

Name _____

Welcome

To The Family Of God



Biblical Growth For The New Believer

Verse references taken from the KJV Bible.
Printed by Esperanza Baptist Church • Santa Clarita, CA

Making Much of JESUS!

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Level 1

LESSONS REVIEWED
(Teacher Initials)

- 1 Your Creator (___)
- 2 Your New Birth (___)
- 3 Your Assurance (___)
- 4 Your Bible (___)
- 5 Your Baptism (___)
- 6 Your Daily Walk (___)
- 7 Your Perspective (___)
- 8 Your Church (___)
- 9 Your Witness (___)
- 10 Your Future (___)

1

Your Creator



IN THE BEGINNING

1. In the beginning **G**_____ created the **h**_____ and the **e**_____. Genesis 1:1
2. The heavens declare the **g**_____ of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork. Psalm 19:1
3. So God created **m**_____ in his own image, . . . male and female created he them. Genesis 1:27
4. For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal **p**_____ and Godhead; so that they are without **e**_____. Romans 1:20
5. I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvellous are thy **w**_____; and that my soul knoweth right well. Psalms 139:14

According to the Bible, you did not evolve from a lower life form. You were created by a loving God with a specific purpose: to glorify God with your life.

A HOLY GOD

God created a beautiful paradise for Adam and Eve. He clearly instructed them not to eat from a certain tree in the middle of the garden. They failed this simple test of obedience and God was left with no choice but to punish sin. Man was created immortal and would have lived with God forever if sin had not entered into the equation.

6. For the wages of sin is **d**_____. Romans 6:23
7. Wherefore, as by one man **s**_____ entered into the world, and **d**_____ by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that **a**_____ have sinned. Romans 5:12

God is righteous and His very character of being just and fair demand punishment for sin. He can never tolerate anything sinful or dirty to corrupt His perfect nature. It would be like rubbing together a clean white sheet with one covered in mud. The dirty sheet would corrupt the clean one. It appeared that there would be

WHO IS GOD?

The Bible does not try to convince us of God's existence. It presents God's existence as a fact.

"But without **f**_____ it is impossible to please him: he that cometh to God must believe that he is." Hebrews 11:6

For centuries mankind has had a universal belief in a Supreme Being. Everything in the universe has a specific design. For example, a group of bricks do not simply explode and form a building. There is a complex design by an architect. Because God is the Creator, He has the right to set the rules. We can see the power, glory, and majesty of God in His creation, but God also gave us the Bible to reveal Himself to us. The Bible uses many human terms to help us better understand who God is. In the Hebrew language, there are three primary ways to say God: Elohim, Adonai, and Jehovah. The Greek name "Jesus" means "Jehovah is my salvation."

God's personality has many characteristics. He is not merely an impersonal "force" that exists in nature. There is only one God but He eternally exists in three persons (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) much like water can exist in three distinct forms and still maintain its original essence (water, gas, and ice). Each form can exist separate or together.

God is a perfect and infinite Spirit who sustains His creation. He is all-knowing, all-powerful, and everywhere-present. God is both compassionate and perfectly just. He never changes. God made man with incredible precision and continues to play an active role in the lives of those whom He created.

Deuteronomy 6:4 • John 4:24
Matthew 28:19 • Malachi 3:6
Psalm 14:1 • Colossians 1:15-17

no hope for man to ever be close to God again. God's heart was broken. Because of sin, mankind was now destined to suffer separation from a holy God . . . forever.

8. 1 John 1:5 says that God is light, and in him is no **d**_____ at all.

Because of the fall, man is completely lost and enslaved to sin with no hope of saving himself. But the story does not end there. God IS a righteous Judge, but He is also a loving and forgiving Creator.



9. He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is **l**_____. 1 John 4:8

A LOVING GOD

God had a plan to rescue man from his lost condition. God had to find a way to cleanse man's sin so that he could enter into a restored relationship with his Creator. An innocent blood sacrifice would be necessary to pay the horrible price of sin. In the Old Testament, the Law showed man that, because of his sin, he fell short of God's perfect standard. The sacrifices of innocent animals to atone for their sins were only a shadow to help understand the real, ultimate sacrifice that was to come. Many placed their faith in a future Savior whom God promised to send, who would voluntarily give His innocent life as the final sacrifice for our debt of sin. That is why in John 1:36 Christ is called the "Lamb of God."

10. For the life of the flesh is in the **b**_____ . . . it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the **s**_____. Leviticus 17:11

11. Without shedding of blood is no **r**_____. Hebrews 9:22

12. Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his **o**_____ blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained **e**_____ redemption for us. Hebrews 9:12

13. According to Hebrews 9:12, what is the only sacrifice that can completely atone for sin? _____

NOTE> A "religion" is a set of rules or rituals by which man attempts to appease the wrath of a god or gods. Religious activity can never replace the sacrificial blood of Christ as the only atonement for sin.

Emmanuel is a biblical name for Christ that means "God with us." God came in human form to shed His own blood in our place so that we would not merely have to know things **about** God, but that we would actually know **Him**. Throughout the Bible we find the greatest story of hope ever told about this Savior who would deliver the world from sin and offer eternal life freely to all who believe.

THE LAMB OF GOD

God prepared the world to receive the arrival of the Savior. Throughout history, there was a basic understanding of the word "SACRIFICE." Many religions practiced a form of blood sacrifice to appease their god or gods. However, the full concept was misunderstood until God used the Jewish people to provide a more clear picture of the necessity of a blood sacrifice to atone for sin. In Egypt, to escape the judgment of God, the Jews had to sacrifice a lamb and put its blood on their door posts. The purpose of the sacrifice was to atone for the sins of the people. But the sacrifices of all of the lambs that ever lived could not permanently take away sin. Only the blood of the spotless Lamb of God could pay sin's steep price.

For it is not possible that the **b**_____ of bulls and of goats should take away sin. Hebrews 10:4

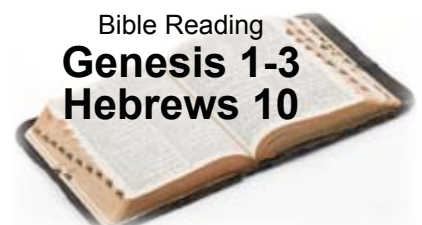
SIN = any deliberate action, attitude, or thought that goes against God.

RIGHTEOUS = morally upright; without guilt or sin.

ATONEMENT = to pay or make amends for a wrong

REMISSION = forgiveness of a debt or penalty

REDEMPTION = rescue or recovery of something lost



2

Your New Birth



THE PROBLEM OF SIN

Man has a natural desire to rebel against God and ignore His principles. "It is my life and I will do what I want" seems to be man's common response to God. The Bible calls this attitude sin.

1. All we like **s**_____ have gone astray; we have turned every one to his **o**_____ way; and the Lord hath laid on him [Christ] the iniquity [sin] of us all. Isaiah 53:6
2. But your iniquities have separated between **y**_____ and your **G**_____, and your **s**_____ have hid his face from you, that he will not hear. Isaiah 59:2
3. For **a**_____ have sinned, and come short of the glory of God. Romans 3:23
4. What are the wages (consequences) of sin? **d**_____ Romans 6:23
5. Read Revelation 20:15; 21:27. What happens to anyone NOT found written in the Book of Life? _____
Those who place their trust in Christ as Savior now have their names in the Book of Life.
6. What was your spiritual condition before salvation? _____ Ephesians 2:1

THE SOLUTION TO SIN

7. But God commendeth [showed] his **l**_____ toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Romans 5:8
8. Through Christ's death, we receive **f**_____ of **s**_____. Colossians 1:14
9. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to **f**_____ us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1:9

THE NEW BIRTH

When you repent of (turn from) your sins and believe (place your trust) in Christ to forgive you of your sins, the Bible calls this being "born again." See Mark 1:15 and John 3:3. The New Birth comes by trusting in God's solution to the sin problem. The NEW BIRTH

WHO IS JESUS?

Long before His birth, the Bible gave literally hundreds of very specific prophecies concerning Christ and all of them came to pass exactly as predicted. The testimony of His character, the proofs of His ministry, and the witness of His many followers all give evidence that Jesus is who He claimed to be - the Savior.

In order to avoid man's original sin nature that had been passed down through the ages, Christ was supernaturally born to a young virgin chosen by God. Jesus is the Son of Man because He was born to a woman, yet He is also the Son of God because He did not have a human father.

Rather than come as a wealthy king, God chose to present himself as a humble carpenter. The religious paintings that depict Jesus as being somewhat feminine, with long blond hair, light colored eyes and pale skin are not accurate. Jesus was a very normal looking Jewish man who experienced tiredness, hunger, pain, temptation, and death.

1 Timothy 3:16 says that "God was **m**_____ in the **f**_____." Jesus is 100% man but He is also 100% God. He possesses all of the attributes of God. In John 10:30, Jesus said, "I and my **F**_____ are one." Read John 20:28,29. Thomas called Jesus, "My Lord and my **G**_____." Did Jesus correct Thomas for saying this? ____

Jesus lived a sinless, innocent life and then suffered an agonizing physical and spiritual death upon a cross to take the punishment for our sins upon Himself in order to reconcile us to God. Romans 5:10 says, "we were reconciled to God by the **d**_____ of his Son."

Three days following His death on the cross, the Bible teaches that He conquered death by coming . . .

is not referring to baptism, overcoming bad habits, or merely having a "religious experience." Of course the New Birth can be an emotional experience, but the emotional feelings are not what save; they are just a result. Placing your faith in the truth of God's Word is what brings genuine salvation. See 1 Peter 1:23.

truth → **faith** → **emotions**

10. According to John 3:3, what is the one requirement to enter Heaven? You must be **b**_____ **a**_____.

Salvation is a FREE gift that you did not deserve, but Christ reached His hand out to save you from the terrible, eternal punishment called Hell.

11. For the Son of man is come to **s**_____ and to **s**_____ that which was lost. Luke 19:10

12. For by **g**_____ are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the **g**_____ of God. Ephesians 2:8

13. Therefore if any man be in **C**_____, he is a **n**_____ creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become **n**_____. 2 Corinthians 5:17

14. But as many as **r**_____ him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that **b**_____ on his name: which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of man, but of God. John 1:12,13
The New Birth is the only way to enter into the family of God.

➤ In your own words, explain when and how you were born again: (This is called a testimony).

TRUE (T) OR FALSE (F)

- _____ Sin separated us from God.
- _____ If I just believe that God exists, I will go to Heaven.
- _____ Only really bad people go to Hell.
- _____ If I attend church and do good things, I will go to Heaven.
- _____ There is more than one way to Heaven.
- _____ Eternal life is a free gift to those who place their faith in Christ.

back to life and He appeared before a large number of witnesses. Romans 4:25 says Jesus "was delivered for our offenses, and was raised again for our **j**_____."

A short time after his resurrection, Jesus went to prepare a special, eternal place for His followers. Because of Christ's resurrection from the dead, those who place their faith in Him have an eternal inheritance reserved in Heaven.

Philippians 2:6-11 • Galatians 4:4,5
 Romans 5:10-18 • Luke 1:26-31
 Isaiah 53:2 • John 4:6
 Philippians 2:7 • Matthew 21:18
 Luke 22:44 • Hebrews 4:15
 John 19:33 • John 1 • Hebrews 1:8
 I John 2:2 • I Peter 1:3,4

GRACE = unmerited favor or receiving a gift that one is not worthy to receive.

MERCY = God withholding from us the penalty we deserve.

REPENT = to change one's mind or attitude about sin. It requires the surrender of the intellect, emotions, and will to God.

JUSTIFICATION = to be declared righteous just as if one had never sinned.

SANCTIFICATION = set apart for God; to make holy, purify.



3

Your Assurance



THERE IS ONLY ONE SAVIOR

Even when man recognizes that his greatest need is God, he often chooses the wrong path in his attempt to know God.

1. According to John 14:6, how many ways are there to Heaven? ____
2. In John 10:1, what does Jesus call someone who tries to enter the sheepfold [Heaven] another way? _____ and _____
In John 10:9, who is the door to salvation? _____
3. Neither is there s _____ in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be s _____. Acts 4:12
Is salvation possible without Jesus Christ? ____
4. For there is one G _____, and one m _____ between God and men, the man Christ Jesus. 1 Timothy 2:5
Who is the ONLY mediator between God and man? _____
5. According to John 3:16, in whom must one believe (or trust) to receive eternal life? _____

THERE WAS ONLY ONE SACRIFICE

Jesus accomplished all of the work of salvation when he took your place on the cross. He paid for all of your sins (past, present, and future) in that moment. The debt was declared PAID IN FULL.

"Their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more." (Hebrews 8:12)

6. But this man after he had offered o _____ sacrifice for sins f _____, sat down on the right hand of God. Hebrews 10:12
7. Though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as w _____ as snow. Isaiah 1:18
8. As far as the e _____ is from the w _____, so far hath he removed our transgressions [sins] from us. Psalm 103:12
9. What is the gift of God? e _____ l _____ Romans 6:23

CAN YOU BE SURE OF ETERNAL LIFE?

Assurance of salvation means that you can have the peace and certainty that as a child of God you already have eternal life.

WHO IS THE HOLY SPIRIT?

There is only one God, but He exists in three persons, one being the Holy Spirit. Therefore, the Holy Spirit is God. In Scripture, He is given divine names and attributes. He is a Person and not an impersonal force. The Bible refers to Him as the Holy Ghost and the Spirit of truth, among other names.

The Holy Spirit was active in creation, in authoring the Word of God, and in the birth and resurrection of Christ. Jesus promised that the Holy Spirit would be our Comforter. He works to convince the world to repent of sin and believe in Christ so as to avoid the judgment to come. When one puts his faith in Christ, the Holy Spirit does the work of regeneration (the New Birth). The Holy Spirit dwells inside the believer. In fact, the Bible calls the body of a believer the temple (or home) of the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit intercedes for believers when we are not sure how to express our needs to God. He helps us to understand God's Word. He also gives us power to enable us to minister to others. God desires for us to be full of the Holy Spirit. This means to be under His daily influence in order to be guided into a richer relationship with God and into an abundant, productive spiritual life that utilizes the gifts or abilities given by the Holy Spirit.

Note: According to John 14:26, the Holy Spirit is Christ's representative on Earth. Beware of any religious leader who claims to be the vicar or representative of Christ.

1 John 5:7 • John 14:16,17,26
Genesis 1:2 • 2 Peter 1:21 • Luke 1:35
Romans 8:11 • John 16:8-11 • Romans 8:9
1 Corinthians 6:19 • Romans 8:26-27
1 Corinthians 2:12-14 • Acts 1:8
Ephesians 5:18 • Galatians 5:22,23

*... I have loved thee with
an everlasting love ...
- Jeremiah 31:3*

Satan can cause many doubts about salvation in the life of the new believer. He can manipulate your emotions to make you feel like there has been no change in your life so that you will return to a sinful lifestyle. Remember, eternal security is not based on emotions that may change daily. It is based on the unchanging Word of God.

10. In 2 Timothy 1:12, Paul used the words "I **k**_____ whom I have **b**_____ " to express his certainty of salvation.

11. In 1 John 5:13, John states that a believer "may **k**_____ " that he has **e**_____ **l**_____.
Can something that is eternal ever end? _____

12. And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his **S**_____. He that hath the Son hath **l**_____; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not **l**_____.
1 John 5:11,12

13. After you believed, you were "**s**_____" by the Holy Spirit. Ephesians 1:13

God adopts the believer into his family. We are not saved **BY** good works, but **FOR** good works. A lack of good works involves loss of rewards, not loss of one's eternal relationship with Christ (1 Corinthians 3:15). You did nothing to earn the free gift of salvation; therefore, you can do nothing to lose it.

14. Not by **w**_____ of righteousness [good deeds] which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us. Titus 3:5

15. God has made you "**a**_____ in the beloved." Ephesians 1:6
Beloved, now are we the **s**_____ of God. 1 John 3:2
The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the **c**_____ of God. Romans 8:16

16. According to Romans 8:38-39, is there anything that can separate us from the love of God in Christ? _____

17. According to John 10:27-28, who gives the believer eternal life? _____ Will they ever perish? _____
Can anyone pluck or remove them from Christ's hand? _____

18. John 5:24 says that the believer "has **e**_____ life, and shall not come into condemnation."

19. Will God ever cast you out of his family? _____ John 6:37,39

20. 1 Peter 1:5 says the believer is "**k**_____ by the power of God through faith" and Jude 24 says that Jesus "**k**_____ you from falling."

Assurance of salvation will give you joy, comfort, confidence before God, victory over the world, stability, and a greater desire to serve God.

WHAT HAPPENS IF YOU SIN?

Without the evidence of a changed life, a testimony of faith in Christ is very doubtful and most likely the person has not genuinely received Christ. A genuine believer will desire to keep God's commandments and will not be comfortable living in sin. There will be a change in lifestyle, but even a real Christian might still sin at times because they are not perfect, just forgiven. God loves you, but hates sin and does not want you to sin. As human beings we are still tempted, but God always provides a way to escape temptation. If we do sin, 1 John 1:9 says we should **c**_____ our sins to God.

Note: Beware of confessing sin to a priest because they can never forgive sin. Pray to God directly, knowing that only God forgives sin. 1 John 2:1 says that Jesus is our advocate with the Father, meaning that Jesus intercedes on our behalf.

As a true believer, you can never lose your salvation, but sin does cause the believer to lose fellowship with God (it harms your relationship). Sin is an obstacle that greatly hinders your service to God, too. Salvation saves us from the eternal consequence of sin (Hell), but there are still other consequences. It helps to focus on the consequences of sin, not the pleasure of sin. God will discipline his children to make them more holy, more like Him (Hebrews 12:5-10). When a child misbehaves, a good parent does not throw them out of the family. So it is with God. He corrects and disciplines His children, but He does not cast them out of His family.

1 John 2:3,15 • 1 John 1:8; 2:1
Romans 6:1,2 • 1 John 1:6,7





THE WORD OF GOD

What is the most important authority in your life? What determines your beliefs? What guides you in your decisions and conduct? Many would say that their authority for life is based upon their "conscience" or "feelings." Others say that their beliefs are based on the church or religious tradition, although many traditions were created by religious leaders and not by God.

1. Titus 1:15 says that "even their **m**_____ and conscience is defiled."
2. Colossians 2:8 warns to beware of **p**_____ and **t**_____ of men.

The authority that guides each believer in beliefs and conduct is the Holy Bible. The Bible is different from any other book as it is supernatural. It is actually made up of 66 books divided into two parts - the Old and New Testaments. The books are not in chronological order, but are ordered by themes.

3. The Bible did not come by "the will of **m**_____." It was spoken by "men of **G**_____" but was authored by the "**H**_____ **G**_____." 2 Peter 1:21
4. **A**____ Scripture is given by inspiration of **G**_____.
2 Timothy 3:16,17
Inspiration means "God-breathed." According to this verse, how much of the Bible is inspired by God? _____

God is the author of the Bible, but he used 40 men over a period of 1,600 years with different social classes and different styles of writing to pen his Word. The original Old Testament was written in Hebrew and Aramaic. The New Testament was written in Greek. Throughout history, Satan's attempts to destroy God's Word by burning it or making it a forbidden book have failed.

5. God promised to **p**_____ his Word.
Psalms 12:6,7; Matthew 24:35

Its survival for so many centuries, the precise historical records and locations, the detailed lives of numerous godly men and women, the changed lives of those who follow its principles, the prophecies of the life of Christ given some 400 years before his birth, and the thousands of other biblical prophecies fulfilled exactly as written are just a few reasons that give believers complete confidence in God's Word. No other book can boast of such convincing evidence.

WHO IS SATAN?

Satan is not an imaginary character and does not wear a red suit with horns or have a forked tail. According to the Bible, Satan is very real and very dangerous. Twenty-seven books in the Bible make reference to him. Some of his many names are the devil, the tempter, Lucifer, and an angel of light.

Satan was created a perfect cherub angel with incredible beauty, intelligence, and power. Sinful pride corrupted him and his greatest desire now is to receive worship in a futile attempt to be God. Most of the world's religions devote their worship to false gods, which is, in reality, worshipping Satan, whom the Bible calls the "god of this world."

Note: Satan will usually use influences that appear innocent or fascinating in order to deceive. He can even perform some miracles, so beware of visions, appearances of false christs, Mary, or angels. Avoid religious healers, witchcraft, astrology, psychics, charms for luck or protection, and other dangerous influences (Acts 16:16-18; 19:18-19).

Satan was cast out of God's presence along with a large number of deceived angels (demons) that chose to follow this charismatic leader, the father of lies. Today, Satan and his demons continue to work diligently in the spiritual realm to attack and accuse believers, blind the lost with deception, and change the message of the Gospel. The believer can be comforted by 1 John 4:4 - "Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because **g**_____ is he that is in you [Jesus], than he that is in the **w**_____ [Satan]." The Bible assures us that Satan is a defeated enemy and that his final destiny is already determined: he will be judged and cast into a lake of fire for eternity. Until that day, God provides spiritual armor to help the believer resist Satan's attacks (Ephesians 6:10-18). James 4:7 says, "Submit . . .

GOD'S LOVE LETTER TO YOU

The Bible is not just a scholarly book of historical facts. It is God's love letter to you which highlights a common thread from beginning to end: Jesus Christ. You will not understand all of God's Word right away. It takes time to study and learn, so have patience and don't give up. Note: Every new believer has difficulty finding books and verses but as you begin to study your Bible more and more, it will become easier. Until then, use the book index at the front of your Bible to find the page numbers.

6. The Bible is sharper than a "two-edged s_____." Hebrews 4:12
It can penetrate the depths of the heart like no other book.


7. It helps you to grow just like m_____ helps a baby. 1 Peter 2:2

8. It helps us to not s_____ against God. Psalms 119:11

It is never RIGHT to do WRONG and it is never WRONG to do RIGHT. In a world with so much confusion, it is soothing to know that there is a source of hope and authority to guide your path. Attend a good, Bible-teaching church, study the Bible, memorize key verses, and obey God's principles, so that you may grow strong in your relationship with God and live a successful life.

TRUE (T) OR FALSE (F)

- _____ If you ask for God's help, you can understand the Bible.
- _____ Religious tradition is the most important authority.
- _____ ALMOST all of the Bible is God's Word.
- _____ Satan does not want you to read the Bible.
- _____ The book of Mormon, the Jehovah Witness Bible, and the Muslim Koran are also considered God's Word.

 To help you find verses more easily, practice saying the books of the Bible in order.



yourselves therefore to G____. Resist the devil, and he will f_____ from you." Christ showed us by example that the greatest weapon we have against Satan is the Word of God.

Ezekiel 28:11-19 • Isaiah 14:12-17 • Matthew 4
2 Corinthians 4:4 • Hebrews 2:14 • Acts 8:9-11

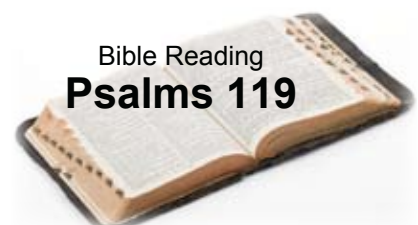
WHO ARE ANGELS?

Jesus and the Apostles taught that angels really do exist. They were created as good, powerful, spiritual beings. They serve God with a heavenly ministry and an earthly ministry. They were at times used by God as messengers. Today they work to protect, guide, and strengthen the believer.

Note: Some books and movies explore the possibility of humans becoming angels by doing good deeds. That is not a biblical teaching. At times however, angels can appear as humans (Hebrews 13:2).

Matthew 18:10 • 2 Thessalonians 1:7
Colossians 1:16 • Hebrews 1:14 • Isaiah 6
Hebrews 1:14 • Acts 8:26 • 1 Kings 19:5-8

Write Joshua 1:8. _____



Memory Verse > **Psalms 119:105**

Your Baptism

Baptism and the Lord's Supper are the two ordinances that God has given the church, but neither play a role in the salvation of a believer. Many are taught that baptism is a sacrament, a formal religious ceremony conferring a specific grace on those who receive it. But, as you learned in previous studies, salvation is offered freely by God based upon faith in Christ and not upon good works or religious tradition. Therefore, baptism is not a step to receive salvation. Before being baptized, it is very important to understand the biblical purpose and method of baptism.



THE PURPOSE OF BAPTISM

The Bible does not make baptism optional. It is an ordinance (commandment) that gives the believer an opportunity to demonstrate obedience to God.

1. What is the first step a person should take after becoming a disciple of Christ? Matthew 28:19,20 _____
2. Read Acts 8:26-40.
In verses 36 and 37, what is the only prerequisite to be saved? b_____ (faith and repentance).
After placing his faith in Christ, the eunuch wanted to give a testimony of his salvation. What did he do? _____
3. When does one receive the Holy Spirit? Acts 10:47-48
(check one): ___ when one receives Christ ___ when one is baptized



Baptism is a symbol of the transformation that already occurred at the moment of salvation. It is much like putting on a wedding ring during a marriage ceremony. The wedding ring is a public symbol of the devotion between a bride and groom just as baptism is a public symbol of your devotion to Christ.

4. Read Luke 23:32-33, 39-43. One of the thieves on the cross was saved. Was he baptized before dying on the cross? _____
Did Jesus say he would go to heaven? _____
5. In Acts 2:41, **AFTER** receiving the word (salvation), what did these new believers do? _____

THE LORD'S SUPPER

The second ordinance is the Lord's Supper, also referred to as communion or the Lord's table (the Bible never mentions the terms mass, holy communion, or eucharist). The Lord's Supper was instituted by Christ on the night He was to be betrayed. The Lord's Supper is sacred and very important but, like baptism, it is not a sacrament (part of salvation); it is simply a symbol. Like baptism, it is only to be observed by genuine believers who have placed their faith in Christ.

The true meaning of the Lord's Supper is found in 1 Corinthians 11:23-26. Christ said, "this do in r_____ of me." It is to remember the Lord's death on the cross and his second coming. It is an act of obedience to Christ and of communion with other brothers and sisters in the faith.

The bread symbolizes the body of Christ that was broken through terrible suffering. The cup (or juice) represents the blood of Christ. Hebrews 9:22 says, "without shedding of blood is no remission" of sin. The Bible does not use the term "wine" (as in fermented juice) when referring to the Lord's Supper. Fermentation would produce a substance called leaven which was symbolic of sin (the bread also had to be unleavened). The Bible refers to the juice as the "cup" or "fruit of the vine."

The Bible does not give a specific time frame to observe the Lord's Supper (1 Corinthians 11:26), so it can be observed whenever the pastor and church may choose.

Matthew 26:17-30 • Mark 14:12-26 • Luke 22:7-20
1 Corinthians 10:14-22; 11:17-34

THE MASS

Many are taught that "the mass" sacrifices Christ again in that he becomes physically present at the altar through the bread and wine. They are taught that this ceremony

Baptism does not play any role in salvation. It is a public testimony that a person has **already** placed his or her faith in Christ. It identifies you with Christ and your local church.

6. In Acts 8:12, what did the people do before being baptized? They b_____.

Baptism is only for those who have already repented of their sins and placed their faith in Christ to save them. It is to be done **AFTER** salvation and not before. Baptism before genuine salvation is simply a religious tradition that God does not accept. Also see Matthew 3:7,8; John 1:4; Acts 16:14,15; Acts 16:30-34; Acts 18:8.

NOTE> The tradition of infant baptism was established by the Catholic Council of Mela in 416 AD, but the Bible does not teach or even give an example of it. Because a baby does not yet know right from wrong, it cannot yet repent and believe (Deuteronomy 1:39). Babies that die are safe in God's care and will go to heaven (2 Samuel 12:22,23).

THE METHOD OF BAPTISM

Some churches baptize by sprinkling, others by pouring, and others by complete immersion in water. The Bible clearly teaches that only one is correct.

7. According to Ephesians 4:5, how many types of baptism are biblical? (circle one): 1 2 3

8. Read Romans 6:1-5.

This passage teaches that baptism is a symbol of Christ's death, burial, and resurrection. What type of baptism do you think most closely resembles the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ? (circle one): sprinkling immersion pouring

9. In Matthew 3:6, John the Baptist was baptizing in the Jordan River. In John 3:23, what was the reason John the Baptist baptized in Aenon? "There was much w_____ there." Which type of baptism do you think would require a river or much water? (circle one): sprinkling immersion pouring

10. In Mark 1:10, when Jesus was baptized, he came up out of the w_____.

NOTE> It was not until the Catholic Council of Ravenna in 1311 AD that the tradition of baptism by sprinkling was approved. The early church practiced the biblical form of baptism by immersion.

The NEW BIRTH is the door to salvation, but BAPTISM is the door to church membership (1 Corinthians 12:13). The Bible places great emphasis on baptism as a very important step of obedience and spiritual growth. It was so important for Christ to set an example that he walked approximately 70 miles (112km) to be baptized (Matthew 3:13-17). If you would like to follow the Lord in believer's baptism, let your pastor know as soon as possible.

is a necessary part of salvation and they are literally eating Christ's flesh. The doctrine was approved by Pope Innocent III in 1215 AD at the Fourth Lateran Council, but was not taught by the early church.

The Bible clearly teaches that the Lord's Supper is not a magical transformation of the bread into flesh and the juice into blood as if Christ were offering himself to be sacrificed again and again. In Hebrews 10:10-12, how many times does the Bible teach that Christ would be sacrificed? "_____ for all." To worship the bread, as is done during the mass, would be considered by God to be idolatry (Exodus 20:4,5).

In Matthew 26:17-30, Jesus spoke symbolically of his body and blood because he was still literally, physically present with his disciples. "This is my body" means "this represents my body." Jesus explains in John 6:51-58, **63** that his words were spiritual, not literal. It refers to a spiritual participation with the Lord. He also called himself "the bread of life" in John 6:51 and the "door" in John 10:9. It is understood that those are spiritual terms, not literal. Beware of the dangerous false teachings found in the rituals of the mass.

BAPTISM = from Greek βάπτισμα and βαπτισμός (baptizo), meaning "to dip or immerse."



Memory Verse> **John 14:15**

6

Your Daily Walk

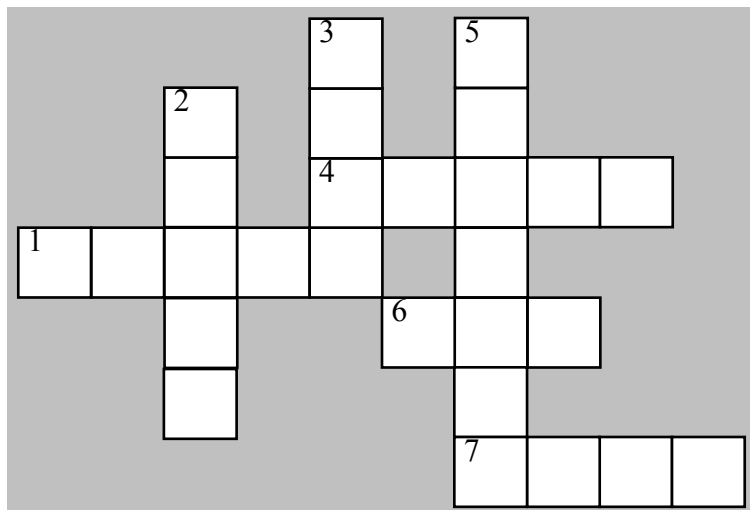


Life is not fair. It is full of twists and turns that alter our plans and dreams. There are constant trials and difficulties that can discourage the believer. A healthy relationship with God provides a compass to guide you through the many decisions and dangers of daily life. As a believer, you no longer have to face the inevitable difficulties of life alone because Jesus promised to “never leave you nor forsake you.” There are some key areas discussed in this study that will energize and maintain your daily communication with God. This consistent daily relationship is where spiritual battles will be decided. Because life is full of distractions, schedule a specific time each day for devotions. Don’t worry if you miss a day. Be sure to get back on track the next day.

BIBLE STUDY (GOD TALKS TO YOU)

Spiritual maturity is not immediate. It happens little by little as God transforms the believer through his Word. Don’t worry if you do not understand every Bible passage right away. Ask God to help you understand and you will learn more and more each day.

1. John 5:39 says to “s_____ the Scriptures.” This implies a careful study of God’s Word.
2. James 1:22 teaches to be a “d_____” of the Word. Apply what you learn to your life. It is also good to memorize key verses.
3. How should your attitude be during daily devotions?
Psalm 119:18 and 139:23,24 _____



- 1) What does God’s Word increase? Romans 10:17
- 2) How often did the believers in Acts 17:11 read the Bible?
- 3) What does God’s Word light? Psalm 119:105
- 4) How many times did Daniel pray each day? Daniel 6:10
- 5) When did David have his devotions? Psalm 5:3
- 6) What does God’s Word help you to avoid? Psalm 119:11
- 7) What does God’s Word help you to do? 1 Peter 2:2

HOW TO STUDY THE BIBLE

According to 2 Peter 1:19-21, God’s Word was written by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit and not by “private interpretation.” This means that the ideas or doctrines of the Bible were not created by man. There are guidelines to help you properly study the Bible in order to avoid misinterpretations.

- Study passages according to their literal meaning unless the context indicates otherwise.
- Always study the Bible in the context of the passage. It is important not to form a doctrine based upon a single verse taken out of context. If other verses seem to contradict that verse, a deeper study is required to understand the intended meaning.
- The Bible will interpret itself, so it is important to use other verses to clarify any confusion. Talk to your pastor when you have a question.
- Study to understand the purpose of the author of each book. Why, when, and to whom was it written? Although the Bible was written *for* you, not all of it was written *to* you or *about* you.
- If there is still confusion about a particular verse, the original languages (Greek and Hebrew) can be researched.
- Following these rules, you must also depend on the Holy Spirit to help teach you the correct . . .

PRAYER (YOU TALK TO GOD)

4. God encourages you to c_____ unto him and he will a_____ you. Jeremiah 33:3 God is never too busy to hear your prayers.

NOTE> According to Luke 11:2, prayer should be directed to God (Jesus and the Holy Spirit are part of the Godhead). Because prayer is an act of worship, you should NEVER pray to deceased loved ones, angels, men or women of the Bible such as the Apostles and Mary, or any other created being. Only God is worthy of such worship and only God possesses the divine attributes to hear and answer millions of prayers in the same moment.

5. Jesus taught his disciples to watch and p_____ so as to not enter into t_____. Matthew 26:41
6. Jesus and the Apostles prayed often. Mark 1:35; Acts 3:1
7. What are two ways NOT to pray?
Matthew 6:5 _____
Matthew 6:7 _____

NOTE> When the disciples asked Jesus in Luke 11:1-4 to teach them to pray, Jesus gave them a model or example to follow in order to teach basic elements of prayer. The Bible clearly warns against repeating the same prayer over and over again.

8. According to John 14:13, in whose name should we ask all things? _____
9. When praying, we should make requests according to God's w_____. 1 John 5:14,15

10. When praying, we should also b_____ that God is able to answer our prayers. Matthew 21:22 (Also read Ephesians 3:20)

NOTE> God answers prayers in three ways: **Yes**, **No**, or **Wait** according to his will (1 John 5:14). It is important to remember that God always knows what is best for us.

11. What do you think it means to "pray without ceasing"?
1 Thessalonians 5:17 _____

NOTE> Where you pray and how your body is positioned during prayer are not the most important elements of prayer. You can pray anywhere, not just at church. You can pray kneeling, standing up, walking, or even driving (just don't close your eyes!). But it is usually best to be in a quiet place away from distractions while reverently talking to God. When you finish your prayer, you can say "Amen" which is a word of affirmation meaning "may it be so."

12. What are some obstacles that hinder prayers from being answered?

- i_____ (unconfessed sin) Psalm 66:18
- asking a_____ (wrong motives) James 4:3
- failing to f_____ others. Mark 11:25
- marital problems. 1 Peter 3:7
- ignoring God's Word. Proverbs 28:9

13. How can you eliminate obstacles to prayer? 1 John 1:9

... interpretation. 1 Corinthians 2:13

- Study the Bible with passion and anticipation, understanding that it is a personal love letter from God.

Some questions to ask yourself when studying a Bible passage:

- What is the main idea?
- Is there a command to obey?
- Is there an example to follow?
- Is there a sin to avoid?
- Is there a promise to trust?
- How does it impact your life?

HOW TO PRAY

You can focus your prayers on these important areas:

Confession - asking God directly to forgive impure thoughts and actions in your life. Unconfessed sin hinders and harms your daily relationship.

Worship - humbly recognizing who God is.

Praise - joyfully celebrating what God does.

Thanksgiving - showing gratitude for what God gives you.

Requests - presenting your needs and the needs of others to God.

Psalm 66:18 • Psalm 106:1
Philippians 4:6,7 • 1 Timothy 2:1

WHAT IS FASTING?

Fasting is a spiritual discipline to abstain from eating or drinking while you seek to draw near to God. It includes prayer and Bible study, especially during normal eating times. There are various types of fasts as well as various time frames. Your pastor may help you determine what guidelines to follow.

Joel 2:12

DEVOTIONS = daily time devoted to God in prayer and Bible study.



Memory Verse> Psalm 63:1

Your Perspective



THE PURPOSE OF LIFE

The most basic question people often ask is "What is the meaning of life?" Many seek happiness by acquiring possessions, experiencing pleasures, or gaining prestige. However, God does not call the believer to seek happiness through such means. He calls us to seek holiness. God desires for you to discover His purpose for creating you and then live according to that purpose. The result of being in harmony with God's plan for your life is not necessarily a problem-free life, but it is a joyful, productive life.

WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A DISCIPLE (Follower of Christ)

Man has a natural desire to rebel and ignore God's principles. "It is my life and I will do what I want" is a common philosophy. The Bible calls this attitude sin (Isaiah 53:6). A disciple lives by God's principles.

1. To be a disciple requires spiritual growth.

What does the Bible call a Christian who does not grow spiritually?

c_____. 1 Corinthians 3:1-3

NOTE> This means "worldly" or living for the things of the world instead of living for God. This sinful attitude will damage a believer's relationship with God and cause problems in every area of life such as marriage, career, friendships, and finances.

2. To be a disciple requires sacrifice.

Jesus said, "**f**_____ **m**_____." Luke 9:59-62

NOTE> See Luke 14:25-27. There is always a cost when one chooses to follow Christ. Family members may pressure you to abandon your new commitment. Friends may ridicule the changes in your life. Satan will attack you and tempt you to return to a sinful lifestyle. Jesus never promised that following him would always be easy.

3. To be a disciple requires obedience. 1 Samuel 15:22

To follow Christ, you must **d**_____ yourself. Matthew 16:24

NOTE> This means that you should surrender your personal desires and follow God's plan for your life no matter what difficulties you may face along the way. To follow God only half-heartedly is the same as to not follow him at all.

4. To be a disciple requires having the right priorities.

Seek ye **f**_____ the kingdom of God. Matthew 6:33

NOTE> There are many things in life that are not necessarily sinful, but they can take the place of God in our priorities. Some examples are ambitions, hobbies, friendships, habits, career, money, and even family.

You may be fearful of surrendering your priorities to God. You may think you will fail or that you may disappoint Him, but God understands and cares. Write 1 Peter 5:6-7 _____

HOW TO KNOW GOD'S WILL

"Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is." - Ephesians 5:17

God has a plan for your life, but He does not reveal that plan immediately. We already know from Scripture that it was God's will for you to place your faith in Christ, to grow spiritually, and to share your faith with others. But how do you know God's will concerning life questions that are not specifically answered in the Bible? God will reveal his will for your life in the following ways:

- The Bible. *Psalms 119:105*
(God's will never contradicts Scripture)
- Guidance from the Holy Spirit.
Acts 8:29; 16:7
- Wise counsel from other believers.
Proverbs 11:14
- Parents. *Ephesians 6:1*
- Pastors. *Hebrews 13:7*
- Circumstances. *Psalms 27:11*

When these sources are in harmony and point in the same direction, you can have the certainty of being led by God to make a wise decision. Two errors when making decisions are selfishness and following feelings or your own judgment instead of God's Word.

Acts 9:6 • Ephesians 6:6 • Proverbs 16:25
Proverbs 27:1 • Job 23:10 • Jeremiah 10:23

OVERCOMING SINFUL HABITS

God does not want you to sin because it harms you and your relationship with him. Although there are harmful consequences to sin, there are also forgiveness and restoration when you confess those sins directly to God (*Psalm 32:5; 1 John 1:8,9*). If your sin has affected another person, you should also ask forgiveness from that person (*James 5:16*). Confessing your sin requires sincerity, genuine repentance, humility, and acceptance of God's forgiveness. Though this will restore a right relationship with God, there may still be consequences in this life for the wrong choices we make. Thankfully, because of salvation, Hell is no longer an eternal consequence for the believer. However,

According to 2 Corinthians 4:16-18, should the believer focus on temporal (worldly) or eternal priorities? _____

Number these priorities in the correct order:

___ Career ___ Spouse ___ Kids ___ God ___ Friends

WHO IS LORD OF YOUR LIFE?

When you call Jesus "Lord," it means you are acknowledging that your life belongs to Him. It means that you are submitting to His authority.

5. According to Scripture, does Christ have authority over your life?
(check one) ___ yes ___ no Colossians 1:16; 2 Corinthians 5:15

6. How do you know if Christ is really Lord in your life?
_____ Luke 6:46

7. Is it possible to live for Christ and live for worldly things?
(check one) ___ yes ___ no Luke 16:13
NOTE> "Mammon" means worldly gain.

8. What do you think it means to be "crucified" with Christ in Galatians 2:20? _____

KEEP YOUR FOCUS ON GOD

It is possible that someone in your church will hurt your feelings, treat you unfairly, or offend you. At times, you may even see hypocrisy in the lives of other believers as their actions may not match their words. Even strong believers can, on occasion, feel disillusioned with God and stray from the influence and guidance of the Holy Spirit to serve their own interests. It is important to forgive others who offend you, especially since you may also need their forgiveness at some point. Even if other believers fail you or disappoint you in some way, always strive to keep your focus on God so you can patiently and lovingly overlook the faults of others.

9. What happened to Peter when he took his focus off of Christ?
_____ Matthew 14:22-33

There are many ups and downs in the Christian life. When difficult circumstances shake your faith and blur your perspective, it is sometimes hard to keep trusting God. But remember, He always has a purpose, even in painful trials. Those circumstances that seem impossible to overcome at the moment will eventually help you to let go of a negative, worldly perspective and depend more on God's strength.

10. Write God's question in Jeremiah 32:27.

Now write the answer found in Jeremiah 32:17.

sin may cause you to lose heavenly rewards, harm your testimony, and rob your spiritual vitality and effectiveness. Christians will still struggle with the temptation to sin, but victory can be gained if we trust in Christ's power.

1. Does God tempt you to sin? _____
James 1:13

2. Name three spiritual enemies that tempt you:
• **f** _____ James 4:4
• **w** _____ Galatians 5:17
• **d** _____ 1 Peter 5:8

These enemies will bombard you at times with ungodly desires, philosophies, and influences to try to lure you away from God. The Bible gives you three ways to respond:

- Be not **c** _____ to this world. Romans 12:2
- **W** _____ in the Spirit. Galatians 5:16
- **R** _____ the devil. James 4:7

3. What are four ways to resist temptation?
• Watch and **p** _____. Matthew 26:41
• Hide God's **W** _____ in your heart. Psalm 119:11
• **F** _____ sin. 2 Timothy 2:22
• Avoid ungodly influences. Proverbs 4:14,15

1 John 4:4 • Romans 6:14
1 Corinthians 3:16; 10:13; 15:57

Each believer experiences an internal battle in this life between the flesh and the Spirit (Galatians 5:17). Nevertheless, Titus 2:12 teaches us to deny worldly temptations and live a godly lifestyle while still in a sinful world. Colossians 2:6-7 encourages us to walk in the same faith that saved us. To walk by faith means that you trust that God is faithful to do what He has said he would do. It is deciding daily to rest in God's promises as opposed to trusting in your own resources. It is daily practicing what God has taught you. Hebrews 11:6 says that it is impossible to please God without faith. By maintaining a close relationship with God, you will be able to walk by faith and avoid the harmful pitfalls of sin. Learning to see your life as God sees it will help you to enjoy victory over sin and keep your priorities in the right order.



Memory Verse> **Proverbs 3:5,6**



▶ **THE LOCAL CHURCH = an organized assembly of baptized believers.**

WHAT IS A CHURCH?

There is great confusion in the world as to what a biblical church really is. Some believe the church is just a building where God is worshiped. Others believe the church is a man-made organization. The word "church" in a general sense means "an assembly set apart for a specific purpose." The Bible gives us a much more detailed description of Christ's church.

1. The New Testament church is **LOCAL**.
The "universal" church refers to all of the believers from Pentecost until the rapture. The "local" church refers to an organized group of baptized believers in a specific location. The Bible connects the word "church" to specific, local, geographic places such as Corinth, Galatia, Ephesus, etc.

Should each believer be a member of a local church? _____
Hebrews 10:24-25

2. The church is **ORGANIZED**.
The church is described as a b_____. Colossians 1:18
This implies a unified and organized group. Important decisions are made by the congregation in accordance with Scripture.
3. The church membership is made up of **BAPTIZED BELIEVERS**.
Write Acts 2:41. _____

Circle the words RECEIVED, BAPTIZED, and ADDED. This verse states the proper order of church membership to be salvation first and then baptism. The local New Testament church is an organized assembly of baptized believers.

NOTE> The church is not a building (Acts 7:48-49); it is a body of believers. The building is just where those believers meet together. Avoid churches that place more emphasis on buildings than on people.

4. The church has **LEADERSHIP**.
Who is the head of the church? _____ Ephesians 5:23,24
In Matthew 16:18, Jesus promised to build HIS church.
NOTE> Beware of false churches that place a man as the principal head of the church. Any church that follows man-made rituals and traditions instead of submitting to the clear teachings of Scripture is not Christ's church.

Under the authority of Christ, the church has leaders or . . .

STEWARDSHIP

Christian stewardship means wisely managing the resources that God has given you.

- Everything belongs to God.
Psalm 24:1
- Every Christian is a steward.
Matthew 25:14,15
- A steward should be faithful.
1 Corinthians 4:2

Because of salvation, the believer is adopted into the family of God and that position never changes. However, as in any family, we each have responsibilities which God expects us to manage well.

- Your **time**. Ephesians 5:15-16
- Your **talents**. Matthew 25:14-30
NOTE> A "talent" during Bible times was an expensive coin, but today it represents natural, God-given abilities. God gives every believer abilities and if they are not used, they could lose their effectiveness. The number of abilities you have is not as important as being faithful to use them for Christ.
- Your **testimony**. Philippians 2:15

TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Stewardship also includes your finances. To tithe means to give a portion of your earnings (usually 10%) back to God through the local church. Gifts over and above the tithe are called offerings. The purpose of tithes and offerings is to teach us to put God first in our lives (Deuteronomy 14:23). Tithing also helps to maintain the staff and ministries of your church.

All of the resources that we have comes from God. Deuteronomy 8:18 teaches that even though you may earn money in your job, . . .

... officers. In 1 Timothy 3:1-13 and Titus 1:5-7, the Bible establishes prerequisites for church leaders.

What are the two offices of the church found in Philippians 1:1?

b _____ (meaning "elder" or the more commonly used word "pastor")

d _____ (meaning "servant")

The Pastor is not to be a dictator or an idol that takes the place of Christ. The Pastor has the great responsibility of spiritually feeding God's people (1 Peter 5:2), strengthening them (Ephesians 4:12-14), and protecting them from false doctrine (Acts 20:28-31).

Understanding that God has chosen the leaders of your church, what is the correct attitude to display towards them?

- _____ 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13
- _____ Hebrews 13:17
- _____ 1 Timothy 2:1-3
- _____ 1 Timothy 5:17-19

Never criticize your leaders or their families. Encourage them and love them as co-laborers in the Lord's ministry.

5. The church is **INDEPENDENT**. (Acts 15)

The local church cooperates and fellowships with other churches of the same faith and practice, but this cooperation is voluntary and does not violate the independence of each church.

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE LOCAL CHURCH?

Christ commissioned the church to continue His work on earth. The purpose of the local church is to glorify God, proclaim the Gospel, and encourage each believer to grow spiritually.

Ephesians 1:12 • Matthew 28:18-20 • Hebrews 10:24-25

WHAT IS YOUR ROLE IN THE CHURCH?

Your local church is a place where you can grow, find comfort, enjoy a refuge from the pressures of life, build friendships, and serve the Lord. Each believer should love the things that Jesus loves.

6. Does Christ love His church? _____ Ephesians 5:25

No church is perfect because each is made up of imperfect people. But if Christ loves the church so much, we can certainly try to overlook the faults of other believers and avoid the temptation to move from church to church when there are hurt feelings or other minor offenses. It is important to be faithful in attendance, listen attentively to the services, maintain a good testimony, invite your friends and family, show love and concern for other members, support the leadership, and find ways to serve using the gifts God has given you. Your church can help you discover in which areas of ministry you will be most effective.

... God gives you the ability to work. Giving back to God is an act of devotion and worship.

1. **A** _____ tithed. Genesis 4:4
2. **A** _____ tithed. Genesis 14:20
3. **J** _____ tithed. Genesis 28:22

Though the tithe was a command in the Old Testament, our motive for giving today is our love for Christ, which makes obedience to God a great privilege.



Important Principles of Giving:

- Your giving shows where your heart is focused. Matthew 6:19-21
- God wants you to be a cheerful giver. 2 Corinthians 9:7
- Giving is not based on how much or how little you may have. Mark 12:42-44
- It is better to give than to receive. Acts 20:35
- The tithe is holy and belongs to the Lord. Leviticus 27:30
- Refusing to give tithes and offerings is stealing from God. Malachi 3:7-10



Memory Verse > **Hebrews 10:24,25**

Your Witness



THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

There is a reason God does not take us directly to heaven after salvation. He wants us to shine the light of the Gospel in a very dark world. To witness means to share God's plan of salvation with your friends and family.

Matthew 7:13 speaks of two gates that represent two very different destinies. Many people choose the wrong gate that leads away from God. As a believer, you have the amazing opportunity to point your friends and loved ones to the gate that leads to eternal life.

1. Those who do not place their faith in Christ are **c**_____. John 3:18
This means they are found guilty of sin and punished. A person can gain everything the world has to offer, but it is meaningless if he loses his own soul (Mark 8:36). Much of the focus today is on material needs, but spiritual needs are most important.
2. Those who place their faith in Christ receive **e**_____ **l**_____ and shall not come into condemnation. John 5:24
3. Who is the light of the world? _____ John 8:12
4. Jesus came to give **l**_____ to them that are in **d**_____. Luke 1:78-79 and John 12:46
5. Who has blinded the minds of the unsaved from the light of the Gospel? _____ 2 Corinthians 4:4
6. All believers have been appointed to be representatives or "**a**_____ for Christ." 2 Corinthians 5:20
Sharing the Gospel is not just the responsibility of pastors or leaders. Every believer is called to share his or her faith with others.
7. We are to be "**w**_____." Acts 1:8
8. We have the responsibility to "**s**_____ as lights in the world." Philippians 2:15 A believer can live in a sinful society without participating in its sins.
9. What do you think it means to be the "light of the world?"

Does God want you to hide your light? _____ Matthew 5:14-15

YOUR TESTIMONY

Your testimony is how you share with others, by word and action, what God has done and is doing in your life as He changes your thoughts, attitudes, and desires. Many outward changes also begin to take place such as avoiding habits, places, or activities that may harm your testimony.

NOTE> Beware of seeking to change only the outside appearance without a genuine change of the heart first (Matthew 23:25). Remember, the inner life eventually exhibits itself outwardly.

Some may criticize the Bible as being just a list of rules, but since man has a tendency toward sin, it is important to be guided by biblical principles. Remember, the Christian life is not about rules, it is about a relationship with God and seeking to please Him with a submissive heart. He desires for us to be clean and separated from the sinful habits of the world (2 Timothy 2:21). A lost world can see the light of Christ in us as if looking through a window, but what happens if the window is too filthy to allow the light to shine through?

Many activities that harm your testimony are clearly prohibited in Scripture, such as drunkenness (Ephesians 5:18), sexual sins (1 Corinthians 6:15-20), immodest dress (1 Timothy 2:9,10), or foul language (Ephesians 4:29). But what about, for example, smoking, social drinking, dancing at clubs, partying, unclean movies, worldly music, tattoos, gambling, or drugs? There are many activities that the Bible may not specifically discuss or prohibit, but it does give us principles to guide our decisions for the sake of our testimony. Ask yourself the following questions:

- Are there biblical principles that may warn against this activity?
Philippians 4:8
- Does it help my walk with Christ or does it draw me toward other sinful habits? James 1:14,15
- Does it give evidence of my . . .

10. Why was the Apostle Paul not ashamed to share the Gospel with others? _____ Romans 1:16
Paul had a strong desire to see others s_____. Romans 10:1
11. In Acts 8:4, where did believers preach the Gospel? e_____ w_____
12. Leading someone to Christ brings great j____. Luke 15:7,10
13. What does Christ call us to do in Matthew 28:18-20?
T_____ all nations and b_____ them.
This process of making disciples is known as the Great Commission. It includes local outreach in your community as well as worldwide outreach as your church sends out missionaries to take the Gospel to other cultures.

HOW TO PRESENT THE GOSPEL

As a new believer, it is normal to be unsure about how to share God's plan of salvation. You should never pressure or obligate someone to listen to the Gospel. Share your faith humbly and tactfully with kindness. Be patient. Make sure they understand the Gospel before inviting them to make a decision. Not everyone will accept your message. Your purpose is to plant seeds of God's Word (Luke 8:11). Trust the power of the Holy Spirit to soften their hearts in God's time (John 16:8). Remember, salvation is God's work, not yours. Pray for your unsaved friends and loved ones. Try to be brief when necessary. Be courteous, friendly, and do not argue. Do not be afraid to ask an experienced member of your church for help. Ask your pastor for a supply of well-written Gospel tracts that you can use to support your Gospel presentation. You may also give out invitations to attend your church. Don't worry if they do not visit right away, but keep inviting them when you have the opportunity.

... faith in Christ and a changed life? 2 Corinthians 5:17

- Does it give a good example to new believers or the unsaved? 1 Corinthians 8:9
- Does it promote lustful thoughts or worldly values? 1 John 2:15-17
- Does it harm or desecrate my body, which is the temple of the Holy Spirit? 1 Corinthians 6:19
- Does it have a sinful appearance in my culture? 1 Thessalonians 5:22
- Does my motive come from a rebellious attitude? 1 Samuel 15:23
- Is my decision based solely upon my feelings? Proverbs 14:12

Whether a particular activity is right or wrong, even a lost world expects a Christian to have a clean lifestyle. God wants you to produce spiritual fruit (John 15:8) so that others may see your good works and glorify Him (Matthew 5:16). By sacrificing questionable activities and habits, you will be more effective in shining the light of Christ in a dark world.



For ye were sometimes darkness,
but now are ye light in the Lord:
walk as children of light.
- Ephesians 5:8

GOD'S PLAN OF SALVATION

Romans 3:10,23 - sin affects everyone
Romans 5:12; 6:23 - the result of sin
Romans 5:8 - the solution is a free gift
Romans 10:8-10,13 - how to be saved



Memory Verse > **John 3:16**



"SURELY I COME QUICKLY"

Christ made this exciting promise in the final chapter of the Bible. To live victoriously in the present, it is important for us to know we have victory in the future. God's Word gives us a prophetic glimpse of future events so we will know when His coming is near, such as an increase in the following: science and transportation (Daniel 12:4), conflicts, wars, pestilence, great earthquakes, famines, satanic miracles, apathy, drinking, partying (Matthew 24:6-38), ignorance of the Bible and prophecy (2 Peter 3:3-15), great storms, fear (Luke 21:25), and sinful, rebellious lifestyles (2 Timothy 3:1-9).

THE RAPTURE (Christ comes for his saints)

The next prophetic event in Scripture is the Rapture, meaning to be "caught up" or "snatched away." NOTE> The only reason the rapture has not yet occurred is because the Lord is patiently giving every opportunity for the lost to be saved. 2 Peter 3:3-9

TRUE (T) OR FALSE (F)

According to 1 Corinthians 15:51-52 and 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18:

- _____ The rapture is an instantaneous event.
- _____ The rapture is only for believers who have already died.
- _____ During the rapture, believers will meet Christ in the air.

THE GREAT TRIBULATION

Following the Rapture, seven years of Great Tribulation will begin upon the Earth (Revelation 7:14; Daniel 6 and 8). This tribulation period will include great chaos, destruction, signs, wonders, and suffering the likes of which the world has never known (Matthew 24:15-24). Christians will not be present during this horrible period (1 Thessalonians 5:9). Even during this terrible time of judgment, God's love and mercy will still be available to all who repent and turn their hearts to him.

THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST (For believers)

The Judgment Seat of Christ (Romans 14:10,12) will not determine salvation because Christ already took our condemnation upon Himself (Romans 8:1). NOTE> A separate judgment called the Great White Throne will condemn and punish the sins of the unsaved. At the Judgment Seat of Christ, believers will be rewarded according to their faithfulness (2 Corinthians 5:10). Rewards are a result of good works, but remember that salvation is not a reward because it cannot be earned. Salvation in Christ is our foundation and it is very important that we build upon that foundation with good works.

LIFE AFTER DEATH

This world does not offer anything attractive to the child of God. It is full of sadness, pain, deception, and death. Death can be a very scary thought for most people, but as believers, there is no need to fear if we trust in God's promises.

- When the believer is absent from the body, he is p_____ with the Lord. 2 Corinthians 5:6-8
- Even in the shadow of d_____ the Lord is with us. Psalm 23:4
- Upon departing this life, the Apostle Paul would go to be with C_____. Philippians 1:23-24
NOTE> When a believer dies, his soul is transported to be with Christ and his body returns to dust to await the resurrection.
- How was Lazarus transported to paradise? _____ Luke 16:22,23

HEAVEN

Only those found written in the Lamb's Book of Life (those who are saved) will live in Heaven. The curse of sin will be gone forever and a river of life flows to remind us of God's grace and mercy that covered our sins. There will be no death, sorrow, or pain. There will be no temple because Christ was the final sacrifice ever needed. There will be no more darkness, no moon, and no sun, because the glory of God will illuminate Heaven. (Revelation 21 and 22)

- The presence of G_____ is in Heaven. (Hebrews 9:24)
- The Holy City of God, the N_____ J_____ is there. Revelation 21:2
This immense and spectacular city will have streets of pure gold and twelve main gates, each made of a large pearl. The pearls will forever remind us of Christ's love for his church (Matthew 13:45,46). A pearl is different from other precious stones because it comes from a living organism in the sea. It begins as a grain of sand and the oyster . . .

Read **1 Corinthians 3:9-15** and answer the following questions.

- The Bible compares our works to these construction materials: **g**_____, silver, precious stones, **w**_____, hay, and stubble.
- The motives for our works will be tested by **f**_____.
- In verse 14, what does the faithful believer receive? **r**_____

NOTE> The Bible speaks of rewards as "crowns" that the believer may gain. (1 Thessalonians 2:19; James 1:12; 2 Timothy 4:8; 1 Corinthians 9:25; and 1 Peter 5:4)
- In verse 15, will unfaithful believers lose their salvation? _____

NOTE> The Bible does not explain all that this loss entails, but it is certainly much better to be faithful and enjoy God's rewards rather than suffer loss.

THE MARRIAGE SUPPER OF THE LAMB

- In John 3:28-29, the relationship between the believer and Christ is compared to a **b**_____ and groom.
- The rapture will forever unite Christ with His followers and then the greatest celebration in history, the **M**_____ Supper of the **L**_____, will soon follow. Revelation 19:7-9

THE SECOND COMING (Christ comes with his saints)

During the Rapture, Christ meets believers in the air, but in the Second Coming, he will actually return to Earth (Zechariah 14:1-4) and overthrow Satan and his wicked followers. Read Revelation 19:11-16 and fill in the answers to the following:

- He will return with the armies of **h**_____.
- Christ is called **K**_____ of Kings and **L**_____ of Lords.
- According to Matthew 24:29-30, the Second Coming occurs: _____ before _____ during _____ after ... the Great Tribulation.

THE MILLENNIUM

- In Revelation 20:2-3, Satan will be imprisoned for _____ years.
- Christ will reign over the Earth for _____ years. Revelation 20:4

NOTE> The Millenium will be a time of peace (Isaiah 2:4), righteousness (Isaiah 11:1-10) and worship (Zechariah 14:16).

... begins to wrap it in beautiful white layers. The beauty of a pearl is not in the grain of sand, but in what covers it. We are like that unclean grain of sand, but God covered us with His righteousness.

- We will have glorified bodies. We will recognize one another, be able to touch objects, communicate, and even eat. We will not have any physical limitations.

(John 20:19,20,27; Acts 1:3; Luke 24:36-43)

- Do not be deceived by the common idea that we will be floating on a cloud and playing a harp for all of eternity. The Bible does not teach such a thing! We will certainly not be bored or lonely. The happiest and most memorable experiences on Earth do not even compare to the joy in Heaven. Heaven is the place where dreams come true. It is so spectacular that it is impossible to adequately describe (1 Corinthians 2:9). We will certainly be left with our mouths wide open in awe and disbelief as we bask in the brilliant glory of our eternal home. At long last, we will forever be reunited with our Creator.

