

# Basics

## of the Christian Faith

*Discipling in Relationship*

*Part of Hope Chapel's  
Discipling Series*





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## Introduction

This 4-part course focuses on the basics of the Christian faith. *Proceed at your own pace.* It begins with the Bible. Paul writes, “For since the creation of the world [God’s] invisible *attributes* are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, *even* His eternal power and Godhead, so that men are without excuse.” (Rom 1:20) This is known as “General Revelation.” God has generally revealed Himself through His creation. But creation only reveals that God exists. It doesn’t tell us much about Him; it tells us nothing about His Plan of Salvation. For that, we need the Bible, which is God’s “Special Revelation” to us.

### BASIC TRAINING — Part 1

*“All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.”<sup>19</sup> “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit,<sup>20</sup> 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)*

- THE CREDIBILITY OF THE BIBLE
- WHO GOD IS
- THE TRINITY
- WHO JESUS IS
- WHAT JESUS DID
- ETERNAL LIFE THROUGH JESUS
- LIVING A SPIRITUAL LIFE – BAPTISM

The **CREDIBILITY OF THE BIBLE** is the first focus of our study, because it is only through establishing the Bible’s credibility, and by believing it to be true, that we are able to use it as a foundation for establishing our faith. Next, we will examine what the Bible says about **WHO GOD IS** — discussing the unity of God, the nature of God, and the expression of God through Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. By understanding that Jesus is God, we’ll understand the significance of **WHAT JESUS DID**: of His life, teachings, death, and resurrection. His sacrifice, or Atonement, paid for our sin, and reconciled us to God, when we believe that He alone has saved us. We’ll learn how to obtain this **ETERNAL LIFE**, and how to **LIVE A SPIRITUAL LIFE** by the power of the Holy Spirit, who comes to dwell in us through faith. We’ll also learn the meaning and purpose of **BAPTISM**.

Our hope for you is that, if you are not a Christian, you will learn the simple truths needed to place your faith entirely in Jesus Christ, to be *your* Savior, and the Lord of *your* life. If you’re a Christian, we hope you’ll use this study as a foundation for your own spiritual growth and development. We also pray that you find these lessons worth teaching to others.

### The Credibility of The Bible

There’s a story about a man who said, “I have something in my pocket that no hand has ever touched, and no eye has ever seen; and after I show it to you, I say that no one will ever see it again.” At first glance, it would seem to be impossible for someone to have something in his pocket that no hand has ever touched, or eye has ever seen. We would conclude that this man is making a claim he cannot fulfill. Would you believe such a man? Yet, the man reached into his pocket and pulled out a peanut, cracked open the shell, and showed the nut that was hidden in its own shell. No hand had ever touched that nut, and no eye had ever seen it. And after he put it in his mouth

and ate it, no one would ever see it again! The point to the story is this: just because our mind may not understand something, that doesn't mean it isn't true. This same is true of the Bible. Just because someone doesn't understand the Bible, that doesn't mean the Bible isn't true. With this study, please be "open-minded" as we explore whether the Bible is *credible* or not. At least entertain the *possibility* that the Bible is what it purports to be — the revealed word of God.

First we'll study what the Bible says about itself; and then we'll study further evidence to see whether or not the Bible is true.

1. According to the Bible, why is the Bible credible?

A. 2Timothy 3.16 \_\_\_\_\_

B. 2Peter 1.20-21 \_\_\_\_\_

2. Why was the Bible written for us? 2Timothy 3.16-17

A. V.16 \_\_\_\_\_

B. V.16 \_\_\_\_\_

C. V.16 \_\_\_\_\_

D. V.16 \_\_\_\_\_

E. V.17 \_\_\_\_\_

3. In the game of baseball, the catcher wears protective equipment so he will be thoroughly equipped to do his work. What would happen to a catcher who doesn't wear his glove? Or face mask? Or chest protection? \_\_\_\_\_

4. What then happens to a Christian who isn't thoroughly equipped? (Eph 6.11-13)

\_\_\_\_\_

According to 2Peter 1.20-21, there are no errors in the original manuscripts of the Bible. But the Bible has been transmitted to us over thousands of years, and translated into many different languages. That means there's a possibility that what we have contains *copying* and *translating* errors. How can we know if the text we have is accurate? The following paragraphs provide evidence for the accuracy of the Hebrew and Aramaic copies of the Old Testament, and the Greek copies of the New Testament:

A. There are thousands of copies of both the Greek New Testament, and the Hebrew and Aramaic Old Testament, written in various places at various times. The Jewish Masoretic copyists considered the task of copying the Old Testament scripture so sacred, that they developed a complex system of page, sentence and word counting. If even one word was out of place, the entire text was burned. The New Testament was the most widely published document of the ancient world. The number of existing texts of the New Testament (written before 500 A.D.) surpasses the second most available book (the *Iliad*, by the Greek poet Homer) by 1000 percent. Copies of the Old and New Testaments are the most accurate ancient texts we possess. Together they make up the most reliable historical document published before the modern era. They are more accurate than many documents published even up to the 1800s! As a result, if one copy has a misspelling, or a missing word, we have hundreds of other copies to help safeguard the possibility of minor errors into the translation.

- B. However, demonstrating that the Bible has been accurately transmitted across history is not enough. The *Iliad* was also transmitted faithfully; yet it is a work of fiction. Fortunately, however, the Bible proves itself in another way — *predictive prophecy*. The Bible is unique among all other ancient religious texts, in that it contains thousands of prophecies of future events that actually came to pass. In fact, so many fulfilled prophecies exist in the biblical texts, that many people who want to prove the Bible false, claim that those prophecies were written *after* the events. But modern archeology has shown these people are wrong. Old Testament texts have been found (such as the Dead Sea Scrolls), containing prophecies about the promised Messiah; and they predate the New Testament events!

The Old Testament prophesied about the coming of the Jewish Messiah, hundreds of years before Jesus was born. The following is a list of some of the prophecies made in the Old Testament about the promised Messiah, with the corresponding New Testament text that records how and when Jesus fulfilled them:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1. Jesus was born in Bethlehem.<br>Micah 5.2 — Matthew 2.1   | 9. Jesus came to preach the Good News, to proclaim freedom, and heal the sick.<br>Isaiah 61.1-2 — Luke 4.18          |
| 2. Jesus came out of Egypt.<br>Hosea 11.1 — Matthew 2.14-15  | 10. Jesus rode a donkey into Jerusalem.<br>Zechariah 9.9 — Matthew 21.1-11   |
| 3. Jesus was seen by the Gentiles in the land of Zebulun and Naphtali.<br>Isaiah 9.1-2 — Matthew 4.13-16 | 11. Jesus betrayed for 30 pieces of silver.<br>Zechariah 11.12-13 — Matthew 27.1-10                                  |
| 4. Jesus healed the sick.<br>Isaiah 53.4 — Matthew 8.16  | 12. Jesus' words on the cross.<br>Psalm 22.1 — Matthew 27.46   |
| 5. Jesus proclaimed justice and healed many.<br>Isaiah 42.1-9 — Matthew 12.1-16                          | 13. Jesus was pierced.<br>Psalm 22.16; Zec 12.10 — Joh 19.33-37  |
| 6. Jesus spoke in Parables.<br>Psalm 78.2 — Matthew 13.34-35   | 14. They gambled for Jesus' clothing.<br>Psalm 22.18 — John 19.23-24   |
| 7. Jesus was a descendant of David, King of Israel.<br>Psalm 110.1 — Luke 3.23-31; 20.41-44              | 15. Jesus' bones were not broken.<br>Psalm 34.19-20 — John 19.32-36  |
| 8. A prophet would prepare the way.<br>Malachi 3.1; Isaiah 40.3-5 — Mar 1.1-8                            | 16. Jesus fulfilled the prophecies about His death.<br>Isaiah 52.14; 53.12 —<br>Matthew 27.26-30, 38, 46; Luke 22.37 |

- C. Read Psalm 22.1-18 and Isaiah 52.13-53.12. Notice all the prophecies about Jesus' life and death. Then consider that Psalm 22 was written roughly a thousand years before Jesus, and about 800 years before the Roman Empire. Isaiah lived about 700 years before Jesus' birth. Psalm 22 describes gambling for his clothing; it was a common practice for the Roman guards to gamble for the clothing of those who were crucified, because having two sets of clothing was a sign of wealth. It also describes a method of capital punishment in which the hands and feet were pierced, written hundreds of years before crucifixion was used. The age of crucifying people and gambling for clothing has now passed, and it will not likely return. Therefore, Jesus is the *only* person to fulfill those prophecies.

D. The following excerpts show the writings of non-Christian historians. We will see how they also confirm that Jesus was put to death as prophesied in Psalm 22, and as recorded in the New Testament. (Matthew 27.11-56)

1. Flavius Josephus, a Jewish historian (A.D. 90) wrote about Jesus in his book *Antiquities of the Jews* (section XVIII, Ch.3, Sec. 3), stating,  
“Now there was at this time, Jesus, a wise man, if it is lawful to call him a Man, for he was a doer of wonderful works — a Teacher of such men as receive the truth with pleasure. He drew to himself both many of the Jews, and many of the Gentiles. This was Christ. And when Pilate, at the instigation of the chief men among us, had condemned Him to the cross, those who before had conceived an affection for him, did not cease to adhere to him. For on the third day, he appeared to them alive again, the divine prophets having foretold these and many other wonderful things concerning him. And the sect of Christians, so-called from him, subsist to this time.” (Lardner’s Translation, London 1787, modernized)
2. Cornelius Tacitus (A.D. 117) (*Annals*, Book XV, Ch.44) wrote,  
“Nero looked around for a scapegoat, and inflicted the most fiendish tortures on a group of persons already hated by the people for their crimes. This was the sect known as Christians. Their founder, one Christus, had been put to death by the procurator Pontius Pilate in the reign of Tiberius. This checked the abominable superstition for a while, but it broke out again and spread, not merely through Judea, where it originated, but even to Rome itself, the great reservoir and collecting ground for every kind of depravity and filth. Those who confessed to being Christians were at once arrested; but on their testimony, a great crowd of people were convicted, not so much on the charge of arson, but of hatred of the entire human race.” (D.R. Dudley’s translation, 1968)

E. The Bible’s credibility is shown through its fulfillment of prophecies as recorded in the Bible, and in other historical writings. Two other well-known historical writings also help us to know that there was never a question as to whether or not Jesus existed.

1. Suetonius (A.D. 120) (*Life of The Caesars, Claudius 25.4*) wrote, “As the Jews were making instigation of one Chrestus, he expelled them from Rome.” [in 49 A.D.]
2. Pliny the Younger (A.D. 112) (*Epistle, X.96*) wrote to the Emperor about the proper way to try and to convict Christians of that time, during an insurrection against Rome. Pliny wrote that although he agreed with the death penalty concerning Christians, it seemed to him that the only crime they committed was that they gathered themselves once a week, took vows to commit no crime or evil act, shared a meal, and sang a few songs to Christ as to a god.

Jesus fulfilled all the requirements written about the Messiah. *History* proves Jesus’ existence.

5. What do these fulfilled prophecies prove about Jesus?

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6. What do these fulfilled prophecies prove about the Bible?

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Another fact about the Bible's credibility is its **UNITY**. It is made up of 66 different books. It was written by at least 40 authors. It was written over a 1500-year span. And yet it is completely consistent, as if it were inspired by one Author. (2Peter 1.20-21)

*Faith* — Trusting in the Facts

*Facts* — What the Bible declares

*Feelings* — Changing of emotions

We must live by \_\_\_\_\_, which is trusting in the \_\_\_\_\_, and not by \_\_\_\_\_ — because *those* can change.

## Reading the Bible

The Bible is collection of 66 books, that consistently and progressively reveal the story of God's plan of salvation for His people. Read each book, as a book. Each one has an author, an audience that he was writing to, at a particular time in history, in their language, for their culture, with a message from God that he wanted them to understand. Taking those things into account, how did *they* understand what he was saying? Once you figure that out, what does it reveal about God, and about our relationship to Him? What are His expectations of us? And what has He done to save us by His Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior?

*For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. (Joh 3:16)*

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

*For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit. (2Pe 1:21)*

Keep the following things <sup>1</sup> in mind as you read the Bible:

1. It may be understood by anyone.
2. What is *less* clear can be explained by what is *more* clear.
3. Listen to what gifted teachers have to say about it. (Eph 4.11)
4. Read it according to the author's intent and circumstances.
5. Don't go beyond what is written. (1Cor 4.6)
6. Read it in light of the accepted understanding of it.
7. Read it according to the *Law of Love* (Mat 22.37-40).
8. Read each passage according to its context, and the context of the whole.
9. Compare like scriptures together (those that speak *directly* to the same topic).
10. Read it humbly before God, who speaks through His word.

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<sup>1</sup> Adapted from the writings of Henry Bullinger, on the *Sense of Scripture*, 1549.

# Organization of the Bible

## OLD TESTAMENT

### ***I. 5 Books of the Law*** (or *Pentateuch*, by Moses)

1. Genesis
2. Exodus
3. Leviticus
4. Numbers
5. Deuteronomy

### ***II. 12 Historical Books***

6. Joshua
7. Judges
8. Ruth
9. 1 Samuel
10. 2 Samuel
11. 1 Kings
12. 2 Kings
13. 1 Chronicles
14. 2 Chronicles
15. Ezra
16. Nehemiah
17. Esther

### ***III. 5 Poetical Books*** (or *Wisdom Books*)

18. Job
19. Psalms (many by David)
20. Proverbs (by Solomon)
21. Ecclesiastes (by Solomon)
22. Song of Songs (or *Canticles*, by Solomon)

### ***IV. 5 Major Prophets***

23. Isaiah
24. Jeremiah
25. Lamentations
26. Ezekiel
27. Daniel

### ***V. 12 Minor Prophets***

28. Hosea
29. Joel
30. Amos
31. Obadiah
32. Jonah
33. Micah
34. Nahum
35. Habakkuk
36. Zephaniah
37. Haggai
38. Zechariah
39. Malachi

## NEW TESTAMENT

### ***VI. 4 Gospels***

40. Matthew
  41. Mark
  42. Luke
  43. John
- } The Synoptic Gospels

### ***VII. 1 Historical Book***

44. Acts of the Apostles

### ***VIII. 13 of Paul's Letters***

45. Romans
46. 1 Corinthians
47. 2 Corinthians
48. Galatians
49. Ephesians
50. Philippians
51. Colossians
52. 1 Thessalonians
53. 2 Thessalonians
54. 1 Timothy (pastoral)
55. 2 Timothy (pastoral)
56. Titus (pastoral)
57. Philemon

### ***IX. 8 General Letters to the churches***

58. Hebrews (some say Paul's)
59. James
60. 1 Peter
61. 2 Peter
62. 1 John
63. 2 John
64. 3 John
65. Jude

### ***X. 1 Apocalyptic Letter*** (The Coming Judgment)

66. Revelation (or *Apocalypse of John*)

## Who God Is

1. One of the things the Bible does is to help us understand who God is, so that we can *relate* to Him. What do the following scriptures teach us about God?

- A. John 4.24 \_\_\_\_\_
- B. Isaiah 44.24 \_\_\_\_\_
- C. Job 42.2 \_\_\_\_\_
- D. Psalm 139.7-10 \_\_\_\_\_
- E. Malachi 3.6 \_\_\_\_\_

2. The above qualities tell us about God's being — what it is that makes Him God in the outward sense. The following verses help us to understand God's character — how He is God from a moral standpoint. What do these verses tell you about God?

- A. Isaiah 6.3 \_\_\_\_\_
- B. Jeremiah 31.3 \_\_\_\_\_
- C. Romans 11.33 \_\_\_\_\_
- D. Nehemiah 9.17 \_\_\_\_\_
- E. 2Peter 3.9 \_\_\_\_\_
- F. Psalms 98.9 \_\_\_\_\_
- G. Numbers 23.19 \_\_\_\_\_

We examined a number of Old Testament passages about the Messiah, Two of them give us additional insight into who the Messiah is — ***who Jesus is***.

3. Who is the Messiah, according to the following Passages?

Isaiah 9.6

- A. \_\_\_\_\_
- B. \_\_\_\_\_
- C. \_\_\_\_\_
- D. \_\_\_\_\_

Isaiah 7.14

\_\_\_\_\_

Immanuel means *God with us* (Matthew 1.18-25). That's who Jesus is. *Therefore,*

4. Jesus is called *Wonderful Counselor*. Who else is called the Counselor, Helper, or Comforter?

John 15.26 \_\_\_\_\_

5. Jesus is called *Everlasting Father*. Who else is called the Father?

John 15.26 \_\_\_\_\_

6. In Comparing Isaiah 9.6 to John 15.26 there seems to be a contradiction. Isaiah 9.6 shows that the Father, Son, and Counselor are *one* person. And yet, John 15.26 shows that the Father, Son, and Counselor are *three* persons. What might explain this?

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### The Trinity

God is a **TRINITY**. He is 100% God, whether revealed and experienced as the Father, Son, or Holy Spirit. God exists eternally as three Persons in one “Godhead.” The Father is fully God; the Son is fully God; and the Spirit is fully God.

7. How is the Father revealed and experienced?

A. John 1.18 \_\_\_\_\_

B. Genesis 1.1 \_\_\_\_\_

8. How is Jesus revealed and experienced?

A. Colossians 2.9 \_\_\_\_\_

B. John 1.1,14 \_\_\_\_\_

9. How is the Spirit revealed and experienced?

John 16.7-15 \_\_\_\_\_

v.8 \_\_\_\_\_

v.13 \_\_\_\_\_

vv.14-15 \_\_\_\_\_

We may not fully understand the mystery about God being revealed and experienced in three persons, but we can learn about God through coming to know Jesus — God in human form.

10. What is Jesus’ nature and personality as described in the Bible?

John 13.5-9 \_\_\_\_\_

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11. Satan’s nature and personality are described in complete *contrast* to the personality of Jesus. In the first column, describe Satan’s nature and personality according to the Bible (Isaiah compares the king of Babylon to Satan). In the second column, describe Christ’s.

<b>SATAN</b>	<b>CHRIST</b>
Isa 14.12-15:	Joh 14.20:
Eze 28.14:	Col 1.15:
Eze 28.15:	1Pet 2.22:
Eze 28.16:	Joh 14.27:
Eze 28.17:	1Cor 1.30:
Zech 3.1:	1Tim 2.5:
Job 2.3:	Luk 9.56:
Mark 1.12-13:	Heb 4.15-16:

12. How did God respond to Satan’s nature and personality?

Revelation 12.7-9 \_\_\_\_\_

Satan wants to lead the world astray. One way he does this is through false religions and cults. Many people are deceived into trusting Satan while believing it is God that they trust. Satan tries to convince us that if we serve him, and do enough good works, he will respond by allowing us to receive some sort of eternal reward. If a religious sect believes in this type of god, it is obvious that they are worshipping an arrogant and prideful god who seeks self-satisfaction. It is obvious that they are worshipping Satan’s personality. And yet, they believe that they are worshipping God, because they try to do good deeds (contrast Galatians 2.16; Titus 3.5).

God is not like Satan in His personality. We know God’s personality from Jesus. Jesus came to love us and to serve us (Mat 20.28). He did not require us to do anything to receive His love. But knowing He loved us, and continues to love us, it changes our lives so that we want to do good things. Outwardly, it’s hard to see a difference between those who are Christians, and those who are involved with false religion and cults. The difference is not in *what we do*, but rather, in *who we worship*.

**Who Jesus is.**

1. We know Jesus is God, not only by His nature and personality, but by what He *did*. How does the following passage show Jesus’ divinity?

Matthew 14.25-33 \_\_\_\_\_

2. We know Jesus is God, but in what ways is he human?

A. Intellectually (Matthew 24.36) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

B. Physically (John 4.4-7) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

C. Emotionally (John 11.32-35) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

D. Ultimately (Luke 23.44-46) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**HE IS FULLY GOD.** Describe Jesus' divinity, that is, his "Godness":

John 1.1, 14 \_\_\_\_\_

John 14.9 \_\_\_\_\_

2Corinthians 5.19 \_\_\_\_\_

Colossians 1.19, 2.9 \_\_\_\_\_

1Tim 3.16 \_\_\_\_\_

Hebrews 1.3 \_\_\_\_\_

**HE IS FULLY MAN.** Describe Jesus' humanity:

John 11.35 \_\_\_\_\_

Luke 22.44 \_\_\_\_\_

Joh 19.34 \_\_\_\_\_

What two things has this brief study taught us about Jesus?

A. \_\_\_\_\_

B. \_\_\_\_\_

Why can we have confidence that Jesus can sympathize with us in our weakness?

Hebrews 4.14-15 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## What Jesus Did

1. Why was Jesus born?

Matthew 1.21 \_\_\_\_\_

*Jesus* is Greek for the Hebrew name *Joshua*, which means, *The Lord Saves*.

2. What did Jesus say would happen to him?

Mathew 16.21 \_\_\_\_\_

3. How did Jesus die?

Matthew 27.26 \_\_\_\_\_

4. Why did Jesus die?

A. Romans 5.8 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

B. 1 Corinthians 5.7 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

C. Romans 6.23 \_\_\_\_\_

D. John 10.17-18 \_\_\_\_\_

E. Isaiah 53.5-6 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

5. What did Jesus do on the third day of His death?

Matthew 28.5-6 \_\_\_\_\_

6. What did Jesus' Resurrection declare?

A. Romans 1.4 \_\_\_\_\_

B. Romans 6.8-10 \_\_\_\_\_

To help us fully understand what Jesus did for us, we need to understand what our sins do to us. Consider the following example:

- A. Place a book over your left hand. Your left hand represents you and the book represents your sin. Your sin separates you from God, just as the book separates your left hand from the ceiling. God is so Holy that He cannot have anything to do with sinners. All have sinned, and the result is to fall short of God's glory and fellowship (Romans 3.23). This results in separation from God (Isaiah 59:2), and in death (Romans 6.23). For God is the source of life (Genesis 2:7; Revelation 11:11); therefore, separation from God *is death*.
- B. Let your right hand represent Jesus. Take the book off of your left hand and place it on your right hand. This represents what Jesus did for you. He took your sins on Himself, separating Himself from God, and died as a result of your sins. His sacrifice would be similar to you being condemned to a life sentence in jail, and an innocent person being willing to pay your penalty so you could be set free.
- C. Remove the book from your right hand to symbolize Jesus conquering sin, *removing* it by paying sin's penalty for us, clearing our debt to God. So when Jesus conquered *sin*, he conquered *death*. Without sin there is no death. The debt of sin could no longer be placed on us, because Jesus paid the price for it.

The key to all Christianity is Jesus' resurrection. Without the resurrection, Christianity is meaningless. Our faith depends on our sin being totally removed in order for us to have fellowship with God. (1 Corinthians 15:17; Romans 4:22-5:1; Romans 5:10)

7. What is the evidence of Jesus' resurrection?

A. Acts 3.15 \_\_\_\_\_

B. 1Corinthians 15.3-8 \_\_\_\_\_

The same disciples who ran away to hide when Jesus was crucified, later publicly went throughout Jerusalem and all Judea to spread the Good News of Jesus' resurrection. They went throughout the whole world spreading the Gospel. They were willing to live in poverty and to die for the Gospel. According to church history, all the disciples were martyred for preaching the Good News, except Judas, who committed suicide after betraying Jesus; and John, who miraculously survived being boiled in oil. He died of old age in Ephesus. It is only reasonable to believe that all these men would not be willing to die, unless they had really seen Jesus after His resurrection. *They certainly would not die for a lie.*

8. What is Jesus doing now?

John 14.2-3 \_\_\_\_\_

9. What will Jesus do in the future?

Matthew 24.30-31 \_\_\_\_\_

The following chart will help you to understand what the Atonement (sacrifice) of Jesus Christ did for you:

<b>What You Are Because of Sin</b>	<b>CONVERSION: Placing our Faith in Christ</b>	<b>What You Have Through Jesus Christ</b>
Enemies of God <i>Colossians 1.21</i>		Friends of God <i>John 15.12-15</i>
Sons of the Devil <i>John 8.44</i>		Sons of God <i>Romans 8.14-17</i>
Separated from God <i>Isaiah 59.2</i>		Brought Near to God <i>Eph 2.12-14</i>
Wandering in Darkness <i>John 3.19-20</i>		Walking in the Light <i>1John 1.5-7</i>
Under God's Wrath <i>Rom 1.18-19; Rom 2.5-9</i>		Enjoying Forgiveness <i>Isa 1.18; Psa 32.1-2</i>
A Guilty Conscience <i>1Tim 4.2; Titus 1.15</i>		A Clean Conscience <i>Heb 9.9,14; 1Peter 3.16</i>
The Curse of the Law <i>Galatians 3.10-11</i>		The Blessing of the Spirit <i>Galatians 3.13-14</i>
Condemned <i>John 3.18</i>		No Condemnation <i>Romans 8.1; John 3.17</i>
In Bondage to the Flesh <i>Romans 7.14-23</i>		Delivered by the Spirit <i>Rom 7.24-25; 8.26-27</i>
Have a Debased Mind <i>Romans 1.28-32</i>		Have a Renewed Mind <i>Romans 12.1-2</i>
Unholy Living <i>Romans 1.21-27</i>		Holy Living <i>1Thess 5.23-24</i>
Receiving Death <i>James 1.15</i>		Receiving Eternal Life <i>Romans 6.22-23</i>

Knowing that our sins were placed on Jesus, we must realize that each one of us is personally responsible for Jesus' death. All sin is the same to God, whether great or small, because they all required Jesus' death to pay for our sin. How hurt should we be that it was necessary? And how grateful should we be, that we are forgiven because of what Jesus did? When we *repent of our sins*, God forgives us because of what Jesus did (Mark 1:15; Acts 8:22). Repenting means we turn away from our sinful lifestyle, and commit to being holy (1Peter 1:13-16). Repentance requires *action*.



By faith, we're *justified* – declared righteous by God because of what Christ did. *That's entirely of God* (Joh. 1:12-13; Gal 2:16; Eph. 2:8-9). By faith, we repent and are *sanctified* – increasingly cleansed of our sinful habits. That's *cooperative*. The Spirit convicts us of sin, and we willingly put away our sinful conduct, *by* the Spirit (Rom. 8:13-14; Eph. 4:17-24; Col. 3:8-10). Why? Because God so loved us that He sent his only Son to die for us (Joh. 3:14-16). And Jesus so loved us, that he laid down his life for us (Joh. 15:13; Gal. 2:20). We *repent* out of love for Jesus.

An unbeliever once asked a Christian, "Why do you make so much of Christ, and talk so much about Him? What has Christ done for you?" Without speaking, the Christian gathered some dry leaves and moss and made a ring with them on the ground. He picked up a live worm and put it in the middle of the ring. He struck a match and set the moss and leaves on fire. The flame soon rose, and the heat scorched the worm. It writhed in agony, trying in vain to escape on every side. It then curled itself up in the middle, as if about to die in despair. At that moment the Christian reached out his hand, gently picked up the worm, and placed it on his chest. He said to the unbeliever, "Do you see this worm? I was this perishing creature. I was dying in my sins, hopeless, helpless, and on the brink of eternal fire. It was Jesus Christ who stretched out His arm in power. It was Jesus Christ who delivered me with the hand of His grace, and plucked me from everlasting burnings. It was Jesus Christ who placed me, a poor sinful worm, near the heart of His love. That's why I talk of Jesus Christ and make so much of Him. I am not ashamed of it, *because I love Him.*"<sup>2</sup>

## Eternal Life Through Jesus

1. According to Jesus, who can receive eternal life? John 3:13-18, 3:36, 5:24, 20:31:

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To fully understand what it means to *believe*, let's look at additional scriptures that focus on who can receive eternal life. Realize that even the demons believe in God (James 2:19). We need to study these in order to know the difference between believing that God exists, and the belief that brings eternal life.

2. According to James, what would a true believer do? James 2:14-20:

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If someone believes, their faith is always backed by actions or good deeds (Acts 26:20). Good deeds cannot bring us eternal life, but they can be *evidence* that someone is a true believer.

3. Why are we *not* saved by good deeds or works?

A. Ephesians 2:8-9 \_\_\_\_\_

B. John 6:28-29 \_\_\_\_\_

C. Matthew 7:21-23 \_\_\_\_\_

Again, good deeds will not bring us eternal life. We do good deeds because we believe in God and *have* eternal life. Good works or deeds are motivated by our *love*, not by any selfish *gain*. We are saved by grace through faith. Faith is to *trust* in God (an *action* word).

If you saw a man carry another man across Niagara Falls while walking a tight rope, you might believe he could carry you too. But, you may not have the faith or trust in the man, to actually *allow* him to carry you. *Faith* in Jesus is always backed by a total *trust* in Jesus, and *acting* on it.

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<sup>2</sup> Adapted from J.C. Ryle's *Holiness*, chapter 15, "Do You Love Me?"

4. God has called us to know him personally. What is the result of knowing God and Jesus?

John 17.3 \_\_\_\_\_

5. What is the result of not knowing God and Jesus?

Matthew 7.23 \_\_\_\_\_

Some people think of gaining eternal life as if buying a plane ticket. They try to go second-class so it won't cost them as much. But receiving eternal life isn't like buying a plane ticket; there's no second-class. It will cost you *everything*.

6. What type of commitment are you being asked to make by believing in Jesus?

A. Revelation 3.15-16 \_\_\_\_\_

B. Romans 10.9 \_\_\_\_\_

Jesus is your *Lord*. That means he's your *Master*, the ruler of your life, the only one you serve.

If someone whom you love came to you and said, "Will you marry me? I'll be the most faithful spouse anyone could have, 364 days a year. But on one day, New Year's Day, I always commit adultery. Will you marry me?" Of course, your answer should be "NO"! But why? The person will be faithful 364 days, compared to one day of unfaithfulness. The reason you would say *no*, is because the person is *not* totally committed to you. If it's important for our spouse to be *totally* committed to the marriage, then how much more important is it to be *totally* committed to God in Christ? As much as Jesus loves us, He still requires us to be totally committed to Him. This doesn't mean you'll be perfect; no one is ever perfect. But, he does expect you to give yourself to him *wholeheartedly*. There's a story about a man who asked Jesus a question:

"What must I do to enter into the Kingdom of God?" Jesus answered, "You must give your life to me. You are no longer your own — now you belong to me."

The man asked, "But Lord, what will my wife say, when I tell her that I belong to you?" Jesus responded, "You have a wife? To enter into the Kingdom of God, you must give your wife to me. She is no longer yours — she belongs to me."

Then the man asked, "But Lord who will raise our children?" Jesus responded, "You have children? To enter into the Kingdom of God you must give me your children. They are no longer yours — they belong to me."

The man then asked, "Who then will live in my house?" Jesus responded, "You have a house? To enter the Kingdom of God you must give me your house — it is no longer yours — it belongs to me."

At this point the man asked, "To enter the Kingdom of God do I give you my car and money as well?" Jesus answered, "Yes, and everything else you own. It is no longer yours — it belongs to me."

The man looked at Jesus and said, "To have eternal life, I am willing to give everything to you." Jesus replied, "Then You have eternal life. Go now and take care of all you gave me, for you belong to me. As you take care of your family — remember who they belong to. As you take care of your possessions, remember who they belong to. For I am the LORD, and you belong to me." (Matthew 10.37-39; Mark 10.21; Matthew 7.13-14)

7. How can we do the good works that God wants us to do?

A. John 14.26 \_\_\_\_\_

B. Col 1.29 \_\_\_\_\_

Someone can dress like you, talk like you, and do everything that you do, to convince everyone that he is you. But even if he fools everyone, he is still not you. If someone said to you, “try to act like yourself,” you would respond, “I don’t have to *act*, because I *am* myself.” Someone can try to do all the good things Christians do; he can speak like a Christian; he can look like a Christian; he can even convince others that he *is* a Christian. But, a Christian doesn’t have to *act* like a Christian. Good works should come naturally to him, because *he is* a Christian.

If you build a chair, the chair is your workmanship, created to be sat on. What did the chair do to become what it is? Absolutely nothing! Its creator made it what it is. What do we Christians do to become what we are? Absolutely nothing! God created us to be what we are. Christians are God’s workmanship. And yet, God created us *to do good works* (Eph 2.10). Good works are the natural outcome of having God’s Spirit: He enables and empowers us to *do* those good works.

8. What happens when you receive Jesus as your Lord?

- A. Acts 2:38 \_\_\_\_\_
- B. Galatians 3:14 \_\_\_\_\_
- C. John 14.15-17 \_\_\_\_\_

9. What is the result of receiving the Holy Spirit by faith in Jesus Christ?

- A. Galatians 5.22-23 \_\_\_\_\_
- B. John 3.5-7 \_\_\_\_\_
- C. 2Corinthians 5.17 \_\_\_\_\_

10. How can you be assured you have eternal life, and it won’t be taken from you?

- A. 1John 5.11-13 \_\_\_\_\_
- B. Romans 8.38-39 \_\_\_\_\_
- C. Romans 11.29 \_\_\_\_\_

11. What are you to do continually after becoming a Christian?

- A. Galatians 6.9 \_\_\_\_\_
- B. Colossians 2.6-7 \_\_\_\_\_

A tree doesn’t *try* to grow; but by being rooted in good soil, it grows naturally. If a tree is not rooted in good soil, it will die. By being rooted in Jesus, that is, by spending time with Him through prayer and Bible study, and doing what he commands, we grow to be like Him. If a Christian doesn’t *stay* rooted in Jesus, he will become spiritually useless.

Take a piece of paper and tear it into four pieces. Write down the four most important things to you, one thing on each piece of paper. Evaluate these four things very carefully. Now for some bad news. A tragedy happens and you lose one of the four things. Pick the one that is least important to you and throw it away. Some more bad news for you: another tragedy happens, and you lose two of the remaining three. Pick up the two least important to you, and throw them away. Whichever piece is left is the most important thing in your life. It's the thing you worship most. *This* is where your heart is; this last remaining piece of paper contains the name of your God, or idol. Someday you'll lose everything. Everybody will die; everything will be lost. The only thing in this world that we will keep, is our relationship with Jesus Christ.

From this exercise, you may know without a doubt, whether Jesus is your Lord. But just in case, ask yourself these two questions:

1. Do you know for certain that you have Eternal Life? \_\_\_\_\_
2. If you were to stand before God and he asked you, "why should I allow you into Heaven?" what would your answer be? <sup>3</sup>

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If your answer to question 1 was 'No', would you like to know for certain that you have Eternal Life? For the answer to question 2, consider the following verses from the book of Romans:

Rom 3.10 There is none righteous, no, not one.

Rom 3.23 All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God

Rom 5.8 But God showed his love for us in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

Rom 6.23 The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is Eternal Life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Rom 10.9 If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.

Rom 10.13 For everyone who calls upon the Name of the Lord will be saved.

If you don't know God, *now* is the time. If you're not sure that you're saved, *pray* and ask God to save you — not because of anything you did, but only because of what Jesus did.

Here's how to pray to God, asking for Salvation, based on the above scriptures:

Confess your sin to Him — your "unrighteousness" — with any particular sins that you can recall. Confess your desire to turn away from your sinful ways. God will forgive you of your sins, and cleanse you from all unrighteousness (1John 1.9).

Confess with your mouth that you want Jesus to be the Lord (the King) of your life. Confess that you believe God raised Him from the dead. Jesus will then be your Savior and Lord, and give you His Spirit, and begin to make all things new (Rom 10.9-10; 2Cor 5.17).

Confess that you want to give your life to God (Gal 2. 20). If you do, the Holy Spirit will be your Comforter and Helper, and guide you into all truth, (John 14.16; 16.13).

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<sup>3</sup> D. James Kennedy, *Evangelism Explosion*, 1970.

If you want eternal life, and have prayed to God to give you that life, turning away from evil, and committing your life to Jesus, then you are saved *right now*; and you can know that you *have* eternal life (Rom 10.13). You needn't doubt any longer. God will continue to work in your life, and help you to grow in your relationship with Him (Phil. 1.6).

### Living By The Spirit/Baptism

1. How does a Christian experience the battle between the sinful nature and the Spirit?

A. Romans 7.18-23 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

B. Galatians 5.17 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. We are to live according to the Spirit and *not* the sinful nature. What should we do to live according to the Spirit?

A. Romans 8.5 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

B. Romans 8.13 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

C. Romans 12.2 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

The battle for your *heart* was won by Jesus, when you received Jesus as your Lord. But living the spiritual life is a constant battle for the *mind*. Therefore, developing your mind so that it aligns with the Holy Spirit, is a necessary and vital part of living the spiritual life.

3. In contrast, what are the consequences of living according to the sinful nature?

A. Romans 8.7-8 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

B. Galatians 5.19-21 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Think about what a horse looks like. After you get a good picture in your mind, try your best not to think about the horse. It is very hard not to think of the horse, because trying *not* to think about it, can easily make it the focus of your mind. The best you can do is to *replace* that thought by setting your mind and attention toward something else. The sinful nature works the same way. If you're tempted to sin, it's hard to change those *fleshly* thoughts, unless you willingly replace them with *spiritual* desires (Gal 5.22-23).

4. Describe the two stages of a Christian's spiritual walk.

*The Infant in Christ* (1Corinthians 3.1-3; Hebrews 5.12-13):

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

*The Spiritual Man* (1Corinthians 2.15-16; Hebrews 5.14):

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The infant in Christ wants to follow God, because he is a true believer. But the difference between the *infant* in Christ and the spiritual *man*, is that the infant in Christ doesn't yet have the mind of Christ, and the discipline of grace. Developing the mind of Christ takes time. Unless someone learns to *think* like Christ, he won't be able to *live* like Christ.

5. How might the following help you become the spiritual man (having the mind of Christ)?
- A. Prayer: \_\_\_\_\_
  - B. Bible study: \_\_\_\_\_
  - C. Christian fellowship: \_\_\_\_\_
  - D. Ministering to others: \_\_\_\_\_

6. Describe the life of those who live according to Spirit.

Galatians 5.22-23 \_\_\_\_\_

7. To live according to the Spirit, means we obey all that God commands us. According to Acts, what is the first command after repentance, and when are we to do it? Acts 2.38-41, 8.30-38, 9.17-18, 10.47-48, 16.14-15, 16.31-33, and 19.2-5: \_\_\_\_\_

Acts 2.38 may *seem* to teach that you must be baptized in order to be forgiven of sins, and to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. But, if you read further, Peter explains in Acts 3.19, that it is because of *repentance* that our sins are wiped out. Then in Acts 10.47-48, it becomes clear that the people received the Holy Spirit *before* being baptized. We know from other Scripture, that we cannot receive forgiveness of the Holy Spirit as a result of what we do. It's only when we turn to God that we find forgiveness and receive the Gift of the Holy Spirit.

8. Why isn't Baptism a part of salvation?

- A. 1Corinthians 1.17 \_\_\_\_\_
- B. Ephesians 2.8-9 \_\_\_\_\_

9. What does Matthew 3.13-17 teach us about the importance of Baptism?

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

10. What is symbolized in Baptism?

- A. Romans 6.4 \_\_\_\_\_
- B. Galatians 3.27 \_\_\_\_\_

The word "Baptism" comes from the Greek word meaning *immersion*. To be immersed is to be dipped — completely covered with water. That's a symbol of our total commitment to God, and a symbol of what Jesus did for us. In being immersed, we're "buried" in the water, and "resurrected" out of the water. It represents Jesus' death and resurrection. Immersion

also represents *our* life, for we die to our old ways, and we rise to new life with Jesus. The water represents the blood of Jesus washing away our sins.

Throughout the Bible, God asks His people to obey the ceremonies that symbolize different aspects of their relationship with God. Examples of these are Daily Offerings, Monthly Offerings, the Passover, Feast of Weeks, Feast of Trumpets, the Day of Atonement, and the Feast of Tabernacles (Num 28, 29). Baptism symbolizes our new relationship with God, just as marriage symbolizes the new union between a man and woman.

11. What Old Testament sign of the covenant between God and man, is symbolized in baptism?

Colossians 2.11-12 \_\_\_\_\_

Circumcision was a covenant between God and the Israelites, that represented cutting away the flesh or sinful nature. Similarly, baptism is a covenant between God and Christians, that also represents our dying to the flesh or the sinful nature. In Genesis 17.12, God commanded all the Israelite males to be circumcised on the eighth day after their birth. Some people believe in baptizing babies for this reason. After all, if circumcision and baptism have the same meaning, shouldn't they be done at the same time? But, circumcision is a *physical* symbol that takes place after the *physical* birth, while baptism is a *spiritual* symbol that takes place after the *spiritual* birth.

For forty years in the wilderness, the Israelites were not circumcised, even though God had commanded them to circumcise their baby boys (Joshua 5.2-8). Likewise, we have all been commanded to be baptized; but there may be some exceptions why someone cannot be.

12. But what should someone to do as soon as they *are able* to be baptized?

\_\_\_\_\_

God wants all Christians to be baptized, and to follow Jesus (Mat 16.24; Joh 10.24).





## BASIC TRAINING — Part 2

*“For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against Principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.” (Ephesians 6.12)*

- LIVING THE LIFE OF LOVE
- TURNING AWAY FROM SIN
- GROWING THROUGH FAITH
- CHRIST-LIKE RELATIONSHIPS
- MARRIAGE AND DATING

### Introduction

This is the second part of a four-part series covering the basics of Christianity. The focus of these studies is obedience to God. This is not obedience done out of *fear*, but out of *love*, because God demonstrated His own love for us by sending His Son to die for us (Joh 3.16; Rom 5.8).

The first thing we will examine is **LOVE**. Jesus said that we should love all men (especially our brothers and sisters in Christ), as a result of knowing Jesus Christ. As we learn what true love is, we will come to understand and recognize **SIN** for what it is — an unloving and egocentric attitude of pride and selfishness. We will then be able to understand the results and consequences of sin in our life.

After that, we will examine the concept of **FAITH** — not just intellectual agreement with the truth, but an encounter with the living God. We will examine the principles of developing right **RELATIONSHIPS** with others. Then we will examine the highest relationship we can have with another human being — **MARRIAGE**. We will discover why the relationship we have with the opposite sex is so important and sacred: it’s because it is a reflection of how we relate to God.

In Part 1 of this series, you learned what it means to be a Christian.

***The prerequisite for this second part, is that you have finished Part 1, and have committed your life to Christ.*** Here’s why: after *justification* by faith in Christ, comes *sanctification* (obedience) by faith in Christ. It is empowered by the Holy Spirit which is received at our conversion (Gal 3.14). Without the Spirit, you will be unable to deal with sin (Romans 8.13). Without the Spirit, what you are about to learn will be foolishness to you (1Corinthians 2.14).

Obedience that is not born of faith in Christ, cannot please God (Hebrews 11.6); and it can mislead you into thinking that you are saved, when you’re not (Ephesians 2.8-9).

Our hope for you is that these studies will help you be more obedient to God, and that you will take what you learn here, and teach it to others.

*Living the spiritual life is having the Mind of Christ.  
The Mind of Christ is living a life of Love.*

## Living the Life of Love

1. What is Love?

1John 3.16-20 \_\_\_\_\_

1John 4.10 \_\_\_\_\_

John 15.13 \_\_\_\_\_

2. How does love behave? 1Corinthians 13.4-8

v.4 \_\_\_\_\_ v.5 \_\_\_\_\_

v.4 \_\_\_\_\_ v.6 \_\_\_\_\_

v.4 \_\_\_\_\_ v.6 \_\_\_\_\_

v.4 \_\_\_\_\_ v.7 \_\_\_\_\_

v.4 \_\_\_\_\_ v.7 \_\_\_\_\_

v.5 \_\_\_\_\_ v.7 \_\_\_\_\_

v.5 \_\_\_\_\_ v.7 \_\_\_\_\_

v.5 \_\_\_\_\_ v.8 \_\_\_\_\_

To help you know if you are living by love, read 1Corinthians 13.4-8, replacing the word 'love' with your name. If the Passage describes your life, you have the love God meant for you. If not, examine the areas that you do not act according to scripture, and ask God to help in those areas.

3. What are the greatest commandments?

A. Matthew 22.36-40 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

B. John 13.34-35 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4. What is the result of obeying these commands?

Luke 10.25-28 \_\_\_\_\_

John 14.21 \_\_\_\_\_

5. In what manner are we to show love to our neighbor? (Good Samaritan)

Luke 10.29-37 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Realize that the Samaritans and Jews were *enemies*. Therefore, we are to love our enemies.

6. How are we to respond to our enemies? Luke 6.27-36

When our enemies hate us we are to \_\_\_\_\_

When our enemies curse us we are to \_\_\_\_\_

When our enemies mistreat us we are to \_\_\_\_\_

When our enemies strike us on one cheek, we are to \_\_\_\_\_

When our enemies take our cloak (coat), we are to \_\_\_\_\_

When our enemies ask us for something, we are to \_\_\_\_\_

When our enemies take something from us, we are to \_\_\_\_\_

What type of love is this? \_\_\_\_\_

We are to love people *unconditionally*. There may be times that we have to go to war, or times that we punish people for doing evil (Ecclesiastes 3.1,8); but even during those times, we are to love them. It is possible to hate a person because of the evil they do, and still love that person and want them to know God's love.

God loves all people. And yet Psalm 5.5 says that God hates all who do wrong. Love and hate are not opposites. Love is an *action*; hate is a *feeling*. The opposite of love is *sin*, not hate. The important part is not to let anger lead you into sin — an unloving action (Ephesians 4.26). God wants us to help the innocent and to stop evil, for He hates sin (Proverbs 6.16-19). Israel was commanded by God to wipe out some of the evil nations that meant them harm. There are several passages in the Old Testament where this happens. God has called us to show unconditional love to others; and yet there is a balance in all that we do.

7. According to 1John, what is the result of not having love for others?

1Joh 2.9-11 \_\_\_\_\_

1Joh 3.14-15 \_\_\_\_\_

1Joh 4.8 \_\_\_\_\_

1Joh 4.20 \_\_\_\_\_

8. How will the world react to us when we love God and love one another?

1John 3.13 \_\_\_\_\_

9. *Why* will they react to us in this manner?

John 15.18-25 \_\_\_\_\_

The world hates Jesus, because His righteousness reveals their evil ways. This makes them guilty of sin. When we live righteous lives, people will hate us also. They believe if they can eliminate us, they will no longer feel guilty. Therefore, when we act like Jesus, we can expect to be treated like Jesus.

10. How are we to respond to the world when they do this?

1Pet 2.23-25 \_\_\_\_\_

11. Why does Jesus warn us about persecution?

John 16.1-4 \_\_\_\_\_

Knowing that following Jesus has a cost, we can decide whether or not we are willing to commit our life to Jesus. Though we may be persecuted, God will help us.

12. Why shouldn't it be burdensome to love?

1John 5.3-5 \_\_\_\_\_

13. Now that we have heard about love, what should we do?

James 1.22 \_\_\_\_\_

1John 3.18 \_\_\_\_\_

14. If you have acted unlovingly toward anyone, what are you to do?

Matthew 5.23-24 \_\_\_\_\_

15. If anyone has acted unlovingly toward you, what are you to do?

Matthew 6.12-15 \_\_\_\_\_

### *Application*

In the last lesson, you were given only one application: to become a Christian by developing a relationship with God. In these lessons, it is important to apply what you have learned each week, so that the life of obedience to Christ will have a firm foundation. Therefore, we encourage you to apply this lesson, based on Matthew 5.23-24 and Matthew 6.12-15. We'll learn to forgive others of the wrongs they have done us, and we'll learn to seek forgiveness for the wrongs we have done to others.

The focus of these Bible studies is to help us be obedient to God. Part of being obedient to God is to love others. If you have acted unlovingly toward anyone, and have never *admitted* your wrong to that person, asking them to forgive you, then go to the person and be reconciled. If you owe them anything, pay them back. If you said anything bad about the person, ask forgiveness for wronging them. Then go to the people you spoke to, and admit the wrong; help restore the person's name. The Bible teaches us to be reconciled to others before we offer any gift to God.

Another part of being obedient to God and loving others is to forgive others who have acted unlovingly towards you. Think of anyone who has acted unlovingly to you, owed you something, or spoken bad about you. Go to God in prayer and forgive those people in your heart. If you do not forgive others, God will not forgive you (Mat 6.15). Will you commit yourself to love?

*Living by love is the Christian Life.*

## Turning Away From Sin

By understanding love, we can understand Sin. Sin is any act that is not done in love. Sin can be an unloving act towards a person, or towards God. God shows us what sin is through His laws. We have four types of laws: *Civil*, *Ceremonial*, *Cultural*, and *Moral*. Civil, Ceremonial, and Cultural laws can change, but Moral laws never change. Moral Laws are always based on love.

1. Fill in the blank with the appropriate type of law (Civil, Ceremonial, Cultural or Moral).

A. \_\_\_\_\_ laws such as speed limits, property taxes, etc.

These laws don't necessarily relate to love. They are man-made and may not always reflect what is best for society; yet, they should be obeyed unless they conflict with God's Law.

B. \_\_\_\_\_ laws such as Marriage, Baptism, etc. These types of laws change from place to place due to traditions and religious beliefs.

These laws do not necessarily relate to love, but may sometimes symbolize truths contained in God's laws.

C. \_\_\_\_\_ laws such as styles of dress, eating manners, etc.

These laws are based on human choice, and do not necessarily relate to love, to remain at peace with all men, we should respect these unless they violate God's Law.

D. \_\_\_\_\_ laws such as do not murder and do not commit adultery.

These laws are *always* related to love. This is God's Law.

God wants us to do our best to obey all laws. But moral laws are from God, and they must override all other laws.

This study on sin will focus on *Moral* laws. There are two ways to break moral laws: sins of *commission* and sins of *omission*. Sins of commission are when someone *breaks* God's law.

2. Some sins of **commission** are listed in Leviticus chapters 18 and 19. Here is why these are not acts of love. Fill in each blank with the sin mentioned in the biblical passage.

**Leviticus 18.17:** \_\_\_\_\_ is wrong, because genetic abnormalities may result. (*This verse is referring to sexual relations. The King James is not clear about that.*) These genetic abnormalities can be passed on from generation to generation. Hemophilia has been traced back to royal families who committed this sin. This sin can cause emotional or physical harm in many cases.

**Leviticus 18.20:** \_\_\_\_\_ is wrong, because in committing this sin, one is taking the spouse of someone else, or is breaking one's marriage vow to their own spouse. This is not an act of love, because it causes deep hurt in the lives of people; it often breaks up marriages; and it may result in violence.

**Leviticus 18.21:** \_\_\_\_\_ is obviously wrong and is against love. Abortion has been the modern equivalent of child sacrifice in our society. Any human sacrifice for that matter, including suicide bombing, is a sin. God is against shedding innocent blood. (Proverbs 6.17)

**Leviticus 18.22:** \_\_\_\_\_ is obviously contrary to the nature of God. God biologically made man for woman, and woman for man. This sin is an act of rebellion toward God’s natural design for mankind. It is also a major health risk.

**Leviticus 18.23:** \_\_\_\_\_ is wrong. It is contrary to how God created us. Those who do this sin are rebelling against how God made them. Many venereal diseases started as a result of this sin. Animals have viruses that are not necessarily harmful to them but can kill us. AIDS was present in Rhesus Monkeys long before humans contracted it.

**Leviticus 19.11-18:** The sins listed here are all related to how we treat others. As you go through the verses, fill in the blanks below. If you find sins listed that you do, decide what you will do to make sure that you will not sin in this way again. Then, decide how you can pay back what you owe to others, if the sin is something related to taking from others.

v.11 \_\_\_\_\_ v.15 \_\_\_\_\_

v.11 \_\_\_\_\_ v.15 \_\_\_\_\_

v.11 \_\_\_\_\_ v.15 \_\_\_\_\_

v.12 \_\_\_\_\_ v.16 \_\_\_\_\_

v.13 \_\_\_\_\_ v.16 \_\_\_\_\_

v.13 \_\_\_\_\_ v.17 \_\_\_\_\_

v.13 \_\_\_\_\_ v.18 \_\_\_\_\_

v.14 \_\_\_\_\_ v.18 \_\_\_\_\_

v.14 \_\_\_\_\_

What is the overall command in the Bible that reveals and condemns these sins?

v.18 \_\_\_\_\_

**Leviticus 19.26** (first part of the verse): \_\_\_\_\_ is wrong, because it carries impurities that may be harmful to our bodies. Consuming anything that is harmful to the body would be considered a sin. The number one fatal disease in America is heart disease often related to clogged arteries. Eating too much can cause obesity and diabetes. Some types of cancer are related to what people consume (e.g. cigarettes). God loves us and wants us to be healthy. Leviticus 11 gives a list of what foods were safe to eat at that time.

**Leviticus 19.26** (the second part of the verse): \_\_\_\_\_ is wrong, because it calls up demon spirits for divination, etc. Drugs were used in this practice to give people hallucinations, which they believed let them contact to the spirit world. The word ‘pharmacy’ comes from the Greek word for sorcery, because of sorcerers’ use of drugs. The misuse of drugs is wrong, because they can damage the body and mind. Drugs are meant for curing disease, not for inducing hallucinations.

**Leviticus 19.28:** \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ can be harmful to our body or skin. God even cares about our skin. Tattoos may not be as harmful today, but at the time, they were related to idol worship or worship of the dead. You should still be cautious about putting any permanent markings on your body.

**Leviticus 19.29:** \_\_\_\_\_ is definitely wrong and is not an act of love. Yet, today in many parts of the world, this is a common practice. People will do almost any sin in order to make money. It has led to human trafficking, and child pornography.

This list contains just some examples to demonstrate that God's *Moral Law* is based on *Love*. For later discussion, think of a few laws, customs, or practices, that you may have a question about. How are they related to God's *Law of Love*? Are they Civil, Ceremonial or Cultural?

3. Some sins of **omission** are listed in Malachi and Matthew.

What is the omission in Malachi 3.8-10? \_\_\_\_\_

What are the omissions in Mat 25.41-46? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4. What are some other sins you can think of, that were not mentioned in this study?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

*Moral laws were written to protect us, because God loves us.* Moral sins always hurt someone in some way. We need to understand that God does not want us to be hurt in any way. God also loves others, and doesn't want *them* hurt in any way. The sad thing about sin is that many times innocent people suffer the consequences of others' sins. Examples include drunk driving, robbery, government corruption, etc.

The following questions may help you determine if something is morally wrong.

- Is this an act of Love?
- Does this pervert the nature of God's created universe?
- Could this hurt me or someone else, whether now or later?
- Would Jesus do this?

5. What consequences will a man face in choosing sin?

A. Matthew 10.28 \_\_\_\_\_

B. Matthew 25.44-46 \_\_\_\_\_

C. 1Corinthians 6.9-10 \_\_\_\_\_

D. Galatians 5.19-21 \_\_\_\_\_

6. Can we live a sinless life (1John 1.8,10)? \_\_\_\_\_

7. What about those who claim to be without sin?

1John 1.8,10

A. v.8 \_\_\_\_\_

B. v.8 \_\_\_\_\_

C. v.10 \_\_\_\_\_ ? \_\_\_\_\_

D. v.10 \_\_\_\_\_

8. When we sin, how do we obtain forgiveness?

1John 1.7 \_\_\_\_\_

1John 1.9 \_\_\_\_\_

9. What about those who purposely sin, believing that God will graciously forgive them?

Jude 1.4 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

1John 2.3-4 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### *Application*

The focus of these Bible studies is to help us be obedient to God. Part of being obedient to God is to refrain from sin. If you are currently involved with an area of sin, write down what you can do to help you overcome the sin. If you have sinned against God in any way, ask him to forgive you. If you have sinned against anyone and have never admitted your wrong to that person and asked them to forgive you, then go to the person and be reconciled. If you owe them anything, pay them back. If you have said anything bad about them, go to those people you spoke to, admit the wrong, and help restore the person's name.

Another part of being obedient to God is to forgive others who have sinned against you. Think of anyone who has sinned against you, owes you something, or has spoken badly about you. Go to God in prayer and forgive those people in your heart. If you do not forgive others, God will not forgive you (Mat 6.15).

*God sets up moral laws, because he loves us and wants to protect us.*



## Growing Through Faith

### 1. What is Faith?

Hebrews 11.1 \_\_\_\_\_

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Faith is based on being *certain*, based on the evidence (or having the conviction) of what is unseen. The Greek word translated as “evidence” or “conviction” means “A trial in order to prove something; a proof.”<sup>4</sup> In other words, faith is to be tested and proven before we will trust fully. Proof applies to facts, documents, etc. that are so certain or convincing as to demonstrate the validity of a conclusion beyond reasonable doubt (Webster’s Dictionary).

There are three faculties of the human soul: Mind, Will and Emotion. Therefore Faith has three corresponding aspects to it: *Intellectual*, *Volitional*, and *Emotional*. The chart below shows how faith is expressed in each.

SOUL	How FAITH is related to each faculty:
Mind	Intellectual <i>conviction</i> based on facts observed, experienced, or deduced. (Rom 10.17)
Will	Belief of the facts, and a choice or <i>volition</i> to act on that belief. (Hebrews 11.6)
Emotion	<i>Passion</i> (love and joy) to strengthen or embolden our choices. (1Peter 1.7-9)

We know that God created the universe, because he gave us evidence (Hebrews 11.3). In the past, God proved Himself through many miracles. Today, God can still prove Himself through miracles. But even if He chooses not to, He still gives us enough evidence through nature, that we are without excuse (Romans 1.19-20). God also proved himself by raising Jesus Christ from the dead, and by providing substantial witnesses to the event: “God has raised Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of the fact” (Acts 2.32). And he proves himself personally to millions by changing lives: “And this is the victory that has overcome the world: our faith.” (1John 5.4)

Contrast this with worldly faith, which demands unwavering belief in the unsubstantiated claims of men. Here are several examples of *worldly* faith:

- A. Some scientists cling dogmatically to Darwinism, a theory (*a religion*) that life somehow evolved from chemical compounds, to simple life forms, to increasingly more complex life-forms, such as man. This progression is said to be purely naturalistic; thus, they say, there is no need for a Creator or Sustainer of life (God). But the **evidence** doesn’t support it. There is no explanation for the complexity of mitochondria in single-celled organisms; nor for slime mold which aggregates into an adaptive organism; no evidence of one species evolving into another; no theory for how male-female differentiation developed and then reproduced “naturally.” It ignores the fact that a cell can only reproduce a copy of itself. While it may be possible for a cell to mutate, there is no known way for a cell with four chromosomes to produce a cell with any number other than four. Thus mankind could not have evolved from either apes or monkeys, because Man’s cells have 46 chromosomes, while monkeys have 44, and apes have 48 chromosomes respectively.

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<sup>4</sup> Moulton, Harold K., *The Analytical Greek Lexicon Revised*, Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1978, p. 131.

- B. Mormons teach that their Book of Mormon is the Word of God. Yet they cannot produce any original text from which the book was translated. Additionally, Joseph Smith claimed that the Book of Mormon was written in ‘Reformed Egyptian’, a language never seen before or since. And he claimed that he translated the book using a ‘Seer Stone’, a claim that cannot be substantiated. Thus, it cannot be known if the translation was accurate, or even if the original plates existed. They establish their faith in the Book of Mormon by a ‘Burning in the Bosom,’ which a person feels after reading the Book of Mormon. In other words, their faith is founded entirely on a feeling, without substantiating **evidence**.
- C. The followers of some eastern religions believe strongly in the doctrine of reincarnation (that the soul is reborn over and over again in different bodies). This belief includes the Law of Karma, which states that any circumstance that a person is born under, or any event which happens to them, is the result of the good or evil committed by the person in a previous life. No effort is made to help a person in dire conditions, because they believe the person deserves whatever they have. Millions of Hindu ‘untouchable’ caste members are permanently locked into their caste, and forced to live in poverty and squalor by their religion. Yet there is no tangible evidence that reincarnation or karma exists, or that the doctrine is true. The only **evidence** offered is hypnotic ‘past-life’ readings, which no court of law would accept, because a person under hypnosis is highly suggestible.

Faith without proof is dangerous. *False religions* have faith without proof, and the result is the deception of their adherents. Without corroborating proof, it is foolish to have faith in any thing, or any one. If Jesus had not risen from the dead, we would be fools to commit ourselves to preaching the Gospel, and suffering adversity for it (1Cor 15.12-19).

2. Where does faith come from?

- A. Hebrew 12.2 \_\_\_\_\_
- B. Romans 10.17 \_\_\_\_\_
- C. Ephesian 2.8-9 \_\_\_\_\_

3. What do we receive as a result of having faith?

Romans 5.1-5

- v.1 \_\_\_\_\_
- v. 1 \_\_\_\_\_
- v. 2 \_\_\_\_\_
- v. 2 \_\_\_\_\_
- v. 3 \_\_\_\_\_
- v. 3 \_\_\_\_\_
- v. 4 \_\_\_\_\_
- v. 4 \_\_\_\_\_
- v. 5 \_\_\_\_\_
- v. 5 \_\_\_\_\_

4. What always accompanies true faith?

James 2.14-17 \_\_\_\_\_

5. Who lives by faith?

Romans 1.16-17 \_\_\_\_\_

6. What may be the result of a righteous man's prayers and faith?

A. James 5.15-16 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

B. Matthew 21.21-22 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

7. What must arise in our heart, *before* and *as* we make our requests known to God?

A. Philippians 4.6 \_\_\_\_\_

B. Hebrews 11.6 \_\_\_\_\_

C. James 5.15-16 \_\_\_\_\_

D. Matthew 21.21-22 \_\_\_\_\_

E. Mark 11.22-25 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

F. John 14.13-14 \_\_\_\_\_

What does "*ask in My name*" mean? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

G. 1John 5.14-15 \_\_\_\_\_

H. 2Corinthians 12.7-9 \_\_\_\_\_

### *Application*

God answers prayers. God also has conditions of our heart that are necessary, before he answers our prayers. The Bible makes it clear that God can do miracles as result of our faith. But there is a balance. Though God *can* heal everyone, he also teaches that sin can result in disease and hurt, which are His loving corrections. Many times, innocent people suffer because of someone else's sin. We live in a world where our wrongdoing can hurt others. We may pray and not receive what we ask for, even if we *do* meet the "conditions." The important thing is that we personally stay faithful to God, and trust God, even when our prayers go unanswered. God knows what is best for us. Our faith is in God Himself, not in what we receive from Him in this world.

The focus of these Bible studies is to help us be obedient to God. Part of being obedient to God is to have full trust and faith in God. If you currently lack faith or trust in God, in any area of your life, write down what you can do to overcome your lack of faith. Ask God to forgive you for not trusting him in these areas.

*The Righteous Live By Faith.*

## Christ-like Relationships

1. How are we to relate with others?

Romans 12.17-21

v. 17 \_\_\_\_\_

v. 17 \_\_\_\_\_

v. 18 \_\_\_\_\_

v. 19 \_\_\_\_\_

v. 20 \_\_\_\_\_

v. 21 \_\_\_\_\_

2. What is our relationship with an unbeliever, besides treating him with love and kindness?

2Corinthians 6.14-18 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. How are we to reach unbelievers?

1Corinthians 9.19 \_\_\_\_\_

We are to love the unbeliever and serve him, but not be united with him in the things he does (Eph 5.11; 1Cor 5.9). Our life is to be different and separate from the unbeliever, so that he will be attracted to our love and kindness toward him, and hopefully drawn to Christ.

4. What does God want us to do for governing authorities and all men? 1Timothy 2.1-2:

A. \_\_\_\_\_

B. \_\_\_\_\_

C. \_\_\_\_\_

D. \_\_\_\_\_

5. *Why* does God want us to do these things? 1Timothy 2.2-3:

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

v.3 \_\_\_\_\_

6. How should we relate to the governing authorities?

Titus 3.1-2: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

1Peter 2.13-14 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

7. *Why* are we to submit to lawful governing authorities?

Rom. 13.1-4

v.1 \_\_\_\_\_

v.4 \_\_\_\_\_

When we submit to our governing authorities, we will be considered their most trustworthy citizens. If you were the governing authority, how would you feel about those who obey you and who submit to your authority?

8. When should we disobey the governing authorities? Acts 4.1-4, 18-21; Acts 5.25-30, 40-42:

Acts 5.29 \_\_\_\_\_

We are to obey all authorities in all things, as long as they do not have us disobey God. There are only two reasons for disobeying authorities: to help meet the *physical* and *spiritual* needs of others. *Some examples:* Peter and John healing people, and preaching in Jesus' name when the governing authorities told them not to do so. Jesus healed people on the Sabbath even though the governing authorities were against it.

Some modern-day examples of people disobeying authority include:

- Martin Luther King, Jr. and other civil rights leaders marching for equal rights.
- Those who helped Jews escape from Nazi Germany during World War II.
- Preachers of the gospel in communist, Islamic, and pagan countries, where they are often imprisoned or even killed for doing so.

Scriptures that govern a master's relationship to his servants, also govern an employer's relationship with his employees.

9. How are we to relate to our employer (bosses, managers, foremen, etc.)?

1Peter 2.18-25

v. 18 \_\_\_\_\_

Ephesians 6.5-8

v.5 \_\_\_\_\_

v.6 \_\_\_\_\_

v.7 \_\_\_\_\_

When we submit to our employers we will be considered trustworthy employees, and give Christianity a good reputation (Matthew 5.16; 1Peter 2.12).

10. As a person in authority over employees, how are we to treat those employees?

Ephesians 6.9 \_\_\_\_\_

Colossians 4.1 \_\_\_\_\_

11. When should an employer discipline an employee?

Matthew 25.14-30 (*Parable of the Talents*)

v.26 \_\_\_\_\_

12. As children, how are we to relate to our parents?

Exodus 20.12 \_\_\_\_\_

Colossians 3.20 \_\_\_\_\_

13. When should we disobey our parents?

Matthew 10.34-39 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Luke 9.59-62 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

14. As parents, how are we to relate to our children?

Colossians 3.21 \_\_\_\_\_

Ephesians 6.4 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

15. Why should we discipline our children? (*correct in love; don't punish in anger*)

A. Proverb 22.15 \_\_\_\_\_

B. Proverb 23.13-14 \_\_\_\_\_

C. Proverb 29.15 \_\_\_\_\_

D. Hebrews 12.6-9 \_\_\_\_\_

### *Application*

As an authority, there are times to discipline and there are times to reward. As a subordinate, there are times to rebel and times to obey. But, *all things* must be done *in love*.

The focus of these Bible studies is to help us be obedient to God. Part of being obedient to God is to be in the right relationship with others. If you have acted unloving toward anyone and have never admitted your wrong to the person and asked them to forgive you, then go to the person and be reconciled. If you owe them anything pay them back. If you have said anything bad about them go to those people who you spoke to and admit your wrong and help restore the person's name. Especially think of public authorities, religious leaders, bosses, parents, relatives, employees, children, and any other authorities or subordinates, you may have wronged.

Another part of being obedient to God is to forgive others who have not been in the right relationship with you. Think of anyone who has acted unloving to you, owes you something, or has spoken bad about you. Go to God in prayer and forgive those people in your heart. If you do not forgive others God will not forgive you.

*The right relationship is a relationship of love.*

## Christian Marriage and Dating

Our commitment to our spouse is the second most important commitment we have. Only our Commitment to Christ is more important. Therefore, we must do all we can do be in right relationship with our spouse.

1. How are wives to relate to their husbands?

A. Ephesians 5.24 \_\_\_\_\_

B. Colossians 3.18 \_\_\_\_\_

2. How are husbands to relate to their wives?

A. Ephesians 5.25 \_\_\_\_\_

B. Colossians 3.19 \_\_\_\_\_

A Christian man is to love his wife as Christ loves us. Jesus loves us so much that He came to serve us and die for us. A Christian man is to love his wife the same way. A Christian woman is to love her husband as the church loves Christ. The church loves Christ so much that they are willing to serve him and die for him. A Christian woman is to love her husband that way.

Marriage is a lifetime commitment. Sometimes people become Christians *after* they are married. They are to do their best to relate to their spouse as the Bible teaches, even if their spouse is not a Christian, and does not return the same amount of commitment. As Christians, we are not to marry an unbeliever (2Cor 6.14). But, if we become a Christian after marriage, we are to still honor our marriage vows. An unbeliever isn't *saved* by a believing spouse, but is *sanctified*.

3. How is a Christian wife to relate to an unbelieving husband?

1Peter 3.1 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4. How is a Christian husband to relate to an unbelieving wife?

1Peter 3.7 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

5. How does God feel about divorce?

Malachi 2.14-16 \_\_\_\_\_

6. When is divorce permissible for a Christian?

1Corinthians 7.12-16 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Matthew 19.3-9 \_\_\_\_\_

If a wife or husband is being beaten or abused by the other spouse, it is obvious they have been abandoned emotionally; and for their own safety, they may need to separate. But abuse, of itself, is not a just cause for divorce.

7. What is the result of divorce and remarriage for any reason other than those given above?

Matthew 19.9 \_\_\_\_\_

8. Why might a Christian couple keep themselves from one another for a short time?

1Corinthians 7.3-5 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

We know the commitment we are to have toward the one we marry. Therefore, we should only marry someone who has the same level of commitment. Before dating anyone, Christians need to reach a point in their relationship *with God*, that they are willing to be the type of spouse God wants them to be. Until they reach this point, the focus should be on spiritual growth, not dating. Note that the term ‘dating’ in this study refers to relationships with romantic involvement, as opposed to two people who are just friends enjoying each other’s company.

There are two types of dating: *worldly* dating and *Christian* dating. This study will show the difference between the two.

9. To date someone outside of the motives given in 1John 2.15-17, is *worldly* dating. What are those other motives listed in these verses, and why are they wrong?

v.16 (first motive) \_\_\_\_\_

v.16 (second motive) \_\_\_\_\_

v.16 (third motive) \_\_\_\_\_

Why are these motives wrong? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

10. What motives are Christians to have when dating?

1Thessalonians 4.3-5

v.3 \_\_\_\_\_

v.3 \_\_\_\_\_

v.4 \_\_\_\_\_

v.5 \_\_\_\_\_

2Timothy 2.22 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

11. Relate this verse to any sexual relationship outside of marriage. What happens when people have sexual relations outside of marriage? 1Corinthians 6.15-20:

v.16 \_\_\_\_\_

v.18 \_\_\_\_\_

12. What is a Christian’s attitude to be toward relationships?

1Corinthians 7.27 \_\_\_\_\_

1Corinthians 7.32-37 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Hebrews 13.4 \_\_\_\_\_



We are to be blameless in spirit, soul, and body. It is necessary for our dating relationships to be blameless in *all* these ways. The following will help us know how to have a sanctified and blameless dating relationship with whomever we date.

### ***How To Have a Blameless SPIRIT in Relationships***

The spirit of a man is the dwelling place of God in a Christian's soul (Rom 8.16). His presence satisfies our every longing. But there is an *empty* longing within the soul of an unbeliever. The unbeliever may try to satisfy this longing through other means, often sinful means; but his spirit will only be satisfied when he is filled with Christ and the Holy Spirit.

As unmarried Christians, our spirit calls us to love others without seeking selfish gain – it is a blameless calling. As we meet believers of the opposite sex, we are not seeking a spouse. Rather, we're called to love that person in the same manner that *God* loves them. As we love all the believers we meet, not just those of the opposite sex, a beautiful thing happens: we recognize that we are one in spirit with them. Our spirits are united in a "marriage bond" with the Spirit of Christ. Now, when we're attracted to someone of the opposite sex, this union with Christ should be the most satisfying part of our relationship, *before* it becomes a romantic relationship.

### ***How To Have a Blameless SOUL in Relationships***

The soul is the *inner-self* — mind, will, thoughts, desires, and emotions. The spirit is within the soul, but it is separate; just as the soul is within the body, and yet it's not physical. The only way we can share our soul or inner self with others, is through some form of *social* interaction. As we meet other Christians that we're already united with in Spirit, through our friendship and love, we begin to unite in soul. A soul-relationship takes time and an honest effort from both people to communicate openly. Since we're not seeking a spouse, we can build soul-relationships with all our Christian friends, because we *love* them, not because we're trying to gain something.

When you reach a point where you really know and love another person's inner-being, your soul is united to their soul. Your soul is bonded together like a marriage bond with all those you have a soul-relationship with. *If you become romantically involved with someone that you don't have a soul relationship with, then you're using the person for selfish gain.* Romantic involvement is supposed to be an outward sign of a true love for who the other person is. It's not to be used to gratify a person's own desires. Of course, when two people who love one another try to please one another, they will naturally want to gratify one another's desires.

### ***How To Have a Blameless BODY in Relationships***

The body is our *physical* being. It must be controlled (Rom 13.14; 1Cor 9.27; 1Thess 4.4); it has natural desires that can tempt us to be selfish toward others. Our bodies were given to us by God to be used in a positive way, to help meet the needs of others. We can use our bodies to work and make money so we can eat and feed others. Our bodies can also be used to help gratify the sexual needs of our spouse. God created man for woman and woman for man, so they can experience a union in *body*, as well as a union in spirit and soul. But God created *marriage* as the only relationship in which this bodily union is permitted.

Only two people who are united in spirit with Christ, can have a true uniting of souls; only then can they have a Christ-like love for one another; and only then may they fulfill their physical desires. A Christian is not to marry another Christian, until the two know one another's souls well enough to be committed for life. Our bodies are the only true personal possessions we have. God designed us to share this intimate gift, with one other person.

Once our souls are united, we may develop a relationship with someone we have romantic feelings toward. Knowing that sex outside of marriage is wrong (because it unites our bodies to someone we haven't been united to by God),<sup>5</sup> we need to be careful how we date. We must plan it, so we don't fall into temptation, and take from one another what God designed to be enjoyed only within the covenant of marriage.

All dating guidelines should be based on what Jesus would approve of. For some people, it may even be a sin to kiss — it can cause them to fall into passionate lust. Base your guidelines on *affection* and not on passionate *lust*. We must “be holy as Jesus is holy”. (1Peter 1.15-16)

If you are currently involved in a dating relationship that is *not* holy, it is your responsibility as a Christian to change what is happening, and to put God's will first. It is so important to build the relationship on a trust that God's ways are best.

### *Application*

There are five **DATING PRINCIPLES** to abide by:

1. Only date Christians.
2. Build a friendship before becoming romantically involved.
3. Only be romantically involved with someone whom you feel you can marry. If you are unsure, then continue the friendship, but don't develop a romantic relationship.
4. Romantic involvement should not include lovemaking or sexual petting.
5. If you do break up with someone you were dating, continue to give them proper respect.

Though this study focuses on who you should marry, the Bible makes a much stronger statement about loving, submitting, and being faithful to the one you marry. You'll never have a perfect marriage, because none of us is perfect. Marriage is two imperfect people, who have made a covenant before God, to be committed to one another, *despite* one another's faults.

There are FIVE **MARRIAGE PRINCIPLES** we are to abide by:

1. Always treat your spouse with love and respect.
2. Stay faithful and committed to your spouse.
3. Communicate openly with one another in love.
4. Seek to meet one another's physical and sexual needs.
5. Never divorce (adultery and abandonment are the only exceptions, but many marriages can seek counseling and save their marriage, even when these exceptions occur).

The focus of these Bible studies is to help us be obedient to God. Part of being obedient to God is to be in the right relationship with those we date, or with our spouse. If you haven't properly treated those whom you dated, or your spouse, and have never admitted your wrong to the person and asked them to forgive you, then go to the person and be reconciled. If you owe them anything pay them back. If you have said anything bad about them go to those people who you spoke to, admit the wrong, and help restore the person's name.

Another part of being obedient to God is to forgive others who have not treated us right in dating or marriage relationships. Think of anyone who has acted unlovingly towards you, owes you something, or has spoken badly about you. Go to God in prayer and forgive those people in your heart. If you don't forgive others, God will not forgive you.

*The right relationship is a relationship of love.*

---

<sup>5</sup> **Gen 2.24** A man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.

## BASIC TRAINING — Part 3

“...speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him, who is the head, even Christ, <sup>16</sup> from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by that which 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.” (Ephesians 4.15-16)

- PRAYER
- BIBLE STUDY
- CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP
- SHARING CHRIST WITH OTHERS
- FRIENDSHIP EVANGELISM

### Introduction

This is the third in a four-part series called *Basic Training*, that focuses on Bible instruction covering the basics of Christianity.

**PRAYER** is the first thing we’ll examine. It is through praying to God on a consistent basis that we can develop the most intimate relationship with God. It is how we express our deepest thoughts to God. The second thing is **BIBLE STUDY**. It is through the Bible that God speaks to us, and through which we come to know God personally. Bible study also helps us to understand the character of Christ and how we may attain that character. **CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP**, the third thing, relates to our commitment to both God and man. It is essential for a person to relate with other Christians, for mutual encouragement and learning. Additionally, Jesus told us that “wherever two or more are gathered in My name, there I am in the midst of them.” We should understand by this that there are certain things that Jesus desires to do through us as a community, rather than individually. The fourth thing is **SHARING CHRIST** with others. We’ll look at some techniques and illustrations that are useful in sharing the gospel with others. The last thing, **FRIENDSHIP EVANGELISM**, demonstrates why we should share the gospel with friends and family, and it presents some of the best ways to go about doing that.

In **Part 2**, you learned that the greatest commandment is love. You had the opportunity to examine your life for any sin, confessing it to the Lord and repenting of it — that is, turning away from the sin, in order to turn toward God. You should also have committed yourself to a lifetime of *growth* as a disciple of Jesus Christ. Our hope for you is that these five studies will give you a clear understanding of how we are to be committed to God and others, and that you will take what you learn here, and teach it to others.

### Prayer

Prayer is simply talking to God. There are no special words. It is a conversation with the One who loves you more and better than anyone else.

1. In what *manner* should you pray?

Matthew 6.5-8

v.5 \_\_\_\_\_

v.6 \_\_\_\_\_

v.7-8 \_\_\_\_\_

2. *How often* should you pray?

1Thessalonians 5.17 \_\_\_\_\_

2Thessalonians 1.11 \_\_\_\_\_

1Thessalonians 3.10 \_\_\_\_\_

Colossians 1.9 \_\_\_\_\_

The spiritual man has the Mind of Christ, and has his mind set on what the Spirit desires (Romans 8.5). In that sense, he constantly talks with God about the things of God. If you had a special phone that you could use to send messages directly to God, how often would you use it? You don't need a special phone to talk to God; so why not talk to him all the time?

3. *Who* should you pray for?

Ephesians 6.18 \_\_\_\_\_

1Timothy 2.1-2 \_\_\_\_\_

Luke 6.28 \_\_\_\_\_

4. *What* should you pray?

Matthew 6.9-13 (*The Lord's Prayer*)

v.9 \_\_\_\_\_

v.10 \_\_\_\_\_

v.11 \_\_\_\_\_

v.12 \_\_\_\_\_

v.13 \_\_\_\_\_

There's a lot teaching about prayer and what we should pray for. Some people believe in praying for personal gain (selfish pleasures). Some don't believe God heals people from sickness. Some don't believe prayer changes anything. Fortunately, the Bible is very clear on such matters.

5. What does the Bible say about praying for personal gain?

James 4.3 \_\_\_\_\_

6. What sorts of things did Paul pray for?

Philippians 1.9-11 \_\_\_\_\_

Colossians 4.3-4 \_\_\_\_\_

2Corinthians 1.10-11 \_\_\_\_\_

2Thessalonians 3.1-2 \_\_\_\_\_

7. What will be the result of righteous prayers? (*compare Isaiah 59.2*)

James 5.15-16 \_\_\_\_\_

2Chronicles 7.14 \_\_\_\_\_

8. What are we guilty of doing if we don't pray for others?

1Samuel 12.23 \_\_\_\_\_

Prayer is essential to a powerful and effective Christian life. In order to have a well-balanced and successful prayer life, we need to pray for all the things that are important to God. To aid us in our prayer life, we should keep a PRAYER JOURNAL. Make a page for each day of the week. List what you want to pray for. By dividing your prayer list into seven sections, one section for each day of the week, it helps you take time to pray about more things. Keep a record of God's answers to your prayers. To help you get started on a well-balanced and effective prayer life, consider using the P.R.A.Y. method below, and a Daily Prayer Guide. This method of praying isn't a magic formula, or the only way you should pray. Combined with your journal and a Daily Prayer Guide, you have the means to maintain a balanced prayer life.

There are FOUR BASIC POINTS that Jesus taught us to pray in Matthew 6.9-13. By using the PRAY method of prayer, you can cover those four points on a daily basis. Paul mentioned many other things we should pray for as well; so these are the basics.

#### *Prayer method*

**P** *Praise* God and ask that His will be done.

**R** *Rely* on God by asking Him to supply your needs.

**A** *Ask* God to forgive your sins, as you forgive others who sin against you.

**Y** *Yield* to God's will, asking Him to lead you away from temptation and evil.

#### *A Daily Prayer Guide*

Monday.....**M** is for MISSIONS and MINISTRIES. Pray for those you know who are doing missionary work. Pray for an area that needs missionary work. Pray for the mission field that you are on — your work, school, neighborhood, community, social club, etc. Pray for the various ministries you are aware of.

Tuesday.....**T** is for TASK. Pray for personal tasks that need to be done. Pray about tasks related to school or work that need to be finished. Pray for personal needs that must be met.

Wednesday...**W** is for WORKERS. Pray for the workers at your church. Pray for pastors, ministers, elders, deacons, teachers, etc. Pray that you will be used by God at church to reach out to others and to bring others into the church.

Thursday.....**Th** is for THOSE in *authority*. Pray for your elders. Pray for the President, world leaders, your governor, senators, mayor, and employer, etc.

Friday.....**F** is for FAMILY and FRRIENDS who are NOT Christians. Pray that they'll no longer be deceived by Satan, but will come to know God through Jesus Christ.

Saturday.....**Sa** is for the SAINTS. Pray for Christian family and friends. Pray for them to grow in grace, love, and spiritual knowledge, to proclaim the gospel clearly, to be safe from harm, etc.

Sunday .....**Su** is for SUNDAY SERVICES. Pray for the spirit of God to touch the hearts of the people during the service. Pray that they'll grow spiritually as a result of being at the service.

Now that you've committed yourself to serving God, it seems appropriate to give you some homework assignments in order to help you *develop a daily quiet time with the Lord*. Therefore, in addition to completing next week's lesson, please do the following exercise.

**HOMEWORK:** Set a time aside to pray every day this week. Use the P.R.A.Y. method, as well as the DAILY PRAYER GUIDE, for your prayer time. Write down any significant results from your prayer time in a notebook. Bring the notebook next week for your discipleship leader to go over with you. For an example of what your discipleship notebook might look like, see the [Sample Bible Study Page](#) in the back of Part 3 (p. 64).

## Bible Study

1. Why are we to study God's Word? John 17.3 \_\_\_\_\_

2 Timothy 2.15 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

1 Peter 3.15 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. What do we gain by studying God's Word? Proverbs 2.6

A. \_\_\_\_\_

B. \_\_\_\_\_

C. \_\_\_\_\_

3. Using the answers from question 2, enter the word best described by each definition below.

A. \_\_\_\_\_ — The body of facts, principles, etc.

B. \_\_\_\_\_ — To comprehend, discern, or have sympathetic awareness of the body of facts, principles, etc.

C. \_\_\_\_\_ — The quality of judging rightly and following the soundest course of action, based on knowledge, understanding, experience, etc.

4. According to Proverbs 2.1-6, how dedicated should we be in studying God's Word (v.4)?  
And what will be the result of a dedicated study of God's Word (v.5)?

v.4 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

v.5 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

If you knew that silver and hidden treasures were on your property, how hard would you search for them? God's Word is filled with the *knowledge, understanding, and wisdom* of God. Knowing this is true, how much more should you search for wisdom from God?

As with prayer, if you had a special phone that could be used to hear directly from God, how often would you use it? You don't need to use a phone: *God speaks through His word, the Bible.* Therefore, as you read the Bible, you're hearing from God. So you should read it often.

If you received a letter from someone you love, how much would you want to read it? *The Bible is a love letter from God.* How much more, then, should you want to read it?

To help you understand the importance of knowing God's Word, **read Psalm 119.** Consider that each of the 176 verses speaks of the joy we receive when we listen to and read God's Word.

5. Write down the verse in Psalm 119 that most encourages you to study the Bible:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

6. Proverbs 9.10 says, “The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.” Now read Proverbs 2.1-6, and answer these two questions:  
What is ‘Understanding the Fear of the Lord?’

---

What is the ‘Knowledge of God?’

---

When we find the *knowledge* of God through the study of the Bible, we will have *understanding*. Once we understand the *fear* (the awesome reverence) of the Lord, we will begin to have the *wisdom* to apply to our lives, what we have learned.

7. In the following passages, what is the RESULT (benefit) of studying God’s Word?

Colossians 1.9-12 (*knowledge, understanding, and wisdom* are found in God’s Word)

v.10 \_\_\_\_\_

v.10 \_\_\_\_\_

v.10 \_\_\_\_\_

v.10 \_\_\_\_\_

v.11 \_\_\_\_\_

v.11 \_\_\_\_\_

v.12 \_\_\_\_\_

Romans 15.4 \_\_\_\_\_

---

2Timothy 3.16-17

v.16 \_\_\_\_\_

v.16 \_\_\_\_\_

v.16 \_\_\_\_\_

v.16 \_\_\_\_\_

v.17 \_\_\_\_\_

Ephesians 3.4

---

James 1.22

---

Psalms 119.11

---

Through **memorizing scripture**, we can *store up God’s Word within us*.



8. What is the danger of *not* knowing God’s Word?

1 Timothy 4.1-5 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

9. When does knowledge become meaningless?

1 Corinthians 8.1 \_\_\_\_\_  
1 Corinthians 13.2 \_\_\_\_\_

To have an effective Bible study, you should have a Bible study notebook in which to keep your notes and studies. Along with your notebook, you should keep a card file for memory verses. As we learned, we need to have God’s Word *within* us. But even more important is the need to have a daily Quiet Time, or **Devotional**. This is a time set aside every day, for the express purpose of reading God’s Word, and praying to Him. *It is a time when we put away all the cares and demands of this world, and commune with God.*

One of the easiest and most effective Bible study methods we recommend, is to use the yearly Bible reading calendar and the SPACE method of studying the Bible. This method is designed to help you apply to your life, what you study. A [Bible Reading Record](#) is provided at the end of this manual (p. 93). This is very important, because God gave us the *whole Bible*, expecting us to *read it all*. This helps us be well-balanced in our knowledge of God’s Word. As a general rule, if you read five chapters a day from the Bible, you’ll read the whole Bible in a year. You can begin in Genesis and read straight through to Revelation; or you may decide to read three chapters from the Old Testament and two from the New Testament each day.

The S.P.A.C.E. method of Bible study may help you find what God says to you personally. Each letter in the word SPACE has a different activity associated with it:

- S** The **Sin** to forsake
- P** The **Promise** to believe
- A** The **Action** to take
- C** The **Command** to obey
- E** The **Example** to follow

As you read the Bible, you’ll know what God is telling you to know or do; write that in your Bible Study Notebook.

***For example:***

*June 18th — Today when reading Hosea 6.3, God impressed on me an action to take — I am to press on to know the Lord, and to acknowledge him in all things.*

When reading a passage, there may be *several* things that God tells you. Focus on the one you feel you need most improvement in. God wants us to study his Word, to gain *knowledge*, *understanding*, and *wisdom*. Wisdom is applying to our lives what we learn. Applying God’s Word is the key to living a spiritual life. After you have written in your notebook what God revealed to you, write a personal application for it. Write just one personal application per week. Work on that until you feel ready to move on to a new application.

A personal application must have the following four aspects. Suppose you wrote in your Bible Study Notebook, the following application:

*Personal Application: I will acknowledge God through Bible study every day this week.*

- it must be personal example: *I will*
- it must be practical example: *acknowledge God*
- it must be possible example: *through Bible study*
- it must be measurable example: *every day this week*

You should **MEMORIZE** at least one verse a week. Here is one method to help you memorize a particular verse by the end of the week: Say it 25 times the first day. Whenever possible, try to say the verse without looking at it. On the second day say the verse 20 times. On the third day say the verse 15 times. Then, from the fourth day through the seventh day, say the verse 10 times a day. By the end of the week, you should have the verse memorized.

*You must **review** verses in order to **retain** them!* To review verses, start a card file. On each card write the verse or verses that you are memorizing for the week. After the first week, place the card in a 10-week file where you will quote it from memory **ONCE-A-DAY** for 10 weeks. After 10 weeks, you will have 10 cards in the file. When you place the 11th card in the file, take the first card out and put it in a **ONCE-A-WEEK** file. Now you will quote the verse once a week. When you reach the point where you have 10 cards for each day of the week, in your once-a-week file, take out the first card and place it in a **ONCE-A-MONTH** file. Now you'll quote the verse once a month. When you reach the point where you have 10 cards for each day of the month, every time you add a new card to the once a month file, you should take out the oldest card. You will know that oldest verse so well that you shouldn't need to review it again.

This may sound complicated, but it will help you memorize verses effectively. As the card file builds up, the most review you'll have in a day is 30 cards or verses. This will take 10 minutes a day. At the end of the first year you will have 52 of your favorite verses memorized. At the end of 10 years you will have 520 of your favorite verses memorized. Memorizing God's Word will not only help *you*, but it will also help *others*.

**HOMEWORK:** Start a Bible Study Notebook. Try to have a quiet time every day this week. For each quiet time, use the above methods in your study. Your Discipleship leader *will* ask you next week about your progress, *And* your leader will want to see your notebook. So bring it next session! (Note: do not record any personal or sensitive information about yourself or others.) Again, for a [Sample Study Page](#) for your notebook, see the back of Part 3 (p. 62).

On the next page is a checklist to help you be consistent in daily Prayer (P), Bible Study (B), and Memory Verse (M) review. Cross out the appropriate letter (P, B, or M) for each day you spend in Prayer, Bible study, or Memory Verse review. *If you haven't read through the Bible at least once, commit yourself to reading through it this year.*

*Daily Prayer, Bible Study, And Memory Verse Review Checklist*

**January**

01-P B M	02-P B M	03-P B M	04-P B M	05-P B M	06-P B M	07-P B M
08-P B M	09-P B M	10-P B M	11-P B M	12-P B M	13-P B M	14-P B M
15-P B M	16-P B M	17-P B M	18-P B M	19-P B M	20-P B M	21-P B M
22-P B M	23-P B M	24-P B M	25-P B M	26-P B M	27-P B M	28-P B M
29-P B M	30-P B M	31-P B M				

**February**

			01-P B M	02-P B M	03-P B M	04-P B M
05-P B M	06-P B M	07-P B M	08-P B M	09-P B M	10-P B M	11-P B M
12-P B M	13-P B M	14-P B M	15-P B M	16-P B M	17-P B M	18-P B M
19-P B M	20-P B M	21-P B M	22-P B M	23-P B M	24-P B M	25-P B M
26-P B M	27-P B M	28-P B M	29-P B M			

**March**

			01-P B M	02-P B M	03-P B M	04-P B M
05-P B M	06-P B M	07-P B M	08-P B M	09-P B M	10-P B M	11-P B M
12-P B M	13-P B M	14-P B M	15-P B M	16-P B M	17-P B M	18-P B M
19-P B M	20-P B M	21-P B M	22-P B M	23-P B M	24-P B M	25-P B M
26-P B M	27-P B M	28-P B M	29-P B M	30-P B M	31-P B M	

**April**

						01-P B M
02-P B M	03-P B M	04-P B M	05-P B M	06-P B M	07-P B M	08-P B M
09-P B M	10-P B M	11-P B M	12-P B M	13-P B M	14-P B M	15-P B M
16-P B M	17-P B M	18-P B M	19-P B M	20-P B M	21-P B M	22-P B M
23-P B M	24-P B M	25-P B M	26-P B M	27-P B M	28-P B M	29-P B M
30-P B M						

**May**

	01-P B M	02-P B M	03-P B M	04-P B M	05-P B M	06-P B M
07-P B M	08-P B M	09-P B M	10-P B M	11-P B M	12-P B M	13-P B M
14-P B M	15-P B M	16-P B M	17-P B M	18-P B M	19-P B M	20-P B M
21-P B M	22-P B M	23-P B M	24-P B M	25-P B M	26-P B M	27-P B M
28-P B M	29-P B M	30-P B M	31-P B M	30-P B M	31-P B M	

**June**

				01-P B M	02-P B M	03-P B M
04-P B M	05-P B M	06-P B M	07-P B M	08-P B M	09-P B M	10-P B M
11-P B M	12-P B M	13-P B M	14-P B M	15-P B M	16-P B M	17-P B M
18-P B M	19-P B M	20-P B M	21-P B M	22-P B M	23-P B M	24-P B M
25-P B M	26-P B M	27-P B M	28-P B M	29-P B M	30-P B M	

**July**

						01-P B M
02-P B M	03-P B M	04-P B M	05-P B M	06-P B M	07-P B M	08-P B M
09-P B M	10-P B M	11-P B M	12-P B M	13-P B M	14-P B M	15-P B M
16-P B M	17-P B M	18-P B M	19-P B M	20-P B M	21-P B M	22-P B M
23-P B M	24-P B M	25-P B M	26-P B M	27-P B M	28-P B M	29-P B M
30-P B M	31-P B M					

**August**

		01-P B M	02-P B M	03-P B M	04-P B M	05-P B M
06-P B M	07-P B M	08-P B M	09-P B M	10-P B M	11-P B M	12-P B M
13-P B M	14-P B M	15-P B M	16-P B M	17-P B M	18-P B M	19-P B M
20-P B M	21-P B M	22-P B M	23-P B M	24-P B M	25-P B M	26-P B M
27-P B M	28-P B M	29-P B M	30-P B M	31-P B M		

**September**

					01-P B M	02-P B M
03-P B M	04-P B M	05-P B M	06-P B M	07-P B M	08-P B M	09-P B M
10-P B M	11-P B M	12-P B M	13-P B M	14-P B M	15-P B M	16-P B M
17-P B M	18-P B M	19-P B M	20-P B M	21-P B M	22-P B M	23-P B M
24-P B M	25-P B M	26-P B M	27-P B M	28-P B M	29-P B M	30-P B M

**October**

01-P B M	02-P B M	03-P B M	04-P B M	05-P B M	06-P B M	07-P B M
08-P B M	09-P B M	10-P B M	11-P B M	12-P B M	13-P B M	14-P B M
15-P B M	16-P B M	17-P B M	18-P B M	19-P B M	20-P B M	21-P B M
22-P B M	23-P B M	24-P B M	25-P B M	26-P B M	27-P B M	28-P B M
29-P B M	30-P B M	31-P B M				

## November

01-P B M    02-P B M    03-P B M    04-P B M  
05-P B M    06-P B M    07-P B M    08-P B M    09-P B M    10-P B M    11-P B M  
12-P B M    13-P B M    14-P B M    15-P B M    16-P B M    17-P B M    18-P B M  
19-P B M    20-P B M    21-P B M    22-P B M    23-P B M    24-P B M    25-P B M  
26-P B M    27-P B M    28-P B M    29-P B M    30-P B M

## December

01-P B M    02-P B M  
03-P B M    04-P B M    05-P B M    06-P B M    07-P B M    08-P B M    09-P B M  
10-P B M    11-P B M    12-P B M    13-P B M    14-P B M    15-P B M    16-P B M  
17-P B M    18-P B M    19-P B M    20-P B M    21-P B M    22-P B M    23-P B M  
24-P B M    25-P B M    26-P B M    27-P B M    28-P B M    29-P B M    30-P B M  
31-P B M

### *A Bible Reading Plan*

*Through the New Testament in 30 Days*

1. Matthew 1-9
2. Matthew 10-15
3. Matthew 16-22
4. Matthew 23-28
5. Mark 1-8
6. Mark 9-16
7. Luke 1-6
8. Luke 7-11
9. Luke 12-18
10. Luke 19-24
11. John 1-7
12. John 8-13
13. John 14-21
14. Acts 1-7
15. Acts 8-14
16. Acts 15-21
17. Acts 22-28
18. Romans 1-8
19. Romans 9-16
20. 1Corinthians 1-9
21. 1Corinthians 10-16
22. 2Corinthians 1-13
23. Galatians — Ephesians
24. Philippians — 2Thessalonians
25. 1Timothy — Philemon
26. Hebrews
27. James — 2Peter
28. 1John — 3John
29. Revelation 1-11
30. Revelation 12-22

## Christian Fellowship

There are three aspects to living the Christian life, that are necessary for *spiritual growth*. They are *Prayer*, *Bible study*, and *Christian fellowship*. Prayer is important because, in order to build a relationship with God, we need to be able to express ourselves to Him. Bible study is important because God expresses himself to us through the Bible. Christian fellowship is important because we need one another for guidance and encouragement in following the ways of God.

1. For each verse, thinking of the benefit of Christian fellowship, write the *failure* of **not having** guidance from others, and the *success* of **having** guidance from others.

Proverbs 11.14 (failure) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Proverbs 11.14 (success) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Proverbs 15.22 (failure) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Proverbs 15.22 (success) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Ecclesiastes 4.9-10 (failure) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Ecclesiastes 4.9-10 (success) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Why is there strength in numbers?

Ecclesiastes 4.12 \_\_\_\_\_

3. How can Christians *experience* strength in numbers?

Matthew 18.19-20 \_\_\_\_\_

Acts 12.1-17 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4. What is the purpose of Christian fellowship?

Hebrews 10.24-25 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

1Thessalonians 5.11 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

5. Read Acts 2.42-47 and list what took place during their Christian fellowship.

v.42 \_\_\_\_\_

v.42 \_\_\_\_\_

v.42 \_\_\_\_\_

v.42 \_\_\_\_\_

v.43 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

v.44 \_\_\_\_\_

v.45 \_\_\_\_\_

v.46 \_\_\_\_\_

v.46 \_\_\_\_\_

v.47 \_\_\_\_\_

v.47 \_\_\_\_\_

v.47 \_\_\_\_\_

In the scripture, the collective body of believers is called the CHURCH. The church was never a building or a location, but was always the *people*. Wherever the believers gathered to worship God and to fellowship, *that* was considered the church. It's just as important today to have Christian fellowship through believers gathered together for worship. (Hebrews 10.24-25)

We have a responsibility to be in a proper relationship with our Christian family. The following questions relate to this aspect of Christian fellowship. *Christian family* refers to **all** Christians.

6.How are we to *relate* to our Christian family?

Romans 12.10

A. \_\_\_\_\_

B. \_\_\_\_\_

1Peter 3.8-9

A. \_\_\_\_\_

B. \_\_\_\_\_

C. \_\_\_\_\_

D. \_\_\_\_\_

E. \_\_\_\_\_

F. \_\_\_\_\_

Ephesians 4.2

A. \_\_\_\_\_

B. \_\_\_\_\_

C. \_\_\_\_\_

D. \_\_\_\_\_

7. How are we to have *unity* in our Christian fellowship?

Ephesians 4.3 \_\_\_\_\_

1Corinthians 1.10 \_\_\_\_\_

8. In which matters are Christians allowed to have *differences*?<sup>6</sup>

Romans 14.1 \_\_\_\_\_

List some examples: \_\_\_\_\_

As Christians, we may have different beliefs about some things, but our unity is in the following:

- A. The Bible alone is the inspired and authoritative Word of God. (2Tim 3.16; 2Pet 1.21)
- B. There is one God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (Trinity). (Deu 6.4; Mat 28.19)
- C. We're saved by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone. (Eph 2.8-9; Act 4.12)
- D. A true Christian will certainly desire to live a Christ-like life (Eph 2.10; Jas 2.26)

9. Who does God give us to help us grow in unity?

Ephesians 4.11-13

A. \_\_\_\_\_

B. \_\_\_\_\_

C. \_\_\_\_\_

D. \_\_\_\_\_

E. \_\_\_\_\_

10. How else do these people help us?

Ephesians 4.14-16

v.14 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

v.15-16 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

---

<sup>6</sup> In essentials *unity*; in non-essentials *liberty*; in all things *charity*.



## *Church Discipline*

According to scripture there are times when we need to discipline some Christians.

11. In the following verses, what did the Christian do that deserved discipline, and what is the method for disciplining that person?

Titus 3.9-11 (*why* disciplined) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Titus 3.9-11 (*how* disciplined) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Matthew 18.15-17 (*why* disciplined)

\_\_\_\_\_

Matthew 18.15-17 (*how* disciplined) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

1Corinthians 5.11-13 (*why* disciplined) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

1Corinthians 5.11-13 (*how* disciplined) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Part of Christian Fellowship is being *taught*. In order to help you grow spiritually, you need to apply to your life what you learn through Christian fellowship. During church-related Bible studies or sermons, you should take notes. By using the S.P.A.C.E. method, you can find some applications for your life. Between your daily Bible study, and what you learn at church, it should be easy to find at least one personal application to work on each week.

From here on, you should be devoted to experiencing good Christian fellowship (Acts 2.42-47). Join in discipling others at church.

**HOMEWORK:** Continue your daily quiet time. You may want to continue to experiment with different ways and times to do your devotions. Remember — bring your Bible Study Notebook next week, so your discipleship leader can go over it with you.

## Sharing Christ With Others

As Christians, we need to learn to share Christ with others. Matthew 10 gives us twelve guidelines that will help us.

1. Matthew 10.1- Jesus gave his disciples authority to do ministry. What authority did he give?

Matthew 28.18-20 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. Matthew 10.2-4- Jesus sent out twelve apostles whom he personally trained. How did *Paul* train people?

2Timothy 2.2 \_\_\_\_\_

Some were trained to the point of being able to *train others*: faithful and able to teach.

3. Matthew 10.5-6- Jesus sent the apostles to begin ministering to the people in Israel where the apostles lived, not to other areas of the world. What city did the apostles begin their ministry and where did their ministry spread?

Acts 1.8 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Many times, people will go on mission trips to reach out to people they *don't* know, when they have never made the effort to reach out to the people they *do* know. **Missions and ministries begin where you live.** First reach out to your Jerusalem (hometown), and then spread out.

### **ACT LOCALLY; THINK GLOBALLY.**

4. Matthew 10.7 – Jesus taught the apostles to preach that the Kingdom of God is near. What are the two parts of our message that will overcome Satan?

Revelation 12.11 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

5. Matthew 10.8 – Jesus taught the apostles to minister to people's *physical* needs. How are we to minister to the physical needs of others?

Matthew 25.37-40 \_\_\_\_\_

6. Matthew 10.9-10 – Jesus taught the apostles to trust God for their needs, by sending them out having to rely on others to take them in. What does Jesus teach us about *trusting in God*?

Luke 12.22-34 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

7. Matthew 10.11-15 – Jesus taught the apostles to go to those who are willing to accept them and the message. What are the *four types of responses* we may receive as we share Christ?

Matthew 13.3-9; as explained in 13.18-23

A. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

B. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

C. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

D. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

8. Matthew 10.16-18 – Jesus taught the apostles to *expect persecution*. How severe might our persecution be?

Acts 7.54-60 \_\_\_\_\_

9. Matthew 10.19-31 – Jesus taught the apostles *not to fear persecution*. What are five reasons that Jesus gave to encourage the apostles not to fear persecution?

v.19-20 \_\_\_\_\_

v.22 \_\_\_\_\_

v.26 \_\_\_\_\_

v.28 \_\_\_\_\_

v.31 \_\_\_\_\_

10. Matthew 10.32-33 – Jesus taught that we must acknowledge him before men. How are we to acknowledge Jesus before men? (*the duty of the watchman*)

Ezekiel 3.18-21 \_\_\_\_\_

11. Matthew 10.34-39 – Jesus taught that we must love him more than anyone. How much are we to love Jesus?

Matthew 22.36-38 \_\_\_\_\_

12. Matthew 10.40-42 – Jesus taught that some people would treat us with love because of Him. What is one way that someone expressed love to Jesus?

Matthew 26.6-10 \_\_\_\_\_

How might you express your love for Jesus today?

John 14.15 \_\_\_\_\_

***Don't Hinder Your Witness***

There are certain things we do as Christians that can either help or hurt our witness about Christ. What you learn from the next two questions, will help you be more effective in sharing Christ.

1. Why would the following things hinder your effectiveness in sharing Christ with others?

Luke 6.37-42 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Luke 12.22-34 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Luke 22.24-27 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Mark 9.38-40 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2Timothy 2.23-24 \_\_\_\_\_

2. How should you share Christ with others?

Colossians 4.5-6 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

1Peter 3.15 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2Timothy 1.7-8 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Matthew 10.19-20 \_\_\_\_\_

***Sharing the Gospel Effectively***

There are several ways to effectively share Christ with others. Memorize these methods and be able to use them as you share Christ with others.

1. Your Testimony of what Christ has done in your life. You should learn to share your testimony in two minutes, for those times when you are with someone for a short time. A testimony should include four parts:

- My Life before Christ.
- How I recognized my need for Christ.
- How I received Christ (enough for the listener to know how to become a Christian).
- How my life has changed by giving my life to Christ.

2. God-Man-Christ-Response are four words that remind us how to share Christ in an organized order. Each word represents a different phrase of the gospel message.

GOD desires to forgive you and restore you.

MAN sins and falls short of God’s glory and perfect plan for man.

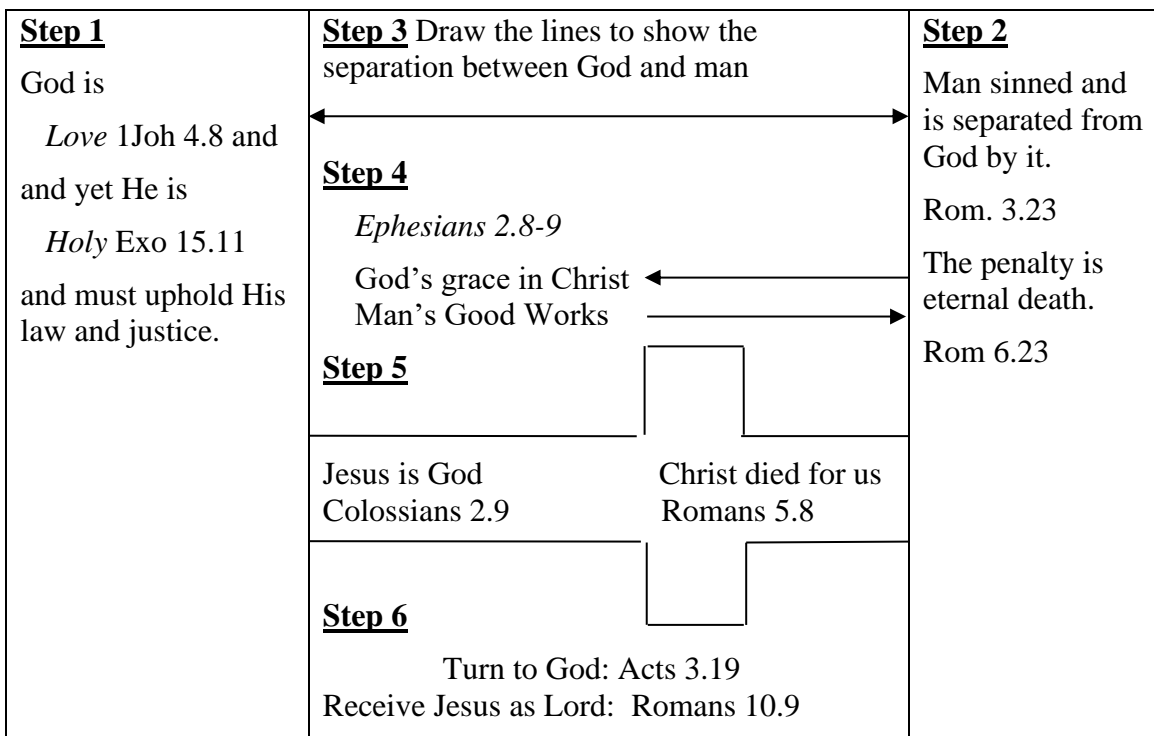
CHRIST died for us as a sacrifice paying the penalty of our sins. Therefore, whoever

RESPONDS to God by confessing his sins, and repents of them, and receives Jesus as Lord and Savior, is forgiven, and will inherit eternal life.

3. Romans Road uses six scripture verses that can be quoted from memory to give a clear description of how someone can become saved.

1. Romans 3.10 There is none righteous, no, not one.
2. Romans 3.23 All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.
3. Romans 5.8 While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.
4. Romans 6.23 The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ.
5. Romans 10.9 If you confess with mouth that Jesus is Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.
6. Romans 10.13 For whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.

4. The Bridge Illustration – You can draw an illustration on a piece of paper, to explain the gospel. Simply follow the steps in this example.



**HOMEWORK:** Continue to practice your daily quiet time. Write down your thoughts and prayers. Remember to bring your book next week for your discipleship leader to examine with you. Also, start memorizing the six ways of sharing your faith. At this point, you should memorize the *titles* of each way, and the general *method* of presenting the illustration to another person. Also memorize the scripture references for ROMANS ROAD. Your discipleship leader will ask you to repeat them next week.

## Friendship Evangelism

1. Why should we share our faith?

Romans 10.14 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. Just looking at the words, how would describe *friendship evangelism*?

\_\_\_\_\_

3. How did Jesus demonstrate friendship evangelism?

Matthew 9.10-13 \_\_\_\_\_

4. Who are the first people we should expect to influence after we become Christians?

John 1.40-41, Acts 11.14, 16.31-34, and 1Corinthians 16.15

\_\_\_\_\_

5. Who is *your* “household”?

\_\_\_\_\_

6. Why should our Christian life make its biggest impact on our household?

\_\_\_\_\_

If the people you live with don't see a full demonstration of your Christian love for them, then chances are that you haven't experienced true Christian living. You may fool some people into believing you're a Christian, but the people you live with will know if you're Christ-like or not.

Our greatest influence is on those we have the closest relationship with. The following lists the people we're closest to. These are the people we can expect to have the greatest influence on.

Rank the following in order of your closest relationship with them (1-4).

- \_\_\_\_\_ Immediate Family
- \_\_\_\_\_ Business Associates or Classmates
- \_\_\_\_\_ Relatives
- \_\_\_\_\_ Close Friends

**Think about this question:** Are the people with whom you have the closest relationships also the people who recognize your Christian lifestyle the most? If not, how do you plan to change that?

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

Everyone is at a different point in their relationship with God. We need to realize that, and reach people where they're at, so we can help lead them where they need to be. There are *three basic types of unbelievers*. We'll now look at how the Bible teaches us to reach each one.

*Three Types of Unbelievers*

1. THE UNREACHED — They have never heard of or have no idea at all about Christianity. How are we to reach these people?

Romans 15.20-21 \_\_\_\_\_

---

2. THE UNINFORMED They don't understand the specifics about Christianity. How are we to reach these people?

Acts 19.1-4 \_\_\_\_\_

---

3. THE DECEIVED They don't understand Christianity because of distortions, negative feelings, prejudices, or unanswered questions. How are we to reach these people?

1Peter 3.15 \_\_\_\_\_

---

*Be prepared to reach each person where he or she is at.*

### *Making friends with the FORM Method*

Sometimes, the longer someone is a Christian, the fewer unbelievers they know. To be effective at sharing Christ, we need to have some friendships with unbelievers so that we can share Christ with them (not just by witnessing, but by sharing Christ's love with them). The FORM method teaches us to ask questions that will help us know others better. Memorize the FORM method so you'll be able to use it when you meet people.

#### **F** Family or Background Questions

- Where are you from?
- What is the climate like there?
- What does the landscape look like there?
- Do you miss being there?
- Are the people very friendly there?
- What pastime activities are popular there?
- Do you have any brothers or sisters?
- How old are they?
- What do they presently do?
- How often do you see them?
- What do your parents do?
- Where do they live?

#### **O** Occupation Questions

- Where do you work?
- What type of position do you have there?
- What kind of work does that consist of?
- Where do you go to school?
- What is your major?
- Why did you decide on that major?

#### **R** Religious Background Questions

- What is your religious background?
- What do they believe?
- How actively involved have you been?
- What is your present interest in spiritual things?
- Do you enjoy discussing religious topics in a friendly manner?

#### **M** Message to Them About Your Life (or their message to you about *their* life)

### *Using Your Personal Testimony*

The FORM method gives you an idea of some questions to ask. But the questions will vary based on the particular situation. The point is to ask questions, and to learn about the people you meet. Do not expect to ask all these questions the first time you meet someone! Yet, make an effort to learn as much as you can about the people you meet.

As you get to know someone, there are a few things that you may need to do to help further the relationship. The FRIEND method should help you learn six ways to grow a friendship that will lead to a more fulfilling relationship, which includes spiritual growth.



- F** Find a common interest
- R** Really have fun participating in the common interest together
- I** Invite the person to meet other Christian friends with a similar interest
- E** Expect the Lord to lead your friendship to spiritual growth
- N** Nurture the relationship with prayer and love
- D** Dare to share

***List your Family, Friends, and Associates***

To help you reach out to unbelievers start by making a list of all the unbelievers you know. Write down as many names as you can think of on the chart on page 63. That chart will help you be more effective at sharing Christ.

Pick a few of your closest non-Christian friends and place them on the chart too. This chart should be reviewed weekly to help you follow your progress in friendship evangelism.

What are the two things that Paul shared with the Thessalonians, which teach us something about Friendship Evangelism?

1Thessalonians 2.8

A. \_\_\_\_\_

B. \_\_\_\_\_

**HOMEWORK:** You have now finished Basic Training – Part 3. Take this week to look over Basic Training part 4 and do the first lesson for next week.

Also, continue to practice your daily quiet time. Bring your Bible Study Notebook next week, and be prepared to discuss your results.

## Sample Bible Study Page

9/23 — Col 1.1-14

### Point

*V. 9,10 We are to be filled with the knowledge of God's will, to live a life worthy of the Lord — pleasing Him and bearing Fruit. Knowledge of God's will, comes through spiritual wisdom and understanding. These things come through Bible study. The passage says that we are to pray for one another to grow in these ways, so we can have a worthy life, pleasing to God, much fruit, growth, strength, endurance, patience, joy and an inheritance that will never fade.*

### Application

*Command to obey- We are to be filled with the knowledge of God's will.*

*Personal Application: I will fill myself with the knowledge of God's will by starting a daily Bible reading time, every morning beginning tomorrow.*

### Memory Verse

*Col 1.10 — “and we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please Him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God.”*

### Prayer Requests

*I am having some difficulty keeping my schedule at school — primarily because of the odd hours I work, I need some stability.*

*Joanne is going in for an operation —I pray that she will be healed soon.*

*Sam is having some difficulty... he won't tell me what it is, but please help him.*

*Other Christians having difficulty — Steve Rogers, Andy Kulagin, Kathy Jackson.*

*Non-Christians needing salvation —Connie Munson, Pete Bisson, Jenny McIntyre, Mom & Dad*

### Journal Entry

*Today was a good day at work...My boss is giving me a better schedule (thanks, Jesus), so I can spend more time in my studies. I have a mid-term next week, so this comes at a good time. Jenny was rude to me today... but later apologized (I think she is having some conviction...). Steve looks better today... Also, have to get Sunday's lesson prepared.*

\*\*\*\*\*

## A Lost and Found List

On the next page is a chart for you to list any unsaved people you know, and how you might reach out to them with the Gospel. Just put a checkmark (✓) in the appropriate box(es) beside each name as it is fulfilled.

											Name
											Prayed for him/her daily
											Identified myself as a Christian
											Visited their home, work, or school
											Served the person
											Invited to neutral activity
											Attended neutral activity
											Introduced them to my Christian friends
											Invited to non-threatening Christian event
											Attended non-threatening Christian event
											Shared my testimony
											Shared gospel
											Accepted Christ
											Invited to church
											Attended church
											Joined a church
											Baptized



## BASIC TRAINING — Part 4

*“I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith; <sup>8</sup> in the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing.” (2Tim 4.7-8)*

- Spiritual Gifts
- Personal Ministry
- World missions and giving
- False religions
- The Balanced Christian Life
- Accountability

### Introduction

This is the fourth and last part of your Basic Training that focuses on Bible instruction covering the basics of Christianity.

**SPIRITUAL GIFTS** is the first focus. We’ll learn what spiritual gifts we have to help us minister to others and start ministries. **WORLD MISSIONS AND GIVING** is the second focus. We will learn about the great need for missions throughout the world, and the great need for each of us to use our finances to support Christian works throughout the world. **FALSE RELIGIONS** will be the third focus. We’ll study how other religions differ from Christianity. **A BALANCED CHRISTIAN LIFE** is the fourth focus. We’ll study how God is concerned with every aspect of our lives. The fifth focus is **ACCOUNTABILITY**. We’ll study the importance of being accountable to others.

Our hope is that these five studies will help prepare you for ministry, and that you will take what you learn and teach it to others.

### Spiritual Gifts

It’s important to know that the Spirit of God gives each believer spiritual gifts. They’re given to us for the common good (1Cor 12.7), and distributed according to His will (1Cor 12.11). They enable us to minister to others, and to further the work of the kingdom.

What are called “extraordinary” gifts, attested that the men who had them were from Christ. Once these men were gone, and the Scriptures were recorded, those gifts ended. Which gifts continued? Well, consider that even natural talents or skills, are “spiritual gifts” when they’re used for “spiritual ends” — to further God’s kingdom, as God empowers them. And consider that any list of gifts, such as those in 1Corinthians 12 or Romans 12, might not be complete; they simply contain *examples*. That would mean there are more gifts than those listed. To prove the point, list the gifts in the verses below, that God bestowed on His people, to fulfill His purposes:

Exodus 31.2-11 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Exodus 35.10-19 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Daniel 1.4 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Now look at two less-quoted verses in the New Testament; describe the spiritual gifts in them:

Rom 1.11 \_\_\_\_\_

1Cor 7.7 \_\_\_\_\_ Why is this *spiritual*? (vv. 32, 33)

1Cor 14.1, 12 \_\_\_\_\_ Why are these *spiritual*? (their purpose)

1Cor 14.15 \_\_\_\_\_ Why is *understanding* important to these spiritual activities? (vv.19-20)

You can see that God gifts us as He desires, to accomplish His will. Because “prophecy” and “prophesying” are used so often, let’s see what the Bible means by them. In the Old Testament, the Hebrew word for prophet is *nab’y*; it means “speaker.” And what is spoken is *nebuw’ah*, or prophecy. The content of what is spoken comes from God: “Thus says the Lord...” So, whenever someone repeats what God has said, that’s prophetic speech — it’s *prophesying*. Another type of prophetic speech concerns what God says about future things. *Both* types are prophetic speech.

Daniel was told to seal up the prophecy he was given about the Messiah, until the time when all prophecy would come to an end (Dan 9.24). Since all prophecy pointed to the coming Messiah, once He came, prophecy ended. Jesus confirmed that when he said, “For all the prophets and the law prophesied *until John*.” (Mat 11.13) And so the testimony of the church, since the second century, has been that such prophecies and other related gifts, ended with that first generation. Prophesying the word of God still continues, but these days we call it *preaching* — which is a “gift” or “grace” (*charisma* or *charis*) appointed to some (Eph 3.8; 4.11) for ministry.

1. What are three things we have to help us minister?

1Corinthians 12.4-6

v.4 from the spirit — \_\_\_\_\_

v.5 from the Lord (Jesus) — \_\_\_\_\_

v.6 from God (the Father) — \_\_\_\_\_

It’s interesting to note that each person of the Trinity blesses us in a different way. 1Cor 12.4 teaches us that the spirit gives us different kinds of gifts. The Greek word *charisma* translated as *gifts* means a divinely conferred endowment.

Three kinds of spiritual gifts are mentioned in the Bible: *miraculous*, *vocational*, and *ministry*.

There are only three times in history that the Holy Spirit gave individuals MIRACLE GIFTS. The first person was Moses, who was blessed with an outpouring of miracle gifts that no one had ever experienced (Exodus 4-20). Next were Elijah and Elisha (1Kings 17- 2Kings 13). And last was Jesus and the generation of the apostles, as we read in the New Testament.

It is false to say that we do not experience miracles because of a lack of faith. As you study the most faithful men in history you find that they experienced miracles randomly, just as we do, by God’s grace — but not as a personal gift for them to exercise.

2. VOCATIONAL GIFTS — In 1Corinthians 12.5,<sup>7</sup> we see that the Lord Jesus gives us different kinds of service or ministries to perform. The Greek word translated as *service* or *ministries* means a function, ministry, or office in the church — i.e., a vocation or calling. These gifts are

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<sup>7</sup> 1Cor 12.5 There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord.

apportioned however Christ chooses (Eph 4.7). Christ does not select everyone to be an officer in the church. Christ has given those individuals the responsibility to equip God’s people to serve and to build up the body of Christ (Eph 4.12).

2. What are the different kinds of vocations that are given to the church to equip the saints?

Ephesians 4.7,11-16 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

The New Testament uses three main terms to speak of what we typically call a “pastor”. There’s elder (*presbuteros* — Tit. 1.5; 1Tim. 5.17), overseer or bishop (*episkopos* — 1Tim. 3.1-2; Tit. 1.7), and pastor (*poimen* — Eph. 4.11).<sup>8</sup> Scholars have long agreed that these terms, instead of indicating separate offices, are used interchangeably;<sup>9</sup> serving in three different roles:

- *Overseer/bishop* indicates the role of oversight
- *Pastor* indicates the role of care
- *Elder* indicates the necessity of spiritual maturity

MINISTRY GIFTS — 1Corinthians 12.6 teaches us that God gives us different kinds of workings or effects. The Greek word translated as *workings* or *effects* means the effect is produced *by God*. These would be certain attributes or qualities given to us by the grace of God to help us serve and minister to others effectively.

3. What are some different kinds of ministry gifts?

Romans 12.3-8 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Your assignment for these studies is to find out what ministry gifts you can best use to minister to others. Remember that *talents* are God-given too; and when they are used to further the Gospel or to serve the Kingdom, they are likewise “spiritual” gifts. (Exo 31.6; 36.1-2)

### Personal Ministry

1. Describe three essential *aspects* of the church — how it *behaves*:

Psalm 134.1-2 \_\_\_\_\_

Hebrews 10.25 \_\_\_\_\_

James 1.27 \_\_\_\_\_

As Christians, we are to participate in all three aspects of the church. This study will only focus on how you personally are expected to be involved in ministry (James 1.27).

2. What are ways in which God calls us to minister to others?

Matthew 25.31-46

A. \_\_\_\_\_

B. \_\_\_\_\_

<sup>8</sup> The verb form of the word pastor appears in 1 Pet, 5.2.

<sup>9</sup> For example, compare Tit. 1.5-6 with v. 7; 1Pet. 5.1 with v. 2; 1Tim. 3.1-7 with 5.17-19.

- C. \_\_\_\_\_
- D. \_\_\_\_\_
- E. \_\_\_\_\_
- F. \_\_\_\_\_

We are in a world that produces human ruins on a massive scale. We face increasing numbers of suicide, abortion, broken homes, child abuse, pornography, homosexuality, homeless people, starvation, gang violence, drug and alcohol abuse, prostitution, etc. Jesus is the only answer for this dying world, and it's up to us Christians to learn ways to reach these people with the love of God. In the following questions, we will examine the principles Nehemiah used to rebuild Jerusalem's broken walls, to see how God can use us to rebuild the broken lives around us.

*Jerusalem is in rubble; the walls are broken down and its gates have been burned with fire.*  
(Nehemiah 1.1-3)

3. In what ways do we have rubble (broken lives rather than broken walls)?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4. How should we respond to this rubble?

Nehemiah 1.4 \_\_\_\_\_

The things that break *God's* heart are the things that should break *our* hearts.

5. What was the first thing that Nehemiah did when faced with the rubble?

Nehemiah 1.5-11 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

6. What was the second thing Nehemiah did when faced with the rubble?

Nehemiah 2.1-5 \_\_\_\_\_

It is a capital offense to be sad in front of the king, because his presence is considered to be so honorable, that everyone should be happy to be with him. Therefore, Nehemiah is also risking his life to do what he believes is right.

7. What two things should we do before taking on a ministry based on what you learned from questions 5 and 6?

A. \_\_\_\_\_

B. \_\_\_\_\_

8. Nehemiah needed *three things* to help him accomplish his ministry.

Nehemiah 2.6-8

v.6 he had to set a \_\_\_\_\_

v.7 he needed letters of authority for \_\_\_\_\_

v.8 he needed the following resource: \_\_\_\_\_



9. How might we need the following three things for effective ministry?

A. Time \_\_\_\_\_

B. Authority \_\_\_\_\_

C. Resources \_\_\_\_\_

10. What did Nehemiah do before he started putting his ministry into action?

Nehemiah 2.11-16 \_\_\_\_\_

11. What should we do before putting a ministry into action?

\_\_\_\_\_

12. After Nehemiah became familiar with the needs, what did he do?

Nehemiah 2.17-18 \_\_\_\_\_

13. What is our attitude to be when ministering?

Matthew 6.1-4

v.1-2 \_\_\_\_\_

v.3 \_\_\_\_\_

v.4 \_\_\_\_\_

14. What will prevent our souls and bodies from “burning out” in ministry?

Matthew 11.28-30 (souls) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Exo 20.8; Hebrews 4.9-11 (bodies) \_\_\_\_\_

If everyone who attends our church were to dedicate 3 hours a week to doing ministry, how many hours of ministry would be spent each week? \_\_\_\_\_

Your assignment for this week, is to find at least one ministry you can be committed to.

### *Ministry Opportunities*

The purpose of this study is to motivate each of us to be involved with ministry. The following is a list of some ministries to help you choose what type of ministry God is calling you to.

- |  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> missionaries              | <input type="checkbox"/> evangelist                | <input type="checkbox"/> worship leader         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> pastors                   | <input type="checkbox"/> elders                    | <input type="checkbox"/> ministry to teachers   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bible study leader        | <input type="checkbox"/> Sunday school teacher     | <input type="checkbox"/> church committee       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> deacon                    | <input type="checkbox"/> usher                     | <input type="checkbox"/> prison ministry        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> choir member              | <input type="checkbox"/> home Bible study leader   | <input type="checkbox"/> backyard Bible school  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> church visitation         | <input type="checkbox"/> Bible translator          | <input type="checkbox"/> street preaching       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> door to door witnessing   | <input type="checkbox"/> Christian musician        | <input type="checkbox"/> Christian singer       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> meals for the needy       | <input type="checkbox"/> street people             | <input type="checkbox"/> adolescent home        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> hospital ministry         | <input type="checkbox"/> handicapped/mental        | <input type="checkbox"/> min. to homosexuals    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> orphans ministry          | <input type="checkbox"/> ministry to singles       | <input type="checkbox"/> adoption ministry      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> juvenile hall ministry    | <input type="checkbox"/> ministry to parents       | <input type="checkbox"/> Christian recreation   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ministry to aids patients | <input type="checkbox"/> suicide prevention        | <input type="checkbox"/> child abuse ministry   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> battered women            | <input type="checkbox"/> ministry to street gangs  | <input type="checkbox"/> college students       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> high school students      | <input type="checkbox"/> cults and false religions | <input type="checkbox"/> Christian social clubs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ministry to the elderly   | <input type="checkbox"/> ministry to drug users    | <input type="checkbox"/> Christian movies       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> medical and dental        | <input type="checkbox"/> policemen's wives, etc.   | <input type="checkbox"/> motorcycle gangs       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ministry to alcoholics    | <input type="checkbox"/> clothing pantry           | <input type="checkbox"/> occupational groups    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> military: AF, Navy, etc.  | <input type="checkbox"/> foster parenting          | <input type="checkbox"/> single parents         |

Please consider any other ministry that is not mentioned above that you might be interested in.

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## World Missions and Giving

1. Why should we go to the mission field?

Matthew 28.19-20 \_\_\_\_\_

Matthew 9.37-38 \_\_\_\_\_

Romans 10.14-15 \_\_\_\_\_

Here are some amazing facts that should cause all Christians to realize their call to reach this world by going to, or supporting those who can spread the gospel to, those people and nations that have never heard the gospel.

The world population is over 7.2 billion people, with 16,591 people groups among them. Less than 2% are Evangelical Christian; 3.11 billion people in 6714 people groups are *unreached* with the Gospel; 764 million are *unevangelized*. There's 1 missionary for every 216,300 people. We have 4.19 million full-time Christian workers, and 95% of them are working in the Christian world. There are estimated 6,909 Languages worldwide, 4,400 without the Scripture. There are 900 churches and 78,000 Evangelical Christians for every one unreached people group. For every \$100,000 that Christians make, they give \$1 to the unreached. Evangelical Christians could provide all of the funds needed to plant a church in each of the 6,700 unreached people groups with only 0.03% of their income. The Church has roughly 3,000 times the financial resources and 9,000 times the manpower needed to finish the Great Commission, *today*.<sup>10</sup>

2. Where did the apostles start their ministry?

Acts 1.8 \_\_\_\_\_

Just as the apostles did, we are to start missions right where we are. Why go to another country and reach people for Christ, if we're not willing to reach our own neighbors?

3. Where are we called to go?

Romans 15.20-21 \_\_\_\_\_

Matthew 24.14 \_\_\_\_\_

The word "nations" is best translated from the Greek as distinct cultures or ethnic groups. Almost every outreach ministry requires financial assistance. To accomplish what Christ called us to, we need to financially support such ministries.

4. What are the three things God called the Israelites to finance in the following passage?

Deuteronomy 14.28-29

A. Ministers — \_\_\_\_\_

B. Missions — \_\_\_\_\_

C. Ministries — \_\_\_\_\_

<sup>10</sup> [www.thetravelingteam.org/stats](http://www.thetravelingteam.org/stats)

5. Why is it useless to hoard riches? Is that the measure of our success or worth?
- A. Psalm 49.16-20 \_\_\_\_\_
- B. Matthew 16.26 \_\_\_\_\_
- 
6. What percentage of income did the Israelites set aside for the lord? (*Note: the word tithe means a tenth, Deuteronomy 14.22*)
- Leviticus 27.30-34 \_\_\_\_\_ %
7. How was the principal of giving demonstrated in the lives of others?
- Genesis 14.17-20 \_\_\_\_\_
- Genesis 28.20-22 \_\_\_\_\_
8. The Old Testament teaches that the tithe (10%) belongs to God. According to the teachings of Jesus what percentage of our money belongs to God?
- Mark 10.17-22 \_\_\_\_\_ %
- Don't give based on a percentage; rather, give what you believe God wants you to give. He doesn't expect us to give until we become poor: it's not evil to have wealth or possessions. But we should give what we can, even if it means giving up some luxuries for ourselves.
9. What is our *attitude* to be when we give our money?
- Luke 12.15-21 \_\_\_\_\_
- Luke 18.9-14 \_\_\_\_\_
- Luke 21.1-4 \_\_\_\_\_
10. What is the result if we do *not* give to God what belongs to him?
- Malachi 3.8-9 \_\_\_\_\_
11. What is the result if we *do* give to God what belongs to him?
- Malachi 3.10-12 \_\_\_\_\_
- 
12. What are some ways money can *hinder* our relationship with God? 1Timothy 6.9-11:
- v. 9 \_\_\_\_\_
- v. 10a \_\_\_\_\_
- v. 10b \_\_\_\_\_
- 
- Matthew 19.16-24
- 
- Ezekiel 28.1-10 \_\_\_\_\_
-

13. How is a wealthy man to respond to God?

Jeremiah 9.23-24 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

1 Timothy 6.17-19

v. 17 \_\_\_\_\_

v. 17 \_\_\_\_\_

v. 17 \_\_\_\_\_

v. 18 \_\_\_\_\_

v. 18 \_\_\_\_\_

v. 18 \_\_\_\_\_

14. Why are we to financially support vocational ministers?

1 Corinthians 9.1-14 \_\_\_\_\_

15. How and in what ways are we to give financially?

1 Corinthians 16.1-4

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

2 Corinthians 8.1-15

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

v. 3 \_\_\_\_\_

v. 3 \_\_\_\_\_

v. 4 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

v. 7 \_\_\_\_\_

v. 12 \_\_\_\_\_

v. 13 \_\_\_\_\_

v. 14 \_\_\_\_\_

2 Corinthians 9

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

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

v. 5 \_\_\_\_\_

v. 5-6 \_\_\_\_\_

v. 7 \_\_\_\_\_

v. 7 \_\_\_\_\_

v. 7 \_\_\_\_\_

v. 7 \_\_\_\_\_

v. 9 \_\_\_\_\_

v. 11 \_\_\_\_\_

v. 12 \_\_\_\_\_

v. 12 \_\_\_\_\_

v. 13 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

v. 14 \_\_\_\_\_

The way we spend our money demonstrates what we consider to be important. We may fool others about our Christian lifestyle, but our pocketbooks tell the real story.

To recap, there are three reasons for giving finances:

1. Money for *ministers*

2. Money for *missions*

3. Money for *ministries*

It is very important that we give our money to finance these needs. Solomon, a very wise man, realized that money was the “answer to everything” (to meet our physical and material needs); and that laziness and idleness lead only to decay and leaky roofs. (Ecclesiastes 10.18-19)

## False Religions in General

At some time, you or a friend may be approached by a religious group inviting you to consider their teachings. How can you tell if they are a false religion or a cult? Generally speaking, a cult will *trick* you into joining them (usually by lying), and *coerce* you into staying. Here are some marks of a false religion, to help you recognize them as false. Following each false belief, are verses from the Bible containing the truth about that belief.

1. THEY DEIFY MAN: they say that man may become God; man only needs to progress (with the cult's help) to become like God. What does the Bible say?

A. Genesis 3.1-13 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

B. Isaiah 14.9-19 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

C. 2Thessalonians 2.3-4 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. THEY HUMANIZE GOD: they deny that God is eternal. They deny the Trinity, and believe that there are many gods, or that all of creation is God. What does the Bible say?

A. Romans 1.21-25 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

B. Isaiah 44.10-11 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

C. Isaiah 44.6-8 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

D. Psalm 90.2 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. THEY ELIMINATE OR MINIMIZE SIN: they deny that mankind is separated from God by sin. These groups (if they believe in sin at all) believe that they can be perfected through good and moral deeds. Hell is usually redefined, as if sin has no final punishment. What does the Bible say?

A. Romans 3.23 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

B. 1John 1.8-10 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

C. Galatians 3.10 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

D. Revelations 20.12-15 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. THEY MINIMIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF THE BIBLE: they add to scripture, saying that other literature is as important, or more important, than the Bible. What does the Bible say?

A. Luke 21.22 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

B. Revelation 22.18-19 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

C. Isaiah 40.8 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

D. Acts 17.11 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

E. Proverbs 30.6 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

5. THEY OFFER A DIFFERENT SALVATION: they deny salvation by grace, through the shed blood of Jesus Christ. They teach a system of works dictated by the cult. What does the Bible say?

A. Ephesians 2.8-9 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

B. Galatians 3.1-26 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

C. John 6.28-29 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

6. THEY PRESENT A DIFFERENT JESUS: they teach a Jesus that is not God the Son, but rather “a” god, or son of a god, or a prophet, or just a great teacher. What does the Bible say?

A. Isaiah 9.6-7 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

B. John 1.1-14 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

C. John 20.27-30 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

D. Colossians 2.8-10 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

E. 2Corinthians 11.3-4,13-15 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



7. THEY PRESENT A DIFFERENT SPIRIT: the Holy Spirit is changed into an impersonal “force.” Spiritism is typical, visits from spirit beings, counterfeit miracles, etc. What does the Bible say?

A. Acts. 5.3-4 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

B. 1 Timothy 4.1 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

C. Deuteronomy 18.9-14 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

8. They claim to be the “ONLY TRUE CHURCH” or “GOD’S CHANNEL OF TRUTH.” That is, unless you follow their organization or teachings, you are lost or will never really know God. *They* (as opposed to Jesus Christ, Joh 14.6) are the “only way.” What does the Bible say?

A. Ephesians 1.22-23 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

B. Romans 12.4-5 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

C. 1 John 5.11-13 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*The following information is from “Beliefs of Other Kinds,” the interfaith witness and comparison of different faiths (an interfaith witness chart), pp. 10-12, Home Mission Board: SBC:*

In any interfaith witness situation, the basic requirement is understanding. This includes being aware of your own attitudes and beliefs, as well as those of others. If you exhibit a hostile, suspicious attitude, if you think — or if you intimate — that you, yourself, are superior to the other, you will have erected barriers that will hamper genuine communication.

Many ...are surprisingly uninformed of the differences between their own faith and that of other Christian groups. Too many have only a vague notion of basic doctrine/tenets... Before studying another’s faith, it is often helpful to form a statement of your own beliefs in words that have meaning for you... Also, be prepared to say, “I don’t know,” when asked about areas on which you are uncertain— and who can be certain of every question of faith? “I’ll have to think about that” is not a dodge; it reveals a willingness to grow in understanding your own religious convictions.

Once you’ve learned to express your own beliefs, you can move on to understanding others’ faith. That doesn’t mean you have to become an expert on world religions... Basic inquisitiveness, coupled with sincere interest in the other person as a fellow human being, goes a long way toward bridging gaps. Yet, it’s worthwhile to have some knowledge of other faiths.

The [following]... gives a brief summary of differences in the major tenets of common religions. Interfaith dialogue is a two-way street; it’s not one person lecturing another. Real communication occurs only when there is an interchange of interest and viewpoint. In interfaith witness, you may discover you *say* more when you *listen*.

Your attitude — belligerent vs. politely curious — may determine the other’s response more than any amount of “persuasive” insistence.

**Ask questions.** Seek information. Discover how a belief parallels or diverges from your own.

**REMEMBER**, your goal isn’t to tear down another’s faith in order to build a case for your own; you are not *debating*, you are *discussing*. You are seeking honest conversation about the most significant subject a human being can ever consider: his or her relationship to God and to others living on this earth. When the time comes— and it will if you are patient— you can shift from *theoretical discussion* to *personal testimony*: from “I believe this...” to “this is important to me because...” By relating your own Christian experience, you may help another see the meaning and promise offered in a Christ-like relationship to God.

Keep your testimony current in its focus: dated events and experiences make less impression than an awareness that your faith lives, grows, matures, and changes you daily as you enter more deeply into your commitment. The way you depend upon God now for vision and strength in vicissitudes of life will be heard as fresher, more vital faith than one claiming to be “completed” at the moment of conversion and/or baptism.

There are just a few beliefs common to any faith or worldview. Ask what theirs are. What are their **ESSENTIAL TRUTHS** that they would never compromise? Where did **EXISTENCE** come from, and what governs it now? What are their most important **RELATIONSHIPS**, or their community? How can we be **SAVED** from injustice and suffering — how will it all end? What’s their **AUTHORITY** for judging truth and goodness? What is **MORAL** and immoral, and *why* be moral? What habits or **PRACTICES** are related to their beliefs?

Let’s begin with what we Christians believe and do, so we know what to compare theirs to.

## **Biblical Christianity**

*Essential truths:*

- We’re saved from eternal hell by God’s grace alone, not because of anything we have done.
- We’re saved (justified) through faith alone, in what Christ alone has done to atone for our sin and to reconcile us to God. Faith is always accompanied by godly living empowered by the Holy Spirit.
- We rely on the Bible alone as our authority — it is our sole standard of faith and practice, revealing everything we need for life and godliness.
- We no longer live, but Christ lives in us. Hence, we live to God, for His glory alone.

*God:* The Lord God is One, in three persons — Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. He is omnipotent, omniscient, omnipresent, and eternal. He is the Creator and Sustainer of all things. And He is perfectly holy, just, and loving.

- **Jesus Christ:** the Son of God, *that is*, God incarnate, born of the virgin Mary. God raised him from the dead to prove his authority. He now reigns in heaven, sitting at the right hand of God the Father. He is fully God, and fully Man, without taking away from, adding to, or intermixing his human and divine natures.
- **Holy Spirit:** he is the Spirit of God and of Christ, third person of the triune God, and *not* an impersonal force. He is given to every believer at conversion, to be their teacher and comforter, gifting and empowering them for the common good of the Church. Having the Spirit is the pledge and guarantee of a believer’s salvation.

*Community:* The Church is not an organization. Even though it is organized with leaders and teachers, it is a priesthood of all believers. It is the mystical Body of Christ, visible on earth. It is “the gathering of the saints” (professed believers), so that they may love one another, edify one another, serve one another, worship together, and be equipped for works of ministry both within and without the Church. The Spirit distributes gifts among believers, that they may proclaim the Gospel, live godly in the world, and stand firm in their faith.

*Salvation:* All mankind is made in the image of God, and born of Adam and Eve. But we were born into sin and death because of Adam’s sin — it marred the image of God in us. We are in bondage to sin, and corrupted in our faculties. As such, we cannot fulfill the Law, nor see the kingdom of God, nor believe the truth of the Gospel, nor please God, nor save ourselves from hell — and hell is the penalty for disobeying God’s law. God alone can set us free.

He sent his only son, Jesus Christ, to perfectly obey the Law on behalf of his people, and to die in their place to atone (pay the penalty) for their sins (*substitutionary atonement*). To have Christ’s obedience to the law count as their obedience, and to have his payment for their sins count as their payment, they must believe God, and place their faith in Christ alone.

The Church doesn’t save; Christianity doesn’t save; good deeds don’t save; religious practices don’t save; religious leaders don’t save. Salvation is found in Jesus Christ alone, through faith alone, in him alone, as God provided by grace alone. And so it is to *God’s* glory alone.

*Authority/Truth:* The Bible is the sole authority for Christian faith and practice, in 66 books. It has the words of God, recorded by men who were inspired by the Spirit of God. Its words are “God-breathed,” and inerrant as originally received. The Bible is a record of the word of God, but it is not itself the *voice of God*, even though the voice of God may be “heard” there.

*Morality:* There are two related commandments of God, to which **all** mankind is held accountable, who are without excuse for denying God (Rom 1.20). We are to love God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength; and love our neighbor as ourselves.

*Practices:* There are only two practices required of the Church: 1. COMMUNION to *remember* what Christ has done, and 2. BAPTISM to *show* what Christ has done. Neither of these has any saving effect; they are *signs* of salvation. Worship, discipleship, and evangelism — prayer, preaching, and discipline — are the practices of the Church as a whole, and individually.

To give you an example of how to compare other beliefs, on the next page we’ll compare Roman Catholicism to this standard of biblical truth, using these same criteria. Some things are the same, but some things are different. Then we’ll give you two charts, one showing what Mormons and Jehovah’s Witnesses believe about these things, and the second comparing Christianity to Islam.

## Beliefs in Conflict with Biblical Christianity

### Roman Catholicism

*Essential beliefs:* the primacy of Peter as “Christ’s Vicar,” apostolic succession, papal supremacy and infallibility; Mariology (her immaculate conception and bodily assumption); transubstantiation (the bread and wine of communion become the physical body and blood of Christ); seven sacraments instead of two, all of which are “operational”; the priest intercedes in the communion; the atonement of Christ is universal (*Arminianism*) — therefore *all* are able to respond to the gospel. Christ is not the only Mediator; rather, dead saints may be prayed to for intercession. Purgatory is an intermediate state of cleansing before heaven for those with unconfessed sin — hence the need for “extreme unction” or last rights; prayers for the dead make it possible for unrepentant sinners to be saved after death.

*God:* The Lord God is One, in three persons — Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. He is omnipotent, omniscient, omnipresent, and eternal. He is the Creator and Sustainer of all things. And He is perfectly holy, just, and loving.

- **Jesus Christ:** the Son of God, *that is*, God incarnate, born of the virgin Mary. God raised him from the dead to prove his authority. He now reigns in heaven, sitting at the right hand of God the Father. He is fully God, and fully Man, without taking away from, adding to, or intermixing his human and divine natures.
- **Holy Spirit:** he is the Spirit of God and of Christ, third person of the triune God, and *not* an impersonal force. He is given to every believer at baptism.

*Community:* The Church is organized under the pope of Rome; clergy and laity are distinct classes; there are many offices in the clergy (not just elders and deacons). Membership in the visible church is a necessary condition of salvation — excommunication condemns to hell.

*Salvation:* This is both an event and a process. By baptism, a believer’s sins are remitted, and he is made righteous (justified). If he loses faith or falls away, he may be restored through the sacrament of penance. Thus, sacraments have a saving effect. Justification “infuses” Christ’s righteousness into the soul, and inherent righteousness (good conduct), as well as the sacraments of the church, *maintain* his justification. But the believer cannot know for certain that he is justified, until the end of the process. Meanwhile, to avoid hell, his constant duty is to co-operate with the “grace of God” given to him (the “grace” of personal obedience).

*Authority/Truth:* Catholicism has a triad of authority: the Scripture, apostolic tradition, and the teaching office of the church (the magisterium). Scripture includes the Apocrypha.<sup>11</sup>

*Morality:* Because justification is dependent on inherent righteousness, it is a doctrine of works, not of grace. Grace by the merit of Christ, imparts the ability to be progressively justified (not sanctified) by obedience, and by the sacraments of the church.

*Practices:* Catholicism observes seven sacraments: baptism, confirmation (chrismation), the eucharist (communion), penance (confession, reconciliation), anointing the sick (extreme unction, last rites); holy orders (priestly ordination), and matrimony.

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<sup>11</sup> The *Apocrypha* are 14 books of the Old Testament included in the Latin Vulgate (except for 2Esdras), but omitted in Jewish and Protestant versions of the Bible; eastern Christian churches (except the Coptic Church) accept all these books as canonical; the Russian Orthodox Church accepts these texts as divinely *inspired*, but curiously, not *canonical*.

<b>BELIEF</b>	<b>Mormonism</b>	<b>Jehovah’s Witnesses</b>
GOD	There are three separate Gods. God has not always been God. He is not a spirit, but is an “exalted Man”	Jesus is a lesser god under Jehovah, the only true God. The Holy Spirit is not a person, but is God’s “active force”
JESUS CHRIST	Jesus is the spiritual and physical offspring of God by procreation. He earned His godhood and salvation. He contended with Lucifer His “spirit brother” for his appointment as Savior. There are certain sins for which Jesus’ blood cannot atone, including murder.	He is a created angel who is “divine” as a “mighty god” next to, but not equal to, Jehovah God. Jesus is not worthy of our prayer or worship. He was resurrected as Michael the archangel, in a non-human spirit body.
COMMUNITY	Membership in the Mormon Temple is a necessary means of salvation.	Membership in the Watchtower Society is a necessary means of salvation.
SALVATION	The Gospel requires faith in Jesus Christ plus works of obedience to LDS’ Gospel “laws”. All people (regardless of religion or lack of it) will be “saved” except for the few who leave Mormonism. The highest level of Salvation (i.e., Eternal Life) is only for those who do their part in working for their salvation	The Gospel requires faith in Jehovah God, in Jesus Christ, and in the Watchtower Organization. Faith in Jesus Christ plus good works are required to prove oneself worthy for the “reward” of Eternal Life. Jesus’ mediatorship, heavenly life, and New Covenant spiritual adoption as a child of God, are only for 144,000 people.
MAN	We are the physical offspring of Celestial Parents — a Heavenly Father and Heavenly Mother — in a spirit world. “We are gods in embryo” and “you have got to learn how to be Gods yourselves...the same as all gods have done before you...” There is a second chance in a “spirit prison” for those who haven’t heard the Mormon “gospel.”	The soul of man ceases to exist after death — there is no hell (sinners are annihilated). A second chance is given in the millennial resurrection, for all to prove worthy of everlasting life.
AUTHORITY	The Bible (except errors); the <i>Book of Mormon</i> ; <i>Doctrine and Covenants</i> ; the <i>Pearl of Great Price</i> ; plus revelations given to current church prophets.	The Bible ( <i>New World Translation</i> ) as interpreted by the Watch Tower Society
MORALITY	Legalistic: no alcohol, coffee, smoking, etc. previously, polygamy and racism were acceptable; sexual immorality and abortion are forbidden.	Legalistic: no smoking, but alcohol OK; previously, racism was acceptable; sexual immorality and abortion are forbidden; no military service.
PRACTICES	Prophecy by leader; two-year mission by all; double tithing; genealogy is essential to identify forbears, who they can be joined with for eternity, through the sealing ceremonies conducted in their temples.	Prophecy by leader, all of which have been false; door to door outreach by all; no holidays or celebrations, e.g. birthdays, except the <i>memorial</i> of Christ’s death;

BELIEF	Islam	CHRISTIANITY
GOD	Only one god, Allah. The Trinity is a blasphemy signifying belief in three gods. The Trinity is mistakenly thought to be God, Jesus, and Mary	Only one God - a triune being called God or Yahweh. The one God is eternally revealed in three coequal and coeternal persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit
JESUS	A prophet who was virgin-born, but not the Son of God. Muhammad is the last prophet, and therefore the final authority in spiritual matters	Divine son of God who was virgin-born. He is God's Word and Savior to humanity
CRUCIFIXION	Jesus was not crucified. Someone was substituted for Jesus and He hid until He could meet with the disciples	A fact of history that is necessary for the atonement of sin and the salvation of believers
JESUS' RESURRECTION	Muslims reject the Crucifixion, therefore no Resurrection	A fact of history that signifies God's victory over sin and death
MAN	Man is created by Allah and is sinless	Man is created in God's image and is sinful by nature
SALVATION	Sin is disobedience to the established law. Sin does not grieve Allah. Salvation is achieved by submitting to the will of Allah. There is no assurance of salvation - it is granted by Allah's mercy alone. There will be bodily resurrection and final judgment with final destination. All Muslims go to heaven, though some must be purged of their sins first. All infidels are destined for hell	Sin is rebellion against God. Sin grieves God. Salvation is a gift accepted by faith in the atonement of Jesus Christ on the Cross and provided through God's grace. There will be bodily resurrection in the last days. Final judgment and eternal destination (heaven or hell) will be decided based on acceptance of Jesus as Savior and His removal of the sin which separates each person from God
AUTHORITY	Muslims accept the Bible (especially the Pentateuch, Psalms, and Gospels) insofar as it agrees with the <b>Qur'an</b> , a later revelation that supersedes and corrects errors in the Bible	The Bible is the inspired Word of God that is complete and not to be added to
PRACTICES	The FIVE PILLARS of Islam: shahada (the confession of faith); zakat (alms tax); sawm (fasting during Ramadan); hajj (pilgrimage to Mecca); salat (ritual prayer 5 times/day).	The two sacraments (or signs) of baptism and communion (the Lord's Supper). Also prayer, worship, fellowship, Bible study, evangelism, and discipleship.

<https://www.namb.net/apologetics/comparison-chart-islam-and-christianity>

## The Balanced Christian Life

Living a balanced Christian life is directly related to obeying God's commands. The greatest command God gave us, relates to our whole life. So, by applying God's greatest command to our lives, we'll live well-balanced lives.

1. What are the four areas of ourselves, which we are to love God with, according to God's greatest commandment for our lives?

Mark 12.28-30

A. \_\_\_\_\_

B. \_\_\_\_\_

C. \_\_\_\_\_

D. \_\_\_\_\_

Your HEART is a dwelling place of God, and it expresses itself in a *spiritual* manner. The word *heart* doesn't refer to a bodily organ, but to the inmost part of our will and emotions, that seek God. What are some practical ways to express loving God with all your **heart** (spiritually)?

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Your SOUL is your inner being, your identity and personality, which are expressed in a *social* manner. It is revealed by how you interact with others publicly. What are some ways that you can express loving God with all your **soul** (socially)?

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Your MIND gives you the ability to think, reason, and learn. Your mind is expressed in an *intellectual* manner, through reason and understanding. What are some practical ways that you can express loving God with all your **mind** (intellectually)?

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Your STRENGTH gives you force, power, and vigor. Your strength is expressed *physically*. What are some practical ways that you can express loving God with all your strength (physically)?

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2. How did JESUS express his love for God in all these ways?

Luke 2.52

A. Spiritually \_\_\_\_\_

B. Socially \_\_\_\_\_

C. Intellectually \_\_\_\_\_

D. Physically \_\_\_\_\_

Jesus is our example of living a balanced life in all these ways — he lived with his whole being. And the people of his time were profoundly influenced by his balanced life. We too are to grow in all these ways, in order to be more like Jesus Christ (2Pet 3.18).

A. The JEWS were the *spiritual* people of Jesus' time. They tried to reach God through good works and religious rituals — by external actions, not a changed heart. **Matthew's** gospel was directed to the Jewish people in order to bring them into a *right* relationship with God.

What did Jesus teach them, to convict them of their evil ways?

Matthew 7.21-23 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

B. The PAGANS were the *social* people of Jesus' time. They were trying to gratify their selfish desires through socially acceptable forms of worship. **John's** gospel was directed toward the pagan people in order to bring them into a *right* relationship with God.

What did Jesus teach them in order to convict them of their evil ways?

John 15.12 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

C. The GREEKS were the *intellectual* people of Jesus' time. They used their intellect to help them feel secure and confident due to their knowledge and understanding. **Luke's** gospel was directed toward the Greek people in order to bring them into a *right* relationship with God.

What did Jesus teach and show them to convict them of their evil ways, and take away their security and confidence in themselves?

Luke 21.15 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Luke 4.38-41 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

D. The ROMANS were the *physical* people of Jesus' time. They used their strength to control and have power over others. **Mark's** gospel was directed toward the Roman people in order to bring them into a *right* relationship with God.

What did Jesus teach them to convict them of their evil ways?

Mark 10.42-45 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



The second greatest commandment (Mark 12.31) is to “love your neighbor”. By having a growing spiritual, social, intellectual, and physical life, we will be better equipped to reach many different types of people, just as Jesus did.

3. How did PAUL demonstrate this kind of lifestyle?

1Corinthians 9.19-23 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

To follow the example of both Jesus and Paul, we need to grow in all areas of our life. To help you grow in all these areas write out a personal application for the following areas of your life:

*Spiritual* application: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*Social* application: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*Intellectual* application: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*Physical* application: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### **Accountability**

1. How may we hold one another accountable, and why should we do that? (Leviticus 19.17)

Ezekiel 3.18-19 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Ezekiel 3.20-21 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. Read Gen 4.8-12. Are we our brother’s keeper (accountable for one another’s well-being)?  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. How did Nathan hold David accountable?

2Samuel 12.1-14 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. How did David respond to Nathan (v. 13)? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

5. What was the evidence of David’s *repentance*? (v. 16 — also, read Psalm 51)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

6. What were the results of David's *sin*, and of his *repentance* from it? (2Sam 12.18-24)

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7. Why do we need others to hold us accountable?

Proverbs 27.17 \_\_\_\_\_

Ecclesiastes 4.9-10 \_\_\_\_\_

You should find an accountability partner who you can meet with on a weekly basis so that you can help one another in your walk with God. Realize that accountability partners are to help *encourage* one another (Hebrews 10.24-25) — not to burden one another with guilt; not to be each other's conscience; and not to be each other's parent (2Pet 1.5-7). It takes a lot of discipline to live a consistent life. Therefore, we need a lot of encouragement.

8. To have a well-balanced life we must plan our time well. What do the following verses teach us to do with our time?

Ephesians 5.15-16 \_\_\_\_\_

Psalm 90.12 \_\_\_\_\_

It is very important to use our time wisely; time is our most precious gift. When our time is up, there's no second chance. So we need to make the most of every opportunity.

9. What is required of us, as followers of Jesus Christ?

Luke 12.40-46 \_\_\_\_\_

Luke 12.47-48 \_\_\_\_\_

You may never have the time to do everything you want to do, but you will always have the time to do what God wants you to do. You should plan your schedule to do what God wants. On the Weekly Schedule contained on the next page, you should include the activities that will help you grow spiritually, socially, intellectually, and physically.

This completes the last part of Basic Training. Before taking others through this manual, you need to *put into practice*, as best as you can, the things you've learned. Realize, you are not expected to be perfect in all that you've learned; but teachers should set a good example. Try to improve your weaknesses as you continue to grow in the Lord. Making an honest effort will encourage others. We may not be as consistent as we'd like to be in every aspect of our faith; but we can be committed to improve our walk with the Lord as He works in us (Philippians 2.13; Colossians 1.29).

## Weekly Schedule

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
06:00							
07:00							
08:00							
09:00							
10:00							
11:00							
12:00							
01:00							
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09:00							
10:00							
11:00							
12:00							
01:00							
02:00							



Put a checkmark (✓) in each box when you achieve your goal for the week.

	Week	Week	Week	Week	Week	Week	Week	Week	Week	Week	Week	Week	Week	Week	Week	Week	Week	Week	Week	Week	Week	Week	Week	Week	Week
Daily Prayer																									
Daily Bible study																									
Personal application																									
Memory verses																									
church attendance																									
Friendship evangelism																									
Personal ministry																									
Spiritual application																									
Social application																									
Intellectual application																									
Physical application																									
____ with accountability partner this week																									
Prayed daily for accountability partner																									
Prayed daily for discipleship members																									
Prayed for friendship evangelism people daily																									



## Bible Reading Record – Old Testament

<b>Gen</b>	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50										
<b>Exo</b>	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
<b>Lev</b>	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	21	22	23	24	25	26	27													
<b>Num</b>	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36				
<b>Deu</b>	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34						
<b>Josh</b>	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	21	22	23	24																
<b>Jdg</b>	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	21																			
<b>Ruth</b>	1	2	3	4																
<b>1Sam</b>	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31									
<b>2Sam</b>	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	21	22	23	24																
<b>1Kng</b>	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	21	22																		
<b>2Kng</b>	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	21	22	23	24	25															
<b>1Chr</b>	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29											
<b>2Chr</b>	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36				
<b>Ezr</b>	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10										
<b>Neh</b>	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13							
<b>Est</b>	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10										
<b>Job</b>	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
	41	42																		
<b>Psa</b>	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60
	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80
	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100
	101	102	103	104	105	106	107	108	109	110	111	112	113	114	115	116	117	118	119	120
	121	122	123	124	125	126	127	128	129	130	131	132	133	134	135	136	137	138	139	140
	141	142	143	144	145	146	147	148	149	150										

<b>Pro</b>	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31									
<b>Ecc</b>	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11									
<b>Song</b>	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8												
<b>Isa</b>	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60
	61	62	63	64	65	66														
<b>Jer</b>	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52								
<b>Lam</b>	1	2	3	4	5															
<b>Eze</b>	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48												
<b>Dan</b>	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12								
<b>Hos</b>	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14						
<b>Joel</b>	1	2	3																	
<b>Amo</b>	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9											
<b>Oba</b>	1																			
<b>Jon</b>	1	2	3	4																
<b>Mic</b>	1	2	3	4	5	6	7													
<b>Nah</b>	1	2	3																	
<b>Hab</b>	1	2	3																	
<b>Zep</b>	1	2	3																	
<b>Hag</b>	1	2																		
<b>Zec</b>	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14						
<b>Mal</b>	1	2	3	4																



## Bible Reading Record – New Testament

<b>Matt</b>	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28												
<b>Mark</b>	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16				
<b>Luke</b>	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	21	22	23	24																
<b>John</b>	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	21																			
<b>Acts</b>	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28												
<b>Rom</b>	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16				
<b>1Cor</b>	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16				
<b>2Cor</b>	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13							
<b>Gal</b>	1	2	3	4	5	6														
<b>Eph</b>	1	2	3	4	5	6														
<b>Phi</b>	1	2	3	4																
<b>Col</b>	1	2	3	4																
<b>1The</b>	1	2	3	4	5															
<b>2The</b>	1	2	3																	
<b>1Tim</b>	1	2	3	4	5	6														
<b>2Tim</b>	1	2	3	4																
<b>Titus</b>	1	2	3																	
<b>Phm</b>	1																			
<b>Heb</b>	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13							
<b>Jas</b>	1	2	3	4	5															
<b>1Pet</b>	1	2	3	4	5															
<b>2Pet</b>	1	2	3																	
<b>1Joh</b>	1	2	3	4	5															
<b>2Joh</b>	1																			
<b>3Joh</b>	1																			
<b>Jude</b>	1																			
<b>Rev</b>	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	21	22																		