

# **Foundational Christian Teachings**

*A Quick and Easy  
Study of the Most Important  
Christian Teachings*

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All Scriptures Taken From The New American Standard Bible.

This study was developed using the New American Standard Bible  
however most translations should work with this study.

## **PREFACE**

It is very important to lay the foundations of the Christian faith in a simple and direct way. Too often, when someone becomes a Christian, they are left on their own. They do not get a complete and thorough understanding of the basic Christian doctrines. They have to gather their understanding of the faith by pieces, through sermons, friends and studies here and there. And, so often, if there is a basic study, it will usually be only on one subject and then it is very lengthy. This study gives the most important doctrines in a simple and direct way. The purpose of this study is to give an over all skeletal understanding of the whole Christian teachings, to supply the young Christian with a good foundation upon which he can start building.

I wish someone could have laid these things out for me, simply and clearly, early in my Christian beginnings. That is why this study is such a blessing. Many of the doctrines and understandings included in this booklet took me years to hear, learn and experience. These studies give you the cream of the issues, simply and quickly. This study will help give you quick, whole growth and understanding.

Therefore, the format of this study seeks to be easy and straightforward. Each lesson contains, first, an explanation sheet that states the idea clearly, followed by a fill-in-the-blank Bible study sheet, which can give you direct insight into the teaching of each lesson directly from the scriptures.

God bless you as you grow and become a disciple of Jesus Christ.  
*"We proclaim Him, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, that we may present every man complete in Christ"*  
*Colossians 1:28.*

Rev. Wallace Shea



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## **UNDERSTANDING SALVATION**

How do we understand what salvation is about? Jesus often told Parables, which are simple stories to explain a point. Here is such a parable:

### **A PARABLE:**

There were two brothers who always argued about which one had the fastest car. So, one day they decided to settle the argument by having a drag race on the street. But after they started, they saw a red blinking light behind them. They were arrested and brought into court.

The judge heard the case, then, gave the verdict. Guilty. \$100 or 10 days in jail. The boys were in trouble. They had spent all they had on their cars.

But, the judge got up from behind the bench; came down around in front with the boys and said, "Sons, (You see they happened to be his own sons) you broke the law. But, I am an honest and just judge and I cannot overlook the wrong; You are guilty. But, because I love you- He held out his hands with the payment in them- I offer to pay the penalty."

Now the one son was arrogant toward His father and said, "I don't need you or your help, leave me alone, Dad I want nothing to do with you." So, the bailiff came and took him to jail. But, the other son said, "Gee thanks Dad! You are amazing; you are fair and just and even with all the trouble I've cause you, you still love me and want to help me. Thanks Dad." So, he accepted the payment His father offered, paid the court and went home with His Dad a free and happy young man.

### **IT IS A TRAGEDY**

God greatly loves us and has created everything that we enjoy and wants us to have an abundant and fulfilling life; yet mankind has turned away from God, denying His love and support and sought wicked devises for himself. Yet, God must judge wickedness.

God did not want puppets, so he gave man a free will. God does not impose His will on us, but allows us our own choices and devises; yet, we will have to give an account for all we do, for God is a just and righteous judge. If wrongs were not condemned, that would be a travesty of justice.

### **BUT GOD HAS HELPED US**

God loves you in spite of any wrongs you have done, and indeed the Bible shows us none of us are without sin (Romans 3:10-12; Isaiah 64:6). So He came in the form of a man, being called Son of Man and Son of God- Jesus and he stepped into our place of punishment to receive the punishment due to us and died upon a cross.

**GOD'S ASSURANCE TO US**

So now God says to us that everyone who accepts what I have done through Jesus Christ on the cross and entrusts their lives to me- I will save from eternal condemnation and give them eternal life with me.

"For God so loved the world, He gave His only begotten Son so that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." John 3:16

**UNDERSTANDING SALVATION**

(This lesson is taken mostly from chapters 1-5 of Romans.)

What is God's attitude towards the wrong actions and attitudes of mankind? (Romans 1:18)

Are men free from being guilty because they do not know what is right and wrong?

(Romans 1:19) Explain.

With every step that man takes away from God, notice how things change:

Name two things that happen to men when they do not give Him honor and thanksgiving.

(Romans 1:21) 1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

In each of the following verses, mention what happens:

Verse 22 \_\_\_\_\_

Verse 23 \_\_\_\_\_

Verse 24 \_\_\_\_\_

Verse 25 \_\_\_\_\_

Verses 26 & 27 \_\_\_\_\_

Verse 28 And when they do not acknowledge God any longer:

\_\_\_\_\_

Verses 29-31 \_\_\_\_\_

Verse 32 And even though they know that those who practice such things are worthy of death, they not only do the same, but they also-

\_\_\_\_\_  
According to Romans 2:9-10 what will happen to everyone who does evil?

\_\_\_\_\_  
What will happen to everyone who does good? \_\_\_\_\_

So, will there be some people who will go to heaven because they are good? (Romans 3:9-12)

\_\_\_\_\_ Why? \_\_\_\_\_

So, what did God do about this situation? (Romans 5:6-9)

\_\_\_\_\_  
If someone gives us a gift, what must we do in order to have it? (John 1:11-12)

\_\_\_\_\_

## **THE WORD OF GOD**

It is good to know that God has not left us without a clear revelation and instruction of Himself and His will for our lives. He has done this through the historical writings of men in the book we call the Bible.

The Bible is like no other book. It claims divine inspiration and carries a consistent theme. This is particularly amazing as we realize it is actually a compilation of writings written by people of God over a period of over 1500 years. It is written in four languages and it comes out of man's history. It did not mysteriously appear, nor is it just a philosophy of men. It is an historically accurate and trustworthy account of God's dealings with mankind.

The intellectual and academic reasons to trust its authority are overwhelming. Events, times and places that were unknown for centuries (and thus used to be doubted by many) have now (with our increased scientific and archeological knowledge) been shown to be surprisingly true. We cannot take the time here to fully discuss all this, but would refer you to such books, as written by Josh McDowell, such as Evidence That Demands A Verdict.

Jesus said of His words- "Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine, and acts upon them, may be compared to a wise man, who built his house upon the rock. And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and burst against that house; and yet it did not fall, for it had been founded upon the rock. And everyone who hears these words of Mine, and does not act upon them, will be like a foolish man, who built his house upon the sand. And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and burst against that house; and it fell, and great was its fall" Matt. 7:24-27.

It's words are for us as food for our souls. Jesus said, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but on every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God'" Matt 4:4.

We do not need to argue it's validity. It has a power in and of itself as we hear it or as others hear it. It is self-authenticating (meaning, its authority becomes self evident). Many people who doubt it's authority have not truly studied it out. Many times people will say they don't believe it, yet when asked, they will admit they have never read it.

It is also like no other book in its prophecy. No other religious book can point to any valid prophecies given in it that came true. The Bible, on the other hand, has hundreds of remarkable prophecies, which have been specifically fulfilled. This gives us faith that the many other prophecies yet to be fulfilled will also happen as they have been foretold.

God declares in many places in scripture that His word does have power and it will have its effect: "Is not My word like fire? declares the Lord, and like a hammer which shatters a rock?" Isaiah 23:29. We just need to use it and we will see God's power at work in our lives and in the lives of others!

## THE WORD OF GOD

*What Does the Bible Say About Itself?*

Read II Peter 1:20-21, then reply to these questions:

Was the creation of the Bible by the will of men? \_\_\_\_\_

Whose interpretation of the Bible should we seek? \_\_\_\_\_

Did men pen the Bible? \_\_\_\_\_

Is it a product of some men's minds? \_\_\_\_\_

Fill in the blanks after reading II Timothy 3:16 and 17.

All scripture is \_\_\_\_\_ by God and  
\_\_\_\_\_ for . . . .

What are four things is it useful for:

1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_ 4. \_\_\_\_\_

And these things are give so that . . .

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

Other Scriptures:

Who can best teach us what the Bible is saying? (John 14:26) \_\_\_\_\_

So, then the author is also our \_\_\_\_\_

Only the most intelligent and learned can understand the scriptures, right? ---Psalm 119:130

\_\_\_\_\_ Who Can? \_\_\_\_\_

Many people today tell us the words in the Bible are not that accurate or important, but the basic idea behind it is the Word of God. What was Jesus' attitude about this as is shown in

Matthew 5:18 \_\_\_\_\_

Matthew 5:19. \_\_\_\_\_

According to Hebrews 4:12 The Word of God is \_\_\_\_\_  
and \_\_\_\_\_  
and \_\_\_\_\_  
because it pierces as far as \_\_\_\_\_  
and as far as \_\_\_\_\_  
and it is able to \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

We are in a spiritual battle and in Ephesians 6:10-18 it tells us about our armor we are to put on.  
Only one part of that armor is offensive. What is our offensive weapon to be?

\_\_\_\_\_

If someone brings to us a teaching we haven't heard, how should we be noble-minded and check things out? Acts 17:11 \_\_\_\_\_

## **THE OLD LIFE AND THE NEW LIFE IN CHRIST**

When a person receives Jesus Christ into one's life, he becomes born again (John 3:3-5) as his spirit is united to Jesus' spirit (I Corinthians 6:17). One becomes a new person. "Therefore if any man is in Christ he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold new things have come." (II Corinthians. 5:17)

Yet, many young Christians are confused after they become Christians. They perhaps expected everything would be different--problems automatically solved. When bad thoughts or dreams happen they say, "How can this be if I am a Christian. Perhaps I'm not really a Christian after all, if this happens." It is helpful then to understand the nature of our new lives in Christ.

A person is spirit, soul and body (I Thessalonians. 5:23). The spirit is that life-giving force in our inner being that gives us life. The soul contains our mind, emotions, will and those things that make us a unique person. The body is our physical house we live in. Mankind is cut off from God in spirit, soul and body and is in a mortal state of death. But, God's purpose in Christ is to restore individuals to life eternal in Christ's own likeness: spirit, soul, and body.

When a person becomes a Christian, one is united (reborn) in spirit to God in Jesus, but the physical body will not be changed until the resurrection. What happens now is that Christ is in our spirit in our inner being, (our heart); but yet (our soul) who we are in our thought patterns still are as they have been, our brains are the same, our natural desires we had before being a Christian have not left us. So now, we constantly have the choice in our souls to follow the spirit or the desires of the flesh ( I Peter 2:11; Romans 12:1-2; Galatians 5:16-17).

So now, as we learn to follow Jesus, conforming our lives to Him, He becomes more manifest in our lives. As we turn to the Lord, and follow Him in faith, we are "obtaining, as the outcome of our faith, the salvation of our souls." (I Peter 1:1-9)

Yes, Christians might fall into sin, but our salvation is based upon our trust in Him, not our deeds. You cannot be a Christian by just being good. We do not base our being Christian on our trying to be good, but on our faith in the one who has entered into our lives and made a new person of us in the inner man.

As a friend of mine once said, "Being a Christian is like being pregnant; you either are or you aren't. It's just that it shows more on some than on others."

## **THE OLD LIFE AND THE NEW LIFE IN CHRIST**

*"Therefore if any man is in Christ, he is a new creature;  
the old has passed away; behold new things have come." II Corinthians 5:17*

Jesus said all men need (John 3:3-5) \_\_\_\_\_

The rest of this lesson concentrates on Romans 8, so after reading the explanation sheet read carefully Romans 8 then do this study:

Why do you think that is necessary? (Romans 3:10-18)

\_\_\_\_\_

Does condemnation for our sins come upon those who have united themselves to Jesus Christ?

(Romans 8:1) \_\_\_\_\_

But, how is sin paid for then? (Romans 8:3-4a)

\_\_\_\_\_

There are two natures according to Romans 8:5. They are:

a. \_\_\_\_\_

b. \_\_\_\_\_

The mind that is set on the flesh results in (8:6) \_\_\_\_\_

The mind that is set on the spirit results in (8:6) \_\_\_\_\_

Can a person living by the natural flesh obey God's laws? (8:7) \_\_\_\_\_

Can he please God? (8:8)

\_\_\_\_\_

According to verse 9, what is essential to being a Christian?

\_\_\_\_\_

Does a Christian living in the world now have an eternal body? \_\_\_\_\_

Why? (8:10)

\_\_\_\_\_

Is a Christian's spirit alive? Why? (8:10) \_\_\_\_\_

Whose righteousness is shared with our spirit? \_\_\_\_\_

How will our bodies be brought along to eternal life? (8:11) \_\_\_\_\_

Who are sons of God (8:14)

"Abba" is a baby's word meaning "Daddy". According to 8:15 who is the baby and who is the "Daddy"?

Who says we are children of God? (8:16) \_\_\_\_\_

Where is this being said? (8:16) \_\_\_\_\_

The Bible promises Christians no troubles or struggles in this world, right? (8:18) \_\_\_\_\_

What event will complete our salvation? (8:23) \_\_\_\_\_

Even though there may be troubles yet we rejoice because..(8:31) \_\_\_\_\_

If God gave us His own beloved son to die on the cross for us what do you think His attitude toward us is about other things? (8:32) \_\_\_\_\_

So now, our spirits are perfect and right with God, and in the future our bodies will be restored, yet by following after the Spirit, we are not to (Romans 12:2) be conformed to this world, but we are to \_\_\_\_\_ so that we may \_\_\_\_\_

## **THE OLD TESTAMENT LAW AND THE NEW TESTAMENT LAW**

The great joy we have as Christians is the freedom we have from legalities. In the Old Testament God showed mankind the law, but now as John says, "The law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ." (John 1:17)

Many who study the New Testament come to an understanding that we are no longer bound to the Old Testament law. We have "died to that by which we were bound." (Romans 7:6) But the question then naturally follows: "Is there no law for the Christian; are we lawless?" Some have used that as an excuse to live freely in sin. What about the Ten Commandments and the other laws? How do we, therefore, now view the old law?

After some time of questioning and prayer, God opened my eyes to the answer. Romans 8:2 says, "For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and death." Is there another law, now, for the Christian? Yes! For, "the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus" has set us free from the law of sin and death. So we now live our lives under the law of the Spirit of Jesus Christ in our lives. It is not a law we are forced to obey or that is written with pen and ink. It is a new law of conscience within us as we gladly, willingly obey the Spirit of Jesus Christ in our hearts (Jeremiah 31:31-33; Ezekiel 36:26-27).

What do we do, now then, with the Old Testament law? What is its purpose? God gave the Old Testament law to teach us right and wrong, good and bad, justice and injustice, and give us a picture of himself and life in His presence. As we see the law we begin to understand sin and its consequences and the need of righteousness. The law also helped us to keep our lives in order. It became our Tutor (Gal. 3:24) as Paul says, to teach us and to keep us until God's plan became fulfilled in Jesus Christ.

The O.T. law of Moses is like a written description of what God is like. God does not steal; God does not kill; God does not covet; etc. It is like this: while we are writing a description of Jesus on the wall, Jesus himself suddenly appears and stands by us. Then we say, "This written description is only a description, but here He is Himself, so now follow Him instead." That is why, when Jesus came He said things like: "You have heard it said, "do not commit murder" but I say to you do not even hate your brother" (Matthew 5:21-22) and, "You have heard it said "Do not commit adultery" but I say to you every one who looks on a woman to lust for her has committed adultery with her already in his heart." (Matthew 5:27-28) That is why Jesus said "Do not think that I came to abolish the law... I did not come to abolish but to fulfill." He is the true, fully embodied spiritual law. (Matthew 5:17)

Is the O.T. of any use to us now? Most certainly! It is still an outward explanation of God, His ways, and His laws, and we learn much from it because it is a shadow of the true law and spiritual realities. (Hebrews 10-1) The law showed us sin. But on the cross Jesus took upon himself all the penalties of sin which the law was crying out against us (Colossians 2:14). He suffered and died as a result. The full penalty has now been made. Now as we unite ourselves to Jesus our penalties have been paid; we are considered dead to the world. So we are dead to the old law and its consequences.

How might we explain this concept which Paul talks about in Romans 7:4-6? It might be difficult to understand but sometimes a parable can help bring the light. How about this one?

A Parable: There were two men who each ran a red light. One was ticketed: one was not. One man drove through and the police arrested him and he had to pay the penalty. The other man, as he drove through the red light had an accident and was killed, but the police did not give him a ticket or arrest him. Why?

Can you make up a parable of your own which would explain the spiritual truth of salvation or of being freed from law to grace?

**THE OLD TESTAMENT LAW**  
**AND THE NEW TESTAMENT LAW**

*"The law has become our tutor to lead us to Christ that we may be justified by faith.  
But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor.  
For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus." Galatians 3:24-26*

(Background reading for this lesson is Galatians 3 and Romans 7.)

According to the above printed verses in Galatians 3:24-26 what was the purpose of the old law: \_\_\_\_\_

According to Hebrews 10:1 the law was a \_\_\_\_\_

Not only does the Old Testament law show us what is good and bad, it also is a (Hebrews 8:4-5) \_\_\_\_\_

According to Galatians 3:22 can anyone hope to be sinless because he has obeyed all the law? \_\_\_\_\_

According to Romans 7:7 what is another thing the law does? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

In the context of Galatians 3 the promise of righteousness is being talked about. According to verse 22 how can a person receive that promise of righteousness?  
\_\_\_\_\_

Did Jesus come to change the law (Matthew 5:17)? \_\_\_\_\_

What is He in regards to the law? \_\_\_\_\_

God has given men the Old Testament law to live by, which we were bound to obey. According to Paul's example in Romans 7:2-3 how is someone released from a legal restriction? \_\_\_\_\_

How have we been released from the Old law (Romans 7:4)? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Are we now then Lawless? \_\_\_\_\_ Have we been joined to some other obligation? What/who? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

According to Romans 7:6 from what have we been released? \_\_\_\_\_

We have been released so that \_\_\_\_\_

We now are not lawless but we are released from an old law of bondage so that we might belong to the living law of Jesus Himself. HALLELUJAH!

*"For the law of the Spirit of Life in Christ Jesus has set you free  
from the law of sin and death."*

*Romans 8:2*

## **BAPTISM**

There is one event which Jesus asks his followers to participate in which clearly identifies those who are His -- baptism. In baptism a person makes a decision of whether or not to become a Christian. It is a Christian's first act of obedience.

In many cultures individuals are allowed to listen to Christians, fellowship with them, even study with them, but when they become baptized they are then ostracized from their culture because everyone recognizes when they are baptized they have become a Christian. So, too, in our culture many may talk the talk of being Christian but baptism marks the commitment.

What is baptism? The Bible gives baptism a working definition. It says in I Peter 3:21 "Baptism now saves you--not the removal of dirt from the flesh, but an appeal to God for a good conscience--through the resurrection of Jesus Christ." Is baptism then some ritualistic, magical act that saves? No. Baptism is an inward step of faith that is demonstrated by an outward act of obedience, in which we are calling out to God, asking that we become right with Him through Jesus Christ.

Secondly then, baptism is an action in which we, by faith, unite ourselves with Jesus Christ in His death, burial, and resurrection. See Romans 6:3-11.

Third, we can say it is a witness to everyone that we have become a Christian. It is a witness to the world. It is also a witness to ourselves that we have become Christian. One may not remember exactly when we had the first thought of turning to Christ, but one can remember the physical act, of Baptism which is our action by choice to follow Christ. It becomes a witness to us also in our memories.

The mode (method) of baptism is sometimes debated. The inward faith is the vital point, we nevertheless desire to follow the New Testament method. The Greek word (the New Testament was written in Greek) for baptism is "baptismos". It means literally to immerse, dip, wash. And the context of passages talking about baptism usually talks about "much water," "coming up out of the water", etc. which all seem to indicate the people went down into the water and were put under it and brought back up. Also, we see it best pictures the Biblical explanation that baptism is our death, burial and resurrection with Christ. See Romans 6:3-7.

## **BAPTISM**

*"Baptism now saves you--not the removal of dirt from the flesh, but an appeal to God for a good conscience-- through the resurrection of Jesus Christ." I Peter 3:21*

According to the above verse, is it the physical act of washing that is vital? Why?

---

If someone is baptized without it meaning anything to the individual himself, is it true baptism?

---

According to this verse, how are we saved?

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Who first started baptism? Matthew 3:1-6 \_\_\_\_\_

What was the purpose of John, the Baptist? Matt. 3:3 \_\_\_\_\_

What did John say the one who was coming after him would do? Matt. 3:11

---

According to Matt. 3:13-17 was Jesus, our leader and example, baptized? \_\_\_\_\_

Was it necessary? 3:15? \_\_\_\_\_

Did Jesus baptize? John 3:22 \_\_\_\_\_

Did Jesus' Apostles encourage baptism? Acts 2:38-39 \_\_\_\_\_

Did other disciples encourage baptism? Acts 8:12 \_\_\_\_\_

So do you think baptism is to continue to the end of the world? Matthew 28:18-20

---

According to Matt. 28:19, what are we to be baptized into? \_\_\_\_\_

According to Romans 6:3-11, our baptism is also our (verse 4) \_\_\_\_\_

(verse 4) so that we, too, might \_\_\_\_\_

If we are baptized we can be assured we will also (verse 5) \_\_\_\_\_

Verse 10 and 11 tell us we should have this attitude toward sin: \_\_\_\_\_

---

Someone asked a very important question. Have you asked this same question? (Acts 8:36)

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## **PRAYER**

One of the exciting discoveries in a new Christian's life is that of prayer. At first, for many, prayer can seem difficult and confusing since one has never prayed before and perhaps has only heard formalized church prayer. But, the great discovery is that in prayer we can simply talk to God as we would to any friend. Simply speak and He hears us (Psalm 116:1-2). God is concerned about our every concern regardless how small or how great (Philippians 4:6). He loves us and wants us to communicate with Him and He with Us (Jeremiah 33:3).

Prayer does not even need to be vocalized for God to hear. He hears our inward thoughts and prayers (Psalm 139:2-3).

Nor do we need to be in a certain place or a certain physical stance. He will hear us wherever we are and in whatever position we are in (I Kings 8:54; Matthew 6:6; Acts 1:24; II Kings 20:1-5). He is just concerned about our heart's attitude.

We cannot come to God on our own merit, for all have sinned (Isaiah 64:6-7). But, we come through Jesus Christ. He is our bridge, our mediator to God. (I Timothy 2:5). Now when we pray we come in Jesus' name and God answers our prayers (John 16:23-27).

In the following study we will look at important attitudes, we must have in prayer. Study them closely, learn to pray.

But, why pray? Isn't God doing everything the way He wants anyway? NO! Men have sinned and separated themselves from God and thus the world is in a fallen condition because of the alienation of sin. (Ephesians 2:1-3; Romans 8:20-22)

The Christian is now a representative of the Kingdom of Heaven on the earth (Matthew 5:14; John 17:18). We are to intercede for the earth's people and their situations. We are to be ministers of God carrying out His will. In prayer, we ask for His will, His help and His presence in a world suffering from the effects of sin.

## **PRAYER**

*"Lord, teach us to pray." Luke 11:1*

In Luke 11:1-12 Jesus responds to his disciples' request of teaching them to pray. According to this scripture what are our first thoughts in prayer to be? List the two in vs. 2:

1) \_\_\_\_\_ (What does that mean?) \_\_\_\_\_

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

What is another request in prayer (vs. 3)? \_\_\_\_\_

What do we say about our sins (vs. 4)? \_\_\_\_\_

What is our attitude to be towards others sins against us? (vs. 4) \_\_\_\_\_

Why is this attitude important (Matt. 6:14-15)? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What else are we to ask for in vs. 4? \_\_\_\_\_

The following are other important attitudes we are to have if we want effective prayer:

### **PERSISTENCE**

In the story Jesus tells next in Luke 11:5-8, why did the man's friend get up and give him what he wanted? Because he was his friend right? \_\_\_\_\_

In another story in Luke 18:1-7, how did the woman get an answer of help from an unwilling judge? \_\_\_\_\_

If we don't get an answer at first to prayer what should we do? (Luke 11:9-10)

### **ASKING**

What is a main reason we will not get anything? (James 4:2b) \_\_\_\_\_

Why do we think God will give us anything good we ask for? (Luke 11:11-13) \_\_\_\_\_

### **FAITH**

When can we have complete confidence that God will answer our prayers? (I John 5:14-15)

How can we get faith that something is God's will? (Romans 10:17)\_\_\_\_\_

Will our faith attitude affect our prayer results? Why? (James 1:6-8)\_\_\_\_\_

---

Why does our trusting God make Him quicker and more willing to respond to our prayers? Because, it pleases Him when we trust Him. We are saying, "Yes, God I believe you are good; I trust you". You can read the following verses and see how the idea of pleasure is in there. (Hebrews 10:38; 11:5; 11:6)

## **BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT**

John, the Baptist, came baptizing in water to prepare the people for the coming of the Lord. John was preparing the people for a greater event; "I baptize you with water; but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit." All four Gospels record this initial statement. (Matthew 3:11, Mk. 1:8, Luke 3:16, John 1:33)

What is it? The word, "baptize" means to immerse. Thus, to be baptized in the Holy Spirit is to be immersed in the Spirit. One may have the Spirit of God in his inner spirit, but it is not until the Spirit has the man totally, spirit, soul, and body, that the Spirit can work in power through that person's life. The Baptism in the Holy Spirit is the initial filling of the Holy Spirit in which the person is totally yielded and moving under the Spirit's influence.

Is it a distinct event apart from salvation? This is a question that is controversial and very important. I believe the scriptural example clearly demonstrates that it is a distinct event not to be confused with salvation (being born again). Acts 8, for instance, shows that although the people had believed and been baptized, had seen miracles, and had much joy, yet the apostles later prayed for them to receive the Holy Spirit. Another example is in Acts 19. Paul, after witnessing to and baptizing some men in Ephesus then lays his hands on them to receive the Spirit. The terms: "receive the Spirit," "came on", "poured out", "fell on". "filled with", "baptized with", are all used interchangeably for the same experience.

But, doesn't one have the Holy Spirit working in his life when he becomes a Christian? Certainly, you can not be a Christian without having Christ's Spirit join with your spirit making you a new person (being born again). Jesus is our example in all things, including this. Wasn't He was conceived by the Holy Spirit; and didn't He have the Spirit of God working with Him before He received the Spirit? Yes. But, nevertheless, He received the person of the Holy Spirit after His baptism and thus, was led into ministry.

What is the purpose of the baptism of the Holy Spirit? Power!! Even though the Apostles had seen Jesus resurrected from the dead and were trained by Jesus for three years, yet Jesus insisted they not do anything until they received the Baptism of the Holy Spirit (Acts 1). He said, "You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you." The baptism in the Holy Spirit gives a Christian boldness to witness and sensitizes him to the spiritual life. There is a new dimension of life that opens up, it is an exciting powerful Spirit led life.

Will I speak in tongues or prophesy when I experience the baptism in the Holy Spirit? While we cannot be dogmatic about that, nevertheless, it seems to be a common experience when individuals received the Holy Spirit in the Old Testament or New Testament, it often refers to their prophesying or speaking in tongues. (Speaking in tongues is equal to prophesy in another language.) Numbers 11:25; 1 Samuel 10:10; Luke 1:41-48; Acts 2:4; 19:6 are examples. Do I have to have the baptism in the Holy Spirit? This would be similar to asking, "If I become a Christian, do I have to pray?" The answer is yes, if you desire the Lord's will in your life.

## THE BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT

*"And I remembered the word of the Lord, how He used to say, 'John baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit'." Acts 11:16*

The first time the phrase "Baptism in the Holy Spirit" is used is in Matt. 3:11. Who is using the term? \_\_\_\_\_ Who is baptizing in water? \_\_\_\_\_

Who is going to be the one who will be the baptizer? \_\_\_\_\_

Read Acts 1:1-11. At what stage of Jesus' ministry on the earth is this? \_\_\_\_\_

According to this passage what verse was the last one He spoke before leaving earth?

\_\_\_\_\_

Jesus obviously felt this was very important for His disciples. What was Jesus' command?

(v. 4) \_\_\_\_\_

What was going to happen to the disciples? (v. 5) \_\_\_\_\_

What was the effect going to be on the disciples? (v. 8) \_\_\_\_\_

The following is a study of the five recorded instances in Acts of people receiving the Spirit.

### **PENTECOST**

Acts 2 What happened to the Apostles when the Holy Spirit came on them? (v. 2-4)

\_\_\_\_\_

What term was used in regards to what happened to them by the Spirit?

(v.4) \_\_\_\_\_ What other term was used to describe this event? (Acts 1:5)

\_\_\_\_\_

### **SAMARIA**

Acts 8:5-24 Were the Samaritans baptized believers? (v. 12) \_\_\_\_\_

What happened after that? (vss. 14-17) \_\_\_\_\_

Note: Many commentaries believe something noticeable happened as the people received the Spirit, because Simon, the magician, "saw" something happening that was unique, even though he had witnessed signs, miracles, and healings taking place. Commentators believe the people were prophesying or speaking in tongues. In verse 21 when Peter tells Simon, You have no part or portion in this "matter". The word "matter" is actually the word "logos" which means "word", or "spoken matter".

Notice in verse 16 and 17 again there are different expressions describing the Holy Spirit coming upon people. List the two different terms used in verse 16 and 17:

1.) \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

**SAUL**

Acts 9:1-19 What all happened or was to happen to Saul in verses 17-18? \_\_\_\_\_

What expression describes Paul's receiving the Holy spirit in 9:17? \_\_\_\_\_

Did Saul ever speak in tongues? (I Corinthians 14:18)

**CORNELIUS' HOUSEHOLD**

Acts 10:1-11:18 Tells the story of a gentile's household receiving the Holy Spirit. Even though it was not legal for a Jew to visit a Gentile, yet God had sent a vision and told Peter to go to them. What did the apostles see that convinced them these Gentiles too had received the Holy Spirit according to verse 46? \_\_\_\_\_

What terms are used in these verses for the experience with the Holy Spirit?

(10:45) \_\_\_\_\_

(10:47) \_\_\_\_\_ (11:15) \_\_\_\_\_

(11:16) \_\_\_\_\_

**EPHESUS**

Acts 19:1-7 As a result of Paul's teaching what happened to these 12 men?

(v.5) \_\_\_\_\_

Did Paul leave them at that or did he do something after that? What did he do?(v. 6) \_\_\_\_\_ How did the men react when the Spirit came on them?

(V. 6) \_\_\_\_\_

What term is used here? (v. 6) \_\_\_\_\_

How would you reply to Paul's question in Acts 19:2?

## **SPIRITUAL GIFTS**

The spiritual gifts are of great importance to the Christian and the Church. For through the spiritual gifts the Lord works in and through his people. The question has been asked, "If the Lord removed His Spirit, would your church continue to function as it always has?" The meaning behind this question is that the Church is to be led and function only by the Spirit and His gifts. If it is run only by natural, human talents and wisdom, it is not functioning as a church should.

The Spiritual gifts are not talents (natural abilities). A non-Christian may have great speaking or musical talents, but the gifts of the Spirit can only come to a Christian and are spiritual, not natural. *The Spiritual gifts are gifts of grace, not awards for maturity.* The Corinthian Church was not lacking in any spiritual gift, yet they still had a long way to grow.

Are we to desire the gifts? I Cor. 14:1 says "earnestly desire the Spiritual gifts." The word used for "desire" is the strongest Greek word that can be used. It means "covet". Some will say you desire the gifts, I'll have Love, but that shows an improper understanding. Out of Love we pray for the gifts that are needed. If someone needs healing we, out of Love, pray for the Gift of Healing. We desire the gift because the gifts are "The manifestation of the Spirit" of Jesus ministering in our midst.

The Spiritual Gifts can be categorized in two ways:

- A. Gifts of Ministries to the body of Christ. (Ephesians. 4:7-12, I Corinthians 12:28-30, Romans 12:4-8)
- B. Individual manifestations (gifts) of the Holy Spirit. (I Corinthians. 12:7-11)

These are not opposed to each other but very much the same. While an individual can be led by the Spirit in anyway the Spirit wants to lead, yet he may not have a particular ministry along these lines. This clarifies the confusion as to why Paul says things like "I wish that you all...would prophesy" (I Cor. 14:5) and "you can all prophesy one by one" (I Corinthians 14-31) so all may be able to prophesy, yet he says, "In the Church . . .all are not prophets, are they?" (I Corinthians 12:28-29) and, "Let two or three prophets speak". (I Corinthians 14:29)

We do not need to seek and know what our gift is; we need to seek the Lord and be obedient to the Spirit's leading. Then the Spirit will begin working through us. And if the Lord develops a consistent use of a gift in one area, it will be recognized as a ministering gift.

## **THE SPIRITUAL GIFTS**

*"Now concerning Spiritual gifts, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware".  
I Corinthians 12:1*

### **What are the ministry gifts?**

According to Ephesians 4:7-12, who gives the ministry gifts? \_\_\_\_\_

Which gifts are listed here? (v. 11)

\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_,  
\_\_\_\_\_.

What is their purpose? (v. 12) \_\_\_\_\_

Which gifts are listed in I Corinthians. 12:28?

\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_,  
\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_,  
\_\_\_\_\_.

Where are these gifts appointed to be? (v. 28) \_\_\_\_\_

Which ministry gifts are listed in Romans 12:6-8? \_\_\_\_\_,

\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_,  
\_\_\_\_\_.

### **What are the individual manifestations (gifts) of the Spirit?**

List them as given in I Corinthians. 12:7-10:

\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_,  
\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_,  
\_\_\_\_\_.

What is their purpose? (v. 7)

\_\_\_\_\_

### **Who has gifts?**

According to I Corinthians 12:7, how many have gifts? \_\_\_\_\_.

According to Romans 12:6 does it sound like some or all can have the gifts?

\_\_\_\_\_.

**What then,** should be included in our church services? According to I Corinthians 14:26-31.

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**What should our attitude be toward the Spiritual gifts?** According to

I Corinthians 14:1 \_\_\_\_\_

I Corinthians 14:39 \_\_\_\_\_

I Corinthians 14:40 \_\_\_\_\_

I Corinthians 14:32 \_\_\_\_\_

I Corinthians 14:33 \_\_\_\_\_

I Thessalonians 5:19-21 \_\_\_\_\_

## **THE RETURN OF CHRIST**

The blessed hope of the Christian is that all is not in vain, but that our lives are safe with Jesus, that He will resurrect us for eternal life, and He will come again to reign over the earth. The Bible teaches that just as Jesus physically, visibly left the earth, just so in the SAME WAY He will return again. (Acts 1:9-11; Zechariah. 14:1-4)

The Bible teaches that the creation will go through pains as in childbirth. The situation will get worse and worse on earth until the Lord comes. Before He comes there will be a great time of tribulation "such as has not occurred since the beginning of the world until now, nor ever shall". (Matt. 24:21) Then Christ will come at the last minute for the sake of His elect people to save them and to save the world from destruction. (Matthew 24:22)

During that Great Tribulation Satan, through the means of a great deceitful world leader of his own possession called the Antichrist, and a great false prophet, will lead the world into a great war at Armageddon and will be rallied against God and the coming of Jesus Christ. But Jesus will come in majesty and power, slaying the Antichrist and false prophet; He will throw the Devil into a prison abyss. Christ will establish a peaceful reign of blessing on the earth for a millennium. After that Satan will be released for a short time. He will again cause a rebellion but he will be overcome. And then will come the great judgment and the new heaven and new earth (Revelation 20).

As Christ returns visibly in the clouds with the army of heaven and all His saints (Christians) who had previously died, all the nations of earth will witness His return. (Matt. 24:30) Christ will give resurrected bodies to those who have died. Those Christians who are still alive at Christ's return will be transformed instantly into new immortal bodies and will be caught up (raptured) together with all Christians into the clouds to be with Christ. (I Thessalonians 4:13-18; Matthew 24:29-31)

Christ will then rule over the earth assigning Christians to rule in delegated authority with Christ over the earth. It will be a heavenly, righteous, reign of Christ on the earth. (Revelation 20:4; Is. 11,12)

A currently popular teaching is that Christ will come to "rapture" and "resurrect" Christians before the tribulation. The scriptures speak, however, of the coming of the Lord as a single event in which the rapture and resurrection come AFTER the other events (Matthew 24) and is not split in two events. Also, the scriptures clearly teach that Christians will confront the Antichrist (Daniel 7:19-28) who comes to rule during the tribulation. Paul assures us that the coming of the Lord and our gathering together to Him will not happen until after the Antichrist (II Thessalonians 2:1-12).

Much has been said about the return of Christ and people want to know some signs to tell of the time of His coming. There are many, but the one of major concern for us personally, that is often overlooked, is the great persecution and falling away (apostasy) of the Christians. Notice as you read the Scriptures there is the constant warning about falling away, being alert

and perseverant. One sign of His approach then will be "you will be hated by all nations on account of my name". (Matthew 24:9) Matthew 24 seems to be the scripture that best gives an overall, chronological view of these events.

## **THE RETURN OF CHRIST**

*"Looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus." Titus 2:13*

*This lesson uses Matthew 24 as a base scripture.*

The disciples asked Jesus about His coming. What do these verses have in common throughout Jesus' teaching: vs. 4 & 5, vs. 10 & 11, vs. 23-25, vs. 26:

---

Jesus said not to believe others claiming Jesus has already come back or that they are the Christ. According to what Jesus teaches in verses 27 and 30 what is one basic way we can know they are not Jesus?

---

Will wars be evidence that He is just about here? vs. 6 \_\_\_\_\_ Why?

---

List some other things that will happen during the time before He comes. vs. 7

---

What will be people's attitudes? vs. 9 \_\_\_\_\_  
vs. 10 \_\_\_\_\_  
vs. 12 \_\_\_\_\_

II Timothy 3:1-2 \_\_\_\_\_

II Timothy 3:3-4 \_\_\_\_\_

II Timothy 3:5 \_\_\_\_\_

What is one good sign that Christ's coming may be near? vs. 14 \_\_\_\_\_

---

What is another event that will show the time is getting close? vs. 15 (& II Thessalonians 2:3-4)

---

What will take place then? vs. 21 \_\_\_\_\_

What will be happening next on the earth? vs. 29 \_\_\_\_\_

What will take place next then? vs. 30-31 \_\_\_\_\_

Who will help Christ gather up the Christians in the rapture? vs. 31 (also Matt. 13:39)

There will be a great sound at the return of Christ and the gathering up of the Christians. What will that great sound be? vs 31 (I Cor. 15:51-52; Rev. 8:2 and 11:15)

What will the Christians do after the resurrection and the return of Christ? vss. 45-47

I Corinthians 6:2-3 \_\_\_\_\_

II Timothy 2:11-12 \_\_\_\_\_

Revelation 5:10 \_\_\_\_\_

Revelation 20:6 \_\_\_\_\_

These are some blocks of scripture that talk about the time of Christ's return:

Matthew 24 & 25

Luke 17:22-37

I Corinthians. 15

I Thessalonians 4:13-5:11

II Thessalonians 2:1-12

Revelations -- all

Zechariah 12-14

## HELL

We hold to the traditional view of Hell, however in order to have an accurate understanding of "Hell" we need to go deeper than the simple platitudes. If you bear with this study and look carefully at it, you will have a more correct understanding of this subject.

In the original languages, the Old Testament (written in Hebrew) consistently uses the Hebrew word "Sheol" for the resting place of the dead, while the New Testament (written in Greek) consistently refers to this same place using the Greek word "Hades". The best way to see all this is by using a concordance which shows all these original words. Then read each of the scriptures in context of the situation. In this way a clear understanding about the subject emerges. Using a modern Bible computer program is the easiest way to do this.

When we do this, a clear understanding emerges that Sheol and Hades were the resting place of the dead, good and bad. The wicked and unbelieving have been kept there in pits and punishment but the righteous, through faith, have been kept there in a place of rest. In the Old Testament, different saints referenced their going to Sheol. It was this way until Christ's death in which He descended into Hades and took those who were trusting in God up into Heaven (Ephesians 4:8-10). The Bible clearly teaches us that now all those who die in Christ go immediately into His presence in heaven. See Jesus' teaching about this in Luke 16:19-26. Now Jesus holds the keys to Hades and has broken the power of death for us (Revelation 1:18).

The subject of "Hell" has been confused due to inaccurate translations, since translators could not justify saying a saint when to "Hell" (Sheol) they would often translate "Sheol" then as death, the grave, the nether world, etc. The newer translations are better to consistently use the word Sheol or footnote it. As we simply use the word "Sheol" in every reference, a clear picture is presented. (Genesis 37:35; Psalm 31:17; Isaiah 38:10; Ezekiel 31:15-17)

Some people have picked up on this inconsistency some translations have had, to say there is no hell because, where it talks about sinners, it's translated, "Hell", and where it talks of the Godly, it's translated, the grave. They build an argument saying, "Hell is a later, medieval idea, not true to God and His Bible. This comes simply from a full lack of their true understanding about "Sheol".

Jesus speaks much on the fiery punishment of the ungodly, what is commonly thought of as hell. This concept is clearly developed by Jesus and the New Testament. We see then that, in Hades, the wicked dead are kept under punishment while the godly dead are in rest and comfort. Luke 16:19-26 is an example (vs. 23 says they are in fire in "Hades"). Even some angels have already been imprisoned II Peter 2:4 says in "Tartaroo" (this word is only used one place in the Bible) which is a Greek word and concept meaning the lowest prison abyss of Hades.

One other Greek word used often in the New Testament is "Gehenna", which is the Hebrew Valley of Hinnom, which was the chief garbage dump of Israel where fires were constantly burning and all manner of refuse, including animal's and criminal's bodies, were

burnt. It is the New Testament picture of the final residing place of the unrepentant ungodly. Gehenna is often translated, "Hell".

Jesus and the New Testament writers often warn of the fiery punishment awaiting the wicked. Jesus, often in His parables, pictures the sorting out of the good and bad with the wicked being thrown into the fire (Matthew 13:30; John 15:6).

It is believed that Jesus brought out of Sheol, at His resurrection, the godly, who were trusting and waiting for their redemption, and took them to heaven. (Matthew 27:52; Ephesians 4:9-10) Christ has, now, the keys of Hades. (Revelation 1:18). Now, all who have received Christ, go immediately to Heaven when they die (Philippians 1:23).

A time of judgment is coming when God will judge all the living and the dead. Then Hades itself and all the unrepentant wicked will be thrown into a vast lake of fire to remain there for eternity (Revelation 20:12-15).

## **HELL**

*"If anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire." Revelation 20:15*

The Apostle Peter, on Pentecost, (Acts 2:27) preached Jesus and the resurrection by quoting from David (Psalm 16:8-11) What was the hope?

\_\_\_\_\_

Who was this prophesy for? (Acts 2:29, 31) \_\_\_\_\_

Jesus says in Matthew 16:18: " The gates of Hades shall not overpower the church." Have you ever seen a gate jump off its hinges, run down the street, and beat up someone? \_\_\_\_\_

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

Jesus speaks of a coming judgment in Matthew 25:31-46. Who will judge? (vss. 31,32)

\_\_\_\_\_

What two groups will be separated? \_\_\_\_\_,

\_\_\_\_\_

What will be the fate of the two groups? \_\_\_\_\_,

\_\_\_\_\_

How real will this be? Is it a dream or physically real? What do the following verses say?

John 5:28-29 \_\_\_\_\_

Matthew 10:28 \_\_\_\_\_

Matthew 5:29-30 \_\_\_\_\_

Mark 9:48 \_\_\_\_\_

Matthew 13:41-42 \_\_\_\_\_

Daniel 12:2 \_\_\_\_\_

Some teach that the fire will instantly annihilate those put into it. What do these say:

Revelation 20:10 \_\_\_\_\_

Revelation 14:10-11 \_\_\_\_\_

Mark 9:48 \_\_\_\_\_

Daniel 12:2 \_\_\_\_\_

Matthew 25:46 \_\_\_\_\_

A time of judgment is coming. Rev. 20:11-15 describes it. While God is a God of love, He is also a God of justice and judgment. If we repent and believe and obey Jesus Christ, we shall have (John 3:36)

\_\_\_\_\_

If we don't. (John 3:36)

\_\_\_\_\_

What was God's primary purpose in sending Jesus. (John 3:17) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Those who keep faith in Jesus will inherit good things, but others will inherit the Lake of fire.

Who are some of these? Revelation (21:7-8) \_\_\_\_\_

According to Jude 1:23, what is our evangelistic responsibility?

\_\_\_\_\_

## HEAVEN

After our lives here on earth, we will still have an eternity to live. Eternity is a long time and thus it is of primary importance that we be sure of our eternal home. Heaven is home for the Christian.

Heaven is the home of God. God created not only the earth but also Heaven (Gen. 14:19). In the Scriptures God rules everything from heaven and all those who are aligned with God are part of the Kingdom of Heaven. Scriptures speak of God's throne and the temple He dwells in in heaven. (Psalms 11:4)

In only three places in the Bible is the word Paradise used. This seems to be used interchangeably with Heaven (II Corinthians. 12:2,4). Heaven is a broad place of existence in another dimension apart from the physical universe. It is a place of blessing, rest, beauty, praise, worship, and of inconceivable awe and interest.

When a Christian dies, he goes immediately into the presence of the Lord (Philippians 1:23). Although the body is not resurrected until the Resurrection, the spiritual state is so real the body is not missed (II Corinthians. 12:2). We will not lose our identity but will know one another. When Jesus argued the reality of the Resurrection He quoted Scripture saying that God is the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob still. He is the God of the living and the dead. Paul assures us Christ will bring with Him our loved ones who have died before us when He returns. We are to comfort one another with these words. We will come to be in a like state as Jesus now is. (I John 3:2)

Heaven is a place for rest and rewards (Revelation 14:13). Those things done at a loss on earth for God's sake will be stored up in heaven. (Mark 10:21).

There will be a new heaven. Christ hints at this in Mark 13:31 and tells us He is going to prepare a place for us (John 14:1-3). Christ is now ruling until all things are in order and under God's control (I Corinthians 15:24-28). Christ has a massive building project going on now.

After Christ comes, after the Resurrection and Judgment, the old earth and heaven will fly away and a new state will exist which will be like all one big heaven. Read Revelation 21 and 22 for this description.

## **HEAVEN**

*"For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior,  
the Lord Jesus Christ." Philippians 3:20*

Revelation 21 is an initial picture of the new heaven. According to verse 3, how will it be different from now?

\_\_\_\_\_

List other things that will be different then (4) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What will be another blessing (6) \_\_\_\_\_

What is necessary to obtain all this? (7) \_\_\_\_\_

What do you think that means? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Who are some who will not be there? (8) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What is the cubic mile size of the new capital city of heaven? (16) \_\_\_\_\_

What will be the Light and Power Company of Heaven? (23) \_\_\_\_\_

Do you think the uniqueness of different cultures will be evident? (24-26) \_\_\_\_\_

Explain why \_\_\_\_\_

Who can be the only ones to have passports to heaven (27)? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Will there be anything new to hear about in heaven?

(II Corinthians 12:2-4) \_\_\_\_\_

Will we eat in heaven? (Matthew 26:29; 25:10; 22:2) \_\_\_\_\_

If Jesus was raised bodily, where did He go? (Hebrews 9:24) \_\_\_\_\_

Where does God rule from? (Matthew 5:34) \_\_\_\_\_

Where is God, our Father? (Matthew 6:1) \_\_\_\_\_

As we live life, where should we also be having a savings account? (Matthew 6:20,21)

\_\_\_\_\_

What is God's attitude towards the death of those who die and go home to heaven?

(Psalm 116:15) \_\_\_\_\_

## **SPIRITUAL WARFARE**

There is a spiritual warfare going on. The Bible shows there are spiritual forces affecting the lives of people. While unseen, they are never-the-less real persons who are intelligent and organized in levels of authority, in allegiance to God and righteousness or opposed to God and horrendously wicked (Ephesians 6:11,12).

Satan is the leader of the wicked spiritual beings. He apparently was a chief angel. He had great beauty and splendor but decided he wanted to be like God and rule as he wanted to (Is. 14:12-15). He apparently led a third of the angels in wicked rebellion (Revelation 12:4). He has been a liar and a murderer since the beginning (John 8:44). He is the devil (slanderer) called Satan (the adversary), Beelzebub (the prince of demons), Abaddon and Apollyon (destroyer) who is called by many other descriptions such as "the old serpent", "the accuser of the brethren".

Some think this is an even warfare against two equals. It is not. God is God, the great Creator who is over all and Satan and his hosts are merely fallen created angels.

Why does God allow the wickedness of Satan and his hosts? He both does and does not. He does, in that He has allowed all His angels and all men free will. Thus, in order to fully demonstrate free will, there must be free exercise of that will. God is allowing all angels and all men to live out their true desires. But, on the other hand God does not allow wickedness in that He will contain it and come to a point in time in which He will judge all men and angels and will remove wickedness.

God created creation as beautiful and wonderful. People often ask the age old question, "If God is good why is there suffering"? It does not come from God but it comes from sin which is wicked violation of God's good will. Thus some angels have sinned and enticed mankind in sin, also.

God cannot bless wickedness and He will curse it and stand against it even if it is found in His beloved children. He will not give us strength and blessing so we can live like the devil.

So, now there is a warfare for the allegiance of all men. All men have sinned but God has made atonement (payment) for all men's sins through Jesus' death on the cross. All God wants is our hearts, then He can bless us and help us even if we fall in sin.

Contrary to the popular phrase, "The devil made me do it!" The devil cannot make us do anything unless we yield over our lives in some way to Him, then indeed he can put a bondage over us. An example of how he overcomes people is seen in Adam and Eve and the apple. He did not make them eat it but enticed them to eat, even though they knew it would violate God's will. Although God loved them, He had to fulfill His law and remove them from the Garden of Eden. They suffered a curse and a separation from God. Satan didn't do it, he enticed it. But man still bears the responsibility. This warfare is deadly real, destroying lives and putting people in bondage.

This warfare is not fought with physical weapons but neither is it fought with potions and rituals. The warfare is fought with character and faith in Jesus Christ. The character comes from living a life with Christ and involves such things as truth, righteousness, sharing the Gospel, having faith, having salvation, and using the word of God. (Ephesians 6:13-17) If we, for example, as a Christian give up truth and tell a lie, our character is ruined, our trust is lost, others will not trust us. God cannot bless us and God will have to stand against it.

People may become frightened when we talk about Satan and his fallen angels (demons), but for the Christian, Christ does not want us to be fearful but to be assured and to have authority over them.

Christ came preaching the Gospel and healing the sick, but also, He came casting out demons. He has absolute authority over them. Christ has given this authority to His followers as well, telling us, "Behold, I have given you authority to tread upon serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy and nothing shall injure you". (Luke 10:19) He tells us to cast out demons. (Matthew 10:7-8)

As we walk in the Spirit of the Lord we walk in His authority, Christ has been raised up now to the right hand of God and sits over all authority. We have been raised up with Him and live in the assurance and power of His authority. (Ephesians. 2:1-6; Colossians 1:13-18; 2:6-10)

## **SPIRITUAL WARFARE**

*"For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses." II Cor. 10:4*

In our spiritual warfare Satan comes to allure us into sin. But, can he overcome us as he desires?

\_\_\_\_\_ What does I Corinthians 10:13 say about this? \_\_\_\_\_

Are our temptations unique to us? \_\_\_\_\_

Notice that our part is to endure until God shows the way out.

Will God always help us this way? \_\_\_\_\_ What does this verse say? \_\_\_\_\_

What is one way to make Satan flee then from you according to James 4:7?

\_\_\_\_\_

According to I Peter 5:8-10 there is never any suffering for the Christian, right?

\_\_\_\_\_

What will God do if we remain faithful? (vs. 10) \_\_\_\_\_

In Ephesians 6:10-17 is a description of the Christian's spiritual armor. List those items which are defensive. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

List those which are offensive. \_\_\_\_\_

Is Satan a totally free-wheeling agent who can do whatever he wants? Write your understanding of this according to Job 1:6; 2:6 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

And John 3:27 \_\_\_\_\_

How did Jesus react to demons who had people in bondage?

Mark 1:32-39 \_\_\_\_\_

Luke 13:10-16 \_\_\_\_\_

What did Jesus tell His disciples to do about demons? (Luke 9:1; 10:1, 17, 19) \_\_\_\_\_

What did the early church do in ministry in regards to demons?

Mark 6:13 \_\_\_\_\_

Acts 16:16-18 \_\_\_\_\_

Read Acts 19:11-20 and explain why the demons didn't respond to the ritual the sons of Sceva used. \_\_\_\_\_

What was the important difference? \_\_\_\_\_

## **DECEPTION, CONTENDING FOR THE FAITH** **AND MAKING THE GOSPEL KNOWN**

*"I felt the necessity to write to you appealing that you contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints." Jude 1:3*

The following lesson is a combination of three related lessons. They all have to do with relating the Gospel to the lives of people, including our own. The Bible teaches much on these subjects.

### **1) DECEPTION**

There is the idea that it really doesn't matter what you believe as long as you are sincere. This is a deadly mistaken idea. Everyone's actions are determined by what they believe. If you hold to false ideas you will participate in wrong actions and suffer tragic results from them. Deception can happen. It is always at hand in some way. How can you keep from being deceived?

1. Know the word of God thoroughly. Make it your constant study. (Psalm 1; and 119:9-11, 99, 130). Check all ideas and quotes with the context of scripture.
2. Know clearly the biblical teaching about Christ. Since He is the pivotal point of Christianity, most false teaching centers on wrong teachings about Christ.
3. Commit your life totally into the Lord's hands and desire His will. Desire His truth and He will show it to you. (John 7:17 and 14:26; Jeremiah 29:13)
4. Know there is usually a lot of truth mixed with false teachings. Things may seem right, but the conclusion steers away from the will of God. Example: Satan didn't use evil to tempt Jesus, but quoted scripture. Matt. 4:6 (II Cor. 11:13-15)
5. Know the deceivers may be able to hold the false appearance at first, but their character cannot remain hidden. Read Matt. 7:15-20

### **DECEPTION - (STUDY)**

What is the danger? II Peter 2:1-3 \_\_\_\_\_

Acts 20:28-32 \_\_\_\_\_

Matthew 7:13-14 \_\_\_\_\_

How can we know the difference?

Matthew 7:15-20 \_\_\_\_\_

Show how people act or speak differently from God's truth:

Matthew 7:21 \_\_\_\_\_

I John 3:14-18 \_\_\_\_\_

I John 4:1-3 \_\_\_\_\_

I John 4:20-21 \_\_\_\_\_

How can we overcome deception?

II Timothy 3:13-15 \_\_\_\_\_

Matthew. 7:24-27 \_\_\_\_\_

Hebrews 10:23-25 \_\_\_\_\_

## **2) CONTENDING FOR THE FAITH**

I used to think it was wrong to argue for the Gospel until I saw in the Bible Jesus, the Apostles, and others constantly presenting the Christian message even in the midst of opposition. The Bible tells us to "contend" for the faith. Yet, it always tells us how (with gentleness, love, patience. and reasonableness) we can argue for the faith without being argumentative! Here's how:

1. Know your own faith and be growing in it!
2. Don't be afraid of questions, but store them, ponder and pray over them, using them as rungs to higher understanding. if someone presents a question you don't have an answer to be honest and say, "I don't know. I'll have to pray about that.
3. Use the Scriptures and be bold in them. Don't say, "Well, I think..." -say, "The Bible says..." Remember the Word has power. Jeremiah 23:29
4. Argue in the Christian way. Read II Timothy 2:24-26
5. Know its in God's hands. Read II Timothy 2:24-26
6. Love! Remember the object of the discussion is not to win an argument and lose a person, rather to win the person.
7. Continue to grow in your faith in every way. I've come to believe my faith is as academically sound as it is spiritually sound. There is so very, very much reason to believe. There is so much evidence and reason to believe. A book like EVIDENCE THAT DEMANDS A VERDICT by Josh McDowell is one good reference book to get for academic support that would help you begin along this line.

### **CONTENDING FOR THE FAITH - (STUDY)**

What are we supposed to be able to do according to I Peter 3:15? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

In the interest of not being pushy should we Christians rather let false ideas go by without confrontation? \_\_\_\_\_ What does Paul say in II Corinthians 10:5?

\_\_\_\_\_

The Apostle Paul was effective because of his quiet Christian witness, right? \_\_\_\_\_

The following verses show a habit of Paul's. What was it? Acts 17:2,17 and 18:4, 19 and 19:8, 9 and 24:25. \_\_\_\_\_

We as Christians are to defend and contend for the will of God using all spiritual wisdom and insight in the same attitude that God has. What is God's attitude of wisdom like? (James 3:17)

\_\_\_\_\_

Our main tool to use is the scriptures as God's authoritative revealed Word. List the four uses of it mentioned in II Timothy 3:16. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

And it's purpose in 3:17.

\_\_\_\_\_

### **3) MAKING THE GOSPEL KNOWN**

The nicest and most important thing anyone can do for another person is to tell them the Gospel. It is a great privilege and responsibility. IT IS OUR LORD'S COMMAND! Matt. 28:18-20

Sometimes people are afraid to share the Gospel. Here are some helpful things to know:

1. Remember you were glad someone told you, and many are receptive and many are wanting to hear and accept what you have to share.
2. Remember our job is not to save or convict, that is God's job. Our job is to tell the story. Just tell it and prayerfully leave the results to God.
3. A tool can be helpful, like a tract. Learn it and share it. Just by asking, "Could I take a few minutes to share something with you that's meant a lot to me?" has opened many chances to share the Gospel in a natural, honest, forthright way.
4. Relate your own everyday situations as you are sharing. For instance as you are visiting with a friend or neighbor you may share something like, "I know what you mean. I had a situation that was hard for me and I found that the Lord became more real in my life through that experience."
5. Don't be a Lone Ranger. We all need each other to keep our faith alive and real. We need a fellowship in which we can bring people who come to Christ. A log in a campfire burns bright and hot but if you move it away from the other logs out in the cold dark, it dwindles to smoldering coals and will go out.

## MAKING THE GOSPEL KNOWN - STUDY

According to II Timothy 4:2 when are we to make the Gospel known? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

In the second half of this verse, it tells us how to share the Gospel. List the words and give the dictionary definitions. (Use the bottom of this sheet for the definitions.)

Tell exactly what Christ has commanded us to do in Matthew 28:19-20. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## **CHURCH**

Have you ever enjoyed sitting around the warmth of a campfire? Have you noticed that if you remove one burning log from the fire and place it out in the cold dark by itself its flame dies out? This is a good analogy to our lives and our Christian fellowship. If we fellowship and serve the Lord together regularly, we become enthused, growing in our faith; but, if we neglect our Lord's command for us to be together with other Christians, our faith and the expression of it gets cold, dies out and has no life.

Be sure to be involved in a good church that is alive and growing spiritually. It should be one that believes in the truth of the Bible. Individual members should have a personal faith they understand and can relay to others. It should be a church that allows for personal involvement and fellowship. The church should be seeking a vibrant relationship with the living Lord.

Churches sometimes become lethargic. They put a lot of importance on their name and history, but gradually lose sight of their true purpose, which is to be a fellowship of believers who are following the Spirit of the Lord as He is revealing His will. The natural nature of men is to put trust in form rather than maintaining a relationship with God. God has repeatedly had to remove good things men have idolized and trusted in order to show that what is important to Him is not form, but an obedient, alive, joyful, daily relationship to Him. (Jeremiah 7:3-14; II Kings 18:4; Matthew 3:9; 8:11-12; Revelations 3:1-3) Do not feel bound by a church just because it claims a name or a past. Be involved in one that is obedient and involved in the will and Spirit of the Lord.

What is a church? Nowhere in the Bible is the word "church" used for a building; rather, a church is the people of God. The church is viewed in the scriptures not as an institution, but as a living organism called the Body of Christ in which every member is an important, functioning part. The entire body is directed by the nerve system of the Holy Spirit, with Jesus being the head. When the church functions as it should it becomes the visible embodiment of Jesus, Himself, in our world - walking, talking, and ministering. (Ephesians. 4:11-16; I Corinthians 12:12-27)

## CHURCH

Where did some events of the early churches meet?

I Corinthians 16:19 \_\_\_\_\_

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

Acts 8:3 \_\_\_\_\_

Colossians 4:15 \_\_\_\_\_

What are Christians to do according to Hebrews. 10:23-25?

vs. 23 \_\_\_\_\_

vs. 24 \_\_\_\_\_

vs. 25 \_\_\_\_\_

If we have fellowship with the Lord who else will we desire fellowship with according to

I John 1:6-7? \_\_\_\_\_

Using I John 4:20-21, how would you answer someone who declares they love God, yet do not fellowship with other Christians? \_\_\_\_\_

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

In our fellowship what are some things we are to be doing?

I Thessalonians 5:11 \_\_\_\_\_

I Thessalonians 5:14 \_\_\_\_\_

Colossians 3:12 \_\_\_\_\_

Colossians 3:13 \_\_\_\_\_

Colossians 3:14 \_\_\_\_\_

Colossians 3:15 \_\_\_\_\_

Colossians 3:16 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Colossians 3:17 \_\_\_\_\_

According to Ephesians 4:11 we see God has given us gifted ministries in the church, apart from which we can not grow. What are these ministries to help all of us believers (saints) to do according to verses 12-14:

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Using the lesson so far write out what would be your answer to someone who says, "I don't need to go to church, because I can worship God out in the beauty of nature in my fishing boat more than I can inside a church."

What were the attitudes and actions of the people of the early church?

Acts 2:41 \_\_\_\_\_

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

Acts 2:44-46 \_\_\_\_\_

Acts 4:23-24 \_\_\_\_\_

Acts 4:32-35 \_\_\_\_\_

What is another very important purpose of the church? Ephesians 3:20-21

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