

LESSON ONE

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE BIBLE AND BIBLICAL STUDY PART I

SCRIPTURES YOU SHOULD KNOW

II Timothy 2:15 (KJV)

Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

II Timothy 2:15 (NIV)

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

II Timothy 3:16-17 (KJV)

All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

John 17:17 (KJV)

Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.

INTRODUCTION

There is no book in the entire world more important than the Bible – God’s Word. The fact that the God of the universe has communicated His nature and His will to us in written form using the words of man is truly a miracle. However, it is easy to understand that the God who loves humans and has provided salvation for them would naturally want to communicate His holy will in written form so that His people would not be ignorant of the God of their salvation, his Son, Jesus Christ, and the empowerment of the Holy Spirit.

IN this lesson, we will discuss the inspiration and authority of the 66 books called the “Bible”. We will also provide an overview of some translations of the Bible and some Study Bibles.

I. The Bible is an Ancient Book

A. Oral Tradition

The Word of God was originally given to a few select men verbally, directly from God to the individual. Those to whom God spoke passed down the words that God said to the next generation, and that generation told the following generation what God had done for the generation before them. This process is known as passing on the “Oral Tradition.”

B. Inscriptuation

After many years of oral traditions being passed down, God decided to codify His revelation to man and to assure its accuracy. So, God through the process of “inscriptuation”, God spoke through men in writing. We call this writing “Scripture.”

C. Transmission and Collection

AS the various books were completed, they were collected and preserved by the people of God because they were recognized as being from God and, therefore, very important. Since there were no printing presses or mechanical copiers during that time, groups of trained people called “scribes” became the official human “copiers” of the books. The scribes copied prayerfully and carefully.

The Jews started collection the written Word of God with the Five Books of Moses and finally collected all of our 39 books of the Old Testament. After the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, the Church also collected the books of God’s New Covenant. These 27

books are called the New Testament. Together, they comprise the one Bible (Book) of 66 books.

There are no missing books that need to be added to our 66. Some religious groups try to add to the Bible, but God's written Word has been settled for almost 2,000 years. No new written revelation is needed. Jesus Christ and the early apostles and writers have given us all that we need for our salvation and Christian growth.

II. The Bible is a Translated Book

A. Past Translations

The Bible's first translation was of the Old Testament's original language of Hebrew (and some Aramaic) into the Greek language around 300 B.C. That translation is called the Septuagint (LXX). Since that time, the Hebrew Old Testament and the Greek New Testament have been translated into hundreds of languages throughout the world.

B. English Translations

The history of the English Bible is a very interesting one and worthy of more study if you are interested. A chart of the history of the Bible has been provided for you in Appendix I. You should study this chart so that you will have a basic understanding of the history of God's Word in the English language.

C. Contemporary English Translations (Versions)

Some of the most popular modern English translations are listed in Appendix II.

There can be nothing more important to your understanding of the Word of God than a clear, accurate translation of the Bible in a language you understand. If you desire to use a modern translation, choose carefully and prayerfully. Appendix II should help you in your selection. (Scriptures given in this Member's Manual are from both the King James Version (KJV) and the New International Version (NIV). If a verse is quoted, the translation used will be stated.

D. The Bible is a Book for Diligent Study (II Timothy 2:15)

A good Study Bible will help you to “rightly divide” the Word of God. A Study Bible is a great tool for a clearer understanding of Scripture. Appendix III lists some of today’s more popular Study Bibles. Every Christian needs a good Study Bible. If you do not have one, seek to get one as soon as possible.

LESSON ONE

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE BIBLE AND BIBLICAL STUDY – PART II

I. The Bible is an Inspired Book – The Word of God

A. All Scripture (II Timothy 3:16-17 – KJV)

“All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness. That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.”

The Greek word translated “is given by” is actually one word *theopneustos* meaning “God breathed.” All scripture is God breathed.

B. Holy Men of God Spoke by the Holy Spirit (II Peter 1:20-21)

C. The Word of God (Matthew 4:4; John 17:17)

D. The Importance of the Bible

The Word of God is so important for our Christian life. It keeps us from error; tells us about our God, our Saviour and our salvation; and tells us the content of Christian doctrine. Job said that he esteemed the Word of God more than his necessary food (Luke 23:12). How important is the Word in your life?

E. The Authority of the Bible

The Word of God is truth and the authority for the Christian. All thoughts, systems and ideas must be subject to, and based upon, the Word. Christians should not seek their own understanding; they constantly seek to understand the will of God for themselves through searching, studying, meditating and living by the Word of God.

II The Structure of the Bible

If we are to be diligent in our study of the Word, we can understand and grow if we know its structure. See Appendix IV for the structure of the Bible. (You should seek to gradually memorize the books of the Bible in the correct order, if you have not already done so.)

III Want to Know More?

If you want to know more of the structure, history and content of the Bible, several opportunities are available in the Grace Unlimited Christian Center Christian Education department.

ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURES

Deuteronomy 11:18-21

Psalms 119:9, 11, 89, 105

Isaiah 40:8

Matthew 5:18; 22:29

John 20:31

Acts 17:11

Hebrews 4:12

I Peter 1:23; 2:2

I John 5:13

Revelation 22:18-19

LESSON TWO

COMMITMENT TO SPIRITUAL GROWTH – PART I

SCRIPTURES YOU SHOULD KNOW

Romans 5:1 (NIV)

Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

John 3:7 (KJV)

Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.

I Peter 1:15-16 (NIV)

But, just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; for it is written: “Be holy, because I am holy.”

Ephesians 6:10-12 (NIV)

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power. Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

INTRODUCTION

The God of the Bible has created this world and mankind. He created mankind righteous and man was desirous of fellowship and worship with God. By a free act of disobedience, mankind rebelled against the authority of God in his life and became a sinner. But God loves humans so much that He has supplied a remedy for their sinful state.

In Part I of this lesson, we will discuss God's three-fold remedy of salvation from sin. Because of Adam's disobedience, mankind suffers from three primary aspects of sin:

- Legal Guilt: He deserves the judgment of damnation
- Hereditary Passing of Sin: He has a sin nature.
- Humans Actually Commit Sins: We actually disobey God and are responsible for our personal sins.

God has a remedy for each aspect of sin. By the means of:

- Justification, He removes the legal guilt.
- Regeneration, He gives us a new nature.
- Sanctification, He gives us power to live holy and grow in Christ.

In Part II, issues regarding spiritual warfare will be discussed. It is God's desire that you be committed to spiritual growth and victorious in Christian life.

I The Creation and Fall of Man

A. Man Created by God

God created the entire universe "out of nothing" (Latin: *ex nihilo*). It was a work of His creative power. God created a man out of the dust of the earth, and breathed into his nostrils (the Spirit – Hebrew *ruach* means "wind, breath or spirit") and the lifeless clay became a living being (Genesis 2:7; 1:26-27).

Because God's Spirit had given Adam life (both physical and spiritual), Adam – the human being – is said to be in the image of God. This image is not physical, but rather refers to God giving to man the likeness of His spiritual, mental, emotional, moral and creative characteristics and abilities.

Later, God created a woman (Genesis 2:18, 20-24) to be of assistance to Adam. Adam and Eve are the direct result of God's special creation and not the end result of random biological mutations and accidental evolution. Man is distinct from animals, bearing God's image and having the responsibility to worship and serve Him.

The Image of God in Human Characteristics

1. Spiritual Communion and Life

2. Intellectual Ability with Self –Awareness
3. Emotional Maturity
4. Ethical Nature (Conscience)
5. Moral Responsibility
6. Creativity and Imagination
7. Almost unlimited potential for growth and development in the areas above

B. Man’s Fall from Righteousness

Man was created upright and holy, yet with a free will to choose to obey God or not. Adam sinned and the whole human race has since rebelled against God and needed redemption from sin. The Fall of Man is a very important doctrine because from it flows the need of redemption through Jesus Christ. Genesis 3; Romans 3:23; 5:12; I Corinthians 15:21-22.

C. God’ Three-Fold Remedy of Salvation from Sin

Even though man was spiritually, psychologically and socially ruined by the original sin, God has supplied a remedy for each of the three aspects of Adam’s sin.

The three aspects of Adam’s sin are:

1. **Legal Guilt and Condemnation** - Romans 5:16-18
2. **Hereditary Passing on of Sin (sin nature)** – Romans 5:12; 19; 7:14-25
3. **Actual Committing of Sins by Us** – Romans 3:23; I John 2:1

D. God’s Three-fold Remedy for the Three Aspects of Sin

1. LEGAL GUILT – REMOVED THROUGH JUSTIFICATION
2. HEREDITARY – A NEW NATURE GIVEN THROUGH REGENERATION

3. ACTUAL SINS – ABILITY TO BE SET FREE FROM THE DOMINION OF SIN THROUGH SANCTIFICATION

The following doctrines will address God’s three-fold remedy for sin.

II. Justification

A. Definition

The word in the New Testament that corresponds to the verb “to justify” is *dikaioo*. This word means “to make or declare one as righteous.” It is defined in Christian doctrine as the act of God by which He declares or reckons a guilty sinner to be righteous and acceptable.

B. The Elements of Justification

The elements of justification include:

1. The Remission of Punishment in which the penalty of the law (spiritual death) is removed (St. John 3:16; Romans 8:1). Jesus Christ endured the penalty of sin in the sinner’s place (Galatians 3:13 Mark 15:31-34; Romans 5:9; 18-19; 6:23).
2. Restoration of Favor (Reconciliation: Renewal of broken fellowship and friendship. Romans 5:1-2; 8-11 [verse 11 KJV, atonement actually means “reconciliation”]; Ephesians 1; II Corinthians 5:17-21).

C. The Means of Justification

The basis of Justification is the death of Christ and we appropriate this blessing by our exercise of faith in the work of Christ.

D. Justification in the New Testament

1. Justified by His blood – Romans 5:9 ... The Basis
2. Justified by Grace – Romans 3:24 ... The Principle

3. Justified by God – Romans 8:33... The Source
4. Justified in the Name of the Lord Jesus – I Corinthians 6:11...
The Authority (see John 1:12,)
5. Justified by the Spirit – I Corinthians 6:11... The Power
6. Justified by Faith – Romans 5:1; 4:5... The Means
7. Justified by Works – James 2:17-18, 21-26... The Evidence (see
Matthew 12:37: You are what you say!)

III. Regeneration

A. Definition

This word is translated by several New Testament Greek words. They all have the ideas of a birth again, regeneration, new birth and renewal. Christian doctrine defines this as the act of God whereby He imparts new life (divine, eternal life) to the believer in Christ.

B. The Necessity of Regeneration

Humankind in its natural state is spiritually dead (Ephesians 2:1-5) and spiritually blind (II Corinthians 4:4). Humans need the touch of God that will awaken them to the spiritual realities of life in God.

1. **Jesus said it** – John 3:3-8
2. **Paul said it** – Titus 2:5
3. **Peter said it** - I Peter 1:3, 23

C. Statement

Regeneration is an instantaneous act of God in which the new nature is imparted and the governing disposition (heart, attitude) is now holy and the understanding is enlightened and will want to serve God.

D. The Results of Regeneration

1. A new position, in Christ – II Corinthians 5:17

2. A new creation – II Corinthians 5:17
3. A new nature – II Peter 1:4
4. A new birth – I Peter 1:23
5. A new kingdom – Colossians 1:13
6. A new life – Ephesians 2:5; I John 5:12
7. A new destiny – Revelation 21
8. A new commandment – John 13:34
9. A new and living way – Hebrews 10:20
10. A new song – Revelation 5:9; 14:3
11. A new covenant – Matthew 26:26-28; Hebrews 9:14-15; 10:16; 8:6
12. All things are NEW – II Corinthians 5:17

LESSON TWO

COMMITMENT TO SPIRITUAL GROWTH - PART II

I. Sanctification

A. Definition

The New Testament Greek word *hagios* (and related words) means, in its verbal form, “to separate, consecrate, purify, sanctify and cleanse”. The noun means “pure, holy, sanctified (separate from common conditions and use).” It is defined as the continuous operation of the Holy Spirit, by which the new, holy nature imparted in regeneration is maintained and strengthened. Regeneration (its resultant new birth) is instantaneous, but sanctification in the believer’s life is both actual and continuous.

B. Statement

The doctrine of sanctification boldly states that we can be and are free from sin – free from its power and free from its dominion in our lives. Through justification, we are freed from the guilt and penalty of sin; and through sanctification, we are freed from the power and dominion of sin.

C. Principles of Holiness from the Scriptures:

John 17:17 (KJV)

Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.

Colossians 3:5-10, 12 (NIV)

Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. Because of these, the wrath of God is coming. You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived. But now you must rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander and filthy language from your lips. Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices. And have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator.

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.

I Peter 2:9 (NIV)

But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

I Thessalonians 5:23 (NIV)

May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

I Corinthians 6:9-11 (NIV)

Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor male prostitutes nor homosexual offenders nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

Sanctification does not mean perfection, for we are admonished in Scripture to "grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ" (II Peter 3:18), but it does mean seeking to live a Christian life that is set apart for service to God through His Word and the leading of the Holy Spirit. The term "saints" is a scriptural term for all believers in Jesus Christ.

III. Spiritual Warfare

The Scriptures are clear that once you have accepted the Lord Jesus Christ, you are in a spiritual warfare against the world's system of operations, warfare against internal conflicts of the old nature of sinful desires and warfare against your adversary – the devil. However, the battle is the Lord's; you can walk in victory.

II Timothy 2:3 (KJV)

Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.

I Peter 2:11 (NIV)

Dear friends, I urge you, as aliens and strangers in the world, to abstain from sinful desires, which war against your soul.

II Corinthians 10:3-5 (NIV)

For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.

A. Satan and His Demons are the Adversaries

Revelation 12:9 – Great Dragon, Old Serpent, Devil, Satan.

II Corinthians 4:3-4 – The god of this world who has blinded unbelievers.

I Peter 5:8-9 – Like a Roaring Lion, he seeks to devour.

Zechariah 3:1 – Resists: He opposed the saints of God.

Luke 4:2-13 – The Tempter

Acts 10:38 - The Devil oppresses believers and unbelievers

Mark 5:1-20 – The demons possess some unbelievers, but no believer can be possessed.

Ephesians 6:11; II Corinthians 2:11 - The Devil seeks to trick all through his mind games.

B. You can have Victory

You can have the victory in this three-fold warfare (world system, inner sinful desire, satanic attacks). Write out the Scriptures below and memorize them for future warfare.

I John 5:4 (KJV)

For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world; and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.

I John 4:4 (KJV)

Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them; because greater is He that is in you, than he that is in the world.

I John 3:8 (KJV)

He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.

Galatians 5:16 (KJV)

This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.

See also:

Galatians 5:17-26

Colossians 2:15

Hebrews 2:14, 18; 4:15-16

James 4:7

- C. See also Appendix VI for Scriptures for Mediation and Memorization for Victory in the Christian Life**

IV. Want to Know More?

A. Monday Night Prayer Clinic

At this power packed service on Monday evening, we come in for prayer from 6:00 pm to 6:30 pm and have prayer clinic from 6:30pm to about 7:30 pm. During this time, we deal with prayer and how to continuously live victorious in Christ with a solid prayer life.

B. Thursday Evening Leadership Service

This service is geared toward the believer that wants to learn the sincere meat of the Word of God. Strong meat comes through about

how live victorious in Christ, what to look for in spiritual warfare, determining whether it is you or the devil provoking you to sin and more topics on this level.

LESSON THREE

THE GOD OF THE BIBLE, HIS SON- JESUS CHRIST AND THE TRINITY

SCRIPTURES YOU SHOULD KNOW

Psalm 14:1 (KJV)

The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God. They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none that doeth good.

John 3:16 (KJV)

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

John 1:1 (KJV)

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

Titus 2:13 (KJV)

Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Matthew 28:19 (KJV)

Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.

INTRODUCTION

Who is this God of the Bible? What is His Name? What is He like? No issue can be more important for the Christian than “God”. Christianity stands unique in its God-concept. For Christians, our God is not some nebulous “cosmic force” or “the Man upstairs.” He is a Holy, Righteous, Loving Creator and has sent His Son – Jesus Christ; and He has sent His Spirit to regenerate and empower mankind.

Yes, our God is a Triune God, a Trinity. In this lesson, we discuss this most important subject and assist you in working through some of the spiritual and intellectual challenges in understanding the Trinity. Without the Trinity, there is no Christian God; and without

a Christian God, there is no Christian salvation for humankind. The Trinity is foundational to all Christian doctrines and all aspects of the Christian life in Christ.

I. God's Name

In the KJV, God's name is translated L-O-R-D. The Hebrew letters of the name are equal to the English letters YHWH. The YHWH name of God is not pronounced Jehovah (that's an incorrect English attempt to pronounce the original Hebrew). Most Old Testament scholars believe that the name is Yahweh. *Hallelujah* is short for "Praise Yahweh." It literally means "Praise Yah!" (I Kings 18:39; Isaiah 45:5; Exodus 20:2, 7).

It is still popular for some English speakers to refer to God as "Jehovah." Even though it is not technically correct, God responds whenever we call Him. All of the many Old Testament names for God find their fulfillment in Jesus Christ. (John 8:58; Matthew 1:23).

II. The Attributes of God *

* All the attributes are not listed. The practical effects of studying the attributes of God directly apply to our Christian lives. Since we are partakers of the divine nature (II Peter 1:4), we should not be ignorant worshippers (Acts 17:23).

A. Natural Attributes

1. Spirit – John 4:24
2. Eternal – Psalm 90:20
3. All powerful (omnipotent) – Revelation 19:6
4. Present everywhere (omnipresent) – Psalm 139
5. Unchanging in His nature (immutable) – Malachi 3:6; Exodus 3:14

B. Moral Attributes

1. Holy – I Peter 1:15-16
2. Righteous (just) – John 17:25
3. Love – I John 4:8

III. Jesus Christ, Our Saviour and Lord

A. Pre-Existence of the Son

John 1:1; Philippians 2:6-8; Colossians 1:13-19; 2:9; John 17:5

The Son is called “God” – John 1:1; Titus 2:13; John 20:28; Hebrews 1:8

B. Earthly Ministry

The Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John) tell of Christ’s ministry on earth and His death, burial and resurrection. His three and one-half years’ earthly ministry is summarized by Peter in Acts 10:36-43. His virgin conception is told of in Matthew 1:18-23 and Luke 1:31-35.

C. Resurrection

The bodily resurrection of Jesus from the dead is the greatest event of human history. Because of His resurrection, we know that we too shall be raised. Read: I Corinthians 15:1-19. This passage emphasizes the importance of Christ’s resurrection. If He was not raised, we are now worshipping a dead saviour and yet remain in our sins.

D. Return of the Lord Jesus Christ

The Lord Jesus Christ is now preparing a place for the believers (John 14:1-3). There is a great future for those who are saved. The study of the events surrounding the second coming of Christ is called “eschatology”. There is much discussion about the details of eschatology and we don’t have space for lengthy discussion. However, the major portion of eschatology is clear to the Bible-believer – Jesus Christ will bodily return to this earth in power and glory. A few scriptures will give you a sketch of His return – Matthew 24, Mark 13, I Thessalonians 4 and II Thessalonians 4. After reading these passages, studying the Book of Revelation should be somewhat easier (Matthew 24 is the book of Revelation in capsule form).

V. The Trinity

A. The Tri-unity

1. **Deuteronomy 6:4** - Hebrew *echad*: “a compound unity”.
2. **Genesis 1:26, 27** – us, our; **3:22** – us; **11:7-8** – us.

3. ***Eloh [im]*** is one of the Hebrew words for “God.” The [im] ending is plural.

B. References to All Three

1. **I John 5:7** – The problem here is ancient manuscript evidence for the existence of this text. Check the footnote in a good Study Bible. It should explain to you the early manuscript problems with this verse. It was most likely not in the original writing of the apostle.

2. **Matthew 3:16-17** – Baptism of Jesus

Jesus, the voice of the Father, the Spirit as a dove.

3. **Matthew 28:19** – Christian Baptism

Father, Son, Holy Spirit.

4. **I Corinthians 12:4-6** – Spiritual Gifts

Spirit, Lord, God.

5. **II Corinthians 13:14** –Benediction

Grace of the Lord Jesus Christ; Love of God; Fellowship of the Holy Spirit.

C. What the Trinity is Not

The Trinity is not three (3) gods, or one (1) person of the Godhead changing into different forms in the Old Testament and New Testament.

D. What the Nature of the Trinity Is

The Trinity is Three (3) Divine Persons within One (1) Substance. Unity of nature and substance does not forbid the personality of persons. All illustrations from the human realm are inadequate, but turn now to Appendix VII for illustration of an apple.

E. Without the Trinity There is No Biblical Salvation

Father: Plans salvation and sends the Son

Son: Comes to earth and dies to redeem

Spirit: Comes to regenerate and give new life

The Trinity is popularly stated this way: The Father plans salvation, the Son accomplishes salvation, the Spirit applies salvation. Christian Theology states that:

The Father is the FOUNDATION of the Trinity.

The Son is the LOGOS (Greek: “word, expression”) of the Trinity.

The Spirit is the PNEUMA (Greek: “animation, life, force, energy”) of the Trinity.

VI. Want to Know More?

The Grace Unlimited Christian Center School of Ministry will go more in depth into the doctrines of the Christian Faith.

Additional Scriptures: The Personality and Deity of the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit: Promised by Jesus – John 15:26. The Holy Spirit (Ghost) is also a Divine Person with all the nature and actions of the Divine Being.

1. Creation – Genesis 1:2; 2:7; Life Giver, Generator of Life – Job 26:13
2. His part in bringing deity to earth – Matthew 1:18; Luke 1:35
3. His part in the earthly ministry of Christ
 - Baptism – John 1:32-34
 - Power in Ministry – Luke 4:1; Acts 10:38
 - Resurrection – Romans 8:11; 1:4; I Peter 3:18
4. His additional works
 - Regenerates – John 3:5
 - Empowers for service – Acts 1:8
 - Sends – Isaiah 48:16
 - Anoints – Isaiah 61:1
5. His Nature
 - Eternal – Hebrews 9:14
 - Called God – Acts 5:3, 4, 9

6. He is a person, for He
 - Convicts – John 16:8
 - Guides – John 16:13
 - Comforts: Paraclete – John 14:16-18
 - Grieves – Ephesians 4:30
 - Speaks – Acts 8:29
 - Intercedes – Romans 8:26

7. Greek – *Theopneustos* (God breathed) – II Timothy 3:16; He had the major role in giving us the Scriptures – II Peter 1:20-21

LESSON FOUR

SPIRIT BAPTISM AND SPIRITUAL POWER

SCRIPTURES YOU SHOULD KNOW

Matthew 3:11 (KJV)

I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance; but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear; he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire.

Luke 24:49 (NIV)

I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.

Acts 1:8 (KJV)

But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you; and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

Acts 2:4 (KJV)

And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

INTRODUCTION

The power of the Holy Spirit is alive and well in the midst of the people of God. One of the chief emphases of the Pentecostal tradition is the Baptism of the Holy Ghost (Spirit) and the supernatural manifestations of the Spirit. WE know and believe that the Church of Jesus Christ is to be filled with His power and anointing. God infuses His people with power for service.

This lesson focuses in on the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, speaking in tongues, gifts of the Spirit and fruit of the Spirit. Appendix X gives details on Spirit Baptism and how you may avail yourself of the power of God. This is a lesson concerning spiritual experience. Hopefully, after this lesson, you will seek to be baptized in His power and thereby empowered for His service. It can happen today! Are you ready for His anointing?

I. Spirit Baptism is For Today

The Scriptures are abundant in references to the power of the Holy Ghost (same as the Holy Spirit) working in the Church of Jesus Christ. Individual believers today may also experience the power of the Holy Spirit by being baptized in the Spirit and seeing God work in healings, miracles, tongues and many other manifestations of the Spirit. The doctrine of Spirit Baptism is dealt with in detail from a Biblical basis in Appendix X. Please review the appendix if you have any questions about the Scriptures or the Pentecostal doctrine regarding the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

II. Experiencing the Power of God

The experience of the Holy Spirit will come upon us when we rest upon divine facts (the Word of God). Of course, you must first be saved – born of the Spirit. The Spirit of God regenerates you the moment you accept Christ. You must be saved before you can receive the Holy Spirit. The Word is clear on receiving the Holy Spirit. Here are some steps that are usually involved in the process. (The word “usually” is used because some have received the Spirit at the same time as salvation because of their receptivity to the working of the Spirit).

- Matthew 3:11 – Realize that Jesus is the One who baptizes.
- Luke 24:49 – The Word is definite about the baptism (it’s a promise).
- Luke 11:13 – “Ask, do not beg.” This is the dispensation of the Spirit. He is already resident in the earth.
- Galatians 3:2, 14 – Learn how to be open and sensitive to the Spirit. He is received (welcomed) by faith not by vain repetitions.
- Be in an attitude of praise and thanksgiving for the many blessings of God.
- Acts 8:14-20; 9:17; Matthew 5:6 – Don’t give up if you don’t actually fully receive and speak in tongues upon the first request. You may pray with others to receive the Holy Spirit’s power. Our Prayer Room workers are specially trained to minister the Holy Spirit. Hundreds receive Him each year by the laying on of Hands in faith.

III. Speaking in Tongues

Speaking in tongues is a result of being baptized in the Holy Spirit. Tongues is the sign that the Lord has chosen for evidence of baptism in His power. However, we are not told in Scripture to seek the tongues, but rather seek the power of the Spirit. After being baptized in the Spirit, you will better understand that tongues are a heavenly prayer language, an additional manner of prayer. Our human spirit is touched by the Holy Spirit and we speak the requests of our hearts to God (I Corinthians 14:2-5, 14-18). The term

“praying in the Spirit” most of the time expresses a prayer in tongues (I Corinthians 14:14-15; Ephesians 6:18; Jude 20).

IV. Gifts of the Spirit

There are many gifts that the Spirit gives to believers. The supernatural manifestation gifts (I Corinthians 12:1-11) seem to result only after the baptism in the Holy Spirit. However, there are more than just nine gifts of the Spirit. Others are mentioned in I Corinthians 12:28-31, Romans 12:3-8 and Ephesians 4:7-8, 11-14.

V. The Fruit of the Spirit and Walk in the Spirit

We should always seek to be controlled and led by the Spirit in all that we do. The Fruit of the Spirit shows our true “spirituality”. It is not the fruit versus the gifts, we need both in the Church and you need to see both in your Christian life. See Galatians 5:22-23; Romans 8:14; Galatians 5:16-17. Have a life of dedication to God through prayer, fasting, studying, meditating on and living the Word of God.

VI. Want to Know More?

The School of Ministry will speak more in depth on these topics of the workings of the Spirit. The Grace Unlimited School (Sunday School) will also address the workings of the Spirit.

LESSON FIVE

CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP UNTO THE LORD

(PRINCIPLES OF STEWARDSHIP FOR THE LORD'S PEOPLE)

SCRIPTURES YOU SHOULD KNOW

Psalm 24:1 (KJV)

The earth is the LORD'S, and the fullness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein.

Malachi 3:8-10 (NIV)

Will a man rob God? Yet you rob me. But you ask, How do we rob you? In tithes and offerings. You are under a curse – the whole nation of you – because you are robbing me. Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this, says the LORD Almighty, and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it.

Luke 6:38 (NIV)

Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.

II Corinthians 8:2-5 (NIV)

Out of the most severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the saints. And they did not do as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then to us in keeping with God's will.

INTRODUCTION

“This is my car, my house and my money’. This statement, unfortunately, expresses the thought of some Christians. But is this really true? Does not everything belong to God? Isn't even the very air we breathe on loan from the

Creator? Isn't your physical strength and even your intellectual powers a gift from God? What do you have that you have not received?

I Corinthians 4:7 (NIV) states: For who makes you different from anyone else? What do you have that you did not receive? And, if you did receive it, why do you boast as though you did not?

This lesson opens up the wide world of Christian stewardship. God has given us in His Word the basic principles of stewardship and giving. The God we serve is a giving God. He gives life, health and strength. He even gives eternal life through His Son, Jesus Christ; Jesus Christ gave his life. God has given us His Spirit and the Spirit has given us freedom. The giving God of the Universe shows us, by example, that His people should also give. If we truly give ourselves first to God, then all other giving – monetary, time and talents – will be natural and free of compulsion. If we grasp to keep it, we will lose it. If we seek to give it, we will receive it – and more – back to ourselves.

I. Definition

The Biblical concept of steward is one who is entrusted with the possessions of another. A steward in the Gospels is a servant who is to manage the affairs of the master. The possessions are not the servant's. He must carefully administrate the affairs in behalf of the owner. We, as Christians, are stewards over what God has given us. God owns everything. We are entrusted to use God's blessings to us wisely.

I Chronicles 28:1 (KJV)

And David assembled all the princes of Israel, the princes of the tribes, and the captains of the companies that ministered to the king by course, and the captains over the thousands, and captains over the hundreds, and the stewards over all the substance and possession of the king, and of his sons, with the officers, and with the mighty men, and with all the valiant men, unto Jerusalem.

Matthew 24:45 (KJV)

Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his lord hath made ruler over his household, to give them meat in due season?

I Corinthians 4:1-2 (KJV)

Let a man so account of us, as of the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God. Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.

See also Jesus' discussion of stewardship in Luke 16:1-13.

II. God's Possessions

A. Everything Belongs to God

Psalms 24:1; 50:10; Haggai 2:8

B. We Belong to God (body and spirit)

Psalm 100:3; I Corinthians 6:19-20

III. Tithes: The Basic Principle

The tithe is the tenth (10%) of the increase of material blessings (monetary or other) that God has enabled you to receive. Many also speak of a tithing of time, talents, etc., and this is certainly honored too by God. In the context of this lesson, we primarily have reference to monetary increase from working and business. Proverbs 3:9-10.

IV. Old Testament Tithing

- Abraham – Genesis 14:20; Hebrews 7:1-2
- Jacob – Genesis 28:22
- Law of Moses – Leviticus 27:30; Numbers 18:24
- Use under Moses – Deuteronomy 14:27-29; 26:12-15; Numbers 18:24,26,28; Nehemiah 10:36-39
- The Prophets – Amos 4:4-5; Malachi 3:8-12

V. New Testament Giving

- Jesus Encouraged Tithing – Matthew 23:23
- Jesus on Giving – Luke 6:38; Mark 12:41-44; Acts 20:35
- Book of Hebrews on Abraham's Tithing – Hebrews 7:1-10
- Paul on Giving – II Corinthians Chapters 8-9

The New Testament nowhere abrogates the tithing principle. It merely emphasizes the fact that our giving should come from our love for the Lord and should be done willingly out of appreciation to God for the blessings we enjoy in Jesus Christ.

VI. Questions

The tithe should go where?

Tithing should go to the local church. The local church is the primary place of your fellowship and growth in Christ. It is also the primary place of your local spiritual family of believers. The ministries of the local church can only continue with the support of God's people. God's work is not primarily funded by bank loans and large gifts; it is supported by the tithing members of the local fellowship who give to the work of the Lord.

I Corinthians 9:11-12, 14 9NIV)

If we have sown spiritual seed among you, is it too much if we reap a material harvest from you? If others have this right of support from you, shouldn't we have it all the more? But we did not use this right. On the contrary, we put up with anything rather than hinder the gospel of Christ. ... In the same way, the Lord has commanded that those who preach the gospel should receive their living from the gospel.

Galatians 6:6 (NIV)

Anyone who receives instruction in the word must share all good things with his instructor.

Galatians 6:7 (KJV)

Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.

Special offerings should go where?

To whomever the Lord leads you. Be led by the Spirit in all that you do. (Romans 8:14)

For any special giving occasions. (II Corinthians Chapters 8-9)

To ministries and teachers of the Word who minister to you. (Galatians 6:6-7)

VII. Want to Know More?

See the **9 steps on Tithing** pamphlet that the Grace Unlimited has produced to get more information. To learn more about stewardship, Grace Unlimited School (Sunday School) will give you more information on best stewardship.