; he is pointing us to the Jesus he himself is following and seeking to imitate. As I have watched his life, I have felt that I can read the message of this book through the life of its author. The book calls us to know Christ, trust Him, follow Him, and build our lives and ministries upon His Word; and I have seen those convictions reflected in Pastor Jim himself.

This is why I am so grateful for this resource and for Pastor Jim's willingness to make it freely available to pastors and church leaders who might otherwise never have access to theological education. In many parts of Africa, a theological classroom may be far beyond reach, but a book can cross mountains, enter villages, and place biblical foundations into the hands of hungry pastors. I have seen this happen. Pastor Jim, after two years of using this book, interpreting it, and witnessing its impact, I simply want to say: Thank you. Thank you for

laying your life down for the strengthening of Christ's Church and for giving us a resource through which God is equipping His servants to equip others.

— PASTOR CLAUDE HATUNGIMANA
African Director of ETSIM, Bujumbura, Burundi

The Foundations of Our Christian Faith has been a tremendous blessing and a powerful tool in my teaching ministry. The curriculum I teach is drawn from this book, and I have witnessed how these foundational truths have impacted, transformed, and strengthened the lives of my students. What moves me deeply is seeing many of my students develop a genuine heart to serve God— locally and among the nations. Through these teachings, they have gained a deeper understanding of Jesus Christ, the Gospel, faith, prayer, and the reality and power of the Holy Spirit. This book has also changed my own life in many ways. It has reminded me that biblical truth is not simply something we learn, but something that must become a living reality in our walk with God. Whether I teach locally or in other nations, I have used the truths found in this book. I have often seen these teachings awaken spiritual hunger and bring revival to the hearts of learners. They become more passionate in prayer, more committed to the Word, more sensitive to the Holy Spirit, and more willing to serve. Some have even begun doing ministry before completing their training. I believe this book is more than teaching material—it is a powerful tool for laying strong spiritual foundations and equipping believers to fulfill the Great Commission. When Biblical foundations are established, lives are strengthened, faith is deepened, and people are prepared to serve God and carry the Gospel to others. As God continues to open doors for me to minister in different nations, I desire to bring these teachings with me wherever He sends me. May this continue to cross borders, cultures, and generations, raising up disciples, leaders, missionaries, and servants who will love Jesus, walk in the power of the Holy Spirit, and carry the Gospel to the nations.

May this book continue to be a vessel in the hands of God—establishing foundations, transforming lives, awakening hearts, and raising up a generation that will know Jesus, follow him wholeheartedly, and take his Gospel to the nations. To God be all the glory!

— DINAH FERNANDEZ,

Former Teacher/ Vice Principal Bangkok Grace International School,
Missionary to the Nations at Bangkok, Thailand
Currently the Principal of The School of Yada
Bacolod City, Negros Island, Philippines

"From today I am again going in fast. This fast will be for 7 days. One fast for 7 days without drinking and eating for more wisdom and harvest. So, after that I will start traveling again to City to City and village to village with the book: The Foundations of Our Christian Faith. I am sure it will encourage people to know the Foundation and be a disciple of Jesus and stand strongly against the enemy."

— *EVANGELIST SONIA QAMAR,*
Lahore, Pakistan

The Foundations of Our Christian Faith is a valuable and timely resource for every believer who desires to understand the basic truths of the Christian faith. It presents Biblical foundations in a clear and practical way, making it useful for both new believers and those who desire to grow deeper in their faith. I highly recommend this book to churches, Christian leaders, and every believer seeking to build a strong foundation in Christ.

—PASTOR JULIUS ANYONA,
Kenyanu, Kenya, East Africa

"Thank you, Pastor. It is nice also that it has a question and answer at the end of the lesson. This material is very timely, since we will all start a lesson in a foundational way. This material will help them be strong in faith and pass it on to others as well. I hope it can be translated into Khmer. I will print it tomorrow."

— PASTOR MELBERT FAJARITO
AG Philippine Missionary now serving in Cambodia

It is with great joy and deep conviction that I recommend 'THE FOUNDATIONS OF OUR CHRISTIAN FAITH' written by Pastor James O'Connor. Having spent considerable time reading and reflecting on its pages, I found this book to be a profound source of wisdom, healing, salvation and inner peace. Since I have been teaching this book, people have been deeply convinced of God's truth and goodness. It also brings transformation to our leaders and churches to know better their foundation of their Christian faith. Lastly, I provide a strong recommendation to all churches and their leaders to use this book called Foundation of our Christian faith for the people to have a stronger and concrete foundation during these last days.

— PASTOR PATRICK JACKSON,
Malawi Director of Equipping the Saints International Ministries

"In my travels across the world, on mission trips to villages in Southeast Asia and Africa, I've witnessed how God has used this book, the Foundations of Our Christian Faith, to develop young believers and workers, providing them with a solid foundation in Christianity and guiding them back to their Bibles. Having seen this impact, I am now in the process of translating the book into the Cebuano language of the Philippines, intending to distribute it to pastors and workers in Philippine villages and local areas."

— MISSIONARY RICK JASON SILVA,
Equipping the Saints International Ministries,
Negros Oriental Island, Philippines

"This book is an informative book to help new Christians. Foundational truths are presented in a systematic and easy-to-read format. Pastors should give a copy to every newborn believer. It will assist them in their spiritual journey."

— PASTOR ROGER HUNT,
Fort Peck Indian Reservation, Montana

“I like the teachings of this book. It is true teaching from the Bible.”

— PASTOR JAMES K. CISCO,
Living Grace Lutheran Church, Bong County, Liberia West Africa

“I like how this book keeps pointing me back to my Bible.”

— BUD BRAATEN,
82 years old, Montana Cowboy

“This book reveals the truth of Christ, and I am encouraged by it.”

— JOHN ATCHICO,
Native American Shawnee Elder

“This book actually impacted my life, and I am going to take it to my churches in Bong and Lofa Counties in Liberia, West Africa and train them and continue church planting.”

— PASTOR ALEX KOLLIE,
Kingdom Covenant Ministry, Liberia, West Africa

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INTRODUCTION

If Jesus Christ said, “Greater things than I do will you do if you believe in me,” then how do I get there? If he also said that all things are possible to those who believe, then what conclusion does this bring us to?

For me, it causes me to stubbornly refuse to believe that God’s best is a disciple who will settle for less than the fullness of the life in Christ that becomes ours once we are born again.

This living relationship with Jesus Christ will free us from sin, deliver us from our weakness, and release the power of God to us and through us.

This ongoing relationship calls us further and further from tradition and religion and deeper and deeper into Christ.

If God is calling you to be his disciple, you must look beyond your religious beliefs to a new life in Christ—a life of more than yourself as you live in a relationship with the Holy Spirit.

In this new place of relationship, all things are possible for you as a person. This is true for you and me and God’s calling and privilege for everyone.

The Bible declares that the normal thing in God’s plan for one of his children is for them to become mature, attaining the fullness of Christ.

You must understand that God loves you and that Jesus Christ died and shed his blood for your sins. If you believe and accept this, you can live where all things are possible to those who believe.

The beginning is to believe in Christ’s reality and power and to be filled with the Holy Spirit. From this point, you must move on to live and release it. The old carnal man must be laid aside as you become the powerful spiritual vessel that God intends.

God is calling you to walk with him in a correct personal relationship through Jesus Christ while releasing the power of the Holy Spirit here in the now.

I pray that you will move beyond simple mental agreement with his teaching. Go past religious experience. Break the bondage of traditions! Enter this living relationship of power and an abundant lifestyle! Say to God and yourself, “I want all you have for me, Lord.”

I pray that you will come to know not only the theory but also find a relationship with the Holy Spirit—this relationship of love and power that is ours in Jesus Christ!

WELCOME

Once you have surrendered yourself to Jesus and have asked to be forgiven of your sins, you must invite him into your heart as Savior and Lord. Then be baptized in water and filled with the Holy Spirit.

I pray for you as the Apostle Paul prayed for the converts in the early Christian church.

My desire for you is reflected so well in his prayer in Colossians 1:9–14,

> *"For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you. We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives, so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, and giving joyful thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of his holy people in the kingdom of light. For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins."*
>
> *— Colossians 1:9-14 (NIV)*

Please come with me as we take his yoke upon us and become his disciples.

CHAPTER 1

JESUS

One time in my travels, I met the nicest of fellows. We sat together in the airport waiting for our planes to arrive. He was interesting to talk to and most delightful to be with. Time passed quickly, and much too soon, it was time for us to continue our individual journeys. As nice as this man was, I did not change my plans or purpose to follow him. To this very day, I don't know any more about him than I did the day we met for a moment as our paths crossed in the airport.

As wondrous as it was when you asked Jesus into your heart, you now have a decision to make. Will you change your plans, cancel your schedule, and follow him?

Only when your answer is a definite yes will you be ready to continue developing your personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

> *"…. If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever he loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it."*
>
> *— Mark 8:34–35 (NAS)*

> *"Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."*
>
> *— Matthew 11:29–30 (NKJV)*

I know a woman who experienced a terrible thing in her life. She married a fine young man who was in the Navy. She felt that she knew him completely. After many years, she was still

secure in believing that the man she married was the person she knew and believed in. One day, she went to the mailbox and discovered a bill for some dental work concerning their teenage daughter. The age was right, but the name wasn't. Looking into the matter, she found that after all these years, he was not who she thought he was. He had another wife and another daughter the same age as theirs.

As terrible as this was to her and her life, it will be far more tragic at the end of our lives if we follow the Jesus of our beliefs and not the true Jesus of Scripture.

The Bible contains pure truths concerning Jesus that we must believe. These establish the foundation upon which we stand with power and build our lives together with him.

> *"In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him nothing was made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men."*
>
> *— John 1:1-4 (NKJV)*

> *"I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty."*
>
> *—Revelation 1:8 (KJV)*

> *"Who being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men, and being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. Therefore, God has highly exalted him and given him the name which is above every name. That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."*
>
> *— Philippians 2:6-11 (NKJV)*

"God.... has in these last days spoken to us by his son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom also he made the worlds; who being the brightness of his glory and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of is power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high."

— Hebrews 1:1-3 (NKJV)

I think that just about everyone has heard about the man Jesus, or more specifically, the one known as Jesus of Nazareth. History proves that such a man was born to poor parents and lived on this earth until his early to mid-thirties.

It can also be proven by historical accounts apart from the Holy Scriptures that such a man as this did live.

At the age of 33 to 34 years old, he was condemned to die by Pontius Pilate, the Roman Governor, at the insistence of the Jewish High Priest and other religious leaders.

This also can be verified by the writings of Josephus and other historians.

We can find in Scripture more details of this truth.

We see He was not the same as other men, even though He was flesh and blood and shared our humanity.

JESUS IS ONE WITH THE FATHER

"I and my Father are one."

— John 10 :30 (NIV)

"But unto the son he saith, thy throne, O God is forever and ever...."

—Hebrews 1:8 (KJV)

"The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy."

—Colossians 1:15-18 (NIV)

"For in him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily and you are complete in him, who is the head of all principality and power."

— Colossians 2:9-10 (NKJV)

"Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created."

— Revelations 4:11 (KJV)

The simple truth is this: Jesus was not created. He is the Creator!

These Scriptures show that Jesus was with the Father in the beginning. As we read in Isaiah 9:6, John 1:1, and Hebrews 1:8 Jesus is one with God

We find the prophet Isaiah prophesied of him over 600 years before his birth.

"Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel."

— Isaiah 7:14 (NKJV)

HE WAS BORN OF A VIRGIN

"For unto us a child is born, unto us a child is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulders. And his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God,

Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace, of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end.... The Zeal of the Lord of Hosts will perform this."

— Isaiah 9:6-7 (PJV)

We read the account of this in *Luke 1:34-35 (KJV)*

"Then said Mary unto the Angel, 'How shall this be, seeing I know not a man?" And the Angel answered and said to her, 'The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee; therefore, also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.'"

He came to earth and was born of a virgin.

"All this took place to fulfill what the Lord has said through the prophet: "The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" (which means, 'God with us.'"

— Matthew 1:22–23 (NIV)

"He was in the world, and the world was made through him, and the world did not know him .... And the word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld his glory, the glory of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth."

— John 1:10–14 (NKJV)

HE REVEALS THE LOVE OF THE FATHER TO US

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son, that whosoever believes in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

— John 3:16 (NKJV)

"How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him."

— Acts 10:38 (NKJV)

HE WAS CRUCIFIED AND DIED

"And when they were come to the place, which is called Calvary, there they crucified him...."

— Luke 23:33 (KJV)

"And it was the third hour, and they crucified him. And the superscription of his accusation was written over, THE KING OF THE JEWS."

— Mark 15:25–26 (KJV)

"Jesus, when he had cried again with a loud voice, then died. And behold the veil in the temple was torn in two from top to bottom: and the earth did quake, and the rocks were rent (broken)."

— Matthew 27:50-51 (PJV)

HE WAS THEN BURIED

"This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate commanded the body to be given to him. When Joseph had taken the body, he wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, and laid it in his new tomb which he had hewn out of rock; and he rolled a large stone against the door of the tomb and departed."

— Matthew 27:58–60 (NKJV)

HE ROSE FROM THE DEAD

> *"And the angel answered and said unto the women, fear not ye; for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified. He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come see the place where the Lord lay. And go quickly and tell his disciples that he is risen from the dead...."*

— Matthew 28:5–7 (KJV)

HE APPEARED TO HIS DISCIPLES AND MANY OTHERS AFTER HE AROSE FROM THE DEAD.

> *"After that, he was seen of James, then of all the apostles. And last of all he was seen of me also...., as of one born out of due time."*

— 1 Corinthians 15:7–8 (KJV)

ONE DAY, IN THE PRESENCE OF HIS DISCIPLES, JESUS ASCENDED INTO THE CLOUDS AND RETURNED TO HIS FATHER IN HEAVEN

> *"And it came to pass, while he blessed them, he was parted from them, and was carried up into heaven."*

— Luke 24:51 (KJV)

> *"So, after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God."*

— Mark 16:19 (KJV)

JESUS IS OUR SAVIOR

He is not one of many ways to get to God, but He is the only way.

"But I know him; for I am from him, and he sent me."

— John 7:29 (NKJV)

".... He who has seen me has seen the Father. So how can you say, show us the Father?"

— John 14:9 (NKJV)

"For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus."

— 1 Timothy 2:5 (KJV)

".... I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

— John 14:6 (NIV)

"I am the bread of life."

— John 6:48 (NKJV)

".... I am the light of the world...."

— John 8:12 (NKJV)

".... Truly, Truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep, all that ever came before me are thieves and robbers; but the sheep did not hear them. I am the door; by me if any man enters in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture. The thief comes to steal, and to kill, and to destroy; I have come that they might have life and that they might have life more abundantly. I am the good shepherd; the good shepherd gives his life for the sheep."

— John 10:7-11 (PJV)

"Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life; he that believes in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live. And whosoever lives and believes in me shall never die. Believest you this?"

— John 11:25-26 (PJV)

"To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing (charging) their trespasses unto them...."

— 2 Corinthians 5:19 (KJV)

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

— John 1:12 (KJV)

It tells us in Hebrews 9:22 that without the shedding of blood there is no remission of sin.

We read in Hebrews 9:12 that Jesus arose from the grave and entered heaven to present His innocent blood before the throne of God to satisfy the judgment demanded for our sins.

It was by the blood of the Lamb that the price for our sin was paid.

"And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgement: so, Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation."

— Hebrews 9:27-28 (KJV)

"And you being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, he has made alive together with him. Having forgiven you for all trespasses. Having wiped out the handwriting of requirement which was contrary to us. And he has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. Having disarmed principalities and powers, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it."

— Colossians 2:13–15 (NKJV)

"But because Jesus lives forever, he has a permanent priesthood. Therefore, he is able to save completely those who come to God through him because he always lives to intercede for them."

— Hebrews 7:24–25 (NIV)

"For he has made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him."

— 2 Corinthians 5:21 (KJV)

"And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the firstborn from the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us and washed us from our sins in his own blood and hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father, to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen."

— Revelation 1:5-6 (KJV)

JESUS IS OUR HEALER

"Surely, he hath borne our griefs and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions; he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed."

— Isaiah 53:4–5 (KJV)

"And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all manner of sickness and all manner of disease among the people."

— Matthew 4:23 (KJV)

"And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all manner of sickness and all manner of disease among the people."

— Matthew 9:35 (KJV)

Nowhere in the Bible did anyone ever come to Jesus and ask to be healed, and he refused them.

"Jesus Christ the same yesterday and today and forever."

— Hebrews 13:8 (NIV)

Jesus Christ's reality and healing power is now in his Church today!

".... All authority has been given me in heaven and on earth, go ye therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things I have commanded you; and lo. I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

— Matthew 28:18-20 (NKJV)

He has left us here to be as he was, and we are to take this message to the ends of the earth.

JESUS IS OUR BAPTIZER IN THE HOLY SPIRIT

We know Jesus tells us we are to be baptized in the Holy Spirit.

"And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, "which," He said, "you have heard from Me; for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now." Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, "Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" And He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority. But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon

you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

— Acts 1:4-8 (NKJV)

Through the baptism of the Holy Spirit, God empowers us to be as Christ was when he was here.

"…. If a man loves me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him and we will come unto him and make our abode with him"

— John 14:23 (NKJV)

"I will not leave you orphans I will come to you."

— John 14:18(NIV)

"But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you."

— John 14:26(NKJV)

"Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world."

— 1 John 4:17 (KJV)

JESUS IS OUR SOON RETURNING KING

The Scriptures also teach that Jesus will return at the end of this age to judge the world of sin and forever establish his kingdom.

"In my Father's house there are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also."

— John 14:2–3 (KJV)

"Behold he comes with clouds, and every eye shall see him, and they also who pierced him; and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him.

— Revelations 1:7 PJV)

".... Fear not; I am the first and the last; I am He those lives and was dead; and behold I am alive forevermore, amen, and have the keys of hell and of death."

— Revelations 1:17-18 (PJV)

".... For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ. For it is written: 'As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God.' 'So, then each of us shall give an account of himself to God.'"

— Romans 14:10–12 (NKJV)

"Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And he who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and on righteousness He judges and makes war. His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns. He had a name written no one knew except himself. He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and his name is called the Word of God. And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean followed him on white horses. Now out of his mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it he should strike the nations. And he himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And he has on his robe and on his thigh a name written KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS."

— Revelations 19:11-16 (NKJV)

"Then I saw a great white throne and Him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and heaven fled away. And there, was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great standing before God, and the books were opened. And another book

was opened, which is the book of life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books. The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire."

— Revelations 20:11-15 (PJV)

"But every man in his own order: Christ the first fruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming. Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power. For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet."

— 1 Corinthians 15:23–25 (KJV)

"And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, the kingdoms of this world are becoming the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign forever and ever."

— Revelations 11:15 (KJV)

"We need to separate ourselves from those who claim to be Christians if they preach and teach a different Jesus than the one clearly seen in the Holy Scriptures.

Scripture reveals that God became man through Jesus. While he was on this earth as a sinless man, he became our healing, saving Savior. And we see how he made peace through his blood on the cross.

We have now learned Jesus has now ascended back into heaven and will soon return to judge the earth. He will separate those who have rejected him from those who received him as Savior. The believer will forever be in paradise with him, the non-believer in Hell.

Jesus Christ is the One who was crucified on the Cross, rose from the dead, ascended into heaven, and is now our Savior. He is the Person Scripture reveals as being one with the Holy Spirit and our eternal Father. He who soon will return to judge this world.

“If we see Jesus as anything other than living as flesh and blood as perfect man, or if we believe that Jesus is not one with God the Father and the Holy Spirit, or if we believe that there is any other way to God outside of Jesus Christ, we will not be capable of relating to God the way He expects us to.”

As disciples, we will encounter many people who do not have a correct and complete understanding of Jesus. Some believe that he was a good man, and they will try to follow his example. Some say that he was one of the great prophets sent by God. Some say that He was an angel created by God, and he was sent to show love to mankind. Some even go so far as to believe that he was the first created being in God’s plan.

People who believe these things do not understand that he is Lord of Lords and one with God the Father.

Today, he lives in our hearts by faith! Praise his name!

JESUS ISN’T RELIGION, HE IS REALITY

I found this out as a young man. I was drunk with wine for the first time when I was twelve years old. I was arrested for being intoxicated in public when I was fifteen. I stood before a judge when I was sixteen for hitting a man with a car door and leaving him injured beside the road. I was wicked and angry. I have been in places like jail, where there is no peace.

When I was twenty-three, I knelt alone in my bedroom and asked Jesus if he was real. That night, I met the King of kings and Lord of lords. He heard me as I called to him. He took my sin and shame from me by his blood.

He saved me!

Jesus is more than fact and history. He is alive!

There is no other religion in this world where we can find a personal and living relationship with God.

Let us now renew our decision concerning our own life.

Jesus, I ask you to forgive me and save me. I believe that you love me and want a relationship with me. I ask you to make yourself known to me and help me. I now surrender all to you. In your name, Jesus, I pray. Amen.

Date:_____

Name:_____

I now commit myself to learning of Jesus and being his disciple, following him all the days of my life.

Signed:_____

CHAPTER 1: JESUS

Fill in the blanks

1. Only when your answer is a definite yes and you commit yourself to following Jesus will you truly be ready to press on in developing your _____with God.
2. It will be far more tragic at the end of our lives if we follow the Jesus of our_____and not the true Jesus of the_____.
3. We must believe the truths about Jesus found in the Bible to establish our_____and stand with power and build our life together with him.
4. He came to earth and was born of a_____.
5. He was born of flesh and blood and was_____as we are here on earth.
6. The Bible reveals Jesus became_____and lived among us as a sinless man.
7. Jesus reveals the_____of the Father to us.
8. Jesus was_____and died on the Cross.
9. Jesus_____from the dead.
10. Jesus is our_____.
11. Jesus is the only_____to God (John 14:6)
12. Jesus said, "I am from him and he_____me."
13. Jesus said, "He that has seen me has_____the Father.
14. I am the_____of life. (John 6:35)

15. I am the_____of the world. (John 8:12)

16. I am the_____. (John 10:11)

17. There is one God and one_____between God and man, the man _____.

18. Jesus said, I am the_____the_____and the_____.

19. No man comes to the Father except_____me.

20. For he has made him to become_____for us, who knew no sin, that we might be made the_____of God in him.

21. Jesus is our_____. (Isaiah 53:4-5)

22. He will heal us of our diseases because the Bible says by his_____we are healed.

23. No where in the Bible did someone come to Jesus to be healed that he_____them.

24. Jesus is our_____in the_____.

25. Jesus gives us his_____and_____by baptizing us in the Holy Spirit.

26. Jesus said I will not leave you_____I will come to you.

27. Jesus is our soon_____King.

28. The_____also teaches Jesus will return to earth again someday.

29. He has gone to_____a_____for us and will_____again and receive us unto himself.

30. Jesus is the_____and the_____the_____and the_____.

31. Jesus is the_____and the_____and now has the keys to _____and _____.

32. Jesus will spew the_____out of his mouth.

33. Those who Jesus love, He_____and_____.

34. We will all stand before the_____of Christ.

35. Every knee_____and every tongue_____that Jesus Chris is Lord.

36. We need to_____ourselves from those who claim to be Christian if they preach and teach a_____Jesus than the one clearly seen in the Holy Scriptures.

37. Jesus is_____with the Father.

38. Isaiah prophesied over 600 years before the birth of Jesus about him and proclaimed him to be the_____God, Father, the Prince of_____.

39. In the beginning, Jesus was with God and was_____.

40. Jesus and the Father are_____.

41. Jesus was not created—He is the_____.

42. Jesus isn't religion—He is_____.

43. Jesus washes us from our sins in his_____.

44. Today Jesus dwells in our hearts by_____!

Multiple Choice Questions

1. "If anyone wishes to come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. For whoever wishes to save his life shall lose it; but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospels, shall save it."

   A. John 3:16
   B. Mathew 11:29
   C. Mark 8:34–35
   D. Romans 5:9

2. It is the_____of Jesus that cleanses us from our sins.

   A. Virgin Birth
   B. Words of Jesus
   C. The blood
   D. The resurrection

3. Then said Mary unto the Angel, "how shall this be, seeing I know not a man?" And the Angel answered and said to her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee; therefore, also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the_____. Luke 1:34-35, (KJV)

   A. Son of God
   B. Son of Man
   C. I AM
   D. Elohim

4. He came to earth and was born of a virgin. All this took place to fulfill what the Lord has said through the_____: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel which means, "God is with us."

   A. Apostles
   B. Pastors

C. Rabbi
D. Prophets

5. Jesus was_____and died.

   A. Crucified.
   B. Buried
   C. Raised
   D. None of the above

6. Jesus died, and He was_____.

   A. Crucified.
   B. Buried
   C. Raised
   D. None of the above

7. Jesus_____from the dead.

   A. Crucified.
   B. Buried
   C. Arose
   D. None of the above

8. Jesus has redeemed us from_____.

   A. Bank Loan
   B. Sin
   C. Cold Water
   D. Salesman

9. "Behold I stand at the door and knock: if any man hears my voice, and open the door, I will come into him, and will sup with him, and he with me."

   A. Revelation 3:20

B. Mark 11:24
C. John 3:18
D. None of the above

10. The Scriptures also teach Jesus will return again at the end of this age to_____.

A. Judge the world of sin
B. Forever establish his kingdom
C. A & B – Both
D. None of the above

11. Who is the only way to get to God?

A. Jesus
B. Stairs
C. Prayer
D. Fasting

12. Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father, except through me."

A. John 14:6
B. 2 Corinthians 5:19
C. 1 Timothy 2:5
D. Revelation 1:5

13. "For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;"

A. John 14:6
B. 2 Corinthians 5:19
C. 1 Timothy 2:5
D. Revelation 1:5

14. “To wit God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them;”

    A. John 14:6
    B. 2 Corinthians 5:19
    C. 1 Timothy 2:5
    D. Revelation 1:5

15. And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the firstborn from the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us and washed us from our sins in his own blood.”

    A. John 14:6
    B. 2 Corinthians 5:19
    C. 1 Timothy 2:5
    D. Revelation 1:5

16. “But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanses us from all sin.”

    A. 1 John 1:7
    B. Isaiah 53:4–5
    C. 1 Timothy 2:5
    D. Revelation 1:5

17. “I and my Father are one.”

    A. John 10:30
    B. 2 Corinthians 5:19
    C. 1 Timothy 2:5
    D. Revelation 1:5

18. Jesus is not religion; He is_____.

A. Reality
B. Savior
C. Lamb of God
D. All of the above

19. Jesus has taken away our_____by his blood.

A. Sin and Shame
B. Freedom
C. Salvation
D. None of the above

20. As a disciple, we will_____many who do not have a proper understanding of who Jesus is.

A. Problem
B. Encounter
C. Go to
D. All of the above

Essay Questions

1. Who is Jesus to You Personally?

_____
_____
_____
_____

2. Write the verse Matthew 11:29–30

_____
_____
_____

3. How does Jesus dwell in our heart today?

_____

_____

_____

_____

CHAPTER 2

LOVE

We will never fully follow Christ until we know in our hearts that he loves us for who we are and desires to fulfill us as the individuals he has created us to be.

"…. Yes, I have loved you with an everlasting love: therefore, with lovingkindness have I drawn you.

— Jeremiah 31:3(NKJV)

"For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope."

— Jeremiah 29:11 (NKJV)

"How precious also are your thoughts to me, O God! How great is the sum of them! If I should count them, they would be more in number than the sand; when I awake, I am still with you."

— Psalms 139:17-18 (NKJV)

You have multiplied, O Lord my God, your wondrous deeds and thoughts toward us; none can compare with you! I will proclaim and tell of them, yet they are more than can be told.

— Psalms 40:5 (ESV)

Are not five sparrows sold for two farthings, and not one of them is forgotten before God? But even the hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not therefore: you are of more value than many sparrows.

— Luke 12:6-7 (KJV)

"Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends."

— John 15:13 (NIV)

For this reason I bow my knees to the Father[l] of our Lord Jesus Christ, from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height— to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

— Ephesians 3:14-21 (NJV)

"And we have known and believed the love that God has to us. God is love; and he that lives in love lives in God, and God in him."

— 1 John 4:16 (NJV)

Each of us has been created as none other before us or after us: unique and special. We are precious and beautiful in the eyes of our God.

As we love and obey him, it is with joy and delight that God brings us to blessing and prosperity.

As precious flowers unique and perfect in his eyes, we rest in his garden of love and faithfulness.

If we interpret the word love by what we see around us in the world, it makes us wonder, what is love? We quickly realize that what the world thinks is love is simply man seeking gratification and experience at the expense of others.

Movie stars stir the hearts and emotions of the masses. However, their broken and corrupt personal lives often reflect a false reality. They only dream of the love that they so gallantly act out on screen.

So how can we know or identify love?

The word, love, was actually three words in the Greek language spoken during the time of Christ. They used the word *eros* to signify sexual, fleshly love. The word *philia* was used to signify emotional love of the soul. *Agape* was used to represent selfless, spiritual love.

Many people get themselves into great difficulties being led by the flesh, believing that sexual *(eros)* love alone will bring lasting happiness. It will not!

Another difficulty can arise when our love is founded on emotion *(philia).*

Have you ever noticed how some couples can be so in love one minute and then hate each other the next? That's because their relationship is based on *philia*, or emotional love.

We must have God's selfless love if we want an enduring and stable love.

We see the Spirit, or *agape* love, in God sending his son Jesus to die on the Cross.

> *"But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."*
>
> *— Romans 5:8 (NIV)*

As Jesus' disciples, we must show this same selfless, *agape* love to those around us.

"A new commandment I give you: love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

— John 13:34–35 (NIV)

Jesus repeats it:

"This is my commandment, that you love one another, as I have loved you."

— John 15:12 (ESV)

Jesus tells us again the third time:

"These things I command you, that you love one another."

— John 15:17 (NKJV)

".... Be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God."

— Ephesians 5:1-2 (ESV)

"Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for each other, love one another deeply, from the heart."

— 1 Peter 1:22 (NIV)

"Beloved let us love one another: for love is of God and everyone that loveth is born of God and knoweth God. He that loveth not knoweth not God for God is love."

— 1 John 4:7-8 (KJV)

Jesus tells us that by our selfless *agape* love, others will know that we are His disciples.

As the Lord's disciples, we do not have the luxury of picking and choosing who we love or don't love. This agape love is to extend to our enemies and to those who hate us and mistreat us.

> *"You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your Father in heaven...."*
>
> *— Matthew 5:43-45 (NIV)*

> *"Anyone who claims to be in the light but hates a brother or sister is still in the darkness. Anyone who loves their brother and sister lives in the light, and there is nothing in them to make them stumble. But anyone who hates a brother or sister is in the darkness and walks around in the darkness. They do not know where they are going, because the darkness has blinded them."*
>
> *— 1 John 2:9–11 (NIV)*

> *"And whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him, that your Father in heaven may also forgive you your trespasses. But if you do not forgive, neither will your Father in heaven forgive your trespasses."*
>
> *— Mark 11:25–26 (NKJV)*

Let's look at what the Bible says are the attributes of love.

> *"Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails."*
>
> *— 1 Corinthians 13:4–8 (NIV)*

These are the qualities of love with which God relates to us. These qualities we are to express as we relate to God and others.

When I was a young boy, my mother would call me to get up and go to school. I would respond with, "I'm sick."

This was never taken as true, simply based on one young boy's feelings and beliefs. But instead, it was investigated by my mother (she was also a registered nurse). She would always go to the cupboard and get the thermometer. She would then come to my bedside and take my temperature. If the thermometer proved that I had a fever and was truly sick, she would allow me to stay home for the day and get well. But if I did not have a fever, she would insist that even though I felt sick and wanted to be sick for the day, I simply wasn't sick. I would then get up and go to school.

In the same way my mother measured my illness not by my feelings but by my temperature, so has Jesus given us a way to measure our love for him:

> *"If you love me, keep my commands."*
>
> *— John 14:15 (NIV)*

As we see from this scripture, our love for the Lord is measured by our obedience to Him. When asked which of all the commandments was the most important, Jesus answered.

> *"'The most important one,'" answered Jesus is this: 'Hear O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these."*
>
> *— Mark 12:29–31 (NIV)*

The selfless relationship of love offered by God through Jesus Christ should inspire us to be no longer self-centered but become Christ-centered.

When this happens, we seek ways to love and serve God and others.

> *"Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because*

God is love. This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God, but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us."

— 1 John 4:7–12 (NIV)

Love is a very practical thing in our daily lives.

"'For I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty, and you gave me something to drink. I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick, and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.' Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you?' Then the King will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did to me.'"

— Matthew 25:35–40 (NIV)

"Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world."

— James 1:27 (NIV)

"Now the end of the commandment is charity out of a pure heart, and of a good conscience, and of faith unfeigned."

— 1 Timothy 1:5 (KJV)

CHAPTER 2: LOVE

Fill in the Blanks

1. God's love is_____.
2. God's thoughts towards us as an individual are more in number than the grains of _____on the shores of the sea.
3. God thinks thoughts of_____and not of_____towards us.
4. The love of Christ is so great toward us it passes our_____.
5. There were three words used for love in the original Greek language of Scripture. The word "agape" was used to signify_____love.
6. If we want to have an_____and stable love, then we must also have the selfless love of the Spirit.
7. It is the selfless love of the Father or "_____" love we see in Jesus's death on the Cross.
8. "But God demonstrates his own_____ (which Greed word) for us in this: while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." (Romans 5:8)
9. As Jesus' disciples, we are to show this same selfless_____to those around us.
10. If we hate our brother or sister we are in the_____and walk in the _____.
11. God is_____and he that lives in love lives in_____and God in him.
12. Jesus commands us 3 times in the book of John to_____.

13. "If you love me, you will obey what I_____," (John 14:15, NIV)

14. Our love for the Lord is measured by our_____to Him.

15. Apostle John encourages us: "Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from _____.

16. "The most important one," answered Jesus is this: 'Hear O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no_____than these." (Mark 12:29-31, NIV)

Multiple Choice Questions

1. The Bible sometimes uses single words to describe God. According to 1 John 4:16, God is _____.

   A. Love
   B. Creator
   C. All powerful
   D. All of the above

2. The Greek word for spiritual love is_____.

   A. Eros
   B. Phileo
   C. Agape
   D. None of the above

3. The Love we see in Jesus' death on the Cross is_____.
   A. Agape
   B. Eros
   C. Phileo
   D. All of the above

4. God demonstrates his own love for us in this: while we were still_____He died for us.

   A. Happy
   B. Sad
   C. Sinners
   D. Crying

5. "A new commandment I give you: love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

   A. John 13:34–35
   B. John 3:16
   C. Mathew 14:14
   D. None of the above

6. "Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for your brothers, love one another deeply from the heart"

   A. John 13:34–35
   B. John 3:16
   C. 1 Peter 1:22 (NIV)
   D. None of the above

7. This "agape" love is to extend to our_____.

   A. Enemies
   B. Partner in marriage
   C. Friends
   D. All of the above

8. "He who says he is in the light and hates his brother is in the darkness still. He who loves his brother abides in the light, and in it there is no cause for stumbling."

A. 1 John 2:9–11
B. 1 John 3: 9-11
C. 1 Peter 2:24
D. 2 Timothy 2:24

9. The selfless relationship of love that God offers us through Jesus Christ should inspire us to no longer be_____.

A. Self-centered
B. Angry
C. Happy
D. Sad

10. "Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from_____."

A. God
B. Charity Foundations
C. Factory
D. Heaven

Essay Questions

1. What is *agape* love? Explain in your words?

_____
_____
_____

2. What is *eros* love? Explain in your words?

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

3. What is *Phileo* love? Explain in your own words?

_____

_____

_____

_____

4. What are the attributes of love according to 1 Corinthians 13:4–8?

_____

_____

_____

_____

5. What does the selfless relationship of love that God offers man mean to you?

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

6. Write James 1:27

_____

_____

_____

CHAPTER 3

FAITH

"By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible."

— Hebrews 11:3 (ESV)

Man in his natural wisdom says you cannot create something out of nothing, which is foolishness in the eyes of God, for he created everything out of nothing by speaking his word.

"But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him."

— Hebrews 11:6 (KJV)

Our life in God's kingdom begins when we place our faith in Jesus Christ.

"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus."

— Romans 3:23–24 (NIV)

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

— Romans 6:23 (NIV)

".... The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart, that is, the word of faith we are proclaiming: that if you confess with your mouth and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart

you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved."

— Romans 10:8–10 (NIV)

Once we realize that we are alienated from God, we must repent and put our faith in Jesus Christ. We put our faith in the fact that he died on the Cross and shed his blood as payment for our sins. When we do this and confess our salvation to others, we become children of God.

When we receive Jesus into our hearts and confess with our mouths what we have done, we are born again.

His life becomes a part of us as we live in relationship with him.

This divine influence is spoken of as "*grace*" in the Scripture.

"For by grace are ye saved through faith, and not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: not of works, lest any man should boast."

— Ephesians 2:8–9 (KJV)

"Therefore, being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: by whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand and rejoice in hope of the glory of God."

— Romans 5:1–2 (KJV)

Our faith releases God's presence and purposes *(Rhema)* to us moment by moment as we walk with him.

In *Hebrews 11:1* we read that faith is being sure of what we hope for and being certain of what we do not see.

It tells us in 2 Corinthians 5:7 that as Christians, we walk and live by faith, not sight. We live knowing that what we cannot see is more real and of greater authority and eternal value than what we can behold with our natural eyes.

In Habakkuk 2:4, Romans 1:17, Galatians 3:11, and Hebrews 10:38, we read, *"The just shall live by faith."* This is so important that it is repeated four times in the Bible.

"We see that all we do from start to finish with God must be by faith."

> *".... For whatsoever is not of faith is sin."*
>
> *— Romans 14:23 (KJV)*

In the Bible's first book, we read about man's creation and find an account of God and man as time passes.

In the 12th Chapter, God chooses to separate the human race into two groups by calling one man, Abraham, to obey him and walk with him by faith.

> *"Now the Lord had said unto Abram, get thee out of thy country, and from your kindred, and from your father's house unto a land that I will show you. And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, and you shall be a blessing."*
>
> *— Genesis 12:1-2 (KJV)*

> *"What shall we say then that Abraham our father, as pertaining to the flesh, hath found? For if Abraham were justified by works, he hath whereof to glory; but not before God. For what saith the scripture? Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness."*
>
> *— Romans 4:1-3 (KJV)*

> *For the promise, that he should be the heir of the world, was not to Abraham, or to his seed, through the law, but through the righteousness of faith.*
>
> *— Romans 4:13 (KJV)*

> *"Therefore, it is of faith, that it might be by grace; to the end the promise might be sure to all the seed; not to that only which is of the law, but to that also which is of the faith*

of Abraham: who is the father of us all. As it is written, I have made you the father of many nations, before him whom he believed, even God, who makes alive the dead, and calls those things to be not as though they were. Who, against hope believed in hope that he might become the father of many nations, according to that which was spoken. So shall thy seed be. And not being weak in faith, he considered not his own body now dead, when he was about a hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sarah's womb: He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God; and being fully persuaded that which he (God) had promised he was able also to do. And therefore, it was imputed (given) to him for righteousness. Now it was not written for his sake alone, that it was given to him; but for us also to whom it shall be given if we believe on him that raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead. Who was delivered for our offenses and was raised again for our justification."

— *Romans 4:16-25 (KJV)*

"And if you are in Christ then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise"

— *Galatians 3:29 (NKJV)*

We must understand that God loves us and he has covenanted (promised) to bless us here in this life as well as forever.

"For when God made promise to Abraham, because he could swear by no greater, he swore by himself, Saying, 'Surely blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply you,' and so after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise. For men indeed swear by the greater, and an oath for confirmation is for them an end to all dispute. Thus, God determining to show more abundantly to the heirs of promise the immutability of his counsel, confirmed it by an oath, that by two immutable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we might have strong conciliation who

have fled for refuge to lay hold of the hope set before us. This hope, we have as an anchor for the soul, both sure and steadfast...."

— Hebrews 6:13–19 (NKJV)

This tells us that we have a covenant with God and that he is going to bless us.

We hold to this promise from our God as we journey through life.

"He that spared not his own son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?"

— Romans 8:32 (KJV)

Whether today is filled with sunshine or storm, we know that our God loves us unconditionally. He loves us with an unchanging everlasting love and has sworn by His own name to bless us.

"For no matter how many promises God has made, they are "Yes" in Christ. And so through him the "Amen" is spoken by us to the glory of God."

— 2 Corinthians 1:20 (NIV)

God said it this way to Abraham's wife Sarah:

"Is anything too hard for the Lord....?"

— Genesis 18:14 (NKJV)

"Then the word of the Lord came to Jeremiah, saying, 'Behold, I am the Lord, the God of all flesh. Is there anything too hard for Me?'"

— Jeremiah 32:26-27 (NKJV)

"Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and show thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not."

— Jeremiah 33:3 (KJV)

The angel that appeared to the Virgin Mary said:

"For nothing will be impossible with God."

— Luke 1:37 (EVS)

Jesus himself said to those who were listening to him:

".... Everything is possible for one who believes."

— Mark 9:23 (NIV)

"If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer."

— Matthew 21:22 (NIV)

"'Have faith in God,' Jesus answered, 'I tell you the truth, if anyone says to this mountain, Go, throw yourself into the sea, and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that what he says will happen, it will be done for him. Therefore, I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.'"

— Mark 11:22–24 (NIV)

"I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these because I am going to my Father. And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father. You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it."

— John 14:12–14 (PJV)

This is true!

"When Peter saw this, he said to them: 'Fellow Israelites, why does this surprise you? Why do you stare at us as if by our own power or godliness we had made this man walk? By faith in the name of Jesus, this man whom you see and know was made strong. It is Jesus' name and the faith that comes through him that has completely healed him, as you can all see.'"

— Acts 3:12,16 (NIV)

I hope that you are beginning to understand that faith in Jesus Christ opens a whole new world as we walk in relationship with Him. I encourage you to be bold in your faith, believing all things are possible as you walk with God.

CHAPTER 3: FAITH

Fill in the Blanks

1. Our life in God begins when we place our_____in Jesus Christ and in what the Bible tells us about ourselves and about our relationship with Jesus.
2. Once we realize we are alienated from God, we must_____and _____Jesus.
3. With our hearts we believe unto_____. When we confess with the mouth confession is made unto_____.
4. It is by faith we receive Jesus Christ and begin our_____with God.
5. This divine presence and power of God being in our lives is known as_____.
6. We are justified by our_____and we now have_____into this grace we now stand in and rejoice.
7. We live knowing what we cannot see is more_____and of_____and eternal value than what we can behold with our natural eyes.
8. Our faith releases God's_____and power into our circumstances and the affairs of this world.
9. The just shall live by_____.
10. All that we do from start to finish with God must be by_____.
11. True faith brings us to be_____to God and to his_____.

12. Christ was delivered up for our offense and raised from the dead for our_____.

13. By faith in Christ, we are now the_____of Abraham.

14. Through Christ we are sealed into_____with God through his blood. God now promised to_____and_____us.

15. God has sworn by his_____to do this for us.

16. No matter how many promises God has made, they are_____in Christ.

17. Faith in Jesus Christ opens a whole New World as we walk in_____with Christ.

18. All things are possible to him that_____.

Multiple Choice Questions

1. Our Life in God Begins when we_____.

   A. Buy a House
   B. Place our Faith in Jesus
   C. We go to Church
   D. Swim

2. For all have sinned and fall short of_____.

   A. Detergent
   B. The Glory of God
   C. Milk
   D. None of the above

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

A. Romans 6:23
B. Hebrews 11:6
C. John 1:1
D. Genesis 5:10

4. Once we realize we are alienated from God, we must repent and accept Jesus dying on the Cross, and the shedding of his blood as payment for our_____.

   A. Electric bill
   B. Sin
   C. Air ticket
   D. All of the above

5. At the time of receiving Jesus into our heart, we are_____.

   A. Born Again
   B. Humans
   C. Justified
   D. None of the above

6. For by_____are ye saved through faith, and not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: not of works, lest any man should boast." (Ephesians 2:8-9)

   A. Grace
   B. Our Good Deeds
   C. Our Giving
   D. Our Kindness

7. It is by_____we received Jesus Christ and begin our relationship with God.

   A. Our Kindness
   B. Our Giving
   C. Faith
   D. All of the above

8. Faith is being_____of what we hope for.

   A. Diverse
   B. Sure
   C. Great
   D. All of the above

9. Everything is possible for him who_____.

   A. Work hard
   B. Struggle
   C. Study
   D. Believes

10. Therefore, I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, _____that you have received it, and it will be yours."

    A. Believe
    B. Think
    C. Imagine
    D. Speak

Essay Questions

1. What is Faith? (Hebrews 11:1)

   _____
   _____
   _____
   _____

2. How do we receive Jesus Christ and begin our relationship with God? (Hebrews 10:9-10)

   _____
   _____
   _____

3. How we can know a life with God?

_____

_____

_____

4. Where are the 4 places in the Bible where it is written “the just shall live by his faith”?

_____

_____

_____

_____

5. What opens the door for us to live a life of relationship with God?

_____

_____

_____

_____

6. Write Mark 11:22-24.

_____

_____

_____

_____

CHAPTER 4

NEW BIRTH

Are you wondering about the term "born again"? I will help you understand this because I also pondered what it meant after becoming a Christian. This simple term has confounded the wisest of men and has been ridiculed by unbelievers for centuries. I assure you, it is not foolish or confusing once you understand it.

Let's look at the first recorded encounter where Jesus told someone they must be born again. In the third chapter of the gospel of John, we read about Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. He was a Pharisee who came to Jesus by night. He had been observing the life and ministry of our Lord. (Turn there and read.)

Nicodemus began by confessing that he was sure Jesus came from God and that no one could do all of the miracles Jesus did apart from the Creator.

Instead of replying to what Nicodemus said, Jesus talked about being born again...

> *".... Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."*
>
> *— John 3:3 (NKJV)*

This made as much sense to Nicodemus as it did to us the first time we heard it. Not understanding what Jesus was saying, Nicodemus asked how a man could be born a second time once he was already grown. Again, instead of responding to the question as Nicodemus expected, Jesus simply continued...

"Jesus answered, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit."

— John 3:5–6 (NKJV)

As we study this, we can see that Jesus is saying we not only need to be born as a baby to our natural parents but also to be born of the Spirit unto God. This is why Jesus said, "Born again."

"But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God."

— John 1:12-13 (KJV)

To understand this better, we need to go back to the first book in the Bible, Genesis, and read about the creation of the first man.

Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness. So, God created man in his image; in the image of God.... He created him; male and female he created them.... the Lord God formed man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being."

— Genesis 1:26–27, 2:7 (NIV)

We read here where God, having made man and woman, then planted a garden to the east. It was called the Garden of Eden, and it was here that he placed Adam and Eve.

God also put all kinds of trees, two of which are mentioned by name: the "Tree of Life" and the "Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil." He then told Adam and Eve that they were free to eat from all of the trees in the garden except for the "Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil."

> *But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.*
>
> *— Genesis 2:17 (KJV)*

We see in the beginning that God created man with the power of choice. In other words, Adam had the sovereignty within himself to choose his own destiny. He had the sovereignty to choose the tree of life and have dominion within the garden. He also had the sovereignty to disobey and forfeit God's intention for him. The Scripture goes on to say that man chose of his own free will to eat of the "Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil." As a result, he fell from his glorious state of purity and obedience into a state of disobedience and guilt.

> *"So, the Lord God banished him from the Garden of Eden to work the ground from which he had been taken. After he drove the man out, he placed on the east side of the Garden of Eden a Cherubim and a flaming sword flashing back and forth to guard the way to the Tree of Life. Adam lay with his wife Eve, and she became pregnant and gave birth to Cain. She said, with the help of the Lord I have brought forth a man."*
>
> *— Genesis 3:23–4:1 (NIV)*

God put them out of the garden.

Adam and Eve went on to have children and live many more years.

But wait!

I thought we just read that God said they would surely die the day they ate of the tree's fruit.

Yes, we did read this. And yes, they did die.

As we read in Genesis chapter four, Adam and Eve continued to live in the flesh. They had children and became the progenitors of all people. So, their death wasn't physical. They continued to think, reason, and show emotion. Their death wasn't in the soul. So how did they die?

THIS DEATH WAS SPIRITUAL DEATH

This spiritual death caused by sin not only separated Adam and Eve from God but also separated everyone who was born after them.

> *"Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned.... But the free gift is not like the offense. For if by the one man's offense many died, much more the grace of God and the gift by the grace of the one Man, Jesus Christ, abounded to many. And the gift is not like that which came through the one who sinned. For the judgment which came from one offense resulted in condemnation, but the free gift which came from many offenses resulted in justification. For if by the one man's offense death reigned through the one, much more those who receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ. For if by the one man's offense death reigned through the one, much more those who receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ."*
>
> *— Romans 5:12–19 (NKJV)*

> *"God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God."*
>
> *— 2 Corinthians 5:21 (NIV)*

You see, we all are partakers of the fall of Adam, and we need to be redeemed from our fallen state.

For this reason, Jesus came to die on the Cross so that he could redeem us.

This is why Jesus said, "*You must be born again.*"

The dead spirit man within us must be born again to live for God and have fellowship with him.

Without being born again, we may be alive physically, but spiritually, we will remain separated from God. We will all live eternally, but only those who experience this new birth through Jesus Christ will be in Heaven with him.

> *"Giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light. He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of his love in whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins. He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation."*
>
> *— Colossians 1:12–15 (NKJV)*

> *"The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father." The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory."*
>
> *— Romans 8:15–17 (NIV)*

At the time of salvation, we are delivered from the eternal penalty of death brought about by the sin of Adam, and our spirit is reborn.

It is from the Spirit that we know God.

The Spirit of God now dwells in us, and we become the temple of the Holy Spirit.

> *"No man has seen God at any time. If we love one another, God dwells in us, and his love is perfected in us. Hereby we know that we live in him, and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son*

to be the Savior of the world. Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in him and he in God."

— 1 John 4:12-15 (NKJV)

"He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.

— 1 John 5:12 (NKJV)"

CHAPTER 4: NEW BIRTH

Fill In the Blanks

1. Nicodemus was a man who had been_____the life and ministry of our Lord.
2. Nicodemus opened the conversation by confessing he was sure_____had come from God.
3. Nicodemus was convinced no one could do all the miracles Jesus was doing apart from _____.
4. "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is_____, he cannot see the kingdom of God." (John 3:3)
5. I say to you, unless one is born of_____and of the_____, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit." (John 3:5-6)
6. Jesus is saying we not only need to be born as a baby to our natural parents, but we also need to be born of the_____unto God. This is why Jesus said. "Born again."
7. God places_____and_____in the Garden of Eden.
8. God placed the "Tree of _____" and the "Tree of_____."
9. He then instructed_____; they were_____to eat from all the trees in the garden except for the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil.
10. "But of the Tree of the_____, thou shalt not eat of it for the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die." (Genesis 2:17, KJV)
11. In the beginning, God created man with the sovereignty over himself or we could say the power of_____.

12. The Scripture says man chose his own_____to eat of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil.

13. The Lord God banished man from the Garden of Eden to work the_____from which he had been taken.

14. God said the day they ate of the tree's fruit they would surely_____.

15. Adam's death was not_____, their death was_____death.

16. Spiritual death caused by sin not only separated_____from God it has also separated_____who has been born after them.

17. For if by the one man's_____death reigned through the one; much more those who receive abundance of grace and the gift of_____will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.

18. We are delivered from the eternal penalty of_____brought about by the sin of Adam and our spirit is reborn when we receive Jesus as our Savior.

19. We have_____with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Multiples Choice Questions

1. In the third chapter of the Gospel of John, we read about Nicodemus.

   A. He was a Ruler of Jews
   B. Carpenter
   C. President
   D. Janitor

2. Nicodemus asked how a man could be born a_____once he was already grown.

   A. Second time

B. First time
C. Third time
D. Seventy times

3. Let Us Make man in our_____.

A. Imagination
B. Image
C. Understanding
D. Establishment

4. God instructed Adam and Eve not to eat from the tree of_____.

A. Life
B. Knowledge of Good and Evil
C. Apple
D. Mango

5. God created man with the power of_____.

A. Choice
B. Thinking
C. Recreation
D. Healing

6. After God drove the man out of the Garden of Eden, He placed on the east side of the Garden of Eden_____.

A. A Cherubim and a flaming sword
B. Lucifer
C. A Big gate
D. Gabriel

7. The first born of Adam and Eve was_____.

   A. Cain
   B. Abel
   C. Moses
   D. Abraham

8. At the time of salvation, we are delivered from_____.

   A. The eternal penalty of death
   B. Loan
   C. Storm
   D. Bad habits

9. The blood of Jesus washes us clean from our_____.

   A. Dirt
   B. Ketchup
   C. Sins
   D. None of the above

Essay Questions

1. What did Nicodemus confess to Jesus?

   _____
   _____
   _____
   _____

2. What is new birth?

   _____
   _____
   _____
   _____

3. What will happen if we are not born of water and the Spirit?

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

4. Write John 1:12-13.

_____

_____

_____

_____

5. Write Genesis 1:26-27.

_____

_____

_____

_____

6. What was the result of Adam's decision to eat of the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil?

_____

_____

_____

_____

7. What did spiritual death do to us?

_____

_____

_____

_____

8. Write three points in your own words about New Birth.

_____

_____

_____

_____

CHAPTER 5

WATER BAPTISM

Water baptism is the outward testimony of the inner change that happens when we believe in Jesus and commit ourselves to live as His disciples. This is the way we publicly announce our profession of faith in Jesus as our Savior.

By being baptized, we fulfill God's command. Jesus Himself gave us a perfect example of obedience in water baptism.

> *"The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ: "*
>
> *— 1 Peter 3:21 (KJV)*

To fully understand water baptism, we must realize that when we are born again, the Spirit of God births us into the body of Christ, the church. This spiritual baptism happens to every person who becomes a true Christian. God does it and is a spiritual transaction.

> *"Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink."*
>
> *— 1 Corinthians 12:12-13 (NIV)*
>
> *"Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in*

order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.

For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly also be united with him in a resurrection like his. For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin— because anyone who has died has been set free from sin.

Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him. The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God.

In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus. Therefore, do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires. Do not offer any part of yourself to sin as an instrument of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer every part of yourself to him as an instrument of righteousness."

— Romans 6:3-13 (NIV)

Water baptism is the physical act we participate in that allows us to proclaim an outward testimony that an inward change has taken place in our lives. This is a decision of our will. We must actively participate in doing it, just like Jesus did.

It is our public statement to the world that we are dead to sin and alive in Christ.

We do this by simple obedience to God's command.

This outward display of your inward change should be one of the first steps you take to begin your new life as a disciple. As we read in the Bible about the first Christian believers, water baptism was obeyed quickly by those who came to Jesus.

"Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus. And as they went their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, see, here is water; what hinders me to be baptized? And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him."

—Acts 8:35-38 (KJV)

"While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit came on all who heard the message. The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on Gentiles. For they heard them speaking in tongues and praising God. Then Peter said, 'Surely no one can stand in the way of their being baptized with water. They have received the Holy Spirit just as we have.' So he ordered that they be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ...."

—Acts 10:44-48 (NIV)

Immediately after believing by faith and accepting the gospel message, Peter instructed them all to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.

"The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ: "

— 1 Peter 3:21 (KJV)

I pray that you, too, will not hesitate to be water baptized now that you have become a Christian. This will allow you to move forward with a good conscience before God. If you believe with all your heart and sincerely repent of your sins, then there is no reason to wait. Obey the scriptures and be baptized in water in the name of Jesus Christ!

CHAPTER 5: WATER BAPTISM

Fill in the Blanks

1. Our public testimony to the inner change that happens to us when we believe in Jesus and commit ourselves to a life as his disciple is_____.
2. We need to obey the Word of God, which commands us to be_____.
3. Jesus Himself gave us a perfect example of_____in water baptism.
4. "Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by_____(the Baptist).
5. Jesus replied, "Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all_____.
6. This is my_____Son in whom I am_____.
7. When we are born again, the Spirit of God_____our spirit into the Body of Christ (the Church). This is a spiritual transaction, or we could say event.
8. Water baptism is an_____action that testifies of an already completed inner transaction.
9. For we were all baptized by one_____into one body —whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free and we were all given the one Spirit to drink.
10. We are buried with him in death through baptism in order that, just as Christ rose from the _____through the Father's glorious power, so we too shall conduct ourselves in a new way of living.
11. Our old_____was crucified with Jesus.

12. We are no longer slaves of_____.

13. If then we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also_____with him.

14. Water Baptism is our public_____to the world that we are dead to sin and alive in Christ.

15. This outward display of your_____ change should be one of the first steps you take as you begin your new life as a disciple.

16. While Peter was still speaking these words (in the house of Cornelius) the _____ came on all who heard the message.

17. Peter instructed all the Gentiles speaking in tongues to be baptized in the name of_____. The entire household of Cornelius was happy to be baptized by the Holy Spirit and water baptism.

18. If you believe with all your heart and have_____repented of your sins, then there is no reason for you to be waiting. Obey the Scriptures and be baptized in water in the name of Jesus Christ!

Multiples Choice Questions

1. John said I need to be_____by you Jesus.

   A. Healed
   B. Saved
   C. Baptized
   D. Redeemed

2. Jesus went up out of the water. At that moment heaven opened, and he saw the_____ descending like a dove and lighting on him.

   A. Angels

B. Spirit of God
C. Airplane
D. None of the Above

3. The Spirit of God birth's us into the body of_____.

A. Christ
B. Human
C. Organizers
D. All of the above

4. This spiritual baptism happens to every person_____.

A. Who becomes a true Christian
B. Who goes to the church
C. Who is fasting
D. Who is running the fight of faith

5. The_____is a unit, though it is made up of many parts.

A. Body
B. Car
C. Bicycle
D. All of the Above

6. When the Holy Spirit was poured upon the gentiles the disciples were_____.

A. Happy
B. Astonished
C. Angry
D. Sad

7. All to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ

A. All to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ

B. All be sent to Jerusalem
C. All go out for evangelism
D. All be planted into a church

Essay Questions

1. What is Water Baptism?

_____
_____
_____
_____

2. What happened when Jesus took water baptism?

_____
_____
_____
_____

3. What did God say about Jesus at the time of his water baptism?

_____
_____
_____
_____

4. Write verse by verse Acts 10:44-47 from the Bible.

_____
_____
_____
_____

CHAPTER 6

THE HOLY SPIRIT

As we learned in the first chapter, God the Father and Jesus, though differing in function, are one. We now need to know about the third member of the Holy Trinity, the Holy Spirit. The scriptures clearly show the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit as one. Just as Jesus spoke of himself and the Father being one he also spoke of himself and the Holy Spirit as one.

Let's look at some verses that show the Holy Spirit united with the Father and Son as the third member of the Trinity.

> *"And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you forever."*
>
> *—John 14:16 (KJV)*

> *"I will not leave you comfortless; I will come to you."*
>
> *—John 14:18 (KJV)*

> *"But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you."*
>
> *—John 14:26 (NKJV)*

> *"Jesus replied, "Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them."*
>
> *—John 14:23 (NIV)*

"And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you. And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty."

—2 Corinthians 6:16-18 (KJV)

"Do you not know that your bodies are the temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God..."

—1 Corinthians 6:19 (NIV)

"Then Peter said. "Ananias, how is it that Satan has so filled your heart that you have lied to the Holy Spirit and have kept for yourself some of the money you received for the land?"

—Acts 5:3 (NIV)

In the next verse, Peter said:

".... You have not lied unto men, but unto God."

— Acts 5:4 (NIV)

Ananias didn't lie to men but instead to God. This clearly shows that the Holy Spirit is God among us.

The Divine person of the Holy Spirit has a mind, will and emotions. We learn from the Scripture he can be quenched, grieved, provoked, lied to and even insulted. Let's look at some verses on this.

"*Quench not the Spirit."*

—1 Thessalonians 5:19 (KJV)

"And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you are sealed for the day of redemption."

—Ephesians 4:30 (NIV)

Ananias lied to the Holy Spirit

"Anyone who rejected the law of Moses died without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. How much more severely do you think someone deserves to be punished who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, who has treated as an unholy thing the blood of the covenant that sanctified them, and who has insulted the Spirit of grace? For we know him who said, "it is mine to avenge I will repay" and again, "The Lord will judge his people." It is a dreadful thing to fall into the hands of the living God."

—Hebrews 10:28-31 (NIV)

The Holy Spirit today is the divine person among us expressing God's presence, power and love through His manifested reality in the here and now.

The most critical thing in every believer's life after knowing the written word of God is the developing of their relationship with the Holy Spirit.

"For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God."

— Romans 8:14 (KJV)

The Holy Spirit is now God living in us and among us. He desires to commune and communicate with us intimately and personally. We should expect him to speak to us, heal us, deliver us, and manifest Christ reality and power through us.

He is truly our comforter called alongside of us help us in every situation.

First and foremost, the Holy Spirit's presence in our life is to change us from our old regenerate self to the new creation we now are in Jesus Christ. As we allow it we will come to the stature and fullness of Christ himself.

"Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies."

— 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 (NIV)

Let us go now and find out about the coming of the Holy Spirit after Christ's return to heaven.

On several occasions, Jesus spoke about the Holy Spirit and promised to send him.

After Christ's resurrection, (while He was eating with them) He gave this commandment:

".... Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. For John baptized with water, but in a few days, you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

— Acts 1:4-5 (NIV)

"He said to them: It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

— Acts 1:7–8 (NIV)

Now let's read of the actual coming of the Holy Spirit.

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

— Acts 2:1–4 (NIV)

"In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophecy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams. Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy."

— Acts 2:17–18 (NIV)

"Peter replied, 'Repent and be baptized, every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call.'"

— Acts 2:38–39 (NIV)

As the Spirit dwells within us his divine influence works in our souls where through our decisions we manifest the fruits of the Spirit. We can read this in Galatians chapter 5. (turn there and read) As we choose to deny the flesh and yield to the Spirit we become more and more like Jesus.

The Holy Spirit desires to manifest Himself through his gifts as we yield to Him and by our faith release them. (turn to 1 Corinthians chapter 12 and read)

The believer is to manifest the reality and power of God into the world today.

Some people try to compare and separate the fruit of the Spirit from the gifts of the Spirit but they are both to be seen in the life of every believer as they manifest the love, presence and power of Christ in the world today.

How can you say you love as Christ loves if you leave the blind man blind and those who are sick without healing and the tormented without deliverance.

"*For the kingdom of God is not in word, but in power."*

— 1 Corinthians 4:20 (KJV)

False teaching has us loving people as they suffer and die while God desires us to be like Christ and set them free.

This wonderful experience of being baptized in the Holy Spirit and speaking in tongues is for us today. We are the "far off" God is calling. We must be filled with the Spirit, led by the Spirit, and live in the Holy Spirit.

> *"When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the Word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. When they arrived, they prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit, because the Holy Spirit had not yet come upon any of them; they had simply been baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus. Then Peter and John placed their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit."*
>
> *— Acts 8:14–17 (NIV)*

> *"Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons: But in every nation he that feareth him and worketh righteousness is accepted with him."*
>
> *— Acts 10:34-35 (KJV)*

> *"While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word. And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost. For they heard them speak with tongues and magnify God...."*
>
> *— Acts 10:44-46 (KJV)*

> *".... There he found some disciples and asked them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" They answered, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit." So Paul asked, "Then what baptism did you receive?" "John's baptism," they replied. Paul said, "John's baptism was a baptism of repentance. He told the people to believe in the one coming after him, that is, in Jesus." Paul said, "John's baptism was a baptism of repentance. He told the people to believe in the one coming after him, that*

is, in Jesus."When Paul placed his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied. There were about twelve men in all."

— Acts 19:1–7 (NIV)

".... But be filled with the Spirit; Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord."

— Ephesians 5:18–19 (KJV)

"The work of the Holy Spirit in the life of a Christian is very real and powerful. If we want to receive all that God has for us, we need to receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit and speak in tongues"

SPEAKING IN TONGUES IS:

1) To speak unto God. (*1 Corinthians 14:2*)
2) To edify the believer. (*1 Corinthians 14: 4*)
3) To be interpreted. (*1 Corinthians 14:13*) This can be done in the congregation and during our private prayer time.
4) To be a blessing. (*1 Corinthians 14:16*)

In receiving the Holy Spirit, we become vessels that release the Spirit of God *(Rhema)* and manifest the power and reality of Jesus Christ. We become a pipeline for the delivery of God's works into our world.

The Bible clearly states that Jesus lives in the believer.

Why, then, should we question whether His power will be seen in us?

"God expects us to release the reality of Christ to the world around us by yielding to the manifestation of the gifts of the Holy Spirit. These gifts are the doorway to releasing the reality of Jesus Christ."

We should never see them as separate from the proclamation and manifestation of Jesus Christ in our midst.

In the following verses, notice how it speaks to the manifestation of the gifts during a church service.

> *"But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all: for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the same Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another different kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. But the one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as he wills."*
>
> *— 1 Corinthians 12:7–11 (NKJV)*

This Scripture instructed the group concerning the gifts used in one church service. We need to be careful not to use this portion of Scripture to limit the power of the Holy Spirit through our vessel. Most of us will indeed function in one or more of the gifts more readily than in the others. But when we are full of the Holy Spirit, we have the potential to be used in all of the gifts. It is up to the Holy Spirit to grant these gifts as he wills and desires.

When we are in the church, many of us will move in the gifts as the Spirit wills for that particular service. The Spirit may desire to use us in one gift in one service and another gift in a different service. During my 50 years as a believer, I have had the privilege of being used by the Holy Spirit in all the gifts in his time and place.

> *"There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit.... There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work."*
>
> *— 1 Corinthians 12:4–6 (NIV)*

I hope you are beginning to realize that our relationship with Jesus Christ involves the reality of God's power and presence manifested by the believer through the Holy Spirit.

Let me remind you again:

> *"The kingdom of God is not in word, but in power."*
>
> — *1 Corinthians 4:20 (KJV)*

The manifested reality of Christ will be evident as we remain in our relationship of intimacy through submitted obedience.

We do not just happen to stay there after we are born again.

We must deliberately seek to know our Lord and learn to hear the voice of his Spirit leading us.

If we are to know the will of the Spirit and release His reality, we have to live a life filled with passion for His presence.

We shouldn't see our life as a Christian as if someone walked up to the starting line and fired a pistol. We can't expect to run the race of life out of our own intellect. We can't see the Bible as if it is a written manual for us to check on from time to time. Christianity isn't religion; it's a relationship! Knowledge of God without the reality of the Spirit's power and presence is simply man still eating from the "Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil." We must cease from being led merely by our soul and deceived into believing that as long as we don't commit any known sin, we are all God wants us to be. Head knowledge of God without a personal relationship with the Holy Spirit through Christ will not release the Spirit's life in us and through us. This is definitely not God's intention. We need to live in the reality of a Spirit relationship.

Our normal life as Christians should be one of knowing and obeying the Spirit, as we live, move, and have our being in him.

"If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit."

— *Galatians 5:25 (NKJV)*

We must learn to live abiding in Christ through our relationship with the Holy Spirit. This means having our old man crucified and our new man being led by the Spirit and motivated by love.

Christ's expectation of his Church is that we, as members of his body, release his power and love to the world the same way he did.

We accomplish this as we renew our minds in the Scripture and yield to the reality of God within us in the person of the Holy Spirit.

CHAPTER 6: THE HOLY SPIRIT

Fill in the Blank

1. God the Father and Jesus, though differing in function, are_____.
2. The Scripture clearly show the Father,_____, and_____as ONE.
3. The Holy Spirit is God_____among us.
4. "If anyone loves me, he will_____my teaching, My Father will love him, and we will_____him and make our home with him." (John 14:23)
5. We are the_____of the living God.
6. Jesus said, "I will pray to the Father and he will give you another_____."
7. The Holy Spirit is simply God among us. He dwells in us after we are_____.
8. Our life should be walking daily in a_____with the Holy Spirit.
9. The Holy Spirit has a mind, will, and_____.
10. "Now he who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because he makes _____for the saints according to the will of God.
11. The Holy Spirit is the living God who_____to commune and communicate with us in an intimate and personal way.
12. We should expect the Holy Spirit as the agent of Christ to heal us,_____and manifest His power through us.

13. The Holy Spirit comes into our lives to_____us in our souls from the old regenerate self to the new creation.

14. The Holy Spirit will teach us and will_____us into all truth.

15. The Spirit of truth will_____about Jesus. (John 15:26)

16. "Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the_____and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them." (Acts 2:1-4, NIV)

17. Peter said to the people gathered on the day of Pentecost, "This promise is for_____, and_____, and for all who are far off–For as_____as the_____our God will call.

18. The work of the Holy Spirit in the life of a_____is very real and powerful.

19. When we receive the Holy Spirit, we become a_____from the delivery of the works of God into our world.

20. The gifts of the Holy Spirit are the_____to the reality of Jesus Christ being_____in our lives.

21. The Bible clearly states that the Holy Spirit lives in the_____.

22. The manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the_____.

23. When we are full of the Holy Spirit, we have the_____to be used in all the gifts of the Spirit.

24. It is up to the_____to grant the gifts as he wills (desires).

25. "There are different kinds of gifts, but the same_____."

26. Our relationship with Jesus Christ involves the reality of_____ and_____through the Holy Spirit.

27. Our perspective must always remain one of intimacy through_____obedience.

28. Christianity is not a religion; it's a_____!

29. We must learn to live our lives_____with a_____for his presence if we are to know the_____of the Spirit and release the _____of Jesus Christ.

Multiple Choice Questions

1. "What don't you know your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit you have from God."

   A. 1 Corinthians 6:19
   B. John 3:16
   C. Acts 2:4
   D. None of the above

2. Holy Spirit dwells with us after we are_____.

   A. Born again
   B. Come from church
   C. Fasting
   D. Praying

3. Our life should be walking daily in a living relationship with the_____.

   A. Wife
   B. Brother
   C. Holy Spirit
   D. House keeping

4. The Holy Spirit has_____.

   A. Mind, will and emotion
   B. The world
   C. Power
   D. Both A and C

5. A man who refused to obey the laws given by Moses was killed without mercy if there were two or three witnesses to his_____.

   A. Kindness
   B. Sin
   C. Generosity
   D. Sacrifice

6. For us to walk in the fullness of the relationship God has for us, we need to believe without _____the Holy Spirit is God living in us.

   A. Doubting
   B. Sacrifice
   C. Fasting
   D. Praying

7. We should expect the Holy Spirit_____.

   A. To heal us, deliver us, and manifest his power through us.
   B. Protect us
   C. Comfort and guide us
   D. All of the above

8. The personal relationship with the Holy Spirit will bring us into a_____.

   A. Holy (set apart) lifestyle
   B. Eternity

C. Salvation
D. None of the above

9. Moment by moment, we choose one decision at a time to yield to the Spirit and be more like Jesus Christ or to_____and remain carnal and unregenerate.

   A. Think about it
   B. Obey
   C. Disobey
   D. Accept

10. "But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, who the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you."

    A. Acts 2:4
    B. John 14:26 (NIV)
    C. 1Peter 2:24
    D. None of the above

11. "Repent and be_____."

    A. Saved
    B. Rich
    C. Baptized
    D. Both A and C

12. God expects us to be those who release the reality of Christ to the world around us by yielding to the manifestation of the gifts of the Holy Spirit! These gifts are the_____reality of Jesus Christ.

    A. Doorway
    B. Window
    C. Manifested
    D. All of the above

13. “But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all: for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the same Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to 88 The Holy Spirit 89 another different kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. But the one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as he wills.”

    A. 1 Corinthians 12:7–11 (NKJV)
    B. 1 Peter 2:24
    C. James 5:10
    D. None of the above

14. It is true that most of us will function in one or more of the gifts more readily than in the others; but when we are full of the_____, we have the potential to be used in all the gifts.

    A. Pride
    B. Potential
    C. Holy Spirit
    D. Energy

15. It is up to the Holy Spirit to grant_____.

    A. The release of the gifts
    B. Funds
    C. Mercy
    D. Favor

16. We must cease from being led merely by our own_____.

    A. Intellect
    B. Imagination

C. Desires
D. All of the above

17. The normal life for us as a Christian should be a life of_____in daily Bible study with the Spirit of God leading us in his plan and purpose.

A. Obedience
B. Believer
C. Deceiver
D. None of the above

18. We must learn to live our lives abiding in_____.

A. School
B. Christ
C. Past
D. Future

19. Christ's expectation of his Church is that we as members of his body not only tell of His love,_____.

A. But also minister his love
B. By healing the sick
C. Casting out demons and setting the captives free.
D. All of the above

Essay Questions

1. Write 1 Corinthians 6:19, 1 Corinthians 4:20, and Ephesians 4:30.

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

2. What will our personal relationship with the Holy Spirit do to us?

_____

_____

_____

_____

3. Write at least 5 things you have learned from this chapter.

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

CHAPTER 7

SPIRIT, SOUL, AND BODY

In the same way that God can be seen as triune (three parts), so can we. Perhaps you have never thought of yourself as being a spirit man who possesses a soul and lives in a body.

This is another truth we need to understand if we are going to relate to God the way he wants us to.

Let's look at some verses that separate man as spirit, soul, and body. This is what we call a triune or tripartite being.

> *"My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior."*
>
> *— Luke 1:46–47 (NKJV)*

> *"Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ."*
>
> *— 1 Thessalonians 5:23 (NKJV)*

> *"And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell."*
>
> *— Matthew 10:28 (NKJV)*

> *"Now my soul is troubled, and what shall I say? Father, save me from this hour? But for this purpose, I came to this hour."*
>
> *— John 12:27 (NKJV)*

"And when Jesus cried out with a loud voice, he said, Father into your hands I commit my spirit...."

— *Luke 23:46 (NKJV)*

The spirit of man is the part created in the image of God and is born again at the time of salvation.

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new."

— *2 Corinthians 5:17 (NKJV)*

When we receive Jesus, the perfect Spirit of God comes and lives in us.

Our newborn spirit is now alive in Christ. The Spirit is now free to reveal or illuminate God to us.

Until we are born again and alive spiritually, we cannot even begin to understand the Bible!

"The person without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God but considers them foolishness and cannot understand them because they are discerned only through the Spirit."

— *1 Corinthians 2:14 (NIV)*

"Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. God is Spirit and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth."

— *John 4:23–24 (NIV)*

After being filled with the Holy Spirit, we experience communication with God through our spirit. This allows us to release prophecy, tongues, healings, miracles, and other manifestations of God's Spirit and power.

Our soul is the part of us that thinks, reasons, and moves in the realm of our intellect and emotions. The Scripture speaks of the soul when it refers to renewing our mind. Through the soul's sanctification process, the Spirit of Christ that now dwells in us does a work of renewal and change as we yield to the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ.

Sanctification cannot be accomplished by struggling and trying but rather through yielding and dying. Only as we yield ourselves to God and die to our old self can the Spirit change us from the inside out.

> *"But even unto this day, when Moses is read, the vail is upon their heart. Nevertheless when it shall turn to the Lord, the vail shall be taken away. Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord."*
>
> — *2 Corinthians 3:16-18 (KJV)*

It is from our soul *(our will)* that, as we yield to the Holy Spirit's influence, we make decisions that produce the fruits of the Spirit. When we deny His voice, we produce the fruits of the flesh.

At the time of our death here on earth, our soul will either go to heaven or hell.

The body is our physical part. It's the part of us that we can see and touch. It is the temporal part of our being. Paul called it *"our tent."* It is born from the mother's womb, grows up, grows old, and dies. At the time of death, our soul separates from our body.

> *"Now I say brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption. Behold, I tell you a mystery; we shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed. In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be*

changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality."

— 1 Corinthians 15:50–53 (NKJV)

The Bible teaches us that our physical bodies will one day be resurrected and glorified unless Jesus returns before we die. All people who have lived physically, saved or unsaved, will one day be resurrected. Those of us who are saved will be resurrected and translated into eternal life, while those who are not saved will be condemned to eternal damnation and hell.

When we are saved, we are delivered from the eternal penalty of sin. This is called justification.

Each day, we are being delivered from the power of sin. This is called sanctification.

One day, we will die and be forever delivered from the presence of sin. This is called glorification.

You need to be aware of these different aspects of your being and how they relate to Christ.

You have been created spirit, soul, and body. Each of these areas is important to God, and they should be important to you as well. By identifying these different parts of your personal makeup, you can rightly divide the Scriptures as you read them.

When you read about becoming new, you will understand that this does not refer to your body or soul but to your newborn spirit.

When the Word talks of you changing and becoming more like Christ, you will understand that this is talking about the sanctification of your soul.

When the Word says that you will die, you will know that it is talking of your body and not your spirit nor soul.

I give you these examples so that as you read the Bible you will ask: *What is the right way to understand this particular verse in applying it to myself*

CHAPTER 7: SPIRIT, SOUL, AND BODY

Fill in the Blanks

1. Man is a_____that possesses a _____and lives in a _____.
2. "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my_____has rejoiced in God my Savior." (Luke 1:46-47)
3. "Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole_____, _____, and_____be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ." (1 Thessalonians 5:23, NKJV)
4. The spirit of man is the part created in the_____of God and is born-again at the time of salvation.
5. 2 Corinthians 5:17 where we read; "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a_____; old things have passed away; behold all things have become new."
6. Our new born_____is now alive in Christ.
7. Until we are_____and alive spiritually, we cannot even begin to understand the Bible!
8. It is through our spirit we experience_____with God after being filled with the Holy Spirit.
9. It is through our_____we release prophecy, tongues, healing, miracles, and other manifestations of God's Spirit and power.
10. The Scripture is speaking of the_____when it refers to the renewing of our mind.

11. Through the process of sanctification of the soul, the Spirit of Christ that now dwells in us does a work of_____and change as we yield to the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ.

12. Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is_____.

13. The body is our_____part, or the part of us we can see and touch.

14. The Bible teaches us that our physical bodies will one day be_____.

15. Those who are not saved will be_____to eternal damnation and hell.

16. When we are saved, we are_____from the eternal penalty of sin.

17. Daily we are being delivered from the_____sin.

18. Our_____is the temporal part of our being.

19. By identifying these different parts of ourselves we can_____the Scriptures.

20. Some Scriptures refer to our_____, some to our_____, and some to our_____.

Multiple Choice Questions

1. We are_____.

   A. A spirit man that possesses a soul and lives in a body.
   B. Rich.
   C. Poor.
   D. Enjoying.

2. If we are going to relate to God the way He wants us to,_____.

A. We need to understand Spirit, Soul, and Body
B. We need to have a great church
C. We need to do evangelism
D. None of the above

3. Which verse does not separate man as spirit, soul, and body?

   A. John 3:16
   B. Luke 1:46–47
   C. 1 Thessalonians 5:23
   D. Luke 23:46

4. The spirit of man is the part created in the image of God and is born-again at the time of____.

   A. Need
   B. Advisory
   C. Wedding
   D. Salvation

5. "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold all things have become new."

   A. 1 Corinthians 5:13
   B. 2 Corinthians 5:17
   C. Luke 23:46
   D. None of the above

6. When we receive Jesus, the perfect Spirit of God comes and lives in_____.
   A. Our home
   B. Us
   C. Our country
   D. Our city

7. When our newborn spirit is alive in Christ. The Spirit then is free to reveal or_____
   God to us.

   A. Illuminate
   B. Take
   C. Conceal
   D. Prevent

8. The man without the Spirit does not_____the things that come from the Spirit of God.

   A. Accept
   B. Know
   C. Grow
   D. All of the above

9. Our soul is the part of us that_____.

   A. Thinks & reasons
   B. Moves in the realm of our intellect, senses and emotions
   C. Both of the above
   D. Neither of the above

10. Paul called "our body" _____.

    A. Temple of God
    B. A Spirit
    C. A Tent
    D. Strong

Essay Questions

1. What have you learned about spirit, soul, and body?

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

2. Write any verse about spirit, soul, and body.

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

3. Why do we need to know the truth about spirit, soul, and body?

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

CHAPTER 8

A MIND TO CHANGE

Before receiving Jesus as Savior and Lord, our mind, or intellect, operates within the fallen sin nature. Once we are born again, our mind and will must be renewed to the revelation of God and His plan for us and our lives. Our "old man" (the flesh) that has been the authority over us must be replaced and renewed in the Spirit. Our "new man" must become a living sacrifice unto Christ as we begin to learn to walk by faith in following the Holy Spirit now in us.

We read in 1 Corinthians, which references the book of Isaiah...

> *"For it is written: 'I will destroy the wisdom of the wise; the intelligence of the intelligent I will frustrate.'"*
>
> — *1 Corinthians 1:19 (NIV)*

Let's go back to Genesis and see what God has revealed to us about the conflict between the person who has partaken of the knowledge of good and evil and the plan of God. As we read about Adam and Eve after their sin, they were dead in relation to the Spirit. They had no recourse other than to relate to life through the mind and intellect that was now controlled by their fallen sin nature. It was out of this fallen nature, or soul realm, that Adam and Eve discovered that they were naked and needed covering. They then devised a plan out of their fallen nature to remedy this. It was both reasonable and logical for them to hide their nakedness by covering themselves with fig leaves, and so they did. This was contrary, however, to the plan of God. As we read on, we see that God's divine way was through the death of an innocent animal and the shedding of blood that he would cover their nakedness.

Man, now in a fallen state from that time forward, has related to life from his logic and soulish understanding. Out of this wisdom of man, Jesus becomes a stumbling block.

> *"But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned."*
>
> — *1 Corinthians 2:14 (KJV)*

This story of Adam and Eve's nakedness and their need for a covering tells us that our sins can never be covered by what we do. Instead, they can only be covered by putting our trust in the shed blood of Jesus Christ. It also illustrates that we can never please God out of a mind that is not renewed and submitted to God's plan. We begin to realize that God expects us to live a life that is not based on our own concept of good and evil.

We are not to live being controlled by our mind, logic, or feelings, but rather by the Spirit. You and I can never please God with deeds that originate from our flesh.

The will and purpose of God moves forward through our being led by the Spirit of God. The Spirit brings revelation to our spirit, illuminating our mind, and then we must submit ourselves to it. Any time we try to further the purpose of God for ourselves or the Church through works originating out of our flesh instead of being led by the Spirit, we are creating dead works.

Once we are born again, our minds need to be renewed and submitted to serving what God reveals to us as His will, with the Scriptures as our authority.

Many times, God's will is the opposite of what our intellect logically sees as prudent. When this happens, we need to move forward in faith, obeying the Spirit rather than our soulish reasoning. Without doing this, we can never please God.

> *"For we live by faith, not by sight."*
>
> — *2 Corinthians 5:7 (NIV)*

Being obedient to the leading of God's will at times brings us to the end of ourselves, our own resources, and our own abilities. This will require faith, which many times will not be the logical way for us to act. When our logic and reason disagree with the Word and the Spirit, we must always be obedient and follow God. In order to do this, we need to learn to recognize the voice of God, the voice of the enemy, and our own intellectual self. It will be impossible for us to accomplish this unless we renew our minds to the will and plan of God by learning and knowing Scripture.

> *"Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will."*
>
> — *Romans 12:2 (NIV)*

> *"If indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus: that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness."*
>
> — *Ephesians 4:21–24 (NKJV)*

This is the mindset we embrace when we say yes to Jesus. As we *"take up our cross,"* we must deny our old carnal self with its sinful desires and follow after our Lord in obedience to the Holy Spirit.

> *"The mind governed by the flesh is death, but the mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace."*
>
> — *Romans 8:6 (NIV)*

As we grow and develop our life in the Spirit, we become more and more controlled by the new man, and we become capable of receiving all that is intended for us.

"But solid food is for the mature who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish between good and evil."

— *Hebrews 5:14 (NIV)*

Let me explain this some more.

The only way to live and walk in the Spirit is through simple obedience to God's Word while being led by the Holy Spirit.

This is so important that I want to repeat it. As Christians, it is essential that we know our Scripture, be filled with the Spirit, and join with God as we walk in submission.

This is difficult at first because the spirit man within us is a baby, and the old carnal man is quite strong since he has had his own way for so long. We have to be very careful to let the new spiritual nature be in control of our old carnal nature.

"Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight and the sin which does so easily besets us and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy set before him endured the Cross despising the shame and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God; for consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest you be wearied and faint in your minds. You have not yet resisted unto blood striving against sin."

— *Hebrews 12:1-4 (KJV)*

It will take definite acts of our will to say yes to the still, small voice of the Spirit and no to the loud cry of our old man who is being crucified.

If we obey without question by faith the command of God, and deny without question all desire to be disobedient, we will begin to grow in being led by the Spirit.

We must know in our hearts that we can always obey.

"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 that you can stand up under it."

— *1 Corinthians 10:13 (BSB)*

The Scriptures teach us we have been given the ability to control our thoughts.

"We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ."

— *2 Corinthians 10:5 (NIV)*

We have the power and authority to choose our thoughts and control our minds.

Finally, brethren whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any praise, think on these things.

— *Philippians 4:8 (KJV)*

"Therefore, gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest your hope fully on the grace that is brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ."

— *1 Peter 1:13 (NKJV)*

The battle for our footsteps will always be won or lost in the realm of the mind, as we exert our free will to obey or disobey. As the Word and the Spirit are speaking "life" to us, there will be the other voice, which will question God's leading. Questions like, "Has God really said that?" Or "Isn't it more reasonable another way?" Or "Even if God is who he says he is, I don't think this would be like this!" This other voice will argue on behalf of logic and reason.

Until we can win the battle in our minds, we can never walk in the fullness of the Spirit and know the life of victory as a child of God.

When we give in to the flesh, we soon find our hearing begins to go as we quench the Spirit. If we continue doing this, we will quickly fall back into a life of being controlled by our old self through the intellect, which operates from human logic instead of by faith.

Confusion follows the person who intellectually argues with the Spirit in the area of personal obedience. This can open the door to deception. Before long, we will be worse off than we were before we were saved. It must be crystal clear to us that a no to God is a great big yes to the devil!

If we attempt to intellectually decide which of God's commands, we are to obey and which we should philosophically discuss, we will fail at everything God wants for us.

We will feel more and more condemned as we prove repeatedly to ourselves and everyone else that we can't ever be what God wants us to be. The result of a person who intellectually argues with God is a person who lives beneath the purpose and privilege of their inheritance in Christ.

Many believers never cross this threshold from being controlled by their logical self and surrendering to being controlled by the Spirit. They simply never surrender in obedience to the Scriptures and being led by the Spirit past what they can understand and maintain.

Because they never relinquish control and lordship of their life to Jesus, they never experience the exciting new frontier of walking with the Holy Spirit in a life that is larger than they are.

Let us be those who refuse to settle for anything less than all God has for us in our relationship with him. There is an old saying that goes like this, "It's not for me to question why, it's just for me to do or die."

As we begin to walk in simple obedience, we release the Spirit of grace, which transforms us into the image of Christ and leads us into a living relationship with the Holy Spirit.

"Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me. The one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love them...."

".... Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them."

— John 14:21–23 (NIV)

"He who says, "I know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him."

— 1 John 2:4–5 (NKJV)

I hope you are beginning to see how faith causes us to know and be led by the Holy Spirit.

As we walk in obedience, the Spirit of God abides with us, and we find a liberty expressed as joy unspeakable and full of glory!

How could it be anything else? For we now have fellowship with God!

This fellowship isn't a mystical and elusive thing, but rather a day-by-day walk of Bible fellowship, praying in the Spirit, and being led by his voice.

Early on in our new life as a Christian, we need to realize that it is not by might, nor by our effort, but by God's Spirit that we now live.

It is not our logic but our faith that allows us to live a life where we seek God and his kingdom first. We find a relationship with him as he adds all things to us as we live, move, and have our being in the Holy Spirit.

CHAPTER 8: A MIND TO CHANGE

Fill in the Blanks

1. Prior to receiving Jesus as Savior and Lord, our mind, or intellect operates within the realm of the_____.
2. Once we are born-again, our mind and will must be_____to the revelation of God.
3. It is in our_____Satan will attack us and try to control us.
4. When we live in worship,_____ and reading the word we win this battle for our mind.
5. We overcome by the_____of the_____and the word of our_____.
6. Remind by devil and our-selves of who we are in_____and that he is now beneath our feet.
7. The devil is defeated, and we have the power within ourselves to_____for ourselves.
8. God has not given us the spirit of_____.
9. God has given us the Spirit of_____, _____, and for a_____.
10. We must discern which thoughts are from_____or from _____, or from_____.
11. Some-times our thoughts can be from our old self in the_____of natural logic and reason.

12. Our "_____" must be given to Christ as we begin to learn to walk by faith in the commands and revelation of God.

13. Adam and Eve after their sin were dead in_____to the Spirit.

14. Adam and Eve had no_____other than to relate to life through the mind and intellect that was now controlled by their fallen sin nature.

15. We can never please God out of a mind that is not_____and submitted to the plan of God.

16. We are not to live being controlled by our_____or_____.

17. You and I can never please God with deeds that originate out of our flesh, neither in getting saved nor in_____.

18. The Spirit brings revelation to our_____ , which in turn illuminates our mind, and then we must submit ourselves to it.

19. Once we are born-again, our mind needs to be_____and_____ to the purpose of serving what God reveals to us as his will.

20. We must be led by the Spirit with the_____as the final authority.

21. Being_____to the leading of God will at times bring us to the end of ourselves, our own resources, and our abilities.

22. When our logic and reason disagree with the Word and the Spirit, we must always be _____God.

23. We have to be very careful to let the_____be in control of our mind.

24. The battle for our footsteps will always be won or lost in the realm of the_____, as we exact our freewill to obey or disobey.

25. Until we can win this battle in our minds, we can never walk in the fullness of the_____.

26. _____follows the person who intellectually argues with the Spirit in the area of personal obedience.

27. The end result of a person who intellectually argues with God is a person who lives_____ the purpose and privilege of their inheritance in Christ.

28. It's not for me to question_____, it's just for me to do or die.

29. As we begin to walk in simple obedience, we release the Spirit of grace that makes us more and more into the image of_____and leads us into a loving relationship with the Holy Spirit.

30. Our_____with God is not a mystical elusive thing but rather a day-by-day walk of Bible fellowship; praying in the Spirit and being by his voice.

Multiple Choice Questions

1. It is our responsibility to control our_____.

   A. The weather
   B. Wife and Children
   C. Own thoughts and desires
   D. None of the above

2. God has given us the_____to consider and change what we are thinking.

   A. Power
   B. Ability
   C. Choice
   D. All of the above

3. Our confession, or word of our testimony, is how we_____.

   A. Talk
   B. Go to work
   C. Go to church
   D. Overcome

4. It was out of this fallen nature, or soul realm, that Adam and Eve discovered they were_____.

   A. Different
   B. Husband and wife
   C. In the Garden of Eden
   D. Naked

5. If we are not renewed in Christ, we cannot_____.

   A. Relate to God
   B. Have blessings
   C. Get sick
   D. All of the above

6. Our sin can only be covered by putting our trust in the_____.

   A. Prayer of the Saints
   B. Good Deeds
   C. Blood of Jesus Christ
   D. All of the above

7. The Spirit brings revelation to our_____.

   A. Spirit
   B. Pastor
   C. Mayor

D. Angel

8. Once we are born-again, our mind needs to be_____.

   A. Checked
   B. Washed
   C. Renewed
   D. None of the above

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

   A. Romans 12:2
   B. John 1:1
   C. Romans 5:16
   D. Ephesians 4:21

10. We need to learn to recognize what is the voice of God, the voice of the enemy, and our own intellectual self.

    A. True
    B. False

11. As we grow and develop our life in the Spirit, we become more and more controlled by____.

    A. Pastor
    B. Mother
    C. New Man
    D. Media

12. As a Christian, it is essential we know our Scripture, be filled with the Spirit and covenant (join) with God to walk in submission and obedience.

A. True
B. False

13. We will begin to grow in being led by the Spirit when_____.

A. We obey without question the voice of the Spirit.
B. Obey the Word of God
C. Deny without question all desire to be disobedient
D. All of the above

14. But when you are tempted, God will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it." (Ephesians 4:21)

A. True
B. False

15. A "no" to God is a great big "yes" to the devil!

A. True
B. False

Essay Questions

1. Explain briefly in your own words what you have learned in the chapter "A mind to Change."

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

2. How are we creating dead works?

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

3. What should we do when our logic and reason disagree with the Word of and the Spirit?

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

4. What happens as we grow and develop our life in the Spirit?

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

CHAPTER 9

DYING TO LIVE

As His disciples, we will live a life of surrendering ourselves completely to the lordship of Jesus. If you are wondering how much to surrender, I will tell you a story that illustrates this very well. As I remember, it went like this.

There was a missionary ministering to a native group in Africa. Every night as the people gathered to hear the Word of God, they would bring gifts and lay them at the front of the church. Food, chickens, and other things of their poverty would be brought as offerings to the Lord. One night, as the missionary was speaking, a native fellow came forward with a large empty basket. After walking to the front and setting the basket down, he then got in! For the remainder of the service, he continued sitting quietly in the basket. After the service was over, the missionary went to him and asked why he was sitting in the basket instead of sitting with the rest of the people in the chairs. The native fellow replied, "I am so poor that I have nothing to give to my Jesus, so tonight I have made a decision to give him me!"

You may find this particular demonstration of surrendering to Christ a little radical or foreign to your way of thinking. Nonetheless, this needs to be in your heart if you are to follow Jesus.

We need to quietly step down from the throne of our lives and surrender all government and authority to God.

> *"…. if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."*
>
> *— 2 Corinthians 5:17 (KJV)*

We must understand that when we are born again, we are translated out of the kingdom of darkness and into the new kingdom of light as a new creature of righteousness and Holiness.

We are no longer part of the family we were born into, no longer part of our nationality, and no longer part of our traditions and culture.

The chains of our traditions, boundaries, limitations, place in life, or anything else stopping us from being the great and mighty people God has ordained us to be are all gone!

God has his plan and his destiny for us here on the face of this earth!

We must forsake all and follow him as he leads us to our place in him. God wants to live in us now that we are this new creation in Jesus Christ.

Who we see ourselves as being down inside of ourselves must be changed!

In our minds, we must believe who and what the Bible says we now are.

It will help if we learn a new song and sing it to ourselves until we believe this about ourselves.

I'm a new creation, I'm a brand-new man
Old things are passed away, I've been born again
More than a conqueror that's who I am
I'm a new creation, I'm a brand-new man

WE MUST FORSAKE OUR OLD IDENTITY

In Jesus Christ, there is neither male nor female, Greek nor Jew, neither black nor white, neither brown nor any other color; for we are all now the same color, the same family.

The one body of Christ.

> *"I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me."*
>
> — *Galatians 2:20 (NKJV)*

Many of us need to repent of our pride in who we are.

Our nationality, our tribe, and our family must be forsaken, and we must put Christ as our family and heritage.

> *"So from now on we regard no one from a human point of view [according to worldly standards and values]. Though we have known Christ from a human point of view, now we no longer know Him in this way."*
>
> — *2 Corinthians 5:16 (Amplified)*

Christ has finished his work of redemption, and it is truth and reality. But it can only come forth and be fulfilled in us when we take authority over what we think, what we are willing to forsake, and whether we truly believe.

When we forsake all and take up our Cross, we will - one decision at a time - choose to believe the Scriptures and change our identity and self-image.

This will allow us to grow into the stature and fullness of Christ.

> *"For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead: And that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again."*
>
> — *2 Corinthians 5:14-15 (KJV)*

> *"So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple."*
>
> — *Luke 14:33 (KJV)*

"Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus."

— *Philippians 3:12–14 (NIV)*

I want to make sure that you do not fall into the error of many, which is believing that your act of repentance at the time of receiving Jesus qualifies you as a Christian disciple.

Have you given up ownership of yourself yet?

The initial act of surrender to Jesus must become a lifestyle of yielding to his will. As disciples, we must live in the land of change as Christ molds us into his image.

The Holy Spirit, as we allow him, shows us areas of our lives that we need to correct daily. When he shows us an area that doesn't conform to the Word, we simply need to repent of our way and conform to his.

This attitude towards our Christian Walk is not something that we simply mature into. We must never leave our place of surrender. This means we can't postpone repentance, obedience, or yielding to the Spirit. There will never be a better time when it is easier or more convenient to do these things than right now. When we decide to wait, hoping it will be easier later, we are simply deceiving ourselves and quenching the Spirit. Do it now!

A critical, initial decision needs to be made about following Christ or continuing with some former friendships and lifestyles.

Of course, your former friends will be very surprised when you don't eagerly join them anymore in the wicked things they do, and they will laugh at you in contempt and scorn.

"Do not be misled: bad company corrupts good character."

— *1 Corinthians 15:33 (NIV)*

> *"You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world is hatred toward God! Anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God."*
>
> *— James 4:4 (NIV)*

"Jesus Christ isn't something you add to your life; He is the Lord who brings repentance to the old way and opens up the door to the new."

A night alone at home with God is worth a thousand nights out with friends and sin. He was willing to die for you. Are you willing to give up your former worldly lifestyle and surrender to Him?

> *"For you are bought with a price: therefore, glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's."*
>
> *— 1 Corinthians 6:20 (NKJV)*

Any sin can be simply repented of, and we can live the rest of our lives free from it. If this wasn't true, then Christ died in vain. We need to believe in the power of His blood and the change it seeks to produce in us. We should never let anyone tell us that we have a sin in our life that is the kind we can't leave behind out of simple repentance and by our willful choice to deny it. When we humble ourselves in confession and repentance, followed by a sincere desire and prayer to God to be free from our sin, He is more than able to set us free.

Prior to my conversion, I was a terribly sinful man, and many have wondered at my deliverance from sin. I don't believe that I would have ever been able to break free if I hadn't been shown a verse in James.

> *"Therefore, confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective."*
>
> *— James 5:16 (NIV)*

I found that if I had a sin in my life that I couldn't be free of, I would vow to myself that if I did it again, I would confess it to the body and ask them to pray with me for deliverance. When I would confess my sin, and the people would lay hands on me and intercede on my behalf, I would be delivered. This was very painful and humbled me more than I thought it would. But in the end, I can say that every time I have dealt with my sin in this way, God has totally delivered me.

As we live with a cry in our hearts to be free from sin, the Holy Spirit is faithful to deliver us. The blood of Christ has broken the power of sin in our lives as Christians.

I believe that you, too, will walk with this fervent desire to be free from your sin as you seek to live for him.

We must never lose the cry within our hearts that says, "God, I am willing to change. I will obey you no matter the cost. From this time forward, when the Word of God says the opposite of what my mind and fleshly desires say, I will obey the Word."

We must decide that no matter how good the devil and our minds make it seem, if it is outside of God, it is off limits to us.

Until we realize that we must say no to the devil and crucify our desires and self-will, we will not follow God into the realm of the Spirit.

Two natures within us are in conflict: the old carnal man and the new man in Christ. This will continue until the time of our physical death here on Earth. The Spirit of God will influence us to respond to Him out of our renewed mind, while the devil will appeal to our natural minds to give in to our old nature and go with him.

But it is we who stand and cast the deciding vote that determines our destiny.

When we choose the right way, we produce the fruits of the Spirit, and the life of Jesus is released. When we choose wrong, we quench this life and produce the fruits of the flesh, which is sin.

"For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God."

— *Galatians 5:17–25 (NIV)*

"Since, you have been raised with Christ, set your heart on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your affections on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory."

— *Colossians 3:1-4 (NIV)*

God has given us the sovereignty to control our minds and to choose the thoughts and choices we make.

"Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ."

— *2 Corinthians 10:5 (KJV)*

This reminds me of a story I once heard from a pastor that I think you'll appreciate.

There was a terrible character in Alaska during the time of the gold rush. He would come into a town with two dogs. One was a big white Malamute; the other was an ugly little black mutt. The man would hang around the town for a day or two and solicit bets on which dog would overcome the other one. Just about everybody would bet on the large white dog. It was clear that the Malamute was larger and stronger, and the black mutt would be no match for this magnificent creature. After the man had gotten all the bets placed, he would put the two dogs

together, and the little black dog would overpower the white one. One day, he revealed how this worked, saying it was quite simple: since arriving in town, he simply fed the black dog and starved the white one! By the time the dogs had to fight, the white dog was so weak that he couldn't defend himself.

This is a clear example of our daily walk as disciples. The darkness we came out of is no match for the glorious light that we've been born into. All we have to do is feed our white dog (the new spirit man) and starve our black one (the old carnal man). We must learn to live our lives in such a way as to get up every morning, chain the black dog without food, and feed the white dog. This process of sanctification is accomplished in us daily as we live a life of unconditional surrender to Christ and allow the Holy Spirit to produce His fruit as we train ourselves to say yes to His divine influence.

As we wash ourselves daily in the Word, prayer, worship, and praise, we maintain the power to walk in the Spirit.

> *"Beloved I beg you as sojourners (strangers) and pilgrims abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul."*
>
> *—1 Peter 2:11 (NKJV)*

> *"So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want."*
>
> *— Galatians 5:16-17 (NIV)*

> *"Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires."*
>
> *— Galatians 5:24 (NIV)*

"Whoever sows to please their flesh, from the flesh will reap destruction; whoever sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life."

— *Galatians 6:8 (NIV)*

"Be not deceived, God is not mocked, for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to his flesh shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting."

— *Galatians 6:7-8 (KJV)*

CHAPTER 9: DYING TO LIVE

Fill in the Blanks

1. We need to quietly get down off the throne of our life and_____all government and all authority to God.
2. "So likewise, whosoever he be of you that_____not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple." (Luke 14:33, KJV)
3. "You are not your own, for you are_____at a price therefore glorify God in your body and your spirit, which are God's. (1 Corinthians 6:20, NKJV)
4. Make sure you do not fall into the error of many, by believing your act of repentance at the time of receiving Jesus_____ you as being a Christian disciple.
5. The initial act of surrender to Jesus must become a lifestyle of yielding to his_____.
6. As disciples, we must live in the_____ as Christ molds us into his image.
7. The Holy Spirit, day by day as we allow him, shows us areas of our life we need to_____.
8. We must never leave our place of_____.
9. There will never be a better time when it is easier, or more convenient to do these things than_____.
10. When we decide to wait, hoping it will be easier later, we are simply deceiving ourselves and _____the Spirit.
11. Jesus Christ is not something you_____to your life, he is the Lord who brings repentance to the old way and opens the door to the new.

12. A night alone at home with_____is worth a thousand nights out with friends and sin.

13. Jesus was willing to_____for you. Are you willing to give up your former worldly lifestyle and surrender to Him?

14. Any sin can be simply_____, and we can live the rest of our lives free from it.

15. When we humble ourselves in_____, followed by a sincere desire and prayer to God to be free from our sin, he is more than able to set us free.

16. As we live with a cry in our hearts to be free from sin, the_____is faithful to deliver us.

17. When the Word of God says the opposite of what my mind and my fleshly desires say, I will obey the_____.

18. There are two natures within us in conflict, the_____man and the_____in Christ.

19. The Spirit of God will be_____us to respond to him our to our renewed mind.

20. When we choose the right way, we produce the_____of the_____, and the_____life of Jesus is released.

21. When we choose wrong, we_____Christ and produce the fruit of the flesh, which is sin.

22. Since, you have been raised with Christ, set your_____on things above.

23. The_____sin we came out of is no match for the glorious light we have been born into.

24. As we_____ourselves daily in the Word, prayer, worship, and praise we maintain the power we need to overcome the darkness.

Multiple Choice Questions

1. The initial act of surrender to Jesus must become a lifestyle of yielding to his will.

   A. True
   B. False
   C. Not Sure

2. We must live in the land of change as_____.

   A. Christ molds us into his image.
   B. Christ Died for us.
   C. Christ lives in us
   D. Both A and C

3. When Holy Spirit shows us an area that does not conform to the Word we simply need to _____.

   A. Repent
   B. Visit Church
   C. Sacrifice
   D. Attend Prayer meeting

4. We must never leave our place of_____.

   A. Authority
   B. Repentance
   C. Obedience
   D. All of the above

5. We can not postpone obedience to the_____.

   A. Principle
   B. Spirit
   C. Pastor

D. All of the above

6. Your former friends will be very surprised when you don't eagerly join them_____.

   A. In the party
   B. In the church
   C. In the wicked thing
   D. A and C

7. "Do not be misled: bad company corrupts good character."

   A. In the party
   B. 1 Peter 4:4
   C. John 2:2
   D. 1 Corinthians 15;33

8. A night alone at home with God is worth a thousand_____.

   A. Nights out with friends and sin.
   B. Long drive
   C. World tour
   D. Parties

9. Any sin can be simply repented of, and we can live the rest of our lives free from it.

   A. True
   B. False

10. We need to believe in the_____and the change it seeks to produce in us.

    A. Power of his blood
    B. Our self
    C. Magic
    D. All of the above

11. We can be free from our sin when_____.

    A. We humble ourselves
    B. Have sincere desire for repentance
    C. Pray to God
    D. All of the above

12. As we live with a cry in our hearts to be free from sin, the Holy Spirit is faithful to deliver us.

    A. True
    B. False

13. The blood of Christ has broken the_____ in our lives as Christian.

    A. Door
    B. Power of sin
    C. Mirror
    D. Glass

14. There are two natures within us in conflict, the old carnal man and the new man in Christ.

    A. True
    B. False

15. "Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ."

    A. 1 Corinthians 5:17
    B. 1 Timothy 2:24
    C. Both of the above
    D. 2 Corinthians 10:5

Essay Questions

1. How much do we have to surrender to Jesus? Write (1 Corinthians 6:20)

_____
_____
_____
_____

2. As a disciple how should we live our lives?

_____
_____
_____
_____

3. As a disciple how should we live our lives?

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

4. When the Word of God says the opposite of what our mind and our fleshly desires say, what should we do?

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

5. What are the acts of sinful nature?

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

6. What are the fruits of the Spirit?

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

7. Write Galatians 5:16.

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

CHAPTER 10

YOU MUST EAT

When you were a newborn child, you weren't able to walk. Your head and body were large, and your legs were too small to support you. As a newborn Christian, that's how you are spiritually. You're a babe in Christ. The life that is in you is real life, and it is perfect because of God's Spirit. But you still need to grow in grace and knowledge. You have received life in your spirit, but just like a newborn child, you need to eat to grow and become an adult man or woman of God. So how do we eat? You eat by reading the Word of God.

You must learn the footsteps of our relationship with God, which he shows us in his Word. Blessings will come to us as we live in unity with him.

Simply put, to walk with God, we must know his Word, and we must become obedient to the life that it shows us to live in him. Feeding on the Word of God daily is step number one for every believer.

> *"Therefore, laying aside all malice, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all evil speaking, as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby."*
>
> *— 1 Peter 2:1-2 (NKJV)*

We choose a life of reading and studying the Scriptures and conforming ourselves to them, thus becoming disciples of Christ. If we choose not to and we continue on as masters of our own lives, we will never know Jesus like we should.

As Christ's disciples, we must commit our lives to the Word. Without doing so, it will not matter which church we go to, how much we pray, or how much money we give. We will

never mature as God desires unless we commit ourselves to daily reading of the Word and accept it as the perfect revelation of God to man.

God promises special blessings to those who will study and revere his Word.

> *"Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful."*
>
> *— Joshua 1:8 (NIV)*

> *"Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked or stand in the way that sinners take or sit in the company of mockers, but whose delight is in the law of the Lord, and who meditates on his law, day and night. That person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither—whatever they do prospers."*
>
> *— Psalm 1:1-3 (NIV)*

We read the Word of God in faith, believing that we, too, will receive these blessings.

I am reminded of a little song I learned long ago that goes like this:

Every promise in that blessed book is mine.
Every chapter, every verse, and every line.
And I know God's Word is true.
It applies to me and you.
Every promise in that Blessed Book is mine.
— AUTHOR UNKNOWN —

We need to know in our hearts that Scripture is fact. It is inspired by God, and it is the road map we build our lives on.

"…. It is written man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God."

— Luke 4:4 (NKJV)

"Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away."

— Mark 13:31 (NIV)

"I will worship toward your holy temple and praise your name for your loving kindness and your truth; for you have magnified Your word above all your name."

— Psalms 138:2 (NKJV)

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

— 2 Timothy 3:16–17 (NIV)

"The Word of God is living, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart."

— Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV)

"How can a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to your word … Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path."

— Psalms 119:9,105 (NKJV)

"I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and makes war. His eyes are like blazing fire, and on his head are many crowns. He has a name written on him that

no one knows but he himself. He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God. The armies of heaven were following him...."

— *Revelation 19:11–14 (NIV)*

Though recorded on paper by men, the Bible was authored by God as the Holy Spirit moved through them. It is God's revelation to us today.

Is this the only way God reveals Himself? No! But any true revelation or manifestation of God by the Holy Spirit *(rhema)* will always be in perfect agreement with the written Word (Logos). Notice how the Apostle Peter spoke of the supremacy of the written Word.

"For He received honor and glory from God the Father when the voice came to Him from the Majestic Glory, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." And we ourselves heard this voice from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain.

We also have the word of the prophets as confirmed beyond doubt. And you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture comes from one's own interpretation. For no such prophecy was ever brought forth by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit."

— *2 Peter 1:17-21 (BSB)*

The Bible's origin is not simply in man's will. The Scriptures are not just fancy words or mere opinions of religious men. My Christian friend, let no one mislead you on this point! The Bible is literally inspired and authored by God Himself. As we read in the following verse, we will do well to pay attention to it.

> *"Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."*
>
> — *2 Timothy 2:15 (KJV)*

Notice what the following Scripture says about Christ and His care of the Church.

> *"That he might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word (rhema), that he might present her to himself a glorious Church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish."*
>
> — *Ephesians 5:26-27 (NKJV)*

How is the church made holy and spotless without even a blemish or wrinkle? It is by the washing of water by the Word! As we read the written Word *(Logos),* the Holy Spirit brings it to life as the *"rhema"* Word, and it cleanses us from glory to glory.

LOGOS & RHEMA:

In the English translated Bible, we find the translators used "Word" for two different words found in the original Greek.

One of these was Logos and the other was Rhema.

Logos

Greek: λόγος
Pronunciation: log'-os
: the Scripture in its completeness.

Rhema

Greek: ῥῆμα
Pronunciation: hray'-mah

The Rhema of God can be seen as the Logos manifested in time, place, and power in the now.

The Logos is the eternal Word, the Rhema is the manifested word.

The Logos living in time, place and power. We could say the Logos' manifested reality is by or through the Holy Spirit.

When we read the word *"word"* in our Bible it is important to know if it is saying Logos or Rhema.

When we read of the temptation of Jesus in the wilderness we read where Jesus said, *"man shall not live by bread alone but by every word of God"*, here we see the *"word"* being rhema. Jesus said, "I am the *bread* of life."

We also find when Jesus said, *"If you abide in me and my words (Rhema/Holy Spirit) abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you."* (*John 15:7*)

The consistent study of the Word (Logos) and being filled with the Holy Spirit (Rhema) must be the foundation of every disciple.

Hearing the teaching and preaching of the Word (Logos) and personally studying it on our own, releases the (Rhema) Holy Spirit to do a sweeping, cleansing work that must be a part of our daily lives.

If we regularly study the Bible and listen to it being taught and preached by anointed ministers, we will have the foundations necessary to grow into strong and healthy men and women of God. We will be fit for every good work.

If we do not embrace the Word and read it regularly, allowing the Holy Spirit to convict us and make Christ real to us, we will become out of balance and weak. Before long, we will end up in the wilderness, where the enemy will feed us only small portions of Scripture, which he will take out of context and distort, and we will wrongfully apply. When this happens, we will never mature. We will miss the will of God for our lives.

There is no true discipleship outside of a lifestyle submitted to the written Word. A person needs to read the Bible and grow after being born again. If you don't, you will find yourself

returning to the life you were living before, just as if nothing had ever happened. You might join a church somewhere and base your discipleship on what others are doing and saying around you.

> *"We do not dare to classify or compare ourselves with some who commend themselves. When they measure themselves by themselves and compare themselves with themselves, they are not wise."*
>
> *— 2 Corinthians 10:12 (NIV)*

To illustrate this in a different way, let me tell you about when I was a young man working on a cattle ranch. While I was there, I befriended another young man who was only seventeen at the time. He was quite a cowboy, and he was very talented at riding wild horses and other events. Every weekend, he would go to a local rodeo competition and win money. One day, he said he had applied for his professional card so that he could compete with the world champions. I asked my friend why he would want to do this when he was winning money all the time where he was. I have never forgotten what he said to me. He said, "I'm afraid that if I don't go compete with the professionals, I will soon become just like all the other amateurs and never amount to anything."

Throughout the years, that young man went on to win some of the biggest rodeos in the world, while most of the amateurs he once rode against settled into mediocrity.

This is what will happen to us spiritually if we don't get into the Scripture early in our lives with God. We need to start reading about the mighty men and women of God and begin to live like they did in the arena of faith!

We must feed ourselves out of the Word if we want to become a David, a Deborah, a Peter, or a Paul.

As we study the Word with a pure heart, the Holy Spirit builds our spirit, which in turn works in our souls to produce change. We are filled with faith and a new perspective of who we are in Christ and what he wants for our lives.

To yield to Christ means to submit our lives in agreement to the written Word. The more we understand who God is, the more we will know who we are in Him. A simple way to say this is, "The only way to know who you are is to know who your God is, and the only way to know who God is is by reading and studying the Bible."

CHAPTER 10: YOU MUST EAT

Fill in the Blanks

1. The life in us is_____life.
2. Although we are born again, we still need to grow in_____and _____.
3. You must learn the footsteps of_____with God.
4. Feeding on the_____is "step number one" for every new believer.
5. As a disciple of Christ, we need to_____our lives to the Word of God.
6. We need to accept_____as the perfect revelation of God to man.
7. God promises special blessings to those who will study and_____his Word.
8. It is written man shall not live by bread alone, but by every_____of God.
9. "All Scripture is God_____and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness, so the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work." (2 Timothy 3:16-17)
10. No prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's_____intention.
11. The origin of the_____is not simply in the will of man.
12. The_____study of the Word must be the foundation of every disciple.
13. There is no true_____outside of a lifestyle submitted to the written Word.

14. The more we understand who_____is, the more we will know who _____are.

15. If we want to know God we should study_____.

Multiple Choice Questions

1. You must learn the footsteps of relationship with God, which he has laid out in his Word.

   A. True
   B. False

2. Feeding on the_____ is "step number one" for every new believer.

   A. Milk
   B. Meat
   C. Word of God
   D. Grass

3. "Therefore, laying aside all malice, all deceit, envy, and all evil speaking, as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby."

   A. 1 Peter 2:1–2
   B. B. 1 Peter 2:24
   C. C. 1 Peter 2:10
   D. D. None of the above

4. As a disciple of Christ, we need to commit our lives to the_____.

   A. Word of God
   B. Great Commission
   C. Agape Love
   D. All of the above

5. God promises special blessings to those who will study and revere his Word.

A. True
B. False

6. We need to know in our hearts that Scripture is not a fact; it is not inspired by God, and it is not the road map we build our lives on.

   A. True
   B. False

7. "It is written man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God."

   A. Luke 4:4
   B. John 3:16
   C. Mark 13:31
   D. Psalms 138:2

8. "The Word of God is living, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword."

   A. True
   B. False

9. The origin of the Bible is not simply in the will of man.

   A. True
   B. False

10. The Bible is literally_____.

    A. Inspired and authored by God himself.
    B. History Book
    C. Science Book
    D. Story Book

11. Reading the word of God regularly will allow the Holy Spirit to convict us and make Christ _____to us.

A. Real
B. Known
C. Famous
D. None of the above

12. We must feed ourselves out of the Word if we want to_____.

A. Grow in Christ
B. Get saved
C. Pass the exam

Essay Questions

1. As a new-born Christian what should we do, in regards to the Word of God?

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

2. How do we eat the word of God?

_____
_____
_____
_____

3. How will we know Jesus?

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

4. Write Joshua 1:8.

_____

_____

_____

_____

5. How is the church made holy and spotless without even a blemish or wrinkle?

_____

_____

_____

_____

6. What should be the foundation of every believer?

_____

_____

_____

_____

CHAPTER 11

REST

There is a basic difference between Christianity and all other religions of the world. Other religions exist on what man must do for God, while Christianity rests on what God has done for man. While they all say, "do," the Cross of Christ says, "done!" In other religions, we must earn our standing before God. In Christianity, we receive our standing through believing in what has been done by Christ's blood sacrifice. Only by faith in the shed blood of Jesus Christ as the payment of our sins can we ever be right in our relationship with God.

Christians rest knowing that they are redeemed and are now at peace with God. People of other religions live never sure of their place in this life, nor the one to come. While they strive and work to obtain their place before God, the Christian rests in faith, knowing that they have already obtained it.

The Word tells us that the only righteousness God will ever accept from a human being is the righteousness that He places on us when we put our complete faith in the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. It is through repentance and our belief in the shedding of Christ's blood as payment for our sins that we are saved. By faith in Christ alone, we are redeemed from our fallen state and reconciled to God.

The blood of Jesus cleanses us from our sins and restores us to fellowship with God, placing us in the same perfect righteous state as Christ Himself.

> *"Even when we were dead in our sins, hath made us alive in Christ (by grace are you saved) and hath raised us up and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ. That in the ages to come he might show the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness*

to us through Christ Jesus. For by grace (God's unearned favor) are you saved through faith: and not of yourself: it is a gift from God."

— *Ephesians 2:5-8 (KJV)*

"And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us and washed us from our sins in his own blood and hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father, to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever."

— *Revelation 1:5-6 (KJV)*

When we read these two verses, we see the word "hath."

This is so important.

In studying the original Greek, I verified that these are actually in the past tense. They are already finished!

Until we can rest without trying to improve on the completed work of Christ, we will never experience the full release of God's grace into our lives the way we should. As we walk with God, we must be careful to never stray from who we are here and now through the perfect and completed work of Christ on the Cross.

From the time we are saved onward, we should never leave our place of rest, knowing we are now the righteousness of Christ.

Our faith in Christ's completed work, finished in his death and resurrection over 2,000 years ago, releases the divine influence of God's Spirit and grace. It now lives in us, and we live in Him. When we lose sight of this, we begin to try to establish our own righteousness through our own works and efforts.

An example of our walk of grace is seen in the Old Testament, where God commanded the priests never to wear anything that caused sweat while they were ministering before him.

This is an illustration of how we shouldn't let self-effort enter our life of grace. As we walk in the Spirit, we must never lose our rest of faith in the finished work of Christ and his blood and who we now are in him.

Once we are at rest, we need to keep feeding on the Word, walking in obedience, and being led by the voice of the Holy Spirit as we live in our relationship of faith and fellowship with our Lord.

We must be careful not to fall back into a relationship with God based on our actions or inaction. Doing so will destroy our faith in the perfect work of the Cross and stop God's grace.

We must live at rest in our place of complete forgiveness and acceptance before the throne of God!

When we sin, we violate this relationship of love and grieve the Holy Spirit.

When this happens, we must immediately return to Christ in sorrow and repentance.

In the same way that we need Jesus' blood to save us, we also need His blood to keep us.

> *"My children I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have one who speaks to the Father on our defense—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins...."*
>
> *— 1 John 2:1–2 (NIV)*

Once we have truly repented and asked forgiveness for our sins, we are free to rest again in God's love and blessings.

Never allow the devil to lead you to believe that God will base your standing before him on your works.

When you sin, the Holy Spirit will bring conviction to you. If and when this happens, you must repent immediately for your sin but never doubt the reality of your new birth. The enemy is forever trying to get us to fail in the realm of the soul and flesh and then convince us that the perfect work of the new spirit man isn't real.

> *There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus who walk not after the flesh but after the Spirit*
>
> — *Romans 8:1 (KJV)*

Never doubt your salvation! If you do, you lose your peace and begin to try to do what has already been done at the Cross!

When we live in the deception and torment of self-condemnation, we actually deny Christ by turning away from his grace and trying to substitute it with our own works.

When this happens, we cease to walk in the Spirit by faith, and we begin to slip into what is called legalism.

When we discover ourselves trying to relate to God out of our works or lack of works, we need to ask for forgiveness. This will release God's grace so that it can flow freely again through us to produce His life and fruit.

One of the biggest reasons why so many of us have trouble with this is because we have never settled the issue of how God the Father feels about us. For too long, Satan has confused us by doing evil and then blaming God while at the same time trying to take credit for all the good that God has done.

For this reason, most of us need to be corrected in our understanding of God's attitude toward us.

We have a vague impression that he is sometimes happy, sometimes mad, and usually a little grouchy. Many of us go for years feeling that he may be happy with everyone else but surely

not with us. We are so vain at times that we actually think God carries a little grudge against us personally.

Satan is forever trying to deceive us into believing that God isn't love. He wants us to live in condemnation instead of abiding in the finished work of Jesus Christ

> *"See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are....!"*
>
> — *1 John 3:1 (NIV)*

> *"Now therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God."*
>
> — *Ephesians 2:19 (NKJV)*

We are tempted to see our coming to Christ as a door opening just a crack so we can peek through and see God. We then begin struggling to find acceptance before this far-off God who will, on rare occasions, be mindful of us. This is so wrong!

The scriptures clearly show us that we have been adopted into the household and are joint heirs with Christ.

When we are born again, we must understand that we have walked up to God's door, and it has swung wide open to us. The God of eternity has taken us up in his arms, and we are now his children.

Our relationship is an established fact in God's heart.

We are now seated at the family table of God our Father where we partake of his unlimited blessings.

Release your faith and unlock the life that God has for you!

> *"What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him freely give us all things?"*
>
> — *Romans 8:31–32 (NKJV)*

Let's go back to Genesis and look at the heart of our Heavenly Father toward us. Before we do, let's read these verses that will help.

> *"Then Peter opened his mouth and said: In truth I perceive that God shows no partiality. But in every nation whoever fears him, and works righteousness is accepted by him."*
>
> — *Acts 10:34–35 (NKJV)*

> *"For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus."*
>
> — *Galatians 3:27–28 (NKJV)*

Now, let us agree to believe and accept these verses as applying to us. We are no special exception in the plan of salvation. If you have received Jesus as Lord and forsaken your sin, then if God has ever loved and accepted anyone, He loves and accepts you!

YOU ARE FOREVER SEALED INTO CHRIST

If we see ourselves differently than this, we simply do not have complete and accurate faith in Jesus Christ.

Remember the account of the Garden of Eden, where we said two kinds of trees were mentioned by name? We have already talked about the "Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil," but what about the other tree? It was the "Tree of Life."

God said they could eat all the trees except the "Tree of The Knowledge of Good and Evil."

The "Tree of Life" was there for man to partake of.

In the garden, God gave man the choice of eternal life with him or the choice to disobey and die. If Adam and Eve had not disobeyed God, they could have eaten of the "Tree of Life" and stayed in the garden. There would have been no fall of man, nor would death have come to the human race.

God's intention for man remains the same. He provides the way of life through Jesus Christ, and man may choose to receive Christ or refuse and remain dead.

Now that we see this, let's move forward and follow God's heart toward us as he seeks to bless and save his children.

> *"Then God blessed them, and God said to them, be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it...."*
>
> — *Genesis 1:28 (NKJV)*

> *"So God blessed Noah and his sons, and said to them be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth."*
>
> — *Genesis 9:1 (NKJV)*

> *"I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars of the sky and the sand on the seashore."*
>
> — *Genesis 12:2 (NIV)*

> *"And Abram was very rich in cattle, in silver, and in gold."*
>
> — *Genesis 13:2 (KJV)*

> *".... I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply your descendants as the stars of the heaven and as the sand which is on the seashore...."*
>
> — *Genesis 22:17 (NKJV)*

"Isaac planted crops in that land and the same year reaped a hundred-fold because the Lord blessed him. The man became rich, and his wealth continued to grow until he became wealthy.... That night the Lord appeared to him and said, "I am the God of your Father Abraham. Do not be afraid, for I am with you; I will bless you and will increase the number of your descendants for the sake of my servant Abraham."

— Genesis 26:12–13,24 (NIV)

"The Lord said to Moses, "Tell Aaron and his sons, 'this is how you are to bless the Israelites.' Say to them: 'The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace. So, they will put my name on the Israelites, and I will bless them."'

— Numbers 6:22–27 (NIV)

"I have received commandment to bless; and he (God) has blessed, and I cannot change it."

— Numbers 23:20 (NIV)

"If you fully obey the Lord your God and carefully follow all his commands, I give you today, the Lord your God will set you on high above all the nations on earth. All these blessings will come upon you and accompany you if you obey the Lord your God. You will be blessed in the city and blessed in the country. The fruit of your womb will be blessed and the crops of your land and the young of your livestock—the calves of your herds and the lambs of your flocks. Your basket and your kneading trough will be blessed. You will be blessed when you come in and blessed when you go out. The Lord will grant that the enemies who rise up against you, will be defeated before you. They will come at you from one direction but flee from you in seven. The Lord will send a blessing on your barns and on everything you put your hand to. The Lord your God will bless you in the land he is giving you. The Lord will establish you as his holy people, as he promised you on oath, if you keep the commands of the Lord your God and walk in his ways. Then all the people of the earth will see that you are called by

the name of the Lord, and they will fear you. The Lord will grant you abundant prosperity—in the fruit of your womb, the young of your livestock and the crops of your ground—in the land he swore to your forefathers to give you. The Lord will open the heavens, the storehouse of his bounty, to send rain on your lands. You will lend to many nations but will borrow from none. The Lord will make you the head, not the tail. If you pay attention to the commands of the Lord your God that I give you this day and carefully follow them, you will always be at the top, never at the bottom."

— *Deuteronomy 28:1–13 (NIV)*

Now let's look at some verses that show us all the blessings God promised to Abraham and the nation of Israel are now ours through Jesus Christ!

"Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: 'Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree.' He redeemed us in order that the blessings given to Abraham might come to the Gentiles (us) through Christ Jesus, so that by faith we might receive the promise of the Spirit."

— *Galatians 3:13-14 (NIV) (parenthesis added)*

"And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise."

— *Galatians 3:29 (NKJV)*

In resting in the finished work of the Cross, we also find that we have been adopted into the family of Israel and have become sons and daughters of Abraham, the father of our faith.

As we read in scripture, the nation of Israel, the natural seed of Abraham, eventually forfeited the land through disobedience.

But even then, we find God's heart was a broken heart of love.

"For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call upon me and come

and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. I will be found of you, declares the Lord...."

— Jeremiah 29:11–14 (NIV)

"Do I take pleasure in the death of the wicked? Declares the Sovereign Lord. Rather am I not pleased when they turn from their way and live?"

— Ezekiel 18:23 (NIV)

God only wants us to have life and have it to the full.

"Beloved, I pray that in every way you may prosper and enjoy good health, as your soul also prospers."

— 3 John 1:2 (NKJV)

There is no bad in God or His intentions for us, and there is no good in the devil and his desires against us.

God seeks only to love and bless, while the devil seeks only to rob and kill. Let's settle our hearts once and for all: God loves us, and his love will never fail!

God showed the world love through Jesus Christ.

We must receive this by faith and rest.

"If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in him and he in God. And so, we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them."

— 1 John 4:15–16 (NIV)

God loves us, and we can't change that! We must simply believe it's true and know he died for us because his love was so great!

He sets us free, and then, with blood-stained brow and nail-scarred hands, He asks in love, "Will you follow me?"

CHAPTER 11: REST

Fill in the Blanks

1. _____rests on what God has done for man.
2. In Christianity, we receive our standing through_____in what has been done by Christ's blood sacrifice.
3. Christians rest in knowing they are_____.
4. The blood of Jesus cleanses us from our sins and_____us to fellowship with God, placing us into the same perfect righteousness state as Christ himself.
5. We must quit trying to relate to God out of_____and approach him through _____in what he has done.
6. By faith in_____alone we are redeemed.
7. The Christian rests in_____they have already obtained their place before God.
8. Never allow the devil to lead you to_____there is something wrong between you and God.
9. The Holy Spirit will bring conviction when we_____.
10. Never doubt your_____!
11. When we live in the deception and torment of self-condemnation, we deny Christ by turning away from his_____and try to substitute it with works of our own.
12. Satan is forever trying to_____us into believing God is not love.

13. We are joint_____with Christ.

14. We are now_____at the family table of God.

15. God loves us_____.

16. God_____only to love and to bless.

17. The devil_____only to rob and to kill.

18. God is no respecter of persons which means when we receive Christ, he loves us exactly the _____as everyone else who receives him. If God has ever seen anyone as perfect in Christ, he sees_____perfect also.

19. When we sin, we_____this relationship of_____.

20. The Holy Spirit brings_____to us. When this happens, we need to turn back to Christ in_____and_____.

21. The same as we need the blood of Jesus to save us, we also need his_____to keep us_____.

22. Once we have truly repented and turned from our sin, we are then free to again_____ in our perfect place of forgiveness and love.

23. Jesus asks in love_____.

Multiple Choice Questions

1. The major difference between Christianity and other religions is_____.

   A. What man must do for God.
   B. What God has done for man.
   C. All of the above
   D. None of the above

2. In Christianity, we receive our standing through believing in what has been done by Christ's blood sacrifice.

   A. True
   B. False

3. As we walk in the Spirit, we must never lose our rest of faith in the finished work of Christ.

   A. True
   B. False

4. Once we are at rest, we need to keep feeding on_____.

   A. The Word
   B. Walking in obedience
   C. Listening to the voice of the Holy Spirit
   D. All of the above

5. We must repent immediately for your sin, when the Holy Spirit convicts us.

   A. True
   B. False

6. We have a vague impression that God is sometimes_____.

   A. Happy
   B. Mad
   C. Little grouchy
   D. All of the above

7. Satan wants us to live in_____ instead of abiding in the truth that we are Loved and received by God.

   A. Condemnation
   B. Peace

C. Reality
D. Self determination

8. We should be resting in the finished work of Christ's blood.

   A. True
   B. False

9. God loves us and has_____ to bless us here in this life as well as forever.

   A. Covenanted/Promised
   B. Abundance
   C. Responsibility
   D. None of the above

10. Once we have truly repented and turned from our sin, we are then free to again rest in the love and blessing of God.

    A. True
    B. False

Essay Questions

1. Explain Biblical Rest in your own words as you now understand from this chapter.

   _____
   _____
   _____
   _____

2. What happens through the act of repentance?

   _____
   _____
   _____
   _____

3. How are we redeemed?

_____

_____

_____

_____

4. What is legalism?

_____

_____

_____

_____

5. Write 1 John 3:1.

_____

_____

_____

_____

CHAPTER 12

THE CHURCH

In *Genesis 1:26 (KJV)* we read:

"And God said, let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth."

"The heaven, even the heavens, are the Lords: but the earth hath he given to the children of men."

—Psalms 115:16 (KJV)

We also find in *Romans 11:29 (KJV).*

"*For the gifts and calling of God are without repentance."*

We now begin to understand as man ate of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil he not only lost his relationship as spirit man between himself and God, but he also surrendered the dominion of this earth unto Satan.

We read in 2 Corinthians 4:4 where the Bible identifies Satan as the God of this world. For we now realize the earth is within the kingdom of Satan, and the evil can be seen in the sickness, disease, wars, and sorrows that afflict mankind today.

As man lost this dominion only man could take it back. It would have to be a man without sin, beyond the fall of Adam. This man from the kingdom of God was born of a virgin who would fight the eternal battle on the cross and there conquer the king of the darkness and return this dominion to man.

"Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ. For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily; and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power.

In Him you were also circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the sins of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, buried with Him in baptism, in which you also were raised with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead. And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses, having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. Having disarmed principalities and powers...."

— *Colossians 2:8-15 (NKJV)*

At the cross the kingdom of darkness killed the human man and believed it had defeated the kingdom of God.

"But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory: which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory."

— *1 Corinthians 2:7-8 (KJV)*

In hell, Jesus now as our redeemer and Christ took the authority unto himself. This authority belonged to the risen Christ. This is what Jesus was talking about when he said to Peter, "upon this Rock I will build my Church."

"And I say also unto thee, thou art Peter; and upon this rock I will build my Church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. And I will give unto thee the keys of

the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven."

— Matthew 16:18-19 (KJV)

The kingdom of God now reigning upon this earth and the authority over all other kingdoms across eternity now belonging to Jesus, He then did not keep it unto himself but transferred it to the Church and has entrusted the church to increase God's peace and government of which there shall be no end. The dominion of Adam now returned unto man; thus, Jesus instructed us to pray, "Thy kingdom come thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

I hope you can see the importance of prayer in the relationship of the Lord's authority and power needing the invitation and release of the church.

Today the Church is the kingdom of God standing triumph over the kingdom of darkness.

We know from Philippians that it is God that works in the believer to will and to do of His good pleasure. The believer then releases the will of God and the kingdom of God into the world through their prayers. Thus, God's kingdom takes dominion over the kingdom of Satan here on earth through the prayers and the faith of the Church.

"…. For this purpose the son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil."

— 1 John 3:8 (KJV)

"Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgement: because as he is, so are we in this world."

— 1 John 4:17 (KJV)

"And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, all power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost: teaching them to observe all things

whatsoever I have commanded you, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world."

— Matthew 28:18-20 (KJV)

The kingdom of God obtained by Jesus has now been returned to the believers and is alive and well. This group now possesses the power and reality of God and is known as the Church: the body of Christ.

We can now begin to comprehend more clearly what Jesus was saying to his disciples on the night he was betrayed.

"Verily, verily, I say unto you He that believeth in me, the works that I do shall he do also, and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father. And whatsoever you shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask anything in my name I will do it."

— John 14:12-14 (KJV)

"If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be my disciples."

— John 15:7-8 (NKJV)

We must never see this power and authority as belonging to only certain believers but that it is for every member of the body of Christ. The only restriction Jesus placed on this authority is found in his saying, "he that believeth in me.

The believer has now been given the right and commission to use the name of Jesus which holds the supreme authority over all things.

The administrator of the Church today is the Holy Spirit and in obedience to him the Church today goes forth to preach the Gospel and advance the kingdom of God.

"Now there was in the church that was at Antioch certain prophets and teachers; as Barnabas, and Simeon that was called Niger, and Lucius of Cyrene, and Manaen, which had been brought up with Herod the Tetrarch, and Saul. As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Spirit said, separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them. And when they had fasted and prayed, and laid their hands on them, they sent them away. So, they being sent forth by the Holy Spirit, departed unto Seleucia; and from there they sailed to Cyprus."

— Acts 13:1-5 (NKJV)

The Church today is under the command of the Holy Spirit. From there it is entrusted to man to seek God's face and be led by the Spirit and to obey the Spirit.

"Now when they had gone throughout Phrygia and the region of Galatia, and were forbidden of the Holy Spirit to preach the word in Asia. After they were come to Mysia, they assayed to go into Bithynia: but the Spirit suffered them not."

— Acts 16:6-7 (NKJV)

When the Church is in alignment with the Holy Spirit and in correct relationship with God, we will see the same power and miracles that were present in the life of Jesus while he was on the earth.

This continues today in the real Church whereas when the Church is under the authority of man, we will not see the power and reality of Christ in their midst.

The Church must be careful to maintain intimacy and communication with the Holy Spirit if it is to maintain its place of dominion here on earth and see the captives set free and the kingdom of the Devil destroyed.

The same is true of the individual believer. We see this in the life of Philip in the 8th chapter of the book of Acts. (turn there and read)

1. God used an Angel to direct Philip.
2. The Spirit instructed Philip.
3. The Spirit moved Philip to the next location.

As the time draws ever closer to Christ's return; the church and every believer must pray for and expect to be used by the Holy Spirit and experience the sovereignty of God.

CHAPTER 12: THE CHURCH

Fill in the Blanks

1. God gave _____ dominion over the earth.
2. For the _____ and _____ of God are without repentance.
3. Man, _____ dominion of the earth to Satan.
4. In second Corinthians 4:4 Satan is referred to as the _____ of this world.
5. God sent a _____ man to take it back.
6. At the cross Jesus _____ openly over the powers of darkness.
7. Satan did not know _____ when he crucified Jesus.
8. In hell Jesus took _____ unto himself.
9. This is what Jeus was referring to when he said _____.
10. Jesus took all _____ and transferred it unto the church.
11. With the dominion again with man, we must now pray to the Father, _____ come.
12. Jesus said greater things than _____ will we, the believer now do.
13. The administrator of the church today is the _____.

14. As the administrator, the Holy Spirit _____ instructions to the _____.

15. The Holy Spirit also speaks _____ to the individual believer.

Multiple Choice Questions

1. Which one is a member of the Holy Trinity?

   A. Jesus
   B. The Father
   C. The Holy Spirit
   D. All of the above

2. God has given to man_____.

   A. The stars
   B. The moon
   C. The galaxies
   D. The earth

3. The gifts and calling of God are_____.

   A. Difficult to earn
   B. Must be learned
   C. Are without repentance
   D. Are a reward for tithing

4. After man lost dominion the world was under the dominion of_____.

   A. Wicked people
   B. Satan
   C. The barbarians
   D. The Roman empire

5. Jesus went to the cross as a_____.

   A. An Angel
   B. A. Father
   C. A man
   D. A High priest

6. Jesus arose from the grave as_____.

   A. The Savior
   B. The ruler of this world
   C. The redeemer of all mankind
   D. All of the above

7. Jesus delegates his authority to_____-.

   A. The Jews
   B. The church
   C. His mother
   D. The high priest

8. The Church is also the_____.

   A. The body of Christ
   B. Jewish nation
   C. Everyone that tithes
   D. All pastors and bishops

9. We have the authority_____.

   A. By going to church
   B. By paying our tithes
   C. By the name of Jesus
   D. By praying to God

10. The church today is_____.

A. Under the pastor's authority
B. The majority vote of the people
C. Is where we choose how we serve God
D. Is under the command of the Holy Spirit

Essay Questions

1. Can you identify the times the Holy Spirit has spoken to you?

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

2. Do you pray and ask the Holy Spirit to speak to you each day?

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

3. What do you need to do now to bring you into an intimate relationship with the Holy Spirit?

_____
_____
_____

_____

_____

CHAPTER 13

THE BODY

After reading the New Testament, we see clearly how being born again is more than a change of mind and a new philosophy. It's an entirely new lifestyle. We are to see ourselves in a new way, as a member of the family known as the body of Christ, the Church.

The manifestation of the Church in our community is what we call the local church. In this atmosphere of family, we live out the selfless love that Christ has put in our hearts.

The church isn't the building we meet in but the Body of Christ, composed of the believers. Let's look at a couple of verses about this.

> *"…. I write so that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth."*
>
> *— 1 Timothy 3:15 (NKJV)*

> *"You also as living stones, are built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God through Jesus Christ."*
>
> *— 1 Peter 2:5 (NKJV)*

God no longer sees us as we used to be but as members of Jesus' body here on Earth.

> *"After all, no one ever hated his own body, but he feeds it and cares for it, just as Christ does the church— for we are members of his body."*
>
> *— Ephesians 5:29–30 (NIV)*

"And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way."

— *Ephesians 1:22-23 (NIV)*

We are members of the body of Christ, which is the Church. The Scriptures teach us that the Body has many members and parts but is still one body. Each of us is part of the one body of Christ.

"For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ. For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit."

— *1 Corinthians 12-13 (KJV)*

"Yes, the body has many parts, not just one part .... Now here is what I am trying to say: All of you together are the one body of Christ, and each one of you is a separate and necessary part of it."

— *1 Corinthians 12:14, 27 (TLB)*

When we receive Jesus, He has a place for us in his body. Without apology, the Word says that we are no longer our own, but instead that we belong to God.

We can't be rightly related to Christ without being rightly related to the Church. It needs to be understood that this is not merely an abstract idea. Physically and spiritually, we are to be related to and involved with the body.

"I beseech you, therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service."

— *Romans 12:1 (NKJV)*

Notice that it says present your bodies, not your agreement to this concept but your actual physical involvement in the local church's society.

> *"And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another —and all the more as you see the Day approaching."*
>
> *— Hebrews 10:24–25 (NIV)*

In order for us to grow and become the person God wants us to be, we must become an integrated part of the manifested body of Christ, the local church.

In the local church, we find the love of God manifested. It is here that the love of Christ is lived out.

> *"This is the message you heard from the beginning: we should love one another .... This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters."*
>
> *— 1 John 3:11–16 (NIV)*

Notice how it doesn't say lay down your life for Jesus but instead tells us to lay down our lives for our brothers.

> *"Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. He who does not love does not know God, for God is love. In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another."*
>
> *— 1 John 4:7–11 (NKJV)*

Let's look now at how God intends the body to function when it comes together.

> *".... When you come together, everyone has a hymn, or a word of instruction, a revelation, a tongue or an interpretation. All of these must be done for the strengthening of the church...."*
>
> — *1 Corinthians 14:26 (NIV)*

We should notice that this says "everyone," which includes us. If we have received Jesus into our hearts and seek to be his disciples, we must be led by the Spirit into our place in the body.

God calls some of His servants to serve the church in special ministries. The Bible speaks of five ministry types given to the church for equipping the saints. These are referred to as the church's "five-fold ministries."

> *"So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ."*
>
> — *Ephesians 4:11-13 (NIV)*

The Scripture clearly states that it is God's plan that these five ministry types be found in the local church until everyone has come to the stature and fullness of Christ. In other words, they will be found ministering among the church until Christ returns or until everyone in the church is like Jesus. Our risen Lord's life, power, and purposes are released where these five ministries function in God's divine order. As a broom sweeps the floor regularly and keeps it clean, these ministries must be recognized and released in ministering to the body in order for it to be balanced and healthy.

Within the local assembly, we will find deacons and elders. The deacons will handle the daily administration and work of the church, while the elders will give themselves to the ministry of prayer and the Word.

This should not be an excuse to see some of us as having a more perfect standing or higher place in Christ. We can see from the Book of Acts that the deacons performed as many or more miracles as the original Apostles.

Whether we ever serve in these capacities or not, we should all aspire to mature into the qualifications listed for ministry.

In Paul's letter to the Romans, we learn how God has a specific place of service for us in the church. The Holy Spirit imparts grace, God's enablement, to each of us to function and serve there.

> *"Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we who are many, form one body and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man's gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith. If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully. Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves. Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord."*
>
> — *Romans 12:4–11 (NIV)*

This tells us that we are a part of one body. It also tells us that as we walk in love, we are to use our gifts to build up the church.

In the Church, we will be able to grow up in Jesus as we submit ourselves to the anointed ministries that God has placed there. As we live in relationships with other believers, we come to know the plan and purpose for our lives in him.

An old saying is, "If you want to grow up, you have to show up." This is not only cute; it's true! In the same way that God ordained for children to grow up in a family, he has ordained

for Christians to grow up in the local church. As we allow it, our lives are changed, and we grow into mature disciples as we move ever deeper into Christ as we function in our place within the body. We become those who are pleasing Him in every way, bearing fruit and abounding in good works.

Once again, I want to encourage you that it isn't a religion; it's a relationship.

The body of Christ is not an organization, it's an organism. It can never stand still!

The convert of today must become tomorrow's apostle, pastor, teacher, evangelist, and prophet.

In the healthy body, you will see the new converts come in, grow up, and become the parents of the next generation of converts.

Everyone will find true ministry and relationship when the body is functioning rightly.

First, the ministry will be upward toward God, then inward among the body, releasing the power and presence of the Holy Spirit, and then outward to the world.

It must be in this order: in the right relationship with God, Spirit-filled, abounding in loving relationships within, and then called of Christ to a lost and dying world. When this is out of divine order, you will find confusion and strife or, at best, a stagnant, dry experience rather than the life and love of Jesus.

We must find a way to be rightly related to the Church of Jesus Christ. I'm saying this as I warn you of the problems you may occasionally encounter in the local body. You need to be aware of this so that you won't become discouraged and withdrawn when you encounter trouble. There are times in the local body when we experience strife due to immaturity and fleshly activities.

> *"But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your heart, do not boast about it or deny the truth. Such "wisdom" does not come down from heaven but is earthly,*

unspiritual, of the devil. For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and ever evil practice."

— James 3:14–16 (NIV)

".... The Lord does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart."

— 1 Samuel 16:7 (NIV)

It is a tragic reality in the church that sometimes people's motives are not pure. When this happens, we need to look beyond to the God we serve and continue in our personal relationship with Christ and his love.

God is doing a perfect work in the midst of an imperfect people. As it tells us in 2 Corinthians 11:3, sometimes, just as Eve was deceived by the devil, people in the church can be deceived as well. When there are people who are in the flesh and not obeying the Spirit, there can be many wounded, which causes them to fall away. We cannot let this happen to us. It is only with much prayer and patience that we stay true to God in the midst of the turmoil this causes. During these times, we need to draw very close to the Lord so that the Holy Spirit can lead us through the storm. If we have moved away from a personal relationship with the Holy Spirit and into a relationship that revolves around others, these times can cause us to give up on God's place and plan for us. We can never allow this to bring us to where we fall out of fellowship and remove ourselves from life in the body. The Holy Spirit will tell us when it is time to find a new group.

When we are hurt, we must forgive! When we are wounded, Christ will heal us. When we remain faithful to Him, He is honored. I can say from personal experience that during troubled times in the church, I have found a deeper life in Christ as I struggled to find my way through the process. It is here that we learn to obey the Bible and hear the Holy Spirit as we escape the snares and control of man and the deception of the enemy.

It is of extreme importance for us to be grounded in the Word as individuals and not dependent on the church and others for our personal relationship with God.

This is also very important when we are looking for a new church or moving from one location to another. Knowing the Scripture keeps us from being hurt or destroyed by bad teaching when we find ourselves in a group that doesn't obey the Bible.

Many Christians today are very well educated, but they are rendered useless simply because they refuse to obey God in submission to the local body. Their aloof manner of intellectually judging everything keeps them from ever doing anything.

Instead of producing fruit, they simply remain legends in their own minds. We must not let this happen to us. If we are to grow into the mature vessel that God wants us to become, we need to obey the Holy Spirit and find where he wants us to be.

When we are in the local assembly with our brothers and sisters, one of the most sacred and precious times we will ever know is when we join together in partaking of communion. I think the best way to explain this to you is to read what Paul wrote to the early church.

> *"For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, 'This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me.' In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying 'this cup is the new covenant of my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.' For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes."*
>
> *— 1 Corinthians 11:23–26 (NIV)*

I cannot express my joy and excitement when I take communion! I thank God that no one stands between me and God at that moment. The blood of Jesus Christ gives me access to the throne of God, and no man can touch this. God has met me there so many times and in so many ways. When we are sin-free and clean, we can expect Him to speak, correct, encourage, deliver, and even heal us as we release our faith to Him during holy communion.

Another important ministry that we find in the local church is the laying on of hands.

There is nothing quite as precious as the touch of Jesus through the love of other believers as they identify with us. This happens when individuals of the body lay their hands on us for a specific spiritual purpose.

This is used in various ways, and all of them are in accordance with Scripture.

The laying on of hands is used in the Bible as a point of contact for releasing faith in the healing of the sick.

> *"There was an estate nearby that belonged to Publius; the chief official on the island. He welcomed us to his home and for three days entertained us hospitably. His father was sick in bed, suffering from fever and dysentery. Paul went in to see him and after prayer, placed his hands on him and healed him. When this happened, the rest of the sick on the island came and were cured."*
>
> *— Acts 28:7–9 (NIV)*

> *"Is any one of you sick? He should call for the elders of the church to pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; The Lord will raise him up. If he has sinned, he will be forgiven."*
>
> *— James 5:14–15 (NIV)*

Even though we know that laying on of hands was common practice in the early church, sometimes people released their faith, and healing took place even without it. For example, some were healed by Peter's shadow. Others were healed simply by someone speaking a word. Yet the common practice was the physical laying on of hands.

Now, let's look at some verses in which the laying on of hands was used for purposes other than healing.

"Then Ananias went to the house and entered it. Placing his hands upon Saul, he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord-Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you were coming here —has sent me so that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit." Immediately, something like scales fell from Saul's eyes, and he could see again. He got up and was baptized, and after taking some food, he regained his strength."

— Acts 9:17–19 (NIV)

"While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." So, after they had fasted and prayed, they placed their hands on them and sent them off."

— Acts 13:2–3 (NIV)

"Do not neglect your gift, which was given you through prophecy when the body of elders laid their hands on you."

— 1 Timothy 4:14 (NIV)

"For this reason, I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands."

— 2 Timothy 1:6 (NIV)

It is plain to see from these passages that through the laying on of hands, the gifts and purposes of God can be imparted from one person to another. This should occur in the body, where the giver and receiver are known and submitted. We should never avail ourselves to this practice through people we don't know to be confirmed, solid ministers of God. In the same regard, we should not be quick to lay our hands on someone and ordain them if we don't know their spiritual condition.

In the body, we will experience with others the laying on of hands and many other gifts and expressions.

These relationships will not only help us as we walk in love but also keep us humble and on course in our walk with Christ.

The Bible tells us that knowledge puffs us up in pride, but love builds us up (1 Corinthians 8:1).

Head knowledge does not make us great disciples. Love does. There is no better place to prove this true than in the body.

Any time we think we're exactly like Jesus, we are brought to reality in our relationship with the body. The Bible shows us examples of so-called great followers of Jesus in the early Church slipping, like Peter cutting off a guard's ear or Paul and Barnabas disagreeing. This shows us that this is part of maturing.

If we are humble enough to allow it, our knowledge will be turned into a walk of love, where we esteem others higher than ourselves.

Within the body, there will be numerous opportunities to minister to one another practically. The Book of Acts plainly shows this fellowship: how the early Christian believers ate, prayed, and shared together. When we are walking in the Spirit, we will sense his leading us into expressions of love, fellowship, and mercy.

As we live our lives in service to others, God's focus will always be on the new believers. From this, he will build the church. Too often, this is reversed.

We must be careful to walk in love and relationship, esteeming others higher than ourselves, and never focus on programs and buildings.

As we walk in love, we live in liberty, knowing that we are accepted by God through our faith in Jesus Christ. Our good works are simply expressions of our love, which becomes deeper and deeper as we continue to walk with him, being led by the Spirit and living our lives for Christ.

God expects us to abide in love. As we do this, we come to church meetings as vessels full of the Spirit, ready to be poured out in loving service rather than showing up empty and drained, only to take the blessings.

When we walk in intimacy with God as individuals, we become the mighty body that we are meant to be.

I have known many converts and congregations where the people have attended for years, and yet they all remain babies. They come to church expecting to be fed like a baby and are allowed to cry, and then they leave until next time. As they show up with lives empty of the Word and void of prayer, with no time spent alone with God, they remain undisciplined and unfruitful.

In our personal relationship with God, we first find the love of Christ and the voice of the Spirit. From there, we submit in obedience and become who God demands us to be, which is the true body of Christ.

The life of the Church is found in the Holy Spirit, not in man. True leadership simply serves the will of the Spirit. Without this, the group will never know or accomplish all that God intends.

Everyone in the group needs to participate for the Holy Spirit to release Jesus Christ's reality and power. When this happens, the church is transformed from head knowledge into living power.

For the full expression of God's grace to be expressed, we must understand that God never intended the church to be divided into those who minister and those who don't. It is vitally important that we see the church as a living organism.

In the body of Christ, each member has the same value and standing before God. Every member is a temple of the Holy Spirit.

The Church isn't the Church until the Holy Spirit is released beyond the minds and logic, and we see the reality and power of Christ manifested in the gifts of the Holy Spirit among us.

Everyone has the same responsibility to manifest the gifts of the Spirit as the Spirit wills (desires).

Here we all stand on level ground before God's throne.

We are to know and serve the power and presence of the Holy Spirit.

> *"…. Covet (desire to prophecy) and forbid not to speak with tongues."*
>
> *— 1 Corinthians 14:39 (KJV)*

It is not enough to confess, testify, and speak of the glory of our Lord! We must also move in the power and realm of the Holy Spirit.

There is no one more important or closer to God than we are, and no one is more responsible for serving Him with all of their heart than we are.

The imputed righteousness of Jesus Christ gives us a perfect and complete entrance before the throne of God. As I've said earlier, our value and acceptance before God is obtained only through faith in the blood sacrifice of Jesus. In a family, we would never think that the father stood closer to God than the mother or the children. We should never see it differently concerning the members of the church.

We are all called to be kings and priests to God (*Revelation 1:6*). We must never reduce ourselves to the old Levitical pattern (the Law of Moses), in which only a few chosen men stood as mediators between God and the people.

The only man we need to mediate between us and God is Christ Jesus! No man or group can stop us from relating directly to our Heavenly Father through Jesus Christ. The blood of Jesus alone brings us to a perfect standing before God.

As we stand in this truth, we must also abide by recognizing that there are offices in the church that we need to be rightly related to and submitted to. They are given to the church for ministry purposes to protect and release the Holy Spirit and to build up the believers. Equality for all men before God has been purchased by Christ's blood at the cross and can never be

earned. From this equality, God elects some to positions of government in the church. We must recognize, submit to, and learn from them. We can do this with joy once we properly understand who we are in Christ.

Going back to the family example, even though the child is equal with the father in value, the father maintains authority over the child as he grows up and matures into an adult. So, it is in the church.

We must never desire authority because we can't do this while having a servant's heart. We need to yearn for greater influence for Christ, not for recognition for ourselves.

Our promotion comes from God, and not what others see us as being. As God shows us our place in the body, we simply need to respond with a servant's heart and joyfully serve him there.

Once we see that our position in the church has no relevance to our salvation or standing before God, we will no longer feel that we are less than his best. This will also remove every excuse we have for not pressing into God and becoming all that he wants us to be. God holds us responsible and expects us to increase what he has given us.

Our place in the church is both natural and spiritual, and we must serve both. Both are given by an election of grace, which we are then responsible for fulfilling. Too often, the spiritual part is left to leaders and ignored by the believer. Spiritual authority is not the same as our natural position of service in the congregation.

It is our position in Christ that gives us spiritual authority. This sets us over the realms of darkness. Often, a holy person with a right relationship with Christ and the church will have a far greater impact for God in the realm of the Spirit than someone busy in work and lacking in personal relationship. This is true whether the leadership is in the first or latter category. This is also true if the one in a relationship with the Holy Spirit is the grandmother, young person, or poor person instead of the so-called leaders.

> *"Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit of itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing."*
>
> *— John 15:4–5 (NIV)*

Again, I will remind you that this is about a relationship, not religion. We should never feel like anyone is closer to God than we are. At the same time, we must not think, "It's just Jesus and me, and I am free." God clearly expects us to be in a church, submitted to those around us and to the ministry he has placed over us.

As we submit to the ministry God has placed in the Church, we can receive from the gifts God has placed there. Here, we find ourselves being built up together in love.

> *"You also as living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.... But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy."*
>
> *— 1 Peter 2:5–10 (NIV)*

The greatest calling any of us will ever know is the perfect place of grace we rest in as we go deeper in Christ. Our relationship with Him releases God's Spirit to us and through us. We must abide in relationship with him and rest in grace as He builds his church through us.

It is up to God, not us, to choose our calling. If we do not understand and believe this, we will continue struggling to find our place.

Anytime we see authority in the church as related to our value or standing before God, we will always be looking for a way to relate to God through works.

This causes us to be self-serving and competitive instead of serving in love. We must see Christ as the head of the Church and the Holy Spirit as the administrator. All of us, whether apostles or greeters, are simply servants. When man violates this, we have dead works, and the Spirit is quenched among us. This is why we should seek God's glory and not our own as we bring forth an ever-greater influence for him.

> *".... You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave—just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many."*
>
> — *Matthew 20:25–28 (NIV)*

We must be very careful to always maintain a servant's heart toward the body and our place in it.

We need to be reminded again and again that not only the elders but all believers stand on the same level with God, and every one of us needs to be raised up out of the natural realm into the realm of the Spirit. Only when the church begins to meet and function on this higher level of the Spirit will we see the fullness of Christ in our midst.

This is true whether we are in a home group or a larger church setting. No matter what style we meet in, we must know and serve the Holy Spirit in order for the body of Christ to be the living organism that God intends it to be.

Too often, the church service consists of only a few being yielded to the Spirit enough to sense what Jesus would have for the body at that exact place and time. The service then amounts to no more than the song service and the message reaching out to the people, trying to get them out of themselves and into the Spirit. This may or may not be accomplished by the end of the service. Instead of the body coming together and functioning as it should, the members have simply come in, filled with self, to be blessed enough to get them through another week of self-seeking. Out of this, the church never comes to fulfill the mind and purpose of Christ.

We must walk in relationship with the Holy Spirit so that when we, the body, come together, Christ Jesus is in our midst. God is there, and he has a plan for the service. This should be like the joyous, happy time when the parents come home and the children are excited and happy. It is a wonderful time of fellowship as everyone gathers in love.

As each member yields to the administrator, who is the Holy Spirit and the mind of Christ, the potential exists for the power of Jesus to meet every need. The fullness of Jesus and his miraculous works are then seen, and greater things than ever are done among us.

The Spirit of God needs to be released in the worship, and the gifts of the Spirit also need to be released through each of us as individual believers. As the church becomes one vessel with the soul, and as the intellectual realm becomes submitted to the Holy Spirit, the power of Christ Himself is manifested through the gifts of the Holy Spirit as God intends it to be. As the gifts and moving of the Holy Spirit are released, Jesus Christ and his power become reality, and the Bible becomes true.

> *"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever."*
>
> — *Hebrews 13:8 (NIV)*

We aren't waiting on God. He is waiting for us. He commands us to grow in the grace and the knowledge of Jesus Christ. We shouldn't allow ourselves to become out of balance and grow in our head knowledge while failing to grow in our relationship with the Holy Spirit. The extreme of this is seen in the Pharisees, who felt that they had total knowledge of God, while at the same time they didn't even recognize Jesus as he stood there among them.

If we don't have the infilling of the Holy Spirit, we can have the right understanding but still not be someone who walks in the power and potential God wants for us. We will make a mental agreement with the truth of the message and try to apply it through our own will, but we will never know the reality and power of God. Will the presence and power of the Holy Spirit be there, or will we talk about the weather, family, and other common things instead of being in the presence of our God?

Fellowship with believers is important, but not in comparison to finding God's presence. When we see head knowledge as the way to God instead of releasing the power of the Holy Spirit through us, it negatively influences others.

Knowledge of God is good when it brings us into a deeper relationship, but it is detrimental when it begins to replace our dependence on the Holy Spirit with self-sufficiency. Someone with more head knowledge may often impress people but not God. When standing before God seems like it's determined by how much we have learned, the young believer begins to feel unqualified because they get the impression that they don't know enough to do anything for God.

We should not be against education. In fact, it would be good if we all had more. But we need to be careful that education does not cause us to intellectually pursue God while denying the Holy Spirit and the power of the cross.

We often lack the power of Christ because we have quenched the Spirit with our intellectual pursuit of His grace. The church needs to mature in the Spirit to the point where the Holy Spirit is in control, not man's intellect.

Then, as one unit, the church can walk in the power and the resurrection of Jesus Christ!

Perhaps not all of us will be called to a "five-fold ministry," but we are all called to minister and manifest the Holy Spirit. There is no limit to how much we can move in the Spirit of God if we just pay the price of living for him. How can we not pay the price when we consider what he has done for us?

Some of God's most profound acts will be through the humble disciple as they live the crucified life before the throne of grace.

> *"At that time Jesus answered and said, 'I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and prudent and have revealed them to babes. Even so, Father, for it seemed good in your sight. All things have been delivered to me by My Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, nor does*

anyone know the Father except the Son, and the one to whom the Son will to reveal him.'"

— *Matthew 11:25-27 (NKJV)*

I pray that you will never give up or let go of God's plan and place for you in him. We naturally tend to look at ourselves in the natural and not in the Spirit. This causes us to always feel too inadequate to move in the Spirit with God.

We must crucify and overcome this and know that we are a new creation in Christ who is ordained to do good works. Never quit believing this, and never give up on yourself!

"But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us."

— *2 Corinthians 4:7 (NIV)*

"But he said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.' Therefore, I will boast all the more gladly about my weakness, so that Christ's power may rest on me."

— *2 Corinthians 12:9 (NIV)*

We must never let anyone, or anything rob us of our potential in God.

God has a destiny for you in his kingdom, and it's a lot bigger than you can ever realize in your natural mind. Never, never, never give up!

He who has begun this good work in you will complete it!

CHAPTER 13: THE BODY

Fill in the Blanks

1. Being born again is an entirely_____
2. We are to see ourselves as a member of the family known as the_____.
3. It is in an atmosphere of_____that we live the_____ love of Christ.
4. We need to conduct ourselves in the local church which is the_____and _____of the truth.
5. God sees us as a member of_____body here on earth.
6. God has placed_____as head over the church.
7. The body has_____members and yet is still one body.
8. Each of us has a_____in the body.
9. We have been baptized into one body by_____and all been given the same_____.
10. Each one of us is a_____and_____part of the body of Christ.
11. We cannot be rightly related to Christ without being rightly related to the_____ which is the Body of Christ.
12. We must present our bodies as a_____.
13. Let us not_____meeting together.

14. In the local church we find the_____of God.

15. The same as Jesus laid down his life for us, we should now lay down our lives for_____.

16. Brothers let us_____one another for_____is of God.

17. He who does not love does not_____God.

18. This is love, not that we loved God, but that He_____us and sent _____to be the propitiation for our sins.

19. When we come together it says_____has something to contribute and not just one-person up front.

20. We will be led by the_____into our place in the body of Christ.

21. The Bible speaks of five_____types for developing the believer in doing the works of the ministry.

22. The Bible tells us we must be built up until we become_____and come to the_____of the_____of Christ.

23. We will find_____and_____in the local church.

24. The Holy Spirit will_____grace or_____enablement to each of us.

25. We will then need to_____and_____in our place within the body.

26. We are all a_____of the others and together we_____up one another as we walk_____.

27. We will grow upon Jesus as we_____ourselves to the anointed ministries God has placed there.

28. The ministry of the Church must first be_____and then_____ and then_____.

29. When there are problems in the body we must_____to God and continue to develop our personal relationship with Jesus.

30. When we are wounded by others_____will heal us and we need to move on in our fellowship with other believers.

31. We must be a part of a body that_____the Bible.

32. We must be careful not to intellectually_____others while not doing anything for the kingdom ourselves.

33. _____is when we remember Jesus.

34. No man nor group will ever stand between us and the_____table for our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ the one and only mediator between us and God.

35. The laying on of hands is one of the_____of our Christians faith.

36. The laying on of the hands can be seen in the account of_____at the house of_____.

37. The life of the Church is found in_____and not in man.

38. God never intended the Church to be_____into those who minister and those who don't.

39. We must always have a_____heart towards the body.

40. Christ is the head of the Church and the_____is the administrator.

41. The_____of the_____must be released in the Church service for everyone to grow to maturity.

42. Never look at yourself and your weakness but instead we must see ourselves as the_____ in Christ.

Multiple Choice Questions

1. Another word for the Body of Christ is_____.

   A. Social Club
   B. Fraternity
   C. The Church
   D. Temple

2. We are living_____.

   A. Stones
   B. Bricks
   C. Trees
   D. Bushes

3. We are a Holy_____.

   A. Congregation
   B. Assembly
   C. Fraternity
   D. Priesthood

4. The five-fold ministry is to_____.

   A. Govern the Church
   B. Be on Staff
   C. Set up front
   D. Mature the saints

5. As the Church grows it is to_____.

   A. Go ye into all the world
   B. Minister to each other
   C. Grow in maturity
   D. All of the above

6. When we come together one should have_____.

   A. A hymn
   B. Revelation
   C. A tongue
   D. All of the above

7. Hate what is evil and_____.

   A. Confront others
   B. Cling to what is good
   C. Be happy about it
   D. Vote on who can be a member

8. Man looks at the outward appearance but_____.

   A. They still need to vote
   B. We need to dress nice
   C. Go on a diet
   D. God looks on the heart

9. When we are hurt_____.

   A. We need to tell the pastor
   B. Tell the world
   C. Leave the Church

D. Forgive

10. People in the Church can_____.

A. Sometimes be mean
B. Be deceived
C. Be wolves in sheep's clothing
D. All of the above

11. We need to be careful not to be deceived and believe_____.

A. Jesus is coming soon
B. That we are a member of the body
C. That we are saved only by faith in Jesus
D. We can serve Jesus apart from the body

12. We are a Holy Nation_____.

A. A group
B. With a vision
C. Belonging to
God D. On our way to the food

13. If we remain in Jesus, we will_____.

A. Bear much fruit
B. Have an easy life
C. Find fame and money
D. Never gets sick

14. When we are trying to find our place in the church for ourselves_____.

A. We need to see others as our servants
B. We will cause confusion and hurt
C. We must look at our natural abilities

D. None of the above

15. God commands us to_____.

A. Go to the front of the group
B. Tell others where they belong in the Church
C. Grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ
D. Point out the problems

Essay Questions

1. How do we find our place in the body of Christ?

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

2. Who do we serve in the Church?

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

3. How far can we go as we live our lives in the Body of Christ?

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

CHAPTER 14

GIVING

In the Old Testament, God commanded the people to pay their tithes and offerings in obedience to the law.

Under the New Testament covenant of grace, God has already blessed us and given us everything. We no longer give from command but rather by faith, releasing that which is already ours through the blood of Jesus Christ.

We simply release by faith the riches now ours through Christ's glory.

God has already given everything to us in Jesus Christ. We no longer give in fear; we give in faith, which releases what is already ours in Christ.

In the New Testament, we are called beyond obedience in paying the tithe to the abandonment of all we are, have, or ever hope to be.

The New Testament Christian, now dead in Christ, lives as a new man being led by the Spirit.

We now have a living relationship between us and God through our giving as a seed we sow and never again as a debt we owe.

To understand our giving, we must first understand God's heart toward us and his purpose and plan for us in doing so.

> *"…. As though he needed anything, seeing he gives to all life, and breath, and all things."*
>
> — *Acts 17:25 (NKJV)*

When God created this world and placed man upon it, he did it in such a way that for the completeness to be seen, man would need to enter into a relationship with what God had already done and, through faith, take dominion and reign in life through him.

> *"For if by one man's offence death reigned by one, much more they who receive abundance of grace and the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ."*
>
> — *Romans 5:17 (NKJV)*

Every Christian Father and Mother's greatest desire is a loving, close relationship with their child.

They do not seek what the child can give but rather delight in their child's response to their love.

So it is with God concerning us.

God so much wants to be God among us.

The ultimate purpose of giving is that we might walk by faith in a living relationship with God as he releases the grace and abundance now ours in Christ.

For you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God.

We are now seated at God's table as members of his family *(household).*

In our giving, we confess to our God, *"You are creator of Heaven and Earth and possessor of all things, now and forever. You alone are God to me."* Here we rest/abide in him and receive whatsoever we ask as we give, releasing our faith in Christ.

It is here we surrender our well-being, our future, the fruit of our labors, and the desires of our heart to the Lordship of Jesus Christ and enter a life of more than ourselves as we see God bring us to a life more abundant (*John 10:10*).

> *"For the Lord is a sun and shield: the Lord will give grace and glory. No good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly."*
>
> — *Psalms 84:11 (KJV)*

> *"What shall we say then to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us? He that spared not his own son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?"*
>
> — *Romans 8:31-32 (KJV)*

As we daily live our lives, from out of our needs, we give (plant) our seed, releasing our faith that God will meet our every need.

It is through our seed faith giving we develop a relationship with the living God who wants to be involved with every detail of our daily life.

We know we have given enough when we are moved from our own sufficiency to a place of releasing our faith and knowing we need to experience God's miracle supply.

> *"But my God shall supply all of your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.*
>
> — *Philippians 4:19 (KJV)*

Do not say he will meet my needs and not my desires because that is not true.

> *"Delight yourself also in the Lord; and he will give you the desires of your heart."*
>
> — *Psalms 37:4 (PJV)*

As we have just read, Romans 5:17 tells us we shall reign in life through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

After giving in faith, we watch for our Lord to appear at the point of our need with his provision. Even if it takes a miracle. Instead of saying to ourselves, "I don't have enough to pay my bills, how can I give?" We say to ourselves, "I will give to God my seed from out of my need. I will release my faith and believe the living God of heaven will manifest his power and reality to me in providing for my financial needs."

In the same way we take a seed and plant it in the ground, we must also plant this seed of finances into the Lord.

Once we put a seed in the ground, it will never again be good for anything unless God brings it forth in new life. So it is with the money we give to God. It is gone now forever. We cannot use it for food or for sale. Once the seed is in the ground, it is never again good for anything unless new life comes forth. So it is with our giving. The God of the sowing is also the God of the harvest. The same God who causes the wheat and the rice to grow is also the God who causes our tithes and offerings to grow. One is in the natural and takes the rain and the sun to grow. The other is in the spiritual and takes the releasing of our faith to grow. Both require patience, and in the end, bring forth the bounty of harvest.

The only place God tells us to test him is in giving our money, where he will prove his living relationship with us.

The New Testament Christian gives being led by the Spirit. We see this in 2 Corinthians 8:5, where Paul talks about the people giving.

This they did, not as we hoped, but first gave themselves to the Lord, and unto us by the will of God.

They first went to the Lord and asked the Holy Spirit for his will before giving it to the minister.

"Every man according as he has purposed in his heart, so let him give, not grudgingly, or of necessity; for God loveth the cheerful giver."

— *2 Corinthians 9:7 (KJV)*

"But this I say, he that soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he who sows bountifully shall reap also bountifully."

— *2 Corinthians 9:6 (KJV)*

If you plant one handful of rice, you will receive a small basket of rice. If you plant one hundred baskets of rice, you will receive a threshing floor with mountains of rice. The same is true in our giving to God.

There is not enough room in this study guide for me to tell all the times I have needed finances, and out of my need, I have given a part of what I did have as a seed of my faith.

As I have sown it, I have released my faith.

Consistently, God has met my needs and lifted me beyond where I would have been had I not trusted him.

CHAPTER 14: GIVING

Fill in the Blanks

1. In the Old Testament we commanded to be obedient and pay our_____.
2. In Jesus Christ God has already given us_____.
3. In the New Testament we are called beyond the obedience in paying our tithe to_____ of all we are, or have, or have, or ever hope to be.
4. In our giving we must first understand God's_____towards us.
5. God's greatest desire is for us to have_____with iim.
6. God so much wants to be God_____us.
7. God's blessing benefits us and ultimately_____he can meet.
8. God created us to have needs_____he can meet.
9. Out of our need we_____our_____.
10. We expect God to meet our needs even if it takes a_____.
11. God desires for us to_____in life through Jesus Christ.
12. We have given enough when we move from our own sufficiency to_____ our faith.
13. The same way we plant a seed in the ground we must also_____the seeds of our finances unto God.
14. After we plant our seed, we need to have_____and remain steadfast in our faith.

15. As a New Testament Christian, we are to be_____of the Spirit in our giving.

16. If we plant a little, we receive a_____when we plant a lot, we receive a _____.

Multiple Choice Questions

1. Jesus came to the earth to_____.

   A. Seek and to shave those who were lost
   B. To baptize the lost
   C. To reveal God's love
   D. To see the Red Sea

2. Jesus died for all so we should_____.

   A. Take it easy
   B. No longer feel sad
   C. No longer live for our-selves
   D. No longer pay tithes

3. Jesus said do not_____.

   A. Store up moths and rust
   B. Leave the food out
   C. And eye for an eye
   D. None of the above

4. In our giving we_____.

   A. Release God's hand to bless us
   B. Get over our guilt
   C. Impress the people

D. Gain a higher place on Sunday

5. We give to_____.

   A. The preacher
   B. The church
   C. Being led of the Spirit
   D. All of the above

6. God desires_____.

   A. Our money
   B. To get rich
   C. To give it to others
   D. Relationship with us

7. God wants to_____.

   A. Take our money
   B. Have us give more
   C. Have us give less
   D. Be God among us

8. We give_____.

   A. On Sunday
   B. In faith
   C. All we can
   D. According to the law

9. We can give in faith knowing_____.

   A. God is the creator of all things
   B. He will supply all our needs
   C. He will keep his word

D. All of the above

Essay Questions

1. What example did Jesus leave us concerning giving?

_____
_____
_____
_____

2. When should we give?

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

3. What happens when we give in faith?

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

CHAPTER 15

PRAYER

".... For my house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations."

— Isaiah 56:7 (NIV)

"And he said to them, it is written, my house shall be called a house of prayer, but you have made it a den of thieves."

— Matthew 21:13 (NKJV)

"Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: For everyone that asketh, receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened. Or what man is there of you, whom if his son ask bread, will he give him a stone? Or if he asks a fish, will he give him a serpent? If ye then, being evil know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?"

— Matthew 7:7–11 (KJV)

"Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father. And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it."

— John 14:12-14 (KJV)

If you believe in Jesus this verse applies to you. If your request can be found in whatsoever and anything, then Jesus is saying to you, I WILL DO IT! Anything God has ever

done for anyone, he is now willing to do for you in answer to your prayer! God is unrestrained in answering your prayer today!

Prayer is where we come to the presence of God himself and find his plan, deliverance, and power. Here, we praise and worship him for all he is, all he has done, and all he is still to do.

> *"But they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint."*
>
> — *Isaiah 40:31 (ESV)*

The only ones who know this place of relationship are those who approach God through Jesus Christ.

In our communion with God, our praying can take on many forms, the same as a conversation with one another. We do have an example of prayer Jesus gave.

> *"After this manner pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil: for thine is the kingdom and the power, and the glory forever, Amen."*
>
> — *Matthew 6:9–13 (KJV)*

> *"For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich."*
>
> — *2 Corinthians 8:9 (NIV)*

> *"In that day you will no longer ask me anything. I tell you the truth, my Father will give you whatsoever you ask in my name. Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete.... In that day you will ask in my name. I am not saying that I will ask the*

Father on your behalf. No, the Father himself loves you because you have loved me and have believed that I came from God."

— John 16:23–24, 26–27 (NIV)

This is how it is when we are in Jesus.

All the riches of Heaven are ours because of him. Our faith in the Cross sets us free from our sins and grants us access to the Father. There, before his throne, we have a relationship with him. The riches of the kingdom are ours through the prayer of faith.

"Thou hast heard, see all this; and not you declare it? I have showed you knew things from this time, even hidden things, and you did not know them. They are created now, and not from the beginning; even before the day when you did not hear them, lest you would say behold I knew them."

— Isaiah 48:6-7 (KJV)

If God doesn't have what you are asking for, he will create the answer and give it to you, for you are his chosen.

In prayer, we come to the throne of our Creator and rest as royalty, clean and free in Christ. Here, we release the power and life of God into our circumstances and the circumstances of others.

"Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need."

— Hebrews 4:16 (NIV)

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition with thanksgiving, present your request to God."

— Philippians 4:6 (NIV)

"Jesus replied, 'I tell you the truth, if you have faith and do not doubt, not only can you do what has been done to the fig tree, but you also can say to this mountain, go throw yourself into the sea, and it will be done. If you believe you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer.'"

— *Matthew 21:21–22 (NIV)*

When we look at the Bible with an honest heart, we find that anything God is capable of doing, he has promised to do in answer to our prayer. This is so amazing that it is more than we can understand without the Spirit's help.

We need to guard our hearts and our intentions when we are before God's throne in prayer. Before you pray, ask yourself, "Am I praying to the God of my convenience, or am I surrendering myself to the Lord of my life?"

Now that we see the availability of his power toward us, let's look at a scripture that speaks to us about our attitude in prayer.

"Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross."

— *Philippians 2:5–8 (NKJV)*

We who are born again in Christ actually have the power of the Creator available here on Earth. We don't need to struggle with this. We just need to believe it in faith. We then need to turn to the Cross and, in humility, surrender it all back to Christ. This is where the Spirit must control us, not the flesh or the intellectual realm.

If our primary goal in praying isn't an ever-increasing intimacy with the Almighty, we will pray out of our own self-will and flesh. We will find ourselves asking God for things and not receiving them.

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

— James 4:3 (NIV)

It is critical that we never take the power of God and seek to waste it to serve our old nature in the lust of the flesh. Some believe that once you are born again, you can take God's power and create your own world of prosperity with your prayer of faith. If we do not surrender to His will, we are actually trying to get God to serve our rebellion. When we are doing this, we are still eating of the "Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil" and aren't walking in the Spirit. We might get a few blessings from God this way. After all, He makes it rain on the just and the unjust. But we will miss out on the relationship of intimacy that God desires to have with us.

This is so pitiful when we compare this attitude with the heart of Jesus.

"For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me."

— John 6:38 (NIV)

Here again, we shouldn't think of the prayer of faith as the starting gun and then go running off to do great things while only checking in with God from time to time.

Nothing is worse than taking Christ and making his grace serve our ambition and selfishness. We must be careful not to be a part of this tragedy. We need to realize that our relationship with him is the greatest benefit any of us will ever receive from prayer.

"If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting on the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God."

— Colossians 3:1-3 (NKJV)

We should see that what we desire outside of Christ is simply an evil desire, and we need to confess this as sin.

> *"And He gave them their request but sent leanness into their soul."*
>
> — *Psalm 106:15 (NKJV)*

> *Who have said, "With our tongue we will prevail; our lips are our own; who is lord over us?"*
>
> — *Psalm 12:4 (NKJV)*

We can believe, confess, and testify, but if we ask for things that are outside God's will and are from our own fleshly desires, we are still in the flesh.

As we live in intimacy with God, and as the Spirit leads, we release our faith and obtain all that God has for us.

We need to have an open, personal relationship with him so that we can express our desires and allow him to show us his will and purpose.

We must always invite the Holy Spirit to help us as we pray. If we take the time to wait, we will find ourselves being led by the Holy Spirit in our prayer times.

We should continue to pray until we agree with him. Then, we can be sure it is God's will for us and for our lives. He can tell one of us to buy a car while commanding the other not to.

Once we know his will, we then need to move forward as we birth his answer to our prayer by faith. Here, we join with the Spirit and inherit the promises as we believe, confess, testify, and praise him for the answer. We speak! The mountain moves! To God be the glory! Amen! The Bible is full of promises that are ours as we seek God's will in prayer.

The most important thing for us is to pray. There are a thousand reasons not to, but the worst prayer is much better than no prayer. We need to know that we have no relationship with someone we never talk to. This is true with God as well as man.

> *"But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward...."*
>
> — *Matthew 6:6 (KJV)*

There will be times when you feel the need to pray for someone or something and find out later that there was a very real need at just that time for your prayers.

Another part of prayer is fasting. In this practice, we go without food and sometimes even water as we wrestle in prayer.

As we study the Scripture, we find that not only God but also angels move in response to our prayer and fasting.

Besides Pentecost, there are four other times in the Bible where long periods of prayer are mentioned:

1. Daniel
2. Jesus
3. The early church praying for Peter
4. Paul

We found that when Daniel fasted and prayed, an angel came to him. When Jesus had finished His temptation in the wilderness, angels came and ministered to Him. When the early church prayed for Peter, who was in jail, an angel came and delivered him. When Paul fasted and prayed in the midst of a storm on the sea, after many days, an angel came and stood by him.

When we become earnest in prayer, the God who created the universe humbles himself and moves the resources of Heaven and earth on our behalf.

It is almost more than we can understand. Now that we are in Christ, we actually share in the commissioning of angels and the creative power of God!

It is in prayer, as we release our faith, that we do battle against the spirit realms of darkness and receive dominion over situations and circumstances. The victory is ours as we stand in the authority of Jesus Christ. The devil and all of his demons, fear and tremble when the Church gets on its knees and begins to move the kingdom of God forward against him.

In these beginning days of you walking with God, let me encourage you to develop a lifestyle of fasting and prayer.

CHAPTER 15: PRAYER

Fill in the Blanks

1. Prayer is where we go to find our_____.
2. In prayer we meet with our_____.
3. When we wait on the Lord. He_____our strength.
4. In prayer we come to the presence of God and find_____, _____ and_____.
5. The only ones who know this_____are those who are saved.
6. _____gave us the example of prayer.
7. All the riches of_____are now ours because of the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross.
8. We are not to be worried about anything but instead with thanksgiving_____ to God.
9. If we believe_____we ask we will receive.
10. Our Father in heaven_____to give us good things.
11. Anything God is capable of doing he has_____to do in answer to our prayer.
12. We need to_____our hearts and our_____before the throne of God in prayer.

13. We who are born again have the_____of the creator available here on earth.

14. We ask and do not receive because we ask with_____.

15. We should never take the power of God and seek to_____it to serve _____.

16. There is nothing worse than taking Christ and making his grace serve our own_____ and_____.

17. We must now what we are asking in prayer in the will of God, then we_____, _____, and_____as we believe for the answer.

18. We need to have an open personal relationship with God in prayer and express our desires and_____him to show us his_____and_____.

19. We need to be_____by the Spirit when we pray.

20. Our Father who sees in_____will reward us_____.

21. Fasting at times needs to_____of our prayer.

22. God_____himself and answer our prayers.

23. It is in prayer we_____our faith.

Multiple Choice Questions

1. Prayer is where we_____.

   A. Find our peace
   B. Talk to God

C. Ask for things
D. All of the above

2. In prayer we_____.

   A. Sleep
   B. Eat Prayer
   C. Whistle
   D. Come into God's presence

3. Prayer should be_____.

   A. Repetitive
   B. Religious
   C. From a book
   D. Personal

4. In prayer we will_____.

   A. Find our money
   B. Find communion with God
   C. Both A and B are True
   D. Only B is true

5. Our Father will give us_____.

   A. Only what he has predetermined
   B. Every-thing we want
   C. Whatsoever we ask in Jesus' name
   D. All of the above

6. The greatest benefit from prayer is_____.

   A. The answer
   B. What we need
   C. Relationship with God
   D. Deliverance

7. Jesus said I have_____.

   A. Lots of money for you
   B. You only live once
   C. Help your self
   D. I have come to do the will of him who sent me

8. To be like Jesus we should_____.

   A. Seek those things above
   B. Fly high
   C. Swim in the ocean
   D. Not eat pork

9. God makes it rain_____.

   A. Only on Sunday
   B. Usually on the mountain tops
   C. Under the umbrella
   D. On the just and unjust

10. Sometimes we need to_____.

   A. Wrestle in prayer
   B. Talk to others
   C. Think about other things

D. Fall asleep

Essay Questions

1. Explain prayer.

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

2. How long should we pray?

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

3. Who should we pray for?

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

CHAPTER 16

THE ENEMY

The devil? Do you mean that cute little guy with the tiny horns who goes around in red pajamas and carries a pitchfork? That impish little fellow who can't hurt anybody? No! He's the one who has deceived us into thinking he's cute and harmless. He's the enemy of our souls! He's the one Jesus spoke of in John 10:10 where he said, "The thief comes only to steal and to kill and to destroy."

He's the evil one the Bible calls "the accuser of the brethren," who hates our loving Father and delights in killing his children.

It's time we go to the Word again and see what the Bible says about who the devil really is.

> *"…. You were the model of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty, you were in Eden, the garden of God; every precious stone adorned you: ruby, topaz, and emerald, chrysolite, onyx, and jasper, sapphire, turquoise, and beryl. Your settings and mountings were made of gold; on the day you were created they were prepared. You were anointed as a cherub, for so I ordained you. You were on the holy mount of God; you walked among the fiery stones. You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created till wickedness was found in you. Through your widespread trade you were filled with violence, and you sinned. So, I drove you in disgrace from the mount of God, and I expelled you O guardian cherub, from among the fiery stones. Your heart became proud on account of your beauty, and you corrupted your wisdom because of your splendor. So, I threw you to the earth; I made a spectacle of you before kings."*
>
> — *Ezekiel 28:12–17 (NIV)*

We read here how God created Satan, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty.

Today, Satan is still in this earth, filled with violence, seeking to rob, kill, and destroy.

> *"You said in your heart I will ascend into heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God; I will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly, on the utmost heights of the sacred mountain. I will ascend above the tops of the clouds; I will make myself like the most high. But you are brought down to the grave, to the depths of the pit."*
>
> *— Isaiah 14:13–15 (NIV)*

There was a time in the eternity past when Satan was in Heaven as an angel of God. When he exalted himself as God, he was judged and cast out of Heaven. It tells us in Revelation chapter twelve that Satan was cast out of Heaven and one-third of the angels fell with him. Jesus spoke of this in Luke 10:18 when he said,

> *".... I saw Satan fall as lightning from heaven."*

Satan is real in the world we live in today, where he still seeks to exalt himself.

The same as God is totally good and there is no bad in him, Satan is totally bad and there is no good in him. He seeks to keep mankind enslaved in sin and deception and at enmity with God.

> *"The god of this age (the devil) has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God."*
>
> *— 2 Corinthians 4:4 (NIV, parenthesis added)*

> *".... Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light, it is not surprising, then if his servants masquerade as servants of righteousness...."*
>
> *— 2 Corinthians 11:14–15 (NIV)*

> *"He who sins is of the devil...."*
>
> *— 1 John 3:8 (NKJV)*

"You belong in your father the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desire. He was a murderer from the beginning not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language for he is a liar and the father of lies."

— John 8:44 (NIV)

Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life.

Satan is the father of lies, and for those who follow him, he leads only to damnation *(eternal punishment).*

"As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath."

— Ephesians 2:1–3 (NIV, parenthesis added)

When we are born again and receive Jesus Christ as our personal Savior, we are no longer children of the devil, but we then become children of God.

"He that commiteth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose, the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil."

— 1 John 3:8 (KJV)

"Since the children (you and I) have flesh and blood, he (Jesus) too shared our humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death—that is the devil—and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death."

— Hebrews 2:14–15 (NIV, parenthesis added)

When you are saved, you are redeemed by the blood of Christ out of the darkness and into God's kingdom of light. This determines our destiny and eternity. Those who remain in darkness will perish with Satan at the end of this age.

When Christ was crucified and rose again, he triumphed over Satan and all his cohorts, making a show of them openly, triumphing over them by rising from the dead and ascending to the Father in Heaven.

> *"…. Do not be afraid, I (Jesus) am the first and the last. I am the living one, I was dead, and behold I am alive forever and ever! I hold the keys of death and Hades."*
>
> — *Revelation 1:17-18 (NIV)*

Today, we find ourselves caught in a battle between two opposing kingdoms. The kingdom of God is found within us, and the kingdom of Satan is found around us in this fallen world of sin and suffering. This will continue until the end of the age when Satan is finally destroyed forever.

> *"Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say: 'now has come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Messiah. For the accuser of our brothers and sisters, who accuses them before our God, day and night has been hurled down. They triumphed over him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony…."*
>
> — *Revelation 12:10–11 (NIV)*

> *"…. the devil, who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of burning sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown. They will be tormented day and night for ever and ever."*
>
> — *Revelation 20:10 (NIV)*

When we come to Jesus and accept him as our Savior, we are translated out of the kingdom of darkness into God's kingdom of light, where we now have a relationship with him.

The dominion Satan held over us is broken. Now, we overcome him by the blood of the Lamb and the Word of our testimony. By our faith in the name of Jesus Christ, we take authority over all power of darkness.

As we live in this hostile land, we conquer the realms of darkness and obtain the inheritance that is ours in Jesus Christ. We do this by our faith and our confession as we walk in holiness with our God.

We have no fear of Satan for God created him, and he must bow to the authority of Christ that is ours as we speak that name higher than any other name.

> *"For your obedience has come abroad unto all men. I am glad therefore on your behalf: but yet I would have you wise unto that which is good and simple concerning evil. And the God of peace shall bruise Satan under your feet shortly. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you Amen."*
>
> — *Romans 16:19-20 (KJV)*

CHAPTER 16: THE ENEMY

Fill in the Blanks

1. The devil comes only to_____, and to_____, and to _____.
2. He is the_____of our souls.
3. The Bible calls him the_____of the brethren.
4. The devil hates our Father in heaven and_____in killing his children.
5. The devil and_____are one and the same.
6. He was the model of_____full of wisdom and perfect in beauty.
7. He was in_____.
8. God ordained him as a_____.
9. He was_____in all his ways until wickedness was found in him.
10. Satan said he would_____into heaven and make himself like the most high.
11. He was_____of heaven.
12. Satan is_____in the world today and still seeks to_____.
13. The same as God is totally good and there is no evil in him so Satan in totally _____, and there is no_____in him.
14. Satan has blinded the minds of_____so they cannot see the light of the gospel.

15. Satan himself masquerades as_____of light.

16. Jesus told the people in John 5:19 they belonged to their father_____.

17. When we were dead in our transgressions and sin, we followed the_____.

18. Those who are not saved are the_____of wrath.

19. When we are saved, we are_____out of the darkness of Satan's kingdom.

20. When Christ was crucified and rose again, he_____over Satan.

21. Jesus now holds the keys of_____and_____.

22. Today we find ourselves caught in a_____between two opposing kingdoms.

23. At the end of this age Satan will be_____.

24. He will be cast into the_____there to be tormented forever.

25. We overcome Satan by the_____of the Lamb and the word of our _____.

Multiple Choice

1. The unbelieving, are deceived, into thinking the devil is_____.

   A. Cute
   B. That he can't hurt anybody
   C. He's a little guy
   D. All of the above

2. We see who the Devil is by_____.

   A. Visiting the disco

B. Visiting the cemetery
C. Listening to modern music
D. Reading the Bible

3. The Devil walked among the_____.

A. Flowers
B. The jewels
C. The fields of rice
D. Fishermen

4. God threw the devil_____.

A. Off the boat
B. Out of the airplane
C. To the earth
D. Into jail

5. When he was cast out_____.

A. Nobody went with him
B. His wife and family went with him
C. The singers went with him
D. One third of the angles went with him

6. He who does what is sinful_____.

A. Is of the devil
B. Needs to repent
C. Can be for given
D. All of the above

7. The devil_____.

A. Has a sense of humor

B. Was a murderer from the beginning
C. Will leave you alone if you do the same
D. Can be seen in the sunset

8. Jesus came to_____.

A. Help us
B. To destroy him who holds the power of death
C. To set us free
D. All of the above

9. Jesus said_____.

A. I am the first and the last
B. I am the living one
C. I am alive forever and ever
D. All of the above

10. When we come to Jesus and accept him as our Savior_____.

A. The Devil's dominion is broken
B. We are translated out of darkness
C. We are translated into the kingdom of light
D. All of the above

Essay Questions

1. Explain the purpose of the devil in the world today.

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

2. Identify some of the ways of the devil's works.

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

3. What are you going to do to guard against the devil?

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

CHAPTER 17

THE FIGHT

Some years ago, when my son Doug was about ten or eleven, we were driving home from school having one of our man-to-man chats. He said something I have never forgotten. He said, "Dad, when I obey you and God, I feel good on the inside, but I have trouble on the outside. And when I do what the other kids want me to do, I have peace on the outside, but I have trouble on the inside.

I'm sure you are also finding this to be true since you've come to know Jesus. After receiving Christ, we find there is a struggle within ourselves between the new man of the spirit and the temptations of this world.

Take a look at the following verses.

> *"Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."*
>
> *— Matthew 26:41 (NKJV)*

> *"Fight the good fight of faith; take hold of the eternal life to which you are called...."*
>
> *— 1 Timothy 6:12 (NAS)*

> *"Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings."*
>
> *— 1 Peter 5:8–9 (NIV)*

"Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms."

— Ephesians 6:10–12 (NIV)

We overcome through our confession and action as we release our faith.

Let's look at some verses on this, and then we will talk about it some more.

".... In which you also were raised with him through faith in the working of God, who raised him from the dead.... having disarmed principalities and powers, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it."

— Colossians 2:12–15 (NKJV)

".... Through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, angels and authorities and powers having been made subject to him."

— 1 Peter 3:21–22 (NKJV)

Jesus Christ destroyed the power of the devil over us when he arose from the dead. This dominion of Jesus has been transferred to us, and by faith, we rule over the darkness.

I pray the same as Paul prayed for the church at Ephesus. Let's read his prayer together.

"Therefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers; that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him, the eyes of your understanding being enlightened, that you may know what is the hope of his calling, what are the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints, and what is the exceeding greatness of his

power toward us who believe, according to the working of his mighty power which he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come. And he put all things under his feet and gave him to be head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all."

— *Ephesians 1:15–23 (NKJV)*

"And raised us up together and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus."

— *Ephesians 2:6 (NKJV)*

These Scriptures show that when Christ arose from the dead, God placed the devil and all his authority under Jesus' feet.

When we receive Christ as our personal Savior, we are placed in his body.

This means that we, too, share in Christ's dominion over darkness as we abide in Him.

Following the resurrection, Jesus took his place at the right hand of the Father, but before doing so, he released his authority into the body of Christ, the Church.

Now that we are in his body, the church, we fit somewhere between His head and his feet.

All dominion has been placed under his feet (the Church being his body), so now as we abide in his body, we too have dominion over the devil and his realm.

We appropriate this by our faith in the finished work of Christ's blood, the Cross, and the victory that is now ours by releasing our confession and faith in Jesus's name.

In the same way God has a beautiful plan for you now, which will end in Heaven, so the devil had a plan for you which would have ended in hell. He was satisfied to leave you alone as long as you kept going his way. He had you so deceived that before you got saved, you didn't even

know that he was your father. All the good you did, he helped you with because he was even using that goodness to convince other people that they didn't need Jesus.

Once you received Christ, you robbed Satan of his plan for you, and he now desires to stop you from taking anything else back from him and his kingdom. He does this by trying to destroy us from the inside through sin and by robbing us of our faith through temporal circumstances.

Let's look at the temptation of Jesus and see how the devil works.

> *"Then Jesus, being filled with the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, being tempted for forty days by the devil. And in those days, he ate nothing and afterward, when they had ended, he was hungry. And the devil said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread.' Jesus answered him, saying, 'It is written, man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.' Then the devil, taking him up on a high mountain, showed him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. And the devil said to him, 'All this authority I will give you, and their glory; for this has been delivered to me, and I give it to whomever I wish. Therefore, if you will worship before me, all will be yours.' And Jesus answered and said to him, 'Get behind me Satan! For it is written, 'you shall worship the Lord your God, and him only you shall serve.' Then he brought him to Jerusalem, set him on the pinnacle of the temple, and said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here. For it is written: He will give his angels charge over you, to keep you and in their hands, they shall bear you up, lest you dash your foot against a stone.' And Jesus answered and said to him, 'It has been said, you shall not tempt the Lord your God.' Now when the devil had ended every temptation, he departed from him until an opportune time. Then Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit to Galilee...."*
>
> — *Luke 4:1–14 (NKJV)*

We see that Satan came and tempted Jesus in the areas of the flesh. He appealed to the desire for the gratification of the body's needs. He tempted Him to walk by sight and not by faith in

testing God's provision. Lastly, he tempted him to doubt that He was the Son of God and offered him a shortcut to obtaining Lordship over all kingdoms without obedience to his Father. These are the temptations we, too, must face.

> *"…. I write to you young men…., because you are strong, and the word of God lives in you, and you have overcome the evil one. Do not love the world…. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in them. For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—comes not from the Father but from the world. The world and its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives forever."*
>
> *— 1 John 2:14–17 (NIV)*

The Spirit, as he leads us, will also allow us to go into the wilderness. There, we will decide whether to serve God or our own sin.

Until we can overcome the desires of the flesh, we can never serve God effectively. The decisions we make in the wilderness will determine our success or failure in walking with God. If we cannot resist temptation, every time God has something good for us, Satan will come in the area of our weakness and try to destroy it. The devil's attack will usually be in the area of our old sin nature as long as he can defeat us there.

When we look at the record of the nation Israel in the wilderness after Moses led them out of Egypt, we sadly see their defeat through their refusal to obey God. They yielded to sin and believed in what they saw instead of believing by faith in what God had spoken to them.

> *"Moreover, brethren, I would not that ye should be ignorant, how that all our fathers were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea; and were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea; and did all eat the same spiritual meat; and did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ. But with many of them God was not well pleased: for they were overthrown in the wilderness. Now these things were our examples, to the intent we should not lust after evil things, as they also lusted. Neither be ye idolaters,*

as were some of them; as it is written, the people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play. Neither let us commit fornication, as some of them committed, and fell in one day three and twenty thousand. Neither let us tempt Christ, as some of them also tempted, and were destroyed of serpents. Neither murmur ye, as some of them also murmured, and were destroyed of the destroyer. Now all these things happened unto them for examples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come. Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall."

— 1 Corinthians 10:1–12 (KJV)

The things that happened to the nation of Israel in the wilderness serve as an example for us. That generation of Israel never came out of the wilderness. They died without obtaining their inheritance as a result of their disobedience and disbelief. They were never able to overcome the temptation to sin.

If Jesus had given in to sin, he would have never come out of the wilderness.

If we give into sin, we will remain in the wilderness, fighting sin.

Did you see how it says that after Jesus overcame His temptation, he returned in the "power of the Spirit" (Luke 4:14) to Galilee?

He then began his ministry of destroying the works of the devil, which ultimately led to his death on the Cross, where he defeated Satan completely.

Our battle against sin is not a one-time event. We will fight our old sin nature and the devil's attacks until we leave this world. If, and when we fail, we must repent and know that He who began the good work in us will complete it.

Everyone who sins breaks the law. In fact, sin is lawlessness.

"But you know that he appeared so that he might take away our sins. And in him is no sin. No one who lives in him keeps on sinning. No one who continues to sin has either seen him or known him."

— 1 John 3:5–6 (NIV)

"My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. And he himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world."

— 1 John 2:1–2 (NKJV)

We must also overcome our sins before we can walk in the power of the Spirit. We must choose to say, by our own free will, "no" to the invitation to sin.

The temptation to sin comes to us through our fallen nature and the influence or suggestion of the devil. We must never blame the devil for our own evil desires, but we must also understand that Satan is real and comes to tempt us into sin.

The apostle Paul said in Galatians that those who are in Christ have crucified the flesh with its affections and lusts. This is true because if we haven't crucified the flesh, every time we try to follow Christ, Satan will come at us in our weakness and stop us with sin.

Our decision to obey the Word and say no to sin must be solid and unwavering if we are to know the victory and power of Christ. In order to do this, we must be careful to continually ask ourselves, "Am I in prayer? Am I in the Word? Am I in fellowship? Am I giving? Am I sharing my faith? Am I in praise and worship?"

The same as we need to eat and sleep to remain strong physically, we also need to do the things I just listed to remain strong in the Lord and free from sin. Once we are free from sin, we are free to say yes to the invitation to join God's army as a holy warrior!

When you have died to sin and self, and you begin to seek only his glory, you will experience a change in your heart. As you spend time in his presence, you will begin to experience the love

that was in the heart of the Father when he sent his Son to suffer and die so we might know life. The more we experience this selfless love, the more we too become willing to forsake our own comfort and increase so that we can share his salvation with those who are still in the dark.

> *"Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith; that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death."*
>
> — *Philippians 3:8–10 (NKJV)*

With painful memories of previous battles lost, the wounds I have received, and sorrow in my heart for past brothers and sisters who have fallen, I need to tell you something.

If you are going to bring forth a fruit that remains from your life as a disciple, you must go to war.

If you just want to be saved and know the gifts and goodness of God, that's okay. But if you really do want to be a disciple and see fruit, you must take up your Cross and share in the fellowship of His sufferings.

> *"They preached the gospel in that city and won a large number of disciples. Then they returned to Lystra, Iconium and Antioch, strengthening the disciples and encouraging them to remain true to the faith. "We must go through many hardships to enter the kingdom of God...."*
>
> — *Acts 14:21-22 (NIV)*

There is an example of the army of God in the account of David and Goliath found in 1 Samuel 17. We read of how the army of Israel, the army of God, was encamped against the Philistines, the army of darkness. Every day, Goliath would come out and challenge the army of Israel and then go back to his side. Satan was satisfied to allow the army of God to camp and

pretend that they were in the battle as long as they sat there and pretended that they were at war, because he knew that he possessed their inheritance. He also knew until they stood up by faith to come against him, he would continue to occupy what God had given to them.

"Oh, how many people, both pastor and congregation, are deceived into believing that discipleship without confrontation and attack is going to gain victory."

Our calling is not only to be sanctified and know victory for ourselves but also to advance the kingdom of God into the darkness of this present world and reclaim others who are lost. To be effective in this fight of faith, we need to understand that our battle is not against flesh and blood but against Satan and his kingdom. This means that we do not fight on the carnal level. Instead, we fight in the realm of the Spirit. This involves a different type of warfare than we are used to.

> *"For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. [4] The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds."*
>
> — *2 Corinthians 10:3-4 (NIV)*

The victory of our faith is realized as we live a life free from sin and disciplined in Bible study, prayer, confession, and worship.

I have already shared with you how important prayer and the Word are. But you need to be aware of the importance of confession and worship in your battle against the enemy. When we confess our authority in Christ, it puts the world, the spirit realms, and even ourselves "on notice" that we belong to God and stand triumphant in Christ. While we are praying and fasting, we will many times turn the battle by our confession, whether negative to defeat or positive in faith to victory. Anytime we begin to doubt God and what He has done, is doing, or will do in the future, we need to confess aloud to ourselves and others what a mighty God we serve. Our confession must stay in agreement with the Word.

By releasing our faith through our speaking, we allow God to be the God who is more than able to accomplish all that we ask and hope for. As we worship him for who he is and his goodness to us, we defeat the realms of darkness that are against us.

As we speak out the Word, confess our authority in Christ, and as we walk in praise and confession, we overcome the enemy and his intentions for us.

Be careful of anyone who is using any of the devil's methods in relating to others. They all appeal to the flesh, and it's easy to be deceived by the adversary. Some of the methods Satan uses against us are deception, fear, intimidation, flattery, manipulation, seduction, procrastination, depression, and others. He is not only evil, but he is also willing to use every evil practice and person against us to stop all that God has for us. He does not fight fairly and is subtle in his allusions as he seeks our destruction.

This will become clearer to you as you live your discipleship in the days ahead. You will discover that the devil is not only busy trying to destroy your personal faith, but he is also at work in the church. We can identify Satan and his false workers by the way they live, the methods they use, and the fruit they bear.

All of this should not move us as we walk in love with faith. We know God has ordained the Church, the body of Christ, of which we are now a part, to show forth his glory and destroy the works of the devil. We have been ordained to live in this spiritual arena, and through faith, bring forth much fruit that remains. Jesus said that he would build his Church, and the gates of hell would not prevail against it. He is doing that now through those who walk in the Spirit and obey the Holy Spirit.

> *"Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ, and maketh manifest the savour of his knowledge by us in every place."*
>
> *— 2 Corinthians 2:14 (KJV)*

The good news is that we are on the winning team!

CHAPTER 17: THE FIGHT

Fill in the Blanks

1. Our enemy is the_____.
2. We must be_____and_____.
3. Our struggle is not against flesh and blood but against the_____forces of _____in the_____.
4. We by_____walk in_____.
5. When Jesus rose from the dead, he disarmed all _____ and_____ triumphing over them openly.
6. Jesus Christ_____the power of the devil over us when he arose from the dead.
7. We need to understand the_____greatness of Christ_____ towards us who believe.
8. We now share in the_____of Christ over the powers of darkness.
9. We appropriate this by our_____.
10. The same way Jesus has a beautiful plan for you the devil has a plan for you that ends _____.
11. Satan used_____to tempt Jesus.
12. The Spirit will lead us into the wilderness where we will_____whether to serve God or our sin.

13. The children of Israel where_____, when they refused to obey God.

14. The children of Israel are to serve as our_____so that we will not lust after evil things.

15. If we give in to sin, we will_____in the wilderness fighting sin.

16. Our battle against sin is not a_____event.

17. If anyone sins, they have an_____with the Father.

18. We must never blame the_____for our sin.

19. Our decision to obey the Word and say no to sin must be_____ and _____, if we are to know victory.

20. Once we are free from_____we are_____to say yes to the _____to join God's army as a Holy Warrior.

21. The more we experience God's selfless love the more we become_____to forsake our own comfort and increase.

22. If you really want to be a disciple and see fruit you must_____your cross and share in the fellowship of his sufferings.

23. Many people are deceived into believing that discipleship without_____and _____will gain the victory.

24. Our calling is to not only be sanctified and know victory for ourselves, but it is also to _____ the kingdom of God.

25. For though we live in the world we do not_____as the world does.

26. We must understand how important prayer and the Word are and also the importance of _____and_____.

27. Now thank be unto God which always causes us to_____in Christ.

28. Our confession must stay in_____with the Word.

29. The devil is not only trying to destroy our personal lives but he is also at work in the _____.

30. Jesus will build his Church through_____.

Multiple Choices

1. Obeying God makes us_____.

   A. Felt good in our pocketbook.
   B. Eat more
   C. Feel good on the inside
   D. Mad sometimes

2. The devil goes around_____.

   A. Looking for some ice cream
   B. A place to sleep
   C. A new car
   D. Someone to devour

3. Put on the_____.

   A. Hat
   B. Full armor of God
   C. Coat
   D. Your shoes

4. We are raised with Christ by_____.

   A. The blood

B. The water
C. The wind
D. Faith

5. After the Resurrection Jesus_____.

A. Got married
B. Bought a home
C. Took a vacation
D. Went into heaven

6. Jesus is the_____.

A. Head of the church
B. The husband of Mary
C. Son of Joseph
D. Mayor of Jerusalem

7. The Devil has a_____.

A. Surprise for you
B. Present for you
C. Fun adventure
D. Plan for you in hell

8. Satan offered Jesus_____.

A. Bread to eat
B. All the kingdoms of this world
C. A new chariot
D. A big fishing boat for Peter

9. The decisions we make in the wilderness will_____.

A. Will see how far it is to the water

B. Determine our success or failure with God

C. Determine who we marry

D. Determine if we are ever going to marry

10. The people in the wilderness made God_____.

A. Not well pleased

B. Proud

C. Happy

D. Jealous

11. Jesus appeared so that he might_____.

A. Go fishing with Peter and John

B. To be king of Judea

C. To take away our sins

D. To walk on the water

12. Those who are Christs' have_____.

A. Gone on Vacation

B. Crucified their flesh

C. Read their Bible through twice

D. Don't talk to people who smoke

13. We must overcome_____.

A. Our sin

B. Our teachers

C. The barking dog

D. Our fear of flying

14. Our righteousness is from God_____.

A. From heaven

B. By faith
C. By obedience
D. By going to Church

15. To fight the fight of faith_____.

A. Have good weapons
B. Do something
C. Wrestle
D. All of the above

Essay Questions

1. List 3 things you should do in fighting the devil.

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

2. List 3 methods Satan uses to relate to others.

_____
_____
_____
_____

3. Explain how Jesus took authority over the devil.

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

4. What must you do to keep from falling away and not finishing your life in Christ?

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

5. What are the things you are fighting now in keeping your faith?

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

6. What can you put in your life today to help you remain faithful and true all the days of your life?

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

CHAPTER 18

THE GREAT COMMISSION

As we begin our walk with God, we realize that the relationship we have found with Jesus is what the whole world is searching for! We begin to be burdened with the need to share the message of His love. This is the heart of the Father. Jesus has now commissioned and sent us to do so as members of His Church.

> *"And Jesus came up and spoke to them saying, 'All authority has been given me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.'"*
>
> *— Matthew 28:18–20 (NAS)*

> *"And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover."*
>
> *— Mark 16:17–18 (NKJV)*

> *".... And you will be witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."*
>
> *— Acts 1:8 (NIV)*

We are to begin telling others about Jesus, first where we are here and now, then to those close by, and then on to the ends of the Earth.

Preaching the good news of the Gospel was the focus of the early Church.

His disciples continued Christ's message in the days following his return to heaven at the end of his ministry on earth.

> *"Peter replied, 'repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins'.... with many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation." Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day."*
>
> *— Acts 2:38, 40–41 (NIV)*

> *"Those who had been scattered preached the word wherever they went."*
>
> *— Acts 8:4 (NIV)*

> *"For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe."*
>
> *— 1 Corinthians 1:21 (KJV)*

Every believer needs to be involved in proclaiming the message of salvation. First, we must always be ready to personally share and give an account of our faith to others. Secondly, we must be a part of the united effort of the Church to take this "good news" to the ends of the Earth.

The apostle Paul wrote about this in his letter to the church at Rome.

> *"How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, how beautiful*

are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!"

— Romans 10:14–15 (KJV)

Let's never be deceived into believing that God has already predetermined who will be saved and who won't. The Scripture tells us that this isn't true.

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

— 2 Peter 3:9 (NIV)

"First of all then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions be made for all men.... this is good, and it is acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth."

— 1 Timothy 2:1, 3–4 (RSV)

I want to encourage you to not hesitate in beginning to share your faith at every opportunity!"

We all tend to find excuses for not doing so.

The time is now!

"Don't you have a saying, 'It's still four months until harvest'? I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest."

— John 4:35 (NIV)

CHAPTER 18: THE GREAT COMMISSION

Fill in the Blanks

1. As a member of Christ Church, we have been_____to share the Gospel.
2. We are to go to_____.
3. We are to baptize them in_____of the_____, the _____, and the_____.
4. Jesus said he would be with us until_____.
5. We find the preaching of the_____was the_____of the early Church.
6. Peter told the people they must_____and be_____.
7. Those who had been scattered_____the word_____ they went.
8. _____believer needs to be_____in_____ the message of salvation.
9. How shall they call upon him whom they_____?
10. How shall they believe in him_____?
11. How shall they hear_____?
12. How shall they preach unless they are_____?
13. How beautiful are the_____of them that bring the Gospel of Peace and _____.

14. Let us never be_____into believing God has already determined who will be saved and who won't.

15. God is not_____anyone to perish.

16. God our Savior desires all men to_____and come to the knowledge of the truth.

17. Do not_____to share our faith.

18. We all find_____not to witness and share our faith.

19. The time to witness and share our faith_____!!!

20. He who_____receives_____and gathers _____unto_____life.

21. When we are_____in sharing the_____we will find ourselves_____many others to Jesus Christ.

Multiple Choice Questions

1. These signs shall follow them:

   A. Dancing
   B. Singing
   C. Feeding the people
   D. Speaking with new tongues

2. These things will be done_____.

   A. In holiness
   B. The evening
   C. In Jesus name
   D. Church

3. They will drink_____and it will not hurt them.

   A. Wine
   B. Grape juice
   C. Anything deadly
   D. Beer

4. They will lay hands on the sick and they_____.

   A. Will sing over them
   B. And they will get sick also
   C. Shall recover
   D. Shall know love

5. The people heard Peter preach and_____.

   A. Begin to worship
   B. Broke bread together
   C. Accepted his message
   D. Were slain in the Spirit

6. We must be a part_____.

   A. Of the worship team
   B. Taking the offering
   C. The united effort of the church
   D. Of the meal afterwards

7. How shall they preach_____.

   A. Without money
   B. Without being ordained
   C. Without being sent
   D. Unless they are invited

8. The Lord is not slow in_____.

   A. Giving us our reward
   B. Destroying everything against us
   C. Keeping his promise
   D. Doing what we tell him to do

9. First of all_____be made for all them.

   A. Supplications
   B. Prayers
   C. Intercessions
   D. All of the above

10. The fields are_____.

   A. Muddy
   B. White unto harvest
   C. Hard and dry

Essay Questions

1. How do you know when you are ready to share the Gospel?

   _____
   _____
   _____
   _____
   _____

2. How do you know the time is right?

   _____
   _____
   _____
   _____
   _____

3. How do you know what to say?

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

CHAPTER 19

THE FINISH

As I have been telling you these things, I have had a burden to somehow help you to see the finish of your walk of faith in Christ.

As we live in an ever-deepening relationship with the Lord, we need to know that we will forever be in His presence.

The only two people we read about in the New Testament who were in Heaven were Jesus and Paul. They both referred to it as "paradise."

It is so fantastic we can't even imagine how wonderful it will be.

Spending eternity there in the love and presence of God should be our motivation and goal all the days of our lives. This expectation should never be far from our minds.

There will be many other glorious moments along the way as we go from victory to victory, but nothing must ever supersede our goal of being with him forever.

> *"After this I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people, and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. And they cried out in a loud voice: Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb."*
>
> — *Revelation 7:9–10 (NIV)*

"For the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd; he will lead them to springs of living water. And God will wipe away every tear...."

— *Revelation 7:17 (NIV)*

This is such a burden to me because I have seen so many fail and fall along the way.

"But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it."

— *Matthew 7:14 (NIV)*

As we walk with God, there are times when he will do things in ways that do not meet our expectations. He will move in ways that we do not understand. Many times, it will appear in the natural realm that what we believe and hope for is never going to happen, and his promises are simply not true.

We must never doubt God's word and his unfathomable love for us! When our vision begins to drift, so does our walk. If we are not careful, we will become disillusioned and doubt our life of faith.

This can cause us to waver and no longer trust. Our doubts bring disbelief, and disbelief brings sin. Sin brings death, and we never see all that God has for us. We must deliberately fix our mind and vision on the love and faithfulness of God in Heaven.

"And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to his purpose."

— *Romans 8:28 (NKJV)*

God will have a people of faith!!!

We must always relate to life from an eternal perspective. When our vision shifts, so does the outcome of our footsteps. Our focus must be home in Heaven with our Lord.

Our discipleship can never depend on how hard the journey is, how high the cost, or even his blessings of today.

> *"Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds. Ye have not yet resisted unto blood, striving against sin."*
>
> — *Hebrews 12:1–4 (KJV)*

From this passage, we see that Jesus endured the cross by focusing his faith on the future day when He would again be in Heaven in the presence of His Father. He was looking ahead to the joy that He would know when you and I received him as our Savior. We, too, must fix our vision on the joy set before us if we are to overcome in our walk of faith.

If we aren't careful, we will yield in our mind to what is against us in the natural realm, instead of being steady in our faith in what we know but cannot see.

My fervent prayer for both of us is that we can one day say as Paul did.

> *For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.*
>
> — *2 Timothy 4:6–8 (KJV)*

We must keep an eternal perspective with Heaven as our goal because the road between here and there is, at times, not easy. This isn't a life of leisure that we've been born into. It's a fight

of faith, where nobody fights fair on the other side. If we don't have a clear vision of ourselves kneeling before Jesus as He speaks, "Well done, good and faithful servant," we will never make it. Our vision is of eternity.

That's why living won't make sense if we only look at it from a temporal perspective. If what other people think of us, our security, the place we live, or anything else means more to us than our place in heaven, we will fall short of God's best for us.

I know this sounds harsh, but it's what the Bible says. If we are going to know all the rewards that God has for us, we must stand without wavering in our faith as we walk in obedience until our last breath here on Earth.

To remain immovable in our walk as disciples, we need to know that one day, we will stand before God to be judged and rewarded for our life here on Earth.

We will be judged for our faith and rewarded for our works.

> *"But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with him those who sleep in Jesus. For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus, we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore, comfort one another with these words."*
>
> *— 1 Thessalonians 4:13–18 (NKJV)*

> *"Do not be amazed at this, for a time is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice and come out—those who have done what is good will rise to live, and those who have done what is evil will rise to be condemned."*

— John 5:28–29 (NIV)

"And it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment."

— Hebrews 9:27 (NKJV)

The Word tells us that the white throne judgment is the first judgment all men must face. This is where we will be judged regarding our acceptance or rejection of Jesus.

"Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. Earth and sky fled from his presence, and there was no place for them. And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done.... Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death. Anyone whose name was not found written in the book of life was thrown into the lake of fire."

— Revelation 20:11–12, 14–15 (NIV)

The Bible shows us that those who have received Jesus and have their names written in the Lamb's Book of Life will pass on from the white throne judgment to the judgment seat of Christ. Believers will then be judged there to determine our rewards, not on whether or not we get to go to Heaven. Think about the following Scriptures.

"Then they that feared the Lord spake often one to another: and the Lord hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the Lord, and that thought upon his name.

And they shall be mine, saith the Lord of hosts, in that day when I make up my jewels; and I will spare them, as a man spareth his own son that serveth him.

Then shall ye return, and discern between the righteous and the wicked, between him that serveth God and him that serveth him not.

For, behold, the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble: and the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the Lord of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch.

But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings; and ye shall go forth, and grow up as calves of the stall.

And ye shall tread down the wicked; for they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet in the day that I shall do this, saith the Lord of hosts."

— Malachi 3:16–4:3 (KJV)

"For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ. If anyone builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw, their work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each person's work. If what has been built survives, the builder will receive a reward. If it is burned up, the builder will suffer loss but yet will be saved—even though only as one escaping through the flames."

— 1 Corinthians 3:11-15 (NIV)

"He who receives you receives Me, and he who receives Me receives him who sent me. He who receives a prophet in the name of a prophet shall receive a prophet's reward.... And

whoever gives one of these little ones only a cup of cold water in the name of a disciple, assuredly, I say to you he shall by no means lose his reward."

— Matthew 10:40–42 (NKJV)

"Blessed are you when men hate you, and when they exclude you, and revile you, and cast out your name as evil, for the Son of Man's sake. Rejoice in that day and leap for joy! For indeed your reward is great in heaven...."

— *Luke 6:22–23 (NKJV)*

As you study the Word, you will also see that there are special crowns promised to various ones, such as the overcomers, the elders, the martyrs, and the righteous. The apostle Paul spoke of his desire to one day stand before his King and to be rewarded with a crown.

"Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such away as to get the prize. Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last; but we do it to get a crown that will last forever. Therefore, I do not run like a man running aimlessly; I do not fight like a man beating the air. No, I beat my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize."

— *1 Corinthians 9:24–27 (NIV)*

After the judgment seat of Christ, we will enter Heaven to be in the presence of our God forever and ever.

"Then I saw "a new heaven and a new earth," for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. 'He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death' or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away."

— *Revelation 21:1–4 (NIV)*

"They are before the throne of God and serve him day and night in his temple; and he who sits on the throne will shelter them with his presence. Never again will they hunger; never again will they thirst. The sun will not beat upon them, nor any scorching heat."

— Revelation 7:15–16 (NIV)

"And the nations of those who are saved shall walk in its light, and the kings of the earth bring their glory and honor into it. Its gates shall not be shut at all by day. And they shall bring the glory and the honor of the nations into it. But there shall by no means enter it anything that defiles, or causes an abomination or a lie, but only those who are written in the Lamb's Book of Life."

— Revelation 21:24–27 (NKJV)

"Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb down the middle of the great street of the city. On each side of the river stood the Tree of Life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. No longer will there be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him. They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light. And they will reign forever and ever."

— Revelation 22:1–5 (NIV)

"Oh! The joy of serving God and being with him forever. I hope you never allow anything to cause this to dim in your heart as you follow on in your walk with Him."

"…. Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his

blood and has made us kings and priests unto God and Father—to him be glory and power forever and ever. Amen."

— Revelation 1:5–6 (NIV)

CHAPTER 19: THE FINISH

Fill in the Blanks

1. We must live our lives in a_____relationship with the Lord.
2. We will one day forever be in_____.
3. The two people in the New Testament that had been heaven were_____ and_____.
4. They both referred to it as_____.
5. To go to heaven should never be far from our minds and should be our_____ and goal all the days of our life.
6. There will be a_____of people in heaven.
7. For the_____will be at the center of the throne
8. There are time God_____we do not_____.
9. Never doubt God's word and his_____for us.
10. We must_____fix our mind and_____on the love and faithfulness of God in heaven.
11. All things_____together for_____to those who love God and are called according to this purpose.
12. We must always relate to life with an_____perspective.
13. We must not grow weary and_____in our minds.

14. We must_____a good_____.

15. One day we will_____before God and be_____.

16. Those who think upon God's name will be his_____and he will spare them.

17. Blessed are you when men_____you and cast out your name as_____.

18. We fight the good fight of faith to obtain a_____that will last _____.

19. The heaven and earth we know now will_____.

20. In heaven we will need no light for the_____will give them light.

Multiple Choice Questions

1. In heaven God will_____.

   A. Send rain
   B. Ride in a spaceship
   C. Be absent
   D. Wipe away every tear

2. Jesus said_____.

   A. The gate is hard to open
   B. The road is rocky
   C. The road is muddy
   D. Narrow the road

3. When we waver in our faith, we_____.

   A. Cheat
   B. Eat too much
   C. Weep
   D. No longer trust

4. Jesus endured the Cross_____.

   A. It didn't hurt
   B. It was easy
   C. It made him famous
   D. Despising the shame

5. The road between here and heaven_____.

   A. Is pretty
   B. Is ugly
   C. Is muddy
   D. Is not easy

6. If we are to know all the reward God has for us we must_____.

   A. Pay our tithes
   B. Stand without wavering
   C. Tell ourselves not to worry
   D. Sing in the choir

7. The first judgement we must all face is the_____.

   A. The judgement of pride
   B. The judgement of location
   C. The white throne judgement

D. The judgement of life

8. To pass the White Throne Judgement we must_____.

   A. We must be Holy
   B. We must not sin
   C. We must be baptized
   D. Born again

9. Those who are born again will then pass on to the_____.

   A. The table of banqueting
   B. The New Jerusalem
   C. The judgement seat of Christ
   D. The Red Sea Crossing

10. There they will receive their_____.

   A. Punishment
   B. Final grade
   C. Rewards
   D. Their new address

Essay Questions

1. What must you do to keep from falling away and not finishing your life in Christ?

   _____
   _____
   _____
   _____
   _____

2. What are the things you are fighting now in keeping your faith?

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

3. What can you put in your life today to help you remain faithful and true all the days of your life?

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

4. What is the one thing you desire most when you get to heaven?

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

CLOSING

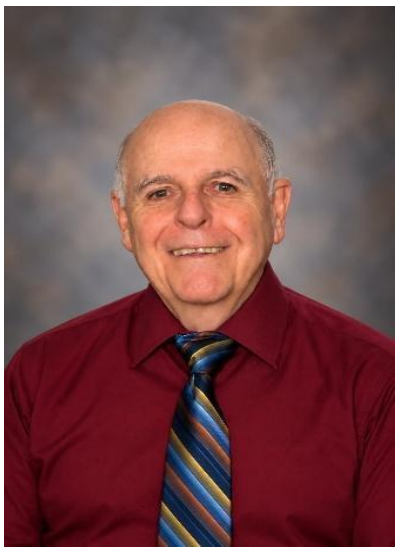
LET US PRAY NOW.

Dear Lord Jesus Christ, how can we thank you enough for Your gift of eternal life to us? We only have praise and worship in our hearts and on our lips for you. Now we see that we are on an incredible journey with you that will never end. We confess that we are so inadequate at being Your disciple. Our deepest desire is to become more like you every day and in every way. Please help us to know a relationship with you, through the Holy Spirit, as we seek to live for you and you, alone. Please walk beside us, hold our hand, and pick us back up when we fail or fall.

We lay our lives at your feet and ask you to be our Lord from this day forward, until we kneel before Your throne in eternity.

In Your name, Jesus, we pray. Amen.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR *(BACK COVER)*



Jim O'Connor was born in eastern Montana and raised on a sheep and cattle ranch. It was during his early boyhood and youth he was among the sheep and learned the ways of the shepherd. He surrendered his life to Jesus Christ when he was 23 and became his disciple. Jim pastored his first outreach church three years later.

He received his Ministerial Diploma from the Assemblies of God Berean School during this time and then went on to obtain a Bachelor of Arts degree in Bible and Theology. Jim believes strongly in the Indigenous Church and has pioneered several churches as well as serving as an evangelist to the church. He completed a Crossroads School at Youth with a Mission in Solvang California in 1979. Jim was ordained by Grace Gospel International in 1980. He has served the church as usher, deacon, treasurer, elder, associate pastor, senior pastor, and evangelist in various non-denominational churches.

He moves in the anointing of the Holy Spirit and yields to the gifts as the Spirit wills. Throughout his Christian life Jim has carried a burden for those in prisons and jails. He was a director of Turning Point Ministries as well as ministering in Montana State Prison. He was a Jail Chaplin in Lewis & Clark County, Montana for 15 years. Jim has served as a Gideon Chaplin and as the president of the Full Gospel Businessmen in Helena, Montana. He has served as principal and in other capacities in Christian Schools. He has been involved in many other Christian organizations in areas where he has lived.

Jim has ministered in Methodist, Assembly of God, Four Square, Grace Gospel, Church of God, and Pentecostal Holiness churches as well as numerous non-denominational groups and fellowships.

He is the author of "The Foundations of Our Christian Faith," as well as several other books. Jim has at times been supported by the Church and at other times he has ministered from his own resources.

For the past 20 years Jim has traveled across SE Asia and Africa doing Pastors conferences and teaching in Bible and Ministry Schools.

He is currently the founder and international director of Equipping the Saints International Ministries and the website biblesnandbooks.world where he continues in equipping the churches and individual believers in taking up the Cross and "go ye into all the world."

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