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Table of Contents

LESSON 1 - LAYING THE FOUNDATION FOR A VICTORIOUS CHRISTIAN LIFE 1

LESSON 2 - LEARNING TO PRAY EFFECTIVELY 5

LESSON 3 - GROWING IN CHRIST BY READING THE WORD 9

LESSON 4 - WALKING IN FAITH 13

LESSON 5 - BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT 19

LESSON 6 - RELEASING HURTS AND FORGIVING OTHERS 25

LESSON 7 - LIVING A JESUS LIFESTYLE BY SERVING OTHERS 28

LESSON 8 - COMMITTING TO THE LOCAL CHURCH 32

LESSON 9 - WALKING IN GOD'S PROVISION 35

LESSON 10 - BEING & LIVING RIGHT BEFORE A HOLY GOD 41

LESSON 11 - KNOWING WHAT WE BELIEVE(TENETS OF FAITH) 47

LESSON 1-LAYING THE FOUNDATION FOR A VICTORIOUS CHRISTIAN LIFE

Introduction: Before you can really grow in the Lord and live a victorious Christian life, you must be absolutely persuaded that you cannot make yourself holy and good in your own strength or by your willpower. Seeing yourself as weak and hopeless in Adam, you are then ready to receive Christ Jesus as your Savior from sin and as the giver of abundant life. Truly, without Him you can do nothing (John 15:5). In this class you will want to:

- Recognize you are _____to save yourself because you are born a child of Adam.
- Receive God's gift of the full_____ for your sins.
- Start living your life as a new_____ in Christ in union with Him.

I. Recognize and understand the _____ you are under by being a descendant of Adam. (Romans 5:12)

A. The _____ of man in the Garden of Eden brought a curse of sin, sorrow, disease, strife, and death to the world and to you.

1) Adam & Eve were created in the image and likeness of God (Genesis 1:26-27)

2) The devil deceived Adam and Eve and tricked them into surrendering their blessings through disobeying God.

3) The story of the temptation and fall of man in Genesis 3:1-7 illustrates the same pattern that Satan uses on people today to get them to disobey God and "do their own thing."

4) During Christ's temptation as recorded in the New Testament, the devil claimed all the kingdoms of the world had been given to him. "*The devil led Him up to a high place and showed Him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And he said to Him, 'I will give you all their authority and splendor for it has been given to me, and I can give it to anyone I want to*' " (Luke 4:5-6 NIV).

B. There are eight results of the Fall of Adam and Eve which affect your life.

1) Everyone stands guilty of_____ before a holy God as a result of being in Adam. "*For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners* " (Romans 5:19 NIV).

NOTE: You do not have to do anything to receive the effects of the curse of Adam's sin in your life—it comes with being a part of the human race. (Psalm 51:5)

2) The Fall resulted in _____ death. "Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned" (Romans 5:12 NIV).

3) The Fall caused man to _____ from God. "Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as He was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden" (Genesis 3:8 NIV).

4) The Fall brought _____. "He answered, 'I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid" (Genesis 3:10 NIV).

5) Man began _____others for his sins and shortcomings. "The man said, 'The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it'" (Genesis 3:12 NIV).

6) The _____ became cursed. "To Adam He said. . . . 'Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat of it all the days of your life" (Genesis 3:17 NIV).

7) Man's _____ became perverted and wicked. "The LORD saw how great man wickedness on the earth had become, and that every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil all the time" (Genesis 6:5 NIV).

8) Man, without Christ, lives in darkness, without hope, and under the ___ ___ of the devil. "The whole world is under the control of the evil one" (1 John 5:19 NIV). "Remember that at that time you were separate from Christ . . . without hope and without God in the world" (Ephesians 2:12 NIV).

II. Receive God's gift of the full _____ for your sins.

A. Jesus is the_____ for sins—He came to pay the price to bring you back to God. "*We rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation*" (Romans 5:11 NIV).

1) On the great Day of Atonement as found in Leviticus 16, we see in the illustration of the two goats an Old Testament picture of what Jesus did with our sins.

2) Goat one—the_____ offering. The blood of one goat was brought into the Holy of Holies and sprinkled over the mercy seat of the Ark of the Covenant to cover sin. This was to point to the time when Jesus would shed His blood and bring it before God in

heaven to satisfy God's holy anger against sin and to pay the price of justice so that forgiven sinners could freely enter the presence of the holy God (Romans 3:25 NIV).

3) Goat two—the "_____." The high priest would lay hands on the goat and confess the sins of the people over the goat. Then, he would let it go in the wilderness, where no one lived and where no one could see. This shows that when Jesus removes our sins from us, they will never be remembered again. "*For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more*" (Hebrews 8:12 NIV).

B. These are the steps to salvation:

1) _____ you are a sinner in need of a Savior (Romans 3:23).

2) _____ and turn to God (II Peter 3:9).

3) _____ that Jesus died for your sins and that God raised Him from the dead (Romans 10:9-10).

4) _____God to forgive you and_____ Jesus Christ into your heart (I John 1:9; Revelation 3:20).

5) _____Jesus as your Lord (Romans 10:9-10).

6) _____ salvation as a free gift and not as a reward for good works (Romans 6:23).

7) Because you are saved, be water _____. (Matthew 28:19).

III. Start living your life as a new creation in Christ in union with Him.

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!" (2 Corinthians 5:17 NIV)

A. Believe you have God's new _____ within you. Not only have you had your sins forgiven, but also Christ has come to live inside you at the new birth and to give you His life within. "*I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, Who loved me and gave Himself for me*" (Galatians 2:20 NIV).

B. Live with a new _____ —to be God's worker. "For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do" (Ephesians 2:10 NIV).

C. Rejoice in your new _____. "For the Lord Himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ

will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever" (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 NIV).

D. Accept your new_____. "For this reason I kneel before the Father from Whom His whole family in heaven and on earth derives its name" (Ephesians 3:14-15 NIV).

E. Receive your new _____. "I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which He has called you, the riches of His glorious inheritance in the saints" (Ephesians 1:18 NIV).

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1) Wisdom (James 1:5 NIV)
2) Clear conscience (Hebrews 9:14 NIV)
3) Divine healing (1 Peter 2:24 NIV)
4) Victory over the enemy (I John 5:4 NIV)
5) Victory over circumstances (Romans 8:37-39 NIV)
6) Victory over the flesh (Galatians 5:16 NIV)
7) The Spirit of life (Romans 8:2 NIV)
8) God's provision for your needs (Philippians 4:19 NIV)
9) The fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23 NIV)
10) Success (Joshua 1:7 NIV)
11) Answers to prayer (John 15:7 NIV)
12) Fellowship with God and with each other (1 John 1:3 NIV)

LESSON 2-LEARNING TO PRAY EFFECTIVELY

Introduction: Prayer is perhaps the area of our lives in which Satan attacks us the hardest. Many believers find it difficult to spend more than ten minutes a day praying in English, or their prayer time is on the run while doing other things. In this class our aim is to:

- Get_____ to pray.
- Learn how to pray _____ kinds of prayer.
- Establish an_____ prayer life.

IV. Get motivated to pray by seeing the tremendous benefits of prayer.

A. Praying effectively will give you spiritual_____ so you won't quit and give up. "*Then Jesus told His disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up*" (Luke 18:1 NIV).

B. Praying brings you into the _____ realm and makes God and His truths real to you. "And Elisha prayed, '0 LORD, open his eyes so he may see. 'Then the LORD opened the servant's eyes, and he looked and saw the hills full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha" (2 Kings 6:17 NIV).

C. Prayer is the key to being able to effectively_____ to others. "While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, 'Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them" (Acts 13:2 NIV).

D. Through prayer you receive from God His_____ and provisions for your life. "*Ye have not, because ye ask not*" (James 4:2 KJV).

E. Effective prayer enables you to find _____ and guidance for your life. *"If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, Who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him"* (James 1:5 NIV).

F. Prayer is vital to _____ the devil and his forces in your life. "Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the body is weak" (Matthew 26:4 1 NIV).

V. Learn how to pray different kinds of prayer.

One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When He finished, one of His disciples said to Him, "_____ _____ _____ _____, *just as John taught his disciple*" (Luke 11:1 NIV).

"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" (Ephesians 6:18 NIV).

A. Pray by using the Lord's Prayer as a _____ prayer-guide (Matthew 6:9-13). Jesus was asked by His disciples to teach them to pray. His reply to them has come to be known as the "Lord's Prayer." (Matthew 6:9-13, Luke 11:2-4). Jesus was instructing His disciples to pray "after this manner." Rather than giving a prayer to be recited over and over again, Jesus was demonstrating a model prayer guide, showing the basic elements which should be contained in your prayer life. Here is a listing of the basic parts of prayer as found in the Lord's Prayer:

1) Prayer of _____; acknowledging Who He is and what He has done. "OUR FATHER WHICH ART IN HEAVEN, HALLOWED BE THY NAME." Begin your prayer by worshiping God. You may wish to pray through the compound names of God as found in the Old Testament.
   (a) Jehovah-tsidkenu = The Lord is our righteousness
   (b) Jehovah-m'kaddesh = The Lord Who sanctifies
   (c) Jehovah-shammah = The Lord is there
   (d) Jehovah-shalom = The Lord is peace
   (e) Jehovah-rophe = The Lord heals
   (f) Jehovah-jireh = The Lord is my provider
   (g) Jehovah-nissi = The Lord is my banner (of victory)
   (h) Jehovah-rohi = The Lord is my shepherd

2) Prayer of _____: praying for others. "THY KINGDOM COME. THY WILL BE DONE."

3) Prayer of _____: praying for your own personal needs. "GIVE US THIS DAY OUR DAILY BREAD."

4) Prayer for _____ from sin and from hurts from others, forgiving them. "AND FORGIVE US OUR DEBTS AS WE FORGIVE OUR DEBTORS."

5) Prayer of spiritual _____: putting on the "whole armor of God" (Ephesians 6:10-17) and wrestling against the enemy of your soul. "AND LEAD US NOT INTO TEMPTATION, BUT DELIVER US FROM EVIL."

6) Prayer of _____ to God's authority and will. *"FOR THINE IS THE KINGDOM, AND THE POWER, AND THE GLORY."*

B. Pray in the Spirit. What is it then? "I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also. I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also" (1 Corinthians 14:15 KJV). When you are filled with the Spirit, the Spirit gives you a language of prayer, which we call "speaking in _____ _____."

1) This prayer language is a way that the Spirit tells the secrets of your _____ ___ to God. "For anyone who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God. Indeed, no one understands him; he utters mysteries with his spirit" (1 Corinthians 14:2 NIV).

2) When you pray in the Spirit, your_____ is praying, not your mind. "*For if I pray in an unknown tongue, my spirit prays, but my understanding is unfruitful*" (1 Corinthians 14:14 KJV).

3) Praying in the Spirit will _____ you up in your faith. "But you, dear friends, build yourselves up in your most holy faith and pray in the Holy Spirit" (Jude 1:20 NIV).

4) Praying in the Spirit will help you to pray _____ throughout the day. "*Pray continually*" (1 Thessalonians 5:17 NIV).

VI. Establish an effective prayer life.

A. Pray early in the _____. "*In the morning, O LORD, You hear my voice, in the morning I lay my requests before You and wait in expectation*" (Psalms 5:3 NIV). Praying before you start your daily work is often best because the mind is uncluttered and the body is refreshed. This also gives you an opportunity to pray over the situations you will face during the day.

B. Find a _____ where it is quiet and free from distractions. "After He had dismissed them, He went up on a mountainside by Himself to pray. When evening came, He was there alone" (Matthew 14:23 NIV).

C. If possible, pray out _____ as this will help you to keep your mind from wandering. "*To the LORD I cry aloud, and He answers me from his holy hill*" (Psalms 3:4 NIV).

D. _____ to God. Learn to distinguish His voice from all others. "When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice. But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognize a strangers' voice" (John 10:4-5 NIV).

E. Pray over the _____ as you read it, and pray over what God speaks to your heart through the Word. "*Open my eyes that I may see wonderful things in your law*" (Psalms 119: 18 NIV).

F. Pray to the Father in the name of _____. "In that day you will no longer ask Me anything. I tell you the truth, My Father will give you whatever you ask in My name" (John 16:23 NIV).

G. Pray in _____. "Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer believe that you have received it, and it will be yours" (Mark 11:24 NIV).

H. Pray from a _____ heart and a pure conscience. "*If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me*" (Psalms 66:18 KJV).

I. Pray the _____ of God as it is revealed in His Word. "This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us" (1 John 5:14 NIV).

J. _____ yourself before God. "Humble yourselves before the Lord, and He will lift you up" (James 4:10 NIV).

K. Be _____ in your approach before God, as He wants to give you mercy, grace, and help. "Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need" (Hebrews 4:16 NIV).

LESSON 3-GROWING IN CHRIST BY READING THE WORD

Introduction: Part of God's plan for you is that you become like Jesus. A key ingredient in your transformation into Jesus' likeness is the Word of God. In this lesson, our aim is to:

- Focus on God's goal for you to be like _____.
- Submit to the Word of God that _____ you.
- _____ the Word of God.

VII. Focus on God's goal for you—to be made into the likeness of Jesus.

A. Recognize God's plan.

1) Part of God's plan of salvation for us is to shape us into people who have the character and nature of Jesus.

"For whom He did foreknow, He also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren" (Romans 8:29). Paul told the Galatians he was travailing "*until Christ be _____ _____in them.* (Galatians 4:19)

2) We are changed into Jesus' image by_____ at Him. *"But we all with open face, beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord are changed into the same image, from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord."* (II Corinthians 3:18)

James informs us that when we look into the "perfect law of liberty" and continue in it, we will be blessed. (James 1:25)

3) As we change, we are putting off the "old self' and putting on the "new self." To do this, we must *"let the word of Christ dwell in richly."* (Colossians 3:16)

B. Make your plan.

1) Find a _____ and time when you can read the Word.

(a) Consistent time and place help to make this "habit forming."

(b) Both early and evening times have advantages.

2) Develop a reading _____.

(a) Use the One-Year Bible.

(b) Work out a balanced strategy for your reading.

VIII. Submit to the Word of God that transforms you.

A. Submit to God's Word that _____ you.

"Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to Himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless." (Ephesians 5:25-27)

- Pure—free from mixture or contact with that which weakens, impairs, or pollutes; containing no foreign matter, uncontaminated; free from moral defilement.

1) Submit to God's Word that purifies you from sin.

(a) By knowing the Word, I know how to please God and keep from sinning.

"You word have I hid in my heart, that I might not sin against You." (Psalm 119:11)

(b) By knowing the Word, I know how to be forgiven of sin if I fall. (I John 2:1, 2)

2) Submit to God's Word that keeps you pure in purpose.

(a) Scripture warns us against "double-mindedness." (James 1:8; 4:8; Ephesians 4:14).

(b) Scripture helps to give us singleness of heart. "Seek first the kingdom of God." (Matthew 6:33, Psalm 119:9, 105, 133).

B. Submit to God's Word that _____ your mind.

1) The Bible says that our minds need to be renewed.

(a) This is the key to transformation.

"I urge you, therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice holy and acceptable unto God, which is your spiritual service of worship, and do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect." (Romans 12:1, 2).

(b) "We can bring "every thought captive to the obedience of Christ." (II Corinthians 10:5).

(c) Our minds need to be re-formed to know how we ought to think.

"Have this mind in you..." (Philippians 2:5)

"Whatever is true, honorable, right, pure, lovely, good repute... think on these things." (Philippians 4:8).

2) Right thinking leads to right behavior.

3) Our behavior will conform to Jesus' image as our thinking aligns with the Word of God.

C. Submit to God's Word that equips you for_____.

1) The Word is called the "Sword of the Spirit." (Ephesians 6:17)

2) Jesus modeled spiritual warfare using the Word. "It is written..." (Matt 4:4, 7 &10)

D. Submit to God's Word that equips you to do_____ works.

1) Through the Word's teaching, reproof, correction, and training in righteousness, we are equipped for every good work. (II Timothy 3:16, 17) Our lives can become a miniature picture of the kingdom of God.

2) Much of the New Testament is practical "how to" instruction.

IX. Apply the Word.

A. Ask God to meet you in Scripture.

1) Believe that God will speak to you through the Scripture.

2) Ask the Lord to be your interpreter (help you understand what you read).

B. Read with a _____ spirit.

1) Determine to do what the Scripture asks you to do.

2) Don't read just for information, but for trans-formation.

C. Meditate on a brief passage.

1) Saturate yourself in a few verses.

2) Read the passage slowly.

D. Take_____ thought or verse with you through the day.

1) The fruitful person meditates day and night. (Psalm 1)

2) What the mind repeats, it retains.

3) Memorizing Scripture is a powerful means of trans-forming our minds.

4) The Word of God is like water poured into a basket, not all of the water is "caught" but the basket is cleaned.

E. Be a doer of the Word, not a hearer only! (James 1:22-23)

LESSON 4-WALKING IN FAITH

Introduction: Faith is the key that releases the blessings of God into your life. Without faith, you will find it impossible to please God. (Hebrews 11:6) With faith, the impossible becomes possible.

"With God all things are possible." (Matthew 19:26)

"All things are possible to him who believes." (Mark 9:23)

Faith is the channel that makes God's possibilities available to you. By faith, believers have received financial blessings, been spared from judgment, received strength to endure persecution and hardship, escaped from danger, became mighty in battle, received back their dead by resurrection, and obtained approval from God (Hebrews 11). In this lesson, you will:

- Discover what faith is according to the Bible.
- Learn how to release your faith.
- Find out how to keep your faith strong until the answer comes.

X. What is faith?

A. Faith is a _____ and a _____ _____.

B. *"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for the conviction of things not seen."* (Hebrews 11:1)

1) Faith is so real it is actually called a "substance." The Greek word literally means "that which stands under" something else or "provides the basis for" something else. It is the foundation on which you stand and on which you build your life.

2) Faith is also "the conviction or _____ of things not seen." Faith deals with things you cannot see—things that are invisible.

C. "*By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things which are visible.*" (Hebrews 11:3)

1) There is a difference shown here between the visible and the invisible worlds. Your senses relate to that which is seen, but faith takes you behind the visible to the invisible. This is where faith works.

D. "For we walk by faith, not by sight." (II Corinthians 5:7)

1) Faith and sight are opposed to one another. If you walk by sight, you do not need faith. If you walk by faith, you do not need sight. This is contrary to our natural way of thinking. The world says, "Seeing is believing." The Bible turns it around and says believing enables you to really see! David wrote the following:

E. *"I would have despaired unless I had believed that I would see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living."* (Psalm 27:13)

1) The same Greek word translated as "conviction" in Hebrews 11:1 was also translated "title deed" in some ancient secular documents written during the time of the New Testament. Faith then is like a title deed to property. It is not the property, but it is proof of ownership.

F. There is a difference between faith and _____.

G. *"Therefore I say to you, all things for which you pray and ask, believe that you have received them, and they shall be granted you."* (Mark 11:24)

1) Faith receives _____ while hope looks to the _____. Faith is a substance, something that is already here. Hope is an expectation of something to come.

2) If someone says, "I believe God will heal me" what they really mean is "I hope He'll heal me tomorrow." That is not faith because faith is not for tomorrow; faith is something that you have now. If you keep directing your expectation toward the future, you are substituting hope for faith.

3) When does Jesus tell you to receive what you pray for? Is it at some undetermined point in the future? No—but at the very moment that you pray. You "ask" and at the same moment you "receive" even though the manifestation of the answer to your prayer may yet be in the future.

4) _____ corrodes your faith and causes it to diminish.

H. "But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. That man should not think he will receive anything from the Lord." (James 1:6-7 NIV)

1) Doubt is like water in a gas tank—it does not mix with the gas and it clogs up the carburetor, causing the engine to miss and malfunction. Doubt and faith do not mix together, and the doubt works to prevent the faith from acting.

2) You must guard your heart from everything that could weaken or undermine your faith.

I. *"Keep your heart with all diligence; for out of it flow the issues of life."* (Proverbs 4:23 NJV)

XI. How to release your faith

A. In Mark 11:22-25, Jesus gave eight important elements in building and releasing your faith.

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

have received it, and it will be yours. And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive him, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins." (Mark 11:22-25 NIV)

1) *"Have faith in God"*—Make God the_____ of your faith.

2) "*Anyone"*—God will answer _____ prayers if you will meet the conditions of faith.

3) *"Says"* and "does not doubt"—You must_____ to your mountain of need before it will move.

4) This mountain, 'Go, throw yourself into the sea,' You are to be _____ _____ in your requests.

5) "And does not doubt in his heart"—Give no place for _____ in your heart.

6) "*Whatever you ask for in prayer*"—Put no _____ on God's ability to answer your requests.

7) "*Believe that you have received it, and it will be yours."* Believe that you receive_____, and you shall have what you believe.

8) "When you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive him."—Guard against <u>unforgiveness</u> (or any other faith robber).

B. Other helps to releasing your faith.

1) Find the _____ of God, and pray it for your life.

"This is the confidence we have in approaching God; that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of him." (I John 5:14-15 NIV).

2) Believe in your _____

"That if you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved." (Romans 10:9-10 NIV)

"And Philip said, If you believe with all your heart, you may...." (Acts 8:37 NKJ)

3) Keep a good _____ regarding your faith.

(a) When the woman whose child died went to the prophet for help, she was asked by the servant how her son was doing. By faith she confessed that it was well with her child.

"Run to meet her and ask her, 'Are you all right? Is your husband all right? Is your child all right?' 'Everything is all right,' she said." (II Kings 4:26 NIV)

4) _____ for the answer to your prayers. The widow who needed money was told by the prophet Elisha to get empty pots and to pour the oil she had into each vessel. God filled the number of pots she brought to be filled.

"When all the jars were full, she said to her son, 'Bring me another.' "But he replied, 'There is not a jar left.' Then the oil stopped flowing." (II Kings 4:6 NIV)

5) Faith comes! *"Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ."* (Romans 10:17 NIV) A single word in this verse needs to grip your heart. The word is "comes." If you do not have faith, you can get it. By planting the Word of God deep within your heart, your faith will automatically become active and vibrant.

6) Follow the_____ When a doctor gives a person medicine, the directions for taking it are on the bottle. The Word of God is like a medicine bottle; we need to carefully read the directions that are included.

"My son, give attention to my words; incline your ear to my sayings. Do not let them depart from your sight,' keep them in the midst of your heart. For they are life to those who find them, and health (medicine) to all their whole body." (Proverbs 4:20-22 NASB)

7) _____ the devil and loose your blessing from his grasp in the name of Jesus.

"I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." (Matthew 16:19 NIV)

XII. How to keep your faith strong until the answer comes.

A. Keep the _____ of God before you as Abraham did.

"Being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised." (Romans 4:21 NIV)

B. Do not stagger in _____, going from side to side, but stay focused on what God has said.

"Yet he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God." (Romans 4:20 NIV)

C. Find another believer who will stand with you in _____ in prayer.

"Again, I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them." (Matthew 18:19-20 NIV)

D. Be _____in prayer, never giving up.

"Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up." (Luke 18:1 NIV)

E. Be _____ at the throne of grace, obtaining mercy and grace in your time of need.

"Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need." (Hebrews 4:16 NIV)

F. Pray and _____ to strengthen your faith.

LESSON 5-BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Introduction: Living Word Church believes that the Baptism of the Holy Spirit is essential for victorious Christian living. This lesson will give you a brief exposure to our belief on why the Baptism of the Holy Spirit is important to you and how to receive it. In this lesson we will cover:

- Who Is the Holy Spirit
- What is the Baptism of the Spirit
- The Need for the Holy Spirit
- What is Speaking In Tongues and How to Receive the Baptism

The Baptism in the Holy Spirit is a supernatural impartation for every believer.

"... I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever-- the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you." (John 14:16-17)

"NOW ABOUT the spiritual gifts (the special endowments of supernatural energy), brethren, I do not want you to be misinformed." (1 Corinthians 12:1 Amp)

XIII. Who is the Holy Spirit (Spirit of Truth)?

A. The Holy Spirit is_____.

B. *"But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to **lie to the Holy Spirit** and keep back part of the price of the land for yourself? While it remained, was it not your own? And after it was sold, was it not in your own control? Why have you conceived this thing in your heart? **You have not lied to men but to God**."* (Act 5:3-4)

C. The Holy Spirit is a _____

D. *"I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come."* (John 16:12, 13)

E. The Holy Spirit is the _____ of the _____.

F. *"The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all."* (2 Corinthians 13:14)

XIV. What is the Baptism in the Holy Spirit?

A. It is the _____ of Jesus' words concerning the "promise of the Father."

"Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high." (Luke 24:49)

B. It is the _____of the Father's promise as spoken by John the Baptist.

"I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire." (Matthew 3:11)

C. It is a _ _____ of _____ to be a witness of God's kingdom.

"And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God." (1 Corinthians 2:4-5)

D. It is an _____ to completely flood or release the Spirit's power.

"If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water." But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified." (John 7:37b-39)

E. It is a _____ and _____ act of God from being "baptized into Christ by the Holy Spirit."

"And finding some disciples he said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" So they said to him, "We have not so much as heard whether there is a Holy Spirit … And when Paul had laid hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke with tongues and prophesied." (Acts 19:1b-2;6)

XV. Why Do We Need the Holy Spirit?

A. Power and boldness to be a _____.

"And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness. …. And with great power the apostles gave witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And great grace was upon them all." (Acts 4:31, 33)

B. _____

" … when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come." (John 16:13)

C. _____

"Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered." (Romans 8:26)

D. Increased _____

"But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit." (Jude 1:20)

E. _____

"For the kingdom of God is ….. righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit" (Romans 14:17)

XVI. Three Points on Receiving the Holy Spirit

"So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. If a son asks for bread from any father among you, will he give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent instead of a fish? Or if he asks for an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!" (Luke 11:9-13)

A. The Lord is faithful to give the Spirit.

B. It is the responsibility of those seeking the Holy Spirit to ask.

C. Receiving the Holy Spirit is a gift and cannot be earned or secured outside of the exercise of faith.

XVII. What is Speaking in Tongues?

A. The Language of _____.

"Pursue love, and desire spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy. For he who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God, for no one understands him; however, in the spirit he speaks mysteries." (1 Corinthians 14:1-2)

B. The Language of_____.

"He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself, ..."(1 Corinthians 14:4)

C. "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness." (Galatians 5:22)

"For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God." (Romans 8:14)

D. The Language of _____.

"For they heard them speaking in tongues and praising God." (Acts 10:46)

E. The Language of _____

The Whole Armor of God - Verse 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." (Ephesians 6:10-18 NIV)

F. The Language of _____

"So too the [Holy] Spirit comes to our aid and bears us up in our weakness; for we do not know what prayer to offer nor how to offer it worthily as we ought, but the Spirit Himself goes to meet our supplication and pleads in our behalf with unspeakable yearnings and groanings too deep for utterance. And He Who searches the hearts of men knows what is in the mind of the [Holy] Spirit [what His intent is], because the Spirit intercedes and pleads [before God] in behalf of the saints according to and in harmony with God's." (Romans 8:26-27 Amp)

XVIII. How to Receive the Baptism in the Holy Spirit?

A. _____all barriers.

Identify barriers in your life.

Examples: unforgiveness, doctrine, pride, unclean spirit

B. _____the Gift.

Jesus said that all we had to do is ask, and we would receive.

Tell the Lord that you want to be baptized in the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues.

C. _____ the Gift.

By faith, reach out and take it.

You may want to ask someone to lay hands on you to receive.

D. _____ your prayer language.

By Faith -- Stop praying in English and start speaking in your heavenly language

LESSON 6-RELEASING HURTS AND FORGIVING OTHERS

Introduction: It is impossible to go through life without experiencing hurts, wounds, and disappointments. Our responses to these often lead to bitterness and unforgiveness. As the people of God, we have been called to a higher walk. Jesus challenges us to love our enemies, even those who hate and plot evil against us. Forgiveness is never easy. However, God always gives us the ability to live according to His Word and example. In this lesson we will cover:

- Why it is important for you to_____ others.
- How unforgiveness works_____in your life.
- How to _____ unforgiveness and bitterness.
- Positive steps to take to_____ the forgiveness process.

XIX. Why it is important for you to forgive others

A. Remember, forgiveness or bitterness—it's your _____.

B. If you don't forgive others, God _____ forgive you. God requires you to forgive everyone for every offense committed.

1) *"Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. For you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But f you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins"* (Matthew 6:12, 14-15 NIV).

2) *"Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other; just as in Christ God forgave you"* (Ephesians 4:32 NIV).

3) Biblical example—Matthew 18:21-35: A servant was forgiven an enormous debt, but he in turn refused to forgive a fellow servant a small debt. As a result, his master delivered the unforgiving servant to tormentors in prison until he paid all that he owed. Jesus said, *"This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother from your heart"* (Matthew 18:35 NIV).

C. Jesus said to forgive people" _____ times seven," which is another way of telling us to forgive others without counting how many times they have offended us. *"Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, 'Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother when he sins against me? Up to seven times?' Jesus answered, 'I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times"* (Matthew 18:21-22 NIV).

D. You can only _____ and lead to Jesus those whom you have forgiven. Forgiveness releases the love of Jesus in your heart to others.

XX. How unforgiveness works destruction in your life

A. It produces a _____ of bitterness in you. "See to it that no one misses the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many" (Hebrews 12:15 NIV).

B. This root of bitterness must be _____ and watered by you for it to continue to grow. This occurs when you harbor resentment, rehearse hurts, and seek to justify your unforgiveness. Resentment is like a fire—it needs to be supplied with fuel to live. To maintain an attitude of resentment, you must continually feed on negative, judgmental thoughts, feelings, and desires—toward God, your fellowman, or your situation.

C. If not dealt with, bitterness will cause a_____, socially, mentally, and physically in your life. It has the effect of poisoning your life.

D. Unforgiveness and the resulting bitterness cause your _____ _____, friends, and those around you to be poisoned as well.

E. Holding on to hurts and past wounds causes your_____ with God to be broken and robs you of joy, peace, and love.

F. Resentment and bitterness (the fruits of unforgiveness) act together as ___ _____ bars for your soul.

G. Unforgiveness allows _____ access into your life to build strongholds from which he can exert controlling influences in your life. *"For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds "*(II Corinthians 10:4 KJV).

XXI. How to overcome unforgiveness and bitterness

A. _____ of all unforgiveness and bitterness.

B. _____your sin to God and, if necessary, to the person/s it has harmed.

C. _____ for their forgiveness (be specific). Be careful that you emphasize your sinful attitude and behavior. Do not use this time as an occasion to make others aware of their wrongdoings. You are the one who has been convicted by the Holy Spirit, not they.

D. _____God's forgiveness. *"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness"* (I John 1:9 NIV).

E. _____unforgiveness. Do not allow ill feelings to take hold of you. Deal aggressively with negative feelings and attitudes. You may need assistance from other believers or counselors to whom you can be accountable. This is an important principle concerning any chronic sinful behavior in the life of a believer.

F. Fill your _____ with good thoughts. In Philippians 4:8 you are given a catalog of thoughts that you should entertain in your mind: "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."

XXII. Positive steps to take to complete the forgiveness process. _____ the following out loud:

A. I have been forgiven of my sins by God. Therefore, I choose to forgive others who have done me wrong.

B. I release from all personal judgment those who have wronged or hurt me.

C. I pray prayers of blessings on those who have wronged me.

LESSON 7-LIVING A JESUS LIFESTYLE BY SERVING OTHERS

Introduction: In this lesson you will discover who the Bible says is your neighbor. As a practical model, you will take a close look at the example of the Good Samaritan. An in-depth study in friendship evangelism will conclude our study. In this lesson you will learn how to:

- _____ your neighbor.
- Be a_____ to others.
- Reach out to the_____.

XXIII. _____ your neighbor and your responsibility to him.

A. In the opening chapters of Genesis, Cain asks God, "*Am I my brothers keeper*?" (Genesis 4:9) Cain expressed the heart of sinful man, which wants to ignore responsibility for anyone but those closest to him.

B. In the Old Testament, your "neighbor" included those who were like you, your family, and your close friends. Jonah was very angry with God when God showed mercy to the people of Nineveh. Jonah viewed them as enemies because they were not his fellow Israelites. (Jonah 3:1-4; 4)

C. In the New Testament, Jesus teaches that your "neighbor" includes those who are not like you and those who are not related to you. Their relationship to you as a "neighbor" is a _____ one, not a physical one. It is not based on kinship but on the opportunity and capacity to help others.

D. In John 3:16, Jesus tells us that He became a missionary to the whole world, not to a select few. He also tells us that "as the Father has sent Me, I am sending you." (John 20:2 1 NIV) You have a responsibility to reach out beyond your own circle of friends and across your borders. "*And you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.*" (Acts 1:8b NIV)

XXIV.Become a _____ to others, like the Good Samaritan did. (Luke 10:30-37)

A. See and feel the _____ (verse 30).

1) "Stripped him" — humiliation

2) "Beat him" — devastation (emotional and physical)

3) "Leaving him" — abandonment

B. Don't be_____ (verses 31, 32).

1) A priest saw him.

2) A Levite saw him.

C. Express your_____(verse 33).

1) A Samaritan saw him.

2) "He felt compassion for him."

3) It's one thing to see but something quite different to see and feel.

(a) Today many times people see much and feel little. We are a desensitized and emotionally calloused generation.

(b) The Samaritan is referred to as being "good" because he loved a man whom his fellow countrymen considered as an enemy. He was not influenced by their potential rejection of his action.

D. Be willing to _____ (verses 34, 35).

1) First aid (body ministry) was administered.

2) Time and financial resources were made available. (I John 3:17).

E. Be a true _____ (verse 36).

1) "Which of these three...proved to be a neighbor to the man?"..."The one who showed mercy."

"*Go and do the same*" (verse 37, see also Romans 15:1).

XXV. Live a _____ of friendship evangelism.

A. Model the _____ of Jesus (WWJD?).

1) Jesus, the true Servant, lived to give of Himself to others.

(a) He did not come to be served but to serve. (Mark 10:45)

(b) Jesus commissioned His disciples to do the same. (Matthew 7, 8) The call of God upon my life is to live to give.

2) With Jesus, serving was not a stepping stone toward greatness; it was the measure of greatness.

(a) Jesus was free to wash His disciples' feet. (John 13:5)

(b) Jesus served and loved so freely that He was able to bless His own betrayer (John 13:26) and even referred to him as His friend. (Matthew 26:47-50)

3) Jesus bids us, "Follow me."

(a) We're to follow Jesus by loving and serving others.

(b) We're to love with our hearts and eyes, speak words of peace and reconciliation with our mouths, and reach out to others with our hands.

B. Overcome_____ to friendship evangelism.

1) The fear of _____
   (a) Your acceptance is based on your identity in Christ.
   (b) Fear of rejection can paralyze you. "What will he or she think of me?"

2) _____
   (a) Your ego hates to suffer; it always prefers to be puffed up.
   (b) Rather than humbling yourself, you prefer silence and exclusion, and many times even isolation.

3) _____
   (a) We do not want to spend the time and energy.
   (b) "But they smoke, drink, take drugs, and live promiscuously."
   (c) There is a price to pay to gain the lost as one's inheritance. (Psalm 2:8)

4) _____of Scripture
   (a) "*Love not the world, nor the things in the world.*" (I John 2:15) This does not mean you should not love your fellowman.
   (b) *"I am coming to you now, but I say these things while I am still in the world, so that they may have the full measure of my joy with them."* (John 17:13)
   (c) "*The field is the world.*" (Matthew 13:38)

C. Getting started in friendship evangelism

1) Carefully consider how you invest your_____ energy, and financial resources. Do your investments show that you are truly committed to winning the lost? Be honest!

2) Ask God for a friend, a lost person with whom you can establish a _____.

3) As you enter appointments and other responsibilities in your daily schedule, plan times of involvement with unbelievers you are targeting for friendship. Remember, you want to establish friendships, not immediate converts. Conversion and discipleship are goals. Friendship is the way to enter into the hearts and lives of those we want to reach.

4) Express true_____.

5) Be friendly.

6) Be committed.

7) Be loyal.

8) Don't be_____ (tactless). Allow space for a normal growth process.

9) Be natural in expressing your faith in Christ.

10) "*A friend loves at all times.*" (Proverbs 17:17) This verse expresses the heart of true friendship— unconditional love.

LESSON 8-COMMITTING TO THE LOCAL CHURCH

Introduction: The word *church* has a different meaning today when compared to its original meaning in the days of the early church. To capture the biblical idea, the word needs to be redefined for modern society. In this class we will ask and answer the following questions:

- What is the local church?
- Why do you need a local church?
- How do you get involved in a local church?

XXVI. What is the local church?

"The church is not a _____ nor a _____ _____ nor an _____ but it is the company of the _____, the _____ community where we are brothers and sisters in fellowship with Christ. The church is people—the redeemed people of God. It is God's primary program in the earth, the visible expression of the rule of Christ." (author unknown)

A. What did Jesus say?

"And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it." (Matthew 16:18).

B. *Church* means "_____."

The church, then, is a group of individuals "called out" of the spiritual darkness of sin to be a separated people for God.

C. The Local Church. - Acts 20

1) A gathering place – verses 7 -8.
   (a) To break bread (fellowship & Lord's supper).
   (b) Preaching and teaching.
2) A refuge place – verses 9–10.
   (a) "He put his arms around him."
3) A body – verses 17-21.
   (a) Organization, elders.
   (b) Small groups.
   (c) Accountability, "how I lived the whole time I was with you."
   (d) By example "modeling."

4) A flock – verses 28-31.
   (a) Needs to be fed and protected.
5) A ministry – verses 35–36.
   (a) Giving and prayer.
6) Relationships – verse 38.

XXVII. Why do you need a local church?

A. You receive a "_____."

1) Eleven Hebrew words are used, which are translated "covering." These eleven words are very close in meaning and can be narrowed to two major thoughts:
   (a) A "_____—Man needs a covering of blood to blot out sin in his life.
   (b) A "_____"—Man needs his life protected from the attacks of the enemy.
   (c) The Hebrew word also brings out the thought of *"making a hedge or a fence in order to protect and guard that which is valued and loved."*
2) There is spiritual protection under the covering of the local church. When one leaves the covering of the local church, he is exposing himself to an onslaught of the devil's attacks, such as evil spirits (Acts 19:12-16), deception (1 Timothy 4:1), spiritual storms (Matthew 7:24, 25), false teaching (2 Peter 2:1), and even death (2 Corinthians 7:10).
3) Attitudes against which the church can give protection:
   (a) Pride—Proverbs 6:17; Matthew 7:22
   (b) Independence—Proverbs 3:5, 28:26
   (c) Hardened heart—Mark 7:6
   (d) Rebellion—1 Samuel 15:23
   (e) Moral impurity—Romans 1:18-32
   (f) Gullibility—Proverbs 14:15

B. You receive_____ care.

1) Hebrews 13:17 says that godly pastors care for and look after your spiritual condition, giving an account unto the Lord for your soul.
2) People need love, security, friendship, fellowship, and help during troubled times. (Romans 12:13; Hebrews 13:2; Acts 2:44-46, 4:32)

C. Your family is _____.

1) Teachings on such subjects as family relations, youth, and children are provided in a local church in order to strengthen the family.
2) Pastoral care for troubled families is also provided.

D. You are accurately _____ the Word of God.

E. You are a part of God's team, the church.

F. You are able to develop and find your place of_____ the Body of Christ.

XXVIII. How do you get involved?

A. _____ to the local church.

1) Commit to the _____ of the house. (Proverbs 29:18).
   (a) Attend weekly services.
   (b) Join a small group. (Philemon 1:2, Romans 16:5, Colossians 4:15)
   (c) Commit to becoming a leader in the church.
   (d) Discover your place of ministry.
   (e) Accept God's designated place for you in the Body of Christ.
      (i) God sets members in as it pleases Him. (1 Corinthians 12:11,18).
      (ii) We are to think soberly of ourselves. Realistically recognize your giftings as well as your limitations. (Romans 12:3, 4)
2) Pray for the church's leadership, the members, and the various ministries. (2 Corinthians 13:7, Colossians 1:9).
3) Obey and submit to the leadership of the church. (Hebrews 13:7, 17; 1 Peter 5:5; Ephesians 5:21).
4) Financially support the ministries of the local church through tithes and offerings. (Genesis 14:18-20, 28:22; Proverbs 3:9; Malachi 3:8-12; Matthew 23:23; Luke 6:38).
5) Be faithful. (Proverbs 20:6, 1 Corinthians 4:2, 2 Timothy 2:2)

B. _____ to one another.

1) Develop a servant spirit, serving the Body of Christ in love. (1 Corinthians 13).
2) Edify members of the Body. Encourage others and help them grow strong and mature in Christ. (1 Corinthians 14:3-5; Romans 14:1-3,7-8, 12-21; Ephesians 4:12, 15, 16)
3) Exhort members of the Body. Earnestly urge believers to do the things that please God and bring life to others. (Hebrews 3:13, 10:24)
4) Restore members of the Body. When Christians become caught in sin and fall away from the Lord and the Body of Christ, look for opportunities to help them get back into fellowship with God and the church. (Galatians 6:1, Ruth 4:15, Isaiah 58:12, Psalm 23:3).

LESSON 9-WALKING IN GOD'S PROVISION

Introduction: How we handle our finances is often a reflection of our relationship to God and our commitment to Him. It is also a means that God uses to witness to others of His faithfulness and love to us as we follow and obey His principles. On the other hand, the devil is sometimes able to bring despair, fear, guilt, and division through attacks on our finances. Some have even wandered from their faith because of a wrong approach to money. In this class we want you to:

- Believe that God wants to _____you financially.
- Root out wrong _____ you may have about money.
- Establish _____ attitudes about money.
- Apply God's _____ of financial success to your life.

XXIX. Believe that God wants to bless you financially.

A. You are to be spiritually and _____prosperous. *"Beloved, I wish above all things that you may prosper and be in health, even as your soul prospers"* (III John 1:2 KJV).

B. Let God be your _____, and be in right relationship with Him so His blessings can flow down to you. "*The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not be in want. He makes me lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside quiet waters* "(Psalm 23:1-2 NIV). (Read also, Psalm 37:4, 25; I Chronicles 29:11-12.)

C. God's blessings under the Old Covenant and the New Covenant include _____.

1) OLD—*"If you fully obey the LORD your God and carefully follow all His commands I give you today, the LORD your God will set you high above all the nations on earth. All these blessings will come upon you and accompany you if you obey the LORD your God. The LORD will grant you abundant prosperity—in the fruit of your womb, the young of your livestock, and the crops of your ground—in the land He swore to your forefathers to give you"* (Deuteronomy 28:1-2, 11 NIV).

2) NEW—*"And my God will meet all your needs according to His glorious riches in Christ Jesus"* (Philippians 4:19 NIV).

D. God wants you to be _____. *"Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous*

and successful" (Joshua 1:8 NIV). (Read also, Philippians 4:13; Luke 11:11-13)

E. Money is not the root of all evil—the _____ of it is. *"For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs"* (1 Timothy 6:10 NIV).

F. You are called to surrender your _____ to everything, but this does not mean that you are to be poor and penniless. You move from being an owner to being a steward (one who takes care of the resources of another). With this perspective, God can then *"richly provide us with everything for our enjoyment"* (1 Timothy 6:17).

XXX. Root out wrong attitudes you may have about money.

A. Acquiring wealth is the most _____thing in life. *"What good will it be for a man if he gains the whole world, yet forfeits his soul? Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul?"* (Matthew 16:26 NIV).

B. _____is more valuable than love, godly character, or a good name. *"Better a little with the fear of the LORD than great wealth with turmoil. Better a meal of vegetables where there is love than a fattened calf with hatred"* (Proverbs 15:16-17 NIV). *"Better a little with righteousness than much gain with injustice"* (Proverbs 16:8 NIV). *"A good name is more desirable than great riches; to be esteemed is better than silver or gold"* (Proverbs 22:1 NIV).

C. You are _____ you will be able to keep your material possessions and live to enjoy what you have acquired. *"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal"* (Matthew 6:19-20 NIV). *"But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?' This is how it will be with anyone who stores up things for himself but is not rich toward God"* (Luke 12:20-2 1 NIV).

D. Wealth and abundance are more valuable than your _____. *"But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ and be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith"* (Philippians 3:7-9 NIV).

E. The quality and_____ of life are determined by the amount of money you have. *"Then He said to them, 'Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions"* (Luke 12:15 NIV).

F. You should not have _____ because they cost too much. *"Sons are a heritage from the LORD, children a reward from Him. Like arrows in the hands of a warrior are sons born in one's youth. Blessed is the man whose quiver is full of them. They will not be put to shame when they contend with their enemies in the gate"* (Psalm 127:3-5 NIV).

G. It does not matter _____ you get money as long as you have it. "*Dishonest money dwindles away, but he who gathers money little by little makes it grow*" (Proverbs 13:11 NIV).

H. You can earn all the money you want without _____ help, even God's. *"But remember the LORD your God, for it is He who gives you the ability to produce wealth, and so confirms His covenant, which He swore to your forefathers, as it is today"* (Deuteronomy 8:18 NIV).

XXXI. Establish godly attitudes about money.

A. Everything belongs to God, and you are to be a good_____ of what God gives to you. *"The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it"* (Psalm 24:1 NIV). *"Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful."* (1 Corinthians 4:2 NIV).

B. You are not to _____money or what it can bring you, as this can cause you to lose your faith. *"For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs"* (I Timothy 6:10 NIV).

C. God expects you to be_____ in all of your financial dealings. *"Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody."* (Romans 12:17 NIV).

D. _____and understanding are more valuable than silver or gold. "*How much better to get wisdom than gold, to choose understanding rather than silver!*" (Proverbs 16:16 NIV). You should not be proud about how much money you have, but instead, you should glory in knowing the Lord. "*This is what the LORD says: 'Let not the wise man boast of his wisdom or the strong man boast of his strength or the rich man boast of his riches, but let him who boasts boast about this: that he understands and knows Me, that I am the LORD, Who exercises*

kindness, justice, and righteousness on earth, for in these I delight,' declares the LORD" (Jeremiah 9:23-24 NIV).

E. Godliness and _____ are to be very valuable to you. *"But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that"* (I Timothy 6:6-8 NIV).

F. Good _____ are to be more important to you than great riches (1 Timothy 6:17-19).

G. The greatest wealth you have is the _____ that are in Christ (Ephesians 3:8).

H. Use your money, wealth, and position to influence and bless others (Proverbs 19:4-6, 17; 22:9; 2 Corinthians 9:6-15).

I. Avoid envy, coveting, and _____ (Colossians 3:5, Exodus 20:17, Proverbs 15:27).

XXXII. Apply God's laws of financial success to your life.

A. Get your _____ right: Put God's kingdom first in your life, and your other needs will be met (Matthew 6:25-34, *verse 33).

B. _____: If you give the tithe, or 1/10 of your income, to God through the local church where you are committed and submitted, God will bless you financially. If you refuse to give the tithe, you are robbing God, and your finances are cursed (Malachi 3:8-10).

C. _____what you have: If you use what is given to you, you will gain more. If you fail to use what is given to you, you will lose even what you think you have (Matthew 25:14-30).

D. _____generously: According to the portion you give, it will be given to you (2 Corinthians 9:6, Luke 6:38).

E. Treat people_____: However you want others to treat you, treat them in the same way (Matthew 7:12).

F. Be _____: If you keep going and persevere, you will eventually overcome problems, obstacles, pain, or difficulties (Matthew 7:7-8, Galatians 6:9).

G. _____ what you want to have in your life: For whatever good crop you want to come up in your life, you must first plant the right seed (Galatians 6:7).

H. Walk and talk _____ You can move mountains by the power of God through faith and a right confession (Mark 11:22-24).

I. Walk in_____: Division destroys, but unity brings success (Luke 11:17, John 17:20-23, Matthew 18:19).

J. Develop a financial plan and_____: To bring discipline to your spending and saving habits, develop a written plan (with your spouse, if you are married) for your financial goals and a monthly budget plan to achieve them. These goals and budgets should be both scriptural and workable (example of Joseph: Genesis 41:33-37).

K. Don't_____ what you don't have: "For if the willingness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has, not according to what he does not have" (2 Corinthians 8:12 NIV).

L. Avoid the _____ trap: "The rich rule over the poor and the borrower is servant to the lender" (Proverbs 22:7 NIV).

LESSON 10-BEING & LIVING RIGHT BEFORE A HOLY GOD

Introduction: The amazing truth of the Gospel is that God takes broken sinners, cleanses them of their sin, transforms them into new creatures, and accepts them as sons and daughters. In this lesson, we will learn how, as a believer, you were made right with God. You will discover:

- What happens when you are_____.
- What it means to be "_____" and to be "justified by faith."
- How being righteous enables you to live a_____ life in Christ.

XXXIII. What happens when you are _____ ?

Both you and God have a part to play in your salvation.

A. God asks you to:

1) _____—turn from your sin.

2) _____—turn to God (have faith).

3) _____—God's gift of life.

B. God acts to:

1) _____ you ("new birth")—makes you a new creature.

2) _____ you—makes you righteous.

XXXIV. What is righteousness?

A. What is righteousness, or what does it mean to be "righteous"?

Three ways that righteousness is generally understood:

1) Some believe it is a _____ that everyone must live up to (such as the Law or the Ten Commandments). If I am to be considered righteous, I must live up to the "standard" and obey all the commandments and expectations of God. (God does not accept us on the basis of this kind of righteousness. That is, perfectly keeping the Law or any set of rules does not make us acceptable to God.)

2) Some believe it is_____ (never having done anything wrong or evil). If I am to be considered righteous, I must not

have ever done anything wrong. (Jesus is the only person who has been morally perfect.)

3) The Bible teaches that righteousness is living up to the terms of a _____. (I must fulfill what is expected of me in a relationship.)

B. On your own, you _____ live up to the terms God expects from you.

1) As a sinner who has fallen far short of God's expectations, you know that if God examined your life, He would not say that you are righteous.

"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23 NIV).

2) You can do good works and try to live a life according to good moral standards (the Bible calls this the "law"), but that will not make you right (justified) with God.

". . . by observing the law no one will be justified" Galatians 2:16 (NIV).

C. Knowing your life, how can God honestly "justify" you, or make you righteous?

1) Being made "righteous" is more than _____ (cleansing you from your sins).

2) God also gives us Christ's_____ (views us as having lived a life of righteousness by "crediting" us with Jesus' perfect life).

3) You are one with Christ.

(a) This is not something that is going to happen or something that you should expect to happen, but it is something that already happened when you were born again!

(b) "*God made Him Who had no sin to be sin for us, so*

_____

_____

_____(2 Corinthians 5:21).

(c) *"He has clothed me with the garments of salvation; He has* _____ _____ (Isaiah 61:10).

(d) Paul says that his goal is to be found in Christ, "*not having a righteousness of my own, based on law, but* _____"

_____

_____ (Philippians 3:9).

XXXV. How can you stand right before a holy God?

A. You _____ in Christ.

"We have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ, and not by works of the law, because by the works of the law shall no one be justified" (Galatians 2:16).

"We are justified by faith" (Romans 5:1).

1) Faith is an _____ through which justification is given to us (like a conduit).
   (a) Faith is not simply mental agreement, but a firm reliance, trust, and a leaning and depending upon God and His promises.
   (b) Faith shapes my character and affects my decisions and actions.
2) Why did God choose faith? Why not love, joy, contentment, wisdom, or humility?
   (a) Faith is the one attitude of heart that is the exact opposite of depending on ourselves.
   (b) With faith, we are saying essentially, "I give up! I can't do this on my own!"
   "For by grace you have been saved through faith; and this is not your own doing, it is the gift of God—not because of works, lest any man should boast" (Ephesians 2:8-9).

B. You receive the _____ of righteousness.

"Those who receive God's abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness (will) reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ" (Romans 5:17 NIV).

XXXVI. Live in victory as a righteous child of God!

A. Take your _____ as a child of God.

1) You don't have to earn your standing before God—in fact, you can't earn it—it is a gift.
2) Your motivation for what you do has changed. You are not working to earn God's approval through prayer, Bible reading, witnessing, or other good works. You do these things because you love God, you thirst for His presence, and you want to please Him. You are not trying to earn His favor (John 20:31, 1 John 5:3-5).

B. Latch on to the _____ of God.

1) You are now the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus (II Corinthians 5:2 1).

2) You are seated in "heavenly places with Christ" and have victory over sin and the devil (Ephesians 2:6).
3) You can approach God with confidence, knowing He accepts you (Hebrews 10:22).
4) You can live at peace with God (Romans 5:1,2).
5) You are set free from sin and are now a servant of God, Who gives life (Romans 6:22-23).
6) Tribulation and hardships are not signs of God's disapproval, but opportunities to have Christ-like character developed in you (Romans 5:1-5).

XXXVII. What is holiness?

A. Holiness literally means "to be _____ for God." (John 17:17-19)

- It is the same word as sanctification.

B. A definition of holiness is "the _____ work of God and man that makes us more and more free from sin and more like Christ."

- God's intention is for believers to live free from the bondage of sin. Why? Sin prevents us from living the abundant life that God has designed for us. (1 Peter 1:14-16)

C. Holiness has two _____.

1) It begins when we are born again. "And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God." (1 Corinthians 6:11 NIV)
   (a) We are called "saints." "Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes, to the church of God in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus and called to be saints, together with all those everywhere who call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ—their Lord and ours." (1 Corinthians 1:1-2 NKJ)
   (b) We have been set free from sin!
   "You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness." (Romans 6:18 NIV)
2) Throughout life, you are to continue to be transformed into Christ's likeness by the sanctification process.
   (a) It begins at the "new birth" but is also a process throughout our lives.

(b) We are _____ changed from one degree to another.

"And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into His likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, Who is the Spirit." (2 Corinthians 3:18 NIV).

D. The key to your sanctification is_____ who you are in Christ.

1) Holiness is not a _____ process, but a _____ one.
   (a) Some think of it as a list of "don'ts."
   (b) Scripture views it as a way of sharing Jesus' life.

2) Jesus is God's "_____" for your life as a believer.
   (a) We are inseparably linked with Jesus.
      (i) "Just as the living Father sent Me and I live because of the Father; so the one who feeds on Me will live because of Me." (John 6:57 NIV)
      (ii) Just as a baby's umbilical cord connects it with its mother, we are connected with Jesus and share His life.
      (iii) If we abide in Jesus, we "ought to walk in the same manner as He walked." (1 John 2:6 NAS)

XXXVIII. How do you become sanctified or live holy?

A. _____ that God is good, created you with purpose, wants a relationship with you, and has given you His Word. (Titus 2:11-14, 3:4-8)

B. _____who you are and where true life is to be found.

1) We are aliens in this world.

   "I have given them Your word and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world." (John 17:14 NIV)

2) The values of the world are not my values.

   "I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want." (Philippians 4:11-12 NIV)

C. Be_____ that God's expectation for his children is that they do not sin.

"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." (1 John 2:1 NIV).

"No one who is born of God will continue to sin, because God's seed remains in him; he cannot go on sinning, because he has been born of God." (1 John 3:9 NIV)

D. Repent and _____ any sin in your life, and drink in God's forgiveness.

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

We grieve the Spirit when we sin, but when we come "clean" with God, He rejoices over us. (Luke 15:24)

- We must maintain a clear conscience.

E. _____your mind.

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

- The mind is the part of the body that needs the most discipline.
- We take every *"thought captive to the obedience of Christ."* (2 Corinthians 10:5)

F. Continually admit that you are_____ on the Holy Spirit to help you live a life like Jesus.

- Developing an ongoing friendship with God does this.

G. Place yourself in situations where holiness can grow.

1) Drink in God's Word.
2) Maintain regular prayer times.
3) Get busy with the tasks God wants you to do.
4) Physically remove yourself from places of temptation.
5) Refuse to entertain thoughts that could lead to sin. Choose instead to think "Philippians" thoughts:

   "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." (Philippians 4:8 NIV)

LESSON 11-KNOWING WHAT WE BELIEVE (TENETS OF FAITH)

- **HOLY BIBLE:** The Holy Bible, and only the Bible, is the authoritative Word of God. It alone is the final authority in determining all doctrinal truths. In its original writing, it is inspired, infallible and inerrant (II Timothy 3:16; II Peter 1:20-21; Proverbs 30:5; Romans 16:25-26).

- **TRINITY:** There is one God, eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. These three are co-equal and co-eternal (I John 5:7; Genesis 1:26; Matthew 3:16-17, 28:19; Luke 1:35; Isaiah 9:6; Hebrews 3:7-11).

- **JESUS CHRIST:** Jesus Christ is God the Son, the second person of the Trinity. On earth, Jesus was 100% God and 100% man. He is the only man ever to have lived a sinless life. He was born of a virgin, lived a sinless life, performed miracles, died on the cross for mankind and thus, atoned for our sins through the shedding of His blood. He rose from the dead on the third day according to the Scriptures, ascended to the right hand of the Father, and will return again in power and glory. (John 1:1, 14, 20:28; I Timothy 3:16; Isaiah 9:6; Philippians 2:5-6; I Timothy 2:5).

- **VIRGIN BIRTH:** Jesus Christ was conceived by God the Father, through the Holy Spirit (the third person of the Trinity) in the virgin Mary's womb; therefore, He is the Son of God (Matthew 1:18, 25; Luke 1:35; Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:18, 23-25; Luke 1:27-35).

- **REDEMPTION:** Man was created good and upright, but by voluntary transgression he fell; his only hope of redemption is in Jesus Christ, the Son of God (Genesis 1:26-31, 3:1-7; Romans 5:12-21).

- **REGENERATION:** For anyone to know God, regeneration by the Holy Spirit is absolutely essential (John 6:44, 65).

- **SALVATION:** We are saved by grace through faith in Jesus Christ; His death, burial and resurrection. Salvation is a gift from God, not a result of our good works or of any human effort (Ephesians 2:8-9; Galatians 2:16, 3:8: Titus 3:5; Romans 10:9-10; Acts 16:31; Hebrews 9:22).

- **REPENTANCE:** Repentance is the commitment to turn away from sin in every area of our lives and to follow Christ, which allows us to receive His redemption and to be regenerated by the Holy Spirit. Thus, through repentance we receive forgiveness of sins and appropriate salvation (Acts 2:21, 3:19; I John 1:9).

- **SANCTIFICATION:** Sanctification is the ongoing process of yielding to God's Word and His Spirit in order to complete the development of Christ's character in us. It is through the present ministry of the Holy Spirit and the Word of God that the Christian is enabled to live a godly life (I Thessalonians 4:3, 5:23; II Corinthians 3:18, 6:14-18, II Thessalonians 2:1-3; Romans 8:29, 12:1-2, Hebrews 2:11).

- **JESUS' BLOOD:** The blood that Jesus Christ shed on the cross of Calvary was sinless and is 100% sufficient to cleanse mankind of all sin. Jesus allowed Himself to be punished for both our sinfulness and our sins, enabling all those who believe to be free from the penalty of sin, which is death (I John 1:7; Revelation 1:5, 5:9; Colossians 1:20; Romans 3:10-12, 23, 5:9; John 1:29).

- **JESUS CHRIST INDWELLS ALL BELIEVERS:** Christians are people who have invited the Lord Jesus Christ to come and live inside them by His Holy Spirit. They relinquish the authority of their lives over to Him thus making Jesus the Lord of their life as well as Savior. They put their trust in what Jesus accomplished for them when He died, was buried, and rose again from the dead (John 1:12; John 14:17, 23; John 15:4; Romans 8:11; Revelations 3:20).

- **BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT:** Given at Pentecost, it is the promise of the Father, sent by Jesus after His ascension, to empower the Church to preach the gospel throughout the whole earth (Joel 2:28-29; Matthew 3:11; Mark 16:17; Acts 1:5, 2:1-4, 17, 38-39, 8:14-17, 10:38, 44-47, 11:15-17, 19:1-6).

- **THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT:** The Holy Spirit is manifested through a variety of spiritual gifts to build and sanctify the church, demonstrate the validity of the resurrection, and confirm the power of the Gospel. The Bible list of these gifts are not necessarily exhaustive, and the gifts may occur in various combinations. All believers are commanded to earnestly desire the manifestation of the gifts in their lives. These gifts operate in harmony with the Scriptures and should never be used in violation of biblical parameters. (Hebrews 2:4; Romans 1:11, 12:4-8; Ephesians 4:16; II Timothy 1:5-16, 4:14; I Corinthians 12:1-31, 14:1-40; I Peter 4:10).

- **THE CHURCH:** The Church is the Body of Christ, the habitation of God through the Spirit, with divine appointments for the fulfillment of Jesus' great commission. Every person who is born of the Spirit is an integral part of the church as a member of the body of believers. There is a spiritual unity of all believers in our Lord Jesus Christ. (Ephesians 1:22, 2:19-22; Hebrews 12:23; John 17:11, 20-23).

- **TWO ORDINANCES:**

- **WATER BAPTISM -** Following faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, the new convert is commanded by the Word of God to be baptized in water in the name of the Father and the Son and of the Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:19; Acts 2:38).
- **THE LORD'S SUPPER** - A unique time of communion in the presence of God when the elements of bread and grape juice (the body and blood of the Lord Jesus Christ) are taken in remembrance of Jesus' sacrifice on the cross (Matthew 26:26-29; Mark 16:16; Acts 8:12, 36-38; 10:47-48; I Corinthians 10:16, 11:23-25).

- **HEALING OF THE SICK:** Healing of the sick is illustrated in the life and ministry of Jesus, and included in the commission of Jesus to His disciples. It is given as a sign, which is to follow believers. It is also a part of Jesus' work on the cross and one of the gifts of the Spirit (Psalm 103:2-3; Isaiah 53:5; Matthew 8:16-17; Mark 16:17-18; Acts 8:6-7; James 5:14-16; I Corinthians 12:9, 28; Romans 11:29).

- **GOD'S WILL FOR PROVISION:** It is the Father's will for believer's to become whole, healthy and successful in all areas of life. But because of the fall, many may not receive the full benefits of God's will while on earth. That fact, though, should never prevent all believers from seeking the full benefits of Christ's provision in order to better serve others.
  - Spiritual (John 3:3-11; II Corinthians 5:17-21; Romans 10:9-10).
  - Mental and emotional (II Timothy 1:7, 2:11; Philippians 4:7-8; Romans 12:2; Isaiah 26:3).
  - Physical (Isaiah 53:4,5; Matthew 8:17; I Peter 2:24).
  - Financial (Joshua 1:8; Malachi 3:10-11; Luke 6:38; II Corinthians 9:6-10; Deuteronomy 28:1-14; Psalm 34:10, 84:11; Philippians 4:19).

- **RESURRECTION:** Jesus Christ was physically resurrected from the dead in a glorified body three days after His death on the cross. In addition, both the saved and the lost will be resurrected; they that are saved to the resurrection of life and they that are lost to the resurrection of eternal damnation (Luke 24:16, 36, 39; John 2:19-21, 20:26-28, 21:4; Acts 24:15; I Corinthians 15:42, 44; Philippians 1:21-23, 3:21).

- **HEAVEN:** Heaven is the eternal dwelling place for all believers in the Gospel of Jesus Christ (Matthew 5:3, 12, 20, 6:20, 19:21, 25:34; John 17:24; II Corinthians 5:1; Hebrews 11:16; I Peter 1:4).

- **HELL:** After living one life on earth, the unbelievers will be judged by God and sent to hell where they will be eternally tormented with the devil and the fallen angels (Matthew 25:41; Mark 9:43-48; Hebrews 9:27; Revelation 14:9-11, 20:12-15, 21:8).

- **SECOND COMING:** Jesus Christ will physically and visibly return to earth for the second time to establish His Kingdom. This will occur at a date undisclosed by the Scriptures (Matthew 24:30, 26:63-64; Acts 1:9-11; I Thessalonians 4:15-17; II Thessalonians 1:7-8; Revelation 1:7

XXXIX. We believe that the Bible is the_____ Word of God.

"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness." (II Timothy 3:16 KJV)

A. The word *Bible* means "_____". It is a collection of 66 books written over a period of 1500 years by 38 different human authors.

B. The true author, however, is God, for the entire Bible is divinely inspired and without error in the original manuscripts.

C. The Bible is the revelation of God to man and the final authority for the Church and the believer in all matters of_____ and daily living.

Benefit: The Bible is not merely a textbook for Christian doctrine. It is a guidebook for life—a handbook for Christian living. The Bible is proved true by the fact that when you put it into practice, it works: promises are fulfilled when you meet the conditions, prayers are answered, lives are changed, the sick are healed, etc.

XL. We believe that God is infinitely perfect and eternally existent in three persons—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

A. What is God like?

1) The Bible describes many attributes, or _____that belong to God. Some of them include:

(a) God is _____. (Genesis 1:1)

(b) God is omnipotent, or all-powerful. (Matthew 19:26)

(c) God is omnipresent, or everywhere. (Jeremiah 23:24)

(d) God is omniscient, or all-knowing. (I John 3:20)

(e) God is _____. (Psalm 90:2)

2) What is true of God the Father is also true of Jesus and the, Holy Spirit: they also possess the divine attributes. (Colossians 1:15-20; Acts 5:1-5)

B. Jesus Christ, the Son of God

- <u>Ten Important Facts about Jesus Christ:</u>

1) As the eternal Son of God, Jesus was involved in creating the heavens and the earth. (John 1:1)

2) Jesus was conceived by the Holy Spirit in the Virgin Mary's womb. (Luke 1:26-35)

3) While on the earth, He was both true _____and true _____. (John 1:1-14)
4) He lived a _____ life. (Hebrews 4:15)
5) He possessed tremendous miraculous power. (Hebrews 1:3)
6) He was crucified on the cross where He died as a sacrifice for the sins of all men. (John 19:16-33)
7) God raised Him from the dead on the third day. (John 20:1-9)
8) For forty days after His resurrection, over _____ people saw Him. (1 Corinthians 15:5-7)
9) He ascended to heaven right in front of the disciples' eyes. (Acts 1:9)
10) He is today at the right hand of the Father, making _____ for believers. (Romans 8:34)

C. The Person of the Holy Spirit. (Acts 13:2 "*The Holy Spirit said …,*")
1) The Holy Spirit's present ministry is to glorify the Lord Jesus Christ. He accomplishes this by indwelling, guiding, instructing, and empowering the believer for godly living and service.

Benefit: In the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, you, as a believer, can know that you are serving the one true God of the universe. God loves you enough that He sent His Son Jesus to die for your sins. Then, He makes you a new creation in Him and empowers you to live a Christ-like life through the power of the Holy Spirit.

XLI. We believe that Satan and his demons are mankind's _ _.

"Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour." (1 Peter 5:8 NIV)

A. Satan, or the devil, is a fallen _____ (Luke 10:18, 19), a created being, who was cast out of heaven because of pride and rebellion (Isaiah 14, Ezekiel 28).

B. _____ also fallen spirits, or angels, who work under Satan to undermine God's kingdom. The devil and his demons come to steal, kill, and destroy (John 10:10).

C. _____ was created for Satan and his angels (Matthew 25:41), and their eternal destiny is sealed. Jesus came to destroy the works of the devil, and He gave believers authority over the power of Satan. (I John 3:8, Luke 10:19)

"I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you." (Luke 10:18, 19 NIV)

Benefit: By knowing that there is a very real adversary, the devil and his demons, you become more alert in your day-to-day activities to his subtle schemes and temptations that would try to divert your focus from who the real enemy is.

XLII. We believe we are saved by _____ through faith in Jesus Christ.

"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." (Ephesians 2:8, 9 KJV)

A. Because of man's fallen, sinful condition, and because the consequences of sin are so very serious, salvation is necessary. God has graciously made salvation possible for all by sending his Son Jesus to die on the cross for our sins. All God requires of us is that we repent and believe the Gospel (good news).

1) _____—is turning away from sin and turning to God. Repentance is necessary for men to receive forgiveness of sins. (Acts 2:37-38)

2) "Repent, therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out..." (Acts 3:19 KJV)

B. Salvation and the_____—Man is saved by grace, God's unmerited favor, through faith in Jesus Christ and His blood.

1) Salvation is a gift of God and cannot be earned by human efforts. A person must be "born again" by the Spirit of God. In this new birth, Jesus comes to live inside the new believer. (Ephesians 2:8-9)

2) "...Except a man be born again, he cannot see the Kingdom of God. Marvel not that I said unto thee, 'Ye must be born again." (John 3:3, 7 KJV)

C. Living _____ (sanctification)

1) In one respect, we were sanctified the moment we put our trust in God. This instantaneous work places us as sons and daughters of God.

2) Sanctification is also progressive. This means that even though we are holy in God's sight and do not receive any condemnation from Him, we are to progressively become holy in our daily conduct. The Christian life is a life of putting off the old self and putting on the new self. (Ephesians 4:22-24 NIV)

Benefit: You are saved from eternal separation from God. While living on this earth YOU CAN live a holy and sanctified life as you daily put off the old man and put on the new. You are a new creation!

XLIII. We believe that healing of the sick is a sign that follows _____.

"And these signs shall follow those who believe: In My Name.., they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover." (Mark 16:17, 18 KJV)

A. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, Jesus healed the sick while on the earth (Acts 10:3 8), and He paid the price for the healing of your body through His death.

"Who His own self bare our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness. by Whose stripes ye were healed." (I Peter 2:24 KJV)

Benefit: The most obvious benefit of divine healing is that YOU CAN be healed!

XLIV. We believe that believers are to be water-baptized by _____.

"Then Peter said unto them, 'Repent, and be baptized, every one of you, in the Name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins." (Acts 2:38 KJV)

A. After you are saved, you should be baptized in water.

1) Water baptism is a picture, or symbol, of the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ. (Romans 6:3-5)

2) When you are baptized, you are showing your identification and union with Christ. You are dead to sin and must, therefore, be buried in baptism. As you come up out of the water, you come up, so to speak, out of the grave, raised from the dead (old life) to walk in newness of life.

B. Water baptism is an opportunity to publicly confess that Jesus is your Lord.

Benefit: Other than the fact that water baptism is a command of our Lord Jesus Christ, the act of being water-baptized causes you to remember that your body is dead to sin and that you don't have to give in to the temptations of the flesh.

XLV. We believe in the _____ with the Holy Spirit.

"For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.." (Acts1:5 NIV)

A. The Baptism with the Holy Spirit is a separate experience from salvation in which the believer is endued with power from on high for godly living and service. Speaking in tongues (an unknown tongue) was the normative accompanying manifestation to the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, and believers filled with the Holy Spirit should expect its accompaniment.

"And these signs will accompany those who believe: ...they will speak in new tongues;..." (Mark 16:17 NIV)

B. How do you receive the Baptism of the Holy Spirit?

1) You must be born again. (Acts 2:38, 39)
2) You must recognize that the Holy Spirit is given as a gift. (Luke 11:13, Acts 10:45)
3) You must desire and ask for this gift. (Acts 19:2, 6; Luke 11:9-13)
4) You must receive the Holy Spirit, in faith. (Acts 2:38, 8:15-19, 10:47, 19:2)

Benefit: There are many benefits of being baptized in the Holy Spirit. Perhaps the most outstanding benefit is that He gives you a special language in which you can pray and make intercession directly to God, even when you don't know how to pray. (Romans 8:26)

XLVI. We believe in the _____ (local and universal).

"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." (1 Corinthians 12:12-14 NIV)

A. The Church, or the Body of Christ, is a spiritual organism, with Christ as the _____. (Ephesians 5:23) It consists of all true born-again believers everywhere. The only way to enter into the Body of Christ is by being born again (the new birth).

B. The LOCAL CHURCH is a part of the UNIVERSAL CHURCH. The Bible says that all believers are to be a part of a local church. (Hebrews 10:25)

Benefit: By being part of a local church, you are submitting yourself to spiritual authority (a spiritual covering). You are protecting yourself from false doctrine, seducing spirits, and deception. You are strengthened and encouraged by the other members of the Body of Christ.

XLVII. We believe in the _____ of the Holy Spirit.

"To the one there is given through the Spirit the message of wisdom, to another the message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues." (1 Corinthians 12: 8-10 NIV)

A. The gifts of the Spirit are supernatural manifestations given (as gifts) by the Spirit of God to the Spirit-filled believer.

B. Spiritual gifts are given to _____ the Church to carry out its ministry until Christ returns. (Ephesians 4:12) They are given for the edifying and strengthening of the Church, which is the believers. (I Corinthians 14:5)

Benefit: Spiritual gifts enable you to be used by the Holy Spirit to encourage and help other believers grow to maturity. They bring unity to the Body of Christ and allow you to taste of the fuller working of the Holy Spirit that will be yours in the age to come.

XLVIII. We believe in observing the Lord's _____.

"For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes." (I Corinthians 11:26 NIV).

A. As a_____, or a reminder of His death, the Lord Jesus ordained the Lord's Supper (Communion Service).

B. When you participate in the Lord's Supper:

1) You come into the presence of Christ and remember that He died for you.

2) You affirm that your sins could be taken away only by the broken body and shed blood of Jesus. You also affirm that you need Him and trust Him to forgive your sins and give life and health back to your soul.

3) You receive the spiritual nourishment and refreshment that Christ is giving to your soul. He loves you and has invited you to this Supper!

4) You are united with all other believers who participate in this Supper.

Benefit: As you partake of the Bread and the Cup, you remember that the Lord died for you on the cross; you are reminded of your desperate need for Him; and you can experience thanksgiving and joy in the celebration of this Supper of the Lord.

XLIX. We believe in the_____, the Second Coming of Jesus, and the Resurrection of the Dead.

A. The Rapture:

"For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air." (1 Thessalonians 4:16, 17 NIV).

1) Believers should be ready for the imminent return of Jesus, for we do not know the day or the hour of His return.

2) At that moment, the believers in the grave will be resurrected, and those who are still alive will be caught up to the Lord Jesus in the air. Then, Jesus will personally escort them to heaven.

B. The Second Coming of Jesus:

"This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen Him go into heaven." (Acts 1:11 NIV)

1) Jesus will come back to the earth a second time to set up His kingdom. This will take place at the end of a seven year period of turmoil on the earth called the Tribulation. (Daniel 12:1; Revelation 6, 8-9, 16)

2) Jesus will return to the earth with His saints (I Thessalonians 3:13) to overthrow the Antichrist and his forces, to cast the devil into a bottomless pit, and to set up His earthly kingdom (Revelation 19).

C. The Resurrection of the Dead:

"And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books." (Revelation 20:12 NIV)

1) Just as Jesus was resurrected, all believers will be bodily resurrected to everlasting joy with the Lord.

2) The unbeliever will be resurrected to judgment and everlasting, conscious punishment.

Benefit: Because of God's great love for you, you know that in life and in death you belong to God. Whether or not you live to see Christ's return, you have confidence that God has prepared a new glorified body for you in the resurrection and that you will share eternity with Him.

L. We believe that heaven and hell are _____ eternal places.

"And I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away…" (Revelation 2 1:1 KJV)

"And the devil, who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of burning sulfur where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown. They will be tormented day and night for ever and ever … If anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire." (Revelation 20:10, 15 NIV)

A. Heaven and hell are literal places reserved for people to live in after death and judgment.

1) Heaven will be the glorious home for all true believers in Jesus.

2) Hell will be the prison where the wicked will be locked up in torment and darkness forever—fully conscious, without any way of escape.

Benefit: Because you know there is going to be a resurrection of the dead, a catching away of believers, and a literal heaven and hell, you want to live a holy, Christlike life here on earth. You want to always be ready for His return!