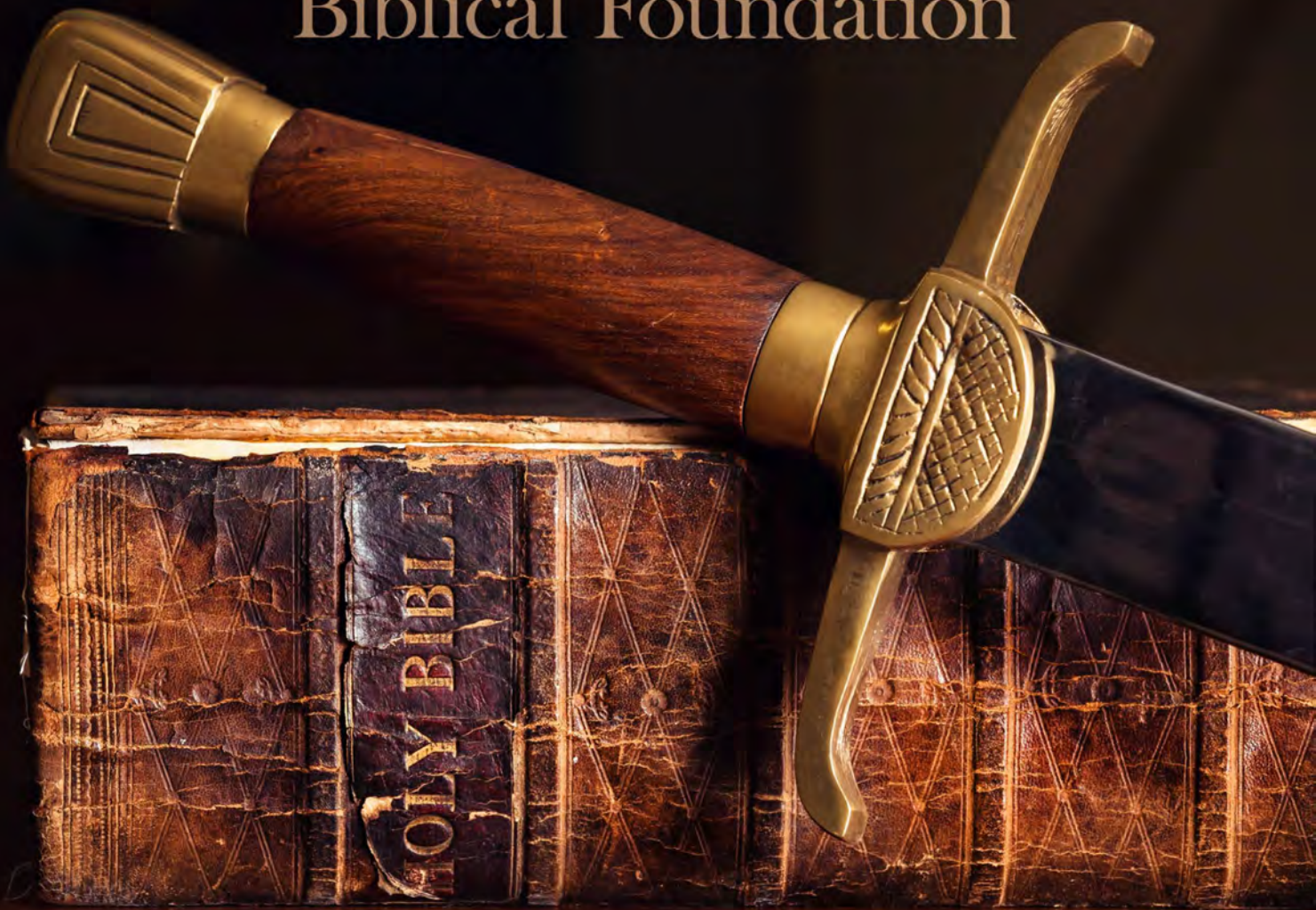


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# EQUIPPING THE SAINTS FOR REVIVAL

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Establishing a Strong  
Biblical Foundation



STUDENT MANUAL

# Equipping the Saints for Revival

## Establishing a Strong Biblical Foundation

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Study *and* do your best to present yourself to God approved, a workman [tested by trial] who has no reason to be ashamed, accurately handling *and* skillfully teaching the word of truth. (2Tim 2:15, AMP)

## **A Blessing**

I speak that Special Blessings rest upon you as you embrace the truths written in these pages.

As a student of the Lord for many years, I have been enriched in my inner man through the writings and revelations of information of spiritual authors. There are many books in my library that I would never willingly part with. I trust that this will be such a treatise that you will treasure and hide in your heart.

I bless you for Divine understanding to take hold in your spirit.

May the Holy Spirit multiply the truths in these pages so that they may exceed your initial expectations.

I declare that your soul will be fortified and strengthened.

May what you learn in these chapters find their way into your conversation both with saint and sinner.

I bless you that the infrastructure of what the Holy Spirit has begun in you will be strengthened and that new rivers of knowledge will enable you to rightly divide the word of truth.

John Kilpatrick  
Founder and Senior Pastor  
Church of His Presence

## Preface

*So Jesus was saying to the Jews who had believed in Him, "If you abide in My word (continually obeying My teachings and living in accordance with them, then) you are truly My disciples. And you will know the truth (regarding salvation), and the truth will set you free (from the penalty of sin)."*  
*(John 8:31-32, Amplified Bible)*

This manual contains a concise summary of the basic doctrines of the faith found in the Scriptures. It is presented in an outline format, the purpose of which is to facilitate both personal study as well as study in a group or classroom setting.

It is ideal as a resource for instruction of new believers. Each section identifies Scriptures helpful in explaining basic concepts applicable to our daily walk with God.

The objective of this material is twofold:

1. "...for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ." (Eph 4:12-13)
2. "As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming; but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ, from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love. (Eph 4:14-16)

The material presented is not designed for an indepth study of the Scripture, rather what is presented is a Biblical foundation upon which to build as the Holy Spirit directs. To be sure, there are flaws in this material but I pray that a fruitfulness will come forth from the Word of God presented in these pages which will prove to be a blessing for those who study the Scripture bringing with it glory and praise to God.

References used in this material include Zondervan NASB Exhaustive Concordance, Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary, and Foundations of Pentecostal Theology authored by G.P. Duffield and N.M. Van Cleve. The bible translation used is the New American Standard Bible.

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Recall that "Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up." (1Co 8:1). Knowledge about God is not the objective of this material, but rather knowing and growing in love with God, for "This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom You have sent." (John 17:3)

I am thankful to God for my wife, Carol, who with much love and forbearance encouraged and supported me during this time of study. I am grateful to Dr. Larry Martin for his scholarly and Spirit led review of this material, and to my pastor, John Kilpatrick who has watched over me for over twenty years and has allowed me to present this material to my brothers and sisters at Church of His Presence.

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## Chapter 1: Introduction

## Notes

### The Day of Salvation

"...In the time of my favor I heard you, and in the day of salvation I helped you." I tell you, now is the time of God's favor, now is the day of salvation." (2 Co 6:2, NIV)

The greatest day of our life on earth is the day of our spiritual birth, which is the day of our salvation. Jesus explained this fact to Nicodemus, a Pharisee and a ruler of the Jews:

"Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you are born again you cannot see the kingdom of God...That which is born of flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit." (John 3:3,6)

As much as we celebrate the birth of a child, even greater is the day of one's spiritual birth. Our life in the flesh is necessary but temporal, but the life of our spirit is eternal. It is from this point of our spiritual birth that we begin our spiritual walk with God. While this experience of our new birth is personal, it is not to be private. Our testimony of salvation is important. It sets a pattern in place by which we continue to share with others the ways and workings of God in and through our life while on this earth.

### The Purpose and Power of a Testimony

A testimony is a declaration of a fact. We all have testimonies, some are positive and some are negative. These declarations can be verbal or they can be demonstrated. For example, consider the apostle Paul, who had an encounter with God on the road to Damascus:

"As he was traveling, it happened that he was approaching Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him; and he fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?" And He said, "Who are you, Lord?" And He said, "I am Jesus whom you are persecuting." (Acts 9:3-5)

Paul was blinded by the light and was taken into Damascus. The Lord directed a disciple of Jesus named Ananias to go and to lay hands upon Paul so that he might recover his sight. The Lord said: "Go, for he is a chosen instrument of Mine, to bear My name before the Gentiles and kings and the sons of Israel; for I will show him how much he must suffer for My name's sake." (Acts 9:15-16)

This is the testimony of the salvation of the apostle Paul. The declaration of this fact is found not only in this written record but also witnessed by the scars that Paul obtained:

"From now on let no one cause trouble for me, for I bear on my body the brand-marks of Jesus." (Gal 6:17) "...beaten times without number, often in danger of death. Five times I received from the Jews thirty-nine lashes. Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was stoned, three times I was shipwrecked, a night and a day I have spent in the deep." (2Co 11:23-25)

Such testimonies give glory, honor, and praise to God. Everyone who has received Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior has a testimony. Each one is unique. Truly, the first gift that we can share with others

after our salvation is our testimony. It is important to encourage one another with our salvation experiences.

Please use the space below to write out your testimony experience. This may include those events occurring prior to your conversion, the conviction of God that you experienced, your confession of your need to be saved, and your decision to accept Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior. (more space is available on page 4)

My Testimony:

Notes

With conversion comes a change in one's heart toward God. We now have a love for God, and we no longer fear God, for the perfect love of God casts out fear. (1John 4:18) We are loved by God as a son or a daughter without regard to our past and we are set free from the guilt and the penalty of our past. We are fully accepted by God! As we walk with God, we see evidences of God's goodness and grace often on a daily basis. It is important that we remain keenly aware of these interventions of God in our lives, for they not only demonstrate the love and care of God for us but through them we also learn the ways of God. The greatest blessing in this life is walking in fellowship with God, loving Him more day by day. All testimonies whether great or small reveal the nature, the character, or the conduct of God.

#### Bearing Witness

When a follower of Christ gives a testimony he is testifying or bearing witness to the truth. To "bear witness" comes from the same root word as testimony and occurs when an individual verifies that what he has seen or heard is the truth. Here are some examples from the Scripture of those that have "testified":

1. God the Father – Acts 15:8, Heb 2:4
2. Jesus – John 3:11, 5:36-37, 8:18, 10:25, 18:37, Acts 10:43,
3. Holy Spirit – John 15:26-27, Heb 10:15, 1John 5:6-7
4. Scripture – John 5:39, Heb 7:17, 11:5
5. John the Baptist – John 1:7-8, 1:15, 1:32, 3:28, 5:31-33
6. John the Apostle - 1John 1:2, 4:14
7. Paul – Acts 20:26, 23:11

It is important for us to bear witness to the working of God in our lives. While others may not believe or disagree with us, they cannot diminish or deny the truth of our testimony. A very good example of this is found in John Chapter 9. After the man born blind was healed by Jesus (John 9:1-12), news about his healing spread and he was brought to the Pharisees who questioned him. They did not believe him so the Pharisees questioned his parents who reported to them that the blind man was their son. They questioned the blind man a second time and he gave them the same response. They put him out of the temple declaring that he was a man born entirely in sin. (John 9:13-34)

Jesus found the blind man who he had healed, and revealed to him that He was the Son of Man (which is an Old Testament reference found in Daniel 7 of the coming Messiah). The healed blind man responded to Jesus, "Lord. I believe." "And he worshipped Him." (John 9: 35-38)

Such is the power of the testimony of our salvation. We are not to let fear, doubt, or unbelief cause us to question what has happened in our life. Not only should we write out our testimony, we should share it with others. Before we go any further in this study, if you have not shared your testimony of salvation with someone else, you should do so. Find a family member or a friend who loves you and will be receptive to what you have to say and tell them what God has done in your life. By doing so, you will set firm the foundation of your testimony of salvation. This foundation will prove to be an anchor in your walk with God.

Please list below some of those with whom you have shared your salvation testimony:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

### The Importance of the Bible

At the time of our salvation, one of the changes that occurs in our life is that the Word of God becomes living and active. This activation by God places within us not only a hunger and a desire for the Word of God, but also a willingness to obey the Word of God and the capacity to do so.

It is important to emphasize that while there are many resources that may assist us in our understanding of the Bible, infinitely more important than all of these is the presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives. For without the Holy Spirit, who takes up residence in our spirit at the time of our salvation, we would be unable to incorporate into our lives the ways of God, the truth of God, and the life of God present in the Bible.

May we pray every time before we study the Bible and ask the Holy Spirit to lead and to guide us into all truth. May the Word of God be living and active in our life and may a love for the truth of God increase day by day. As the Scripture declares: "...like newborn babies, long (earnestly desire) for the pure milk of the word, so that by it you may grow in respect to salvation..." (1Pe 2:2)



## Chapter 2: The Holy Scripture; The Bible

## Notes

### Outline

- I. Introduction
- II. The Divine and Unique Authorship of the Bible
  - A. Divine Revelation
  - B. Divine Inspiration
  - C. Divine Illumination
- III. The Criteria for Inclusion of Writings in the New Testament
  - A. The Author of the Book
  - B. The Doctrinal Soundness of the Writing
  - C. The Approval of the Early Church Fathers
- IV. The Unique Content of the Bible
  - A. The Content is Authoritative
  - B. The Content is Inerrant
  - C. The Content is Infallible
- V. The Bible, the Scripture, and the Word of God
  - A. The Nature of the Word of God
  - B. The Character of the Word of God
  - C. The Conduct of the Word of God
  - D. Our Response to the Word of God

### I. Introduction

The Bible (a translation of the Latin word “biblia” meaning “books”) also called the Word of God, is unique in its formation. The Bible was written by over forty authors. It contains 66 separate books (or letters) written over a 1500 year period from approximately 1400 B.C. to 100 A.D. This book is divided into two sections, the Old Testament and the New Testament. A testament is a written document declaring the truth.

The Old Testament focuses upon God’s dealing with man from creation, with the birth of Adam, to the birth of Christ. The first author of the Bible was Moses who wrote down the history of man from the time of creation until the time of his death in 1450 B.C. Of the 66 books of the Bible, 39 are found in this section, written by about 31 authors over about 1100 years with the last book written about 400 years before the birth of Jesus Christ.

The New Testament was written by nine authors all of whom were followers of Jesus. The two sections of the New Testament include; the gospels, which describe the birth, life, death and resurrection of Jesus, and the epistles, which were writings of the early church from 50 to 100 A.D.

### II. The Divine and Unique Authorship of the Bible

A divine aspect of the Bible is that every word found in this book was written by a man directed by the Holy Spirit of God. This authorship was accomplished in three sequential steps:

#### A. Divine Revelation

Divine revelation is a God given truth not known before to the human mind. For example, it is by divine revelation that Moses could recount the creation of the world in the book of Genesis and John could write about the end of time in the book of Revelation.

#### B. Divine Inspiration

Divine inspiration is the means of transmitting the truth of

God to man which was then recorded in written form. The Holy Spirit communicated to each writer the specific words to use. As the Bible states,

“All Scripture (*graphe*) is God breathed, and is profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correcting, for training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.” (2 Tim 3:16)

While these “scribes of Scripture”, accurately recorded every word breathed by God, they did not always understand what they had written. According to 1Pe 1:10-12:

“As to this salvation, the prophets who prophesied of the grace that would come to you made careful searches and inquiries, seeking to know what person or time the Spirit of Christ within them was indicating as He predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories to follow.”

### C. Divine Illumination of Scripture

Divine illumination refers to the influence of the Holy Spirit which helps believers grasp the things of God. This capacity to receive the truth of God into our heart and change us occurs at the time of our salvation.

“But the natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned.” (1Co2:14)

It is the Holy Spirit who activates and helps us to understand Scripture.

## III. Criteria for Inclusion of Writings in the New Testament

Three criteria had to be present for writings to be included in the New Testament:

### A. The Author of the Book

The authors were only those who had a personal relationship with Jesus; either as an apostle, a companion of an apostle, or a family member of Jesus. The role of these men was to faithfully record without error the facts and doctrines of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

“That what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, and touched with our hands, concerning the Word of Life...what we have seen and heard we have proclaimed to you...” (1John 1:1-3)

Jesus promised to send the Holy Spirit to reveal to them those things which they could not understand:

“I have many more things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all truth... (John 16:12-13)

“These things I have spoken to you while abiding with you. But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.” (John 14:25-26)

### B. The Doctrinal Soundness of the Writing

The books included in the New Testament had to contain divine inspiration and doctrinal soundness. (1Co 2:12-13).

### C. The Approval of the Early Church Fathers

The books included were spiritually edifying to those who heard it, and were also universally accepted by the early Church

Fathers during the period of 100 to 300 A.D. While most of the contents of the Bible had been distributed through many of the churches by 150 A. D., it was not until the time of Constantine after 323 A.D. that the content of the New Testament was finalized at the Council of Carthage in 397 A.D.

#### IV. The Unique Content of the Bible

The uniqueness of the Bible is based not only upon how the book came to be, but also on what it continues to be for all eternity.

##### A. The Content is Authoritative

All authority comes from God because: He created the heavens and the earth and all that exists (Gen 1:1-2); He owns the earth, all it contains, and all that dwells in it (Ps 24:1); and in the end He consumes it all and “makes all things new” (Rev 21:5)

1. In the Old Testament, the phrases, “And God said..”, “And the Lord spoke...” are present over 3800 times.
2. In the New Testament both Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit spoke concerning the Scripture:
  - a. Jesus Christ - “Do not think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I did not come to abolish but to fulfill. For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass from the Law until all is accomplished.” (Matt 5:17-18)
  - b. Holy Spirit - “But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one’s own interpretation, for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.” (2Pe1:20-21)
3. The Bible itself states it’s authority - “Forever, O LORD, Your word is settled in heaven. Your faithfulness continues throughout all generations.” (Ps 119:89-90)
4. The Authority of the Apostles - this authority rested upon Jesus in the New Testament, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth ...” (Matt 28:18)  
It was extended to the apostles, through the authority of the Holy Spirit, “He breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, their sins have been forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they have been retained.” (John 20:22-23)  
The provision of salvation comes through the person of Jesus Christ by person and the power of the Holy Spirit.

##### B. The Content is Inerrant

The word “inerrancy” means without error. This inerrancy is based upon the divine source and authority of Scripture and, as such, is incapable of error. Scripture cannot deceive or mislead, the written word of God is trustworthy. Inerrancy is bound up with the nature and character of God. If God is truth, and in Him there is no error, then every word that He breathes is truth. Jesus said, as He was praying to the Father, “Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth.” (John17:17)

##### C. The Content is Infallible –

The infallibility of Scripture identifies the fact that the Scripture is enduring. It will never fail, it is permanently binding, it cannot be broken, and every word of Scripture will

be fulfilled. The Scripture is trustworthy.

“All flesh is like grass, and all its glory like the flower of grass, the grass withers, and the flower falls off, but the Word of the Lord endures forever.” (1Pe1:24-25)

“For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass from the Law until all is accomplished.” (Matt 5:18)

#### V. The Bible, the Scripture, and the Word of God

We have been created by God with a body, a soul, and a spirit. The body describes that which is physical: tall or short, man or woman. The soul describes our character: we may be generous or selfish, thoughtful or inconsiderate. Within our soul is located our mind, our will, and our emotions. Our soul identifies who we are as an individual. Our spirit is that part of us that communicates with God. Our spirit, at our birth, was dead because of sin. At the time of our salvation, we were born again; the Holy Spirit came to live within our spirit and we were able to have communion with God. With this conversion in our spirit, we are no longer directed by our soul but by our spirit. The Holy Spirit helps us to understand with our mind, make right choices with our will, and repent with our emotions. We have each been created with a nature, a character, and a conduct:

- our nature is who we are, and it is located in our spirit
- our character is what we are, it includes our thoughts and moral decisions, and is found in our soul
- our conduct – is what we do, it is the outworking of our spirit and soul, and it is manifested in our body

In like manner, the Bible has a nature, a character, and a conduct:

- the nature of the Bible– is found in the description of who God is
- the character of the Bible character – reveals the moral attributes of God
- the conduct of the Bible instructs us in how God relates to man and directs us in our response to God

#### The Bible

The word “bible” (meaning “books”) is not found in the Old or the New Testament. This word is a physical description of what has been written.

#### The Scripture

The word “scripture” identifies that which is written (Greek, *graphie*). It is the written product of the Holy Spirit revealing to men the truth of God and assisting and directing them in their work of writing these revelations down on scrolls. The word “scripture” is not found in the writings of the Old Testament. The New Testament, which was written after the resurrection of Jesus, spanned approximately a 50 year period from 50 to 100 A.D. When we speak of the Scripture today we refer to all of that which has been written, both Old and New Testament. The Scripture is the physical method of communicating the nature, the character, and the conduct of God to mankind.

#### The Word of God

The Bible is the Word of God, and as such, each word, phrase, concept, truth, instruction, promise, and blessing has been divinely

composed by God and communicated to us by Jesus Christ, who is the Word of God; and by the Holy Spirit; the revealer of the Word of God. This book divinely speaks to every man and woman who has been born again.

## Notes

### A. The Nature of the Word of God

1. Eternal – Isa 40:8; Matt 24:35; Mark 13:31; 1Pe 1:25
2. Immutable – Ps 119:89
3. Is Jesus – John 1:1, Rev 19:13
4. Living and Active – Heb 4:12
5. Truth - Ps 119:43, 160; John 17:17; 2Co 6:7

### B. The Character of the Word of God

1. Holy – Ps 105:42
2. Pure – Ps 119:140
3. Righteous – Ps 119:123
4. Upright – Ps 33:4

### C. The Conduct of the Word of God:

1. Abides in us – 1John 2:14
2. Brings blessing – Luke 11:28
3. Brings comfort – 1Thess 4:18; 2Thess 2:17
4. Brings deliverance – Ps 119:170; Matt 8:16
5. Brings direction and purpose – Luke 1:38, 3:2
6. Brings faith - Rom 10:17-18
7. Brings healing – Ps 107:20
8. Brings salvation – Ps 119:41; Acts 11:14; 1Co 1:17-18
8. Fulfills its purpose – Isa 55:11; La 2:17
9. Is creative – Ps 33:6; Heb 11:3
10. Is in our hearts – Deut 30:11
11. Is a lamp and a light – Ps 119:105
12. Is a sword – Heb 4:12
13. Is spirit and life – John 6:63
14. Is to be believed – John 4:50, 5:24
15. Revives – Ps 119:25, 50, 154
16. Runs very swiftly – Ps 147:15
17. Strengthens – Ps 119:28; 2Thess 2:17
18. Sustains us – Ps 119:116; Isa 50:4; Matt 4:4
19. Upholds everything – Heb 1:3

### D. Our Response to the Word of God

1. Accurately handle it- 2Tim 2:15
2. Allow it to abide in us – John 15:7
3. Be a doer of it – James 1:23
4. Believe in it – Ps 106:24
5. Continue in it – John 8:31
6. Give heed – Jer 2:31; Luke 11:28
7. Hold it fast – 1Cor 15:2; Phil 2:16; Titus 1:9; 1John 2:5; Rev 3:8,11
8. Hope in it –Ps130:5
9. Is a source of our spiritual life – Matt 4:4
10. Is tested – Prov 30:5
11. Meditate upon it- Ps 119:148
12. Must be united with faith – Heb 4:2
13. Not forget it- Ps 119:16
14. Obey it – Ps 103:20; Matt 7:24

15. Preach the word – 2Tim 4:2
16. Receive it eagerly – Acts 17:11
17. Rejoice in it - Ps 119:162
18. Retain the standard of the Word – 2Tim 1:13
- 19 Richly dwell within us – Col 3:16-17
20. Teach it – Acts 18:11
21. To be proclaimed – 1Sam 9:27; Act 13:5
22. Treasure it - Ps 119:11
23. Tremble at – Isa 66:2
24. Trust in it – Ps 119:42
25. Wait for it- Ps 119:74, 81,114

The Word of God has been declared, portrayed, and fulfilled in the person of Jesus Christ. It is through the power of the Holy Spirit and the Word of God that we see the face of Jesus, and in the face of Jesus we see the face of the Father in heaven.

May we seek the Lord:

“Seek the Lord while He may be found; call upon Him while He is near. Let the wicked forsake his way and the unrighteous man his thoughts; and let him return to the Lord, and He will have compassion on him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon.

“For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways declares the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts. For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there without watering the earth and making it bear and sprout, and furnishing seed to the sower and bread to the eater;

So will My word be which goes forth from My mouth; it will not return to Me empty, without accomplishing what I desire, and without succeeding in the matter for which I sent it.””

(Isa 55:6-11)

### Study the Word

1. Please review the verses which identify the nature, character, and conduct of the Word of God. Look for the verses in this listing that are significant to you and write them in the space below or underline them in your Bible.
2. Underline in your Bible, those aspects of how we are to respond to the Word that you would particularly desire to become more evident in your life. Pray for God to help you in these areas.
3. Attempt to verbalize the divine nature of the Bible (it is authoritative, inerrant, inspired and infallible), so that you can communicate these truths to others.
4. Do not be in a hurry; take your time. Allow the opportunity for the Holy Spirit to give you understanding, to convict, to comfort, and to encourage you. God spent 1500 years assembling the content of the Bible, do not be in a hurry. Read this section over again. Let us give thanks to God for His Word which He has given to us.

Outline

- I. God
  - A. The Names of God
  - B. The Nature of God
  - C. The Character of God
- II. The Trinity
  - A. The One True God
  - B. Three Divine Persons
  - C. The Nature of the Trinity
  - D. The Relationship of the Trinity
  - E. The Summary of the Trinity
- III. God the Father
  - A. The Nature of the Father
  - B. The Character of the Father
  - C. The Conduct of the Father
  - D. God, as the Father
- IV. God the Son, Jesus Christ our Lord
  - A. Fully God and Fully Man
  - B. The Nature of the Son
  - C. The Character of the Son
  - D. The Conduct of the Son
    - 1. Jesus Christ, the Prophet of God
    - 2. Jesus Christ, the Great High Priest of God
    - 3. Jesus Christ, the King of Kings

I. God

According to Webster's Dictionary, "In the Scripture, the name of God signifies: His titles, His abilities, His will or purpose, His honor and glory, His word, His grace, His wisdom, His power and goodness, and His worship or service of God Himself."

A. The Names of God

We can learn much about the nature, character and conduct of God by the names of God as revealed to us in the Scripture:

- We learn of God in His Power - as El and Elohim (God)
  - the creator, majestic in power – Gen 1:1
- We meet God in His Person - as YHWH (I am Who I Am)
  - with His creation of man – Gen 2:2
- We recognize His Position - as Adonai (the Lord) who rules over His creation – Lord (Adoni) GOD (YHWH) – Gen 15:2
- We conclude with God in His Presentation - Yeshua (Yahweh Saves) who redeems and restores and makes all things new.
  - salvation, restoration – Col 1:13-20

1. El and Elohim

The word "El" has two forms:

- a. singular – which is the word for God found in the Hebrew and Canaanite languages. When used to refer to the one true God "el" is capitalized as El. This word is found 238 times in the Old Testament. El is often used with a second word identifying a particular character of God. – "What God is"
- b. plural - Elohim (-im is a standard Hebrew plural ending) suggests the mystery of the Trinity. This word is found 2600 times in the Old Testament.

### c. Compound Names of God – El

Compound names bring together the nature of God with the character of God.

- (1) El Chaiyi – The God of my life (Ps 42:8) - Lord
- (2) El Channun – The Gracious God (Jonah 4:2)
- (3) El Echad- The One God (Mal 2:10) – there is no other
- (4) El Elyon – The Most High God – (Gen 14:20) –supremacy
- (5) El Emet- The God of Truth (Ps 31:5) - faithfulness
- (6) El Gibbor-The Mighty God – (Isa 9:6)-warrior and champion
- (7) El Haggadol –The Great God (Deut 10:17) –awesome
- (8) El Hakkadosh – The Holy God (Isa 5:16) – set apart, sacred
- (9) El Hakkavod- The God of Glory (Ps 29:3) –weight, honor
- (10) El Hannora – The Awesome God (Neh 9:32)– producing holy fear and reverence
- (11) El Hashamayim – The God of the Heavens (Ps 136:26) – abode
- (12) El Israel – The God of Israel (Ps 68:35) – gives strength
- (13) El Kanno – The Jealous God (Ex 20:5)- watches lovingly
- (14) El Rachum – The God of Compassion (Deut 4:31) –womb
- (15) El Roi – The God Who Sees–(Gen 16:13)
- (16) El Sali – The God of My Strength (Ps 42:9) -my rock
- (17) El Shaddai –The All Sufficient God (Gen 17:1) – God Almighty
- (18) El Tsaddik- The Righteous God (Isa 45:21) –just , righteous
- (19) El Yeshuati – The God of My Salvation (Isa 12:2) –yeshuah

### 2. YHWH

- a. This is God’s holy self-existent name and is found about 6800 times in the Scripture. Most Bible scholars, based on etymology and context, agree that it should be translated, “I AM WHO I AM’ or “I WILL BE WHO I WILL BE”. (Ex 3:14)
  - the ancient Hebrew text had no vowels, vowels were later added for pronunciation, resulting in the word “Yahweh”In most translations of the Bible, YHWH is translated as LORD (all capital letters)

### b. Compound Names of God - Yahweh

These compound names identify God in His covenant relationship with man.

- (1) Yahweh Elohim – The LORD God (Gen 2:4)
- (2) Yahweh Jireh – The Lord will Provide (Gen 22:14)
- (3) Yahweh M’Kaddesh – The Lord who Sanctifies (Lev 20:8)
- (4) Yahweh Nissi – The Lord our Banner (Ex 17:15)
- (5) Yahweh Rapha – The Lord who Heals (Ex 15:26)
- (6) Yahweh Shalom – The Lord our Peace (Judges 6:24)
- (7) Yahweh Tsidkenu – The Lord our Righteousness (Jer 33:16)

### 3. Adonai

Used about 439 times in the Bible. This word denotes the concept of master, owner, sovereign controller. The word *adonai*, is noted as “Lord”, with the first letter capitalized, and the remaining letters lower case.

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#### 4. Yeshua

- a. An alternative form of Yehoshua (Joshua), which comes from two Hebrew words, the first part is a prefix of the tetragram YHWH.
- b. The second part of the name is the Hebrew word “yasha” which means to save, deliver, or restore. d Yehoshua means “Yahweh Saves”.
- c. Yeshua (Jesus) is the “I Am that Saves”.
- d. The Names of Jesus
  - (1) I AM the living bread – John 6:51
  - (2) I AM the light of the world – John 8:12
  - (3) I AM from above – John 8:23
  - (4) I AM – John 8:58
  - (5) I AM the door – John 10:9
  - (6) I AM the good shepherd- John 10:11
  - (7) I AM the son of God – John 10:36
  - (8) I Am the resurrection and the life – John 11:25
  - (9) I AM the way, the truth, and the life – John 14:6
  - (10) I AM the true vine – John 15:1
  - (11) I AM the King of the Jews – John 19:2
  - (12) I AM the God of your fathers – Acts 7:32
  - (13) I AM Jesus – Acts 9:5

#### B. The Nature of God – who God is – “I Am that I Am” (Ex 3:14)

1. God is Infinite – without limit or limitation
  - a. Time - God is eternal – without beginning or end – everlasting  
“Before the mountains were born or You gave birth to the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God.” (Ps 90:2)
  - b. Understanding - God has the ability to judge  
“Great is our Lord, and abundant in strength; His understanding is infinite.” (Ps 147:5)
  - c. Knowledge – God is omniscient – all knowing  
“Little children, let us not love with word or with tongue, but in deed and truth. We will know by this that we are of the truth, and will assure our heart before Him in whatever our heart condemns us; for God is greater than our heart and knows all things.” (1John 3:18-20)
  - d. Power – God is omnipotent – all powerful  
“Ah, Lord God! Behold, You have made the heavens and the earth by Your great power and by Your outstretched arm! Nothing is too difficult for You.” (Jer 32:17)
  - e. Location – God is omnipresent – all present  
“Am I a God who is near,” declares the LORD, “And not a God far off?” “Can a man hide himself in hiding places so I do not see him?” declares the LORD. “Do I not fill the heavens and the earth? Declares the LORD” (Jer 23:23-24)
2. God is Immutable – God is unchanging – faithful - “For I, the LORD, do not change.” (Mal 3:6)
3. God is Self-Existent - God is all sufficient- “For just as the Father has life in Himself, even so He gave to the Son also to have life in Himself; and He gave Him authority to execute judgment, because He is the Son of Man.” (John 5:26-27)

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“He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.”  
(Col 1:17)

### C. The Character of God – moral attributes

1. Wise - “Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways!” (Rom 11:33)
2. Holy - “You shall be holy, for I am holy.” (Lev 11:45, 1Pe1:16)
3. Righteous, Just – “For I (Moses) proclaim the name of the LORD: Ascribe greatness to our God! The Rock! His work is perfect, for all His ways are just; a God of faithfulness and without injustice, righteous and upright is He.” (Deut 32:3-4)
4. Good - Jesus said, “Why do you call Me good? No one is good except God alone.” (Mark 10:18)
5. Love - “...God is love, and the one who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.” (1 John 4:16)

## II. The Trinity

The Trinity is a fundamental truth of the Christian faith. While the word Trinity is not found in the Scripture, it is a term used to describe the triune God, one true God consisting of three coexistent and co-eternal persons. The fullness of God is expressed in this fellowship of three co-equal beings perfectly embraced in love and harmony revealing an intimacy that we cannot comprehend.

### A. The One True God - The oneness of God includes both completeness and exclusivity:

1. Completeness – whole, no division, fullness  
“Hear, O Israel! The LORD (*Yahweh*) is our God (*Elohim*), the LORD is One! (Deut 6:4)
2. Exclusivity- there is only one God  
“I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. You shall have no other gods before Me.” (Ex 20:2-3)  
“Therefore, concerning the eating of things sacrificed to idols, we know that there is no such thing as an idol in the world, and that there is no God but one.” (1Co 8:4)

### B. Three Divine Persons - the Bible identifies God in His three persons:

1. By His Name – Elohim  
“In the beginning God (Elohim) created the heavens and the earth.” (Gen 1:1)
2. By His Conversation  
“Then God (Elohim) said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” (Gen1:26)  
“Then the LORD God (Yahweh Elohim) said, “Behold, the man has become like one of Us, knowing good and evil...” (Gen3:22)  
“Then I heard the voice of the Lord (Adoni), saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?” (Isaiah 6:8)
3. By His Concurrent Action  
– the three persons of the Trinity working together in unity  
“After being baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the

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water; and behold, the heavens were opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending as a dove and lighting on Him, and behold, a voice out of the heavens said, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased." (Matt 3:16-17)

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

C. The Nature of the Trinity – three coexistent and coequal beings

1. God the Father (John 6:27; Rom 1:7; Heb1:1-2; 1Pe 1:2)

"God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the whole world." (Heb 1:1-2)

2. Jesus, the Son of God (John 1:1-2; 14; Rom 9:5; Col 2:9; Heb 1:8; 1John 5:20)

"But of the Son He says. "Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, and the righteous scepter is the scepter of His kingdom." (Heb 1:8)

3. God, the Holy Spirit (Acts 5:3-4; 1Co 3:16)

"But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back some of the price of the land? ...You have not lied to men but to God." (Acts 5:3-4)

D. The Relationship of the Trinity– subordinate in relationship - positioned under, but not inferior to one another – equal in person and authority

1. God the Father–the **initiator**–He provides intention, or **purpose**

a. He is the source and the cause of the universe

"yet for us there is but one God, the Father, from whom are all things and we exist for Him; and one Lord, Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we exist through Him." (1Co 8:6)

b. He is the source of revelation

"The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show to His bond-servants, the things which must soon take place; and He sent and communicated it by His angel to His bond-servant John..." (Rev 1:1)

c. He is the source of salvation

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him." (John 3:16-17)

2. Jesus, God the Son – the Father does all things **through** the Son (John 14:6) – He creates the **plan**

a. He is the creator of the universe (John 1:3; 1Cor 8:6; Col 1:16-17)

"For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities – all things have been created through Him and for Him. He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together." (Col 1:16-17)

b. He is the revealer of revelation (Matt 11:27; John 1:1, 16:12-15; Rev 1:1)

"All things have been handed over to Me by My Father; and no

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one knows the Son except the Father; nor does anyone know the Father except the Son, and anyone to whom the Son wills to reveal Him.” (Matt 11:27)

c. He is the vehicle of salvation (Matt 1:21; John 4:42; 2Co 5:19)  
“She will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.” (Matt 1:21)

3. God, the Holy Spirit – the source **by** whom the will of the Father and the working of the Son is accomplished – He is the **power**

a. He is the activator of creation (Gen 1:2, Job 26:13, Ps104:30, John 3:6)

“The earth was formless and void, and darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was moving over the surface of the waters.” (Gen 1:2)

“You send forth Your Spirit, they are created; and You renew the face of the ground.” (Ps 104:30)

b. He is the current revealer of revelation (John 16:12-15, Titus 3:5)

“I have many more things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come.”(John 16:12-15)

c. He is the evidence of salvation (Isaiah 61:1, Acts 10:38)

“You know of Jesus of Nazareth, how God anointed Him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and how He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.” (Acts 10:38) – note the Trinity

“The Spirit of the LORD God (Yahweh Elohim) is upon me, because the LORD (Yahweh) has anointed me to bring good news to the afflicted; He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to captives and freedom to prisoners; to proclaim the favorable year of the Lord.”

(Isaiah 61:1) – note the Trinity in this verse

#### E. A Summary of the Trinity

Within the context of the Trinity, we see:

1. the purpose of God - the will of the Father made manifest
2. the plan of God - the will of the Son released in creativity
3. the power of God - the will of the Holy Spirit fulfilling all that is needed to bring forth the fullness of the Godhead

### III. God the Father

In the New Testament, we are introduced to God as God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. How wonderful to have received this revelation of the Trinity. Scripture reveals much about the nature, character, and conduct of our Heavenly Father:

#### A. Nature – essence - Who is the Father?

1. He is perfect – Matt 5:48
2. He has life in Himself – John 5:26

#### B. Character – attributes – What is the Father?

1. He is Holy – John 17:11
2. He is Righteous – John 17:25
3. He is worthy of honor – John 8:49
4. He is worthy of glory – Phil 4:20

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### C. Conduct - actions – What does the Father do?

1. He blesses – Matt 25:34
2. He comforts – 2Cor 1:3
3. He commands - John 15:10
4. He directs our steps – John 5:36; 1Thess 3:11
5. He forgives – Matt 6:14, Luke 23:34
6. He gives authority – Rev 2:27
7. He gives grace – Col 1:2
8. He gives peace – Gal 1:3
9. He gives the Holy Spirit – Luke 11:13
10. He gives what is good to those who ask– Matt 7:11; James 1:17
11. He hides things from the wise and intelligent and reveals them to infants - Matt 11:25
12. He honors men – John 12:26
13. He is in heaven – Matt 5:45
14. He is merciful – Luke 6:36, 2Cor1:3
15. He is unseen to men – John 6:46
16. He is generous – gladly gives the kingdom - Luke 12:32
17. He is the vinedresser – John 15:1
18. He knows what we need – Matt 6:8
19. He loves – John 3:16, 14:21, 16:27
20. He makes promises – Acts 1:4
21. He prepares - Matt 20:23
22. He rewards openly – Matt 6:4
23. He rules - Rev 3:21
24. He sanctifies – John 10:36
25. He seeks – John 4:23
26. He sees what is done in secret – Matt 6:4
27. He speaks – John 12:50
28. He teaches – John 6:45, 8:2
29. He works – John 5:17
30. He will wipe away every tear – Rev 21:4

### D. God, as Father

1. He is revealed to us within the context of the redemption of mankind. We see, through Scripture, the relationship between the Father and the Son recalling that all Persons of the Trinity are coequal and coeternal, and one in nature, will, and purpose.
2. He is the source of all creation and redemption:  
“yet for us there is but one God, the Father, from whom are all things and we exist for Him; and one Lord, Jesus Christ, by whom are all things and we exist through Him. (1Co 8:6)  
“For God (the Father) so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.” (John 3:16)  
What is the meaning of the word “begotten”? In Hebrew the word is *yala*– which is translated to bear, to bring forth, to beget. This word *yala* is translated in the Greek as *monogenes* which is translated in English as “only begotten”. The word “begotten” does not refer to an event in time, such as at a child’s birth; but a declaration of the nature of the child.  
As such, Jesus, “the only begotten of the Father”, is the Son of God. He is the sole representative of God, existing in the fullness of the character and nature of the One who sent Him.

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#### IV. God the Son, Jesus Christ Our Lord

The Westminster Confession, Chapter 8 #2, states concerning the nature of Jesus Christ:

“The Son of God, the second person of the Trinity, being very and eternal God, of one substance, and equal with the Father, did, when the fullness of time was come, take upon Himself man’s nature, with all the essential properties and common infirmities thereof, yet without sin: being conceived by the power of the Holy Ghost in the womb of the Virgin Mary, of her substance. So that two whole, perfect, and distinct natures; the Godhead and the manhood, were inseparably joined together in one person, without conversion, composition, or confusion. Which person is very God and very man, yet one Christ, the only mediator between God and man.”

##### A. Fully Man and Fully God

1. Jesus was born and died, yet He was the Ancient of Days, who said, “Before Abraham was born, I AM.” (John 8:58)
2. Jesus said, “I am thirsty.” (John 19:28), but also said, “If anyone is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink.” (John 7:37)
3. “...He was smitten by God and afflicted” (Isaiah 53:4); yet, “...by His wounds you were healed.” (1Pe 2:24)
4. Another had to carry His cross; yet, “He upholds all things by the word of His power.” (Heb 1:3)
5. He cried out on the cross, “...Why have You forsaken Me?” (Matt 27:46), yet He promised His followers, “I will never desert You, nor will I ever forsake you.” (Heb 13:5)

##### B. Nature – the essence of the Son – who He Is

1. Infinite
  - a. Time - “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.” (Heb 13:8)
  - b. Authority - “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth...” (Matt 28:18)
  - c. Location - “...I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” (Matt 28:20)
  - d. Understanding - “And we know that the Son of God has come, and has given us understanding so that we may know Him who is true” (1John 5:20)
  - e. Knowledge - omniscient - “Christ Himself, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.” (Col 2:3)
2. Immutable - “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.” (Heb 13:8)

##### C. Character – the attributes of the Son – what He is

1. Righteous, Just - “For not even the Father judges anyone, but He has given all judgment to the Son...” (John 5:22)
2. Holy - “You know that He appeared in order to take away sins; and in Him there is no sin.” (1John 3:5)
3. Love - “...that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God.” (Eph 3:17-19)

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#### D. Conduct –the actions of the Son –what He does

We will focus on Jesus as our Savior in the future, but for now we see Jesus as the “Christ”, the Messiah, the Anointed One. In the Old Testament three types of men were anointed with oil; prophets, priests, and kings. Jesus filled each of these roles while on the earth

##### 1. Jesus Christ, the Prophet of God – His ministry on earth

“God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world.” (Heb 1:1-2)

A prophet is one chosen by God to speak and make known the will of God, through preaching, teaching, and discipling. He may also predict the future (forthtelling), and perform miracles.

While not all prophets ministered in this way, Jesus did.

- a. Preaching – “...Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of God.” (Mark 1:14)
- b. Teaching – Jesus was the Truth (John 14:6), revealing God to the world. “No one has seen God at any time; the only begotten God who is in the bosom of the Father, He has explained Him.” (John 1:18)
- c. Discipling – “And He appointed twelve, so that they would be with Him and that He could send them out to preach, and to have authority to cast out the demons” (Mark 3:14-15)
- d. Predicting Future Events –
  - (1) His Death and Resurrection-“From that time Jesus began to show His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised up on the third day.” (Matt 16:21)
  - (2) The Triumph of the Church - “...I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it.”(Matt 16:18)
  - (3) The Destruction of the Temple and Jerusalem in 70 A.D. “For the days will come upon you when your enemies will throw up a barricade against you, and surround you and hem you in on every side, and they will level you to the ground and your children within you, and they will not leave in you one stone upon another, because you did not recognize the time of your visitation. (Luke 19:43-44)
- e. Performing Miracles
  - (1) Jesus revealed His Deity as the Creator of all things by supernatural actions, such as turning water into wine (John 2:1-12), calming storms (Mark 4:35-41), and multiplying bread and fish (Matt 14:13-21).
  - (2) He performed signs and wonders to include miraculous healings (Matt 9:18-19, 25), the casting out of demons and other acts of deliverance (Mark 5:1-17).
  - (3) “The Son of God appeared for this purpose, to destroy the works of the devil.” (1John3:8)
  - (4) We have this sure word from Jesus, our Lord: “Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do, he will do also; and greater works than these he will do; because I go to the Father.” (John 14:12)

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## 2. Jesus Christ, the Great High Priest – His present ministry in heaven

Jesus Christ, as a prophet, represented God to man. Following His resurrection, Jesus Christ ascended to the right hand of God to assume His role as our Great High Priest, representing man to God. As a priest, Jesus performs three functions:

### a. Jesus, our Representative before God

He is one with, and is taken from among those whom He represents before God. (Heb 5:1-10)

“Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.” (Phil 2:5-8)

“Therefore, He had to be made like His brethren in all things, so that He might become a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. For since He Himself was tempted in that which He has suffered, He is able to come to the aid of those who are tempted.” (Heb 2:17-18)

### b. Jesus, our Sacrifice to God

He offers to God the one and only sacrifice to atone for all sin forever. (Heb 10:11-12)

Unique as a high priest, Jesus was our Paschal (Passover) Lamb.

As John the Baptist declared,

“...Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!” (John 1:29)

“If you address as Father the One who impartially judges according to each one’s work, conduct yourselves in fear during the time of your stay on earth; knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers, but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ.” (1Pe 1:17-19)

In heaven they sing, “...Worthy are You...for You were slain, and purchased for God with Your blood men from every tribe and tongue and people and nation. (Rev 5:9)

### c. Jesus, our Mediator Before God

He is the one and only mediator, making intercession for all of mankind. (1Tim 2:5, Heb 7:25)

“For there is one God, and one mediator also between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.” (1Tim 2:5)

“Every priest stands daily ministering and offering time after time the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins; but He (Jesus), having offered one sacrifice for sins for all time, sat down at the right hand of God...” (Heb 10:11-12)

“The former priests, on the one hand, existed in greater numbers because they were prevented by death from continuing, but Jesus, on the other hand, because He continues forever, holds His priesthood permanently. Therefore He is able also to save forever those who draw near to God through

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Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.”  
(Heb 7:23-25)

3. Jesus Christ, the King of Kings – His future ministry
  - a. With the birth of Jesus (Matt 2:2) the prophecies of the Old Testament were fulfilled (Dan 9:25, Zech 9:9, Matt 2:2). The angel Gabriel prophesied to Mary, “And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name Him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His Father David; and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and His kingdom will have no end.” (Luke 1:31-33)
  - b. As a king, Jesus declared the coming of His kingdom to earth; “...Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of God, and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.” (Mk 1:14-15)
  - c. It is important to note that the Greek word for “kingdom” is *basileia*. This word identifies the rule itself, but not the sphere of that rule. The kingdom is present because of the authority of the king; wherever Christ is Lord, there is His kingdom. With salvation, one moves from the kingdom of darkness (Satan) to the kingdom of light (Christ).  
“For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.” (Col 1:13-14)
  - d. As Jesus began to focus upon His soon coming death and resurrection He said to His disciples:  
“I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; and whatever you bind on earth shall have been bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall have been loosed in heaven.” (Matt 16:19) As such, the kingdom, in its power has come among men; and it is found in Christ Jesus.
  - e. The fullness of the reign of Christ will come, when He comes as King of Kings and Lord of Lords to rule over heaven and earth.  
(Rev 19:6, 20:6, 22:5) Hallelujah!

Study the Word – “...Praise God for His excellent greatness.”  
(Ps 150:2)

1. Please underline the nature, character and conduct of God the Father and Jesus, the Son of God as found in your Bible.
2. Spend time in worship, praise, and thanksgiving of the Father and the Son.  
We worship God for who He is – His nature - essence  
We praise God for what He is – His character – moral attributes  
We thank God for what He does – His conduct
3. Often in this workbook the presence and the working of the Trinity is identified. While we are unable to fully comprehend the wonder and mystery of the Trinity, please focus upon the harmony and perfect unity found in the Godhead.  
Jesus praying to the Father said, “The glory which You have given Me I have given to them, that they may be one, just as We are one; I in them and You in Me, that they may be perfected in unity, so that the world may know that You sent Me, and loved them, even as You have loved Me.” (John 17:22-23)

## Chapter 4: God the Holy Spirit

## Notes

### Outline

- I. Introduction to the Person of the Holy Spirit
  - II. Four Basic Functions of the Holy Spirit
  - III. Three Periods of Ministry of the Holy Spirit
  - IV. Conduct of the Holy Spirit Among Men
  - V. Four Symbols of the Holy Spirit
- I. Introduction to the Person of the Holy Spirit
- A. Nature – His essence - Who is the Holy Spirit?
1. He is eternal – Heb 9:14
  2. He is omnipresent – Ps 139:7
  3. He is omniscient (all knowing) – 1Co 2:10-11
  4. He is truth – John 14:17, 15:26, 16:13, 1John 5:6
  5. He is without measure (has no limit) – John 3:34
- B. Character – His attributes - What is the Holy Spirit –
1. He is a creator – of earth- Ps 104:24-30; of mankind – Job 33:4
  2. He is given by the Father – Luke 11:13
  3. He is holy – Rom 1:4
  4. He is the avenue of revelation – 1Co 2:10
  5. He is the giver of eternal life – John 6:63
  6. He is the Spirit of grace and supplication – Zech 12:10
  7. He is the Spirit of the Father – Matt 10:20,
- C. Conduct – His actions - What does the Holy Spirit do?
1. He brings liberty – 2Cor 3:17
  2. He casts out demons – Matt 12:28
  3. He changes people – 1Sam 10:6
  4. He dwells (abides) in us -1Co 3:16
  5. He empowers people – Judges 3:10, 6:34, 11:29; Acts1:8
  6. He enables individuals to prophesy – Num 24:2; 1Sam 19:20; Acts 2:18)
  7. He fills man with wisdom, knowledge, understanding– Ex 31:3
  8. He gathers – Is 34:16
  9. He gives rest – Is 63:14
  10. He gives spiritual language – Acts 2:4
  11. He imparts hope – Rom 15:13
  12. He intercedes – Rom 8:26
  13. He is a source of fellowship – 2Co 13:14
  14. He is in the midst of His people– Is 63:11; Hag 2:5
  15. He is poured out – Is 32:15,44:3; Ezek 39:29; Joel 2:28
  16. He is sent by God – Gal 4:6
  17. He is sent from heaven – 1Pe 1:12
  18. He is the comforter (helper) –John 14:26; Acts 9:31; Rom 8:26
  19. He is the giver of gifts – 1Co 12:11
  20. He is the source of peace and joy - Rom 14:17; 1Thes 1:6
  21. He is transferable from man to man – Num 11:17, 25; Acts 8:14–17 (through the laying on hands)
  22. He leads and guides– Luke 4:1; Acts 13:4, 16:7; Gal 5:25
  23. He loves – Rom 15:30
  24. He produces fruitfulness – Gal 5:22
  25. He sanctifies – Rom 15:16; 1Pe 1:2
  26. He searches all things – 1Co 2:10

- 27. He speaks to people – 2Sam 23:2; Acts 8:29
- 28. He teaches – Luke 12:12; 1Co 2:10,
- 29 He testifies with our spirit – Rom 8:16
- 30. He unifies – Eph 4:3

## II. The Four Basic Functions of the Holy Spirit

It is the function of the Holy Spirit to bring forth life and fruitfulness. By the grace and power of God, the Holy Spirit restores, bringing wholeness, unity, and the perfect will of God onto our lives.

The Holy Spirit is present at the moment of our salvation, tirelessly working within us conforming us to the nature, character, and conduct of Jesus Christ. He is a giver of gifts from the Father and a faithful and loving friend.

- A. He is a Creator – He creates. He gives us both physical and spiritual life.
- B. He Gives Capability – He enables. He empowers. He produces fruitfulness for the glory of God.
- C. He Communes- He is the restorer of our relationship with God and is the abiding of God in our hearts.
- D. He Constructs – He brings order out of chaos, through gifts and spiritual empowerment.

## III. The Three Periods of Ministry of the Holy Spirit on the Earth

The ministry of the Holy Spirit varies with the purposes of God but uses the same process with each season. In the Old Testament, the focus was upon the nation of Israel; in the gospels, the focus was upon the life and ministry of Jesus Christ; in the epistles, it was upon the church of Jesus Christ. The ministry of the Holy Spirit on earth will be fulfilled with the coming of the new heaven and earth at the end of the Millennial Reign of Christ.

### A. The Ministry of the Holy Spirit in the Old Testament

- 1. The Focus: The Nation of Israel – Ex 4:22
  - a. The Holy Spirit is involved in creation:
    - (1) physical – the earth and man – Gen 1 – Elohim (as creator)
    - (2) spiritual – mankind – Gen 2 - Jehovah (as covenant maker)
  - b. The Holy Spirit enables men such as:
    - Bezalel (Ex 31:3), Moses (Num 11:17), and those in the Book of Judges to build, to lead, and to deliver
  - c. The Holy Spirit enlightens:
    - (1) through the law – by revealing the righteousness and justice of a holy God
    - (2) through the prophetic word – by releasing the words of God to bring conviction, direction, blessing, and judgment
  - d. The Holy Spirit builds:
    - the Nation of Israel – by its formation, maintenance, and reconstruction after God's judgment due to disobedience

### 2. The Goal – preparing the way for the Messiah

### B. The Ministry of the Holy Spirit in the Life of Jesus - The Gospels

- 1. The Focus: Jesus Christ – Heb 1:1-5
  - a. The Holy Spirit is involved in the birth and life of Jesus Christ:

- (1) physical life –Jesus - (Luke 1:35)
    - he will be called the Son of Man
  - (2) spiritual ministry – Savior – (Luke 2:11)-
    - the source of life to the world, the Son of God
  - b. The Holy Spirit empowered Jesus in His ministry:
    - (1) physically - The Baptism of Jesus
      - the Holy Spirit descended as a dove (Matt 3:16)
    - (2) spiritually - In the wilderness (Luke 4:1,14)
      - Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit
  - c. The Holy Spirit reveals to us Jesus Christ as the Son of God:
    - (1) in reminding us what the Lord taught while on earth  
(John 14:26)
    - (2) in communicating to us what Jesus is speaking from heaven  
(John 16:12-13)
  - d. The Holy Spirit completes the ministry of Jesus on earth:
    - by glorifying Jesus who is in His rightful place in heaven  
(John 16:14)
  2. The Goal - Jesus is the bridge between the Old Testament to the New Testament, fulfilling the old, introducing the new
- C. The Ministry of Holy Spirit in the New Testament – The Epistles
1. The Focus: The Church (Matt 16:18)
    - The Holy Spirit is involved in:
      - a. The spiritual birth of sons and daughters of God
        - (1) salvation – John 3:5, Gal 4:6
        - (2) “For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and death.” – Rom 8:2
      - b. The Holy Spirit sanctifies those who have been “born again”  
(2Thess 2:13)
        - “...if by the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live.” (Rom 8:13)
      - c. The Holy Spirit deepens our relationship with the Godhead  
(John 16:13-15)
        - ...we know that we abide in Him and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit (1 John 4:13)
      - d. The Holy Spirit restores creation bringing order out of chaos:
        - (1) by bringing unity to the Church, the Body of Christ (Eph 4:3)
        - (2) by preparing each member of the Church to be clothed in righteousness (Rev 19:7-8), collectively becoming the Bride of Christ (Rev 22:17)
          - “The Spirit and the bride say, “Come”. (Rev 22:17)
          - the Holy Spirit can in one sense, be considered to be the friend of the bridegroom, Jesus. The Spirit longs for, and works to prepare the Church, the Bride of Christ, for it’s marriage with Jesus. (Rev 19:7)
  2. The Goal – unity – bringing order out of chaos - Eph 4:1-6
    - completed with the coming of the new heaven and earth

The unique role of the Holy Spirit in the New Testament is not to draw attention to Himself, but to glorify Jesus by making known to the apostles and to us, the words of Jesus (John 16:13-14). Through the presence of the Holy Spirit we see the face of Jesus, and in the face of Jesus we see the face of the Father. When an individual accepts the salvation of God provided through Jesus

by faith, the Holy Spirit does a great work in his life; convicting him of sin, clothing him in righteousness, and loving him by living within him.

#### IV. The Conduct of the Holy Spirit Among Men

- what the Holy Spirit does, His behavior and actions

A. He creates through conviction (restoring us to new life)

1. Spirit of Truth (1John 5:6) - the Spirit testifies that Jesus is the Son of God

- the Holy Spirit brings conviction by testifying of the truth

2. Spirit of Salvation (John 3:6) – that which is born of the Spirit is spirit

B. He cleanses and clothes us in righteousness (enabling us to have fellowship with God)

- Spirit of Holiness (Rom 1:4) - producing within us holiness

C. He communes by abiding within us (causing us to grow in the love of God)

- Spirit who Teaches (1Co 2:13) – brings revelation (2Co 2:10)

D. He constructs and completes (“...we are to grow up in all aspects into Him, who is the head, even Christ.”) (Eph 4:15)

- Spirit of Unity (Eph 4:3) - unification (oneness) ( 1Co 12:7,13)

#### V. Four Symbols of the Holy Spirit

A symbol is something that stands for or suggests something else by reason of relationship; a visible sign of something invisible. In the life of the believer and in the life of the church, we see the working of the Holy Spirit displayed in four basic symbols; water, fire, breath, and oil.

These symbols correspond with the four areas of ministry of the Holy Spirit in the life of a believer and in the Body of Christ.

A. Water is essential for life. Without water there is no life.

- it is the Holy Spirit that brings life into our spirit through conviction and conversion as individuals

1. Spirit of Truth– conviction (*elencho*)

“...It is the Spirit who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth.” (1John 5:6)

2. Spirit of Salvation – conversion (*epistrophe*)

“Jesus answered (Nicodemus), “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of flesh is flesh and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit””. (John3:5-6)

3. Water is a symbol of baptism (John 3:5-6, Acts2:38,) –new birth Baptism is an ordinance of the Church of Jesus Christ. An ordinance is an established rite or ceremony. Water baptism is one of the two ordinances of the church. (the other ordinance is communion).

Baptism is a public declaration of our death, burial, and resurrection “in Christ”, which, by faith “we walk in the newness of life”. (Rom 6:3-4)

4. Examples of baptism located in the Scripture are found in Acts 2:38-41, 8:34-38,10:47-48. In Matt 28:19, we are commanded

“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.”

5. Baptism is an indicator that a person is closely bound to or is the property of the one into whose name he was "baptized". (Vines) Such was the case in the early church, "When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus." (Acts 19:5) Baptism is an outward confession of the conversion of the heart.
6. Water in the Scripture often symbolizes the working (*energo*) of the Holy Spirit in the life of a believer, not only with baptism (John 3:5-6) but also with:
  - a. the pouring of the Holy Spirit upon believers (Titus 3:6)
  - b. "the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit" at salvation (Titus 3:5)
  - c. in believers the Holy Spirit is a well (John 4:14) and a river (John 7:38)
7. A Testimony of the Heart – An obedient heart is a testimony of a heart converted through the power of the gospel of salvation.
  - a. Example – The Ethiopian eunuch  
"As they went along the road they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look! Water! What prevents me from being baptized? And Philip said, "If you believe with all your heart, you may..." (Acts 8:36-37)
  - b. Principle – conversion produces obedience  
"But thanks be to God that though you were slaves of sin, you became obedient from the heart to that form of teaching to which you were committed, and having been freed from sin, you became slaves of righteousness...resulting in sanctification" (Rom 6:17-18,19)
8. Two Baptisms, Two Baptizers
  - a. The Holy Spirit as baptizer of believers into the Body of Christ:  
"For even as the body is one and yet has many members, and all the members of the body, though they are many, are one body, so also is Christ. For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. (1Co12:12-13)  
- this baptism occurs directly at the time of our salvation (John 3:5)
  - b. Jesus is the Baptizer of Believers into the Holy Spirit  
John the Baptist said, "As for me, I baptize you with water for repentance, but He (Christ) who is coming after me is mightier than I, and I am not fit to remove His sandals; He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire." (Matt 3:11)  
- this baptism occurs distinctly after our salvation, we are baptized with the Spirit for works of service (Luke 24:49, Acts 1:8)
- B. Fire is a symbol of purification, which brings forth holiness.
  1. The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Holiness – sanctifying believers  
"...who was declared the Son of God with power by the resurrection from the dead, according to the Spirit of holiness, Jesus Christ our Lord." (Rom 1:4)
  2. Fire in the physical world consumes, gives light in the darkness, and cannot be measured by weight or dimension  
In the spiritual world, fire is:
    - a. A characteristic of God;  
(1) "...for our God is a consuming fire" (Heb 12:29)

- (2) " His (Jesus) eyes were like a flame of fire." (Rev 1:14)
- b. A sign of God's presence (Gen 15:17, Ex 3:2-6)  
"And there appeared to them tongues as of fire distributing themselves, and they rested on each one of them." (Acts 2:3)
- c. A characteristic of God's holy angels:  
"And of the angels He says, "who makes His angels winds, and His ministers a flame of fire." (Heb 1:7)
- d. An instrument of cleansing and sanctification:  
(Isa 48:10, Jer 9:7, Zech 13:9)  
"If any man's work is burned up, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire." (1Co 3:15)  
- it makes holy (Isaiah 6:6-7)
- e. A light which brings understanding:  
"I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints." (Eph 1:18)
- f. An instrument of testing:  
(1) our works (1Co 3:13))  
(2) our faith (1Pe 1:7)  
"Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your testing, as though some strange thing were happening to you..." (1Pe 4:12)
- g. A sign of judgment (Matt 13:40, John 15:6, 2Pe 3:10-12, Rev 21:8)  
Jesus said, "I have come to cast fire upon the earth; and how I wish it were already kindled!" (Luke 12:49)
2. A Testimony of the Heart- A clean heart is a testimony of the cleansing fire of the presence of God.
- a. Example - Road to Emmaus (Luke 24:32)  
"Were not our hearts burning within us while He was speaking to us on the road, while He was explaining the Scriptures to us? And they got up that very hour and returned to Jerusalem, and found gathered together the eleven and those who were with them..." (Luke 24:32)
- b. Principle - Cleansing produces a holiness and a hunger for God, creating a desire to share the Lord with others.  
"Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all defilement of flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God. Make room for us in your hearts..." (2Co 7:1-2)
- C. Breath is a symbol of love which communicates and comforts.
1. The Holy Spirit is the Spirit who teaches  
"Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may know the things freely given to us by God, which things we also speak, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit, combing spiritual thoughts with spiritual words."  
(1Co 2:12-13)  
Breath is a symbol of life, it symbolizes the revelation of God.  
"The wind blows ("the Spirit breathes" (Vines)) where it wishes and you hear the sound of it, but do not know where it comes from and where it is going; so is everyone who is born of the Spirit." (John 3:8)

2. Breath is a sign of life both in the physical and in the spiritual world. The breath of God is found throughout the Scripture. First noted in the beginning when God spoke all of creation into existence concluding with the creation of man: "...the LORD God formed man of dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being."

(Gen 2:7)

In the New Testament the breath of God takes on a greater meaning with the revelation of Jesus Christ as the Son of God and the Holy Spirit as the third person of the Trinity. The breath of God was now to be used for communication and impartation through the power and the person of the Holy Spirit.

a. Breath is used in the gospels as a symbol of the Holy Spirit:

- fire and water you see, but the breath (wind) you hear and feel

(1) The breath of God is personal:

Jesus said, "The wind blows (the Spirit breathes) where it wishes and you hear the sound of it, but do not know where it comes from and where it is going; so is everyone who is born of the Spirit." (John 3:8)

(2) The breath of God is the presence of the Holy Spirit:

"So Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you; as the Father has sent Me, I also send you." And when He had said this, He breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit." (John 20:21-22)

(3) The breath of God has a sound, it is a voice:

"My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me." (John 10:27)

b. Breath is used in the epistles as a symbol of the Holy Spirit:

(1) The breath of God is powerful:

"But after the three and a half days, the breath of life from God came into them, and they stood on their feet..." (Rev 11:11)

(2) The breath of God is personal:

"And it was given to him (the beast from the sea, the false prophet) to give breath to the image of the beast, so that the image of the beast would even speak and cause as many as do not worship the image of the beast to be killed." (Rev 13:15)

"Then that lawless one will be revealed whom the Lord will slay with the breath of His mouth and bring to an end by the appearance of His coming..." (2Thes 2:8)

c. A Testimony of the Heart- The confession of the tongue is a testimony of the condition of the heart. (Matt 12:34, Acts 2:3-4, 10:44-46; Rom 10:9-10)

(1) Example - Jesus breathed on the eleven:

"...He (Jesus) breathed on them and said to them "Receive the Holy Spirit" (John 20:22)

(2) Principle -- death and life are in the tongue

"Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruit." (Prov 18:21)

D. Oil is a symbol of consecration, being set apart for divine service, moving from a common to a sacred use



1. Oil had many uses in the Scripture. It was used for lighting, for cooking, and for healing. It was also used for the anointing of:
  - a. kings, priests, and prophets in the Old Testament (Ex 29:7)
  - b. Christ (Heb 1:9) and of believers. (2Co 1:21-22)
2. Anointing with oil in the Scripture was a sign of consecration, in which the individual is set apart for a sacred purpose:
  - Jesus is the “Christ” which means “the anointed one”:  
“You know of Jesus of Nazareth, how God anointed Him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and how He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.” (Acts 10:38)
3. Oil is used in the Scripture as a metaphor of the Holy Spirit :
  - a. The disciples of the early church at Antioch were first called “Christians”. They were the anointed followers of Jesus Christ (Acts 11:26)
  - b. We too, as Christians, are “anointed” by God with the Holy Spirit:  
“Now He who establishes us with you in Christ and anointed us is God, who also sealed us and gave us the Spirit in our hearts as a pledge.” (2Co 1:21-22)  
“But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and you all know.” (1John 2:20):  
“As for you, the anointing (Holy Spirit) which you received from Him (the Christ) abides in you, and you have no need for anyone to teach you; but as His anointing (the Holy Spirit) teaches you about all things, and is true and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you abide in Him (Christ)”  
(1 John 2:27) – recall John 14:23-26
4. It is the Holy Spirit, abiding within each of us, that is working to produce unity within the Body of Christ;  
“Now I exhort you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all agree and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be made complete in the same mind and in the same judgment...being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. (1Co1:10, Eph 4:3)
5. A Testimony of the Heart – A heart that exhibits a oneness between God and man is a testimony of a consecrated heart.  
“The glory which You (the Father) have given to Me (Jesus) I have given to them, that they may be one, just as We are one; I in them and You in Me, that they may be perfected in unity, so that the world may know that You sent Me, and loved them, even as You have loved Me.” (John 17:22-23)
  - a. Unity is a oneness, a place where there is no division. It is a “working” of the Holy Spirit (Eph 4:1-3) and the prayer of Jesus Christ (John 17:22-23) that unity with God and with fellow believers in Christ be a primary objective of the Church of Jesus Christ of Nazareth.
  - b. Example: The relationship of Jesus with the Father in heaven  
“The glory which You have given Me I have given to them, that they may be one, just as We are one.” (John 17:22)
  - c. Principle - Our unity in Christ reveals to the world the depth of the love of God for each man and woman.  
“I in them and You in Me, that they may be perfected in unity,

so that the world may know that You sent Me, and loved them, even as you have loved Me.” (John 17:23)

## Notes

E. Review – The Symbols of the Holy Spirit Working in our Heart  
Each of the four symbols presented, represent one aspect of the Holy Spirit “working” in the heart of a follower of Jesus Christ.

1. Water - the conversion of the heart – baptism is a sign of obedience (John 3:5-6). It is an outward sign of an inward work.  
“Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.” (Acts 2:38)
2. Fire - the condition of the heart – fire is a sign of a burning desire for God  
“He was the lamp that was burning and was shining and you were willing to rejoice for a while in his light.” (John 5:35)  
- this was the testimony of Jesus about John the Baptist
3. Breath - the confession of the heart – breath is a sign of what we speak and of that which fills our heart.  
“The good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth what is good; and the evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth what is evil; for his mouth speaks from that which fills his heart.” (Luke 6:45)
4. Oil - the consecration of the heart - oil is a sign of a whole undivided heart set apart for the purposes of God (Ps 86:11)  
“...but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ, from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.” (Eph 4:15-16)

### Study the Word

1. Please locate and underline in your Bible those verses that reveal the nature, character, and the conduct of the Holy Spirit. It is important that we use the Bible as the primary reference source for ourselves and others.
2. Locate and mark in your Bible the five descriptions of the Holy Spirit found in Section IV and read the section of the Bible in which these descriptions are located.
3. Read and study the four testimonies found in Section V. Pray that our hearts will be:
  - a. cleansed by the water like the eunuch, producing obedience
  - b. purified in the fire like those traveling to Emmaus, perfecting a holy heart burning with fire for God
  - c. revealed by the confession of our tongue; faithfully speaking life and not death
  - d. consecrated unto God, creating in us a whole heart which is one with God and in unity with our fellow believers in Christ by the powerful working of the Holy Spirit.

## Chapter 5: The Kingdom of God

## Notes

### Outline

- I. Definition and location of the Kingdom of God
- II. Characteristics of the Kingdom of God
- III. Parables of the Kingdom of God
- IV. The Parable of the Sower and the Seed
- V. The Four Stages of Growing in Maturity in the Kingdom

### I. Definition and Location of the Kingdom of God

The Greek word *basileia* translated as “kingdom” identifies a realm in which a sovereign king rules. God rules over all creation, both heaven and earth.

#### A. The Reign of God in Heaven

“But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to myriads of angels, to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the Judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood, which speaks better than the blood of Abel.” (Heb 12:22-24)

#### B. The Reign of God on Earth

“He has brought down rulers from their thrones, and has exalted those who were humble.” (Luke 1:52)

“Every person is to be in subjection to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those which exist are established by God.” (Rom 13:1)

1. While God reigns over all, not all of the kingdom of God is currently subject to Him. At this time, the kingdom of God on the earth is present wherever God’s creation is submitted to the authority of the King. It is with the presence of the King, that the authority of the kingdom is manifest:

“the kingdom of God is not coming with signs to be observed; nor will they say, ‘Look, here it is!’, or ‘There it is!’ For behold, the kingdom of God is in your midst.” (Luke 17:20b-21)

2. The Reign of God in the Heart of the Individual

“If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our abode with him.” (John 14:23)

“Our Father who is in heaven, hallowed be Your name, Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.” (Matt 6:9-10)

3. The Reign of God in the Church of Jesus Christ

“Again I say to you, that if two of you agree on earth about anything that they may ask, it shall be done for them by My Father who is in heaven. For where two or three have gathered together in My name, I am there in their midst.” (Matt 18:19-20)

- Full subjection will not occur until the end of the millennial reign:

“...then comes the end, when He (Christ) hands over the kingdom to the God and Father, when He has abolished all rule and all authority and power. For He must reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet. The last enemy that will be abolished is death...when all things are subjected to Him, then

the Son Himself also will be subjected to the One who subjected all things to Him, so that God may be all in all. (1Co 15:24-28)

4. The Reign of God in All of Creation

In His authority, God is seeking willing obedience, requesting, at this time, that man voluntarily submit to His rule. As such, the kingdom of God on the earth is not clearly seen or universal. But the day will come when the kingdom of God will be established fully in and on the earth:

“Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away, and there is no longer any sea. And I saw, the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He will dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be among them, and He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be any death; there will no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away.” (Rev 21:1-4)

II. The Characteristics of the Kingdom of God

A. The kingdom of God is entered by force:

“Truly I say to you that the tax collectors and prostitutes will get into the kingdom of God before you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him; but the tax collectors and prostitutes did believe him; and you, seeing this, did not even feel remorse afterward so as to believe him.” (Matt 21:31-32)

“From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of God is forcibly entered, and those possessed of eagerness and zeal, instead of yielding to the opposition of religious foes (scribes and Pharisees) press their way into the Kingdom.” (seize it for themselves) (Matt 11:12) (Paraphrase, Vines, p.248)

B. The kingdom of God is a Priority

“But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.” (Matt 6:33)

C. The kingdom of God has Supreme Authority

“But if I cast out demons by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.” (Mt12:28)

“For the kingdom of God does not consist in words but in power.” (1Co 4:20)

D. The kingdom of God is not understood by all

“...To you it has been granted to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been granted.” (Matt 13:11)

E. The kingdom of God is a Righteous kingdom

“So the last shall be first, and the first last.” (Matt 20:16)

“Then the righteous will shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father...” (Matt 13:43)

“...for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit.” (Rom14:17)

F. The kingdom of God has been Prepared by the Father

“...Come, you who are blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.”

(Matt 25:34)

G. The kingdom of God is to be Proclaimed

“...Allow the dead to bury their own dead; but as for you, go and Proclaim everywhere the kingdom of God.” (Luke 9:60)

H. The kingdom of God is Eternal and Cannot be Shaken

“And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and His kingdom will have no end.” (Luke 1:33)

“Therefore, since we receive a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us show gratitude, by which we may offer to God an acceptable service with reverence and awe; for our God is a consuming fire.” (Heb 12:28-29)

III. The Parables of the Kingdom

A. Introduction

Much of the teaching to the crowds by Jesus was in the form of Parables. The disciples asked Jesus, “...Why do You speak to them in parables?” (Matt 13:10)

Jesus said to them: “To you has been given the mystery of the kingdom of God, but those who are outside get everything in parables, so that while seeing, they may see and not perceive, and while hearing, they may hear and not understand, otherwise might return and be forgiven.”(Mark 4:11-12)

Such people do not want to know the truth. They may appear to be seekers, but truly, they have no sincere desire to know and to love God. As noted in 2 Thess2:10-12:

“...they did not receive the love of the truth so as to be saved. For this reason God will send upon them a deluding influence so that they will believe what is false, in order that they all may be judged who did not believe the truth, but took pleasure in wickedness.”

B. The Enemies of the Kingdom - Enemy – *echthros* – hateful, hostile

1. a professing believer who is a friend of the world, thus making himself an enemy of God (James 4:4) (Vines, p.200)

2. death – 1Co 15:26

3. foes – Luke 6:27,35; 1Co 15:25

4. men who oppose Christ – Luke 19:27

5. one who is opposed to righteousness – Acts 13:10

6. the Devil and his demons – Matt 13:39

7. the unregenerate toward God – Rom 5:10, Col 1:21

C. The Metaphor of Seed in the Parables

Seed is used in several ways in the Scripture to identify the dynamic activity and the domain of the kingdom of God.

1. Used to Describe Characteristics of the Word of God

The Sower and the Seed (Matt 13:3-23, 36-43)

- the first parable that Jesus explains, outlining four responses to the message of the kingdom

2. Used to Describe the Response of the Enemy to the Kingdom

The Mustard Seed (Matt 13:31-32; Mark 4:30-32;

Luke 13:18-19)

- as the mustard plant (the kingdom) grows, the birds of the air (possibly demonic resistance) nest in it's branches
- 3. Used to Describe All Men
  - The Tares and the Wheat (Matt 13:24-30)
  - a. tares – called darnel, a weed that resembles wheat but it produces no grain
  - b. this weed is not immediately identified, but becomes apparent as the plant grows
  - c. the second and last parable that Jesus explains, the tares are described as those who are stumbling blocks and commit lawless deeds (Matt 23:13)
- 4. Used to Describe the Nature of the Seed
  - The Parable of Growing Seed (Mark 4:26-29)
  - A man sows seed, he goes to bed at night and gets up by day, the seed sprouts and grows; the soil produces the crop by itself, he harvests the mature grain.
  - the seed has life in itself, it produces after it's own kind
- 5. Types of Seed Presented in the Scripture
  - a. Jesus as a Seed – ...“The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies it bears much fruit. He who loves his life loses it, and he hates his life in this world will keep it to eternal life.” (John 12:23-25)
  - b. Men Are Described as Seed (Matt 13:38-39)
    - Good Seed- sons of the kingdom sown by the Son of Man
    - Bad Seed (tares)–sons of the evil one, sown by the devil
  - (1) As Seed We must Die to Ourselves to Spiritually Live
    - “Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.” (Rom 6:4)
    - “Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth. For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory.” (Col 3:1-4)
  - (2) Setting Your Mind on Things Above
    - (a) How to Be Heavenly Minded – hunger and thirst (Matt 5:6)
      - Forsake ourselves – repent, deny self
      - A lign our will – obedience to God, Bend us!
      - Submit- take up our cross
      - Travail- persevere
    - (b) Evidence of Good Seed– known by the fruit (Matt 7:16-20)
      - Forgiveness – love one another (1John 4:7-8)
      - Restrained – self-control (Gal 5:23)
      - Understanding – see from God's eyes (Eph 1:18)
      - Insignificant in own eyes – humble (Matt 25:37-39)
      - Trustworthy – faithful (Matt 25:23)
- 6. Response of Man to the Kingdom
  - a. The Leaven (Matt 13:33, Luke 13:20-21)
    - The leaven, which is the influence of the kingdom, is not

visible, yet it changes that to which it comes into contact. This power of the kingdom works from within, changing the heart, producing an external manifestation (fruitfulness) to the world.

b. The Dragnet (Matt 13:47-50)

This parable is similar to the tares and the wheat. The good fish are gathered into baskets, the bad fish are thrown away. Each fish must be inspected and so must everyone who identifies himself as a Christian. Men may have the appearance of being a Christian but may not be true believers.

c. The Hidden Treasure (Matt 13:44) and The Costly Pearl (Matt 13:45-46)

These parables focus upon the response of the righteous to the deceitfulness of riches and the pleasures of this life. They exhibit a perspective of exchanging that which is temporal for that which is eternal.

The righteous grasp the opportunity to convert unrighteous mammon to true riches by investing their time, talent, and treasures into the kingdom of God.

7. Principles of the Kingdom

a. The Unforgiving Servant (Matt 18:33-35)

“Should you not also have had mercy on your fellow slave, in the same way that I had mercy on you? And his lord, moved with anger, handed him over to the torturers until he should repay all that was owed him. My heavenly Father will also do the same to you, if each of you does not forgive his brother from your heart.”

Forgiveness is foundational in the kingdom; if we do not forgive then the Father in heaven will allow “the torturers to come.”

b. The Generous Landowner (Matt 20:8-16)

“Take what is yours and go, but I wish to give to this last man the same as to you. Is it not lawful for me to do what I wish with what is my own? Or is your eye envious because I am generous? So the last shall be first, and the first last.” (Matt 20:14-16)

- It is God who determines our entrance and place in the kingdom of heaven. (Matt 21:28-32)

c. The King who gave a Wedding Feast (Matt 22:1-14)

“...he saw a man there who was not dressed in wedding clothes ...Bind his hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. For many are called, but few are chosen.”

- To enter the kingdom of God, we must be clothed with the righteousness of Christ (Phil 3:9)

d. The Parable of the Ten Virgins (Matt 25:1-4)

“Then the kingdom of heaven will be comparable to ten virgins, who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were prudent. For when the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, but the prudent took oil in flasks along with their lamps.”

- We must prepare for the Lord’s return as a bride prepares for the arrival of a bridegroom. (Luke 12:35-38, 21:29-36)

e. The Parable of the Talents (Luke 19:11-27)

“...Jesus went on to tell a parable, because He was near Jerusalem, and they supposed that the kingdom of God was going to appear immediately. So He said, "A nobleman went to a distant country to receive a kingdom for himself and then return... I tell you that to everyone who has, more shall be given, but from the one who does not have, even what he does have shall be taken away. But these enemies of mine, who did not want me to reign over them, bring them here and slay them in my presence."

- Faithful perseverance demonstrates trustworthiness to God.

“...he who is faithful in a very little thing is faithful also in much.” (Luke 16:10)

f. The Unrighteous Steward (Luke 16:1-13)

“His master praised the unrighteous manager because he had acted shrewdly...And I say to you, make friends for yourselves by means of the wealth of unrighteousness, so that when it fails they will receive you into eternal dwellings... No servant can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.” (Mark 10:23-27)

IV. The Parable of the Sower and the Seed (Matt 13:3-23)

Jesus only explained two parables in the Scripture: the parable of the sower and the seed, and the parable of the tares and the wheat. The following is a summary of the sower and the seed as explained by Jesus in each of the gospels:

A. The Seed is likened to the Word of God.

1. Matthew (13:19) – the Word (message) of the kingdom
2. Mark (4:14) – the Word
3. Luke (8:11) - the Word of God
4. Within the seed (the Word of God) is life and fruitfulness (Mark 4:26-29)
5. The Word is described as living and active and sharp. (Heb 4:12)

B. The Soil by the Road

1. The seed (the Word of God) sown beside the road (Matt13:19, Mark 4:15, Luke 8:12)
2. The evil one comes and snatches away that which has been sown in a person's heart. (Matt 13:19)
3. When they hear, immediately Satan comes and takes away the word which has been sown in them (Mark 4:15)
4. The devil comes and takes away the word from their heart, so that they will not believe and be saved (Luke 8:12)
5. Observations of those who do not guard their heart:
  - a. When they hear, immediately Satan comes and takes (snatches) away the word (seed).
  - b. As a thief, Satan steals the seed (the word) which was sown.
  - c. The seed which was sown was removed and is unfruitful - there was no implantation (no germination)
  - d. The methods used to remove the seed include unbelief, doubt, and fear;



- (1) unbelief is like a closed door (Heb 3:19); the antidote is to encourage (Heb 3:13)
- (2) doubt is lack of understanding (Luke 24:38); the antidote is to exercise faith (Matt 21:21)
- (3) fear involves punishment (1John 4:18); the antidote is perfect love (1John 4:38)

C. The Seed sown in rocky places is likened to:

1. A person who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, yet he has no firm root in himself, but is only temporary, and when affliction or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he falls away (Matt 13:20-21, Mark 4:16-17)
2. A person who receives the word with joy, but these have no firm root; they believe for a while, and in the time of temptation fall away. (Luke 8:13)
3. Observations of the importance of having strong roots:
  - a. They hear and receive the word with joy, they believe for a while, but they have no firm root.
  - b. The seed of life germinates but life is not sustained outside of the seed itself (no firm root in himself).
  - c. There is no nurturing of the seed with the “water of the word”
  - d. Affliction and persecution test the quality of our roots:

“Therefore as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, having been firmly rooted and now being built up in Him and established in your faith, just as you were instructed, and overflowing with gratitude.” (Col 2:6-7)
  - e. Paul’s Apostolic Prayer- for believers to be rooted and grounded in love

“For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name, that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; and you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God.” (Eph 3:14-19)
  - f. Paul’s Warning to Timothy (and to us as well)

“But the Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons, by means of the hypocrisy of liars seared in their own conscience as with a branding iron...” (1Tim 4:1-2)

“...discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness; for bodily discipline is only of little profit, but godliness is profitable for all things, since it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come. ...For it is for this that we labor and strive, because we have fixed our hope on the the living God, who is the Savior of all men, especially of believers. Let no one look down on your youthfulness, but rather in speech, conduct, love, faith, and purity, show yourself an example of those who believe (1Tim 4:7-12)

D. The Seed sown among thorns (Matt 13:22, Mark 4:18, Luke 8:14)

1. "...this is the man who hears the word; and the worry of the world, and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful." (Matt 13:22)
2. "...these are the ones who have heard the word, but the worries of the world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the desires for other things enter in and choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful." (Mark 4:19)
3. "...these are the ones who have heard, and as they go on their way, they are choked with worries and riches and pleasures of this life, and bring no fruit to maturity." (Luke 8:14)
  - *apopnigo* -to choke off- crowding out the seed (word) and preventing growth of the word to maturity (fruitfulness)
4. Observations of the dangers of thorns:
  - a. There is no description of the soil, only that thorns are present.
  - b. The thorns come from the seeds of the enemy.
  - c. The bad seed itself does not defile unless it germinates and grows producing thorns.
  - d. The seed of the enemy produces the thorns, which grow and choke out the fruitfulness of the word of God.
  - e. The worries of the world, the pleasures of this life, the deceitfulness of riches and the desires for other things enter in (occurs as they go on their way)- producing a divided heart with fleshly (worldly) desires.
  - f. Jesus said, "Listen to Me, all of you, and understand: there is nothing outside the man which can defile him if it goes into him; but the things which proceed out of the man are what defile the man." (Mark 7:14-15)

E. The Seed Sown in Good soil (Matt 13:23, Mark 4:20, Luke 8:15)

- "...this man who hears the word and understands it; who indeed bears fruit and brings forth, some a hundredfold, some sixty, and some thirty." (Matt 13:23)
- "...they hear the word and accept it and bear fruit, thirty, sixty, and a hundredfold." (Mark 4:20)
- "...these are the ones who have heard the word in an honest and good heart, and hold it fast (cling to it), and bear fruit with perseverance. (Luke 8:15)
1. Requirements for a Harvest of the Word in a believer's life include
    - a. Hearing the Word
    - b. Understanding the Word
    - c. Having a noble (honest) and good heart – having fertile soil
    - d. Holding fast (clinging to the Word) – developing deep roots
    - e. Exhibiting perseverance – being weed free
    - f. Producing thirty, sixty, or one hundred fold. –an abundant harvest
  2. Faithfulness is our responsibility, fruitfulness is God's job.
    - a. We cannot produce fruit. Fruit comes from the life of the seed.
    - b. It is the Holy Spirit who works with us and in us to prepare the soil and by conviction eradicate the weeds

F. Summary: The Four Responses to the Message of the Kingdom

1. The parable of the sower identifies the four basic responses to the Kingdom of God;
  - a. unbelief
  - b. falling away
  - c. barren lives
  - d. fruitful lives.
2. To live fruitful lives in the Kingdom of God we are to:
  - a. believe the word of God
  - b. develop roots that hold us firm
  - c. avoid the entanglements of the world
  - d. cling to the Word of God and persevere.

V. The Four Stages of Growing in Fruitfulness in the Kingdom

It is the Holy Spirit who works in our lives, tending the soil of our heart, endeavoring to bring forth spiritual fruit for the glory of God.

A. There are two types of fruit noted in the parable of the vine and the branches found in John 15:

1. fruit that remains – that which is produced by abiding in the vine (loving obedience to God)
2. fruit that does not remain – that which is produced apart from the vine (lawlessness). Spiritual fruitfulness begins with the planting of a seed, which is the Word of God:

“...the seed is the word of God. Those beside the road are those who have heard, then the devil comes and takes away the word from their heart, so that they will not believe and be saved. (Luke 8:11) – note the two steps are; believe, and be saved.

B. The Gateway of Repentance – which leads to salvation

1. Repentance begins with one’s belief in a holy God coupled with a Godly sorrow for how one’s sin has offended Him:

“For the sorrow that is according to the will of God produces a repentance without regret, leading to salvation...” (2Co7:10)
2. Repentance is a prerequisite for salvation, but belief in a holy God is not enough, we must be converted:

Jesus said, “Truly I say to you, unless you are converted and become like children, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven.” (Matt 18:3, Mk 10:14, Luke 18:17)
3. Conversion occurs when the conviction of the Holy Spirit (John16:8-11) is coupled with faith in the word of God producing a decision of the will accepting the gift of salvation. We enter the kingdom of God by believing in a holy God, being convicted of our sin by the Holy Spirit, repenting and turning to God by an act of our will and receiving the gift of salvation provided to us by the grace of God.

“For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.” (Eph 1:8-9)
4. Examples of responses to the message of the kingdom:
  - a. Negative Response: the Pharisees (Matt 5:19-20)

“...Unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven.” (Matt 5:20)

b. Positive Response: Tax Collectors and Sinners

(Matt 21:28-32)

“...Truly I say to you that the tax collectors and prostitutes will get into the kingdom of God before you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him; but the tax collectors and prostitutes did believe him; and you, seeing this, did not even feel remorse afterward so as to believe in Him.” (Matt 21:31-32)

5. Application- this may not be a one time event, areas of unbelief remain after our salvation. By the conviction of the Holy Spirit, we are confronted with areas of unbelief in our lives. When this occurs we are to believe the truth of the Word of God imparted to us by the Holy Spirit and believe.

C. The Path of Obedience - engrafting the Word

According to Webster's Dictionary to engraft means to “set or fix deep and firm”. This a purposeful and deliberate act.

Those represented by the seed sown in rocky soil “receive the word with joy, and these have no firm root; they believe for a while, and in the time of temptation fall away. (Luke 8:13)

In this instance, belief is not only a decision of the mind, but, also an act of the will, producing obedience. It is in the Word of God that we are instructed in righteousness and walk in the ways of the kingdom. Consider the following verses:

1. “Not everyone who says to Me, Lord, Lord will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father.” (Matt 7:21)
2. “No one, after putting his hand to the plow and looking back is fit for the kingdom of God.” (Luke 9:60-62)
3. “But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness and all these things will be added to you” (Matt 6:33)
4. “Whoever then annuls one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same, shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever keeps and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven.” (Matt 5:19-20)
5. An example of one who responded and one who did not respond to the “opportunity” of obedience:
  - a. Negative Response – Rich Young Ruler (Luke 18:18-27)
  - b. Positive Response – Matthew the Apostle (Matt 9:9-13)
6. Application – Obedience is a sign that we are under authority. It is through our time with the Lord that we grow in love with Him. Through the washing of the Word of God we draw closer to Him and we, like Jesus, become meek and humble of heart. (Matt 11:29)  
It is a great source of joy to grow in our understanding of God knowing that one day we will see Him face to face.  
“If you keep my commandments, you will abide in My love.” (John 15:10)

D. The Contending of the Righteous.- Holding Fast to the Word

“For we have become partakers of Christ, if we hold fast the beginning of our assurance firm until the end... (Heb 3:14)

1. Those represented by the plants choked out by the thorns “have heard the word, but the worries of the world, and the

- deceitfulness of riches, and the desires for other things enter in and choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful. (Mark 4:19)
2. It is our choice, to hold fast and contend for the truth of the Word or to lose our grip (not cling) to the word resulting in unfruitfulness (aborting spiritual maturity i.e. no victory)
    - a. "Any kingdom divided against itself is laid waste;...He who is not with Me is against Me; and he who does not gather with Me scatters." (Matt 12:25,30)
    - b. "From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and violent men take it by force." (Matt 11:12)
    - c. Jesus said to his disciples, "...it is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven. Again I say to you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God." (Matt 19:23-24)
    - d. "...through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God. (Acts 14:22)
    - e. "...we ourselves speak proudly of...your perseverance and faith in the midst of all your persecutions and afflictions which you endure...a plain indication...that you will be considered worthy of the kingdom of God." (2Thes 1:4-5)
    - f. How to contend against the enemy:
      - (1) Identify the Enemy – the kingdom of darkness (Eph 6:12)
        - (a) enemy – *echthros* – hateful, hostile
        - (b) the Devil/ demons – Matt 13:39, Luke 10:19
        - (c) death – 1Co 15:26
        - (d) men who oppose Christ – Matt 13:25,28; Phil 3:18-19
        - (e) one who is opposed to righteousness – Acts 13:10
        - (f) those alienated toward God – Rom 5:10, Col 1:21
        - (g) foes – Rom 12:20, 1Co 15:25, Luke 6:27,35
        - (h) A professing believer who is a friend of the world, thus making himself an enemy of God. (James 4:4) (Vines, p.220)
      - (2) Avoid Entanglements of the Enemy
 

For if, after they have escaped the defilements of the world by the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and are overcome, the last state has become worse for them than the first. (2Pe2:20)

"No soldier in active service entangles himself in the affairs of everyday life, so that he may please the one who enlisted him as a soldier." (2Tim 2:4)

"Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us." (Heb 12:1)
      - (3) Put on the Full Armor of God
 

"Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil." (Eph 6:11)
      - (4) Enter the Battle Through Tribulation
 

Paul and Barnabas strengthened the souls of the disciples, "...encouraging them to continue in the faith, and saying, "Through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God." (Acts 14:22)

- (5) An example of one who did and of one who did not contend for righteousness:
- (a) Negative Example – The rich man who built bigger barns (Luke 12:15-21) – he stored up treasure for himself but was not rich toward God
  - (b) Positive Example – Joseph of Arimathea (Mark 15:43-46, Luke 23:50-56, John 19:38-42)
- (6) Application – The birth of Jesus was a direct frontal assault on the kingdom of darkness. Jesus came and declared the kingdom of God; demonstrating the power of the kingdom of God; discipling men and women as to how to live in the kingdom of God; and defeating death, Satan, and the kingdom of darkness. As David cried, “Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within in me...” (Ps 51:10)

E. The Advancement of the Kingdom – the fulfillment of the Word  
Those who have “...heard the word in an honest and good heart, and hold it fast, and bear fruit with perseverance.” (Luke 8:15)  
What greater joy can we have than to produce fruit out of our loving obedience to God. We are victorious, by the grace of God, over our will, our fleshly desires, and the schemes and plans of the enemy!

“My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples.” (John 15:8)

1. We are given authority over that which we have the victory:
  - a. Jesus gives the keys of the kingdom (Matt 16:19)
  - b. Jesus gives the twelve disciples power and authority over all demons and the power to heal diseases (Luke 9:1-2)
  - c. “...To everyone who has, more shall be given, but from the one who does not have, even what he does have shall be taken away. (Luke 19:26)
  - d. You “who have stood by Me in my trials...you will sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel.” (Luke 22:28-30)
2. An example of one who was and one who was not entrusted with authority:
  - a. Negative Example – Demas (2Tim 4:10)
  - b. Positive Example - Timothy (2Tim 1:14, 2Tim 2:2)  
“Guard, through the Holy Spirit who dwells in us, the treasure which has been entrusted to you.” (2Tim 1:14)  
“The things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.” (2Tim 2:2)
3. Application: We have all been given an entrustment, as did the servants in the parable of the talents. This entrustment is a gift; it is an ability; it is a capacity given to each of us by God. It is the work of the Spirit to empower us, but we must position ourselves upon the faithfulness of God and:
  - a. we must enter by faith,
  - b. we must engraft the Word of God,
  - c. we must hold fast to the Word of God,
  - d. we are entrusted with authority fulfilling the Word of God.

#### 4. One Final Word About the Kingdom

“...To Him who loves us and released us from our sins by His blood-and He has made us to be a kingdom, priests to His God and Father-to Him be the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen” (Rev 1:4-6)

“...Worthy are You to take the book and to break its seals; for You were slain, and purchased for God with Your blood men from every tribe and tongue and people and nation. You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to our God; and they will reign upon the earth.” (Rev 5:9-10)

Notice we are to be a kingdom and to be priests to our God and Father. This will occur when we have been fully redeemed; the laws of the kingdom will be written on our hearts, we will offer sacrifices of praise and intercession as priests before the Lord, and we will reign on the earth. As Paul said, “we will judge angels.” (1Co 6:3)

Hallelujah! To God be the glory, forever and forever. Amen and amen.

#### Study the Word

We, at the moment of our salvation, are transferred from the kingdom of darkness into the kingdom of Light:

“For He (the Heavenly Father) rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.” (Col 1:13)

#### 1. Please review, “The Characteristics of the Kingdom” on page 34.

May we pray and ask the Holy Spirit to convict us of the areas in which we have taken lightly the importance of the kingdom. Have we been loyal and faithful subjects of the King?

#### 2. We all have a choice of how we will respond to the word of God.

Please locate and study the response of those who:

- did not believe the word of God (John 6:59-65)
- did not obey the word (Matt 24:42-51)
- did not contend for the word- Demus, first he was a fellow worker (1Tim 1:20); and then Demus became a deserter (2Tim 4:10)
- did not advance in the kingdom (Judas - Acts 1:16-20)
- did believe the word of God (Peter - John 6:68-70)
- did obey the word of God (Ananias - Acts 9:10 -19)
- did contend for the word of God (Stephen, Acts 6:8-15, 7:51-60)
- did advance in the kingdom (Paul - Acts 19:8-10)

## Chapter 6: Angels

## Notes

### Outline

#### I. Categories of Angels

- A. Righteous angels
- B. Fallen angels

#### II. Righteous Angels

- A. Nature
- B. Character
- C. Conduct
- D. Activity
- E. Ministry

#### III. Fallen Angels

- A. The Fall (rebellion) of Angels
- B. Lucifer
- C. Activity
- D. Authority over Fallen Angels

#### IV. Authority Given by God

#### I. Categories of Angels

##### A. Righteous Angels

1. The word "angel" is an English translation of the Hebrew word *malak*, and the Greek word *angelos* meaning "messenger"
2. *mal'ak* - refers to the righteous messengers of God as well as the manifestations of God.
3. *angelos* - refers to angels. In its various forms, *angelos* is found 154 times in the New Testament.

##### B. Fallen Angels

1. In the Old Testament, fallen angels are referred to as spirits (*pneuma*), often identified by their function:
  - deceiving - 2Chron 18:21
  - evil - 1Sam 16:16
2. In the New Testament, fallen angels are referred to as demons (*daimon*) signifying an evil spirit. (Matt 8:31)

#### II. Righteous Angels

##### A. Nature - true for righteous and fallen angels

1. Are created beings (Neh 9:6; Job 38:4-7)
2. Are eternal (Luke 20:36)
3. Are spirits (Heb 1:14)
  - while finite, not limited by space (Legion, Mk 5:9)

##### B. Character - attributes of angels

1. Are Mighty (Matt 28:2; 2Thess 1:7)
2. Have desires (1Pe 1:12)
3. Have limited knowledge (Matt 24:36, Mk 13:32)
4. Have a will and can sin (2Pe 2:4)

##### C. Conduct - how angels relate to God and to man

1. To God
  - a. Abode is in heaven (Matt 22:30) -only righteous angels
  - b. Created to worship Jesus Christ (Heb1:3-9)
  - c. Give praise and glory to God (Ps 103:20, 148:2, Luke 2:13;)
  - d. Hold different ranks (thrones, dominions, principalities, authorities, powers (Eph 1:21; Col 1:16; 1Pe 3:22)



- e. No opportunity for redemption (2Pe 2:4)
- f. Not given help by God (Heb 2:16)
- g. Perform different functions
  - (1) Cherubim – present at the throne of God (Ezek 10:1-20)
  - (2) Seraphim – Hebrew translation - “Burning ones” (Isa 6:2-3)
- h. Speak angelic language (1Co 13:1)
- i. Under the authority and the command of God (Matt 26:53)
- 2. To Man
  - a. Accompany Jesus at His second coming (2Thes 1:6-8)
  - b. Assigned to little ones ((Matt 18:10)
  - c. Ascend and descend from heaven (John 1:51)
  - d. Bring the judgment of God (Act 12:23) - Herod
  - e. Cannot separate us from the love of God (Rom 8:37-38)
  - f. Escort “saints” to heaven (Luke 16:22)
  - g. Found on earth (Heb 13:2)
  - h. Gather the elect (Matt 24:31)
  - i. Give direction and instruction from God
    - (1) Apostles – Acts 5:19,
    - (2) Phillip - Acts 8:26
    - (3) Cornelius – Acts 10:3
    - (4) Paul - Acts 27:23
  - j. Give strength to man
    - (1) Elijah - 1Kings 19:5
    - (2) Jesus in the garden – Luke 22:43
  - k. Given charge to guard over us (Ps 91:11)
  - l. Intervene in the affairs of men
    - (1) Zacharias - Luke 1:11
    - (2) Mary – Luke 1:26-27
  - m. Minister (Matt 4:11, Mk 1:13)
  - n. Ordained the Law of the Old Testament(Acts 7:37-38; Gal 3:19)
  - o. Perform different functions
    - (1) Gabriel – messenger (Luke 1:19,26)
    - (2) Michael - warrior (Dan 10:13,21;12:1, Jude 1:9, Rev 12:7)
  - p. Reapers (Matt 13:30,39)
  - q. Will be judged by mankind (1Co 6:1-3)
  - r. Witnesses of Jesus Christ (1Tim 3:16)

#### D. Activity of Righteous Angels

##### 1. In the Old Testament

- a. There are at least 18 angelic events recorded in the Old Testament
- b. Most frequently angels are mentioned in dreams, visions, and in general reference.

##### 2. In the Gospels

- a. Noted primarily at the beginning and end of the life of Jesus.
- b. There are at least 12 angelic events recorded in the New Testament.
- c. before and at the birth of Jesus
  - (1) Joseph – 3 dreams (Matt 1:20,24; 2:13, 19)
  - (2) Zacharias (Luke 1:12-19)– angel at the altar in the Holy Place
  - (3) Mary (Luke 1:26-38) - Gabriel
  - (4) birth of Jesus (Luke 2:9-14)
- d. in the wilderness (Matt 4:11)

- e. during Jesus' ministry on the earth (John 1:51)
  - Pool of Bethesda (John 5:4)
- f. in the garden (Luke 22:43)
- g. at the day of Jesus' resurrection (Matt 28:2-7, Luke 24:23)
- h. at the second coming of Christ Jesus (Matt 25:31, Mk 8:38, Luke 9:26)

### 3. Activity of Righteous Angel(s) described in the Epistles

- a. the word angel(s) is found 48 times in the gospels, 42 times in the epistles, and 64 times in the Book of Revelation
- b. there are at least 6 angelic visits recorded in the Epistles; identified as visibly present, by dream, vision, or by physical presence:
  - (1) an angel released the apostles from jail (Acts 5:17-20)
  - (2) an angel directed Philip on the Gaza road (Acts 8:26-28)
  - (3) an angel spoke to Cornelius in a vision (Acts 10:3-8)
  - (4) an angel released Peter from jail (Acts 12:7-11)
  - (5) an angel struck Herod and he died (Acts 12:23)
  - (6) an angel spoke an encouraging word to Paul (Acts 27:23-26)

## E. Ministry of the Righteous Angels

### 1. To God

- a. assisting in the day of judgment (Matt 13:30; 2 Thess 1:7-9)
- b. bring God's law to Israel (Acts 7:53; Gal 3:19)
- c. executing God's judgment on enemies (2 Kings 19:35; Acts 12:23)
- d. gathering God's elect before the second coming (Matt 24:30-31)
- e. give worship and praise to God (Ps 103:20; Heb 1:6; Rev 5:11-12)

### 2. To Believers

- a. deliverance from enemies -  
"The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear Him and rescues them." (Ps 34:7)
- b. encouraging in times of extreme trial -  
Elijah (1Kings19:5), Paul (Acts 27:23-24)
- c. ministering spirits -  
"Are they not all ministering spirits, sent out to render service for the sake of those who will inherit salvation?" (Heb 1:14)
- d. protection from harm -  
"For He will give His angels charge concerning you, to guard you in all your ways. They will bear you up in their hands..." (Ps 91:11-12)
- e. providing wisdom and guidance -  
Joseph (Matt 1:20), Cornelius (Acts 10:3-5)

## III. Fallen Angels - demons

### A. The Fall (rebellion) of Angels (Isaiah 14:13-17, Ezekiel 28:11- 18; Rev 9:1,12:4)

Angels are created beings with a free will. While we do not know the exact day that they were created, we do know that angels were present by the end of the sixth day:

"For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea and all that is in them... (Ex 20:11)

- B. Lucifer – “light bearer” – the anointed cherub who covers
1. one of the cherubim, covered with precious stones, had tambourines and flutes, he was on God’s holy mountain, walking in the stones of fire, serving as a guard (possibly of the glory of God), and was blameless until unrighteousness was found in him. (Ezek 28:13-15)
  2. According to Ezekiel, Lucifer was present in the Garden of Eden before he rebelled: “...You had the seal of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. You were in Eden, in the garden of God...(Ezek 28:12-13)
  3. Lucifer rose up against the authority of God, he said in his heart:
    - a. “I will ascend to heaven”
    - b. “I will raise my throne above the stars of God (the angels)”
    - c. “I will sit on the mount of assembly in the recesses of the north.”
    - d. “I will ascend above the heights of the clouds.”
    - e. “I will make myself like the Most High.” (Isaiah 14:13-14)As a result Lucifer was cast down to the earth (Rev 9:1) and his tail swept away a third of the stars of heaven (Rev 12:4)
  4. It is unclear exactly when Lucifer and those that followed him, which we refer to as the “fallen angels”, rebelled against God. It appears that one-third of the angels in heaven were removed from their domain in heaven. (Dan 8:10; Rev 12:4) Some descended to earth, others have been kept in chains until day of judgment. (Jude 1:6)
  5. What’s in a Name? – the meanings of the names assigned to the devil:
    - a. Apollyon (Abaddon) - destroyer – (Rev 9:11)
    - b. Beelzebub – ruler of the devils (Matt 12:24)
    - c. Belial – good for nothing, worthlessness (2Co 6:15)
    - d. dragon (Rev 13:2)
    - e. father of lies – (John 8:44)
    - f. god of this world – leader of false religions (2Co 4:4)
    - g. lawless one (2Thess 2:8)
    - h. Lucifer – light bearer (Isaiah 14:12), masquerades as an angel of light (2Co 11:14)
    - i. murderer – (John 8:44)
    - j. prince of the power of the air – ruler over fallen angels (Eph 2:2, 6:12)
    - k. prince of this world – rules over the kingdoms of earth (John 12:31, 16:11)
    - l. roaring lion – (1Pe 5:8)
    - m. Satan – adversary, an opposer, slanderer, accuser of the brethren (Rev 12:10)
    - n. tempter – incites men to sin (Matt 4:3)
    - o. the old serpent, the devil – crookedness, deceitfulness, guile (Rev 12:9, 20:3)Note: Recalling the names of God found in the Scripture (see pp. 11-13), we can see the greatness of our God as opposed to the vacuum of the enemy. Satan is totally void, a force pulling everything possible into the abyss.
- C. The Activity of Fallen Angels and how they manifest
1. muteness - speech (Mat 9:33, Luke 11:14)

2. lunatic – mind (Matt 17:15,18)
3. blind and mute (Matt 12:22)
4. unclean spirits - torment
  - a. Syrophenician's daughter was demon possessed (Matt 15:22; Mark 7:25-30)
  - b. Gerasene demoniac – screaming, gashing himself with stones (Mark 5:5)
    - (1) a demon seized him many times and drove him into the wilderness (Luke 8:29)
    - (2) "Seeing Jesus from a distance, he ran up and bowed down before Him; and shouting with a loud voice, he said, "What business do we have with each other, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I implore You by God, do not torment me!" For He had been saying to him, "Come out of the man you unclean spirit!" (Mark 5:6-8)
    - (3) after deliverance he sat down, clothed, and in his right mind (Mark 5:15)
  - c. demon possessed son– "a spirit seizes him, and he suddenly screams, and it throws him into a convulsion" (Luke 9:39)
    - (1) as Jesus approached, "the demon slammed him (the boy) to the ground and threw him into a convulsion" (Luke 9:42)
    - (2) "Jesus rebuked the unclean spirit and healed the boy." (Luke 9:42)

#### D. The Authority over Fallen Angels – not a sign of salvation

##### 1. Submission to Christ vs. Authority over Demons

"Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?' And then I will declare to them, "I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness (rejection of the will of God, exercising self will)."" (Matt 7:22-23)

"The seventy returned with joy, saying, "Lord, even the demons are subject to us in Your name. "And He said to them, "I was watching Satan fall from heaven like lightning. Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing will injure you. Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are recorded in heaven." (Luke 10:17-20)

##### 2. Our position "in Christ" is essential when dealing with demonic forces. Use of spiritual authority apart from submission to Christ is lawlessness.

##### 3. Authority over demons does not assure one's position in the kingdom of God (Luke 10:19-20)

#### IV. Authority Given by God in the New Testament

##### A. Authority of Jesus

- Matt 12:28; Mark 1:34,39; Luke 4:41, 13:32

##### B. Authority of the Twelve Apostles

- Matt 10:1,8; Mark 3:15, 6:13; Luke 9:1

##### C. Authority of Others

- Mark 9:38-39; Luke 9:49-50

D. Authority of the Seventy

- Luke 10:17-19

E. Authority of Believers

- Mark 16:17

Study the Word

In Hebrews Chapter 1 the three primary functions of the angels of God are listed:

1. As Worshippers of God

“Let all the angels of God worship Him (Jesus Christ)”

(Heb 1:6) Please locate Revelation 5:11-12.

How many angles did John see before the throne of God?

2. Notice that they did not sing , but what did they say?

3. As Ministers of God

“Who makes His angels winds, and His ministers a flame of fire.”(Heb 1:7)

What are similar characteristics of wind and fire?

3. As Ministers to Man

“Are they (the angels) not all ministering spirits, sent out to render service for the sake of those who will inherit salvation?”

(Heb 1:14)

Please list examples found in this lesson of the instances in which God’s angels were used to minister to men.

### Outline

- I. The Creation of Man
- II. The Uniqueness of Man
- III. The Divine Purpose of Man
- IV. The Fall of Man
  - A. The Testing
  - B. The Tester
  - C. The Tragedy
  - D. The Triumph of Jesus Christ
- V. Our Abundant Redemption

### I. The Creation of Man

Mankind is a unique creation of God. In Genesis, the plan of God in the creation of man is revealed in three Hebrew words:

A. *asah* – to form, to construct, to prepare to build

B. *yatzar* – to form and shape (as a potter)

C. *bara* – to produce something new, rare, and beautiful

“Then God (Elohim) said, “Let Us make (*asah*) man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule ...” (Gen 1:26)

“Then the Lord God (Yahweh) formed (*yatzar*) man of dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.” (Gen 2:7) – a unique act of creation

“God (Elohim) created (*bara*) man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. God blessed them...” (Gen 1:27-28)

First God expresses His will (*asah*), “Lets us make man...and let them rule”, then He acts upon it (*bara*), “God created man...male and female...God blessed them...be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it...”. (Gen 1:26-28)

### II. The Uniqueness of Man

#### A. Creation of the Body and the Spirit of Man

Uniquely, God (Yahweh) used dust, a created substance, to “form man” (*yatzar*) and then brought forth life by breathing into his nostrils. Man is of the earth (which was spoken into existence by God), but has a spirit, imparted by the breath of God. Mankind has been uniquely created for eternal fellowship with God.

#### B. Creation of the Soul of Man

In the creation of man the love of God is revealed (John 3:16).

Each individual created by God (Eph 2:10) possesses, in accordance to the image of God, a soul consisting of:

1. a mind – “But we have the mind of Christ.” (1Co 2:16)
2. a will – “...Let us make man in Our image...” (Gen 1:26)
3. emotion – “Out of the ground the LORD God caused to grow every tree that is pleasing to the sight and good for food...” (Gen 2:9)

#### C. The Conscience

1. God also created man as a moral being, placing within us a sense of accountability to God.

“For when Gentiles who do not have the Law do instinctively the things of the Law, these, not having the Law are a law unto themselves, in that they show the work of the Law written in

their hearts, their conscience bearing witness and their thoughts alternately accusing or else defending them..." (Rom 2: 14-15)

"Little children, let us not love with word or with tongue, but in deed and truth. We will know by this that we are of the truth, and will assure our heart before Him in whatever our heart condemns us; for God is greater than our heart and knows all things." (1John 3:18-20)

2. This God given capacity, to discern right from wrong, is called a conscience. In the Old Testament, this was first demonstrated by Adam and Eve. After disobeying the command of God, they "hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden". (Gen 3:8)
3. The only other mention of the conscience in the Old Testament occurs in 1Sam 24:5, "David's conscience bothered him because he had cut off the edge of Saul's robe."
4. The conscience is like a window to the soul, it is influenced by the convictions of the mind. In the New Testament, the conscience is described as:
  - a. blameless (Acts 24:16)
    - (1) good (1Tim 1:5,19; Heb 13:18;1Pe 3:16)
    - (2) clear (1Tim 3:9; 2Tim 1:3)
    - (3) perfect (Heb 9:9)
  - b. weak (1Co 8:7)
    - (1) wounded (1Co 8:12)
    - (2) seared (1Tim 4:2)
    - (3) defiled (Titus 1:15)
    - (4) evil (Heb 10:22).
  - c. a witness
    - (1) bearing witness (Rom 2:15)
    - (2) testifies (Rom 9:1)
    - (3) is a testimony (2Co 1:12)
  - d. the conscience can be cleansed (Heb 9:14)

"...how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God? (Heb 9:14)

### III. The Divine Purpose of Man

The creation of man has a divine and eternal purpose:

"...Bring My sons from afar and My daughters from the ends of the earth, everyone who is called by My name, and whom I have created for My glory, whom I have formed (*yatzar*), even whom I have made (*asah*)" (Isa 43:6-7) – we are created for His glory

### IV. The Fall of Man

#### A. The Testing of Man

1. At the end of the sixth day of creation, "God saw all that He had made, and behold, it was very good." (Gen 1:31). Adam and Eve were placed in a perfect environment, they were given intellect, emotion, and a will. Inherent in having a will is the capacity to make choices. They were free moral agents. This freedom is essential for true worship and service to God. Free choice is essential for the development of mature holiness.

2. Eden was not only a home in paradise, it was also a testing ground. Their holy nature was a result of creation, but one's holy character comes as the result of testing.

As an example, consider one who has broken the law and has served time in jail. Upon release he is put on probation. What is the meaning of the word "probation"? According to Webster's dictionary, probation is "the process or period of testing or observing the character or abilities of a person in a certain role". Adam and Eve, if you will, were on probation. The test given to Adam and Eve was not moral, it was personal. They were given permission to eat of every tree in the garden, with the exception of the tree of good and evil. There was nothing morally wrong in eating fruit from a tree, but they performed a clearly immoral act because they disobeyed.

3. At times laws are given because they represent inherently right conduct, such as the commandments given to Moses. Other times laws are given, such as the ceremonial laws of the Old Testament regarding the eating of certain foods. These laws test our obedience to the authority of God. Such was the case for Adam and Eve; their test was one of obedience to God's authority. If Adam and Eve had obeyed, they would have attained holy moral character and would have risen to a new level of blessing and fellowship with God.
4. The disobedience of Adam did not thwart the plan of God. In His foreknowledge, God made provision for the fall of man, bringing out of human failure a glorious redemption provided by the substitutionary death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. For God prophetically cursed the serpent, "And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise you on the head, and you shall bruise him on the heel." (Gen 3:15)

Jesus was the Lamb who was slain from the foundation of the World (1Pe 1:20; Rev 13:8). Through His obedience, the final state of man is greater than the original state of man in the garden of Eden. Jesus brought heaven to earth.

#### B. The Tester of Man - Satan

1. "And the great dragon was thrown down, the serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was thrown down to the earth..." (Rev 12:9).  
And Satan is still deceiving today:  
"But I am afraid that, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, your minds will be led astray from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ." (2Co11:3)
2. Satan aimed his temptations at Eve's basic desires, but first he had to sow doubt into her heart with a question, "...Indeed, has God said, 'You shall not eat from any tree of the garden?'" (Gen 3:1)  
Satan added the word "not" to God's statement, for God said, "From any tree of the garden you may eat freely..." (Gen 2:16)
3. After sowing doubt, Satan spoke a lie appealing to Eve's desires: "...You surely will not die! For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." (Gen 3:4-5)



C. The Tragedy - The Fall of Man

1. When the woman saw that the fruit was:
  - a. good for food - she determined that she wanted or needed some of the fruit – this is self-determination
  - b. pleasing to the eye - she saw and exalted her own desires above those of God – this is self-exaltation
  - c. desirable for gaining wisdom - her security was found in Satan’s wisdom, not God’s wisdom – this is self-preservation

“...she took from it’s fruit, and ate; and she gave it also to her Husband and he ate. Then their eyes of both of them were open... (Gen 3:6-7)

2. Please note the following definitions:  
Self-Determination – the process by which one controls his own life

Self-Exaltation – one who stands on one’s own merits, self-praise, self - worship

Self-Preservation – the protection of one’s self from harm or death by one’s own strength, not God’s

These three motives or desires are the basis for the vast majority of sins in our lives. They caused the fall of mankind.

3. The Judgment of Man by God
  - a. They lost the authority and dominion given to them by God in Gen1:28 - they were driven from the garden (Gen 3:24) - they lost their God given protection
  - b. Sin (death) entered their lives:
    - (1) Eve - experienced pain in childbirth
    - (2) Adam – thorns, thistles, and toil (Gen 3:17-18)
    - (3) they lost their God given preservation
  - c. They did not achieve full fellowship with God
    - (1) estranged (no longer close affection) (Gen 3:10)
    - (2) they lost their exaltation of God by being a faithful son and daughter

Before we finish focusing on the fall of man, it is important to consider the last Adam, Jesus Christ. The first Adam was created, out of dust and brought to life by the breath of God. Adam was deceived by Satan; Satan was deceived by his own sin.

4. The Fall of Satan (Isaiah 14:13)
 

<u>Satan decided</u>	<u>Satan Demonstrated</u>	<u>Satan’s Judgment</u>
- I will ascend to heaven	<u>Self-Determination</u>	He fell like lightning
- I will raise my throne above the stars	<u>Self-Exaltation</u>	Bound 1000 years
- I will make myself like the Most High	<u>Self-Preservation</u>	Eternal Lake of Fire

Satan was successful in deceiving the first Adam, but not so the last Adam:

“So also it is written: “The first man, Adam, became a living soul. The last Adam became a life-giving spirit. However, the spiritual is not first, but the natural; then the spiritual.” (1Co 15:45-46)

5. The Temptation of Jesus (Matt 4:1- 11)

Jesus was full of the Spirit after His baptism and “was led around by the Spirit in the wilderness for forty days, being tempted by the devil.” (Luke 4:1-2)

Unlike the first Adam, the last Adam, Jesus, was victorious over the temptations of the enemy:

- a. Satan’s temptation – satisfy a personal need, turn these stones to bread and exercise self-determination.
- b. Satan’s temptation - reveal your glory as the Son of God, throw yourself down and demonstrate self-exaltation.
- c. Satan’s temptation – you can be a king without dying, fall down and worship me and exercise self-preservation.

At the end of this forty day period in the wilderness, “Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about Him spread through all the surrounding district. And He began teaching in their synagogues and was praised by all.” (Luke 4:14-15)

- the character of Jesus Christ was tested, and He was victorious. (Heb 2:17-18)

D. The Triumph of Jesus Christ (Phil 2:5-11)

Unlike the first Adam, who was perfect in his creation but unproven in character, Jesus had already passed the test before His time in the wilderness. Paul describes this process of preparation in Philippians 2:5-11:

“Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, *and* being made in the likeness of men. Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”

<u>Jesus’ Decision</u>	<u>Jesus Demonstrated</u>	<u>Jesus’ Victory</u>
Emptied Himself descended	<u>Submission</u>	Raised to the Highest Place
Bond-servant humbled	<u>Selfless Service</u>	Jesus Christ is Lord
Obedient to Death on the Cross	<u>Faithful Son</u>	Glorified the Father

V. Our Abundant Redemption as Believers in Christ

“O Israel, hope in the LORD; for with the Lord there is loving-kindness, and with Him is abundant redemption. And He will redeem Israel from all his iniquities.” (Ps 130:7-8)

“...conduct yourselves in fear (reverence) during the time of your stay on earth; knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold...but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ.” (1Pe 1:17-19)

- A. Definition of Redemption - There are two Greek words used to communicate the process of redemption:
1. *exagorazo* – to buy out, as a slave,  
This word conveys the intent and the availability of redemption:  
“Christ redeemed us from the curse of the Law, having become a curse for us- for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree” – in order that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we would receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.” (Gal 3:13-14)  
While the provision for redemption is present for all, not all receive the provision, for it is received by faith.
  2. *lutroo* – deliverance  
- to release upon payment of a ransom – to set at liberty  
“...who gave Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed, and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds.” (Titus 2:14)  
This word focuses upon not only what we were redeemed from but also what we are redeemed to be:
    - a. We have a new nature  
“For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that by them you may become partakers of *the* divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust.” (2Pe 1:4)
    - b. We have a new life  
“Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life.” (John 5:24)
    - c. We have victory over our old nature  
“Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him...Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its lusts... For sin shall not be master over you, for you are not under law but under grace.” (Rom 6:8,12,14)
    - d. We experience constant renewal  
“Therefore we do not lose heart, but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day.” (2Co 4:16)
    - e. We have hope for an eternal heavenly home  
“The Lord will rescue me from every evil deed, and will bring me safely to His heavenly kingdom; to Him be the glory forever and ever. Amen.” (2Tim 4:18)
- B. The Price of Redemption – the blood of Jesus
1. Life is found in the blood (Gen 9:4, Lev 17:11, Deut 12:23)  
- “...the voice of your brother’s blood is crying to Me from the ground. (Gen 4:10)
  2. In the Old Covenant – The blood of bulls and goats atoned for (covered) one’s sin, but the guilt (conscience) of sin remained. (Heb 10:4)
  3. In the New Covenant – through the blood of Jesus we have remission (removal) of our sin (1John 1:7); and, as we confess our sin, we are cleansed of all unrighteousness (our guilt is removed). (1John 1:9)

“For if the blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer sprinkling those who have been defiled sanctify for the cleansing of the flesh, how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?” (Heb 9:13-14)

a. This “New Covenant” (Matt 26:27-28, Luke 22:20) was declared by Jesus on the night before He died:

“And when He had taken a cup and given thanks, He gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you; for this is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for forgiveness of sins.” (Matt 26:27-28; 1Cor 11:25; 1John1:7)

b. Through the blood of Jesus, we were not only cleansed from sin, but we have also been set free from sin. We have received liberty in Christ.

“...To Him who loves us and released us from our sins by His blood- and He has made us to be a kingdom, priests to His God and Father- to Him be the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen. ” (Rev 1:5-6)

4. Because of the precious blood of Jesus we have:

a. been brought near to Christ. (Eph 2:13)

b. been cleansed. (1John1:7)

c. been redeemed. (Eph 1:7)

d. been sanctified. (Heb 13:12)

e. peace with God. (Col 1:20)

f. eternal life. (John 6:54)

- Hallelujah!

### Study the Word

1. Please study the Scripture references regarding the conscience on pages 53-54. The conscience can be strong (blameless) or weak (defiled). Please identify the characteristics of each:

a. Strong conscience

b. Weak conscience

### 2. A Clear Conscience

Man is a moral being, created with a sense of knowing right and wrong. This instinct, that is given to man by God, is called a conscience. It caused Adam and Eve to hide from God and to cover themselves after they disobeyed God. (Gen 3:6-10)

Violation of this sense produces guilt. A natural response of man is to cover guilt by blaming others. (Gen 3:11-13)

Maintaining a clear conscience brings an inner freedom knowing that we have not offended God by our thoughts or actions and that we have not offended anyone from whom we have not asked for, or received, forgiveness.

Having a clear conscience closes a portal of entry for Satan to accuse us of the things of the past. Paul instructed Timothy, "...fight the good fight, keeping faith and a good conscience which some have rejected and suffered shipwreck in regard to their faith." (1Tim 1:18-19)

Both the Holy Spirit (John 16:8) and the word of God (Heb 4:12) bring reproof (conviction, rebuke, convincing) into the life of a believer. At this point ask the Holy Spirit to bring to our remembrance anything for which you need to ask for forgiveness from God or from someone else. At times, forgiveness may require restitution.

It is through this process that we can obtain and maintain a clear conscience.

As you pray please list any steps that need to be taken to clear your conscience.

(1)

(2)

(3)

(4)

## Chapter 8: Sin and Repentance

## Notes

### Outline

- I. The Definition of Sin
- II. The Types of Sin
- III. The Imputation of Sin
- IV. The Depravity of Man
- V. The Guilt of Man
- VI. The Penalty of Sin
- VII. The Law and Sin
- VIII. Repentance begins with Conviction
- IX. Repentance requires a Response

### I. Definition of Sin

A. sin - (Hebrew – *chattah*); (Greek – *hamartia*)

- to miss the mark, to err

The word “sin” (Heb, *chattah*) is first used in Genesis 4:6-7:

“Then the Lord said to Cain, “Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen? If you do well, will not your countenance be lifted up? And if you do not do well, sin (*chattah*) is crouching at the door; and its desire is for you, but you must master it.”

Cain is not alone as a sinner, for as Paul declares “...for all have sinned (*hamartia*), and fall short of the glory of God...”

(Rom 3:23)

B. Sin is anything that contradicts God’s character of holiness or His laws given to man by His hand. We are all sinners by nature, due to the fall of Adam, and become sinners by practice. Sin refers to our nature; sins identify the actions or expressions of this nature.

C. Sin is a force of evil within our bodies and as God stated to Cain, “...its (sin’s) desire is for you, but you must master it.” (Gen 4:7)

This statement reveals the issue of authority. There are only two spiritual kingdoms on earth, the kingdom of God and the kingdom of darkness. When we yield our will to temptation and lust we enter Satan’s domain:

“But each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust. Then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and when sin is accomplished, it brings forth death.”

(James 1:14-15)

D. Sin has an objective; to master men. If this is accomplished, then men do not obey God, but their own lusts:

“Therefore, do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its lusts...” (Rom 6:12)

- when a person is being carnal, he is ruled by fleshly appetites or pleasures

E. Through the grace of God, we have victory over sin, guilt, and uncleanness:

“For sin shall not be master over you, for you are not under law but under grace.” (Rom 6:14)

This point will be expanded upon in the next section when we focus upon the gift of salvation.

## II. Types of Sin

A. Sins of Omission - The "failure to do something, especially something that one has a moral or legal obligation to perform." (Webster's Dictionary)

"Therefore, to one who knows the right thing to do and does not do it, to him it is sin." (James 4:17)

B. Sins of Commission - The "failure to follow "an instruction, command, or duty given to a person or a group of people". (Oxford Dictionary)

Ignorance is no excuse but may affect the punishment.

"And that slave who knew his master's will and did not get ready or act in accord with his will, will receive many lashes, but the one who did not know it, and committed deeds worthy of a flogging will receive but few." (Luke 12:47-48)

## III. The Imputation of Sin

A. Definition of Imputation - *ellogeo* - to reckon or to charge to one's account

1. Imputation is impartial, no consideration is given to the nature or circumstances of the person (Rom 4:3)

Example: Your credit card statement imputes that for which you are accountable, how the charges got there or if you pay them has no bearing upon the imputation.

2. The exact opposite of sin is agape love. Agape love is extended freely, such love does not consider the worth or merit of the individual. We demonstrate agape love to others because we have received such love from God." We love (*agape*), because He first loved (*agape*) us..." (1John 4:19)

B. Adam was the representative of mankind who was in covenant with God (Gen 1:26-30); and as such, we were all represented by Adam. Even if we were not physically present, we are bound by the results of the breaking of the covenant by Adam.

(Gen 3:9-24)

- sin has been imputed to us because of the sin of Adam.

"Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned..." (Rom 5:12)

C. Jesus Christ, in his sinlessness, paid the penalty imputed to us, and His righteousness continues to be imputed to us.

1. Jesus paid the penalty of mankind - universal

"...For if by the transgression of the one the many died, much more did the grace of God and the gift by the grace of the one Man, Jesus Christ, abound to the many. The gift is not like that which came through the one who sinned; for on the one hand the judgment arose from one transgression resulting in condemnation, but on the other hand the free gift arose from many transgressions resulting in justification. (Rom 5:15-16)

2. Jesus keeps our account up to date - personal

"For if by the transgression of the one, death reigned through the one, much more those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ." (Rom 5:17)

#### IV. The Depravity of Man

- A. Definition - Depravity – moral corruption, wickedness
- B. Present from Birth – “Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin my mother conceived me.” (Ps 51:5)
- C. Mankind does not have any holy affection for God – “For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them...For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks...” (Rom 1:18-19, 21)
- D. We all have a bent toward evil – “Then the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great on the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.” (Gen 6:5)

#### V. The Guilt of Man

- A. Guilt – *aita* – accusation, charge, reason for which one is worthy of punishment - three times Herod stated he could find no guilt in Jesus (John 18:38; 19:4,6)
- B. Degrees of guilt:
  - 1. Sins of impulse and sins of deliberation
    - (1) David and Bathsheba- a sin of impulse
    - (2) David and Uriah – a sin of deliberation
  - 2. Knowledge vs. Ignorance – “For all who have sinned without the Law will also perish without the Law, and all who have sinned under the Law will be judged by the Law...” (Rom 2:12)

#### VI. The Penalty of Sin

Mankind currently experiences depravity and guilt, which are the consequences of sin, but the fullness of the penalty of sin occurs at the time of our death. There are three types of death: physical, spiritual, and eternal.

- A. Physical Death—we were created for eternal life. Before the fall, Adam and Eve ate from the tree of life. When they disobeyed God and ate from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, death began its work in all men. (Gen 2:17).  
Once we are born we progress toward physical death. Physical death separates our body from our soul, but it is not the end.  
“Behold I tell you a mystery...for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable...But when this perishable will have put on the imperishable, and this mortal will have put on immortality, then will come about the saying that is written, “Death is swallowed up in victory. O Death, where is your victory? O Death, where is your sting? The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law; but thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”  
(1 Co 15:51,52,54-57)
- B. Spiritual Death - all of us were born spiritually dead, separated from God by our sinful nature.  
“And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according



to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest." (Eph 2:1-3)

May we never forget how much mankind is loved by God: "But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ..." (Eph 2:4-5)

C. Eternal Death- eternal separation of the individual, both body and soul from God; this is the "second death". (Rev 21:8)  
These will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power..." (2Thess 1:9)

"Do not marvel at this; for an hour is coming, in which all who are in the tombs will hear His voice, and will come forth; those who did the good deeds to a resurrection of life, those who committed the evil deeds to a resurrection of judgment." (John 5:28-29)

Resurrection in the Bible refers to a reuniting of the body with the soul.

## VII. The Law and Sin

A. The Old Covenant is based upon the Ten Commandments given to the nation of Israel on Mount Sinai. The law given by God was good, but because of our sinful nature, we are unable to fulfill all of its requirements:

"For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles in one point, he has become guilty of all." (James 2:10)

B. Paul addresses this fact in Romans 7:7-8,11:

"What shall we say then? Is the Law sin? May it never be! On the contrary, I would not have come to know sin except through the Law; for I would not have known about coveting if the Law had not said, "You shall not covet." But sin, taking opportunity through the commandment, produced in me coveting of every kind...for sin, taking an opportunity through the commandment, deceived me and through it killed me."

C. Unredeemed mankind will respond to the law one of two ways;

1. One may view the commands of the law too difficult to attain.

As a result such individuals do not try to obey the law, but instead they disregard the law and become self indulgent and self focused apart from the law.

" But realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come.

For men will be lovers of self..." (2Tim 3:1-2)

"For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there is disorder and every evil thing." (James 3:16)

2. One may believe he can keep the commands in his own strength and thereby he becomes self- righteous, becoming subject to the law:

"Now we know that whatever the Law says, it speaks to those who are under the Law, so that every mouth may be closed and all the world may become accountable to God; because by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified in His sight; for

through the Law comes the knowledge of sin.”(Rom 3:19-20)  
It is the Law that reveals the utter sinfulness of sin (Rom 7:13)  
and our need of a Savior.

VIII. Repentance\_- is the key that unlocks the door of salvation  
 (Matt 4:17)

- A. The crowd after hearing the gospel of salvation on the day of Pentecost were “pierced to the heart” (conviction) and asked the apostles “Brethren, what shall we do?” (Acts 2:37)  
 Peter said to them, “Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.” (Acts 2:38)
- B. In the Old Testament there are two Hebrew words translated to English as repent:
1. “*nahum*” - to console oneself (65 times), to change one’s mind (40 times)  
 - this word generally refers to God  
 “The Lord was sorry (*nahum*) that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart.” (Gen 6:6)  
 “So the Lord changed His mind (*nahum*) about the harm which He said He would do to His people.” (Ex 32:14)
  2. “*shub*” - has two meanings
    - a. “to return, to turn back” - This use identifies movement back to the point of departure.  
 - this word generally focuses upon man
    - b. “to restore”- This use identifies God’s response to the repentant move of man.
    - c. if “...you return (*shub*) to the Lord your God and obey Him with all your heart and soul according to all that I command you today...then the Lord your God will restore (*shub*) you from captivity and have compassion on you...” (Deut 30:2-3)
- C. In the New Testament, there are two Greek words translated to English as repent:
- *metanoia* (n) and *metanoeo* (v) both carry the same meaning:
  - *meta* - “after”, *noeo* - “to perceive” - to change one’s mind or purpose
  - in the New Testament, it is always for the better and generally a turning away from sin and a turning to God
- D. Repentance is a gift from God made available to all mankind.  
 “The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.” (2Pe 3:9)  
 “When they heard this, they quieted down and glorified God, saying, “Well then, God has granted to the Gentiles also the repentance that leads to life.” (Acts 11:18)
- E. The two components of spiritual repentance involve both God and man.
1. God’s mercy and grace in “leading men” to repentance (Rom 2:4) - the conviction of God
  2. Man’s part, as required by God (Matt 3:8, Luke 3:8, Acts 20:21, 26:20) - the response of man

IX. Repentance begins with conviction

Conviction is a working of the grace of the Holy Spirit in our lives. "And He (the Holy Spirit), when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment..." (John 16:8)

A. Conviction of Sin - God brings conviction to a man concerning his sinful nature, and by God's mercy and grace men are led to repent. (Rom 3:23)

B. Conviction of righteousness - of the righteousness of Christ - One is made aware of their sinful nature, by being confronted with the reality of the holiness of God. They see their need of salvation which is found in the person of Jesus Christ. (John 3:16) - this is the gospel (1Co 15:3-4) of Jesus Christ

C. Conviction concerning judgment - all the unsaved will come before the judgment seat (Rev 20:11-13)  
"Or do you think lightly of the riches of His kindness and tolerance and patience, not knowing that the kindness of God leads you to repentance?" (Rom 2:4) At the judgment seat there is no opportunity for repentance!

X. Repentance requires a response

"Therefore repent and return, so that your sins may be wiped away, in order that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord..." (Acts 3:19)

A. Repent - "to change one's mind" - It is an act of the will initiated by the grace and mercy of God.

B. Return - "a turning from and a turning to", "a conversion" - an action - the response of man

XII. The "Fruit" of Repentance

John the Baptist said to the Pharisees and Sadducees, "Therefore bear fruit in keeping with repentance..." (Matt 3:8)

A. Those convicted by the Holy Spirit of their sin, questioned John saying, "Then what shall we do?" John gave three examples of how they were to respond:

1. share your food and clothing with those in need (Luke 3:11)

This is selfless love.

2. "Collect no more than you have been ordered to." (Luke 3:12)

He said this to the tax-collectors.

This shows submission and obedience.

3 "Do not take money from anyone by force, or accuse anyone falsely, and be content with your pay.(Luke 3:14) This was directed to soldiers.

This is an exercise in righteousness.

B. The change that occurs in our lives, in keeping with repentance, authenticates that we have repented. These "fruits of repentance" include:

1. Our behavior - "Little children, let us not love with word or with tongue, but in deed and truth." (1John 3:18)

2. Our obedience to God - "The one who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him. We know by this that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us." (1John 3:24)

3. Our way of thinking – “Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and whoever loves the Father loves the child born of Him. By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and observe His commandments.” (1John 5:1-2)  
It is through the necessary process of repentance that we “change our mind”, “turn fully to God”, and “receive the gift of salvation”.

Study the Word

There are four verses of Scripture, all of which begin with the word “for” that when placed together are like the steps on a stairway which describe our deliverance and victory over a life of sin.

1. “For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (Rom 6:23)
2. “For God (the Father) so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.” (John 3:16)
3. “...for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.” (Rom 10:10)
4. “For whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that has overcomes the world – our faith.” (1John 5:4)

Please memorize these four Scripture verses. May they become a song of triumph in our lives!

## Chapter 9: The Salvation of Man

## Notes

### Outline

- I. Jesus is the Savior of the World
- II. The Gospel of Salvation
- III. The Path of Salvation
- IV. The Purpose of Salvation

#### I. Jesus is the *Yeshuah* (salvation) of the World.

- A. The word translated as “salvation” in Hebrew is *yeshuah*, in Greek it is *soteria*. Both of these words convey the concept of deliverance, safety, victory, preservation, and salvation  
Note: *Yeshoshua*, a Hebrew word, means “The Lord Saves”. A shortened form of this word, with the same meaning, is *Yeshua*. In Greek it is *Iesous*; in Latin *Iesu*; in German and then English, it has become the word Jesus.
- B. The angel Gabriel instructed Mary to name the baby Jesus. Thus the name “Jesus” declared His mission.  
“...the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.” (Matt 20:28)
- C. Jesus is the one and only mediator between God and man: “For there is one God, and one mediator also between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself as a ransom for all...”  
(1Tim 2:5-6)

#### II. The Gospel of Salvation

- A. As Paul wrote to the church in Corinth, “Now I make known to you, brethren, the gospel...that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures.”  
(1Co 15:1-4) - this is the gospel, the “good news” of salvation.
- B. Salvation is found in the revelation of God the Father and in Jesus Christ, His only Begotten Son.  
“This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God (God the Father), and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.”  
(John 17:3)
- C. Salvation is the restoration of man by the grace God.
  - 1. Sin causes a separation from God producing spiritual death.  
Jesus came to earth to restore to all men their fellowship with God. He freely received upon Himself the wrath of God paying the penalty for our sins. The death of Jesus, with the shedding of His blood, paid our ransom, setting us free from spiritual death.  
“And you were dead in your trespasses and sins...we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest. But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ...”  
(Eph 2: 1, 3-5)  
“He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.” (2Co 5:21)  
Jesus said, “I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.” (John 10:10)

2. When studying the concept of our salvation, an understanding of certain words may help to clarify this life giving provision from God. First, let us focus upon this provision available to us, given by God in the death and the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

D. The provision of salvation is found in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

1. The Death of Jesus Christ

a. Vicarious – a substitution – one who takes the place of another; acting on another’s behalf

“He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.” (2Co 5:21)

b. Atonement – a covering – biblically, this term indicated that sins were covered but the guilt of the sin was not removed.

“For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins. Therefore, when He (Jesus) comes into the world, He says, “Sacrifice and offering You have not desired, but a body You have prepared for Me; in whole burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin You have taken no pleasure. Then I said, “Behold, I have come... to do Your will, O God’ ...By this will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.” (Heb10:4, 7, 10)

c. Propitiation - the turning away from wrath by a sacrifice

“Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him.” (Rom 5:9)

“And although you were formerly alienated and hostile in mind, engaged in evil deeds, yet He has now reconciled you in His fleshly body through death, in order to present you before Him holy and blameless and beyond reproach....” (Col 1:21-22)

d. Reconciliation – restoration of relationship – provided to us by God through the most precious gift of Jesus Christ

“For it was the Father’s good pleasure for all the fullness to dwell in Him (Jesus), and through Him to reconcile all things to Himself, having made peace through the blood of His cross...” (Col 1:19-20)

e. Redemption – the action of regaining possession of something in exchange for a payment. It is a releasing or liberation from captivity, a ransom.

“For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.” (Col 1:13-14)

“For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.” (Mark 10:45)

It is through the vicarious act of Jesus that the penalty of sin, which would have kept us permanently separated from God, was paid. The wrath of God was satisfied. We have been redeemed and reconciled to God. Hallelujah!

2. The Resurrection of Jesus Christ

a. The resurrection of Jesus was a “work” of the Trinity:

(1) The Father – “God raised Him up on the third day and granted that He become visible, not to all the people, but to witnesses who were chosen beforehand by God, that is, to us who ate and drank with Him after He arose from the dead.” (Acts 10:40-41)

- (2) The Son- “For this reason the Father loves Me (Jesus), because I lay down My life so that I may take it again. No one has taken it away from Me, but I lay it down on My own initiative. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again...” (John 10:17-18)
- (3) The Holy Spirit – “But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.” (Rom 8:11)
- b. The resurrection of Jesus identifies Him as being the Son of God  
“...concerning His Son, who was born of a descendant of David according to the flesh, who was declared the Son of God with power by the resurrection from the dead, according to the Spirit of holiness, Jesus Christ our Lord...”(Rom 1:3-4)
- c. The resurrection of Jesus is for eternity.  
Unlike every other individual who was raised from the dead in the Scripture and then died again, Jesus was not raised from the dead, He was resurrected from the dead and lives forevermore:  
“Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him, knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, is never to die again; death no longer is master over Him. For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God.” (Rom 6:8-10)
- d. Jesus Christ is the first fruits of those that are raised.  
The Lord Jesus has pre-eminence in all things:  
“But now Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who are asleep. For since by a man came death, by a man also came the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all will be made alive.” (1Co 15:20-22)
- e. Belief in the resurrection of Jesus is foundational to our salvation  
“...that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.” (Rom 10:9-10)
3. The Restoration of Mankind is a Work of the Trinity
- a. Just as the resurrection of Jesus Christ was a “work” of the Trinity, so, we too, are restored to God through the “work” of the Trinity.
- (1) We are justified or declared righteous, through the work of God the Father as Judge.  
“Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.” (Rom 5:1)  
“Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him.”  
(Rom 5:9)  
“He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”  
(2Co 5:21)  
This justification before God is not earned, it is only received through God’s grace.

“...being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus...” (Rom 3:24)

- (2) We are made Righteous through the work of Jesus Christ as our Savior
- (a) Righteousness is the character or quality of being right. This is a provision of God which is received when one trusts in the saving grace of the Lord Jesus Christ. We are not righteous, but we are declared righteous.  
“For as through the one man’s disobedience the many were made sinners, even so through the obedience of the One the many will be made righteous.” (Rom 5:19)
- (b) as Romans 4:3 notes, “...Abraham believed God, and it was credited (imputed) to him as righteousness.”
- (3) We are Regenerated – made new –through the work of the Holy Spirit as the restorer.
- (a) Salvation produces a radical change in which we see and hear things differently; we have a strong desire to know God and begin to seek after the things of God.  
“But when the kindness of God our Savior and His love for mankind appeared, He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out upon us, richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by His grace we would be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.” (Titus 3:4-7)
- (b) Regeneration is not an option or privilege, it is an absolute requirement if one is to be restored in his relationship with God. Jesus told Nicodemus:  
“Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.” (John 3:3)

### III. The Path of Salvation is the Gospel of Grace. (Acts 20:24)

“For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.” (Eph 2:8-9)

This verse identifies four “stepping stones” on this path:

1. For by grace – a sovereign, divine gift of God
2. You have been saved – the response of man to this grace
3. Through faith - not by our efforts or ability
4. It is the gift of God – a manifestation of the love and the mercy of God

#### A. For by grace – a divine gift given by God

1. Grace is the outworking of:
  - a. the nature
  - b. the purpose (the will)
  - c. and the conduct of God with mankind. Grace is a constant theme found throughout God’s interaction with mankind.
2. Grace in the Old Testament is expressed in the Hebrew word *chen*, which means “favor, grace”.  
Noah (Gen 6:8), Joseph (Gen 39:21), Israel (Ex 3:21), David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem (Zech 12:10) all received favor (*chen*) from the Lord.



3. Grace in the New Testament is expressed in the Greek word *charis*, which means “blessing, favor, kindness”.  
Mary (Luke 1:30), Jesus (Luke 2:40, John 1:14), the Apostles (Acts 4:33), Stephen (Acts 6:8), and David (Acts 7:46) all received favor from the Lord.
- a. The Source of Grace – a work of the Trinity
- (1) Given through the Father and through Jesus Christ  
(Rom 1:5, 1:7, 2Co 1:2; Gal 1:3; Eph 1:2; Phil 1:2; Col 1:2; 1Thes 1:1; 2Thess 1:2,12; 1Tim 1:2; 2Tim 1:2; Titus 1:4; Philemon 1:3; 2John 1:3)
  - (2) Given through the Father who is the source of grace  
“After you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen and establish you.” (1Pe 5:10)
  - (3) Given through Jesus Christ who is the giver of the gift of grace.  
“But the free gift is not like the transgression. For if by the transgression of the one the many died, much more did the grace of God and the gift by the grace of the one Man, Jesus Christ, abound to the many.” (Rom 5:15)  
“For if by the transgression of the one, death reigned through the one, much more those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.” (Rom 5:17)  
“For of His fullness we have all received, and grace upon grace.” (John 1:16)
  - (4) Given through the Holy Spirit who is the distributor of grace poured out upon us  
“...and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.” (Rom 5:5)  
“Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may know the things freely given to us by God...” (1Co 2:12)
- b. The Nature of Grace is the manifestation of who God is:
- (1) God is Gracious – “But I do not consider my life of any account as dear to myself, so that I may finish my course and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify solemnly of the gospel (good news) of the grace of God.” (Acts 20:24)
  - (2) The Sufficiency of Grace – “And He has said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness.” Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me.” (2Co 12:9)
  - (3) The Richness of Grace – “For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sake He became poor, so that you through His poverty might become rich.” (2Co 8:9)
- c. The Purpose of Grace - a demonstration of the character of God  
The working of grace demonstrates the inherent qualities of God directed toward mankind. “How blessed are the people whose God is the Lord!” (Ps 144:15)

- (1) God administers mercy at His throne of grace.  
“Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.” (Heb 4:16)  
Righteousness and justice are the foundation of the throne of God (Ps 89:14), but He is seated on the throne of grace, demonstrating mercy by His grace.
- (2) God administers His abundance of grace.  
“...and the grace of our Lord was more than abundant, with the faith and love which are found in Christ Jesus.” (1Tim 1:14)  
“And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that always having all sufficiency in everything, you may have an abundance for every good deed...” (2Co 9:8)
- (3) God administers His eternal comfort and good hope.  
“Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself and God our Father, who has loved us and given us eternal comfort and good hope by grace...” (2Thess 2:16)
- (4) God is a giver.  
“For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as the result of works, so that no one may boast.” (Eph 2:8-9)
- d. The Working of God’s grace is the vehicle by which God accomplishes His purposes with each man.
- (1) The working of God’s grace gives us the capacity to believe.  
“And when he (Apollos) wanted to go across to Achaia, the brethren encouraged him and wrote to the disciples to welcome him; and when he had arrived, he greatly helped those who had believed through grace...” (Acts 18:27)
- (2) The working of God’s grace is received by faith.  
“...through whom also we have obtained our introduction by faith into this grace in which we stand; and we exult in hope of the glory of God.” (Rom 5:2)
- (3) The working of God’s grace brings salvation.  
“For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men...” (Titus 2:11)
- (a) “But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved)” ... (Eph 2:4-5)
- (b) “...so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God...” (Eph 2:7-8)
- (c) “...who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was granted us in Christ Jesus from all eternity...” (2Tim 1:9)
- (4) The working of God’s grace provides for our justification.  
“...being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus...” (Rom 3:24)  
“...so that being justified by His grace we would be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.” (Titus 3:7)

- (5) The working of God's grace is the source of our sanctification.  
"But when God, who had set me apart even from my mother's womb and called me through His grace..." (Gal 1:15)
- (6) The working of God's grace enables right conduct.  
"For our proud confidence is this: the testimony of our conscience, that in holiness and godly sincerity, not in fleshly wisdom but in the grace of God, we have conducted ourselves in the world, and especially toward you." (2Co 1:12)
- (7) God's grace accomplishes the purposes of God.  
"According to the grace of God which was given to me, like a wise master builder I laid a foundation, and another is building on it. But each man must be careful how he builds on it." (1Co 3:10)
- (a) "But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me did not prove vain; but I labored even more than all of them, yet not I, but the grace of God with me." (1Co 15:10)
- (b) "So we urged Titus that as he had previously made a beginning, so he would also complete in you this gracious work as well. But just as you abound in everything, in faith and utterance and knowledge and in all earnestness and in the love we inspired in you, see that you abound in this gracious work also." (2Co 8:6)
- (8) God's grace strengthens our hearts.  
"Do not be carried away by varied and strange teachings; for it is good for the heart to be strengthened by grace, not by foods, through which those who were so occupied were not benefited." (Heb 13:9)
- (9) God's grace is the means of receiving spiritual gifts.  
"Since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, each of us is to exercise them accordingly: if prophecy, according to the proportion of his faith..." (Rom 12:6)
- (a) "But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift." (Eph 4:7)
- (b) "As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God." (1Pe 4:10)
- (10) God's grace provides enablement for ministry.  
(a) "...if indeed you have heard of the stewardship of God's grace which was given to me for you" ... (Eph 3:2)
- (b) "...of which I was made a minister, according to the gift of God's grace which was given to me according to the working of His power. To me, the very least of all saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unfathomable riches of Christ." (Eph 3:7)
- (11) God's grace gives strength.  
"You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus." (2Tim 2:1)
- (12) God's grace gives Him glory.  
"For all things are for your sakes, so that the grace which is spreading to more and more people may cause the giving of thanks to abound to the glory of God." (2Co 4:15)

(13) God's grace is present when Christ is revealed to us.

"Therefore, prepare your minds for action, keep sober in spirit, fix your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ." (1Pe 1:13)

(14) God's grace is not of works.

"In the same way then, there has also come to be at the present time a remnant according to God's gracious choice. But if it is by grace, it is no longer on the basis of works, otherwise grace is no longer grace." (Rom 11:5-6)

e. Man's Response to Grace

Man can either accept or reject the grace of God:

(1) Acceptance of God's grace occurs when a heart is humble:

"But He gives a greater grace. Therefore it says, "God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble."" (James 4:6)

You younger men, likewise, be subject to your elders; and all of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, for God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble." (1Pe 5:5)

(2) Rejection of God's grace brings pride.

(a) We are judged by our response to God's grace.

"How much severer punishment do you think he will deserve who has trampled underfoot the Son of God, and has regarded as unclean the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has insulted the Spirit of grace?" (Heb 10:29)

(b) We can fall short of God's grace.

"See to it that no one comes short of the grace of God; that no root of bitterness springing up causes trouble, and by it many be defiled. (Heb 12:15)

"You have been severed from Christ, you who are seeking to be justified by law; you have fallen from grace." (Gal 5:4)

(c) We can improperly use God's grace.

"For certain persons have crept in unnoticed, those who were long beforehand marked out for this condemnation, ungodly persons who turn the grace of God into licentiousness and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ." (Jude 1:4)

(d) God's grace can be received in vain - "And working together with Him, we also urge you not to receive the grace of God in vain..." (2Co 6:1)

(e) God's grace can be nullified - "I do not nullify the grace of God, for if righteousness comes through the Law, then Christ died needlessly." (Gal 2:21)

B. You have been saved - our response to the grace of God

1. Salvation is received by trusting and calling on God.

"And it will come about that whoever calls on the name of the Lord will be delivered; for on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there will be those who escape, as the Lord has said, even among the survivors whom the Lord calls." (Joel 2:32)

"And it shall be that everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." (Acts 2:21, Rom 10:13) - this refers to both Jew and Gentile

2. The provision is universal, however, not everyone calls upon the Lord. "For many are called, but few are chosen."  
(Matt 22:14)
- C. Through Faith – our salvation is not the result of our efforts or ability, but solely the result of God's gift of faith given to each man.
  1. "Saving faith" is a Spirit prompted conviction of the truth of the redemptive work of Jesus Christ. It is a required response necessary for one's salvation.
  2. It is by grace that we are placed on this path of salvation. We are directed by the Holy Spirit to walk on this path by faith.  
"And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose. For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren; and these whom He predestined He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified; and these whom He justified, He also glorified."  
(Rom 8:28-30)
    - a. from God's perspective – He foreknew, predestined, justified
    - b. from man's perspective – We are called, conformed, glorified
  3. Foreordaining and Foreknowledge
    - a. Foreordaining – this occurs when God determines to bring something to pass
    - b. Foreknowledge – this occurs when God allows or permits something to happen  
A story is told about a man laboring up a hill burdened with guilt and sin. He sees the door of salvation ahead which says, "Whosoever Will May Come". He rejoices as his burden is rolled away, he looks back at the door after walking through and above the door it says, "Chosen in Him Before the Foundation of the World".
    - c. God, in his foreknowledge, looks ahead to events much as we look back at them.
    - d. Foreknowledge no more changes the nature of future events than after knowledge can change an historical fact. (Duffield)
  4. Election – God's identification of those who believe "in Christ".  
"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself..." (Eph 1:3-5)
    - a. Election focuses upon those who are found in Christ. God does not look at a man as an individual apart from Christ. He looks to see if that individual is or is not "in Christ".
    - b. A man is found "in Christ" if, by grace through faith, he believes and receives the redeeming work of Christ.
    - c. God does not determine who should be "in Christ", He simply sees that man "in Christ" and He chooses him.

5. Predestined – a predetermined response of God to those found to be “in Christ”.
- a. Election is God’s choice of those “in Christ”, predestination addresses what will happen to all believers “in Christ”.
  - b. God has predestined His elect, those found to be “in Christ”, to exhibit the nature, character, and conduct of God:
    - (1) By Nature – who we are to be “in Christ”
      - we are called according to His purpose (Rom 8:28)
      - (a) we are to be redeemed (Eph 1:7)
      - (b) we are to be adopted as His sons through Jesus Christ (Eph 1:5)
      - (c) we are to be sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit (Eph 1:13),
      - (d) we are to be recipients of an inheritance by God’s grace. (Eph 1:14)
      - (e) we are to be saints (Rom 1:7)
      - (f) we are to receive eternal life (1Pe 5:10)
      - (g) we are to be called out of the darkness into His marvelous light (1Pet 2:9).
    - “And it shall be that everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”(Acts 2:21)
    - “For consider your calling, brethren, that there were not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, but God has chosen the foolish things of the world to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to shame the things which are strong, and the base things of the world and the despised God has chosen... so that no man may boast before God.” (1Co 1:26-29)
      - this is the infinite love of God for man
    - (2) By Character- what we are to be “in Christ”
      - we are to be conformed to the image of His Son (Rom 8:29)
      - The Greek word for conformed is *summorphos* (*sun* – with, *morphe*- a form) which means to make of like form, similar.
      - “And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.” (Rom 12:2)
      - “...that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death; in order that I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.” (Phil 3:10-11)
      - (a) Our Growth “in Christ”
        - “...but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ, from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.” (Eph 4:15-16)
        - It has been ordained that we begin our spiritual lives as infants “in Christ” and grow into maturity “in Christ”:
      - (b) Attributes of Infants “in Christ”
        - we are being conformed to the image of Christ. (Rom 8:29)
        - we are chosen. (Eph 1:4)
        - we are created to do good works. (Eph 2:10)

- we are free from the law of sin and death. (Rom 8:2)
  - we are holy and blameless. (Eph 1:4)
  - we are "in Christ" by the will of God. (1Co 1:30)
  - we are loved. (Rom 8:39)
  - we are no longer condemned. (Rom 8:1)
  - we are recipients of the Holy Spirit. (Eph 1:13)
  - we are redeemed. (Rom 3:24)
  - we are righteous. (Phil 3:9)
  - we are sanctified. (1Co 1:2)
  - we are saved. (2Tim 1:9, 2Tim 2:10)
  - we are taught. (Eph 4:21)
  - we are the called. (2Tim 1:9)
  - we are triumphant. (2Co 2:14)
  - we have all needs supplied. (Phil 4:19)
  - we have been adopted as God's child. (Eph 1:5)
  - we have been brought near by the blood of Christ. (Eph2:13)
  - we have been justified. (Gal 2:16)
  - we have believed in Christ Jesus (Gal 2:16)
  - we have faith in the Son of God. (Gal 2:20)
  - we have life. (Rom 6:11, 6:23, 1Co 15:22)
  - we have received every spiritual blessing. (Eph 1:3)
  - we have received grace. (1Co 1:4, Eph 2:7)
  - we have received kindness. (Eph 2:7)
- "And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual men, but as to men of flesh, as to infants "in Christ" ." (1Co 3:1)

(c) Attributes of the Sons of God – mature

- we are able to forgive. (Eph 4:32)
  - we are chosen. (Eph 1:4)
  - we are confident in Christ's faithfulness. (Phil 1:6)
  - we are established and anointed. (2Co 1:21)
  - we are heirs receiving an inheritance. (Eph 3:6)
  - we are one body. (Rom 12:5, Gal 3:28)
  - we speak the truth. (Rom 9:1)
  - we will receive eternal glory. (1Pe 5:10)
  - we will be persecuted. (2Tim 3:12)
- "but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory, both now and to the day of eternity. Amen." (2Pe 3:18)
- "For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus."  
(Gal 3:26)

(3) By Conduct – how we respond to the grace found "in Christ"

- we are to be glorifiers of God (1Co 6:20)

Definition – glorify - *doxazo*

- to praise, extol, magnify, celebrate, to hold in honor
- found in the relationship of the Trinity; how redeemed man relates to the Trinity
- to render excellent, adorn with luster, clothe with splendor, to cause the dignity and worth of some person to become magnified or acknowledged; how God relates to those that are redeemed
- with salvation we become sons of God and co-heirs with Christ (Rom 8:16-17)

(a) Glorification is an attribute of the Trinity

-The Father glorifies Jesus

Jesus answered, "If I glorify Myself, My glory is nothing; it is My Father who glorifies Me, of whom you say, 'He is our God...' (John 8:54)

- Jesus glorifies the Father

"Jesus spoke these things; and lifting up His eyes to heaven, He said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify Your Son, that the Son may glorify You..." (John 17:1)

"I glorified You on the earth, having accomplished the work which You have given Me to do. Now, Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was." (John 17:4-5)

- Jesus is glorified by the Holy Spirit

"He (Holy Spirit) will glorify Me, for He will take of Mine and will disclose it to you." (John 16:14)

"These things His disciples did not understand at the first; but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things were written of Him, and that they had done these things to Him." (John 12:16)

(b) Glorification is an attribute of the redeemed

"Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven." (Matt 5:16)

"My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples." (John 15:8)

"Whatever you ask in My name, that will I do, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son." (John 14:13)

"Now this He said, signifying by what kind of death he (Peter) would glorify God. And when He had spoken this, He said to him, "Follow Me!" (John 21:19) - John is testifying of how Peter died. We too, glorify God by how we live and die.

D. It is The Gift of God - our inheritance found in Christ

1. We are fellow heirs "in Christ."

- a. A key to understanding our inheritance is to focus upon the phrase, "in Christ". An inheritance is given because we are sons and daughters; it is our relationship with God which positions us to receive an inheritance. God's inheritance is given to those found to be "in Christ".

"For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, "Abba! Father!" The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him so that we may also be glorified with Him." (Rom 8:14-17)

"Therefore you are no longer a slave, but a son; and if a son, then an heir through God." (Gal 4:7)

- b. The Greek word for inheritance is *kleronomeo* which means to receive as one's own. Our inheritance "in Christ" is:  
(1) due to our sonship. (Eph 1:5,11; Col 3:24, Heb 6:12,9:15)



- (2) acquired through faith and patience. (Heb 6:12)
- (3) received because of obedience to certain precepts. (1Pe 3:9)
- (4) given to the meek. (humble, gentle) (Matt 5:5)
- (5) given to those that show kindness to a brother in distress. (Matt 25:34-36)

2. Our response to so great a salvation (Rom 8:31-39)

- a. "What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who is against us?" (Rom 8:31)
- b. "He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things?" (Rom 8:32)
- c. "...Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us." (Rom 8:34)
- d. "Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?" (Rom 8:35)
- e. "But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Rom 8:37-39)

IV. The Purpose of Salvation is "... the summing up of all things in Christ." (Eph 1:9-10)

A. God is Purposeful

"...God, who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was granted us in Christ Jesus from all eternity." (2Tim 1:9)

"He made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His kind intention which He (God) purposed in Him...the summing up of all things in Christ, things in the heavens and things on earth." (Eph 1:9-10)

B. God's Purpose for Mankind

1. God the Father

"And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose." (Rom 8:28) – not our purpose

2. Jesus Christ, the Son of God

"In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, having been Predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will, to the end that we who were the first to hope in Christ would be to the praise of His glory." (Eph 1:11-12)

Jesus Christ came "bringing many sons to glory" (Heb 2:10), those "conformed to the image of His Son" (Rom 8:29). He came for us to be glorified (Rom 8:30); that Christ would be "the firstborn among many brethren" (Rom 8:29). It is in us and through us, those found to be "in Christ", that the Son of God is glorified (John 17:10), just as Christ glorified the Father. (John 17:4).

3. The Holy Spirit

"In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation – having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of God's own possession, to the praise of His glory."

(Eph 1:13-14)

4. Jesus Christ will receive preeminence for eternity:

- a. "He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation." (Col 1:15)
- b. "For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities – all things have been created through Him and for Him." (Col 1:16)
- c. "He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together." (Col 1:17)
- d. "He is also the head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that He Himself will come to have first place in everything." (Col 1:18)
- e. Our glory will be because of His glory, our righteousness His righteousness, our holiness His holiness. We are redeemed, sanctified, and eternally glorified "in Christ" This is "the summing up of all things in Christ, things in the heavens and things on the earth." (Eph 1:10)
- f. "For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ; who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself." (Phil 3:20)  
Even so, come quickly Lord Jesus, and take us home. We eagerly wait for Your return! Amen.

Study the Word

1. Please underline in your Bible and memorize the following verses:

- "For there is one God, and one mediator also between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself as a ransom for all...." (1Tim 2:5-6)
- "For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures..." (1Cor 15:3-4)
- "For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast." (Eph 2:8-9)
- "And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose. For those whom He foreknew, He predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren; and these whom He predestined He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified; and these whom he justified, He also glorified" (Rom 8:28-30)

2. Why Should We Memorize the Scripture?

- a. It fills our mind with truth. (Phil 4:8)
- b. We come to know the truth. (John 8:31-32)
- c. It gives the Holy Spirit something to bring to our remembrance. (John 14:26)
- d. It prepares us to meditate on the word of God. (Psalm 1:1-3)  
As we study this material, we should not be in a hurry. It may take several weeks to look up and to underline important verses. Ask the Holy Spirit to show you which additional verses you are to memorize.

In the days to come these verses that you hide in your heart may be a lifeline for you and for others. There is great power and spiritual encouragement in our lives when the Holy Spirit brings Scripture verse forth from our “wellspring of Scripture memory”. These instances often produce edification, and comfort to all, building up the Body and advancing the kingdom of God.

## Chapter 10: The Working of the Holy Spirit

## Notes

### Outline

- I. The Working of the Holy Spirit in the Old Testament
- II. The Working of the Holy Spirit in the Gospels
  - in the birth, the ministry, the death, and the resurrection of Jesus Christ
- III. The Working of the Holy Spirit in the Epistles
  - in the Church, the Body of Christ

#### I. The Working of the Holy Spirit in The Old Testament

Initially, the Holy Spirit was involved with the creation and the maintenance of the earth, including mankind. This was followed by special empowerments for individuals, such as Bezalel (Ex 31:3), Moses (Num 11:17), and then the Judges. During the time of Samuel, Israel's last and greatest judge, the kingly anointing began, with Saul and David. The prophetic word, directed by the Holy Spirit gave guidance and direction, both to the kings as well as to His chosen people.

Following the destruction and the exile of Israel, the Holy Spirit began to encourage those displaced in foreign lands, speaking through the prophets of a regathering and restoration of the nation of Israel. This event would be accomplished by their Messiah who would come in power to reign and rule. The Holy Spirit prophetically spoke of this coming Messiah. Jesus Christ came, redeeming not only Israel, but all mankind, by the shedding of His blood and the working of the Holy Spirit. (John 3:5-8)

#### II. The Working of the Holy Spirit in the Gospels

Within the gospel writings, a pattern emerges concerning the working of the Holy Spirit. First the Holy Spirit speaks prophetically (through angels and people) followed by the fulfillment of the prophetic word.

The ministry of the Holy Spirit in the gospels is to support the life and ministry of Jesus Christ: first in His birth, secondly in His preparation for ministry, thirdly in assisting Jesus in His ministry, and lastly in assuming and completing the work of God in the building and maturing of the Body of Christ.

##### A. The creative work of the Holy Spirit in the birth of Jesus

- 1. Prophetic Pronouncements of Jesus' Birth
  - a. The angel Gabriel (Luke 1:30-35)
  - b. Elizabeth (Luke 1:41-45)
- 2. Prophetic Fulfillment- The Birth of Jesus (Matt 1:18-25)

##### B. The empowering work of the Holy Spirit at the beginning of the ministry of Jesus

- 1. Prophetic Pronouncement of the Ministry of Jesus
  - a. Simeon prophecies shortly after Jesus' birth (Luke 2:25-35)
  - b. John the Baptist prophecies before Jesus is baptized. (Matt 3:11, Mark 1:8, Luke 3:16)
- 2. Prophetic Fulfillment of the Ministry of Jesus
  - a. Began at the Baptism of Jesus by John the Baptist
    - (1) Spoken by the Father at the baptism of Jesus (Matt 3:17, Mark 1:11))
    - (2) Witnessed by the Holy Spirit (Matt 3:16, Luke 3:22)

(3) Testified by John the Baptist – the Holy Spirit remained upon Him (John 1:32-34)

b. Demonstrated by the testing of Jesus in the wilderness

(1) Jesus was led by the Spirit in the wilderness (Matt 4:1, Mark 1:12, Luke 4:1)

(2) Jesus came out of the wilderness in the power of the Spirit (Luke 4:14)

C. The redeeming work of the Holy Spirit during the ministry of Jesus

1. Prophetic Pronouncement

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor...” (Luke 4:18)

In the gospels we see the role of the Holy Spirit as empowering the ministry of Jesus on the earth. The Holy Spirit descended at the Baptism of Jesus, bearing witness and sanctifying the ministry of Jesus. Jesus testified of this fact in his hometown of Nazareth. (Luke 4:16)

2. Prophetic Fulfillment

Jesus was sent by the Father and supported by the Holy Spirit during His earthly ministry. It was through the ministry of Jesus that the direction of the Father, the obedience of the Son, Jesus Christ, and the unifying work of the Holy Spirit is revealed to the world.

a. “You know of Jesus of Nazareth, how God anointed Him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and how He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil...” (Acts 10:38)

b. “...I (the Father) will put My Spirit upon Him, and He shall proclaim justice to the Gentiles.” (Matt 12:18)

c. “...how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him?” (Luke 11:13)

d. “For it is not you who speak, but it is the Spirit of your Father who speaks in you.” (Matt 10:20)

D. The restoring work of the Holy Spirit

- establishing a foundation for the New Testament church

1. Prophetic Pronouncement of Jesus at the beginning of His ministry

a. “...unless one is born of water and the Spirit he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.” (John 3:5-6)

b. “The wind blows where it wishes...so is everyone who is born of the Spirit.” (John 3:8)

c. “For He whom God has sent speaks the words of God; for He gives the Spirit without measure.” (John 3:34)

d. “It is the Spirit who gives life...” (John 6:63)

e. “He who believes in Me...from his innermost being will flow rivers of living water. But this He spoke of the Spirit...” (John 7:38-39)

2. The prophetic pronouncement of Jesus about the working of the Holy Spirit at the end of His ministry. This was fulfilled after His ascension into heaven.

- a. "I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever, that is the Spirit of truth..." (John 14:16-17)
  - b. "He will glorify Me, for He will take of Mine and will disclose it to you." (John 16:14)
  - c. "But the Helper, the Holy Spirit...He will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you." (John 14:26)
  - d. "When the Helper comes...the Spirit of truth...He will testify about Me." (John 15:26)
  - e. "...he (Jesus) breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit."" (John 20:22)
3. A summary of the role of the Holy Spirit revealed in the gospels. It is through the ministry of Jesus that we are introduced to the Holy Spirit. In John Chapter 3 we learn of the nature of the Holy Spirit and the role of the Holy Spirit in salvation. In John 6, we see the power of the Holy Spirit in our sanctification. In John, Chapters 14-16, Jesus reveals the role of the Holy Spirit once Jesus ascends into heaven.

### III. The Working of the Holy Spirit in the Epistles

In this next section, we will focus upon the three primary roles of the Holy Spirit recorded in the New Testament: the creative, the transforming, and the unifying work of the Holy Spirit.

- The creative work of the Holy Spirit – the gift of spiritual life available to mankind by the Holy Spirit – salvation (John 3:5-6)
- The transforming work of the Spirit in the life of the believer
  - sanctification (Titus 3:5, Heb 9:14)
  - communion - abiding, walking, fruitfulness (1 John 3:24)
- The empowering work of the Holy Spirit is imparted through the ministry of the Holy Spirit and consists of four distinct activities:
  - The Baptism of the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:8)
  - The Pneumatikos – manifestations of the Spirit
  - The Holy Spirit as Administrator of Gifts (1Co 12:11)
  - The Holy Spirit as Administrator of the Church (Acts 1:2)

#### A. The Creative Work of the Holy Spirit (John 3:5-6)

The Holy Spirit imparts the gift of spiritual life, made available by the sacrificial death of Jesus on the cross, to all mankind.

- salvation – the gift the Holy Spirit gives to the world
  - although salvation is available to all, not all receive this gift
1. Receiving the Holy Spirit by faith
    - a. "...did you receive the Spirit by the works of the Law or by hearing with faith?" (Gal 3:2)
    - b. "Christ redeemed us from the curse of the Law...in order that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we would receive the promise of the Spirit through faith." (Gal 3:13-14)
  2. Believers are sealed in the Holy Spirit at the time of salvation
    - a. "In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation - having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is given as a pledge of our inheritance..." (Eph 1:13)
    - b. "...God...sealed us and gave us the Spirit in our hearts as a pledge." (2Co 1:21-22)

- B. The Transforming Power of the Holy Spirit (Titus 3:5, Heb 9:14)
1. The Holy Spirit is the Sanctifier in the life of the believer.  
(Titus 3:5, Heb 9:14)
    - a. "...God has chosen you from the beginning for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and faith in the truth."  
(2Thess 2:13)
    - b. "... by the sanctifying work of the Spirit, to obey Jesus Christ and be sprinkled with His blood..." (1Pe 1:2)
    - c. "...you were washed...sanctified...justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God." (1Co 6:11)
    - d. "...So, he who rejects this (sanctification) is not rejecting man but the God who gives His Holy Spirit to you."  
(1Thess 4:8)
    - e. "...but if by the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live." (Rom 8:13)
    - f. "...your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you..."  
(1Co 6:19)
    - g. "But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in the love of God..." (Jude 1:20)
    - h. "For we through the Spirit, by faith, are waiting for the hope of righteousness." (Gal 5:5)
  2. Communion with God and fellowship with man is accomplished through the personal ministry of the Comforter (*parakletos*)
    - a. Communion with God – abiding with God (John 15:4-5, 9-10)
      - (1) Abiding in the Spirit
        - (a) "...we know by this that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us." (1John 3:24)
        - (b) "By this we know that we abide in Him and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit." (1John4:13)
      - (2) Walking in the Spirit
        - (a) "...walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh." (Gal 5:16)
        - (b) "But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the Law." (Gal 5:18)
        - (c) "If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit."  
(Gal 5:25)
        - (d) "For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God." (Rom 8:14)
      - (3) The Comforter – (John 14:16, 26; 15:26; 16:7)
        - (a) "...the Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God...heirs of God, and fellow heirs with Christ..."  
(Rom 8:16-17)
        - (b) "But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in You, He...will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit..." (Rom 8:11)
    - b. Fellowship With Man – loving one another (John 15:12-13)  
The Fruit of the Spirit
      - (1) "...But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control..." (Gal 5:22)
      - (2) "...the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us." (Rom 5:5)

- (3) "...for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit."  
(Rom 14:17)
- (4) "Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you will abound in hope by the power\_of the Holy Spirit." (Rom 15:13)
- (5) "...having received the word in much tribulation with the joy of the Holy Spirit." (1Thes 1:6)
- (6) "...but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace."  
(Rom 8:6)

### C. The Empowering Work of the Holy Spirit

#### 1. The Baptism of the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:8)

##### a. Prophesied

##### (1) by John the Baptist:

"...As for me, I baptize you with water; but One is coming who is mightier than I, and I am not fit to untie the thong of His sandals; He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire." (Luke 3:16)

##### (2) by Jesus Christ:

"And I (Peter) remembered the word of the Lord, how He used to say, 'John baptized you with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.'" (Acts 11:16) (Acts 1:4-5)

##### b. The Baptism of the Holy Spirit is a sovereign work of the Father and the Son.

(1) The Baptism of the Holy Spirit is an outpouring of the grace of God, in the person of the Holy Spirit, upon those found to be "in Christ".

(2) The Baptism of the Holy Spirit proceeds from the Father and is poured out through the Son

- (a) "Therefore having been exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He (Jesus) has poured forth this which you both see and hear." (Acts 2:33)
- (b) "And it shall be in the last days, God says, "that I will pour forth of My Spirit on all mankind..." (Acts 2:17)
- (c) "...even on My bondslaves...I will in those days pour forth of My Spirit." (Acts 2:18)
- (d) "...the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who were listening... the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also." (Acts 10:44-45)

##### c. The Baptism of the Holy Spirit refers to the experience of being filled with the Holy\_Spirit

(1) The word "filled" is the English translation of the Greek word *pimplemi* which means "to fill to the full". This word *pimplemi* is used to describe the response of people to the truth of the gospel as declared by Jesus. Individuals were either filled with acceptance or with the rejection of the truth of God:

- (a) those who reject truth  
- rage (Luke 4:28, Acts 6:11, 19:28), jealousy (Acts 5:17,13:45)
- b) those who accept  
- astonishment (Luke 5:26), wonder, amazement (Acts 3:10)



- (2) This word, *pimplemi* is also used to describe the “filling to the full” of the Holy Spirit which provides to those who are filled, an enablement to accomplish a God-given task:
- (a) “Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, “Rulers and elders of the people...by the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead... by this name this man stands here before you in good health.”” (Acts 4:8-10)
  - (b) “...and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak the word of God with boldness.” (Acts 4:31)
  - (c) “...but being full of the Holy Spirit, he gazed intently into heaven, and saw the glory of God...” (Acts 7:55)
  - (d) “Ananias... after laying his hands on him said, “Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road by which you were coming, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.... immediately he began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues.”(Acts 9:17,20)
  - (e) “But Saul...filled with the Holy Spirit, fixed his gaze on him...” (Acts 13:9)
  - (f) “And do not get drunk with wine...but be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs...” (Eph 5:18)
- d. The purpose of the baptism of the Holy Spirit for us to:
- to be witness for God (Acts 1:8)
  - to declare the Word of God with power (Acts 2:14-41)
  - to impart to other believers the baptism of the Holy Spirit by the laying on of hands (Acts 9:17)
- (1) Witnesses of God
- (a) Jesus gave the eleven the “job description” of their future ministry before His ascension into heaven:  
“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem (Acts 2:14-5:15), and in all Judea (Acts 5:16) and Samaria (Acts 8:14-25), and even to the remotest part of the earth (Acts 23:11).” (Acts 1:8)
  - (b) The Day of Pentecost
    - The eleven began their ministry of “being witnesses” on the day of Pentecost after being filled with the Holy Spirit:
    - “this Man (Jesus), delivered over by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, you nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men and put Him to death. But God raised Him up again, putting an end to the agony of death, since it was impossible for Him to be held in its power.” (Acts 2:23-24)
    - the apostles became witnesses for God (Acts 1:8, 2:32)
    - witnesses (*martur* – one who “bears witness” ) (Acts 1:8, 2:32, 3:15, 5:32,10:39, 13:31)
    - from this word *martur*, we derive the word martyr, which describes one who witnesses by life and, at times, by death.
- (2) Declaring the Word of God with Power – witnesses for Jesus
- (a) those present “...were pieced to the heart and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles,” Brethren, what shall

- we do? Peter said to them, "Repent and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." (Acts 2:37-38)
- (b) "But they were unable to cope with the wisdom and the Spirit with which he was speaking." (Acts 6:10)
  - (c) "For I will not presume to speak of anything except what Christ has accomplished through me... in the power of signs and wonders, in the power of the Spirit...I have fully preached the gospel of Christ." (Rom 15:18-19)
  - (d) "...my message and my preaching were not in persuasive words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power..." (1Co 2:4)
  - (e) "...our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction..." (1Thess 1:5)
- (3) To impart to other believers the baptism of the Holy Spirit by the laying on of hands (Acts 9:17)
- (a) The Laying on of Hands - a means of imparting spiritual gifts
    - Jesus demonstrated the importance of the laying on of hands in the healing and the blessing of others:

"And they were bringing children to Him so that He might touch them; but the disciples rebuked them. But when Jesus saw this, He was indignant and said to them, 'Permit the children to come to Me...and He took them in His arms and began blessing them, laying His hands on them.'" (Mark 10:13-14, 16)

"While the sun was setting, all those who had any who were sick with various diseases brought them to Him; and laying His hands on each one of them, He was healing them." (Luke 4:40)
    - Believers receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit by the laying on of hands.

The laying on of hands was, according to Hebrews 6:2, a foundational teaching in the church. It was used on more than one occasion to baptize others in the Holy Spirit.
    - Peter and John went to Samaria and "began laying their hands on them, and they were receiving the Holy Spirit." (Acts 8:17)
    - Ananias laid his hands on Saul and he regained his sight and was filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word with boldness. (Acts 9:17)
    - Paul (after 12 men were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus)" laid his hands upon them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they began to speaking with tongues and prophesying." (Acts 19:6)

This was a distinct second act which occurred after their baptism in the name of the Lord Jesus.
    - Blessing and healing may occur without the laying on of hands, and so too the baptism of the Holy Spirit, such as at the house of Cornelius (Acts 10:44).
  - (b) Impartation of specific giftings of the Holy Spirit by the laying on of hands.

- "Do not neglect the spiritual gift within you, which was bestowed on you through prophetic utterance with the laying on of hands by the presbytery." (1Tim 4:14)
- "...I remind you to kindle afresh the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands." (2Tim 1:6)
  - this gift was apparent to Paul and to Timothy
- "Guard, through the Holy Spirit who dwells in us, the treasure which has been entrusted to you." (2Tim 1:14)
- God requires a faithfulness from us which is greater than can we maintain without the power of the Holy Spirit.

## 2. The Pneumatikos

- a. All Godly gifts emanate from the grace of God. When considering gifts of the Holy Spirit it is important to remember that these gifts are manifestations of the working of the Holy Spirit through our lives. In the Greek, the word used for this is *pneumatikos*, which according to Vine's Dictionary, "always connotes the ideas of invisibility and power". While the Holy Spirit Himself is not seen, the working of the Holy Spirit is visible.

"Now concerning spiritual gifts (*pneumatikos*), brethren, I do not want you to be unaware." (1Cor 12:1)
- b. The word *pneumatikos* is only found in the Epistles, historically after Pentecost. Any gift given for the common good and empowered by the Holy Spirit would be a *pneumatikos*. These gifts are manifestations of the Holy Spirit administered by the Holy Spirit.
- c. The working (*energeo*) of the Holy Spirit includes the distribution of spiritual gifts:

"But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually just as He wills." (1Co 12:11)

Such gifting is not an indication of one's spirituality, but it is based upon the sovereign will of God, given for the common good.

## 3. The Gifts of Healing

Divine healing is mentioned as a manifestation of the Holy Spirit in 1Co 12:9, it is also addressed in James 5:13-16.

### a. The Purpose of Divine Healing

- (1) To give glory to God (the Father)
  - as with the healing of the paralytic in (Matt 9:8) for "when the crowds saw this, they were awestruck and glorified God."
- (2) To fulfill Scripture (Jesus Christ)
  - at Capernaum (Matt 8:16-17) "He cast out the spirits with a word, and healed all who were sick...to fulfill what was spoken through Isaiah the prophet: He Himself took our infirmities, and carried away our diseases."
- (3) To destroy the works of the devil by the power of the Holy Spirit
  - you know "...how God anointed Him (Jesus Christ) with the Holy Spirit and with power, and how He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him." (Acts 10:38)
- (4) To manifest our life "in Christ" in our body, our soul, and our spirit. (Believers in Jesus Christ)

- "But we have this treasure in earthen vessels...always carrying about in the body the dying of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body. For we who live are constantly being delivered over to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh. (2Co 4:7,10-11)
- this is the sustaining work of the Holy Spirit.
- b. The Provision of Divine Healing
  - Divine healing is made available by the atoning work of Jesus Christ:
  - "...He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed (*iaomai*)." (1Pe 2:24)
  - *iaomai* – speaks of physical healing
- c. The Power for Divine Healing
  - The provision for divine healing is found in the person of Jesus Christ and is administered by the Holy Spirit through divinely ordained promises, provisions, and providences.
  - "But one and the same Spirit works all these things (the *pneumatikos*), distributing to each one individually just as He wills." (1Co 12:11)
- d. The Pathways of Divine Healing
  - Unique in the New Testament is the direction given to us in James 5:13-16 concerning divine healing.
  - (1) "Is anyone among you suffering? Then he must pray."  
(James 5:13)
    - *kakopatheo* (*kako* – evil, *patheo* – to suffer hardship)
    - we are to pray during times of persistent suffering and prolonged hardship, by doing so we grow strong in our faith providing an environment for the Holy Spirit to work.
  - (2) "Is anyone among you sick? Then he must call for the elders of the church and they are to pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord; and the prayer offered in faith will restore the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up, and if he has committed sins, they will be forgiven him."  
(James 5:14-15)
    - sick –*astheneo*– sick, weak, or disabled
    - those gathered at the Pool of Bethesda (John5:3)
    - elders (*presbuteroi*) – those spiritually mature
    - the oil is a reminder that the healing is solely a work of the Holy Spirit, and not the gifting of man.
  - (3) "Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another so that you may be healed (*iamoi*)." (James 5:16)
    - confess – *exomologeo* – to confess forth, freely and openly
    - a public acknowledgment or confession of sin  
(Matt 3:6, Mark 1:5, Acts 19:18)
    - to one another – this means one to one, it focuses on our relationships with others, often dealing with anger, offenses, unforgiveness, etc.
  - (4) "...and to another gifts (*charismata*) of healing by the one Spirit" (1Co 12:9)
    - *chaismata* – grace – this is the only "gift" of the nine that is plural, implying that this is a *pneumatikos*, a

spiritual manifestation of the Holy Spirit.

- Divine healing is a manifestation of the grace of God. It is received through faith as is the gift of salvation.

#### 4. Prophecy

In 1 Corinthians 14, Paul outlines the guidelines for the purpose of prophecy in the church. For the believer, prophecy is used to instruct (1Co 14:19) and as a sign (1Co 14:21). For an unbeliever, prophecy is used to convict, "...so he will fall on his face and worship God declaring that 'God is certainly among you'". (1Co 14:25)

Prophetic instruction, according to 1 Co 14:3, has within the message three functions:

"But one who prophesies speaks to men for edification and exhortation and consolation." (1Co 14:3)

(1) Edification – *oikodome* – building up, the act of one who promotes another's growth in Christ

- this can apply to a single person (Rom 14:19, 15:2) or to groups of people (1Co 14:26; Eph 4:12,16, 29)

"...but one who prophesies edifies the church." (1Co 14:4)

(2) Exhortation – *paraklesis* – a calling to one's side, an appeal, an entreaty

(a) Exhortation is a character quality of God:

"For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, so that through perseverance and the encouragement (*paraklesis*) of the Scriptures we might have hope. Now may the God who gives perseverance and encouragement (*paraklesis*) grant you to be of the same mind with one another according to Christ Jesus..." (Rom 15:4-5)

(b) Exhortation is a manifestation of God's grace.

"Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself and God our Father, who has loved us and given us eternal comfort and good hope (*paraklesis*) by grace, comfort and strengthen your hearts in every good work and word." (2Thess 2:16)

(c) Exhortation is a spiritual gift.

"Since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, each of us is to exercise them accordingly... he who exhorts, in his exhortation..." (Rom 12:6-8)

(3) Consolation – *paramuthia* – speaking closely to anyone, a comfort with a greater degree of tenderness than *paraklesis*  
This is the only time, in 1 Cor 14:3, that the word *paramuthia* is used in the Scriptures.

#### 5. The Holy Spirit is the administrator of the spiritual gifts

a. The giving of spiritual gifts is an activity of every member of the Trinity. It is the role of the Holy Spirit to administrate these gifts. There are four listings of spiritual gifts in the New Testament; each presenting a different aspect of both the gift and the giver:

(1) God (the Father) as the giver of spiritual gifts:

"...God has allotted to each a measure of faith... Since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, each of us is to exercise them accordingly; if prophesy, according to the proportion of his faith; if service, in his serving; or he who

teaches, in his teaching; or he who exhorts, in his exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.” (Rom12:3, 6-8)

(a) Principle – gifts are given according to the grace of God, the magnitude of the gift, is not determined by our ability, but by the measure of faith given to us by God.

“And God has appointed in the church, first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, various kinds of tongues.” (1Co 12:28)

- appointed (*tithemi* – to place, to set, to assign)

- this list is placed within the context of comparing the body of Christ with the human body (1Co 12:14-26) stating that all parts of the body are needed and none is more important than another.

(b) Principle – the gifting of God produces diversity with order. No gift is more important than another; every gift is needed, as God has ordained.

(2) Jesus Christ as the giver of spiritual gifts:

(a) “And He (Jesus Christ) gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors, and some as teachers” (Eph 4:11) - gave (*didomai* – to give)

- this list is given within the context of all believers in Christ being given a spiritual gift. For “...to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ’s gift.” (Eph 4:7)

(b) Principle – the gifting of God is purposeful – for those this listing, these gifts are for the purpose of bringing the Body of Christ to full maturity

- each person has a place and a purpose,

“for the equipping of the saints for the works of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ.” (Eph 4:12-13)

(3) Holy Spirit as the giver of spiritual gifts:

(a) “Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit... to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. For to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, and to another the word of knowledge according to the same Spirit; to another faith by the same Spirit, and to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, and to another the effecting of miracles, and to another prophecy, and to another the distinguishing of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, and to another the interpretation of tongues. But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually just as He wills.” (1Co 12:4,7,8-11)

- gifts (*charisma* – a gift of grace given by God)

(b) Principle – these gifts are universal in scope, everyone has a part and is given a gift. These gifts are given and maintained by the Holy Spirit.

“God also testifying with them, both by signs and wonders and by various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit according to His own will.” (Heb 2:4)

“But to each one is given a manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.” (1Co 12:7)

“So also you, since you are zealous of spiritual gifts, seek to abound for the edification of the church.” (1Co 14:12)

(c) Grace is the manifestation of the Holy Spirit working in and through our lives. The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of grace and supplication:

“I will pour out on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the Spirit of grace and supplication, so that they will look on Me whom they have pierced; and they will mourn for Him, as one mourns for an only son...”

(Zech 12:10)

6. The Holy Spirit is the administrator of the Church

a. The Holy Spirit directs the affairs of the Church

(1) Jesus gave orders to the apostles through the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:2)

(2) “...Then the Spirit said to Philip. “Go up and join this chariot.” (Acts 8:29)

(3) “...the Spirit of the Lord snatched Phillip away...” (Acts 8:39)

(4) “So the church...enjoyed peace, being built up; and going on in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit...” (Acts 9:31)

(5) “While Peter was reflecting on the vision, the Spirit said to him, “Behold, three men are looking for you...get up... accompany them...” (Acts 10:19)

(6) “...the Holy Spirit said, “Set apart for Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.” (Acts 13:2)

(7) “So, being sent out by the Holy Spirit, they went down to Seleucia...” (Acts 13:4)

(8) “And the disciples were continually filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit.” (Acts 13:52)

(9) “They passed through the Phrygian and Galatian region having been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in Asia...” (Acts 16:6)

(10) “...the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God...” (Acts 20:28)

(11) “the mystery of Christ,...has now been revealed to His holy apostles and prophets in the Spirit...that the Gentiles are fellow heirs and fellow members of the body...” (Eph 3:4-6)

b. The Holy Spirit ministers to the body of Christ, the Church

(1) The Holy Spirit ministers to individual members

(a) “be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith...” (Eph 3:16-17)

(b) “Because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, Abba! Father!” (Gal 4:6)

(c) “...the Spirit also helps our weakness;...with groanings too deep for words...He intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.” (Rom 8:26-27)

- (2) The Holy Spirit works through us to care for one another
- (a) "...pray at all times in the Spirit,...be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints..." (Eph 6:18)
  - (b) "The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all."  
(2Co 13:14) (This verse demonstrates the doctrine of the Trinity.)
- (3) The Holy Spirit builds the unity of the Body
- (a) "...being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace." (Eph 4:3)
  - (b) "...you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit." (Eph 2:22)
  - (c) "For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body..."  
(1Co 12:13)

5. Negative Responses to the Holy Spirit include lying, testing, resisting, grieving, and turning away from the Holy Spirit.
- a. "...why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit..."  
(Acts 5:3)
  - b. "...Why is it that you have agreed together to put the Spirit of the Lord to the test?"... (Acts 5:9)
  - c. "You men who are stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, are always resisting the Holy Spirit..." (Acts 7:51)
  - d. "Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption." (Eph 4:30)
  - e. "...the Holy Spirit rightly spoke, saying...the heart of this people has become dull...they scarcely hear...they have closed their eyes..."(Acts 28:25,27)
  - f. "Do not quench the Spirit; do not despise prophetic utterances." (1Thess 5:19-20)
  - g. "...the Holy Spirit says, today if you hear His voice, do not harden your hearts..." (Heb 3:7-8)
  - h. "those who have once been enlightened and have tasted of the heavenly gift and have been made partakers of the Holy Spirit... and then have fallen away, it is impossible to renew them again to repentance..." (Heb 6:4-6)
  - i. "How much severer punishment do you think he will deserve who... regarded as unclean the blood of the covenant ...and has insulted the Spirit of grace?"(Heb 10:29)

It is with the birth of the Church that the Holy Spirit moves in many marvelous ways, always with the objective to elevate the name of Jesus and to undertake the role as the principle agent through which the body of Christ is made ready to fulfill it's destiny as the bride of Christ.

May we all fall more in love with the person of the Holy Spirit; our Comforter, our Guide, our Encourager, our Instructor, and our Faithful, Holy, and Eternal friend! Amen.

### Study the Word

How marvelous and multifaceted is the working of the Holy Spirit in this season of grace:

1. Please underline in your Bible those aspects of the Holy Spirit that have been personally precious and meaningful in your relationship with God.



2. From these verses write out below a short testimony; somewhat like a thank you note, to the Holy Spirit for His faithful and loving ministry to you in your life.
3. "All believers are entitled to and should ardently expect and earnestly seek the promise of the Father, the Baptism of the Holy Spirit and fire, according to the command of our Lord Jesus Christ. This was the normal experience of all the early Christian Church. With this comes the enduement of power for life and service, the bestowment of the gifts and their uses in the work of the ministry (Luke 24:49; Acts 1:4,8; 1Co 12:1-31). This experience is distinct from and subsequent to the experience of the new birth (Acts 8:12-17; 10:44-46, 11:14-16, 15:7-9). With the Baptism in the Holy Ghost come such experiences as an overflowing fullness of the Spirit (John 7:37-39; Acts 4:8), a deepened reverence for God (Acts 2:43; Hebrews 12:28), an intensified consecration to God and dedication to His work (Acts 2:42), and a more active love for Christ, for His Word and for the lost (Mark 16:20)." (Tenants of Faith, Assemblies of God)  
May we earnestly seek and fully implement this precious gift of the Holy Spirit each and every day of our lives.

## Chapter 11: The Church of Jesus Christ of Nazareth

### Outline

#### I. Introduction

##### A. God is the Builder of the Church

1. We are a household of faith – our relationship with the Father
2. We are a temple of God – our relationship with Jesus Christ
3. We are a dwelling place for God - our relationship with the Holy Spirit

##### B. The Church of Jesus Christ is the Body of Christ

- II. As a Household of Faith we are built upon apostles and prophets  
 III. As a Temple of God we are fitted together as living stones  
 IV. As a Dwelling Place for God we are built together as a body  
 V. The Church of Jesus Christ – our mission and ministry as the Body of Christ

#### I. Introduction

It is the nature of God to bring order out of chaos. This occurred in the natural world during the six days of creation, at the end of which “God saw all that He had made, and behold, it was very good...” (Gen 1:31)

With the entrance of sin into the world, God’s original work was marred and death entered the world. God’s redemptive plan was not thwarted, it was accomplished through Jesus Christ, again bringing order out of chaos. In Genesis 1, God spoke the word (“Then God said,”), in the Gospels and the Epistles God sent Jesus Christ, the Word (John 1:1).

Jesus told the twelve, “...I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it.”(Matt 16:18) The fulfillment of this pronouncement, to build God’s church, occurred with;

- the commissioning of the eleven disciples after Jesus arose (Matt 28:16-20)
- the fulfillment of the promise of Acts 1:8 on Pentecost (Spirit filled Jewish believers) (Acts 2:1-4)
- the expansion of the church to the Gentiles (Acts 10:44-48).

The completion of this promise to build God’s church will take place with the coming of the New Jerusalem (Heb 12:22-24)

#### A. God as the Builder of the Church

“For every house is built by someone, but the builder of all things is God.” (Heb 3:4)

“So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of: God’s household, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling place of God in the Spirit. “(Eph 2:19-22)

#### 1. We are a Household of Faith

- “household” (*oikeio* - in or of the house) – built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets with Jesus as the cornerstone. – this is the foundation of the church

“So then, while we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.” (Gal 6:10)

- a. It is in the Father's house that we find salvation and sanctification, becoming sons and daughters.  
 "And I will be a father to you, and you shall be sons and daughters to Me, says the Lord Almighty." (2Co 6:18)
- b. It is in the Father's house that we grow in spiritual maturity and receive a spiritual inheritance.  
 "Because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" Therefore you are no longer a slave, but a son; and if a son then an heir through God." (Gal 4:6-7)
2. We are a Temple of God - temple (*naos* - sanctuary)
- a. We are being fitted together (*sunarmologeō*) into a holy temple in the Lord. (Eph 2:21)  
 "...you also, as living stones, are being built up (*oikodomeō*) as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ." (1 Pe 2:5)  
 "For we are the temple of the living God; just as God has said: 'I will  dwell in them  and  walk among them ; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.'" (2Co 6:16)
- b. We become a temple "fitted together" as a holy priesthood offering spiritual sacrifices and worship to God.
3. WE are a Dwelling place of God - being built together (*oikodomeō*) as a dwelling place (*katoiketerion* - permanent residence of the Holy Spirit) of God in the Spirit.  
 "In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you." (John 14:2)
- a. The ministry of the Holy Spirit is to build the Body of Christ, into a dwelling place for God by working in and through the lives of believers:
- (1) The Holy Spirit works in believers by conviction, confession, and sanctification.  
 "Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body." (1Co 6:19-20)  
 "...The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God...heirs of God, and fellow heirs with Christ." (Rom 8:16)
- (2) The Holy Spirit works and manifests Himself through believers by the gifting and the workings of the Holy Spirit.  
 "Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit... to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good." (1Co 12:4,7)  
 "But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually just as He wills." (1 Co 12:11)  
 "...but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ, from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up (*sunarmologeō*) of itself in love." (Eph 4:15-16)

b. The goal of the household of God, the temple of the Lord, and the body of Christ is to fulfill: The Great Commandment (Matt 22:36-40)

B. The Church of Jesus Christ is the Body of Christ

“And He (God) put all things in subjection under His (Jesus Christ) feet, and gave Him as head over all things to the church (the *ekklisea*), which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.”(Eph 1:22)

The church is the outward working of the Body of Jesus Christ in the world, with Jesus Christ as the head. This work is accomplished by the person and the power of the Holy Spirit.

The church has two main objectives:

1. Preach the Gospel -

“For I will not presume to speak of anything except what Christ has accomplished through me... in the power of signs and wonders, in the power of the Spirit;...I have fully preached the gospel of Christ.” (Rom 15:18,)

“...my message and my preaching were not in persuasive words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power.” (1Co 2:4)

“...for our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction...” (1Thess 1:5)

2. Make Disciples -

“And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, for the equipping (*katartizo*) of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ.” (Eph 4: 11-13)

a. The function of the church is to be an agent of salvation for all mankind, with the goal being to preach the gospel, to make disciples, and thereby fulfilling: The Great Commission (Matt 28:18-20)

b. The full restoration of the creation of God will occur after the judgement of God followed by the cleansing of the earth:  
“...the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works be burned up.” (2Pe 3:10) This will be followed by the arrival of the New Jerusalem, “...coming down out of heaven from God.” (Rev 21:10)

c. What remains at the end of time is that which is found in the heavenly Jerusalem:

“But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to myriads of angels, to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the Judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood, which speaks better than the blood of Abel.” (Heb 12:22-24)

The church of Jesus Christ will exist and flourish for all eternity!

## II. As a Household of Faith We are Built Upon the Apostles and Prophets

We "...are of God's household, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and the prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the cornerstone." (Eph2:20)

- A. We enter into the family of God, through repentance of our sin, and believing by faith that Jesus Christ is our Savior and Lord. We are then born again (John 3:3) as a child of God.  
 "But as many as received Him (Jesus Christ), to them He gave the right to become children of God..." (John 1:12)  
 "The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God..." (Rom 8:16).
- B. The household of faith:
1. is a place of faith - "So then, while we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith." (Gal 6:10)
  2. is a place of abiding - "In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you..." (John 14:2)
  3. is a place of provision - "And my God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus." (Phil 4:19)
  4. is a place of authority - "...any city or house divided against itself will not stand." (Matt 12:25)
  5. is a place of anointing - "And suddenly there came from heaven a noise like a violent rushing wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. And there appeared to them tongues as of fire distributing themselves, and they rested on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit was giving them utterance..." (Acts 2:2-4)
  6. is a place of judgment - "For it is time for judgment to begin with the household of God; and if it begins with us first, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God?" (1Pe 4:17)
  7. is a place of prayer - "...My house shall be called a house of prayer..." (Matt 21:13)
  8. is a place of fervor - "...Zeal for Your house will consume me." (John 2:17)
  9. is a place of communion with God - "...Did you not know that I had to be in My Father's house." (Luke 2:49)
  10. is a place of faithfulness to God - "Now Moses was faithful in all His (the Father's) house as a servant, for a testimony of those things which were to be spoken later; but Christ was faithful as a Son over His (the Father's) house - whose house we are, if we hold fast our confidence and the boast of our hope firm until the end." (Heb 3:5-6)
  11. is the church of the living God - "...I write so that you will know How one ought to conduct himself in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and support of the truth." (1 Tim 3:15) . It is the church that:
    - is a pillar (*stulos*) holding up the truth.
    - is a support (*hedraioma*) for the truth.

C. We are adopted into the household of faith at the point of salvation and grow in our salvation through the sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit;

“...like newborn babies, long for the pure milk of the word, so that by it you may grow in respect to salvation, if you have tasted the kindness of the Lord.” (1Pe 2:2-3)

III. As a Temple of the Lord We are Fitted Together as Living Stones  
– the temple of the Lord is a place of worship and loving service  
“...in whom the whole building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple (naos) in the Lord...” (Eph 2:21)

A. We are a Temple (*naos*) This metaphor is used to describe:

1. individual believers – “Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body. “(1Co 6:19-20)
2. the church – “Do you not know that you (plural) are a temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? If any man destroys the temple of God, God will destroy him, for the temple of God is holy, and that is what you are.” (1Co 3:16-17)  
“...For we are the temple of the living God; just as God said, ‘I will dwell in them; and will walk among them; and I will be their God and they shall be My people. Therefore, come out from their midst and be separate’, says the Lord. ‘And do not touch what is unclean: and I will welcome you. And I will be a Father to you, and you shall be sons and daughters to Me, says the Lord Almighty” (2Co 6:16-18)
3. a spiritual house – “...you also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ... But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God’s own possession, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light...” (1Pe 2:5,9)
  - a. proclaim ( *angello* – to proclaim)
    - (1) to declare abroad, to make known by praising or proclaiming, to celebrate
    - (2) to declare fully and completely the “excellencies” of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ to God and to all of creation
    - (3) this is the only time that this word is used in the Scripture
4. a royal priesthood, “...present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship.” (Rom 12:1)

B. We Are True Worshipers of God

1. Choose this Day Whom You Shall Serve – it is a daily choice  
“Again the devil took Him to a very high mountain and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory; and he said to Him, ‘All these things I will give You, if You fall down and worship (*proskuneo*) me’. Then Jesus said to him, ‘Go, Satan! For it is written, “You shall worship (*proskeuno*) the Lord Your God, and serve (*latreuo*) Him only.” (Matt 4:8-10)

- a. worship (*proskueno* - *pros* -toward, *kueno* – to kiss)
  - (1) to show homage, to bow down, to kneel, to prostrate

In John Chapter 9, Jesus said to the blind man, "...Do you believe in the Son of Man? He answered, "Who is He, Lord, that I may believe in Him?" Jesus said to him, "You have both seen Him, and He is the one who is talking with you." And he said, "Lord I believe." And he worshiped (*proskuneo*) Him." (John 9:35-38)

(2) Our worship is directed by God in and through the Holy Spirit. Such worship is a matter of the heart.

"But he is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is that which is of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the letter; and his praise is not from men, but from God." (Rom 2:29)

b. serve (*latreuo*) – to serve, to minister, to render homage, to worship

- the Greek word *latreuo* is translated as "worship" or "service" depending upon the context. For example:

"...for we are the true circumcision, who worship (*latreuo*) in the Spirit of God and glory in Christ Jesus and put no confidence in the flesh." (Phil 3:3)

"For God, whom I serve (*latreuo*) in my spirit in the preaching of the gospel of His Son, is my witness..." (Rom 1:9)

Our service to God, if done out of loving obedience (from the heart) is *latreuo*.

c. Jesus addressed this issue of worship from the heart. When speaking of the Pharisees and scribes, Jesus quoted the prophet Isaiah saying, "This people honors Me with their lips, but their heart is far away from Me." (Matt 15:8)

Then Jesus said, "But in vain do they worship (*sebo* – show devotion) Me, teaching as doctrines the precepts of men." (Matt 15:9)

d. Principle: One's outward actions such as "honoring with lips", without one's inward obedience of submitting to the spirit led direction" of the heart" (*latreuo*) is vain worship. Such worship is fruitless, for it's based upon the precepts of men and not the doctrines (the instructions) of God.

### C. We Worship in Spirit and in Truth

"But an hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshippers. God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth." (John 4:23-24)

a. in spirit - from the heart, -in loving service (*latreuo*) and reverence (*proskeuno*) to God

b. in truth - in accordance with the Scripture, not the traditions of men (Matt 15:1-7)

### IV. As A Dwelling Place for God We Are Built Together as a Body – a place of unity and love

The Body of Christ consists of members fitted together, loving one another, and glorifying God

"...in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit." (Eph 2:22)

- dwelling- (*katoiketerion* – a permanent residence of the Holy Spirit)

“By this we know that we abide in Him and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit.” (1John 4:13)

- built together (*sunoi kodomeo*) – to construct as one out of several components, building up to a whole; as with a body

A. We are members of one body

In the Scripture, this word “member” (*menos* - “a limb of a body”) is used:

- literally - first used by Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount
- figuratively - used by Paul referring to the Body of Christ

1. Literally - used to address our physical bodies and focusing upon each individual’s personal responsibility.

“If your right hand makes you stumble, cut it off and throw it from you; for it is better for you to lose one of the parts (*menos*) of your body, than for your whole body to go into hell.” (Matt 5:30)

“Therefore consider the members of your earthly body (flesh) as dead to immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire and greed, which amounts to idolatry. For it is because of these things that the wrath of God will come upon the sons of disobedience...” (Col 3:5-6)

“Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you have been bought with a price, therefore glorify God in your body.” (1Co 6:19)

a. Presenting Our Members as Instruments of Righteousness:  
- (present – *paristemi* – to place beside)

“...do not go on presenting the members of your body to sin as instruments of unrighteousness; but present yourselves to God as those alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God.” (Rom 6:13)

“For just as you presented your members as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness, resulting in further lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness, resulting in sanctification.” (Rom 6:19)

b. This is accomplished as we:

(1) keep seeking - “...keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.” (Col 3:1)

(2) set our mind - “Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth.” (Col 3:2)

(3) die to self - “For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory.” (Col 3:3-4)

2. Figuratively – used to address one’s corporate responsibility as a member of the Body of Christ.

a. We as individuals are members together in one Body

“For even as the body is one and yet has many members, and all the members of the body, though are many, are one body, so also is Christ. For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body...and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.” (1Co 12:12-13) – this occurs at the time of our salvation

“For the body is not one member, but many...But now God has placed the members, each one of them, in the body, just as He desired.” (1Co 12:14,18)



## (1) We are being built up in love

One of the scribes came and asked Jesus... "What commandment is the foremost of all?" Jesus answered, "The foremost is, 'Hear, O Israel! The LORD our God is one LORD; and you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.' The second is this, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these." (Mark 12:28-31)

- this is what we refer to as, The Great Commandment.

"...but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ, from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up (*sunarmologeō* – to join closely together) of itself in love." (Eph 4:15-16)

## (2) All the activities found in the Body of Christ are motivated by and directed toward the fulfilling of the "Great Commandment":

The characteristics of love are identified in 1Co 13: 4-7 as:

- (a) Love is patient – (*makrothumeō* – long-tempered)  
(Matt 18:26,29; Luke 18:7; 1Thess 5:14; Heb 6:15; James 5:7-8, 2Pe 3:9))
- (b) Love is kind – (*chrestos* –good, gracious)  
(Matt 11:30; Luke 6:35; Rom 2:4; Eph 4:32; 1Pe 2:3)
- (c) Love is is not jealous – (*zeloo* – boil over with envy, hatred, anger) (Acts 7:9, 17:5; 2Co 11:2, James 4:2)
- (d) Love does not brag – (*perpereuomai* – boast in one's self, extolling one's self) (1Co 13:4)
- (e) Love is not arrogant (*phusioo* – from *phusa* - bellows; puffs up, blows up) (1Co 4:6, 18, 19, 5:2, 8:1; Col 2:18)
- (f) Love does not act unbecomingly – (*aschemosune* - act improperly) ( 1Co 7:36)
- (g) Love does not seek its own (*zeteo* – demand something from someone, require) (Rom 10:3; Phil 2:21; 1Thes 2:6)
- (h) Love is not provoked (*paroxuno* – irritate, rouse to anger) (Acts 17:16)
- (i) Love does not take into account a wrong suffered ( *kakos*- keeps no record of wrongs, of a bad nature) (1Thes 5:15, 1Pe 3:9-12)
- (j) Love rejoices with the truth (*sunchairo* – rejoice with)  
(Luke 15:6, 9, 58; 1Co 12:26; Phil 2:17)
- (k) Love bears all things (*stego* - protect, preserve by covering, hold out against) (1 Co 9:12, 1Thess 3:1, 5)
- (l) Love believes all things (*pisteuo* – place confidence in, trust)  
(Gal 3:6, 22; Eph 1:13, 19; Phil 1:29; 1Thes 4:14; 1Tim 3:16, Heb 11:6; Jude 1:5)
- (m) Love hopes all things (*elpizo* – hopefully trust in)  
(1Co 15:19; 2Co 1:10; 1Tim 4:10, 6:17; Heb 11:1; 1Pe 1:13)

(n) Love endures all things (*hupomeno* – tarry behind, await, endure, to remain) (Matt 10:22, 24:13; Mark 13:13; Rom 12:12; 2Tim 2:12; Heb 12:2-3, 7; James 1:2, 5:11; 1Pe 2:20)

(3) According to this list found in 1Corinthians 13, love is demonstrated by that which is both done and that which is not done. Both groups, identified in Chapter 13 (seven of each) require the grace of God to fulfill. As Paul declared about his own life:

“I find then the principle that evil is present in me, the one who wants to do good. For I joyfully concur with the law of God in the inner man, but I see a different law in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin which is in my members. Wretched man that I am! Who will set me free from the body of this death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!... For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death.”

(Rom 7:21-25, 8:2)

b. We as individuals have the body of Christ dwelling within us

“And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it.”

(1Co 12:26)

- the fullness of Christ, as composed of all the members of His Body, is found within us. This truth is manifested in the Body of Christ in three ways:

(1) We are members of “one another”

“...so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.” Rom 12:5)

Here is a list of practical ways that we can demonstrate love to one another:

- Abound in love for one another. (1Thess 3:12)
- Accept one another. (Rom 15:7)
- Be at peace with one another (Mark 9:50)
- Be compassionate, kind, humble, gentle, patient, bearing with and forgiving one another. (Col 3:12-13)
- Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. (Rom 12:10)
- Be diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit. (Eph 4:3)
- Be hospitable to one another. (1Pe 4:9)
- Be humble toward one another. (1Pe 5:5)
- Be kind, tenderhearted, forgiving one another. (Eph 4:32)
- Be of the same mind with one another. (Rom 12:16,15:5)
- Be subject to one another in the fear of Christ. (Eph 5:21)
- Be truthful. (Eph 4:25, Col 3:9)
- Bear one another's burdens. (Gal 6:2)
- Comfort one another with these words. (1Thes 4:18)
- Confess your sins to another. (James 5:16)
- Do not complain against one another. (James 5:9)
- Encourage and build each other up. (1 Thess 5:11)
- Encourage one another. (Heb 3:13, 10:25)
- Fervently love one another. (1Pe 1:22, 4:8)
- Give preference to one another. (Rom 12:10)

- Love one another. (1John 3:11, 23, 4:7, 11-12; 2John 1:5)
  - Owe nothing to anyone except to love one another. (Rom 13:8)
  - Pursue peace and the building up of one another. (Rom 14:19)
  - Seek after that which is good for one another. (1 Thess 5:15)
  - Show tolerance for one another in love. (Eph 4:2)
  - Stimulate one another to love and good deeds. (Heb 10:24)
  - Through love serve one another. (Gal 5:13, 1Pe 4:10)
  - Wash each other's feet. (John 13:14)
  - With humility of mind, consider others more important than yourself. (Phil 2:3)
- (2) We are growing in love purposefully. We are directed to:
- (a) Put aside "...anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive speech from your mouth, do not lie to one another..." (Col 3:8-9)
  - (b) "Put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience; bearing with one another, and forgiving each another..." (Col 3: 12-13)
  - (c) Put on "...love, which is the perfect bond of unity" (Col 3:14)
  - (d) "Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body; and be thankful." (Col 3:15)
  - (e) Let - "...the word of Christ richly dwell in you..." (Col3:16)
  - (f) Do nothing from selfishness of empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interest of others. (Phil 2:3-4)
  - (g) Do "... all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father (Col 3: 17)  
As we, by the grace of God, put off our old ways and put on the new, we grow in love for the Body of Christ and joyfully accept our place in the Body.
- (3) We are loving through our place and our position as members of the Body.
- (a) We are placed in the body by the Holy Spirit  
"But now God has placed the members, each one of them, in the body, just as He desired. If they were all one member, where would the body be? But now there are many members, but one body." (1Co 12:18-20)
  - (b) We are positioned in the Body by the Holy Spirit.  
"On the contrary, it is much truer that the members of the body which seem to be weaker are necessary; and those members of the body which we deem less honorable, on these we bestow more abundant honor, and our less presentable members become much more presentable ..."  
(1Co 12:22-23)
  - (c) Such differences of position and place strengthen the body; for those that seem weaker are given more honor producing unity in the body.  
"...But God has so composed the body, giving more abundant honor to that member which lacked, so that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the

same care for one another. And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it." (1Co 12: 24-26)

"Now you are Christ's body, and individually members of it." (1Co 12:27)

B. We are glorifying God and being glorified by Him.

Unity in the Body of Christ glorifies God. It is Jesus Christ, the builder of the church, who accomplishes this by giving us the glory of God:

"The glory which you have given Me I have given to them, that they may be one, just as We are one; I in them and You in Me, that they may be perfected in unity..." (John 17:22-23)

1. Definition of Glorify

- a. to praise, extol, magnify, celebrate
- b. to honor, do honor to, hold in honor
- c. to make glorious, adorn with luster, clothe with splendor
- d. to impart glory to something, render it excellent
- e. to make renowned, render illustrious
- f. to cause the dignity and worth of some person or thing to become manifest and acknowledged (NAS Lexicon)

To give glory, that is to glorify, is a characteristic found in the nature of God and is displayed by His character and conduct.

2. Glorification in the Godhead

a. The Father glorifies the Son

"...it is My Father who glorifies Me..." (John 8:54)

(1) The Father glorifies Jesus at the beginning of His ministry

"...This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased."  
(Matt 3:17)

(2) The Father glorifies the Son after His resurrection -

"...God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." (Phil 2:9-11)

b. The Son glorifies the Father

(1) The Son glorified the Father during His (Jesus') earthly ministry - Jesus said, "Father, glorify Your name." Then a voice came out of heaven: "I have both glorified it, and will glorify it again." (John 12:28)

(2) The Son glorified the Father through Jesus' obedient life and death - "I glorified You on the earth, having accomplished the work which You have given Me to do." (John 17:4)

(3) The Son glorified the Father after His resurrection - "Now Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was." (John 17:5)

c. The Holy Spirit glorifies Jesus

"He (the Holy Spirit) will glorify Me, for He will take of Mine and will disclose it to you." (John 16:14)

d. Glorification of God by the redeemed of the Lord

(1) Through our unity- "Now may the God who gives perseverance and encouragement grant you to be of the same

mind with one another according to Christ Jesus, so that with one accord you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.” (Rom 15:5-6)

- (2) In our bodies – “For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body.” (1Co 6:20)
- (3) In our response to suffering – “...but if anyone suffers as a Christian, he is not to be ashamed, but is to glorify God in this name.” (1Pe 4:16)
- (4) In our obedience to God – “I (Paul) was still unknown by sight to the churches of Judea which were in Christ; but only, they kept hearing, ‘He who once persecuted us is now preaching the faith which he once tried to destroy.’ And they were glorifying God because of me.” (Gal 1:22-24)
- (5) By our giving – “Because of the proof given by this ministry (of giving), they will glorify God for your obedience to your confession of the gospel of Christ and for the liberality of your contribution to them and to all...” (2Co 9:13)
- (6) In bearing much fruit - “My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples.” (John 15:8)
- (7) In the day of our visitation – “Keep your behavior excellent among the Gentiles, so that in the thing in which they slander you as evildoers, they may because of your good deeds, as they observe them, glorify God in the day of visitation.” (1Pe 2:12)

May our loving obedience to God and our love for others prepare the way for revival, which is a blessing for the saint and salvation for the sinner; both bringing glory to God.

e. Glorification of the redeemed of the Lord with and by God

- (1) through suffering – “The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him so that we may also be glorified with Him.” (Romans 8:16-17)
- (2) through the purpose of God – “...these whom He called, He also justified; and these whom He justified, He also glorified.” (Romans 8:30)  
“For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory.” (Col 3: 3-4)
- (3) for the purpose of unity - “The glory which You have given Me I have given to them, that they may be one, just as We are one; I in them and You in Me, that they may be perfected in unity...” (John 17:22-23)

#### V. The Mission and Ministry of the Church of Jesus Christ

The Church of Jesus Christ is the presentation of the fullness of Jesus Christ to all of creation. It is composed of those who have received the priceless gift of salvation and lovingly obey Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

We, as members of the church, consist of those who have been called out of the kingdom of this world and have entered into the kingdom of God. We are of the household of faith, we are a temple of God, and we are members of one body.

- A. The Mission of the Church includes preaching and teaching.  
The mission of the church is to declare to all creation the truth of Jesus Christ.
1. Preaching the truth of the gospel
    - the winning of souls to Christ (1Co 9:19-23)
    - a. The Great Commission
      - “...Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved; but he who has disbelieved shall be condemned. These signs will accompany those who have believed: in My name they will cast out demons, they will speak with new tongues; they will pick up serpents, and if they drink any deadly poison, it will not hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.” (Mark 16:15-18)
      - “...Thus it is written, that the Christ would suffer and rise again from the dead the third day, and that repentance for forgiveness of sins would be proclaimed in His name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And behold, I am sending forth the promise of My Father upon you; but you are to stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.” (Luke 24:46-49)
    - b. Preachers of the Gospel identified in the Scripture
      - (1) John the Baptist (Matt 3:1; Mark 1:4, 7)
      - (1) Jesus (Matt 4:17; Mark 1: 4, 38-39; Luke 4:18, 4:43, 8:1,20:1)
      - (2) believers (Acts 8:4, 11:20)
      - (3) disciples (Mark 3:14; Luke 9:6, Acts 10:42)
      - (4) Paul (Acts 13:32, 14:15, 16:10; 1Co 1:17, 9:16; Gal 2:2)
      - (5) Peter and John (Acts 8:25)
      - (6) Philip (Acts 8:12, 40)
    - c. The message preached is the way and the truth of salvation:
      - (1) Christ crucified (1Co 1:23)
      - (2) Jesus as the Christ (Acts 5:42), as the Lord (Acts 11:20, 16:25)
      - (3) the message of repentance (Matt 3:1; Mark 4:1; Luke 3:3)
      - (4) the coming of the Messiah (Mark 1:7)
      - (5) the gospel (Mark 1:14; Luke 9:6, 20:1; Acts 8:25, 8:40; Phil 4:15)
      - (6) the gospel of grace (Acts 20:24)
      - (7) the kingdom of God (Luke 4:43-44, 8:1, Acts 20:25)
      - (8) the word (Acts 8:4)
      - (9) the word of faith (Rom 10:8)
    - d. The power of the gospel:
      - (1) “For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.” (Rom 1:16)
      - (2) “For the word of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.” (1Co 1:18)
      - (3) “I was with you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling, and my message and my preaching were not in persuasive words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power...” (1Co 2:3-4)
      - (4) “... for our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full

conviction; just as you know what kind of men we proved to be among you for your sake.” (1Thess 1:5)

## 2. Teaching the truth of the gospel

- the weaning of believers from milk to meat (1Co 3:1-3)
- the walking of believers in the path of salvation (Eph 4:1-4)

### a. The Great Commission instructs us in our responsibility:

“...All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”  
(Matt 28:18-20)

### b. Teachers of the Gospel identified in the Scripture include:

- (1) Apollos (Acts 18:24-25)
- (2) believers (Acts 15:1, 35; Heb 5:12)
- (3) elders (1Tim 3:2)
- (4) John the Baptist (Luke 11:1)
- (5) Paul (Acts 18:11, 20:20)
- (6) Paul and Barnabas (Acts 11:26)
- (7) the apostles (Matt 28:20, Acts 2:42, 5:28-29)
- (8) the Father in heaven (John 8:28, 1Thess 4:9)
- (9) the Holy Spirit (1John 2:27)
- (10) the Son, Jesus – (Matt 7:29; Mark 9:31; Luke 19:47; John 13:13; Acts 1:1)
- (11) Timothy (1 Tim 4:16)

### c. The Message of the Great Commission includes:

- (1) all things (John 14:26)
- (2) instruction from the Holy Spirit in what to say (Luke 12:12)
- (3) instruction on how to pray (Luke 11:1)
- (4) the commands of Christ (Matt 28:18-20; John 15:10)
- (5) the way of God in truth (Mark 12:14; Luke 20:21)

### d. The Purity of the Great Commission produces sanctification:

“Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her, so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing with the water of the word, that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she would be holy and blameless.” (Eph 5:25-27)

“And now I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified.” (Acts 20:32)

“Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth.” (John 17:17)

## B. The Ministry of the Church

The ministry of the church is to demonstrate to all mankind the love of Jesus Christ thereby fulfilling the Great Commandment. (see pg. 106)

### 1. Within the Body of Christ

#### a. Serving (*diakonia* – a servant, a minister) one another.

We are all servants by the grace and gifting of Jesus Christ.

“...there are varieties of ministries (*diakonia* – service), and the same Lord.” (1Co 12:5)

“And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, for the

equipping of the saints for the work of service (*diakonia*), to the building up of the body of Christ; until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ.” (Eph 4:11-13)

This portion of Scripture, Eph 4:11-13, outlines the plan of how Jesus Christ is “building His church”

- (1) “And He (Jesus Christ) gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors *poimen* – shepherd) and teachers, for... “ (Eph 4:11)
  - (2) “...the equipping (*katartizmos* – fitting together, perfecting for a delegated task) of the saints for the work of service (*diakonia* – ministry, 1Co 12:5) (Eph 4:12)
  - (3) “...to the building up (*oikodome*) of the body of Christ...” (Eph 4:12)
    - *oikodome* – edification (Rom 14:19, 15:2; 1Co 14:12, 26; Eph 4:29)
    - “But one who prophesies speaks to men for edification (*oikodome*) and exhortation and consolation.” ( 1Co 14:3)
  - (4) “...until we all attain to...” (Eph 4:13)
    - (a) “...the unity of the faith...” (*henotes* – oneness)
      - “being diligent to preserve the unity (*henotes*) of the Spirit in the bond of peace” (Eph 4:3)
    - (b) “...and of the knowledge (*epignosis*, *epi*- upon, *gnosis* – knowledge) of the Son of God...” - exact or full knowledge
    - (c) “...to a mature (*telios* – complete, perfect) man.” (Heb 5:9)
    - (d) “...to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness (*pleroma* –all of the virtues and excellencies) of Christ.” (Eph 4:11-13)
  - (5) The ministry of the:
    - (a) apostle – (*apostolos*, a messenger, one sent on a mission)
      - performs signs, wonders, miracles (2Co 12:12)
    - (b) prophet – (*prophetes*, *pro* –before, *phemi* -declare)
      - a forth teller of divine will, Agabus (Acts 11:28, 21:10)
      - one who exhorts, edifies, or consoles (1Co 14:3), Judas and Silas (Acts 15:32)
    - (c) evangelist – (*euaggelizo*, *eu* – good, *aggello* -to announce)
      - to announce good news, Philip (Acts 8:12, 21:8)
    - (d) pastor\*- (*poimen* – shepherd) (Heb 13:20, 1Pe 2:25)
      - guide and feed the flock (Acts 20:28, 1Pe 5; 1-4)
      - \*this is the only time “pastor” is found in the Scripture
    - (e) teacher – (*didaskalos*, from *didasko* – to teach, instruct)
      - one who teaches the truth of God and the duties of man
      - to fit together all members of the household of God as a functioning unit assembled together as one body
      - all of one mind – in the knowledge of God, fully expressing the virtues and excellencies of Christ
- b. Stimulating others to love and good deeds.  
 “Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful; and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, not forsaking our assembling together, as is the habit of some, but



encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day approaching.” (Heb 10:23-25)

This is a spiritual blueprint of our ministry to one another in the church, particularly in these “last days”.

- (1) “Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful.” (Heb 10:23):
- (a) Hold Fast (*katecho* – *kata* – down, *echo* – have, hold)  
“...the Word which I preached to you.” (1Co 15:2)
  - (b) “...that which is good” (1Thes 5:21),
  - (c) “...our confidence and the boast of our hope” (Heb 3:6)
  - (d) “... the beginning of our assurance until the end” (Heb 3:14)
  - (e) “...the confession of our hope without wavering (Heb 10:23)  
“But the seed in the good soil, these are the ones who have heard the word in an honest and good heart, and hold it fast, and bear fruit with perseverance.” (Luke 8:15)
- (2) Stimulate (*paroxusmos*- *para* – beside, *oxus* – sharp, literally, “a sharpening of feeling or action”) others
- an incitement, a sharp contention, provoke, stir, rouse
  - *paroxusmos* is also used one other time in the Scripture:  
“And there occurred such a sharp disagreement that they separated from one another, and Barnabus took Mark with him and sailed away to Cyprus.” (Acts 15:39)
- We are instructed to sharpen that which is dull or worn down. It is the tactic of the enemy to “wear out the saints”. Daniel, speaking of the last days, prophetically states:  
“He (the Antichrist) will speak out against the Most High and wear down the saints of the Highest One, and he will intend to make alterations in times and in the law, and they will be given into his hand for a time, times, and half a time.” (Dan 7:25)
- While this period of time mentioned by Daniel is the last three and one-half years of the tribulation, this spirit of the Antichrist is now with us. (1John4:3)
- We are directed by the Scripture to:
- (a) “...not forsake our own assembling together ...
  - (b) “...to encourage one another as we see the day (of the Lord’s return) approaching. (Heb 10:25)
- (3) Not Forsaking (*enkataleipo* – to desert, to utterly abandon, to leave helpless) – our gathering as a body
- (a) Jesus became sin for us, and experienced separation from the Father: “About the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, “Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani “that is “My God, My God, why have you forsaken (*enkataleipo*) Me?” (Matt 27:46)
  - (b) “being content with what you have; for He Himself has said, “...I will never desert (*aniemi*, to let go) you, nor will I ever forsake (*enkataleipo*) you,” so we confidently say, the Lord is my helper, I will not be afraid. What will man do to me?” (Heb 13:5-6)
  - (c) “At my first defense no one supported me, but all deserted (*enkataleipo*) me; may it not be counted against them. But the Lord stood with me and strengthened me...” (2Tim 4:16)
  - (d) “Make every effort to come to me soon; for Demus, having

loved this present world, has deserted (*enkataleipo*) me and gone to Thessalonica..." (2Tim 4:9)

- we must focus on the faithfulness of God, not our present circumstances

(4) But Encouraging – one another

(a) The most common Greek word translated as “encourage” is *parakeleo* (*para* – “to the side”, *kaleo* – “to call”)

– to entreat, exhort, urge, comfort, encourage.

(b) This is similar to the word *parakletos* “called to one’s side”, that is “to their aid”, it is a verbal adjective describing the capability or adaptability for giving aid (Vines). This word is used by Jesus to describe the Holy Spirit, the Comforter.

Examples of Encouragers include:

Barnabas (Acts 11:23), Judas and Silas (Acts 15:32), Lydia (Acts 16:15), Paul (Acts 20:1-2; 1Co 16:12), Peter (Acts 2:40)

(c) We are to encourage others by our speech:

“For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words. (1Thes 4:16-18)

“For God has not destined us for wrath, but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so whether we are awake or asleep, we will live together with Him. Therefore, encourage one another and build up one another, just as you also are doing.” (1Thes 5:9-11)

(d) We are to encourage others by our conduct.

“We urge you, brethren, admonish the unruly, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with everyone.” (1Thes 5:14)

“But encourage one another day after day, as long as it is still called “Today” so that none of you will be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.” (Heb 3:13)

(e) We are to encourage others through our use of spiritual gifts

“Since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, each of us is to exercise them accordingly...he who exhorts, in his exhortation.” (Rom 12:6)

“For you can all prophesy one by one, so that all may learn and be exhorted...” (1Co 14:31)

(f) We are to encourage others through the use of the Scripture.

“Now I exhort you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all agree and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be made complete in the same mind and in the same judgment.” (1Co 1:10)

“Beloved, I urge you as aliens and strangers to abstain from fleshly lusts which wage war against the soul. Keep your behavior excellent among the Gentiles...” (1Pe 2:11-12)

“Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship.” (Rom 12:1)

“Now I urge you, brethren, keep your eye on those who

cause dissensions and hindrances contrary to the teaching which you learned, and turn away from them.” (Rom 16:17)

## 2. To those outside the body of Christ

In the Great Commandment, we are directed to “love our neighbor as ourself.” (Luke 10:27) Jesus addressed this issue of who is our neighbor in the parable of the Good Samaritan in Luke 10:30-37. We see three key principles of ministry to those outside of the Body of Christ in this parable:

### a. The Samaritan was compassionate.

The Samaritan, who was on a journey, passed an injured man on the road, he felt compassion and stopped. He gave of his time, not out of duty, but out of compassion (*splanchnizomai*). This word describes a moving of one’s inward parts (deep in one’s belly). This emotion encompasses a complete disregard for one’s own needs. With *splanchnizomai* there is no place for offence or judgment. In Jesus’ day, Jews and Samaritans did not normally associate with one another. (John 4:9) In such a compassionate response an individual not only carries another’s burden, but also the person who has the burden.

This is a working of the Holy Spirit in one’s heart.

### b. The Samaritan was personally involved.

He touched the injured man. The Samaritan bandaged up his wounds, poured oil and wine upon them; and put him on his own beast (requiring the Samaritan to walk) and brought him to the inn and then he took care of him!

There are three instances of healing by Jesus in which Scripture notes that Jesus had *splanchnizomai* for the one he healed. In every case, Jesus reached out and touched the person who was in need:

(1) The healing of the leper. (Mark 1:41)

(2) The healing of the son of the widow of Nain. (Luke 7:13)

(3) The healing of two blind men. (Matt 20:34)

### c. The Samaritan was generous.

The Samaritan used his resources to help the injured man, but did so in a way that also allowed others to be involved in his care. The Samaritan paid the innkeeper to care for the man while he was away. He also committed that he would reimburse the innkeeper for future expenses upon his return. May we also use our resources, temporal and spiritual, for the good of others.

(1) Temporal - As Paul directed Timothy, “Instruct those who are rich in this world...to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is life indeed.” (1Tim 6: 17-19)

(2) Spiritual – As Peter spoke to the lame man at the temple, “...I do not possess silver and gold, but what I do have I give To you” In the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene –walk!” (Acts 3:6) As a result of this man’s healing about 5000 Jewish men

believed the gospel. (Acts 4:4)

May we go and do the same remembering the seven positive aspects of love found in 1 Co 13. We are to be patient, kind, and

rejoicing in the truth; bearing, believing, hoping, and enduring in all things.

C. Conclusion – Paul writes to the Corinthian church:

“Finally, brethren, rejoice,

1. be made complete (*katartizo* -rightly fitted together),
2. be comforted (*parakaleo* - to call to one’s side),
3. be like-minded (“of one mind”) (Rom 12:16, 15:5; Phil 2:2)
4. live in peace (*eireneuo* - reconcile, keep the peace (Rom 12:18, Phil 4:2; 1Th 5:13)) and the God of love and peace will be with you.” (2Co 13:11)

#### Study the Word

1. Please underline and if possible, memorize Eph 2:19-22. This verse provides the believer with a framework for understanding the functions of the Body of Christ as well as our position and purpose in the Body.
2. The Church is the presentation of the fullness of Jesus Christ to all of creation. It is the outworking of the Body of Christ. Please underline in your Bible and write out the following verses which are the foundation and function of the Church:
  - a. Acts 1:8
  - b. Mark 16:15-18
  - c. Matt 28: 18-20
3. We have now, in a sense, come full circle. At the beginning of this study we addressed the importance of being a witness for Christ. This witness begins with our testimony of salvation and ends with the testimony of our lives. Please locate in your Bible and underline the following verses that address the role of believers as witnesses for God: (John 4:39; Acts 1:8, 2:32, 3:15, 5:32, 10:39, 13:30-31, 22:15, 26:16; Heb 11:39, 12:1; 1Pe 5:1; 1John 5:9-10; 3John 3,6,12).

This role as a witness for God becomes more significant as the return of Christ draws ever closer. May we pray that we will be ready to respond quickly and wholeheartedly to the leading of the Holy Spirit in faithful service to our Lord and King, Jesus Christ; for our redemption is drawing near. (Luke 21:28)

### Outline

- I. An Introduction of the Last Days
  - A. A Definition of the Last Days
  - B. Activity occurring in the Last Days
- II. An Outline of the events of the Last Days occurring in:
  - A. The Earthly Ministry of Jesus Christ
  - B. The Church Age
- III. The Judgments of Mankind by God
- IV. The Resurrections of Man by God
- IV. End Time events
- V. The Millennial Reign
- VI. The New Heaven and the New Earth
- VII. The Final Word of Jesus Christ

### I. Introduction of the Last Days

#### A. A Definition of "The Last Days"

We are now in a season of great spiritual activity. Much as when we preparation for a trip or make a permanent move to a different location, God the Father is preparing for His Son, Jesus Christ to come and reign on the earth. This reign of Jesus Christ will usher in our final and eternal residence, the New Jerusalem. The term "last days" refers to a period of time beginning with the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ to earth as a child:

"God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world." (Heb 1:1-2)

#### B. Scripture prophetically records events which are and which will take place:

##### 1. The Activity of God, Jesus Christ, Satan, and Mankind in the "Last Days".

###### a. God declaring the salvation of mankind in the Last Days

"And it shall be in the last days, God says, that I will pour forth of My Spirit on all mankind; and your sons and daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions and your old men shall dream dreams...and it shall be that everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." (Acts 2:17,21)

###### b. Jesus Christ declaring:

###### (1) The resurrection of those who are saved in the Last Days

"This is the will of Him who sent Me, that of all that He has given Me I lose nothing, but raise it up on the last day. For this is the will of My Father, that everyone who beholds the Son and believes in Him will have eternal life and I Myself will raise him up on the last day." (John 6:39-40)

###### (2) The judgment of the earth in the Last Days

"But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up." (2Pe 3:10)

###### c. Satan deceiving:

"Children, it is the last hour; and just as you heard that antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have

appeared; from this we know that it is the last hour.”

(1John 2:18)

d. The attitude and the actions of the saints of God:

“The end of all things is near; therefore, be of sound judgment and sober spirit for the purpose of prayer. Above all, keep fervent in your love for one another, because love covers a multitude of sins. Be hospitable to one another without complaint. As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.” (1Pe 4:7-10)

e. The attitude and actions of the unredeemed:

“Know this first of all, that in the last days mockers will come with their mocking, following after their own lusts, and saying, “Where is the promise of His coming?” For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all continues just as it was from the beginning of creation.” (2Pe 3:3-4)

“In the last time there will be mockers, following after their own ungodly lusts. These are the ones who cause divisions, worldly-minded, devoid of the Spirit.” (Jude 1:18-19)

“ But realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come. For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good, treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, holding to a form of godliness, although they have denied its power; avoid such men as these.” (2Tim 3:1- 5)

2. The “Last Days” of this age will conclude with the second coming of Christ:

a. The Lord’s second coming was prophesied at the time of His ascension;

“...Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into the sky? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in just the same way as you have watched Him go into heaven.” (Acts 1:11)

b. The Lord’s second coming occurs during the final war in which Satan and his forces are destroyed.

“And I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse, and He who sat on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and wages war. His eyes are a flame of fire, and on His head are many diadems; and He has a name written on Him which no one knows except Himself. He is clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God.” (Rev 19:11-13)

## II. An Outline of the Events of the Last Days

The gospels, the epistles, and the book of Revelation outline the events that are yet to take place both on the earth and in heaven before the return of the Lord at the end of the age. This outline begins with the ministry of Jesus Christ on the earth. It continues with the church which is caught up to be with the Lord in heaven followed quickly by the judgements of God upon the earth and its inhabitants. With the second coming of Jesus, the present age comes to a close and the one thousand year reign of Christ on the

earth begins. This outline will be expanded and the events explained further as we progress through this chapter.

A. Jesus Christ, the Son of God (Heb 1:2)

1. The ministry of Jesus (Matt 3:13-27:10, Mark 1:9-14:72; Luke 4:14-22:65; John 1:35-18:27)
2. His death and resurrection (Matt 27:11-28:10; Mark 15:1-16:18; Luke 22:66- 24:49; John 18:28-21:25)
3. The ascension of Jesus (Mark 16:19-20; Luke 24:50-53; Acts 1:9-11)

B. The Church Age

1. On Earth

- (a) The day of Pentecost (Acts 2:1-41)
- (b) The Church of Jesus Christ (Acts 3:1- 28:31, the Epistles)
- (c) The rapture of the Church and resurrection of the saints (1Thes 4:15-18)

2. In Heaven

- (a) The judgment of the righteous (Rom 14:10; 1Co 3:6 -15; 2Co 5:10) – the Bema Seat
- (b) Four hallelujah's and the marriage supper of the Lamb (Rev 19:1-9)

C. The judgments of God on the earth in the Last Days (Rev 4:1- Rev 20:6)

1. The tribulation judgments (Seals, Trumpets, and Bowls) (Rev 6:1- 16:21)
2. Armageddon (Rev 16:13-16)
3. The second coming of Jesus Christ (Rev 19:11-16)
  - (a) The judgment of the Beast (Antichrist) and false prophet (Rev 19:20-21)
  - (b) Satan bound and kept in the abyss (Rev 20:1-2)

D. Jesus Christ as the King of Kings (Rev 19:11- 20: 15 )

1. The resurrection of the tribulation saints (Rev 20:4-6)
2. The millennial Reign (Rev 20:5-6)
3. The final judgment of Satan and those who followed him (Rev 20:7-10)
4. The great white throne judgment (Rev 20:11-13)
5. The judgment of death and the end of Hades (Rev 20:14)

E. The End of Time and the Beginning of Eternity

The New Heaven and the New Earth (Rev 21:1-22:21)

There are two themes that carry throughout the "last days" of mankind on the earth: judgment and resurrection.

III. The Judgments of Mankind by God

God is a God of mercy "...not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance." (2Pe 3:9) yet "...His work is perfect, for all His ways are just; a God of faithfulness and without injustice..." (Deut 32:4)

The judgments of God are prevalent at the end of the age. Not only will God judge the earth (including mankind), with the seal, trumpet, and bowl judgments, but all of creation will be judged: the Beast (Antichrist), the False Prophet, Satan, demons, death, all those found in Hades, the redeemed, and the lost will be judged. The redeemed will appear before the Bema Seat, where every

believer will give an account of his work on the earth. When appropriate, each will receive rewards and crown(s). The lost will be judged according to their deeds at the Great White Throne Judgment and will be thrown into the lake of fire.

#### IV. The Resurrections of Man by God

- A. Jesus Christ is “the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep” (Matt 28:1-7; Mark 16:1-11; Luke 24:1-12; John 20:1-18; 1Co 15:20)
- B. The Saints who were raised shortly after Jesus’ death and entered Jerusalem after his resurrection. (Matt 27:50-53)
- C. The Saints of God raptured before the Great Tribulation (John 14:3; 1Thes 4:13- 18; 1Co 15:50-53)
- D. The Two Witnesses in the middle of the Great Tribulation (Rev 11:11-12)
- E. The Old Testament saints at the end of the Great Tribulation (Ezek 37:13-14) - those living under the law before Christ’s coming to earth. (Matt 23:35)
- F. Those martyred in the Great Tribulation and raised at the beginning of the Millennial Reign. (Rev 20:4-6)
- G. The unbelieving dead at the end of the Millennial Reign (Rev 20:11-15)

#### V. End Time Events

##### A. The Rapture of the Church

The rapture is the believer’s blessed hope (Titus 2:13)

The word “rapture” means “seizing by violence”. This word is Not found in the Scripture. An equivalent word found in Greek is *harpazo* which means “to seize, to catch up, to snatch away”.

This is the word used by Paul in 1Thes 4:16-17:

“For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up (*harpazo*) together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore comfort others with these words.”(1Thess 4:16-18)

- Jesus spoke with his disciples about His returning for them in the last days. (John 14:1-3)
- Paul comforted the Thessalonians by telling them about the Lord’s returning for them (1Thes 4:13-18)
- Luke instructed us that when we see the signs of His coming we are to straighten up, and lift up our heads, because our redemption is drawing near.” (Luke 21:28)

##### 1. The timing of the rapture

- (a) The exact timing of the rapture is known only to God the Father (Matt 24:36).
- (b) We are cautioned many times in Scripture to be ready for the return of Jesus Christ, for we know not the hour or the day. (Matt 24:42-51, 25:1-13; Mark13:37; Luke 12:37)
- (c) The believers in the early Church, did not when Jesus would return and they lived with an ever present attitude of expectancy (1Co 1:7, 1Thess 1:9-10)

##### 2. The rapture will take place suddenly



“For the coming of the Son of Man will be just like the days of Noah. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and they did not understand until the flood came and took them all away; so will the coming of the Son of Man be. Then there will be two men in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken and one will be left.”

(Matt 24:37-41)

3. The rapture is distinct from the second coming of Christ  
When the topic of the rapture is presented in Scripture, the Lord comes for His people to take them to heaven. (John 14:1-3; Col 3:4); while at His second coming at the end of the tribulation, Jesus Christ comes with His saints to rule on the earth. (Rev 19:14)

B. The Judgment of the Righteous at the Bema Seat (Rom 14:10, 1Co 3:6-15, 2Co 5:10)

“For we will stand before the judgment seat of God...So then each one of us will give an account of himself to God.”

(Rom 14:10,12)

“For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.”

(2Co 5:10)

Paul describes how God will judge us as believers:

1. We will be judged individually.  
“I planted, Apollos watered, but God was causing the growth. So then neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but God who causes the growth. Now he who plants and he who waters are one; but each will receive his own reward according to his own labor.” (1Co 3:6-8)
2. Rewards are given for works done out of obedience to God.  
“For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if any man builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, each man’s work will become evident; for the day will show it because it is to be revealed with fire, and the fire itself will test the quality of each man’s work. If any man’s work which he has built on it remains, he will receive a reward. If any man’s work is burned up, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.” (1Co 3:11-15)
3. Rewards are described in the Scripture and are given for:
  - a. being rich in good works; generous and ready to share (Matt 6:4; 1Tim 6:18-19)
  - b. bearing insults for Christ (Luke 6:22-23)
  - c. demonstrating hospitality that cannot be repaid (Luke 14:12-14)
  - d. loving our enemies (Luke 6:35)
  - e. controlling our tongues (Eph 4:29, James 3:1-9)
  - f. being diligent in seeking God (Heb11:6)
  - g. giving to the poor (Matt 6:4)
  - h. our praying (Matt 6:6)
  - i. our fasting (Matt 6:18)

- j. faithfully serving Christ (1Co 9:13-27, 2Tim 2:5)
- k. sowing righteousness (Prov 11:18)
- l. what we have done (Rev 22:12)
- 4. Crowns – given by Christ to mankind - based upon how we lived on earth
  - a. The Imperishable crown or the Victor’s crown (1Co 9:24- 27) requires one to have discipline, to deny self, and to be enduring.
  - b. The Crown of Righteousness or the Winner’s Crown (2Tim 4:8) is laid up for those who have loved His appearing, fought the good fight, finished the race, and kept the faith.
  - c. The Crown of Rejoicing is the soul winners crown (1Thes 2:19)
  - d. The Crown of Glory is the pastor’s crown. (1Pe 5:2-4)
  - e. The Crown of Life (James 1:12) is the martyr’s crown (Rev 2:10). It is reserved for those who persevere even to a martyr’s death.
- C. The Four Hallelujah’s and the Marriage Supper of the Lamb  
This is the only time that the word “Hallelujah” is used in the New Testament and is translated, “Praise ye Yahweh”, or “Praise the LORD”.
  - 1. First Hallelujah – “...after these things I (John) heard something like a loud voice of a great multitude (the redeemed saints of God) saying, “Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God; because”:
    - a. His judgments are true and righteous; for He has judged the great harlot (Babylon) who was corrupting the earth with her immorality, and
    - b. He has avenged the blood of His bond-servants on her.” (Rev 19:1-31)
  - 2. Second Hallelujah – “And a second time they said (the same multitude), ‘Hallelujah! Her smoke rises up forever and ever.’” (Rev 19:3)
    - the smoke speaks of torment, both of the city of Babylon (Rev 18:9-10) and those who worshipped the beast.” (Rev 14:9-11)
  - 3. Third Hallelujah – “And the twenty-four elders and the four living creatures fell down and worshiped God who sits on the throne saying, “Amen, Hallelujah!”. (Rev 19:4)
    - the elders and the four living creatures join in with the worship of the saints
  - 4. Fourth Hallelujah – “Then I (John) heard something like the voice of a great multitude and like the sound of many waters and like the sound of mighty peals of thunder, saying, “Hallelujah! For the Lord our God, the Almighty, reigns. Let us rejoice and be glad and give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come and His bride has made herself ready.” (Rev 19:6-7)
    - a. This fourth hallelujah is in response to the unification of the Lord Jesus with His bride at the marriage supper of the Lamb.
    - b. The bride (the Church, both individually and corporately) has made herself ready by clothing herself in fine linen, which represents her righteous acts.
    - c. In conclusion, John is instructed to write the following

blessing, "...Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb." (Rev 19:8-9)

D. The Tribulation of the Saints - (*thlipsis* – affliction, distress, hardship, persecution, suffering, trial)

1. The tribulation of Christians – throughout the Church Age

a. Jesus instructed his followers, "In the world you will have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world." (John 16:33)

"But remember the former days, when, after being enlightened, you endured a great conflict of sufferings, partly by being made a public spectacle through reproaches and tribulations, and partly by becoming sharers with those who were so treated." (Heb10:32-33)

b. Paul, in Iconium and Antioch, strengthened "the souls of disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith, and saying, "Through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God." (Acts 14:22)

- tribulation produces perseverance (Rom 5:3, 12:12)

- Paul was joyful in his tribulation (2Co 7:4)

2. Christians are not appointed unto wrath – (*orge* – anger)

(Matt 3:7; Rom 1:18, 3:5, 5:8, 9, 12:19; Eph 2:3, Col 3:6)

While we may endure severe trials and tribulations before the Lord's return, we are not "appointed unto wrath" (1Thes 1:10, 5:9) which is present in the Great Tribulation (Rev 6:15-17)

E. The Great Tribulation

The prophet Daniel prophesied that there would be a three and one-half year period at the very end of the Last Days. (Dan 9:27)

Jesus referred to this time in Matt 24:21, "For then there will be a great tribulation, such as not occurred since the beginning of the world until now, nor ever will." It is during this time that two spiritual forces are contending against one another:

- The Satanic Realm which will be deceiving the nations and preparing for a great war against God's people, the Jews, as well as the city of Jerusalem, the future capital of Jesus Christ in the Millennial Reign.

- The Kingdom of God which is bringing final judgment to the Antichrist, to the false prophet, and to the earth including those of mankind who remain unredeemed.

1. The Satanic Realm

a. Satanic Deception

It is during the last seven years prophesied by Daniel that the satanic counterfeit to Christianity is fully revealed. This demonic deception includes:

(1) a satanic trinity – the dragon (Satan - Rev 13:1), the beast out of the sea (Antichrist - Rev 13:1), and the beast out of the land (false prophet - Rev 13:11)

(2) a church – "synagogue of Satan" (Rev 2:9)

(3) ministers – "ministers of Satan" (2Co 11:4)

(4) a demonic theology – "doctrines of demons" (1Tim 4:1)

(5) a false gospel – "a gospel contrary to what we have preached to you" (Gal 1:8)

(6) a counterfeit communion service, the cup and table of demons (1Co 10:21)

- (7) false apostles – deceitful workers disguised as apostles (2Co 11:13)
- (8) false prophets – “Many false prophets will arise and will mislead many.” (Matt 24:11)
- (9) false teachers who will employ “destructive heresies” (2Pe 2:1)
- (10) false brethren who will bring people into bondage (Gal 2:4)
- (11) satanic worshipers who will worship the dragon and the Antichrist (Rev 13:3)
- (12) satanic authority – The Antichrist was given power, authority, and a throne by the dragon (Satan). (Rev 13:2)

b. Satanic Activity

The actions of the Antichrist during the Great Tribulation include:

- (1) His ascendance as a “god”:
    - (a) the whole earth worshiped the beast (except for those whose names are written in the Book of Life. (Rev 13:3-8)
    - (b) those who do not worship the image of the beast will be killed (Rev 13:15)
  - (2) Persecution of those who do not follow the Antichrist.
    - “And he causes all...to be given a mark on their right hand or on their forehead...that no one will be able to buy or to sell, except the one who has the mark...” (Rev 13:16-17)
    - (a) He is given authority (by God) to make war with the saints and overcome them, and have authority over every tribe and people and tongue and nation. (Rev 13:7)
    - (b) Many will be beheaded “because of their testimony of Jesus and because of the word of God” (Rev 20:4). Many will enter the kingdom of God during the tribulation through the pathway of martyrdom.
2. The Kingdom of God – God’s judgments bring destruction to the realm of Satan. This includes the antichrist, the false prophet, the followers of Satan, and the earth. These judgments are sequential bringing increasing severity, as described in Revelation 6 – 16:
- a. The Seven Seals of judgment bring:
    - (1) war, famine, and pestilence with one fourth of the world’s population perishing. (Rev 6:1-8)
    - (2) the stars fall from the sky, the sun and moon are darkened, earthquakes cause the shifting of the continents, and the sky is rolled up like a scroll. (Rev 6:12-17).
    - (3) the breaking of the seventh seal results in silence in heaven for one-half hour followed by the seven trumpet judgments (Rev 8:1)
  - b. The Seven Trumpets of judgment involve:
    - (1) one third of the earth being burned up (Rev 8:7).
    - (2) one third of the sea becoming blood, and one third of the creatures in the sea dying (Rev 8:8-9).
    - (3) one third of the rivers and springs of water becoming bitter (Rev 8:11)
    - (4) one third of the sun and the moon and the stars being darkened (Rev 8:12).

- (5) torment of the unredeemed of mankind by demons for five months (Rev 9:1-12)
- (6) angels killing one third of mankind (Re 9:15)
  - the remaining two thirds of man did not repent (Rev 9:20)
- c. The Seven Bowls of Wrath are the final judgments of God upon the earth. These judgments include:
  - (1) malignant sores poured out upon the unredeemed (Rev 16:2)
  - (2) every living creature in the sea dies (Rev 16:3)
  - (3) the rivers and the streams become blood (Rev 16:4)
  - (4) the sun scorches men with fire (Rev 16:8)
  - (5) the throne of the beast becomes darkened, men gnaw their tongues because of pain and sores (Rev 16:10-11) Even with all of these judgments they did not repent. (Rev 16:11)
  - (6) a loud voice from heaven declaring "It is done" (Rev 16:17), followed by a great earthquake causing mountains and islands to shift, and great hailstones falling from heaven.
- F. The Battle of Armageddon – occurs with the second coming of Christ
  - 1. The Antichrist after "reviving" the Roman Empire becomes the ruler, midway through the seven year tribulation period, of "every tribe, and people, and tongue, and nation" (Rev 13:7)
  - 2. It is at this time that the judgments of God (seal, trumpet, and bowl judgments) begin to affect the rule of the Antichrist. These judgments of God impact the nations of the earth and war erupts in the Middle East.
  - 3. In the Book of Daniel we see the events surrounding Armageddon:
    - "At the end time the king of the South will collide with him, and the king of the North will storm against him with chariots, with horsemen and with many ships; and he will enter countries, overflow them and pass through. He will also enter the Beautiful Land, and many countries will fall..." (Dan 11:40-41)
  - 4. The Antichrist is victorious in battle against the king of the South. "But rumors from the East and from the North will disturb him, and he will go forth with great wrath to destroy and annihilate many." (Dan 11:44)
  - 5. It is at this time that the sixth bowl of wrath dries up the river Euphrates "...so that the way would be prepared for the kings from the east." (Rev 16:12) The armies of the east have been stirred up by demonic spirits (Rev 16:14) "to gather them together for the war of the great day of God, the Almighty." (Rev 16:14)
    - While these kings may have gathered at Jerusalem for the intention of victory and conquest, they encounter:
      - The KING OF KINGS AND THE LORD OF LORDS!
- G. The Second Coming of Christ
  - "For I will gather all the nations against Jerusalem to battle, and the city will be captured, the houses plundered, the women ravished and half of the city exiled, but the rest of the people will not be cut off from the city. Then the Lord will go forth and

fight against those nations, as when He fights on a day of battle. In that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, which is in front of Jerusalem on the east..."(Zech 14:2-4)

"And I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse, and He who sat on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and wages war. His eyes are a flame of fire, and on His head are many diadems; and He has a name written on Him which no one knows except Himself. He is clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. And the armies which are in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, were following Him on white horses. From His mouth comes a sharp sword, so that with it He may strike down the nations, and He will rule them with a rod of iron; and He treads the wine press of the fierce wrath of God, the Almighty. And on His robe and on His thigh He has a name written, "KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS...And I saw the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies assembled to make war against Him who sat on the horse and against His army." (Rev 19:11-16,19)

H. The Swift Judgment of the Beast and the False Prophet

"And the beast was seized, and with him the false prophet who performed the signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who had received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image; these two were thrown alive into the lake of fire which burns with brimstone. And the rest were killed with the sword which came from the mouth of Him who sat on the horse..." (Rev 19:20-21)

I. Satan is Bound and Placed in the Abyss

"Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, holding the key of the abyss and a great chain in his hand. And he laid hold of the dragon, the serpent of old, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand year,...after these things he must be released for a short time." (Rev 20:1-3)

J. Resurrection of the Tribulation Saints

John saw a multitude which no one could count before the throne of God in Rev 7:9 which were the ones who came out of the great tribulation. It is these who are raised to life in Rev 20:4.

Comparison of Church Age Saints and Tribulation Saints

<u>Church Age</u>	<u>Tribulation Age</u> (Rev7:9-17)
Kept out of the Hour of Testing (Rev 3:10)	Are the tribulation martyrs (Rev 7:14)
Sit on thrones (Rev 4:4 )	Stand before the Throne (Rev 7:10)
Wear the Victor's Crown (Rev 4:4)	No crowns
Sing a New Song (Rev 5:9)	Cry out with a Loud Voice (Rev. 7:10)
A Kingdom of Priests/Reigning with Christ (Rev 5:10)	Serve Christ day and night (Rev 7:15)

Note: Those tribulation saints who had been beheaded, and those who had not taken the mark of the beast or his image came to life and reigned with Christ for 1000 years. (Rev 20:4)

## VI. The Millennial Reign

### A. Jesus Christ will reign as:

1. The King of Kings of the Whole Earth- (Ps 2:6-9, 72:8; Dan 7:13-14; Micah 4:1-2; Zech 14:9)  
- He will rule over the Gentile nations.
2. The King who sits on David's throne (2Sam 7:16; Ps 89:20-37; Isa 11:1-16)  
- He will rule over the nation of Israel.
  - a. The throne and the temple of God (Ezekiel 40-44) will exist in Jerusalem. (Ps 2:6)
  - b. Jesus Christ will reign in righteousness (Ps 72:1-3); all will see His glory (Ps 72:19)
  - c. Jesus Christ will reside on the earth (Zech 2:10-11)
  - d. The knowledge of the Lord will cover the earth (Isa 11:9), it will be written on the hearts of men (Jer 31:33-34), this produces righteousness on the earth.
  - e. There will be peace on the earth. (Isa 2:4)
  - f. The Holy Spirit will indwell men's hearts. (Isa 32:15-18, Eze 39:29)
  - g. The longevity of mankind decreased because of the fall of Adam and the curse of sin. However, in the Millennium, the longevity of man will increase and be restored.  
"No longer will there be in it an infant who lives but a few days, or an old man who does not live out his days; for the youth will die at the age of one hundred, and the one who does not reach the age of one hundred will be thought accursed." (Isa 65:20)
3. The King reigns over those present on the earth in the Millennial kingdom. This includes:
  - a. Those with glorified bodies:
    - (1) Those present with the Lord at the time of the rapture (1Thes 4:16-17)
    - (2) Those beheaded in the tribulation who will reign with Christ for 1000 years. (Rev 20:4)
    - (3) Those who die "in Christ" during the millennium (both tribulation saints and millennial saints) (Isa 65: 20-25)
  - b. Those with earthly bodies:
    - (1) Those "in Christ" who have not died, their length of life is unknown.
    - (2) Those who have rejected Christ as Lord and Savior.

B. Death is thrown into the Lake of Fire after the millennium, those rejecting Jesus Christ (their number is like the sand of the seashore) will join with Satan for one final battle and will be defeated (Rev20:7-9)

### C. The Final Judgment of Satan

This occurs at the end of the millennial reign:

"When the thousand years are completed, Satan will be released from his prison, and will come out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to

gather them together for the war; the number of them is like the sand of the seashore. And they came up on the broad plain of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city, and fire came down from heaven and devoured them. And the devil who deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are also; and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever." (Rev 20:7-10)

D. The Great White Throne Judgment

Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat upon it, from whose presence earth and heaven fled away, and no place was found for them. And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books were opened; and another book was opened, which is the book of life; and the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds. And the sea gave up the dead which were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead which were in them; and they were judged, every one of them according to their deeds." (Rev 20:11-13)

E. The Judgment of Death and the End of Hades

"Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire." (Rev 20:14)

VII. The New Heaven and the New Earth

"Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away, and there is no longer any sea."  
(Rev 21:1)

A. The holy city, the New Jerusalem is our eternal home by God's grace and love

"And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband." (Rev 21:2)

- God the Father is preparing a city for the saints of God, much as a father in that day prepared a bride for the bridegroom

B. The Pronouncements of the Father

1. "And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, "Behold, the tabernacle (*skene* – tent) of God (not temple, *naos* -sanctuary) is among men, and He will dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself (the Father) will be among them:
  - a. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes;
  - b. there will no longer be any death;
  - c. there will no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain;
  - d. the first things have passed away." (Rev 21:3-4)
2. "And He (the Father) who sits on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." And He said, "Write, for these words are faithful and true."
3. "Then He said to me, "It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end."
4. "I will give to the one who thirsts from the spring of the water of life without cost." -salvation
5. "He who overcomes will inherit these things, and I will be his God and he will be My son." (Rev 21:5-7)



a. Those who Overcome

- to overcome (*nikao*) means to win the victory, to conquer, to triumph, to prevail
- spoken by Christ (John 16:33) and spoken of Christ (Rev 5:5)  
“For whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that has overcome the world – our faith. Who is the one who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.” (1John 5:4-5)

b. Those who do not Overcome

“But for the cowardly and unbelieving and abominable and murderers and immoral persons and sorcerers and idolaters and all liars, their part will be in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.” (Rev 21:8)

C. The wall that surrounds the heavenly city

1. It had a great and high wall, with twelve gates. Each gate was made of a single pearl, with three gates on every side. Each gate was named for one of the twelve tribes of Israel (Rev 21:12)
2. The foundation of the wall has twelve foundational stones upon which are the names of twelve apostles. (Rev 21:14)
3. It's height is seventy two yards and it is made of jasper. (Rev 21:17-18)

D. The New Jerusalem is spoken figuratively of as a bride, adorned as for the bridegroom who is the Lamb of God (Jesus Christ)

1. The city is fifteen hundred miles long, it's length and width and height are all equal. – a cube (Rev 21:16)
2. There is no temple in it, “for the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb are it's temple.” (Rev 21:22)
3. The street of the city was pure gold, like transparent glass. (Rev 21:21)
4. The city was pure gold, like clear glass. (Rev 21:18)
5. There is no need for the sun or the moon, for the glory of God illuminates it, its lamp is the Lamb. (Rev 21:23)
6. It's gates will never be closed. (Rev 21:25)
7. The kings of the earth will bring their glory into it (the city)... and they will bring the glory and the honor of the nations into it. (Rev 21:24, 26)
8. Only those whose names are written in the Lamb's Book of Life may enter into this city. (Rev 21:27)
9. His bondservants will serve Him; they will see His face, and His name will be on their foreheads (Rev 21:22:3-4)

E. The River and the Tree of Life in the New Jerusalem

1. The river of the water of life, clear as crystal flows from the throne of God and of the Lamb in the middle of the street.
2. The tree of life is in either side of the river, bearing twelve kinds of fruit monthly.
3. The leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations (Rev 22:1-3)

VIII. The Final Word of Jesus Christ

“Behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to render to every man according to what he has done.” (Rev 22:12)

**“I AM the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.” (Rev 22:13)**

Study the Word

Please review this lesson and underline in your Bible the significant events that are on the horizon.

“But when these things begin to take place, straighten up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”  
(Luke 21:28)

Hallelujah! Come quickly, Lord Jesus!

A Final Blessing

“Now (may) the God of peace, who brought up from the dead the great Shepherd of the sheep through the blood of the eternal covenant, even Jesus our Lord, *equip you* in every good thing to do His will, working in us that which is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever and ever Amen.” (Heb 13:20-21)