

LIGHT OF TRUTH - BIBLE STUDY

LESSON 1: THE LIFE OF CHRIST

Introduction

Jesus was born to die. To say that He came to earth for any reason, other than to die, is to err. If one will take the time to search the historical records of His life, they will find fifty-five passages in Matthew, twenty-four in Mark, forty-four in Luke, and seventy-five in John – all referring to the SIN problem and the salvation of individuals. The New Testament makes it clear, with positive statements, what His mission was when He came to earth.

Matthew 1:18-23 (KJV)

18 Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost.

19 Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not willing to make her a public example, was minded to put her away privily (privately).

20 But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost.

21 And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.

22 Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying,

23 Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.

There has NEVER been a name revealed to us that has brought life, power, healing, deliverance, and hope like the name of Jesus! The reason for this is because He was more than just a man. HE WAS GOD WITH US!

In this Bible lesson, we are going to study the ministry of Jesus. While Jesus was on earth you will find He spent His time making a tremendous difference in the lives of people. Jesus displayed genuine compassion for hurting people, and, also, displayed power over sickness, disease, and sin!

Philippians 2:8-11 (NKJV)

8 And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.

9 Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name,

10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth,

11 and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Luke 4:18 (NKJV)

18 The Spirit of the LORD is upon me, because He has anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed;

Why Did Jesus Come?

Jesus came to:

1. Bring the gospel to the poor
2. Heal the broken hearted
3. Bring freedom to those that are bound
4. Bring sight to the blind
5. To free those who are oppressed

Jesus came to show compassion upon us, and use His power to free us from sin and addictions.

Mark 2:16-17 (NKJV)

16 And when the scribes and Pharisees saw Him eating with the tax collectors and sinners, they said to His disciples, "How is it that He eats and drinks with tax collectors and sinners?"

17 When Jesus heard it, He said to them, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance."

John 10:10-11 (NKJV)

10 The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.

11 I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the **sheep**

The first aspect of the ministry of Jesus we will study is the ministry of COMPASSION. Jesus always displayed genuine compassion towards those who were hurting, lost, without a shepherd, sick, or tormented by sin. Jesus will love us regardless of where we have been or what we have done.

THE COMPASSION OF JESUS

Compassion – Deep awareness of the suffering of another coupled with the wish to relieve it; sympathy for another's suffering and wanting to do something about it.

Mark 1:40-42 (NKJV)

40 Now a leper came to Him, imploring Him, kneeling down to Him and saying to Him, "If you are willing, you can make me clean."

41 And Jesus, moved with compassion, put out His hand and touched him, and said to him, "I am willing; be cleansed."

42 As soon as He had spoken, immediately the leprosy left him, and he was cleansed

Leprosy - A chronic infectious disease characterized by sores, scabs, and white shinning spots beneath the skin. This disease begins with specks on the eyelids and on the palms, gradually spreading over the body, bleaching the hair white wherever they appear, crusting the affected parts with white scales, and causing terrible sores and swellings. From the skin the disease eats inward to the bones, rotting the whole body. Because of the need to control the disease, the law required that lepers live outside the city in leper camps.

He was required to have his outer garment rent as a sign of deep grief, to go bareheaded, and to cover his beard with his mantle. He had to further warn passers-by to keep away from him, by calling out, 'Unclean! Unclean!' nor could he speak to any one, or receive or return a salutation!

WHAT CAN WE LEARN?

1. Jesus was so humble that even a leper felt comfortable approaching Him. Remember, no one could have contact with a leper, not even his own family. However, the compassion of Jesus was so strong that, not only did Jesus heal him, He TOUCHED HIM. It is said that a human being needs eight meaningful touches a day. It is possible this man had not received a human touch for a long time.
2. The leper approached Jesus with the RIGHT ATTITUDE. Most people in this condition would have a very bitter and harsh attitude. They say, "Well, if He is really who He says He is, then He'll..." Most people have this similar attitude when it comes to God; an attitude of bitterness. The leper, on the other hand, had an attitude of gratefulness and humility. The leper said, "If you will, YOU CAN!"

Matthew 20:29-34 (NKJV)

29 Now as they went out of Jericho, a great multitude followed Him.

30 And behold, two blind men sitting by the road, when they heard that Jesus was passing by, cried out, saying, "Have mercy on us, O Lord, Son of David!"

31 Then the multitude warned them that they should be quiet; but they cried out all the more, saying, "Have mercy on us, O Lord, Son of David!"

32 So Jesus stood still and called them, and said, "What do you want Me to do for you?"

33 They said to Him, "Lord, that our eyes may be opened."

34 So Jesus had compassion and touched their eyes. And immediately their eyes received sight, and they followed Him.

WHAT CAN WE LEARN?

1. These blind men were so desperate to gain the attention of Jesus that they did not care what people thought about them. The multitude that was following Jesus thought Jesus had better things to do than to pay attention to two blind beggars. The multitude REBUKED them to keep quiet. However, they cried out the MORE for Jesus!
2. We, also, learn a valuable lesson on the power of perseverance! Jesus heard these men the first time and kept on walking. Why? Because, He wanted to test the level of their desire and persistence. Sometimes God does not answer our prayers in the time we think He should, and maybe the result of Him testing us is not to the level of our desire.
3. Of course the rest is history. Jesus shows compassion and touches them. However, the real power of this story is found in the last three words, "...they followed him." Their life was a mess BEFORE Jesus passed by, and unlike some people, when Jesus put their life back together they FOLLOWED HIM.

Matthew 15:32 (NKJV)

32 Now Jesus called His disciples to Himself and said, "I have compassion on the multitude, because they have now continued with me three days and have nothing to eat. And I do not want to send them away hungry, lest they faint on the way.

There are MANY more examples in the New Testament about the COMPASSION of Jesus. However, we are going to study about the POWER of Jesus for the remainder of this Bible Study. We will learn not only is Jesus full of compassion, but He is, also, full of power!

Luke 8:22-25 (NKJV)

22 Now it happened, on a certain day, that He got into a boat with His disciples. And He said to them, "Let us cross over to the other side of the lake." And they launched out.

23 But as they sailed He fell asleep. And a windstorm came down on the lake, and they were filling with water, and were in jeopardy.

24 And they came to Him and awoke Him, saying, "Master, Master, we are perishing!" Then He arose and rebuked the wind and the raging of the water. And they ceased, and there was a calm.

25 But He said to them, "Where is your faith?" And they were afraid, and marveled, saying to one another, "Who can this be? For He commands even the winds and water, and they obey Him!"

WHAT CAN WE LEARN?

1. Jesus went in the ship with His disciples and said, "Let us go over to the other side of the lake." The lesson to learn is if God is with us and gives us His word then everything will be all right.
2. When the storm came they immediately went to Jesus, which was the right thing to do. However, they still had not learned how to think or talk. They said, "Master, Master..." which was the right thing. Why did Jesus question their faith?
3. It was the words, "WE PERISH..." that caused Jesus to question their faith. How could they have perished when Jesus was in the boat and, He already gave His word that they were going to the other side? In our own lives we must speak and think faith in order to see the power of God in our lives.
4. While it may have looked like they were demonstrating faith, they were really speaking doubt and fear into existence. Thankfully, Jesus displayed compassion towards them and rebuked the boisterous winds and raging waters. Notice that upon the Master speaking to the wind and waves that there came a calm. Jesus desires to do the same thing in our lives!

Matthew 17:15-18 (NKJV)

15 "Lord, have mercy on my son, for he is an epileptic and suffers severely; for he often falls into the fire and often into the water.

16 So I brought him to Your disciples, but they could not cure him."

17 Then Jesus answered and said, "O faithless and perverse generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I bear with you? Bring him here to Me."

18 And Jesus rebuked the demon, and it came out of him; and the child was cured from that very hour.

WHAT CAN WE LEARN?

1. This man was desperate for his son to be delivered from demonic oppression, and he brought him to the disciples. And, they could NOT cure him. Instead of giving up, the man did the right thing and went to the next level by bringing his son to Jesus.
2. The answer is not for people to give up, the answer is for them to follow the example of this man and get to the feet of Jesus Christ.
3. Notice Jesus CURED the little boy. The word cured means, "Something that corrects or relieves a harmful or disturbing situation; restoration of health and complete recovery from disease. To restore soundness and sanity." Wow! That is exactly what Jesus desires to do in your life. Jesus wants to cure you from all of your sins!

- Closing -

John 21:25 (NKJV)

25 And there are also many other things that Jesus did, which if they were written one by one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that would be written. Amen.

John 14:5-6 (NKJV)

5 Thomas said to Him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going, and how can we know the way?"

6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

Jesus is central theme of the Bible. Jesus gives life and life more abundantly to those who will seek Him and trust Him as their only source of hope.

Thomas came to Jesus with such concern and said, "How can we know the way to go?" Jesus immediately said, "Thomas, I AM THE WAY..."

We greatly encourage you to make it a priority of your life to study the four gospels of Christ. As you explore the life of Jesus, you will forever be impacted by His words and miracles.

We encourage you to study the following:

1. The Birth of Jesus
2. The Teachings of Jesus
3. The Parables of Jesus
4. The Miracles of Jesus
5. The Death of Jesus
6. The Resurrection of Jesus

Remember, not even the world could contain the volume that should be written about Him. Therefore, it is important to do more than read about Him, but, also, build a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

LESSON 2: MIRACLES OF JESUS

Introduction

John 2:23 (NKJV)

23 Now when he was in Jerusalem at the Passover, in the feast day, many believed in his name, when they saw the miracles which he did.

John 6:2 (KJV)

2 And a great multitude followed him, because they saw his miracles which he did on them that were diseased.

Acts 2:22 (NKJV)

22 "Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a Man attested by God to you by miracles, wonders, and signs which God did through Him in your midst, as you yourselves also know--

What is the importance of these things we call miracles?

Some see them as a validation of the authority of Jesus Christ. Just as Moses was given the ability to perform certain miraculous acts to prove to the Israelites that he had indeed been sent by God; the miracles of Jesus Christ were evidence He was sent of God.

Jesus' miracles were seen as signs that He was not an ordinary teacher. Nicodemus voiced this perspective when he said, "Rabbi, we know you are a teacher come from God, for no one could do these miracles unless God were with Him" (John 3:2 NKJV).

What other purpose would there be to performing miracles?

Jesus' message would not be the same apart from miracles, they are the physical demonstrations of the news He announced regarding the kingdom of God!

Without miracles, Jesus would simply have been another prophet looking ahead to the coming of the Kingdom. The healing of the blind, the lame, the leprous, and the deaf; the raising of the dead; the verbal proclamation of the good news of God's Kingdom – all these point, together, to the truth that in Jesus the Kingdom of God has begun!

1. WATER INTO WINE

John 2:1-11 (NKJV)

1 On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there.

2 Now both Jesus and His disciples were invited to the wedding.

3 And when they ran out of wine, the mother of Jesus said to Him, "They have no wine."

4 Jesus said to her, "Woman, what does your concern have to do with me? My hour has not yet come."

5 His mother said to the servants, "Whatever He says to you, do it."

6 Now there were set there six water pots of stone, according to the manner of purification of the Jews, containing twenty or thirty gallons apiece.

7 Jesus said to them, "Fill the water pots with water." And they filled them up to the brim.

8 And He said to them, "Draw some out now, and take it to the master of the feast." And they took it.

9 When the master of the feast had tasted the water that was made wine, and did not know where it came from (but the servants who had drawn the water knew), the master of the feast called the bridegroom.

10 And he said to him, "Every man at the beginning sets out the good wine, and when the guests have well drunk, then the inferior. You have kept the good wine until now!"

11 This is the beginning of miracles Jesus did in Cana of Galilee, and manifested His glory; and His disciples believed in Him.

WHAT CAN WE LEARN?

1. **Weddings** – Weddings were important social events for the community. A time when all the relatives, and townspeople, would gather to celebrate, often for up to a week. One thing we do not always understand is that Jesus appreciated many of the things we appreciate in life—including parties. He did not relegate Himself to the sidelines of life, nor did He limit His activities to “religious gatherings.” But, what He did was bring the Spirit of God to all of life.
2. **The Wine Ran Out** – This was potentially a very humiliating social situation. It would reflect badly on the host. It would be seen as a sign that the guests were not really welcome. *Why did Jesus’ mother approach Him with this concern?* Mary was fully aware of His power and ability to solve the problem.
3. **Whatever He Says Do It** – Mary knew that even though Jesus said, “My hour is not come,” that the nature of Jesus is to solve problems and perform the miraculous. Jesus is attracted to need! Mary had an understanding that in order to receive a miracle we would need to be willing to do **WHATEVER IT TAKES!**
4. **Fill the Water Pots with Water** – You will notice as you study the miracles of Jesus that many times Jesus asks people to do things that do not make any sense. The servants had no idea who Jesus was, they only followed orders, and because they obeyed they saw the miracle.

2. JESUS FEEDS THE 5000

Mark 6:31-44 (NKJV)

31 And He said to them, "Come aside by yourselves to a deserted place and rest a while." For there were many coming and going, and they did not even have time to eat.

32 So they departed to a deserted place in the boat by themselves.

33 But the multitudes saw them departing, and many knew Him and ran there on foot from all the cities. They arrived before them and came together to Him.

34 And Jesus, when He came out, saw a great multitude and was moved with compassion for them, because they were like sheep not having a shepherd. So He began to teach them many things.

35 When the day was now far spent, His disciples came to Him and said, "This is a deserted place, and already the hour is late."

36 Send them away, that they may go into the surrounding country and villages and buy themselves bread; for they have nothing to eat."

37 But He answered and said to them, "You give them something to eat." And they said to Him, "Shall we go and buy two hundred denarii worth of bread and give them something to eat?"

38 But He said to them, "How many loaves do you have? Go and see." And when they found out they said, "Five, and two fish."

39 Then He commanded them to make them all sit down in groups on the green grass.

40 So they sat down in ranks, in hundreds and in fifties.

41 And when He had taken the five loaves and the two fish, He looked up to heaven, blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to His disciples to set before them; and the two fish He divided among them all.

42 So they all ate and were filled.

43 And they took up twelve baskets full of fragments and of the fish.

44 Now those who had eaten the loaves were about five thousand men.

WHAT CAN WE LEARN?

1. **They Ran on Foot** – The crowds ran a total of eight miles around the lake to reach Jesus and the disciples on the other side. Jesus looked at these people who were willing to RUN, which displays spiritual hunger, to hear the word of Jesus and was MOVED WITH COMPASSION. Jesus is always moved deeply when human beings are willing to sacrifice and do whatever it takes to get at His feet.
2. **They Were Sheep without a Shepherd** – Without a shepherd sheep are hopelessly lost. They have no way to defend themselves, and they will probably starve. The people had been abandoned, by and large, by the religious leaders. Their inability to keep the oral law caused them to be considered “unclean” in a religious sense. Jesus could not imagine turning these people away while they are wandering with no leadership in their life.
3. **Send Them Away** – The disciple’s solution was, “Let the people buy what they need in the nearby towns.” There may be times when church people do not understand your hunger, or may even get irritated at your commitment to Jesus Christ. You may, also, come across tired and weary disciples who are not ready to display compassion at the moment you need it.
4. **You Give Them Something to Eat** – Jesus had a different solution in mind. The response of the disciples indicates they had no clue as to how Jesus expected them to do this.
5. **Shall We Go and Buy?** – Wait! Did Jesus forget about the vacation they were supposed to be on? Jesus always works in ways that are above our thinking. Jesus lived with MISSION in mind, and could not imagine turning away 5,000 people who would willingly run eight miles around the lake, with no promise of food, to hear Him teach the word. Two hundred denarii worth would have been

seven months wages for the average working person. Again, the disciples do not expect Jesus would be able to solve the problem in a miraculous way. The only way they can see to feed the crowd is to buy lots of food.

6. **What Do You Have?** – The next question Jesus asked was, “What do you have?” Imagine, Jesus not only interrupts their vacation, but now He is asking them to give ALL their food to feed the hungry. God can only do the miraculous in our lives when we are willing to give Him everything we have. You do not have to have much to give God in order for Him to work a miracle in your life. All you really need is a right attitude and a willingness to give your all. That is what He is looking for.

3. WOMAN WITH THE ISSUE

Mark 5:25-35 (NKJV)

25 Now a certain woman had an issue of blood for twelve years,

26 and had suffered many things from many physicians. She had spent all that she had and was no better, but rather grew worse.

27 When she heard about Jesus, she came in the press behind Him in the crowd and touched His garment;

28 for she said, "If only I may touch His clothes, I shall be made well."

29 Immediately the fountain of her blood was dried up, and she felt in her body that she was healed of the affliction.

30 And Jesus, immediately knowing in Himself that power had gone out of Him, turned around in the crowd and said, "Who touched My clothes?"

31 But His disciples said to Him, "You see the multitude thronging You, and You say, 'Who touched Me?'" "

32 And He looked around to see her who had done this thing.

33 But the woman, fearing and trembling, knowing what had happened to her, came and fell down before Him and told Him the whole truth.

34 And He said to her, "Daughter, your faith has made you well. Go in peace, and be healed of your affliction."

WHAT CAN WE LEARN?

1. **Suffering from Bleeding** – For twelve, long years this lady suffered greatly from uncontrollable bleeding. Not only would this lead to obvious physical and emotional problems, but such bleeding rendered her ritually impure. (See Leviticus 15:25-33.) She was cut off from involvement in the religious life of her people, such as worshipping in the temple, and she would have been prohibited from having sexual relations with her husband. Since many people assumed chronic problems like this were God's judgement upon a person for sin, she undoubtedly experienced some measure of condemnation for this reason by others as well.
2. **She Got Worse** – How frustrating it would be to live with such an irritating disease, to spend your life's savings visiting doctor after doctor, and only getting worse. Every human being needs to realize life will NOT get any better until we come to Jesus.
3. **When She Heard of Jesus** – Most likely the most important lesson to learn is that the moment she heard of Jesus she took action. Notice that it was not an easy task for her to get to Jesus Christ. There was a crowd of people trying to get the attention of Jesus. We must get to the place in our lives where we do not allow the crowd, or our shortcomings, to keep us from touching Jesus!
4. **Who Touched Me?** – In the press of the crowd undoubtedly many people were touching Him, yet Jesus was aware that a special work had been done for one person. And, He desired to know who it was. Perhaps there were thousands of people laughing, touching, and grabbing for the attention of Jesus that day. However, this lady TOUCHED HIM. Was it the physical touch that captured His attention? No! It was the faith and passion He could feel in the spirit that came from this hurting, broken, and desperate lady.

5. **Daughter** – This word changed everything. She was fearful and trembling. Perhaps because she feared she did something wrong. She may have feared that Jesus would shame her in front of everyone, or her healing would be revoked. Jesus addressed this lady as daughter stressing that she is indeed a child of God. Loved and not under His judgement. It affirms that she is no longer a social outcast, but is in communion with other children of God.
6. **Go in Peace** – Wow! Perhaps it had been twelve years since this lady had peace of mind. There is nothing like living life without the peace of God. Remember, it was when the disciples were on the Sea of Galilee going through the storm of their lives that Jesus said, “PEACE BE STILL.” God desires to reach you where you are. He desires to change your life and send you away with peace.

- Closing -

Matthew 8:16 (KJV)

16 When the even was come, they brought unto him many that were possessed with devils: and he cast out the spirits with his word, and healed all that were sick:

There are thirty-four recorded miracles of Jesus Christ. We have only covered three of them in this lesson. We must realize that we will never overcome sin and sickness without the miracle-working power of Jesus Christ.

We challenge you to make it a priority to study the miracles of Jesus, and see how you may apply them to your own life!

1. Water into wine	John 2:1-11
2. Heals a Nobleman's son	John 4:46-54
3. Provides a great catch of fish	Luke 5:1-11
4. Heals a demonic in a synagogue	Mark 1:21-28, Luke 4:31-37
5. Heals Peter's wife's mother	Luke 4:38-39, Matthew 18:14-15
6. Cleanses a leper	Mark 1:40-45, Luke 5:12-15
7. Heals a paralytic	Luke 5:18-26, Matt 9:2-7, Mark 2:3-12
8. Heals a cripple at Bethesda	John 5:1-18
9. Heals a withered hand	Luke 6:6-10, Matt 12:9-14, Mark 3:1-6
10. Heals a centurion's servant	Matthew 8:5-13, Luke 7:1-10
11. Raises a widow's son	Luke 7:11-17
12. Calms a storm	Mark 4:35-41, Luke 8:22-25, Matt 8:23-27
13. Delivers a demonic in Gedara	Luke 8:27-39, Matt 8:28-34, Mark 5:1-20
14. Heals a hemorrhaging woman	Luke 8:43-48, Matt 9:20-22, Mark 5:25-34
15. Raises Jarius' daughter	Luke 8:41-56, Matt 9:18-26, Mark 5:22-43
16. Heals two blind men	Matthew 9:27-31
17. Cast out a dumb spirit	Matthew 9:32-35
18. Jesus feeds 5,000 people	John 6:1-14, Matt 14:13-21, Mark 6:30-44, Luke 9:10-17
19. Jesus walks on Water	Matt 14:22-33, Mark 6:45-52, John 6:15-21
20. Heals a Syro-phonician girl	Matthew 15:21-28, Mark 7:24-30
21. Heals a deaf and dumb man	Mark 7:31-37
22. Feeds 4,000 people	Matthew 15:30-38, Mark 8:1-9
23. Heals a blind man	Mark 8:22-26
24. Delivers a demonized boy	Mark 9:14-29, Matt 17:14-21, Luke 9:37-43
25. Provides money in a fish's mouth	Matthew 17:24-27
26. Heals a man born blind	John 9
27. Heals a woman bound by Satan	Luke 13:10-17
28. Heals a man with Dropsy	Luke 14:1-6
29. Raises Lazarus from the dead	John 11
30. Cleanses ten lepers	Luke 17:11-19
31. Heals Blind Bartimaeus	Matt 20:29-34, Mark 10:46-52, Luke 18:35-43
32. Curses a Fig Tree	Matt 21:17-22, Mark 11:12-14, 20-24
33. Replaces Malchus' ear	Matt 26:51-56, Mark 14:46-47, Luke 22:50-51
34. Provides a great catch of Fish	John 21:1-14

LESSON 3: THE BLOOD OF JESUS

Introduction

God had specific reasons for creating the world. He created the heavens and the earth as a manifestation of His glory. Psalms 19:1 says, “The heavens declare the glory of God...” All the elements of nature—the sun, moon, trees of the forest, rain, snow, rivers, streams, hills, mountains, animals, and birds—shout praise to the God who made them!

More importantly, God created Adam and Eve in His own image so He could have a loving, personal relationship for all eternity. God designed mankind with a body, soul, and spirit. He designed man with a mind, emotions, and freewill with which they can respond to Him freely as Lord of their lives and worship Him through faith, loyalty, and gratitude. Mankind was created for the purpose of having an intimate relationship with God!

Genesis 2:7-9, 15-17 (KJV)

7 And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.”

8 And the Lord God planted a garden eastward in Eden; and there he put the man whom He had formed.

9 And out of the ground made the Lord God to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of knowledge of good and evil.”

15 And the Lord God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it.

16 And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, of every tree of the garden you may freely eat:

17 But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, you shall not eat of it: for in the day that you eat thereof thou shalt surely die.

Life in the Garden of Eden was complete, painless, and peaceful. What happened? Why, all of a sudden, do we have a world full of sin and sickness? Let us take a look at Genesis and find out exactly what happened.

Genesis 3:1-11 (NKJV)

1 Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, "Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden'?"

2 And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden;

3 but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.' "

4 Then the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die.

5 For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

6 So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate.

7 Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings.

8 And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden.

9 Then the LORD God called to Adam and said to him, "Where are you?"

10 So he said, "I heard Your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself."

11 And He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you that you should not eat?"

WHAT CAN WE LEARN?

Why did God put the tree in the garden?

1. **Freedom of Choice** – God gave man the ability to have his own free will (the ability to choose). We know that true love is only true love when you choose to love someone! This is the reason why God planted the tree of the knowledge of good and evil; He wanted Adam to have the choice to obey or disobey Him. God did not want robots or machines that are incapable of loving or feeling. Otherwise, He would have created us that way!
2. **Jealousy of the Serpent** – The serpent was jealous of the freedom that God had given to Adam and Eve. The Bible tells us that Satan is a liar and the father of all lies. Because of the serpent's jealousy, he tried to make Eve feel underprivileged and get her to focus on what she COULDN'T HAVE rather than all the blessings she did have.
3. **The Danger of Environments** – We find the serpent already at the tree of the knowledge of good and evil before Eve ever showed up. It was a big mistake for Eve to visit the forbidden tree in the first place. Many hurtful consequences could be avoided by staying away from certain environments that could lead us to temptation.
4. **The Weapon of the Devil** – Satan caused the downfall of the human race through deception. He tried to take the positive word of God given to Adam and make it seem negative. He said in verse 1, "Did God say that you shall not eat of every tree of the garden?"

Let's take a look at What God Really Said...

Genesis 2:17 (NKJV)

17 but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.

5. **God's Viewpoint** – God was speaking from a positive viewpoint, and the enemy was trying to trick and deceive Eve into believing that God was being unfair. Eve's lack of knowledge for what God REALLY said is what affected her when she was face-to-face with temptation.
6. **Adam's Mistake** – Adam neglected his responsibility to tell Eve the ways of God. The reason Satan was able to deceive Eve was because he knew she really did not know exactly WHAT GOD HAD SAID!
7. **The Importance of Right Choices** – The key to success in life is based upon our ability to make right choices. It is important for us to understand that God has given us the freedom to make choices. We do not *have* to serve God, obey the Bible, or do what is right. However, let us always remember that every choice we make has a consequence. Let us take a few moments and talk about the consequence of sin.

THE CONSEQUENCES OF SIN

Genesis 3:14-17 (NKJV)

14 So the LORD God said to the serpent: "Because you have done this, you are cursed more than all cattle, and more than every beast of the field; on your belly you shall go, And you shall eat dust All the days of your life.

15 And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel."

16 To the woman He said: "I will greatly multiply your sorrow and your conception; In pain you shall bring forth children; your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you."

17 Then to Adam He said, "Because you have heeded the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you, saying, 'You shall not eat of

it': "Cursed is the ground for your sake; in toil you shall eat of it All the days of your life.

The punishment placed upon men and women, as well as the effect of sin upon nature, was meant to remind mankind of the terrible consequences of sin. The reason our world is in such a mess today is because Adam and Eve made the choice to rebel against the commandment of God.

Sin, in the beginning, may seem harmless and enticing. However, we must always remember that sin will take you farther than you want to go; cost you more than you want to pay; and keep you longer than you intended to stay. Let us look at some scriptures regarding the consequences of sin.

Romans 6:23 (KJV)

23 For the wages of sin is death...

James 1:15 (KJV)

15 Then when lust hath conceived, it brings forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, brings forth death.

Isaiah 59:2 (KJV)

2 But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear.

We must understand how dangerous sin really is, and what it does to our families. The reason our world is in so much trouble is because of sin. God absolutely hates sin! However, there is good news for those whose lives have been affected by sin.

This entire lesson is dedicated to those whose lives have been scared by the awfulness of sin. There is hope. Jesus Christ went to Calvary and paid the ultimate price for our sins.

THE BLOOD OF JESUS WASHES AWAY SIN.

Genesis 3:15 (KJV)

15 And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shall bruise His heel.”

This verse contains the first promise of God’s plan of redemption for the world. It predicts the ultimate victory for humanity over Satan. God promised that Jesus Christ would be born of a woman, and would be bruised through His crucifixion. Yet, He would rise from the dead to completely destroy Satan, sin, and death for the sake of the salvation of the human race!

Without a doubt, the blood of Jesus is the most precious gift our heavenly Father has given to His church, yet, so few Christians understand its value and virtue.

In the Bible the blood was spoken of in two ways—the blood shed and the blood sprinkled. Most of us know about the Blood of Jesus that was shed for us. However, few people understand what it means when we refer to the blood being sprinkled upon us.

The first Biblical reference to the sprinkling of blood is in Exodus 12:22. The Israelites were commanded to take a bundle of hyssop, dip it in the blood of a slain lamb, and sprinkle it onto the lintel and two side-posts of their front doors. That night, when the death angel came and saw the blood on the doorposts, he would pass over the house.

Exodus 12:12-13 (NKJV)

12 For I will pass through the land of Egypt on that night, and will strike all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment: I am the LORD.

13 Now the blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you are. And when I see the blood, I will pass over you; and the plague shall not be on you to destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt

The blood had to be lifted out of the basin and sprinkled on the door to fulfill its purpose of protection. Please understand as long as the blood was left in the basin, it was of no effect; it was merely blood that had been shed. The blood had power to save only when it was lifted out of the basin and sprinkled.

The blood in Exodus 12 is a type of the blood of Jesus. The blood that flowed from Calvary was not wasted; it did not fall to the ground and disappear. No, that precious blood was collected in a heavenly fountain. When you repent of your sins and get baptized in Jesus' name, then the blood of Jesus has sprinkled your heart.

When you are sprinkled, you are totally under the protection of Christ's blood; safeguarded from all the destroying powers of Satan. When his forces see the blood of Jesus on your life, they must pass over you. They cannot touch you! So, let us get to the meat of this Bible lesson.

THE BENEFITS OF THE BLOOD OF JESUS

1. The Blood Redeems Us from Our Sins

Ephesians 1:7 (NKJV)

7 In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace

We are no longer under condemnation or fear. A lot of people have been redeemed and justified by the blood of Jesus, but they do not know it, because they live in fear and condemnation.

They are like the man who has built up huge debt and cannot pay it. The man's wealthy boss comes and pays the bill without telling his employee, then calls him to give him the good news. The man sits down, is handed the list of debts, and flips through the pages to see the list of bills he has accumulated. He thinks, "I'll never be able to pay this. They're going to throw me in jail." When the CEO sees the man's fearful countenance, he is perplexed. He says, "Excuse me. Did you look at page one?" The man flips back to the first page, which reads, "PAID IN FULL!"

Many people are just like this man. They do not know that their sins have been covered—paid in full. We have to enter into that knowledge by faith in order to have the full benefit. Wow! Thanks to the blood of Jesus we have been redeemed which means His blood agrees to buy back, pay off, and free us from all sin.

Colossians 1:14 (KJV)

14 In whom we have REDEMPTION THROUGH HIS BLOOD, even the FORGIVENESS OF SINS:

2. The Blood of Jesus Christ Gives Peace

Colossians 1:20 (KJV)

20 And, having made peace through the blood of his Cross...

Why do you think the blood of Jesus gives us peace? Did you know it is impossible to have a peace of mind when are NOT right with God? The only way to get right with God is to be washed in the blood of Jesus, which will give us complete peace of mind!

Romans 8:6 (KJV)

6 For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.

3. The Blood Gives Access Into God's Presence

Hebrews 10:19 (KJV)

19 Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the Blood of Jesus Christ

Ephesians 2:13 (KJV)

13 But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were afar off are made close by the Blood of Jesus Christ,"

The Bible tells us that in the presence of the Lord there is fullness of joy. There is NO JOY outside of God's presence. However, the only way to really get into the POWERFUL PRESENCE OF GOD is through the blood of Jesus Christ

4. The Blood of Jesus Gives Us Total Victory

Revelation 12:11 (KJV)

11 And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb [Jesus]...

Revelation 1:5 (KJV)

5 And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in His own blood.

- Closing -

In closing allow me to remind you the devil is afraid of the blood of Jesus Christ. The blood of Jesus Christ can cure all depression, guilt, shame, and sin.

We can walk in peace of mind through the power of the blood of Jesus. Remember to pray daily that God will wash you thoroughly in His precious blood!

LESSON 4: SIX STEPS OF SALVATION

Introduction

At the beginning of this lesson we need to establish what we mean by the word salvation. In general, salvation can refer to any kind of deliverance, preservation, or liberation. In a Biblical context the word salvation means, the deliverance from the power and effects of sin!

Webster's definition is, "To rescue and remove from danger, to set free, to liberate, release, and redeem."

The word salvation is mentioned in the Bible over 164 times, and the word "saved" is in the Bible over 104 times. If God would mention salvation that many times in the Bible, then do you believe God would make it very clear what it takes to obtain salvation? If Jesus would go through Calvary, then I believe God would make very plain what it takes to be SAVED!

Before learning about the six steps of salvation there are four points that must be considered. We must understand that every man is born a sinner, Jesus is our Savior, man is saved by grace, and every man must be born again.

1. Man Is a Sinner

Romans 3:23 (KJV)

23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.

1 John 1:8 (KJV)

8 If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

It is difficult for some people to admit the fact they are sinners. It is impossible for God to save us until we first recognize we are in need of salvation. The very reason Jesus came to this earth was to save us from our sins, which brings us to the second point—Jesus Christ is our Savior!

2. Jesus Is Our Savior

Matthew 1:21 (KJV)

21 And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shall call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.

1 Timothy 1:15 (KJV)

15 This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief.

1 Timothy 2:4 (KJV)

4 Who will have all men to be saved, and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

Jesus came to earth for one purpose—to save people from their sins. Is it not wonderful to know that we do not have to go to hell, and we do not have to live our lives full of guilt and shame? We do not have to be miserable. We can have peace, joy, and freedom from our sins.

3. Man Is Saved By Grace

Ephesians 2:8 (KJV)

8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:

Acts 15:11 (KJV)

11 But we believe that through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ we shall be saved.

Titus 2:11 (KJV)

11 For the grace of God that brings salvation hath appeared to all men.

Definition of Grace: “The unmerited love and favor of God.”

Notice in Titus 2:11, the Bible says, “the grace of God brings salvation to us.” The grace of God allows us the opportunity to learn about the six steps of salvation. Just because we profess to believe in the grace of God does not automatically mean that we are saved. Man, still, must be born again.

4. Man Must Be Born Again

John 3:3-5 (KJV)

3 Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

4 Nicodemus said unto him, how can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born?

5 Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, except a man be born of water and of the Spirit he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

We have already been born once from our mother's womb. That is why Jesus was talking about a supernatural birth. However, it is important to notice that Jesus Christ said, “YOU MUST BE BORN AGAIN!” The key word in this story is “AGAIN.”

If we really want to be saved from our sins, or want to see or enter the kingdom of God, then we must be born again. As we continue studying the six steps of salvation, we will learn what it means to be born again of water and of the Spirit.

Now we understand that man is a sinner. Jesus is our Savior. Grace saves us. And, we must be born again! Now we are going to take a look at the most important question that has ever been asked.

WHAT MUST DO TO BE SAVED?

Acts 2:37 (KJV)

37 Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do?

Acts 16:30 (KJV)

30 ...Sirs, what must I do to be saved?

This question has been asked by thousands of people down through the years. Remember, the word salvation is in the Bible over 164 times, and the Bible says, "The Lord has made know his salvation." The very first thing we must do if we desire to be saved is believe in Jesus Christ.

1. Believe in Jesus Christ

Hebrews 11:6 (NKJV)

16 But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he who comes to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

Acts 16:31 (KJV)

31 And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved.

Mark 16:16 (KJV)

16 He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believes not shall be damned.

James 2:19-20 (KJV)

19 [You that believe] there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble."

20 But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?

The very first step of salvation is faith in Jesus Christ. We need to believe that Jesus is our only hope, and that He can wash away our sins. If all we do is JUST BELIEVE, then we are at the very same level as the devil for we just read that the DEVIL ALSO BELIEVES! We must take a step further and CONFESS OUR SINS!

2. Confess Our Sins

1 John 1:9 (KJV)

9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Proverbs 28:13 (NKJV)

13 He that covers his sins shall not prosper: but whoever confesses and forsakes them shall have mercy."

Romans 10:9 (NKJV)

9 That if you shall confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.

It is impossible to please God and be saved without confessing your sins. The word "confess" means, "Tell, make known, acknowledge to God, declare faith in, and admit one's faults."

3. Repent of Our Sins

Luke 13:3 (KJV)

3 I tell you Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.

Acts 17:30 (KJV)

30 ...but now [*God*] commands all men everywhere to repent:"

2 Peter 3:9 (KJV)

9 The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

When you experience true repentance, you will feel extremely sorry that you have displeased God. True repentance will cause a change in your way of thinking and in your lifestyle. You will hate what God hates and love what God loves.

4. Be Baptized in Jesus' Name

Mark 16:16 (KJV)

16 He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved, he that believeth not shall be damned.

1 Peter 3:21 (KJV)

21 The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ:

Acts 2:38 (KJV)

38 Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized everyone of you in the name of Jesus Christ for THE REMISSION OF SINS, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

Water baptism is a very important aspect of salvation. Notice that 1 Peter 3:21 says, "...Baptism doth now also save us."

Acts 2:38 says, "...be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ FOR THE REMISSION OF SINS..." Remember Jesus said, "Except a man is born again of WATER and of Spirit."

5. Receive the Holy Ghost

Acts 1:4-5, 8 (KJV)

4 And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father.

5 For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days from now

8 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you:

Act 2:4 (KJV)

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

Mark 16:17 (KJV)

17 And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues;

Romans 8:9 (KJV)

9 But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.

Remember Jesus said, "Except a man is BORN AGAIN of water and of the SPIRIT." The moment you receive the Holy Ghost you are born again of the Spirit! It is impossible to be completely born again without receiving the Holy Ghost.

Let us review the first five steps:

1. Believe
2. Confess
3. Repent
4. Be Baptized in Jesus' Name
5. Receive the Holy Ghost

Even if we did all of these steps there is still the most important step of all. We **MUST** endure to the end!

6. Endure to the End

Matthew 10:22 (KJV)

22...he that endureth to the end shall be saved."

The word endure, according to Webster, means "to undergo hardship without giving in, to continue in the same state of mind, remain FIRM under suffering or misfortune without yielding."

It is SO IMPORTANT for us to endure whatever we have to go through and stay firm in our walk with God despite any trials or temptations.

- Closing -

Step 1 ~ Believe in Jesus Christ



Step 2 ~ Confess your Sins

Step 3 ~ Repent of your Sins

Step 4 ~ Be Baptized in Jesus' Name

Step 5 ~ Receive the Holy Ghost

Step 6 ~ Endure to the End

James 1:22 (KJV)

22 But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.

John 12:48 (KJV)

48 He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him—the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day.

The Bible teaches that we ARE ALL GOING TO STAND BEFORE THE JUDGEMENT SEAT OF CHRIST. We will have to answer to God based upon our obedience to His Word and not our opinions or religions. This is why we must ask ourselves, "Have I completed all six steps of salvation?" If not, then we must do whatever it takes to obey His word.

LESSON 5: A CALL TO REPENT

Ezekiel 18:30 (KJV)

30 Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways, saith the Lord God. Repent and turn yourselves from all your transgressions; so iniquity shall not be your ruin.

Matthew 4:17 (KJV)

17 From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

Introduction

The basic meaning of repentance is “to turn around.” It is a turning from evil ways and a turning to Jesus Christ. Repentance is an attitude that we develop toward sin. When we really understand how much God hates sin, then we will not have a hard time turning from it.

Repentance by definition is:

1. Deep godly sorrow for our sins
2. Turning from wickedness, evil, selfishness, and pride
3. Loving what God loves
4. Hating what God hates
5. Willingness to please God above all else

Ezekiel 18:21 (KJV)

21 But if the wicked will turn from all his sins that he hath committed, and keep all my statutes, and do that which is lawful and right, he shall surely live, he shall not die.

Luke 15:7 (KJV)

7 I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repents, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance.”

2 Corinthians 7:10 (NKJV)

10 For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death

2 Peter 3:9 (KJV)

9 The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

Acts 3:19 (NKJV)

19 Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord,

Romans 2:4 (NKJV)

4 Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance?

Ezekiel 33:9, 11 (KJV)

9 Nevertheless, if thou warn the wicked of his way to turn from it; if he do not turn from his way, he shall die in his iniquity.

11 Say unto them, as I live, saith the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live: turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways...”

1 John 3:4 (KJV)

4 Whosoever commits sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.

Sin is no toy or anything to be taken lightly. We should develop an attitude towards sin and begin to hate it in the same manner that God does. Sin will destroy you and rob you of all your joy and peace. So, why do we need to repent from our sins?

1. GOD HATES SIN

Proverbs 6:16-19 (KJV)

16 These six things doth the LORD hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him:

17 A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood,

18 A heart that devises wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief,

19 A false witness that speaks lies, and he that sows discord among brethren.

Abomination: "Something greatly disliked or abhorred, detested, hated, shameful action, intense hatred and disgust!"

There are things that we do as human beings that God absolutely is disgusted with to the point of extreme, intense hatred. Let us take a look and see some things that God hates and considers an abomination.

Leviticus 20:13 (KJV)

13 If a man also lie with mankind, as he lies with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination...

Deuteronomy 7:26 (KJV)

26 Neither shall you bring an abomination into your house, lest thou be a cursed thing like it: but you shall utterly detest it, and thou shall utterly abhor it; for it is a cursed thing.

Proverbs 11:20 (NKJV)

20 Those who are of a perverse heart are an abomination to the LORD, But the blameless in their ways are His delight.

Proverbs 12:22 (KJV)

22 Lying lips are abomination to the LORD.

Proverbs 15:9, 26 (KJV)

9 The way of the wicked is an abomination unto the LORD: but he loveth him that follows after righteousness.

26 The thoughts of the wicked are an abomination to the LORD...

Proverbs 16:5 (KJV)

5 Every one that is proud in heart is an abomination to the LORD: though hand join in hand, he shall not be unpunished.

Proverbs 17:15 (KJV)

15 He that justifieth the wicked, and he that condemns the just, even they both are abomination to the LORD."

Jeremiah 6:15 (KJV)

15 Were they ashamed when they had committed abomination? nay, they were not at all ashamed, neither could they blush: therefore they shall fall among them that fall: at the time that I visit them they shall be cast down, saith the LORD."

Revelation 21:27 (KJV)

27 And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defiles, either whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie."

God hates and despises sin! The second reason we need to turn from sin is because it will lead us to spiritual death. Sin will always take us farther than we want to go; cost us more than we intend to pay; and keep us longer than we want to stay. Sin will separate us from an intimate relationship with our Savior.

2. SIN LEADS TO SPIRITUAL DEATH

Romans 6:23 (KJV)

23 For the wages of sin is death.

James 1:15 (KJV)

15 Then when lust hath conceived, it brings forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, brings forth death.

Romans 5:12 (NKJV)

12 Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned.

1 John 3:8 (KJV)

8 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.

Isaiah 59:1-2 (KJV)

1 Behold, the LORD'S hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear.

2 But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear.

Romans 8:6-7 (KJV)

6 For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.

7 Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.

If we choose to live a life of sin, then we are choosing to become God's enemy. We cannot be close to God and continue to live a life contrary to His word. We need to repent of our sins if we are going to please God. Now that we know God hates sin, and that sin will lead us to spiritual death. We must learn how to truly TURN FROM OUR SINS!

HOW TO REPENT OF OUR SIN

1. Refuse and Choose

Isaiah 7:15 (KJV)

15 Butter and honey shall he eat, that he may know to refuse the evil, and choose the good.

Hebrews 11:24-25 (KJV)

24 By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter;

25 choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season.

Joshua 24:15-16 (KJV)

15 And if it seem evil unto you to serve the Lord, CHOOSE YOU THIS DAY whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell: but AS FOR ME and my house, WE WILL SERVE THE LORD.

16 And the people answered and said, "God forbid that we should forsake the Lord, to serve other gods;

There are some things that we just need to refuse, which means to "express oneself as unwilling to accept, express unwillingness to do or comply with and withhold acceptance." Basically, we need to refuse anything God rejects and choose everything that God accepts. The next thing we need to do is humble ourselves.

2. Humble Ourselves

Matthew 18:4 (KJV)

4 Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

James 4:6, 10 (KJV)

6 But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resists the proud, but gives grace unto the humble."

10 Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up.

God is attracted to us when we display a humble attitude about our sins. People that refuse to humble themselves will continue to walk down the deceitful path of sin and lose out with God forever. If you humble yourself before God, then He will forgive you and give you the grace to overcome all temptation.

3. Return To God With All Your Heart

1 Samuel 7:3 (KJV)

3 And Samuel spoke unto all the house of Israel, saying, if you do return unto the Lord with all your hearts, then put away the strange gods and Ashtaroth from among you, and prepare your hearts unto the Lord, and serve Him only; and he will deliver you.

Hosea 6:1 (KJV)

1 Come, and let us return to the Lord...

Deuteronomy 30:2 (KJV)

2 And shalt return to the Lord your God, and shalt obey his voice according to all that I command thee this day, thou and thy children, with all thine heart, and with all thy soul;

4. Do What Is Right

Exodus 15:26 (KJV)

26 If thou wilt diligently hearken to the voice of the LORD thy God, and wilt do that which is right in his sight, and wilt give ear to his commandments, and keep all his statutes, I will put none of these diseases upon you, which I have brought upon the Egyptians: for I am the LORD that heals thee.

Romans 12:21 (KJV)

21 Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.

Daniel 4:27 (KJV)

27 ...break off thy sins by righteousness and your iniquities by showing mercy to the poor...

We must do what is right even when we are bombarded with temptation and enticed to disobey God. God has promised us mercy and forgiveness if we will do what is right in HIS sight.

- Closing -

We know God hates sin and that it will separate us from our holy God. However, there is good news to anyone who is living a life of sin. Jesus gives us the opportunity to repent from our ways, and He will forgive! Remember, the reason Jesus came to earth was to save us from our sins.

Matthew 1:21 (KJV)

21 And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.

IF WE REPENT JESUS WIL FORGIVE US

1 John 1:9 (KJV)

9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Psalms 86:5 (KJV)

5 For thou, Lord, art good, and ready to forgive.

Jeremiah 31:34 (KJV)

34 ...I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.

Psalms 103:12 (KJV)

12 As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us.

LESSON 6: WATER BAPTISM

Matthew 3:16 (KJV)

16 And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him.

Galatians 3:27 (KJV)

27 For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

Introduction

In this lesson we are going to answer the following questions about water baptism with the Word of God.

*What does the Bible say about water baptism?
Does it really matter which way we are baptized?
How did the Apostles baptize?*

In order for us to answer these questions we need to look and see what the Bible has to say.

1. What Does the Bible Say About Baptism?

John 3:5 (KJV)

5 Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

Mark 16:16 (KJV)

16 He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved, he that believeth not shall be damned.

1 Peter 3:21 (KJV)

21 The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ:

Acts 2:38 (KJV)

38 Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

Romans 6:4 (NKJV)

4 Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

Acts 2:41 (KJV)

41 Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.

Acts 8:36 (NKJV)

36 Now as they went down the road, they came to some water. And the eunuch said, "See, here is water. What hinders me from being baptized?"

Acts 22:16 (NKJV)

16 And now why are you waiting? Arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord.

Acts 10:47-48 (NKJV)

47 Can anyone forbid water, that these should not be baptized who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?"

48 And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then they asked him to stay a few days.

The Bible is very clear about the importance of water baptism. Jesus said, "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved." Water baptism is so important because when we are baptized our sins are washed away through the blood of Jesus.

The next question that we are going to answer in this lesson is, "Should we sprinkle or immerse in water?"

2. The Biblical Formula

Jesus Name Baptism
or
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost Baptism

In order for us to fully understand how we should be baptized we must read and understand what is known as the Great Commission.

In Jesus' final words to His followers, He addressed the issue of water baptism. There are three accounts, recorded in the Bible, of the Great Commission.

Matthew 28:19 (KJV)

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

Mark 16:15-16 (KJV)

15 And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.

16 He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.

Luke 24:47 (KJV)

47 And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.

The whole key to understanding the Great Commission is the fact that in all three accounts Jesus spoke about baptism. He stressed the fact that it should be done, "IN THE NAME."

1 Corinthians 14:33 (NKJV)

33 For God is not the author of confusion but of peace, as in all the churches of the saints.

No matter whom we are, at different times we play different roles. When we are with our parents, we are their sons or daughters. When we are with our husband or wife, we are their spouses. And, when we are with our siblings, we are their brothers or sisters.

However, people who know us call us by our name. Remember that "Father," "Son," and "Holy Ghost" are only titles. Even if "Father," "Son," and "Holy Ghost" were names, we would still need to be baptized IN JESUS' NAME!

Philippians 2:9-10 (KJV)

9 Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name:

10 That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth:

We need to obey Matthew 28:19 and be baptized IN THE NAME of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost!

What is the name of the Father? What is the name of the Son? What is the name of the Holy Ghost? It doesn't take long to discover that the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost is JESUS. The name Jesus appears in the Bible over 983 different times.

Colossians 3:17 (KJV)

17 And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus...

John 3:18 (KJV)

18 He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed IN THE NAME of the only begotten Son of God.

Matthew 1:21 (KJV)

21 And she shall bring forth a son, and you shall call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.

If we pray in Jesus' name, if we cast out devils in Jesus' name, and if we pray for the sick in Jesus' name, then why should we not baptize IN JESUS' NAME? The Bible tells us that we need to continue in the Apostles' doctrine. Therefore, we should ask, How did the apostles baptize?

3. How Did The Apostles Baptize?

It is very important for us to understand that Jesus spent three years teaching the twelve Apostles. These twelve were to carry on the message of the gospel. Do you think Jesus made it very clear to them what they were to preach and teach? Remember that the Bible is very clear and does not contradict itself.

Matthew 16:18-19 (KJV)

18 And I say also unto thee, that thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

19 And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven...

Acts 2:36-38, 42 (KJV)

36 Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ.

37 Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the Apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do?

38 Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

42 And they continued steadfastly in the APOSTLES' DOCTRINE and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers."

Acts 8:14-16 (KJV)

14 Now when the apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent unto them Peter and John:

15 Who, when they were come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost:

16 (For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.)"

Acts 10:1-6 (KJV)

1 There was a certain man in Caesarea called Cornelius, a centurion of what was called the Italian band [or regiment],

2 A devout man, and one that feared God with his entire house, which gave much alms to the people, and prayed to God always.

3 He saw in a vision evidently about the ninth hour of the day an angel of God coming in to him, and saying unto him, Cornelius.

4 And when he looked on him, he was afraid, and said, What is it, Lord? And he said unto him, Thy prayers and thine alms are come up for a memorial before God.

5 And now send men to Joppa, and call for one Simon, whose surname is Peter:

6 He is lodging with Simon, a tanner, whose house is by the sea. He will tell you what you must do."

Acts 10:44-48 (KJV)

44 While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word.

45 And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost.

46 For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God. Then answered Peter,

47 Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we?

48 And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord.

Acts 19:1-5 (KJV)

1 And it came to pass, that, while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul having passed through the upper coasts came to Ephesus: and finding certain disciples,

2 He said unto them, have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed? And they said unto him, we have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost.

3 And he said unto them, unto what then were ye baptized? And they said Unto John's baptism.

4 Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus.

5 When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.

- Closing -

No where in God's Word will you ever read where someone was baptized in the titles Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. There would not be a problem baptizing in the titles Father, Son, and Holy Ghost if it lined up with the Word of God.

We have a total of eight scriptures that support the doctrine of Jesus name baptism and not one for the other. There are no scriptures that support being baptized in the titles.

IN JESUS NAME

Matthew 28:19

Acts 2:38

Acts 8:16

Acts 19:5

Luke 24:47

Acts 4:12

Acts 10:48

Colossians 3:17

The Book of Acts Chapter 2 is the beginning of the church, and as you read the Book of Acts you will find the early church always baptized in Jesus' name.

Romans 14:10 (KJV)

10 ...for we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ.

Every man will be judged according to the Word of God. Are you certain that you have been baptized in Jesus' name for the remission of your sins?

If you are unsure, it is always wise to be safe and make sure you are baptized in Jesus' name. Please do not allow the devil to deceive you into believing that this does not matter or it is irrelevant to salvation.

LESSON 7: POWER OF THE HOLY GHOST

Introduction

In this lesson we will learn that the Holy Ghost is promised to us, what the Holy Ghost will do for us, how to know when we have received the Holy Ghost, and how to receive the Holy Ghost. The Holy Ghost is mentioned in the Bible over ninety different times. As we study this lesson, you will have a greater understanding on the purpose of the Holy Ghost in our lives.

Romans 5:5 (KJV)

5 ...because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.

Romans 14:17 (KJV)

14 For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost."

Acts 1:8 (KJV)

8 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses.

Romans 15:13 (KJV)

13 Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost.

1 Corinthians 6:19 (KJV)

19 What? Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost, which is in you?

2 Timothy 1:14 (KJV)

14 That good thing which was committed unto thee keep by the Holy Ghost which dwells in us.

John 20:19-23 (NKJV)

19 Then, the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in the midst, and said to them, "Peace be with you."

20 When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord.

21 So Jesus said to them again, "Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you."

22 And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit."

1. THE HOLY GHOST IS A PROMISE

Joel 2:28 (KJV)

28 And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions:

Matthew 3:11 (KJV)

11 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 11:13 (KJV)

13 If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?

Matthew 7:7-8 (KJV)

7 Ask and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock and it shall be opened unto you:

8 For every one that asks will receive and he that is seeking will find it.

John 7:37-39 (KJV)

37 In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink.

38 He that believes on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.

39 (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)

John 14:18, 26 (KJV)

18 I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you!

26 But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

Luke 24:49 (KJV)

49 And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high.

Acts 1:4-5 (KJV)

4 And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me.

5 For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence.

2 Peter 3:9 (NKJV)

9 The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

Acts 2:33 (KJV)

33 Therefore being by the right hand of God exalted, and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Ghost.

It is easy to accept the fact that God has promised us the Holy Ghost. There is scripture after scripture that reveals to us that the Holy Ghost is a promise, and that it is for everyone to receive. Some have asked if we really need to receive the Holy Ghost. Yes, we DO NEED the Holy Ghost! The Holy Ghost saves us, and gives us the power we need to walk in the Spirit so we can overcome sin!

2. THE HOLY GHOST SAVES US

Romans 8:6-9 (KJV)

6 For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.

7 ...So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.

8 But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.

John 3:5 (KJV)

5 Jesus answered, Verily, verily; I say unto thee, except a man is born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

Because of our sins we are spiritually dead! We need the Holy Ghost to give us life. Notice in Romans 8 Paul says, "They that are in the flesh cannot please God." Then he said, "You are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, IF the Spirit of God dwell in you!" They that are in the flesh cannot please God. Therefore, we need the Holy Ghost to save us from our sins and fleshly mindset. Remember to be carnally minded is death, but to spiritually minded is peace. The Holy Ghost will give us the ability to have a spiritual mind.

Acts 8:5-8, 12-17 (KJV)

5 Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria, and preached Christ unto them.

6 And the people with one accord gave heed unto those things which Philip spoke, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did.

7 For unclean spirits, crying with loud voice came out of many that were possessed with them: and many taken with palsies, and that were lame, were healed.

8 And there was great joy in that city.

12 But when they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.

13 Then Simon himself believed also: and when he was baptized, he continued with Philip, and wondered, beholding the miracles and signs which were done.

14 Now when the apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent unto them Peter and John:

15 Who, when they were come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost:

16 (For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.)

17 Then laid they their hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost.

WHAT CAN WE LEARN?

When Philip went to Samaria he preached about Jesus Christ, and the Bible says, "THEY BELIEVED!" They had become devout believers in Jesus and were baptized. When the Apostles heard that Samaria had received the Word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. Why? Because they wanted to make sure they received the Holy Ghost. It is possible to be a believer in Jesus and still not have the Holy Ghost. We, too, need the Holy Ghost because the Holy Ghost gives us joy and peace.

3. WHAT WILL THE HOLY GHOST DO FOR US?

Galatians 5:22 (KJV)

22 But the FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance.

1. **Love** – *Affectionate concern for the well-being of others.*
2. **Joy** – *Great delight, happiness, and display of glad feeling.*
3. **Peace** – *Freedom from anxiety, stress, or mental disturbance.*
4. **Longsuffering** – *Patient endurance of troubles or problems.*
5. **Gentleness** – *Kindness, politeness, courteousness, honorableness, and respectability.*
6. **Goodness** – *Moral excellence and virtue; generosity.*
7. **Faith** – *Confidence of trust in someone and belief in God.*
8. **Meekness** – *Humility, submissiveness, and gentleness.*
9. **Temperance** – *Moderation, self-control, and total abstinence from alcoholic beverages.*

At what point do we receive the Holy Ghost? How will we know when we have received the Holy Ghost? Will we have a good feeling? Does it happen right when we believe in Christ? Let us look in the Book of Acts and read how they received the Holy Ghost.

EVIDENCE OF RECEIVING THE HOLY GHOST

Acts 2:1-4 (KJV)

1 And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.

2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting.

3 And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them.

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

Acts 10:1-6 (NKJV)

1 There was a certain man in Caesarea called Cornelius, a centurion of what was called the Italian Regiment.

2 A devout man, and one that feared God with all his house, which gave much alms to the people, and prayed to God always.

3 He saw in a vision evidently about the ninth hour of the day an angel of God coming in to him, and saying unto him, Cornelius.

4 And when he looked on him, he was afraid, and said, what is it, Lord? And he said unto him, Thy prayers and thine alms are come up for a memorial before God.

5 And now send men to Joppa, and call for one Simon, whose surname is Peter:

6 He lodges with one Simon a tanner, whose house is by the sea side: he shall tell thee what you must do.

Acts 10:44-46 (KJV)

44 While Peter yet spoke these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word.

45 And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost.

46 For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God.

How do we know that the Gentiles received the Holy Ghost? For they heard them speak with tongues!

Acts 19:1-6 (KJV)

1 And it came to pass, that, while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul having passed through the upper coasts came to Ephesus: and finding certain disciples,

2 He said unto them, have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed? And they said unto him, we have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost.

3 And he said unto them, unto what then were ye baptized? And they said Unto John's baptism.

4 Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus.

5 When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.

6 And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spoke with tongues, and prophesied.

These men were believers and disciples of Jesus, yet they still had NEVER HEARD about the Holy Ghost before. How do we know they received the Holy Ghost? They spoke with tongues!

- CLOSING -

Mark 16:17 (KJV)

17 And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues;

When God fills you with the Holy Ghost, you will know it. There will be NO DOUBT. Speaking in tongues is the initial evidence of receiving the baptism of the Holy Ghost!

1 Corinthians 14:4 (KJV)

4 He that speaks in an unknown tongue edifieth himself.

How Do We Receive The Baptism of the Holy Ghost?

Desire to have it.
Repent of your sins.
Ask God for it.
Believe God will give it.
Begin to Praise God.

Why Do Some People Not Receive The Holy Ghost?

Lack of Desire
Lack of Faith
Lack of Repentance
Lack of Understanding