

**HARVEST OF JUBILEE GROUPS
INTERNATIONAL COLLEGIUM OF
BIBLICAL STUDIES**

COURSE B – 101

**Foundations of Faith
For New Believers
In
JESUS CHRIST**

**An Instruction Manual
For Those Who Are
Becoming Disciples of Jesus Christ**

Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always to the very end of the age.” Matthew 28:18-20

**Volume One
Christian Growth Series**

By Janice Woodrum, MA, Min.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction

LESSON 1	ASSURANCE OF SALVATION
LESSON 2	ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS
LESSON 3	ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE
LESSON 4	ASSURANCE OF ANSWERED PRAYER
LESSON 5	STUDY GOD'S WORD, THE BIBLE
LESSON 6	CHURCH LIFE
LESSON 7	SACRAMENTS OF CHURCH LIFE
APPENDIX	EIGHT POINTS OF THE GOSPEL MESSAGE

Scripture taken from the HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION. NIV. Copyright 1973, 1978, 1984 by International Bible Society. Used by permission of Zondervan Publishing House. All rights reserved.

Published by:
Harvest of Jubilee Groups, International
411 Zandecki Rd. 98532 USA

First Printing: February 1998
Second Printing: September 1998
Third Printing: January 2011
Fourth Revision and Printing: February 2013

INTRODUCTION

This text is intended to lay a firm foundation of teachings from the Holy Bible concerning the experience of salvation through Jesus Christ of Nazareth, and the essential elements in beginning to live as a disciple of Jesus Christ.

Before you begin to read Lesson 1, please turn to the Appendix at the back of this book entitled **“WHO DO MEN SAY THAT I AM?”** (Eight Points of the Gospel Message). Read through this section completely in order to understand more clearly who Jesus Christ is, and the commitment involved in choosing to be His disciple.

Then, as you continue to read in Lesson 1, pray and ask the Holy Spirit to lead you into all truth as you study the scriptures. The study verses are written in the New International Version. If you have a copy of the Bible, we encourage you to look up each verse in your Bible, and highlight or underline each verse for your own reference as you continue to grow in your faith and fellowship with Jesus Christ. (Different versions will vary slightly.)

Our prayer for you as you study is this:

“Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.”
2 Timothy 2:15

May your faith and Christian experience rest in the truth of the Holy Scriptures, rather than on the traditions of men.

COURSE – B101

FOUNDATIONS OF FAITH FOR NEW BELIEVERS

In making a decision to receive and follow Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, it is very important to learn from the Bible some basic teaching about your new life in Christ. The Foundation Series is a set of Bible Studies which will help you understand and enjoy your new life in Jesus Christ, and to know the things that please God as you come to know Him better.

LESSON 1. ASSURANCE OF SALVATION

If you have prayed a prayer to receive Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Savior, you have been saved from the punishment for your sins and sinful nature (which is eternal separation from God, in a place of misery and punishment called Hell). You have become a new person with a new life of fellowship with Jesus Christ, and you are promised to receive eternal life in Heaven.

Question 1 Read **Romans 6:23**: *“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”*

Which of the following two statements is true?

____ I can earn my salvation and eternal life by being good and doing good works.

____ When I receive Jesus Christ as my Savior and Lord by faith in His death which paid the penalty for my sins, and by faith in His resurrection from the dead, eternal life is His free gift to me. There is nothing I can do to earn it.

Question 2 Read **Colossians 1:13-14**: *“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.”*

Name two things which we receive when we receive Jesus Christ as our personal Lord and Savior:

1. _____

2. _____

Read I Timothy 6:13-16: *“In the sight of God, who gives life to everything, and of Christ Jesus, who while testifying before Pontius Pilate*

made the good confession, I charge you to keep this command without spot or blame until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, which God will bring about in his own time - God, the blessed and only Ruler, the King of kings and Lord of lords, who alone is immortal and who lives in unapproachable light, whom no one has seen or can see. To him be honor and might forever. Amen."

Who is the King in this kingdom? _____

Question 3 Read John 1:12: *"Yet to all who received Him, to those who believed in his name, He gave the right to become children of God."*

How did you, or how can you come into the Kingdom of God, become a child of God, and experience His forgiveness and eternal life?

Step 1 _____ in Jesus Christ as the one who died for your sins.

Step 2 _____ Jesus Christ into your heart and life as your own Lord and Savior. (Fill in the blank after steps 1 and 2.)

Question 4 **Think and pray for a moment. If you have already done this, can you remember when it was, where you were, and how it happened? Write a short personal sentence about this experience.**

Question 5 **Read Acts 3:19:** *"Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord."*

In receiving Jesus' salvation and forgiveness, we must be willing to _____, or turn away from our sin. To repent means to be sorry for our sin, and willing to turn away from it: (to stop doing those things which we know displease God.)

Read Philippians 2:12-13: *"Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed - not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence - continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to His good purpose."*

Read John 14:15-17: *“If you love me, you will obey what I command. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever - the Spirit of Truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you.”*

Who comes to live in us and helps us turn away from our sin to live in a way which pleases God?

Question 6 **Read Ephesians 2:4-5:** *“But because of His great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions - it is by grace you have been saved.”*

Read: 2 Corinthians 5:17: *“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!”*

When we receive Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, our spirit becomes alive and we are _____ creatures.

Read: John 3:5-7: *Jesus answered, “I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. You should not be surprised at my saying, ‘You must be born again.’”*

When we receive Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord and become new creatures, Jesus calls this being _____.

Question 7 **Read I John 5:11-12:** *“And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.”*

God the Father’s testimony is that when we have received Jesus, His Son, we have _____ life.

Read: 2 Timothy 3:16-17: *“All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.”*

When Paul speaks of “the Scriptures” he is primarily speaking about:

- ___a. Old Testament Bible writings.
- ___b. Ancient sand-script documents
- ___c. New Testament Bible writings.

Question 8 **Read Acts 4:12:** *“Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved.”*

According to God’s testimony, we must believe: (Place an “X” by the true statement.)

- _____ There are many ways to find and know the one true God.
- _____ Jesus Christ is the only way to find and know the one true God.

LESSON 2: ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Question 1 **Read Romans 3:22-24:** *“This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference, 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.”*

The Bible clearly states that _____ men have sinned and fallen short of God’s standard for holiness.

Read Hebrews 4:14-15: *“Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has gone through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are - yet was without sin.”*

Who is the only man who never sinned, and is able to redeem us from the penalty for our sin? _____

Question 2 **Read Hebrews 7:26-27:** *“Such a high priest meets our need - one who is holy, blameless, pure, set apart from sinners, exalted above the heavens. Unlike the other high priests, He does not need to offer sacrifices day after day, first for His own sins, and then for the sins of the people. He sacrificed for their sins once for all when He offered Himself.”*

When Jesus offered Himself as a sacrifice for sin, who can His sacrifice benefit? (Put an “X” by all of the right answers.)

- ___ **People who lived when Jesus walked on the earth**

___ **People who are alive today**

___ **People of Jesus' day, people of the past, present and future**

Question 3 **Read Acts 3:19:** *“Repent then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord.”*

When we repent and turn to God through faith in Jesus Christ our past sins are _____.

Question 4 **We have learned that all men have sinned, but when we receive Christ into our lives He cleanses us from all sin and wipes it out. I John 2:1 teaches us that if we sin again after we are saved, we have an advocate to help us repent of sin and receive forgiveness.**

Read I John 2:1. *“My dear 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 in our defense – Jesus Christ the Righteous One.”*

Will we sometimes sin after we receive salvation? _____.

Question 5 **Psalm 66:17-19:** *“I cried out to Him with my mouth; His praise was on my tongue. If I had cherished sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened; but God has surely listened and heard my voice in prayer.”*

Read Isaiah 59:2: *“But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that He will not hear.”*

Read I Peter 3:12: *“For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and His ears are attentive to their prayer, but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil.”*

Finish the sentences regarding some effects of sin and righteousness.

1. Sin can interfere with how God hears and _____ our prayers.
2. God gladly sees the righteous and hears their _____.
3. God turns His _____ against those who continually do evil.
4. If I cling to hidden sin in my heart, God may not hear and answer my prayers until I repent and _____ my sin.

Question 6 **Read Isaiah 55:6-7:** *“Seek the Lord while He may be found; call on Him while he is near. Let the wicked forsake his way and the evil man his thoughts. Let him turn to the Lord, and He will have mercy on him, and to our God, for He will freely pardon.”*

Write three or more steps we should take when we realize we have sinned. _____

Question 7 **Read John 14:16-17, 26:** *“And I (Jesus Christ) will ask the Father, and He will give you another Counselor to be with you forever - the Spirit of Truth. The world cannot accept Him, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him. But you know Him, for He lives with you and will be in you. But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.”*

Read John 16:7-8: *“But I tell you the truth: It is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Counselor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you. When He comes, He will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment...”*

Read Psalm 38:18: *“I confess my iniquity; I am troubled by my sin.”*

Who is the Counselor (helper) whom God has given to show us what displeases God, and who will cause us to feel sorry for our sin?

Question 8 **Read I John 1:8-10** *“If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. If we claim we have not sinned, we make Him out to be a liar and His word has no place in our lives.”*

To confess means to agree with God and His Word that what we did was wrong and hurt the heart of God. What should we do when we realize we have sinned? _____

Who needs to hear our confession of sin? _____

Question 9 **Read Psalm 51:1-3:** *“**Have mercy** on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion **blot***

out my transgressions. **Wash away** all my iniquity and **cleanse me** from my sin. For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me.”

David had committed great sins, but he knew he could count on God to help him. Because of God’s great _____ and _____, David is able to cry out to God for mercy and forgiveness. What does David expect God to do with his sins? (List three or more items.)

Question 10 Read Psalm 51:12: “Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.”

When we are forgiven, what emotion can be experienced?

What does he ask God to give him that will help him keep from sinning? _____

Question 11 Read Philippians 2:12-13 “Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed – not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence – continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to His good purpose.”

Who makes us want to please God? _____

Who helps us think and act in ways that please God?

Question 12 Read Hebrews 9:14: “How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God!”

When we confess our sins and receive God’s forgiveness, He not only removes our sin, but He cleanses our _____.

Our conscience is that part of ourselves that is able to recognize the difference between right and wrong. If your conscience bothers you, you know you may have done something that displeases God.

Question 13 Read I John 1:9 *“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.”*

How then can you get a clear conscience?

Question 14 Read Psalm 103:8-14: *“The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love. He will not always accuse, nor will He harbor his anger forever; He does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is His love to those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us. As a father has compassion on His children, so the Lord has compassion on those who fear him; for He knows how we are formed, he remembers that we are dust.”*

How big is God’s forgiveness?

From Psalm 103 name at least 3 things about God’s nature (character) which cause Him to want to forgive us and restore our fellowship with Him?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Question 15 Read Matthew 6:12: *“Forgive us our debts (transgressions, sins), as we also have forgiven our debtors.”*

In the prayer Jesus taught His followers to pray, He asks God the Father to forgive our debts (sins), and He expects us also to _____.

LESSON 3: ASSURANCE OF GOD’S LOVE
AND HIS DESIRE TO MEET WITH US

Some people think of God as angry and difficult to come near. We need to learn the truth from the Bible about God's great love for us, and His deep desire to be our friend.

Question 1 **Read Romans 5:5-8** *“And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out His love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom He has given us. You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, though for a good man someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”*

How did God show His great love for us?

Who lives in our hearts to pour out God's love to us?

Question 2 **Read John 3:16:** *“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”*

God loves us so much that He wants us to have continuous _____ with Him.

Question 3 **Read 1 John 4: 9,19:** *“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. ‘We love because He first loved us.’ ”*

We are able to love because God first _____ us.

Question 4 **Read Romans 8:38-39:** *“For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”*

These verses in Romans are saying that things like death, demons, powers, and so forth, will try to separate us from God. They also say that neither this ... nor that... will be able to separate us from God's love.

Since this is a true promise from God, can you think of anything in the world or in all of creation that has greater power than God, that could separate you from God's love? ___Yes ___No

God does not want to be far from us. He wants us to draw near to Him, and He does things to make us want to come near to Him.

Question 5 Read Jeremiah 31:3: *"The Lord appeared to us in the past saying: 'I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with loving-kindness.'"*

How does God draw people near to Himself?

Give a personal example of a time that God showed His love and kindness to you in a special way: _____

Question 6 Read James 4:8a: *"Come near to God and He will come near you."*

If we want God to be near to us, what must we first do?

List three things that we can do in order to draw near to God:

Question 7 Read Hebrews 11:6: *"And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to Him must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who earnestly seek Him."*

Hebrews 11:6 speaks of a reward. In your opinion, how do you think God rewards those who sincerely and earnestly seek Him? (Remember, an opinion is not something that is right or wrong. It simply reflects your own thoughts and opinions.)

Question 8 Read **Matthew 11:28-30**: “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”

What is one time when Jesus especially invites us to come to Him?

Question 9 Read **Jeremiah 29:11-14a**: “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 by you,” declares the Lord.”

**The Bible says that God has _____ for your life.
God wants us to _____ Him with all our hearts.
He promises that when we call or pray to Him, He will _____ to us.
Speaking and listening to God is called _____.**

Question 10 Read **Psalm 139:1-6**: “O Lord, You have searched me and you know me.

You know when I sit and when I rise;
You perceive my thoughts from afar.
You discern my going out and my lying down;
You are familiar with all my ways.

Before a word is on my tongue you know it completely, O Lord. You hem me in - behind and before; you have laid your hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too lofty for me to attain.”

Psalm 139:16 “...your eyes saw my unformed body. All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.”

List 3 things which God knows about you: _____

Question 11 Read Psalm 139:7-10 “Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? If I go up to the heavens, you are

there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there. If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast.”

Can God see you and hear you wherever you go? _____
Is there any place you can go where God is not present? _____
Can He be present even in a temple for idols? _____
Can you hide from God? _____

FACT: God fills the universe and is present everywhere. He is omnipresent.

Question 12 Read John 17:3 *“Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.”*

Part of having eternal life is to _____ God, & Jesus Christ, the son He has sent to us.

Think about a person whom you know well. When did you meet this person? How did you get to know him or her?

Name two ways that we can get to know God.

_____.

What are you doing to get to know God better?

LESSON 4: ASSURANCE OF ANSWERED PRAYER

PART A: GOD WANTS TO MEET WITH US

An essential part of the life of the believer in Jesus Christ is to develop a life of prayer. Christian prayer is fellowship with God, as we talk to Him and He speaks to us. We must understand that God is always listening for our prayers, for He desires to have fellowship with us.

Question 1 **Read Isaiah 30:18** *“Yet the Lord longs to be gracious to you; He rises to show you compassion. For the Lord is a God of justice. Blessed are all who wait for Him!”*

Read Matthew 11:28-30 *“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”*

Which statement is true? Put an X next to the one true statement.

God is very busy and only wants to be bothered with our big problems.

God is waiting for us to come to Him in prayer. He wants to express to us His care, love, and compassion in all things.

Question 2 **Read Jeremiah 29:12-13** *“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.”*

Read Psalm 34:15 *“The eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and His ears are attentive to their cry.”*

These are good reminders that God will _____ our prayers.
God also can _____ everything we do and every situation we face.

Question 3 **Read I Peter 5:7** *“Cast all your anxiety on Him because He cares for you.”*

What did Peter encourage us to do when we have concerns, fears, worries or troubles? _____

How can we cast our cares upon the Lord Jesus Christ? _____

Question 4 **Read Matthew 18:20** *“For where two or three come together in my name, there I am with them.”*

What does Jesus promise when several people gather together to pray?

The Bible says many things about how to pray, about how Jesus prayed to the Father when He walked on the earth, and also about how we should pray between ourselves and God. It also tells us about things which can come between ourselves and God, so that when we pray it is more difficult to hear God's voice and receive answers to our prayers. Let us look in the next sections at both the 'helps' to prayer, and the things which 'hinder' prayer.

PART B: WHAT HELPS US PRAY TO GOD?

Question 1 **Read Psalm 5:1-3** *"Give ear to my words, O Lord, consider my sighing. Listen to my cry for help, my King and my God, for to you I pray. In the morning, O Lord, you hear my voice; in the morning I lay my requests before you and wait in expectation."*

Read Isaiah 40:4-5 *"The Sovereign Lord has given me an instructed tongue, to know the word that sustains the weary. He wakens me morning by morning, wakens my ear to listen like one being taught. The Sovereign Lord has opened my ears, and I have not been rebellious; I have not drawn back."*

These verses suggest that a good time to seek God in prayer is:

Question 2 **Read Mark 1:35** *"Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where He prayed."*

In this verse and several others in the New Testament, we read that Jesus often met with God at what time of the day? _____

Question 3 **Read Matthew 6:6** *"But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you."*

In this verse and in Mark 1:35 we see that Jesus taught us to spend some time _____ with God each day.

Question 4 **Read Matthew 18:20** *“For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them.”*

This verse tells us that there is also a special blessing when we _____ others in prayer.

Question 5 **Read Matthew 7:7-11** *“Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened.”*

Read Luke 18:1-8 *“Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up. He said, ‘In a certain town there was a judge who neither feared God nor cared about men. And there was a widow in that town who kept coming to him with the plea, ‘Grant me justice against my adversary.’ ”*

“For some time he refused. But finally he said to himself, ‘Even though I don’t fear God or care about men, yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will see that she gets justice, so that she won’t eventually wear me out with her coming!’ ”

“And the Lord said, ‘Listen to what the unjust judge says. And will not God bring about justice for His chosen ones, who cry out to Him day and night? Will He keep putting them off? I tell you, He will see that they get justice, and quickly. However, when the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on the earth?’”

If we pray to God and don’t seem to be getting clear answers, what could we do? (Consider the lives of more mature Christian leaders you know. What do you see them doing when they face this problem?)

Question 6 **Read 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18** *“Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.”*

Read Proverbs 3:5-6 *“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight.”*

Read Psalm 119:164 *“Seven times a day I praise You for Your righteous laws.”*

These verses seem to say that we can develop a habit of prayer throughout our days that can help keep us close to God, and in constant fellowship with Him.

Meditate on these verses for a few minutes, and think about the usual routine of your life. Choose one of the three verses and explain how you could apply this verse to help you make a habit of praying to God often throughout the day. _____

Write the address of the verse you have chosen _____

SUMMARY OF HELPS TO PRAYER

1. It is important to spend some time alone with God each day. Morning time is especially good.
2. Come into God’s presence with thanksgiving and praise.
3. If you don’t seem to get immediate answers to prayer, don’t give up. Keep praying. Practice maintaining persistence in prayer.
4. Learn how to pray continually as you go about your daily activities.
5. Begin to set up regular times to meet to pray with other believers.
6. If you feel something is hindering your efforts to pray, ask God to reveal it to you and to help you correct it. (See Part D of this lesson on prayer.)

PART C: DIFFERENT TYPES OF PRAYER

Question 1 **Read Philippians 4:4-9 several times.** *“Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to*

all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. (v.7) And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable – if anything is excellent or praiseworthy – think about such things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me - put into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.”

List four or more different types of prayer which you see here.

What is God’s gift to us as we bring things to Him in prayer? See v.7.

Question 2 **Read Romans 8:26-27** *“In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. And He who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God’s will.”*

We don’t always know what to pray for or how to pray.
Who can best help us pray out our needs and concerns? _____

SOME IMPORTANT TYPES OF PRAYER

1. **Thanksgiving to God for the things He has done** and is doing in our world and our lives.
2. **Praise and worship to God for His divine character traits.** Some items for praise and worship might be His faithfulness, His holiness, His love and compassion, His great knowledge and wisdom, the wonder of His creation, His gift to us in His son Jesus Christ, His forgiveness and mercy, His goodness and gentleness.

3. **Talking to God about the events of our lives** and telling Him our special needs and wants.
4. **Talking with God about His Word, the Bible**, and seeking to understand it and know His directions for us.
5. **Asking God to help other people in their areas of need** such as salvation, healing, deliverance, etc. (This is called interceding for others).
6. **Telling God (confessing to Him) the things we have done wrong, and asking God to forgive us.**
7. **Taking spiritual authority over forces of darkness** (demonic forces) by enforcing the victory Jesus won by His death on the cross and His resurrection.
8. **Asking God to fill us with His Holy Spirit** to give us power and wisdom to live in a way which pleases Him.

PART D: WHAT HINDERS OUR PRAYERS?

Use this list & choose an answer for each of questions 1 to 6

unforgiving heart
family discord
wrong priorities

pride
un-confessed sin
wrong motives

Question 1 **Read Isaiah 59:2** *“But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden His face from you, so that He will not hear.”*

What hinders our prayers? _____

Question 2 **Read James 4:3** *“When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.”*

What hinders our prayers? _____

Question 3 Read James 4:6-8a *“But He gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says: ‘God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.’ Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Come near to God and He will come near to you.”*

What hinders our prayers? _____

Question 4 Read I Peter 3:7 *“Husbands, in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives, and treat them with respect as the weaker partner and as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life, so that nothing will hinder your prayers.”*

What hinders our prayers? _____

Question 5 Read Matthew 6:14-15 *“For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.”*

What hinders our prayers? _____

Question 6 Read Matthew 6:33 *“But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.”*

What hinders our prayers? _____

Question 7 When we recognize one of these hindrances in our lives, what do you think we should do?

PART E: REMOVING THE HINDRANCES TO PRAYER

Question 1 Read Psalm 139:23-24: *“Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.”*

Who is able to change the thoughts, attitudes, and motives of our hearts? _____

In summary, we have looked at several things which can interfere with good communication between us and God. We can ask the Holy Spirit to help us see if anything is hindering our prayers, and He will

reveal it to us. If there is sin, we will need to confess the sin, and ask God to help us change this area of our lives. He is able to change our hearts and make our thoughts and motives pleasing to Him "...for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to His good purposes." Philippians 2:13

LESSON 5: WE NEED TO STUDY GOD'S WORD, THE BIBLE

Question 1 Read Psalm 119:102-105: *"I have not departed from your laws, for you yourself have taught me. How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth! I gain understanding from your precepts; therefore I hate every wrong path. Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path."*

Knowing God's Word helps us _____ every wrong path, or paths which lead to sin. It helps us _____ the right paths, or paths which help us walk in righteousness and please God.

Question 2 Read Psalm 119:9-11: *"How can a young man keep his way pure? By living according to your Word. I seek you with all my heart; do not let me stray from your commands. I have hidden your Word in my heart that I might not sin against you."*

These verses also tell us about the importance of knowing God's Word in order to keep ourselves pure and avoid sinning against God. What do you think it means when the writer says, "I have hidden your Word in my heart?"

What plans are you making to memorize your favorite or most useful scripture verses? _____

Question 3 Read Psalm 119:89-91: *"Your Word, O Lord, is eternal; it stands firm in the heavens. Your faithfulness continues through all generations; you established the earth, and it endures. Your laws endure to this day, for all things serve you."*

Can you think of anything in the world which has lasted longer than God's Word, the Bible? (Read and consider Genesis chapter one.)

Question 4 Read Psalm 119:94-95, 98, 110, 114-115: *“Save me, for I am yours; I have sought out your precepts. The wicked are waiting to destroy me, but I will ponder your statues... Your commands make me wiser than my enemies, for they are ever with me... The wicked have set a snare for me, but I have not strayed from your precepts... You are my refuge and my shield; I have put my hope in your Word. Away from me, you evildoers, that I may keep the commands of my God!”*

When we know and follow God’s Word, how will it help us against our enemies? _____

Question 5 Read Psalm 119:160: *“All your words are true; all your righteous laws are eternal.”*

How long will God’s Word last? _____

Question 6 Read 2 Timothy 3:15-17: *“... from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.”*

List 3 uses for God’s Word:

Question 7 Read 2 Timothy 2:15: *“Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.”*

When we try to know God’s Word, apply it to our own lives, and teach others about it correctly, we are presenting ourselves to _____ as a _____.

Question 8 Read 2 Timothy 2:1-2: *“You then my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And the things you have heard me say in*

the presence of many witnesses, entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others.”

When we know God’s Word and teach it to faithful men and women, what are they prepared to do? _____

Question 9 **Read Deuteronomy 5:29:** *“Oh, that their hearts would be inclined to fear me and keep all my commands always, so that it might go well with them and their children forever!”*

Name two good reasons why we should fear (respect and obey) God and keep the commands which He has given us in the Bible?

Question 10 **Read Colossians 1:19 and 2:9:** *“For God was pleased to have all His fullness dwell in Him. For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form.”*

When we read in the New Testament about the life of Jesus Christ and all the things He taught, we are also learning about the character of whom? _____

Question 11 **Read Proverbs 3:7-8:** *“Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord and shun evil. This will bring health to your body and nourishment to your bones.”*

What are two benefits to following God’s Word? _____

Question 12 **Read Psalm 119:2, 14, 16, 24, 103:** *“Blessed are they who keep His statutes and seek Him with all their heart... I rejoice in following your statutes as one rejoices in great riches... I delight in your decrees; I will not neglect your Word... Your statutes are my delight; they are my counselors... How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth!”*

What emotions, feelings and sensations develop when we study God’s Word regularly? (List at least 4 items.) _____

Question 13 Read Psalm 119:108, 164: *“Accept, O Lord, the willing praise of my mouth, and teach me your laws... Seven times a day I praise you for your righteous laws.”*

List two natural responses to God when we read His wonderful Word?

Question 14 Read Psalm 119:18, 34: *“Open my eyes that I may see wonderful things in your law... Give me understanding, and I will keep your law and obey it with all my heart.”*

What do we need to do before we begin to read and study God’s Word? _____

Question 15 Read Matthew 4:4: *“Jesus answered, ‘It is written: ‘Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.’”*

Jesus says that in order to be healthy spiritually, we should eat _____ just as we eat our daily food.

Question 16 Read Romans 10:17: *“Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the Word of Christ.”*

Reading or hearing God’s Word increases our _____ in Him and His Word.

LESSON 6: CHURCH LIFE

PART A: GATHERING TOGETHER

In the beginning, there were no Christian church buildings where believers could gather. They gathered in homes or other places, and the believers themselves were known as ‘the Church.’ This is true

also today. The Church is a body of believers who worship and follow Christ.

Question 1 **Read Acts 1:14, 25a:** *“They all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers... Then they prayed, ‘Lord, you know everyone’s heart. Show us which of these two you have chosen to take over this apostolic ministry...’ ”*

Read Acts 2: 42-47: *“They devoted themselves to the apostles teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.”*

List 6 or more routine activities of the early Church: _____

Question 2 **Read Hebrews 10:24-25:** *“And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another - and all the more as you see the Day approaching.”*

List 3 practical ways we can encourage each other as we learn to follow Christ in these days: _____

Question 3 **Read Ephesians 5:18-21:** *“Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit. Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.”*

List 6 things we can do with the Holy Spirit’s help as we gather together: _____

Question 4 Read 1 Corinthians 14:26: *“What then shall we say, brothers? 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.”*

According to the Bible, who are expected and allowed to participate in the meeting when the Church is gathered together?

Choose only one answer:

- one person or the pastor in a church.
- a few people who are older and respected.
- everyone in the church fellowship.

Question 5 Read I Corinthians 12:12-14, 27: *“The Body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body. So it is with Christ. For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body - whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free - and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. Now the body is not made up of one part but of many...Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.”*

We are all a part of the _____ of Christ, and we need each other, just as parts of our physical bodies need each other.

Think about how many things we can do with our hand. What is one easy task you do with your hand, which you could not do if the thumb is missing from the hand. Give a personal example.

In summary, according to the Bible, it is God’s desire that followers of Christ gather together to help, encourage, teach and minister to each other, with the help of the Holy Spirit in their midst. We call this ‘every member involvement.’ In order to be prepared to minister to one another when we gather together, we each need to:

1. Confess your sin and ask God to help you live a holy life.

In 2 Timothy 2:20-21 the Bible says, *“In a large house there are*

articles not only of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay; some are for noble purposes and some for ignoble. If a man cleanses himself from the latter, he will be an instrument for noble purposes, made holy, useful to the Master and prepared to do any good work.”

2. Pray for each other as commanded in Ephesians 6:18, “*And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.*” As you pray for your friends, God may tell you how to help or encourage them.

3. Read and study your Bible every day; pray, considering what you have learned and what God may want you to share with others. (2 Timothy 3:16-17, Isaiah 50:4-5 were discussed earlier.)

Read Colossians 3:15-17: “*Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.*”

In your own words, tell about the importance of gathering together as believers in Jesus Christ. Write a paragraph of 3 or more sentences. The first sentence is started for you.

“I believe it is important to gather together as believers in Jesus Christ so that _____

PART B: STEWARDSHIP

Question 1 **Read Genesis 14:17-20:** *“After Abram returned from defeating Kedorlaomer and the kings allied with him, the king of Sodom came out to meet him in the Valley of Shaveh (that is the King’s Valley). Then Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine. He was priest of God Most High, and he blessed Abram, saying, ‘Blessed be Abram by God Most High, Creator of heaven and earth. And blessed be God Most High, who delivered your enemies into your hand.’ Then Abram gave him a tenth of everything.”*

It is something of a mystery where this priest came from, bringing to Abram a provision of bread and wine. Why do you think Abram gave God 1/10 of the goods they had? (There is no right or wrong answer.)

Question 2 **Read Numbers 18:21:** *“I give to the Levites all the tithes in Israel as their inheritance in return for the work they do while serving at the Tent of Meeting.”*

In Old Testament times the Israelites gave a tithe of their earnings or their crops God for support of the Levites for their service in the place of worship. What is a tithe?

Question 3 **Read Malachi 3:8-12:** *“Will a man rob God? Yet you rob me. But you ask, ‘How do we rob you?’ “In tithes and offerings. You are under a curse - the whole nation of you - because you are robbing me. Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse that there may be food in my house. Test me in this,” says the Lord Almighty, “and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it. I will prevent pests from devouring your crops, and the vines in your fields will not cast their fruit,” says the Lord Almighty. “Then all the nations will call you blessed, for your will be a delightful land,” says the Lord Almighty.”*

The prophet tells the people they are robbing from God. How did they rob from God? _____

What did God promise to them if they begin to give Him their offerings? _____

Question 4 Read Haggai 1:5-11: *“Now this is what the Lord Almighty says: ‘Give careful thought to your ways. You have planted much, but have harvested little. You eat, but never have enough. You drink, but never have your fill. You put on clothes, but are not warm. You earn wages, only to put them in a purse with holes in it.’ This is what the Lord Almighty says; ‘Give careful thought to your ways. Go up into the mountains and bring down timber and build the house, so that I may take pleasure in it and be honored,’ says the Lord. ‘You expected much, but see, it turned out to be little. What you brought home, I blew away. Why?’ declares the Lord Almighty. ‘Because of my house, which remains a ruin, while each of you is busy with his own house. Therefore, because of you the heavens have withheld their dew and the earth its crops. I called for a drought on the fields and the mountains, on the grain, the new wine, the oil and whatever the ground produces, on men and cattle, and on the labor of your hands.’ ”*

In this chapter we see that the people of Israel were all busy with the needs of their own lives and homes, but the work on the rebuilding of God’s temple had been neglected. What happened in their lives because they did not first honor God and the things which are important to God?

Question 5 Read Haggai 1:12: *“Then Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel, Joshua son of Jehozadak, the high priest, and the whole remnant of the people obeyed the voice of the Lord their God and the message of the prophet Haggai, because the Lord their God had sent him. And the people feared the Lord.”*

What was the response of the people to God’s word of correction?

Question 6 Read Haggai 2:19: *“Is there yet any seed left in the barn? Until now, the vine and the fig tree, the pomegranate and the live tree have not borne fruit, ‘From this day on I will bless you.’”*

What does God promise because they had obeyed Him?

In summary, in the Old Testament, God’s people honored Him by giving a tithe (1/10) of their income or produce to the work of God, His temple, or His ministers. Sometimes God disciplined them when they did not obey, and He gave them better crops and other blessings when they obeyed Him.

PART C: NEW TESTAMENT TEACHINGS ABOUT GIVING

Question 7 Read I Corinthians 16:1-3: *“Now about the collection for God’s people: Do what I told the Galatian churches to do. On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made. Then, when I arrive, I will give letters of introduction to the men you approve and send them with your gift to Jerusalem.”*

In these verses, Paul is asking the Church in Corinth to take up an offering for the Church in Jerusalem who were in great poverty due to the famine and persecution. The Macedonian and Galatian churches also gave in this way.

It became the practice in the early Church to take a collection when they gathered together on the first day of the week.

-Is this the practice when you gather with other believers? _____

-Do you think it should be your practice? _____

Write a sentence describing why you believe a collection should or should not be taken during the meeting of the Church. _____

Question 8 Read 2 Corinthians 8:1-5, 7: *“And now, brothers, we want you to know about the grace that God has given the Macedonian churches. Out of the most severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this*

service to the saints. And they did not do as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then to us in keeping with God's will... But just as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us—see that you also excel in this grace of giving.”

Which statement is true?

If one is very poor, he doesn't need to give anything to others.

Even if we are poor, God helps us give to His work, and to others.

Question 9 **Read 2 Corinthians 9:5-11:** *“So I thought it necessary to urge the brothers to visit you in advance and finish the arrangements for the generous gift you had promised. Then it will be ready as a generous gift, not as one grudgingly given. Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. As it is written: ‘He has scattered abroad his gifts to the poor; His righteousness endures forever.’ ”*

“Now He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.”

As the Church in Corinth gave gifts to the very poor Church in Jerusalem, who helped them have what they needed to do the work of their own Church? _____

Question 10 **Read Philippians 4:18-19:** *“I have received full payment and even more; I am amply supplied, now that I have received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent. They are a fragrant offering, an acceptable sacrifice, pleasing to God. And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus.”*

The Philippians had given to Paul's needs as a missionary. He says these gifts are actually a _____ to God. Because they have given to his needs as a missionary, he expects that _____ will meet their needs.

Question 11 Read James 1:27: *“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.”*

God is also concerned about the needs of people such as _____ and _____, and giving gifts to help supply their needs also pleases God.

Question 12 Read 1 Corinthians 9:11: *“If we have sown spiritual seed among you, is it too much if we reap a material harvest from you?”*

We see in many books of the New Testament that Paul is an apostle, in that he has preached the gospel to establish new believers in Christ, he has planted churches in many cities, and he has continued to supply oversight and leadership to the churches in the following years. **Who will meet Paul’s needs as a missionary and apostle?**

In summary, let us consider some of the ways we can give to God by giving to others. We could give to:

- The needs of the local congregation of which we are a part
- The needs of poorer churches
- The needs of church leaders, apostles, and missionaries
- The needs of the poor, such as widows or orphans

As you read the New Testament, look for other examples of giving which pleases God.

God Himself gives us grace so that we desire to give to the needs of others, and He helps us meet our own needs. In the New Testament, there is no mention of giving only a tenth as they did in the Old Testament.

Most Christians believe however that a standard of giving at least 1/10 is also a good goal for New Testament believers. But as some people have an abundance, they may give far above this amount, as they are led by the Holy Spirit.

The Bible says in I Corinthians 6:19-20: *“Do you know that your body is a temple 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 body,” and in I Corinthians 3:16-17: “Don’t you know that you yourselves are God’s temple and that God’s Spirit lives in you? If anyone destroys God’s temple, God will destroy him; for God’s temple is sacred, and you are that temple.”

Our attitude should be that we ourselves, and all that we own, really belongs to God, because we have been purchased by the blood of Jesus Christ. So with this heart attitude, it would be good to seek God in prayer, asking Him to direct us about what money or things we may keep for ourselves, and what portion He may want us to give to others.

We should also desire His direction about how to be good stewards of our bodies. We should care for our bodies in ways which give us strength and endurance to serve God and others. Consider in prayer how you can invite the Lord Jesus Christ to direct you in such things as:

- What you eat and how much
- What you wear
- How much sleep and exercise you get
- Not using tobacco or other substances which could harm your body, or bring dishonor to your savior Jesus Christ.

As we grow in our knowledge, understanding, and love for the Lord Jesus Christ, we more strongly desire to know and experience His Lordship in all areas of our lives.

LESSON 7: SACRAMENTS OF CHURCH LIFE

PART A: BAPTISM

Question 1 Read Matthew 3:1,2,6: *“In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the desert of Judea and saying, ‘Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near.’ Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River.”*

John the Baptist baptized the people as they repented of their sins. What does it mean to repent of sins? (See Lesson 1 #5)

Question 2 Read Matthew 3:13-17: *“Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John. But John tried to deter him, saying, ‘I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?’*

Jesus replied, ‘Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness.’ Then John consented.

As soon as Jesus was baptized, He went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and lighting on Him. And a voice from heaven said, ‘This is my Son, whom I love; with Him I am well pleased.’”

The Bible says Jesus had _____ sinned, so He did not need to repent of sin. What reason did Jesus give for why He needed to be baptized by John? _____

Question 3 Read Matthew 28:19-20: *“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”*

Jesus commands that as we go and make disciples (followers of Christ) in all nations, we should _____ them, and teach them to _____ Jesus’ teachings.

Question 4 Read Acts 2:38, 41: *“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.’ Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.”*

As Peter preached to others and helped them believe in Jesus Christ, the act of _____ soon followed. People who believe in Jesus Christ, repent of their sin, and follow Him as Lord and Savior, receive _____ of sin, the gift of the _____ and _____ life.

Question 5 Read Romans 6:3-4: *“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.”*

Prayerfully consider the meaning of baptism in your own life. Write a brief sentence about your own baptism, or if you have not been baptized, pray about what the Lord would want you to do. Write about your personal experience.

In summary, our baptism is an outward symbol that we have believed and received the truth of Jesus Christ’s death on the cross and His resurrection from the dead. Just as Jesus was raised to new life, baptism represents our new life in Jesus Christ.

We do not need to be baptized in order to be saved, but after we are saved through faith in Jesus Christ, baptism should take place as an outward sign of our faith in Christ. We do it in obedience to Christ’s command, with His own baptism as our example. Baptism by immersion in water is the only method of water baptism recorded in the Bible.

The Bible does not require special or unique training for those who may baptize new believers. The person performing the baptism must however be a true believer and disciple of Jesus Christ.

At this time, or a later time in the believer’s life, he/she may also pray for the Baptism in the Holy Spirit, which is when God fills the believer with the Holy Spirit to overflowing, resulting in an increased measure of Holy Spirit power for the spiritual gifts and ministry, and usually is accompanied by the gift of speaking in tongues (a language unknown to the speaker.)

LESSON 7: SACRAMENTS OF CHURCH LIFE

PART B: COMMUNION

Read Luke 22:19-20: *“And He (Jesus) took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, ‘This is my body given for you; do this in*

remembrance of me.’ In the same way, after the supper He took the cup, saying, ‘this cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you.’”

In the Old Testament times before Jesus’ life, the old covenant required the giving of an animal sacrifice to God for the forgiveness of sins.

In the new covenant, Jesus was the sinless Lamb of God, sacrificed once on the cross for the sins of all people of all times throughout all of history – past, present, and future. (Review lesson 2, question 2)

Question 1 Read John 1:29-31: “The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, ‘Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.’ This is the one I meant when I said, ‘A man who comes after me has surpassed me because He was before me. I myself did not know Him, but the reason I came baptizing with water was that He might be revealed to Israel.”

John _____ Jesus to the world as God’s sacrifice to satisfy the penalty for sin and our sinful nature.

Question 2 Read Matthew 26:26-28: “While they were eating, Jesus took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to His disciples, saying, ‘Take and eat; this is my body.’ Then He took the cup, gave thanks and offered it to them, saying, ‘Drink from it, all of you. This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.’”

We call this meal of bread and wine ‘communion,’ or ‘The Last Supper.’ (Some people who don’t drink wine sometimes use grape or cherry juice.)

Give one reason why we should celebrate communion when we gather together as a group of believers.

Question 3 Read 1 Corinthians 11:23-26: “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 in 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.”

As Paul wrote to the early Church in Corinth, he reminded them to celebrate communion as Jesus had taught. According to v. 26, how long are we to continue the practice of celebrating communion?

Question 4 Read I Corinthians 11:27-29: “Therefore, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment on himself.”

The Bible says that when a man prepares to take communion, he should examine himself first. What do you think this examination includes?

Check five items below that you think God is concerned about in your life, as you prepare to take communion.

- _____ The appearance of your clothing and hair.
- _____ The way you have treated your neighbor.
- _____ The way you have spoken to your spouse or family.
- _____ The political party you belong to.
- _____ Where you live.
- _____ Whether you have lied to or cheated anyone.
- _____ The way you have treated your parents and elders.
- _____ What kind of job you have.
- _____ Any way you may have displeased God.

Question 5 Read Psalm 139:23-24: “Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.”

Read Psalm 51:1-2: *“Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions. Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.”*

Part of a man’s examination of himself is to ask for God to

Question 6 Read 1 Corinthians 11:29: *“For anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment on himself.”*

This scripture says we are to “recognize the body of the Lord.”

Read 1 Corinthians 12:27: *“Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.”*

To recognize the body of the Lord could mean several things. Some of them are:

1. To understand that the bread and wine (or juice) is meant to be a symbol of Christ’s death on the cross for our sins.
2. To remember that all who recognize Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior are a part of the world-wide group, or Body of Christ.
3. To examine ourselves to be sure we have at some time truly repented of our sin, asked God’s forgiveness, and received Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior.

In summary, the Bible says we are to celebrate communion in remembrance of what Jesus has done for us. A model for this communion service could be 1 Corinthians 11:23-29. Before we take communion, we need to pray and examine ourselves, and allow the Holy Spirit to reveal any sin which we need to confess, and ask God’s forgiveness for that sin. We also need to be sure we have become a part of His body by receiving Jesus Christ as our personal Lord and Savior.

The Bible allows for all believers to participate equally during the celebration of communion. Any group of believers who have examined themselves may distribute and partake of the bread and wine together. People who don’t drink wine may substitute a juice such as grape juice or other fruit juices in place of the wine.

The Bible does not limit us to special places, special times, or special people for conducting the celebration of communion. All true believers may do so as often as the Holy Spirit leads them.

There are other sacraments and Church practices which have not been discussed in this brief book, such as the marriage ceremony, dedication of children to the Lord, prayer for the sick, and the laying on of hands. These are covered in Hebrews 6:1-3 and other Scriptures. Baptism and Communion are the only two commands that the Lord instituted. Christ instituted marriage, but did not command all believers to be married. Children may be dedicated to the Lord in their early months or years as Jesus was on the 8th day of His earthly life; but no command was given to dedicate or baptize children.

?

“WHO DO MEN SAY

THAT I AM?"

???

“WHO DO YOU SAY
THAT I AM?”

JESUS

by DAVID C. WOODRUM

WHO DO MEN SAY THAT I AM?

~~~~~

*WHO DO YOU SAY THAT I AM?*

The man, Jesus of Nazareth, is the most famous and influential human being who ever lived, but who was He really? What is He? What is the

truth about this man named Jesus, who some call Christ and worship Him as their God. Is He *the* Savior of mankind, or only a fake?

In Matthew 16:13-15 Jesus asked His disciples, “*Who do men say that I am?*” And then He asked His disciples, “*Who do you say that I am?*” This question continues to be asked to this very day. Who does the Holy Bible say that Jesus is? Who do you say that He is?

To some He is still a baby who never grew up. To others He is a dead man on a cross. To some He is equal to, or even under the rule of His mother, Mary. To others He is only one of many good people, or a prophet who shows one of the many ways to God, but is not **‘*the only way.*’**

Study these Bible verses and decide for yourself who Jesus really is.

.....

|                                                                              |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><i>Jesus was God come in the flesh, conceived by the Holy Spirit.</i></p> |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

**Read John 1:1-2, 14:** “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God...And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us...we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.”

**Read I John 4:2-3a:** “*This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God.*”

**Read Colossians 1:15-16, 19:** “*He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by Him all things were created...All things were created by Him and for Him. For God was pleased to have all His fullness dwell in Him ...*”

**Read Isaiah 7:14:** “*Therefore the Lord Himself shall give a sign; behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call His name Emmanuel.*”

**Read Matthew 1:20-21:** “*...Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy*

*Spirit. And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.”*

---

2.

*Jesus died to make atonement for our sinful nature; afterwards He was resurrected from the dead in the flesh.*

**Read Luke 24:36-43:** *“And He said to them. ‘Why are you troubled? And why do doubts arise in your hearts? Behold my hands for my feet, that it is I myself. Handle me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see I have.’”*

**Read John 20:27:** *“Then He said to Thomas, ‘Reach your fingers here, and look at My hands: and reach your hand here, and put it into My side. Do not be unbelieving, but believing.’”*

**Read Acts 4:33:** *“And with great power the apostles gave witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And great grace was upon them.”*

**Read I Corinthians 15:3-6:** *“For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scripture... and He was seen by more than five hundred ...”*

**Read Ephesians 1:19-20:** *“...and His incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is like the working of His mighty strength, which He exerted in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly realms...”*

**Read Psalm 16:10-11:** *“For you will not leave my soul in Sheol, nor will you allow your Holy One to see corruption. You will show me the path of life; in your presence is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.”*

---

3.

*Jesus will physically return from Heaven to reign on the earth.*

**Read Matthew 24:30:** “Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.”

**Read Acts 1:11:** “...why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven.”

**Read Revelation 20:4,6:** “And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a 1000 years.”

**Read Revelation 22:7:** “Behold I am coming quickly! Blessed is he who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book.”

**Read I Timothy 6:13-14:** “I urge you in the sight of God who gives life to all things, and before Christ Jesus who witnessed the good confession before Pontius Pilate, that you keep this commandment without spot, blameless until our Lord Jesus Christ’s appearing...”

.....  
4.

*God is holy. All men are sinful, falling short of God’s standard for holiness. Sin separates us from God and we can never be ‘good enough’ to satisfy God’s standard of holiness.*

**Read Romans 3:10:** “As it is written: ‘There is none righteous, no, not one.’” (See also Psalm 14:1-3, Psalm 53:1-3.)

**Read Ecclesiastes 7:20:** “For there is not a just man on earth who does good and does not sin.”

**Read Romans 3:22-24:** “...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”

**Read I John 1:8,10:** “If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us...If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.”

**Read Hebrews 12:14:** *“Pursue peace with all men, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord.”*

**Read Psalm 66:18:** *“If I regard iniquity (lawlessness) in my heart, the Lord will not hear.”*

**Read Romans 6:23:** *“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”*

.....

5.

*The only way to reconcile sinful man with a holy God is by faith in the sinless life, atoning death on the cross, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.*

**Read John 10:9-11:** *“I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture. The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I’ve come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly. I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep.”*

**Read John 14:6:** *“Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.’”*

**Read Acts 4:12:** *“Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”*

**Read Hebrews 7:26-27:** *“For such a High Priest was fitting for us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and has become higher than the heavens, who does not need daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifices, first for His own sins and then for the people’s, for this He did once for all when He offered up Himself.”*

.....

6.

*We face judgment if we don’t accept Jesus as the ONLY way to be reconciled with God. Judgment is eternal separation from God in His wrath (Hell).*

**Read Mark 16:16:** *“He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.”*

**Read John 5:22-24:** *“For the Father judges no one, but has committed all judgment to the Son, that all should honor the Son just as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him. Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears my word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life.”*

**Read Acts 10:42-43:** *“And He commanded us to preach to the people, and to testify that it is He who was ordained by God to be judge of the living and the dead. To Him all the prophets witness that, through His name, whoever believes in Him will receive remission of sins.”*

**Read Acts 17:31:** *“...He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead.”* -

**Read Luke 16:19-31:** *“...between us and you a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who want to go from here to you can not, nor can anyone cross over from there to us...”*

**Read Hebrews 9:27-28:** *“...just as man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment...”*

7.

*We must be willing to turn from sin and ungodly ways (repent). The Holy Spirit is given to those who repent of their sins and believe and receive Jesus Christ; and He helps men turn from sin to live holy lives.*

**Read Acts 17:30:** *“Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent.”*

**Read Acts 3:19:** *“Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord...”*

**Read Luke 24:46-47:** *“Then He said to them, ‘Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.’ ”*

**Read I John 1:9:** *“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”*

**Read Philippians 2:12-13:** *“...for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.”*

8.

*We must receive God’s free gift of salvation and eternal life through Jesus by faith, accepting His Lordship of our lives.*

**Read John 1:12:** *“But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name.”*

**Read Romans 10:9-10:** *“...that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.”*

**Read Ephesians 2:8-9:** *“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.”*

**Read John 5:21:** *“For as the Father raises the dead and gives life to them, even so the Son gives life to whom He will.”*

**WHAT YOU BELIEVE ABOUT  
JESUS CHRIST OF NAZARETH ... WILL  
DETERMINE THE COURSE OF YOUR  
LIFE AND YOUR ETERNAL DESTINY!**



After you have read these verses from the Holy Bible you may have a desire to prove to yourself who this Jesus of Nazareth truly is. Today, you can know the love and peace of God within yourself by accepting these words as *truth* and praying.

***“Father God, I believe that You sent Your Son Jesus Christ to die on a cross for the sins and sinful nature of all men, women and children for all ages. After He died, I believe You raised Him back to life from the dead. I accept that He died for my sins, paying the price for my salvation from Your judgment and wrath in hell. Please forgive me for my sins and my sinful nature. Thank you, Jesus of Nazareth, for becoming my Savior. I repent of ruling my own life and ask You, Jesus, to also become the Lord of my life. I am convinced that You are the only way to know true peace with God the Father. I also ask that You give me Your Holy Spirit to guide and direct me, helping me to live a life which pleases You. Help me turn away from everything which is not acceptable in Your sight; make me holy as You are holy.***

***In Jesus’ Name, Amen.”***