

SUBJECTS

1. Who is God?
2. Who is Jesus?
3. The New Birth
4. Assurance of Salvation.
5. Priorities
6. Water Baptism
7. The Holy Spirit
8. Signs and Wonders
9. Gifts of the Holy Spirit
10. Gift Men to the Church
11. Healing
12. The Return of Jesus
13. Resurrection
14. Eternal Judgment
15. Polygamy

CHURCH UNLIMITED DISCIPLESHIP COURSE

LESSON 1.

WHO IS GOD?

Introduction. The Bible opens with the words, *“In the beginning God.”* It does not set itself to “prove” God to man. God **IS**.

- 1 **Hebrews 11:6.** *“He who comes to God **MUST BELIEVE** that **GOD IS**. This means much more than God “just exists”. It means that God **IS everything that it is possible to be**.*
- 2 *“He is a **REWARDER** of those who diligently seek Him.”*

For Christians this is enough.

How all may know there is a God.

Creation. Reason tells us that the universe had a beginning. It didn’t just “happen”.

Romans 1:20. *“For since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities – his eternal power & divine nature – have been clearly seen...”*

Design. Design and beauty are evident in a complex universe. Design and beauty imply a designer; therefore the universe is the work of a Designer of sufficient intelligence and wisdom to account for them. To suggest that there was no designer and that everything “just happened,” is to insult intelligence and reason.

All Life and Intelligence. Where do these come from? The intelligence of insects, birds, mammals and man? The life that is in each? These things could not “just happen.”

Man’s Nature. Man has a moral nature, that is, his life is regulated by right and wrong. He knows that there is a right course of action to be followed and a wrong course to be avoided. That knowledge is called “conscience”.

History. The world’s history reveals God’s power and farsightedness. One way God illustrates his workings in human affairs is by perfectly fulfilling the many Bible prophecies concerning people, events and nations. Thus, history testifies to the existence of God.

Universal Belief. Belief in the existence of God is as widespread as the human race. Although often perverted and overlaid with superstition, it is still there.

We worship One God not Three Gods.

Isaiah 46:9 *“I AM God and there is no other.”*

1 Timothy 2:5 *“There is one God & one Mediator between God & men, the man Christ Jesus.”*

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GOD IS FATHER, SON and HOLY SPIRIT. Matthew 28:19.4 *“Go...make disciples of all nations baptizing them in (into) the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.”*

GOD IS SPIRIT. John 4:24. *“God is Spirit”.* Since we know of only two kinds of existence – matter and spirit – God **must be Spirit** since if he were matter he would be finite.

GOD IS ONE. 1 Timothy 1:17. *“The **only God.**” (NIV).* There cannot be more than ONE God. Westminster Catechism: *“God is a Spirit, infinite, eternal and unchangeable in His being, wisdom, power, holiness, justice, goodness and truth...”*

(i) The Three have ONE NAME. “Name”, not “Names”.

Matthew 28:18-19. *“Baptizing them in (into) the **name** (singular tense – “**name**” – NOT “names”, plural), of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.”* “Name”, (Greek “onoma”), literally means, “authority” or “character”. By receiving baptism we are submitting to the authority and character of one God whose name is, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

(ii) The Three have ONE STATUS.

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

Romans 8:9. Paul uses the terms *“the Spirit”, “the Spirit of God”* and *“the Spirit of Christ”* interchangeably.

GOD IS LOVE. 1 John 4:16. He is also, righteousness, justice, holiness and wisdom and a “Being” beyond our understanding. One of these attributes stands alone. *“God is love”.* **John 3:16.** *“God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son that whoever believes in him would not perish but have eternal life.”*

GOD IS PERSON. He is THE Person. The Almighty Being around whom everything revolves. **Isaiah 46:9** *“I AM GOD and there is none like Me.”*

LESSON 2. WHO IS OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST?

Intro. Who is Jesus? Was he a high ranking angel before coming to earth? Was he a special teacher or super prophet? Who was he? His Bible names and titles will tell us much.

Some Names and Titles of Jesus.

***Jesus.** Jesus means, **“God saves.”** It was the name given by the angel sent by God who appeared to Joseph in a dream. **Matthew 1:20-23.** *“You will give him the name Jesus because he will **save** his people from their sins. All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: “The virgin will be with child and they will call him Immanuel” - which means, **“God with us.”**”*

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Regarding the birth of Jesus, Isaiah had this to say.

Isaiah 7:14. *“Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign, Behold the young woman who is unmarried and a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel – God with us.”*

Isaiah 9:6. *“For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon His shoulder, and His name shall be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”*

- **Christ.** Christ means, “Messiah” or “Anointed One”; the promised Jewish Messiah, the Anointed One of God bringing freedom and wholeness to all. **Luke 4:18-19.** *“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favour.” (See Isaiah 61:1-2).*
- **Son of Man.** While the title “**Son of Man**” points to his human birth, it mainly points toward his being a heavenly figure. **Daniel 7:13-14.** *“There before me was one like a **son of man** coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days....He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; **all peoples, nations and men of every language** worshipped him. His dominion is everlasting that will not pass away; his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed.”*
- “**Son of God**” means one **born of God**. Jesus is never called “**a**” Son of God, in the general sense in which men and angels are called children of God. (**Job 2:1**) He is “**the**” Son of God. Jesus is described as having a unique relationship with God which was not shared by any other. **Romans 1:3-4.** *Regarding his (God’s) Son Jesus Christ our Lord, as to his human nature was a descendant of David, and through the Spirit of holiness was declared with power to be the Son of God by his resurrection from the dead...”*
- **Lamb of God.** **John 1:29.** *“Behold the lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.”* Jesus is the perfect and only sacrifice accepted by God for sin.
- **High Priest.** **Hebrews 8:1.** *“We have a high priest, who sat down at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in heaven...”* Jesus stands as Intercessor between us and God.
- **Lord.** **Revelation 17:14.** *“Lord of lords and King of kings.”*

JESUS IS GOD IN THE FLESH.

Jesus was human.

He had a human body. He was born of a virgin. The Scriptures show, he ate, he slept, he got tired; for example, so tired his disciples had to awaken him in the midst of a raging storm. He was tempted but without sin. He was acquainted with joy, sorrow and suffering.

Jesus was also God.

John 1:1 *“In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and **the Word WAS God.**”* Not “a god” as false teachers erroneously claims and who by altering this, as well as other Scriptures, attempt to show that Jesus was less than God in the flesh, as the Bible teaches. Note. There is no indefinite article - “a” - in the Greek text. The Bible clearly states, **“the Word WAS GOD.”**

John 1:14 *“**The Word became flesh and dwelt among us.** We have seen the glory of the One and Only who came from the Father.”* Jesus IS God.

1 Timothy 3:16. *Great is the mystery of godliness; **God was manifest in the flesh...**”*

How can we understand this?

Jesus said, “God is a Spirit” (John 4:24).

- (i) The Greek word used for “spirit” is *“pneuma”* – a word meaning “a current of air” or figuratively, “spirit”. When the Bible refers to our spirit it uses a small “s”. In **John 4:24** a capital “S” is used; *“God is a Spirit”*, signifying Deity. Of course God is **not** “air”. He is the Almighty Creator and Ruler of the universe.
- Something about the **deity of Jesus** can be understood from the following example.

Just as air is all **around us** yet **in us** when we breathe, just so, the **eternal Spirit** was **in** Jesus’ physical body, yet still **all around him** at the same time, making him **God in the flesh**. That made Jesus different to other men.

Jesus possessed the eternal Spirit. Hebrews 9:14 (Amp. Version) says, *“How much more surely shall the blood of Christ, Who by virtue of [His] **eternal Spirit** [His own preexistent divine personality] has offered Himself an unblemished sacrifice to God, purify our consciences from dead works and lifeless observances to serve the {ever} living God..”*

Colossians 2:9. *“For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form.”* So, we often find the human Jesus speaking to his heavenly Father. That is part of the *“great mystery of godliness”*

1 Timothy 3:16 (Amplified Version) reads, *“And great and important and weighty, we confess, is the hidden truth - the mystic secret - of godliness. He (God) was made visible in human flesh, justified and vindicated in the (Holy) Spirit, was seen by angels, preached among the nations, believed on in the world and taken up in glory.”*

Jesus existed from Eternity

John 6:32,33,38,50,51,58 & 62 clearly state that Jesus existed in heaven before He appeared on earth among men.

- (i) He existed before John the Baptist. **John 1:15.** *“John bore witness of Him saying,”...For He was before me..”*

(ii) He existed before Abraham. **John 8:58.** *“Before Abraham was, I AM.”*

(iii) He existed before Creation. **John 1:1-2.** *“He was in the beginning with God.”*

John 17:5 *“And now, O Father, glorify me together with Yourself, with the glory that I had with You before the world was.”*

Colossians 1:17 . *“And He is before all things.”*

The Complete Godhead was in Him

Colossians 2:9. *“For in CHRIST all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form.”*

He created & sustains all things.

Colossians 1:16-17. *“For by him all things were created: things in heaven & in earth, visible & invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created for him & by him all things are held together.”*

Hebrews 1:3. *“The Son is the radiance of God’s glory and the exact representation of His being, sustaining all things by His powerful word.”*

He is Omnipresent. That means that He can be present everywhere at the same time.

Matthew 18:20. *“For where two or three come together in my name, there I am in the midst of them.”*

Ephesians 1:23. *“Him who fills everything in every way.”*

He is Omniscient. This means that he is “all seeing” and “all knowing.”

John 1:45-51. Although not physically able to see Nathaniel/Bartholomew, Jesus “saw” Nathaniel and knew about him while he was sitting under a fig tree.

John 16:30. *“Now we can see that you know all things...This makes us believe that you came from God.”*

Colossians 2:3. *“In whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.”*

He is invested with all authority.

Matthew 28:18. *“All authority in heaven and earth is given to me.”* It belongs to Jesus by right.

Hebrews 2:8. *“You crowned him with glory and honour and put everything under his feet.”*

He is the Lord of life & gives life to whom He will.

John 5:21. *“For just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, even so the Son gives life to whom he is pleased to give it.”*

John 1:4. *“In him was life & that life was the light of men.”*

He pardons guilt

Mark 2:5. *“He said to the paralytic, “Son your sins are forgiven.”*

Luke 7:48. *“Then Jesus said to her, “Your sins are forgiven.”*

Jesus received worship.

- **Only God may be worshipped.** Not man made idols or animals. Not heavenly objects such as the sun, moon or stars. Not people, angels or demons. Not ancestors.

Exodus 20:3-4. *“You shall have no other gods before me. You shall not make for yourself any idol in the form of anything in heaven above or the earth beneath....You shall not bow down to them or worship them.”*

Matthew 4:20. Jesus said to Satan, *“It is written, **you shall worship the Lord thy God, and Him only shalt thou serve**”.* Yet Jesus received worship.

- **Worship of men and angelic beings forbidden.**

(i) Peter forbids Cornelius from worshipping him. **Acts 10:26.** *“Stand up...I am only a man myself.”*

(ii) The angel who showed John things to come stops John from worshipping him. **Revelation 19:10.** *“At this I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, “DO NOT DO IT! I am a fellow servant with you.”*

- **Jesus received worship he because he is God and therefor entitled to receive it.**

Matthew 14:33. *“Then those who were in the boat worshipped him, saying, “Truly you are the Son of God.”*

Hebrews 1:6. *“When God brings his firstborn into the world, he says, “Let all God’s angels worship him.”*

THE CLAIMS OF JESUS.

- **Jesus put Himself side by side with Divine activity.** **John 16:28** *“My Father has been working until now, and I have been working.”* **John 5:17.** *“I came forth from the Father.”* **John 20:21.** *“My Father has sent me.”*
- **Jesus claimed special Godly knowledge and fellowship.** **Matthew 11:27.** *“No one knows the Son but the Father, and no one knows Father but the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. (See also John 17:25.)*
- **Jesus reveals the Father’s being in Himself.** **John 14:9-11.** *“He who has seen me has seen the Father.”*
- **Jesus claimed Divine rights.** Omnipresence - **Matt. 18:20.** Power to forgive sins - **Mark 2:5-10.** Power to raise the dead - **John 6:40 and John11:25.** Authority to lay down his life and take it up again. **John 10:17-18.**

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- **Jesus declared Himself Judge of man's destiny. John 5:22.** *"The Father judges no one, but has entrusted all judgment to the Son that all may honour the Son even as they honour the Father."*
2 Timothy 4:1 *"Christ Jesus who will judge the living and the dead."*
- **He is the One who baptizes with the Holy Spirit. Matthew 3:11.** *"He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire."* See also, **John 16:7.**

JESUS IS THE "I AM".

- **Only God was known as the "I AM". Exodus 3:14.** *"I AM WHO I AM"*. Jesus purposely used this term when referring to himself.
 - a. John 8:12. *"I AM the light of the world"*.
 - b. John 8:18 *"I AM one who bears witness of myself"*
 - c. John 8:23 *"I AM from above...I AM not of this world"*
 - d. John 8:24 . *"I AM he."* *"If you do not believe I AM (he) you will die in your sins."* The Good News Bible says, *"I AM Who I AM."*
 - e. John 18:5-6. Jesus was responding to those who had come to arrest him and to verify his identity. He said, *"I AM"* . Those who had come to arrest Jesus fell backwards when they heard it.
 - f. Luke 22:70 *"You are right in saying I AM"*.

THE GREAT QUESTION. "WHY DID JESUS BECOME A MAN?"

Jesus temporarily laid aside His glory for a reason.

Philippians 2: 6-7 Amplified Version. *"Who, although being essentially one with God and in the form of God [possessing the fullness of the attributes that make God, God], did not think this equality with God was a thing to be eagerly grasped or retained; but stripped himself [of all privileges and rightful] dignity to assume the guise of a servant (slave), in that He became like men and was born a human being."*

To show us what God is like.

Matthew 11:27. *"No one knows the Father except the Son."*

John 1:18. *"No one has ever seen God, but God the One and Only, who came from the Father has made Him known."*

To bring us God's salvation

John 3:16. *"For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son that whoever believes in him should not perish but have everlasting life."*

Romans 5:8. *"But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."*

To give God's children an example.

1 Peter 2:21. *"Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps."*

To make powerless the devils works.

1 John 3:8. *"The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work."*

LESSON 3.

NEW BIRTH

YOU MUST BE BORN AGAIN.

Jesus said, *"I tell you the truth. Unless a man is BORN AGAIN he cannot see the Kingdom of God. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but The Spirit gives birth to spirit. You should not be surprised by my saying YOU MUST BE BORN AGAIN. The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is of everyone born of The Spirit. (John 3:5-8).*

SALVATION CAN ONLY BE FOUND THROUGH JESUS,

We cannot save ourselves. Ephesians 2:8. *"For it is by grace that you are saved, through faith – and this is not from yourselves, it is **the gift of God – not by works,** so that no one can boast."*

Only Jesus can save. No one else. **Acts 4:12.** *"Salvation is found in **no one else,** for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved."*

Be saved NOW. 2 Corinthians 6:2. *'NOW is the accepted time, NOW is the day of salvation.'*
Do not put your decision off. Receive Jesus as your Saviour NOW!

Jesus said – "The Kingdom of God is near, repent and believe the good news." Mark 1:15.

"REPENT"

What repentance is not.

True repentance is not remorse. Judas suffered from remorse/regret after he had betrayed Jesus. But it did not do him any good. It was not *"godly sorrow."* **Corinthians 7:10.** *"Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but the sorrow of the world brings death."* Judas went out and hanged himself. "Remorse" is described in the Bible as *"worldly sorrow"* Just having regrets for sin and doing wrong is not good enough. Repent.

What true repentance is.

It is more than a change of mind. It is more than being upset. Repentance is a change of **heart**. True repentance requires action resulting in a **changed life**. **Luke 3:8(a)** *“Produce fruit in keeping with repentance.”*

“BELIEVE”

John 3:16. *“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whoever **believes on him** should not perish but have everlasting life.”*

To “**believe**” means: 1. “To trust in.” 2. “Rely on.” 3. “Adhere to”.

Believing in Jesus is rather like floating on water and relying on the water to hold you up. It is saying, you **trust in** and **rely on** and **hold firmly to** all Jesus has done through his death on the cross to secure your forgiveness & salvation.

“RECEIVE THE GOOD NEWS.”

JESUS is the “GOOD NEWS.”

Matthew 1:21. *“You are to give him the name Jesus, **because he will save** his people from their sins.”*

Invite Jesus to become your personal Saviour now. Ask Him to wash you clean and forgive all your sins. He loves you. Simply pray –

PRAYER. *“Almighty God I come to you. I repent of all my sins. I ask forgiveness for all I have done. Lord Jesus, I believe you died and rose again for me, so I may be forgiven & receive eternal life. I surrender my life to You. Become today my personal Lord & Saviour. Come into my heart and be Ruler of my life from this time on. Thank you for giving me this opportunity to become your son/daughter. Amen.*

John 1:12. *“As many as **received him** to them he gave the power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name.” (KJV).*

THE SEVEN GREAT AGENCIES OF THE NEW BIRTH.

1. BORN OF GOD. **John 1:12-13.**
2. BORN OF CHRIST. **1 John 2:24-29 (v29)**
3. BORN OF THE HOLY SPIRIT. **Titus 3:5.**
4. BORN OF THE WORD. **James 1:18**
5. BORN OF THE RESURRECTION. **1 Peter 1:3**
6. BORN OF THE GOSPEL. **1 Corinthians 4:15**
7. BORN OF FAITH IN CHRIST. **1 John 5:15**

THE FIVE GREAT “NEWNESSES” OF THE NEW BIRTH.

1. A NEW CREATION. **Galatians 6:15**. It is the only thing that counts.
2. A NEW LIFE. **Romans 6:4**. It is through death that life comes!
3. A NEW HEART. **Ezekiel 36:26**. It is the removal of the heart of stone.
4. A NEW SPIRIT. **Romans 7:6**. Death to the “old life”. It is serving God in the new way of the Spirit.
5. A NEW SELF. **Ephesians 4:24**. “*Put on the self, created to be like God.*” It is the new self of holiness instead of the old self of deceitfulness.

FOUR PROOFS OF THE NEW BIRTH

1. WE BEGIN TO HATE SIN. **1 John 3:9 and 5:18**
2. WE BEGIN TO TASTE THE FRUITS OF VICTORY. **1 John 5:4-5**
3. WE BEGIN TO LOVE THE BIBLE. **Romans 7:22; Psalm 119:11; Romans 10:17**
4. WE LOVE THE FELLOWSHIP OF OTHER CHRISTIANS.

THREE WITNESSES WITHIN THE NEWBORN BELIEVER

1. THE INNER WITNESS. **Romans 8:16**. “*The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children.*” (NIV) **Psa.84:10; Psa. 133; Hebrews 10:24-25**
2. THE NEW MIND. **Romans 8:5-6**. “*Those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires.*”
3. THE DAILY RENEWAL. **2 Corinthians 3:18** “*So we fix our eyes not on things that are seen, but what is unseen.*”

LESSON 4 BELIEVERS HAVE PERSONAL ASSURANCE

Assurance is spiritual certainty. It is being certain of the promises made to you by God in His Word. Inward assurance is essential to faith. God’s promises must be taken into your heart.

ASSURANCE THROUGH KNOWING JESUS.

2 Timothy 1:12. “*I know whom I have believed, and am convinced that he is able to guard what I have entrusted to him for that day.*” (NIV) Spiritual knowledge of Christ produces assurance. He is my Saviour. He died for me. An unknown Christ cannot be the object of faith. He is willing, caring & good & will complete all He has called you to do.

ASSURANCE THROUGH THE WORD

God cannot lie. He will do for you all that He has promised.

Hebrews 6:17-18 (Amp. Version). “*God...in His desire to show more convincingly and beyond doubt, to those who inherit the promise, the unchangeableness of His purpose and plan, intervened with an oath. This was so that by two unchangeable things [His promise and His oath],*

in which it is impossible for God ever to prove false or deceive us, we who have fled [to Him] for refuge might have mighty indwelling strength and strong encouragement to grasp and hold fast the hope appointed for us and set before [us].

ASSURANCE THROUGH THE BLOOD.

We are bought with Jesus' blood. 1 Peter 1:18. *"It was not with corruptible things such as silver and gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you by your forefathers, but with the precious blood of Jesus."* Because of this we are made beneficiaries of peace, eternal life and resurrection promises.

1. The blood assures us of PEACE with God. Col. 1:19-20. *"For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him and through him to reconcile to himself all things...making peace through his blood shed on the cross."*

Peace with God means:

- **Purity of Heart. 1 John 1:7.** *"The blood of Jesus cleanses us from all sin."*
- **Pardon from sin. Romans 5:9 (Amplified Version).** *"Since we are now justified- acquitted, made righteous and brought into right relationship with God- by Christ's blood, how much more [certain is it that] we shall be saved by Him from the indignation & the wrath of God."* That is, the wrath of God to come on the world.

2. The blood assures us of ETERNAL LIFE. Freedom from fear of death. **Hebrews 2:14-15.** *"By his death he might destroy him who has the power of death - that is, the devil - & free those who all their lives lived in the fear of death."*

3. The blood assures us of RESURRECTION LIFE. 1 Cor. 15:12. *"Christ has been raised from the dead."*

Resurrection life means:

- **Approach to God. Eph. 2:13** *"But now you who were once far off have been brought near through the blood of Christ."*
- **Defeat of Satan. Revelation 12:11** *"They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb."*
- **Being filled with the Holy Spirit. Galatians 3:13-14** *"Through Christ Jesus you might through faith receive the promise of the Spirit."*
- **The ability to be holy. Hebrews 12:12.** *"And so Jesus suffered...to make the people holy through the shedding of his blood."*
- **Able to partake of spiritual food and drink. John 6:54 & 63.** *"Whoever eats my flesh & drinks my blood has eternal life....The words that I have spoken to you are spirit & they are life."* Jesus is not telling his followers to literally eat his flesh & drink his blood. Those who believe that are in total error. Jesus said his words have spiritual meaning. We may know him inwardly.

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- **Deliverance from slavery & evil. Romans 6:6-7** *"We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin because anyone who has died has been freed from sin."*
- **To be equipped for God's purposes. Hebrews 13:20.** *"May the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant.....equip you with everything good for doing his will."*
- **Being a partaker of Christ's finished work.** Jesus shouted from the Cross, *"It is FINISHED."* (John 19:30). Everything to do with salvation is complete. We do not need Jesus **plus** anything else to save or deliver us.

LESSON 5

PRIORITIES

Four things are essential to every Christian. They are, faith, the word of God, prayer and obedience. As yeast is to bread so faith is to the other three. Faith is the energy that ignites the Word and prayer causing them to come alive. Faith makes way for obedience. Sadly, many settle for low level faith, living lives of grey mediocrity. (Averageness /commonplace).

FAITH.

- **Faith pleases God. Hebrews 11:6(a)** *"Without faith it is impossible to please God."* Therefore we are to live in faith. Just as a young child upon hearing the coaxing voice of his father will jump from a table into his father's arms, so God encourages us to jump into His arms.
- **Faith receives a reward. Hebrews 11:6(b).** *"He rewards those who diligently seek him."*
- **Faith believes and obeys. Hebrews 11:8.** *"By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive...obeyed and went."* **Galatians 5:6(b) – 7.** *"The only thing that counts is faith...Who cut in on you and prevented you from obeying the truth?"*
- **Faith always trusts God. Genesis 18:25(b).** *"Will not the judge of all the world do right?"* That is the final answer to every situation you may find yourself in. "God will do what is right in this matter." "I do not have to worry."
- **Faith knows God is always good. Romans 8:28.** *"In all things God works for the good of those who love him and are called and are called according to his purpose."*
- **Faith that pleases God is unshakeable.** It is one that believes totally and uncompromisingly in God's word. What God has said is FINAL. **Hebrews 10:38.** *"The righteous will live by faith."* **1 Corinthians 16:13.** *"Stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong."* **1 Timothy 6:12.** *"Fight the good fight of faith."* **Ephesians 6:11-13.** *"Stand against the devils schemes...stand your ground and when you have done all, stand."*

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- **Faith makes the impossible possible.** Faith partners with miracles. Expert medical diagnosis confirmed that my eldest son had no head when Colleen was into her eighth month of pregnancy. Yet he was born completely normal. Regarding the birth of Isaac, **Romans 4:18-20** says, *“Against all hope, Abraham in hope believed...Without weakening in faith he faced the fact that his body was as good as dead...yet he did not waiver through unbelief regarding the promise of God.”* The result was, Isaac was born even though Abraham was “too old”.
- **Faith reveals God.** “God revealed” is the ultimate goal of faith. Hence the walk of a Christian, no matter how long or short he/she may have been saved, is always one of faith. **Romans 17:1.** *“For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last.”*

PRAYER.

Why pray?

God is Sovereign. He can do anything He wishes at any time. Why does He need us to pray? Prayer is one way our Sovereign God releases His will into the world.

Man teaches us to be independent. God tells us to be dependent.

- **Dependent on Him.** Jesus, our example said, *“I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by himself.”* Only that done with God will last. *“No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine.”* (**John 15:4**)
- **Prayer reveals the will and heart of the Father.** Jesus said, *“I can only do what I see my Father doing.”* (**John 5:19**). Jesus was in complete unity with the Father’s heart carrying out all the Father’s wishes. Therefor Jesus could say, *“Philip if you have seen me you have seen the Father.”* (**Luke 14:9**).
- **Jesus put into action the Father’s will on earth. Matthew 6:10.** *“Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.”*
- **Acts 6:4. “We will give ourselves continually to prayer..” (NKJV)** This was the first response of the apostles to crisis. It was part of their daily lifestyle. The same should be said of us. *“Seek first the kingdom of God & his righteousness & all these things will be given to you also.”* (**Matthew 6:33**)
- **Prayer – Our safeguard.**
_Some years ago a friend was conducting a mission at Port Alfred. Although he had founded a large church he preferred to go around the country on his motor bike with a one-man tent and a few utensils on the back locating out-of-the-way communities where he would preach. One evening he slipped into a nature reserve near the sea to camp for the night. That night there was a terrific storm with colossal flashes of lightening. Next morning when calm had been restored he took a walk across the wet sea sand. The sea had returned to its calmness. As he walked he noticed something rolling in the surf. It was a killer whale. He wondered what it was doing there. The killer

whale is king of the ocean but there it was rocking back and forth, **food for seagulls and crabs**. Speaking to the whale he said, *“Hey you king of the sea, are you alive?”* and poked it in the eye. It was, so my friend set about struggling to turn the whale around to face the open water. When eventually he succeeded he slapped the whale on its side and said, *“Swim! Swim”* and continued his walk. A few hours later when he returned, there was the whale again on the beach. The light had gone out of its eyes. This time it was dead. The tide had gone out and left him as **food for seagulls and crabs**. Nowhere on that magnificent body was there a mark or wound to indicate how he had died. Why had he come here? The whale was not made for shallow water. So my friend sadly left him to be **food for seagulls and crabs**. He said, *“I thought of the many men of God who fell into sin – gifted men – great preachers. Why? What made them do it? We are made for the deep waters of prayer. In deep waters we are kings – over comers. Those who keep to deep waters can breathe and will never become victim to Satan’s snares, food for seagulls and crabs.”*

THE WORD OF GOD - THE BIBLE..

The Bible is God’s Word.

2 Timothy 3:16-17. *“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 thoroughly furnished unto all good works.”*

Jesus ELEVATED the Word. He often quoted Old Testament Scripture. He used it when confronted by the devil. **Matthew 4:1-11.** Jesus said, *“It is written.”*

The Word of God is part of our spiritual weaponry. Ephesians 6:17. *“Take the helmet of salvation & the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.”* USE IT.

Know the Word. 2 Timothy 2:15 *“Study to show yourself **approved** of God, a **workman** that need not to be ashamed, **rightly dividing** the word of truth.”* The concept is someone who is diligently working to get to the truth so that which is taught is completely accurate. Scripture must be compared with Scripture and agree with the overall teaching of the entire Bible. God can only approve that which is correctly interpreted. Then you will be effective.

The Word gives us faith.

Romans 10:17 *“Faith comes through hearing & hearing the Word of God.”* Hear the Word with “spiritual ears” then you will have faith to receive that which God has promised.

OBEDIENCE. (Personal notes. Message by Alan Parfitt)

Obedience to God & the Word is one of the most important responses we can have. Many live in defeat because they do not live in obedience. Without obedience you will suffer defeat after defeat.

Exodus 34:11 *“Obey what I command you....I will drive out...”*

Disciples Unlimited

Joshua 1:8 *“Be careful to do everything...THEN you will be prosperous & successful”* We often focus on driving out the enemy, but our focus should be obedience.

John 2:3. *“We **know** that we have come to **know him** if we **obey** his commands.”*

Obedience is hearing God and putting into practice what he says.

Matthew 7:24. *“Therefore every man who hears these words of mine and puts them into practise is like a wise man who built his house upon a rock.”* The Holy Spirit is essential to our obedience, therefore we need a living relationship.

Obedience will strengthen us for the next level.

Deuteronomy 11:8 *“Observe all the commands that I am giving you today, so that you might have strength to go in and take over the land...to possess”*

Obedience draws/attracts the blessing of God. Not because we deserve it. We can't buy God's blessing. **Deuteronomy 28 :1 – 2** *“If you fully obey the Lord your God...these blessings will come upon you...”* **Luke 11:28** *“Blessed are those who obey..”* Those are the ones who are blessed. Just obey. Don't argue. We may not see the immediate benefits, but obedience will draw the blessing.

Obedience combined with repentance turns cursing into blessing.

Deuteronomy 30:2 -3. *“And when you and your children return to the Lord your God and obey him with all your heart and with all your soul according to everything I commanded you today, then the Lord will restore your fortunes...”* Prayer is good and necessary, but you have to TURN or your prayers will not help. The demons have to be made to flee.

Obedience is the Weapon that Guarantees the Fulfilment of the Promises of God in our lives. **Joseph.** He obeyed but landed in a pit. Obeyed, but got Potiphar's house. Obeyed, and went to prison. The promise was hanging, but eventually obedience brought him to the king's palace.

Obedience contributes to our safety.

Leviticus 25 :18-19. *“Follow my decrees and be careful to obey my laws and you will live in safety in the land. Then the land will yield its fruit and you will eat your fill and live there in safety.”*

Obedience gives us confidence in our prayers.

1 John 3:21. *“If our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God and receive from him anything that we ask, because we obey his commands and do what pleases him.”*

LESSON 6

WATER BAPTISM

Historical Background.

The word “baptize” is not an English word. It is Greek. It was left in its original Greek form by the translators of the King James Version of the Bible as they did so as they did not wish to upset the

bishops of the Church of England who were engaged in the practice of “sprinkling”. Nor did they wish to upset the political climate of the day by giving the word its true meaning which means “to immerse” or “to dip”. So they left the word not translated. The Church of England in its rubric, (directions in its liturgical book as to how a church service should be conducted), prescribes baptism by immersion, but in practice performs the act of “sprinkling”. Other Bible translations for historic reasons have retained the word, “baptize”.

John Calvin, although stating time and time again baptism was by immersion, popularized “sprinkling” which his successors in the Presbyterian Church have continued up to today.

By In the following Scriptures we get a picture of what was happening when a person was baptized

Matthew 3:16 “And Jesus, when he was BAPTIZED (BAPTIZO) went up immediately **out of the water**: ...and the Spirit of God descended upon him...” In order to “come out of the water” he first had to get into it.

Acts 8:36-39. Tells of the conversion and baptism (by immersion) of the Ethiopian eunuch. In **verse 36** the eunuch says, “Look, here is water. Why shouldn’t I be” baptized?” Phillip replies, “If you believe with all your heart, you may” ..**Verse 38** tells us, “and they both went down **into the water**, both Phillip and the eunuch; and he BAPTIZED (BAPTIZO) him. And when they were come up **out of the water**, the Spirit of the Lord caught Phillip away.”(v 39)

John 3:23 “And John was BAPTIZING (BAPTIZO) in Aenon near to Salim **because there was much water there.**” If “sprinkling” was all that was required, then a cup of water would suffice for dozens of people. Not “**much water**”. It would be totally dishonest to try to explain away what was happening here other than to acknowledge what the Scripture is plainly telling us. “**Much water**” is needed for someone to be immersed. Further Jesus, the Ethiopian eunuch and many others plainly went “**into the water**” and came up “**out of the water.**”

Acts 16:13-15 tells us about Lydia’s conversion. Notice the connection between, “**river**”, **her conversion and her baptism.** It is specifically stated that Paul, Luke and perhaps some others “went outside the city gate to **the river.**” In the following verse we read, “The Lord **opened her heart to respond to the Lord’s message.** After which, (**verse 15**), she and the members of her household **were baptized**, she invited us to her home.”

Who May Be Baptized?

Baptism is for believers only. The practice known as “infant baptism” is totally unscriptural. Babies cannot fulfill the conditions of repentance & believing faith. Some try to justify the practice of “baby baptism” by referring to the “households” mentioned in **Acts 16:31-31** and **1 Corinthians 1:16**, the argument being that “households” would include babies. One cannot build a doctrine on assumption and what is NOT stated. To do so under any circumstance is inviting disaster.

The Scripture clearly states:

1. **Acts 2:37-39.** REPENT. *“Repent & be baptized.”*
2. **Mark 16:15-16** BELIEVE. *“Whoever believes & is baptized..”*
3. **Matthew 28: 19-20.** TEACH. *“Baptize them....Teach them to obey.”*
4. MEN & WOMEN. **Acts 8:12.** *“When they believed...the good news of the kingdom and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.”* In other words those who are born again and could *understand* what they were doing. Babies do not qualify.

Why Should I Be Baptized?

Baptism cannot save anybody. Only faith in and acceptance of the finished work of Jesus can do that. **John 6:47** Jesus said, *“He that believeth on me hath everlasting life”* (KJV) and Paul says, **Ephesians 2:8** *“By grace are you saved through faith...”*

Be baptized because:

- (i) Jesus was baptized. We follow his example.
- (ii) Jesus **commanded** it. **Matthew 28:19**, *“Go ye and make disciples of all men baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.”*
- (iii) It is a **public declaration** of conversion & faith in the Lord
- (iv) Baptism is a **source of blessing**. There is nothing magical about baptism that it has no saving merit, but every act of obedience brings blessing.

THE MEANING OF BAPTISM.

It is a way of showing we are SEPARATE from the world.

1 Corinthians 10: 1- 2. God **separated** Israel from Egypt at the Red Sea. Paul used this as an way of contrast, the Abyssinian church has all through history practised baptism by immersion. This is not surprising as the Ethiopian eunuch, Treasurer to Queen Candice was baptised by Phillip by immersion and was possibly the first member of the Christian church there.

How should we be baptized?

Baptism is by immersion. The Bible does not teach “sprinkling” or any other way.

The Greek words used to describe baptism or the act of baptism are, “BAPTIZO” or “EMBAPTO” or “BAPTO” depending on what was happening at the time and ensuring that correct grammar was used to describe the event. “Baptizo” is a causative Greek word. In other words it indicates that something is happening. Examples of this are found in **Matthew 28:19** *“Make disciples...baptizing them in the name of the Father etc.* See also, **John 3:23.**

Whenever any of these words are used they clearly indicate **“dipping”** or **“being covered over”** or **“immersion”**. In the following Scriptures the word “BAPTO” is used, which means **“to dip”** or **“fully cover over with a fluid.”**

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Luke 16: 24 The incident being referred to is the rich man in hell. *“And he cried and said, Father Abraham have mercy on me and send Lazarus that he may DIP (BAPTO) the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue...”*

John 13 :26 The sign Jesus gave as to who would betray him. *“He it is to whom I shall give a sop, when I have DIPPED (BAPTO) it..”*

Revelation 19:13. John’s description of Jesus. *“And he was clothed with a vesture DIPPED (BAPTO) in blood...”*

The equivalent word may be found in the Old Testament .

2 Kings 5:14 The story of how Naaman was cured of his leprosy. *“Then he went down, and DIPPED himself seven times in Jordan according to the saying of the man of God.”* See also : **2 Kings 8:15.**

example when urging Christians to be separate from the world. *“They were all baptized un Moses in the cloud and in the sea..”* Two things are being spoken of – separation and immersion
Matthew 3:15. Jesus said *“It is proper for us”* to do this to **fulfill all righteousness.** One of the ways we do this is to leave our old lives behind.

It is an outward sign of COVENANT between believers and God.

Colossians 2:11- 13. Verse 11 says, *“In whom also you were circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off of the body of sins in the flesh by the circumcision of Christ. Buried with him in baptism, wherein you are also risen with him through the faith of the operation of God..”*

Under the Old Covenant the flesh of the Jew was cut. Circumcision was a sign of belonging to God. Flesh was separated from flesh and in so doing **blood** was spilt. Paul was teaching that under the New Covenant **our baptism** proclaims our separation from *the body of sins in the flesh*. For this to happen blood also had to be shed but in this case **the blood of Jesus**. Paul refers to it as a *circumcision made without hands*. Our covenant is **not** shown by being circumcised, but through a “spiritual circumcision” of our hearts at our baptism.

It is our declaration that we stand clear from the SYSTEMS OF THE WORLD.

John 12:31-32 Jesus said, *“Now is the judgement of this world; now shall the prince of this world be cast out.”* Behind the tangible world is the intangible. Satan opposes God not only through sin and carnality, but by every worldly thing.

1 John 5:19. *“We know that we are of God and the whole world lies in wickedness.”* Behind the system there is a mind. Christians need to be clear that we are in the world BUT WE ARE NOT OF IT

but like Abraham we look forward to the city with foundations whose builder and maker is God (Hebrews 11 :10).

Practically it means that we do not get mixed up in corruption or drawn into doubtful practices.

It speaks of our personal identification with Jesus in his DEATH, BURIAL and RESURRECTION. The old sinful life and nature is dead. I am **not** the person I was.

Romans 6 :6-7. *“For we know that **our old self was crucified** with him so that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin – because anyone that **has died** has been freed from sin.”*

Baptism is openly declaring that we have received NEW LIFE through Christ.

Romans 6 :1-5. (v4) *“All of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death. We are therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live **a new life.**” (N.I.V.)*

Baptism is the symbolic response of a “good conscience toward God”.

A “good conscience is one that has been cleansed by the blood of Christ.

1 Peter 3:21. *“This water symbolises baptism that now saves you – **NOT** the removal of dirt from the body but the **pledge of a good conscience toward God.**”*

The formulae used in baptism.

- **This has frequently been an issue of dispute.** The question asked. Do we use, *In the name (singular) of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, or In the name of Jesus?* Actually makes **no difference** since *in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form.* **Col.2:**
- **The word “in” is more correct if translated “into”.**
Greek. *“In”*. The primary preposition used indicates **the point reached or entered** and hence **“into”** is more correct, as when we are baptized we are indicating that we have reached the point where we have **entered into** new life. **Acts 8:16; 10:48; 19:15** indicate that when new converts were baptised, they were baptized **into the name of the Lord Jesus**. That would have been natural as Jesus was their point of entry into new life.

“Into the name of Father, Son and Holy Spirit” (Matthew 28:19) is preferable because of the completeness of the name of God.

LESSON 7.

THE HOLY SPIRIT

The disciples of Jesus were **undeniably saved before** the Day of Pentecost. They had literally seen the resurrected Jesus and been with him 40 days before his ascension. But only on the Day of Pentecost were they and others were baptized in the Holy Spirit..

The baptism in the Holy Spirit is a separate experience to either Salvation or baptism in water.

Acts 2:38 “*Repent*”.....“*be baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus* *receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.*’ Baptism in water and the Holy Spirit were expected to follow very closely after being “born again”.

Acts 8:12-17. “*They believed Phillip as he preached the good news of the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus and they were baptized both men and women.*” Then, (verse 14 & 15), “*The apostles sent Peter and John to them. When they arrived, they prayed that they might receive the Holy Spirit, because the Holy Spirit had not come upon them; they had simply been baptize into the name of the Lord Jesus.*” **Acts 19 :1-6** “*Did you receive the Holy Spirit after you believed?*”

The Purpose of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit.

Is to give believers power for service. To make you a more effective witness for the Lord Jesus. **Acts 1:8** “*You shall receive power after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me...*”

What the baptism in the Holy Spirit is NOT.

- **The baptism in the Holy Spirit is not REGENERATION. (The new birth.)** One cannot receive the baptism unless one is a child of God. **John 14:16 17,** “*And I will give you another Comforter...even the Spirit of truth, whom the world (the unsaved) cannot receive..*”
- **The baptism in the Holy Spirit is not SANCTIFICATION.** To be “sanctified” means to be “set apart” or “made holy” This is not about a life of holiness. Jesus was baptized with the Holy Spirit at the start of His ministry. (**Matt. 3:16**) did not make Him any holier.
- **The baptism in the Holy Spirit is not NEW LIGHT on the Word.** The two disciples who met the resurrected Jesus on the way to Emmaus received new revelation on the Scripture. **Luke 24:7.** “*And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the Scripture the things concerning himself.*” They received “new light” but they still had to wait with the others in the upper room.
- **It is not a new awareness of the NEARNESS OF THE LORD.** Many have burned with a tremendous sense of the presence of the Lord, for example, the Emmaus disciple “*Weren’t our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road?*” They did not receive the baptism at that time.
- **It is not a NEW FOUND JOY.** Following the news of the resurrection from the angel at the tomb the two Mary’s are “*filled with fear and great joy.*” “*Suddenly Jesus met them (Matthew 28:8-9).*” They run to the disciples with the news. However even with that knowledge and joy, they still had to wait, (as did the disciples to whom Jesus appeared see **John 20:19-29**), until the Day of Pentecost, to be filled.

What the Baptism in the Holy Spirit IS

- **A baptism.** It is immersion in the Holy Spirit. **Matt. 3:11.** *“He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit .”*
- **Being filled.** *“They were all **filled** with the Holy Spirit”.* **Acts 2:4.**
- **Clothed.** *“**Clothed upon** with heavenly power.”* **Luke 24:49**
- **Receiving power.** *“You shall **“receive power** after the Holy Ghost is come upon you.”* **Acts 1:8**
- **An anointing.** **1 John 27.** *“The **anointing** you received from him remains in you.”*
- **Being sealed.** **Ephesians 1:13. (Amp.)** *“Stamped with the seal of the long-promised Ho Spirit.”*

Conditions for Receiving the Baptism.

1. **Repentance.** **Acts 2:38** *“Repent”.*
2. **Rebirth.** **Eph. 1:13.** *“**After you believed** you were sealed with the Holy Spirit..”* (Acts 8:12-17).
3. **Obedience.** **Acts 5:32.** *“The Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who **obey** Him*
4. **Prayer.** **Luke 11:13.** *“How much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those that **ask** him.”*
5. **Faith** **Galatians 3:14** *“We might receive the promise of the Spirit through **faith.**”*

Method for Receiving the Baptism.

The Holy Spirit is given through the risen and exalted Christ.

Matt. 3:11 *“He shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost & with fire.”*

Acts 2: 33 *“Exalted to the right hand of God, he has received from the Father the promised Ho Spirit and poured out what you now see and hear.”*

The Holy Spirit is given as a "gift". This is important to appreciate.

Acts 2:38. *“You shall receive **the gift** of the Holy Spirit.”* **A gift** is something that is **freely give**
We do not have to **beg** and **plead**. The Holy Spirit cannot be purchased.

Acts 8:20. *“The gift of God.”* and compare **Acts 11:17.** *“The same gift.”* That is, the same gift the disciples received on the Day of Pentecost.

The Holy Spirit can be received while hearing the Word.

Disciples Unlimited

Three things happened when Peter went to Cornelius' house and preached to the Gentile gathered there.

1. They believed the gospel. **Acts 10:34-43.**

2. To the astonishment of everyone the Holy Spirit is poured out. **Verse 44-45.** *"While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit came on all who heard the message. How did the Jewish believers know? Verse 46. "For they heard them speaking in tongues and praising God"*

A very similar scene was witnessed while preaching in Watford, England in 1957 when a group of Plymouth Brethren Bible students received the Holy Spirit and spontaneously began to speak in tongues. Plymouth Brethren are soundly saved but do not believe in tongues!!

3. After having received the Holy Spirit the new believers were baptized in water. **(vs.47)** This answers the question that a person does not have to be baptized first in water before receiving the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit given by the laying on of hands.

Acts 8:17. *"Then they (Peter & John) laid their hands on them & they received the Holy Ghost."*

The Holy Spirit given through others, besides the apostles.

Acts 9:17 *"Then Ananias went to the house and entered it. Placing his hands on Saul, he said, 'Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus...has sent me so that you may see again & be filled with the Holy Ghost.'"*

Evidence of the Baptism.

The Scriptures teach a definite experience. They were EXPECTED TO KNOW.

Acts 19:2 *"Have you received the Holy Ghost since you believed?"*

Proof of this New Testament experience was accompanied by a physical manifestation. (Sign, expression, demonstration.)

This evidence, (proof, confirmation), could be SEEN and HEARD.

Acts 2:33 *"Having received of the Father the promised Holy Ghost, he has shed forth this which you now see and hear."*

This spectacular evidence convinced Simon the sorcerer something supernatural was happening when Peter and John prayed for the new converts at Samaria. **Acts 8:18** *"When Simon saw that through the laying on of the apostles' hands the Holy Ghost was given, he offered them money..."*

The New Testament evidence was the speaking in tongues

It was the one NEW sign in Scripture. Mark 16:17 -18. *"They shall speak in new tongues."* It was a sign that God was doing something completely new to that previously done.

It was a sign that fulfilled prophecy.

Isa. 28:11. *“With foreign lips and strange tongues God will speak to this people.”*

1 Corinthians 14: 21-22. Paul quotes this verse and says, *“Tongues then are a sign...”* See **Joel 2:28.** On the Day of Pentecost the believers were speaking in tongues and praising God. When Peter was questioned as to what was taking place he answered, *“This is that which was spoken of by the prophet Joel.”*

- **It was the common sign on the Day of Pentecost.** They all spoke with other tongues. **Acts 2:4.**
- **It was the evidence that convinced skeptical Jewish believers** that God had opened the door of salvation to the Gentiles. See **Acts 11:15 – 17** ...Note the words *“the like gift.”*

The Baptism in the Holy Spirit is for all believers.

Acts 2:39. *“The promise is for you and for your children and for all who are afar off – for all whom the Lord our God shall call.”*

SEEK THE HOLY SPIRIT. NOT TONGUES. TONGUES AUTOMATICALLY FOLLOW those who are Spirit baptized.

LESSON 8

SIGNS AND WONDERS

There are signs and wonders in both the Old and New Testaments.

God does not change. The New Testament Lord is the same as the Old Testament Lord, but His revelation to men is much more glorious since Jesus came.

The Power behind the miracles of the Old Testament is the same as that of the New. The “signs and wonders” of the Old Testament are manifestations of the “Gifts of the Holy Spirit” in the New

In the old dispensation God’s gifts were given to chosen individuals for specific purpose however, **in the new dispensation** those gifts of the Holy Spirit are distributed to those who are baptized in the Holy Spirit – to all who will believe for them, for *“the manifestation of the Spirit given to all to profit withal,”* (**1 Cor. 12:7**) to be operated generally speaking by the possessor of the will of the Holy Spirit.

God wants us to understand who we are NOW. **1 John 3:2** *“Beloved, now are we the sons of God, partakers of His divine nature.”* As children of God we are partakers – **now** – of His mighty miraculous power. He wants us to be effective **now**.

Supernatural Equipment.

- **God’s intention is that His people should be enlightened concerning the miraculous Gifts of the Spirit.** **1 Corinthians 12:1.** *“Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I would not have you ignorant.”* Paul is not challenging the existence of the Gifts. The Corinthians knew all about them. He challenges their uses, employment and control.

- **There are different Gifts but only One Giver. 1 Corinthians 12:4** *"Now there are diversities of gifts but the same Spirit."*
- **Spiritual gifts are given** *"to each one, just as the Spirit determines."*
- **We are exhorted to** *"eagerly desire the best spiritual gifts"* **1 Corinthians 12:30.**

LESSON 9

GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

The gifts of the Holy Spirit should not be clothed with "mysticism". They should be seen as a natural progression following the baptism in the Holy Spirit and seeking after God. The Gifts of the Spirit are **all supernatural** and not natural as some teach, for then they would be gifts possessed by men and not gifts of the Holy Spirit.

THE WORD OF WISDOM

Wisdom and knowledge are related. Natural wisdom is the *"ability to apply possessed knowledge and experience."* The relationship between supernatural Wisdom and Knowledge is roughly the same as between natural wisdom and knowledge.

God knows all things, but he also knows how he is going to achieve his objective regardless what happens. **That is His wisdom.**

The "Word of Wisdom" operates in a Spirit filled believer's life, when God sovereignly and supernaturally takes a little of His divine wisdom and places it in the mind of the believer so that the believer acts or speaks in such a way to accomplish God's purpose or plan.

Scriptural Examples.

- 1. To warn and guide people concerning future judgment or peril.**
Genesis 6:13-22. *"God said to Noah, "I am going to put to an end to all people...I am sure going to destroy them...so make yourself an ark." God's knowledge of future peril conveyed without the intermediary of man and His wisdom in providing a solution.*
- 2. To reveal God's plans in those He was going to use.**
Genesis 12:16 and 28-41. A Word of Wisdom to appoint a leader, save a people and institute dispensation.
- 3. To assure servants of God of their divine commission.**
Exodus 3:10. Moses. *"I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt."*
Acts 26 :16. Paul. *"Now get up and stand on your feet for I have appeared to you to appoint you as a servant and a witness of what you have seen of me and what I will show you."*
- 4. To reveal the acceptable order and manner of divine worship.**
God's people had recently come out of the idolatrous influences of Egypt. The Tabernacle was set up not only to guide Israel in their present circumstances but to foreshadow the coming and ministry of Christ. *"See that you make all things after the pattern that was shown to you in the Mount."* **Exodus 35.** That was God's wisdom.

5. **To convince Peter, a fanatical Judaist, soaked in strict legalism** of the glorious truth that God loved the Gentiles and that God's plan throughout the ages had been that Jesus would die for them as well. The Gentiles were not to be regarded as untouchable and beyond the reach of God forbidden as certain animals were to the diet of the Jews.; "unclean." **Acts 10:9-16.** *"Get up Peter. Kill and eat....Do not call anything impure that God has made clean."*
6. **To assure of coming deliverance in the midst of calamity.** **Acts 27:23.** *"Do not be afraid, Paul. You must stand trial before Caesar".*
7. **To reveal the will of God in all His commands and ordinances.** Every, "You shall" or "You shall not" is the gracious unfolding of the eternal purpose to take us to the place God would have us go.
8. **To give personal guidance in special circumstances** – It does not take the place of human judgment in ordinary circumstances.

THE WORD OF KNOWLEDGE. 1 Corinthians 12:8

God possesses all knowledge. He knows about everything in heaven and earth. The Word of Knowledge is the revelation to man by His Spirit of some details of that All-Knowledge.

The "Word of Knowledge" is when a Spirit filled believer receives supernatural knowledge from God of some God event or circumstance which could not possibly be naturally known. It is God's knowledge imparted to the mind.

Scriptural examples of the Word of Knowledge.

- 1 To warn a king of an enemy's plan of destruction. **2 Kings 6: 9-12.**
- 2 To enlighten and encourage a discouraged servant of God. **1 Kings 19:14-18.**
- 3 To expose a hypocrite. **2 Kings 5: 20-27**
- 4 To convince a sinner of the need for a Saviour. **John 4:18,19,29.**
- 5 To discover a man in hiding. **1 Samuel 10:22**
- 6 To show a man in need. **Acts 9:11.**
- 7 To reveal corruption in the church. **Acts 5:3**
- 8 To indicate a suitable place for a meeting of God's people. **Mark 14:13-15**
- 9 To know men's thoughts. John 2: 24 ; **1 Samuel 9:19**

DISCERNMENT OF SPIRITS. 1 Corinthians 12:10

All Christians should have some measure of discernment, or be possessed of the ability to make spiritual judgments. For example. When Jesus addressed Peter as "Satan" in **Matthew 16:21-22** it was not because Peter was Satan or that he was possessed by Satan. It was a **spiritual judgment** made by Jesus based on what Peter had said. We are all able to make judgments one kind or other based upon what we see or hear. **The discernment of spirits is not that.**

“Discern” is the “ability to see through’ “to look beyond.” **Discernment of spirits is a God imparted ability given to an individual at a special moment so that it can be known if person or circumstances are driven by an evil spirit.**

Why this gift is Important.

1.To discern the source of spirit activity and safeguard the work of God. Satan desires imitate the Holy Spirit. He operates pretending to be the Holy Spirit and in this way bring contention, division confusion and frustration. **2 Thessalonians 2:9** speaks of, “*Signs and lying wonders*” **2 Corinthians 11:13** Discerning false ministries. “*For there are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ.*”

2 To discern if a person is sick or possessed. A great deal of sickness is due demonical power. There are cruel and tormenting spirits. **Mark 5:5;** “*And always, night and day he was in the mountains, and in the tombs, crying and cutting himself with stones.*” There a times when the demon needs to be cast out first, then healing/deliverance comes. **Luke 9:3** **Matthew 12 :22** “*Then was brought to him (Jesus) one possessed with a devil, blind and dumb..*” **Mark 9:17 & 25** “*Master I have brought unto thee my son, which hath a dumb spirit*”....*Jesu rebuked the foul spirit, saying. .”You dumb and deaf spirit, I command you, come out of him and enter no more into him.”* **Luke 13:11& 16...**“*spirit of infirmity...*” Ordinary praying will not bring deliverance. **See Mark 16:17-18.** “*In my name...they will cast out devils.*”

3 To discern the causes of friction. Many times churches, places and situations that are continual strife. **James 3:14 & 15.** “*But if you have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth. This “wisdom” does not come down from above, but is earthly sensual and devilish.*”

4. To expose believable error. A lot of modern preaching “sounds good” but it is wrong unbiblical. “*Seducing spirits*” and “*Lying spirits,*” are responsible for “*doctrines of devils.*” **Timothy 4 :1-2; :2 Peter 2:1**

5. To unmask demon miracle workers. Where there is the real, there will also be counterfeit. Witch doctors would fall into this category. Satanic “*signs and lying wonders*” **Thessalonians 2:9**

THE GIFT OF FAITH

There is a difference between **faith, the gift of the Spirit** and **faith, the fruit of the Spirit of Christ.** **Galatians 5:22** speaks of the fruits of the Spirit of Christ or those things that are fruits in believers life such as “*love, joy, peace, patience.*” *Faith* is one of the fruits mentioned. It is the kind of faith for daily living and is the kind that pleases God. **The Gift of Faith** is for times when events demand the extraordinary, e.g. When Moses stood and divided the Red Sea.

GIFTS OF HEALING.

This has nothing to do with doctors or medical ability. **This is the supernatural transference of healing power from God to the one being prayed for.** The term “gifts” (plural) and not “gift” (singular) is used because while each person receiving prayer has their own individual need for healing that need would not necessarily be the same for others. Hence God gives “gifts”.

WORKING OF MIRACLES.

1 Corinthians 12:10. *“To another the working of miracles.”* A miracle is when natural laws are replaced by supernatural. e.g. The multiplying of the loaves and fish to feed a multitude, **Matthew 6:30-44** or stilling the storm. **Matthew 8:24-27.**

THE GIFT OF PROPHECY. 1 Corinthians 12:10

This gift belongs to the group of the Holy Spirit gifts of “Utterance” or speech. The other two in the group are, “Tongues” and “Interpretation of Tongues.”

Prophecy, in its simplest form, is a divinely inspired and anointed utterance, in a language that will be understood. The word “**prophecy**” comes from the Hebrew “**Naba**” which means, “**to flow or bubble forth**” which describes prophecy in action. It is a manifestation of the Spirit of God and not the human mind. **(1 Cor. 12:7).** It is a gift that may be possessed by all who have been baptised in the Holy Spirit, *“for you may all prophesy one by one.”* **(1 Cor. 14:31).**

Prophecy is for “**exhortation/strengthening, edification and comfort.**” **(1 Corinthians 14:3).** It is not for condemnation or so called “exposure of sin” or “guidance” and should not be confused with the ministry gift of a prophet. (See Lesson 10). The human will and faith are active in prophecy, but not the human intellect. Therefore it does not matter from whom the prophecy comes. He can be a philosopher or a farm worker, since its pronouncement comes with the same divine authority. Because of this we can be sure that prophecy will provide much opportunity for manipulation of others by the enemy. That is why the Scripture tells us to **judge prophecies.** **1 Thes. 5:21,** *“test everything”.*

THE GIFT OF TONGUES

Public use of tongues constitutes the “Gift of Tongues”. If this gift is used in the church it should be accompanied by an interpretation. As in prophecy and the interpretation of tongues the human will and faith are in operation. God does not overpower or force anyone to speak in tongues, Tongues is speaking under the anointing of the Holy Spirit in a language that has **never been learned** by the one speaking and mostly is not understood by the hearers.

Tongues may also be used privately. Private use is for personal edification, **1 Corinthians 14:4,** *“edifies himself”*, or for times when we do not know how to pray. **Romans 8:26.** *“The Spirit”*

helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express."

INTERPRETATION OF TONGUES

Mostly, this gift is the interpretation (not the translation) of the utterance in tongues, so hearers may understand and be edified. Therefore, one person, when interpreting a message in tongues may say, *"It is God who sees into the depths of the human heart. He sees and saves those in trouble."* Another might say, *"The Lord knows all things. Don't be dismayed for He will lift you up blessings will be upon you."* Basically, both say the same thing. The wording is different, but both "interpret" the mind of the Holy Spirit.

Note again. All those who have been baptized in the Holy Spirit should receive some gift or gift since the Scripture tells us that *"the manifestation of Holy Spirit is given to every man to profit withal."*(1 Cor. 12:7)

LESSON 10

GIFT MEN TO THE CHURCH

God has given gift men to the church. Ephesians 4:11 *"And He gave some, apostles; and some prophets; and some, evangelists; & some, pastors and teachers."*

What were they given for? *"For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ..."*

How long were they to do this? *"Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ."* other words, their ministry would be ongoing & hence we would expect their ministry to be in the church today.

There is a Difference between the original 12 apostles & apostles today.

False teachers claim that their so called "apostles" are the same in authority & revelation as those who walked with Jesus. They use this to manipulate people to serve their own ends.

The twelve apostles of the Lamb are those who **lived during the time of Jesus** and were appointed by him. They were the ones mentioned in **Matthew 10:2**; *"Simon (who is called Peter) and his brother Andrew; James the son of Zebedee and his brother John; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James the son of Alphaeus and Thaddaeus; Simon the zealot and Judas who betrayed him."*

Judas was originally included with the 12, however after Judas fell, a replacement had to be found. **See Acts 1:15-26.** Peter acts as spokesman. After having summarized the position he

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says, *“It is necessary to choose one of the men who have been with us **all the time the Lord went in and out among us**, beginning from John’s baptism to the time he was taken up from us **FOR ONE OF THESE** must become a witness with us of his resurrection.”*

To qualify one would have to have been **one of those who accompanied Jesus during his ministry and have seen him in the flesh**. The apostles of the Lamb occupy a **unique place** in history. Those who claim that their so called “apostles” have the same authority as the original twelve are lying deceivers.

As we proceed to identify those men spoken about in Ephesians 4:11 we note:

Scripture never gives these men titles. They are never described as Apostle Paul or Evangelist Phillip, or Prophet Barnabus or Teacher Simeon. It was, *“Paul, called to be an apostle of Jesus Christ...” (1 Corinthians 1:1)*, *“Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle...(Romans 1:1)*, *“Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ...(2 Corinthians 1:1)*, *“Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God...(Ephesians 1:1)* and so on. NEVER Apostle Paul. Similarly, Philip is referred to as an evangelist in **Acts 21:8**, where we read, *“We entered into the house of Phillip the evangelist..”* **See also Acts 13:1**

Titles elevate the person who bares them. **Job 32:21** says, *“Neither let me give flattering title unto man..”* Those using the title of Apostle, Prophet or Evangelist whatever his name is, a being unscriptural. It draws attention to them and that is wrong.

How do we identify these men? We do so by looking at Scripture and seeing what **function** they fulfill in the body of Christ.

Note. All these ministries carry with them a special anointing from God.

How can we identify the men spoken of in Ephesians 4:11?

Apostles are CHURCH FOUNDERS. “Apostle” means “one sent forth”.

He will open and establish churches where there has been no witness before. (Today, we have many who have given themselves the title of “Apostle” who have never founded a single church.) **1 Corinthians 3:10.** Paul said, *“I laid the foundation...”* **Romans 15:20.** *“It has always been my ambition to preach the gospel where Christ was not know so I would not be building on someone else’s foundation.*

Marks of one with an apostolic gifting. See **1 Corinthians 2:2--4.** *“Not just with wise or persuasive words but with a demonstration of the Spirit’s power.”*
2 Corinthians 12:12 *“The things that mark an apostle – signs, wonders and miracles...”*

Prophets are CHURCH SEERS.

One should not confuse this gifting with the Gift of prophecy spoken of in 1 Corinthians 12. This is something that is completely different. Those gifted with prophetic ministries would seem to

fulfill either one or both of two roles. One would be to exhort, i.e. encourage/build up believers and the other to “forth tell”.

Prophets provide spiritual vision to the church.

They did this by encouraging and strengthening believers. In **Acts 15:32** we read of *Judas and Silas*, who are described as “prophets”. They “*said much to strengthen and encourage the brothers*”. They gave direction to the believers.

Prophets, operate in the gifts of the “Word of Knowledge” or the “Word of Wisdom”. For example, Agabus. (**Acts 11:27**). “*Agabus, stood up and through the Spirit predicted that a severe famine would spread throughout the entire Roman world. (This happened during the reign of Claudius).*”

Phillip had four *unmarried daughters who prophesied*. (**Acts 21:9**). Bible commentator, Gill says of these women, “they were endowed with a gift of foretelling future events, as was promised such should have in Gospel times in **Joel 2:28**”

It has been said of such people that they need to work alongside a pastor and a teacher. A pastor or shepherd to prevent them from becoming too harsh and a teacher to keep them Biblically on track.

Evangelists are CHURCH REAPERS

Example. Phillip. (**Acts 8:4-8**) A true evangelist is someone who has a special gifting when preaching the gospel.

They” seemingly easily” win souls for Jesus. Modern day examples would be Billy Graham and Reinhard Bonnke. Thousands respond when they give the invitation to “*Repent and come to Jesus,*” We could say exactly the same words and perhaps only a few would respond. Why? It is all dependent on God’s special gifting in this area.

All are to preach the gospel. Share the “good news”. **2 Timothy 4:2-5**, “*Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season*”.... “**Do the work of an evangelist.**” Jesus said, “*Go into all the world and preach the gospel to everyone.*” (**Mark 16:15**) There is no “out of season” or not being in “the right place”. Fulfill God’s command. The gift, the anointing and the results are God’s - not ours.

Pastors/Elders are CHURCH LEADERS

Comparing Scripture with Scripture it will be easily seen that the terms elder, pastor, bishop and overseer refer to the same office.

- **Titus 1:5**, “*I left you in Crete, that you should set in order the things that are wanting and ordain elders.*” Verse 7 says, “*For a bishop must be blameless, as the steward of God.*”

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These terms are used interchangeably in the same context. Hence an elder and a bishop is the same person.

- Similarly in **Acts 20:17**, Paul “called for the **elders** of the church” in Ephesus. Verse 27 says, “Take heed therefore unto yourselves and to all the flock over which the Holy Spirit has made you **overseers** to **feed** the flock of God” Elders or overseers were to feed the flock. The Greek for “pastor” is “poimen”, meaning “shepherd” or “feeder”.

Hence, “pastor”, “elder”, bishop and “overseer” refer to the same office. This is not a religious order of promotion.

The church is led by elders. Please note Paul called for the “elders” (plural) of the church; not the “elder” (singular), or “the” Pastor. Not the **one man** (singular) who has all the say. “Called for the **elders** (plural) of the church” in Ephesus

The elders are responsible for the running of the church. **Hebrews 13:17 (K.J.V)** say “obey them that have the rule over you” or as the N.I.V. puts it, “Obey your leaders and submit their authority.”

The duties of elders are five fold. They are,

1. Ruling – 1 Timothy 5:17 “The elders who direct the affairs of the church..”
2. Teaching. 1 Timothy 5:17
3. Equipping others to do the work of the ministry. Ephesians 4:11-12
4. Praying for the sick. James 5:14
5. Exhorting and refuting dissidents. Titus 1:13.

Teachers are CHURCH EDUCATORS.

These men are especially gifted by the Holy Spirit with spiritual insight in that through systematic exhaustive study of Scripture they are particularly gifted in correctly interpreting and expounding the truth of Scripture in an orderly way.

LESSON 11.

HEALING

One of the Covenant names of God is “**Jehovah Ropheka**”, “*The Lord who Heals*”. **Exodus 15:26** but that does not mean that He will heal in all circumstances. Christian’s trust in the goodness and judgment of the Father and know what the Father does, or does not do, is always right.

The origin of sickness and disease can be traced to the fall of man. God warned Adam and Eve that disobedience to His commands would bring death. **Genesis 2:17** .“*For in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.*” Disobedience to God opened the door for Satan to introduce sin, sickness, suffering and death to the human race. In heaven there will be total restoration for man. “*God will wipe every tear from their eyes*” (**Rev.7:17**) and “*the last enemy to be destroyed*”

is death.” (1 Cor.15:26). Were God *always* to heal it would mean that many would never die which would be contrary to what God said when warning Adam & Eve. “*You shall **sure** die.*”(Genesis 2:17).

Healing and the Atonement are linked together.

They are “twins”. **Isaiah 53:4-5 (Amp)** “*Surely He has borne our grief – sickness, weakness distress – and carried our sorrows & pain...He was wounded for our transgressions. He was bruised for our guilt & iniquities, the chastisement needful to obtain peace & wellbeing for us was upon Him & with the stripes that wounded Him we are healed & made whole.*”

Prophecy fulfilled. 1 Peter 2:24. “*He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sin and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed*”

God’s will and healing. It is God’s will to heal. It was a question asked only once and was settled by Jesus once and for all when he healed the leper. **Mark 1:40-41.** “*A man with leprosy came to him and begged him on his knees, “If you are willing you can make me clean.”...”I am willing”...”Be clean.’ Jesus healed all. Matt.8:16.* “*He drove out spirits with a word and healed ALL the sick.*” No one was ever turned away.

The gospel carries healing. Jesus healed the sick and whole communities turned. We the church carry this authority. No one else. Signs and wonders follow the Word. This is not about you or your reputation. The Word has to be known and understood.

Jesus commanded believers to pray for the sick. To do what he did.

Mark 16:17-18. “*Go into all the world and preach the gospel...and these signs will follow those who believe...they will lay hands on the sick and they will recover.*”

Our part is to obey & do what Jesus said. The results are His.

Hindrances to Healing

- **The paralysis of religion.** Laws of man overriding the mercy of God. The Jewish leaders told Jesus you can’t heal on the Sabbath. Religious background can be a hindrance. Healing is holy. **Luke 13:10.** Jesus often healed on the Sabbath.
- **The paralysis of past history.** Digging into the past to justify the present or the future. God wants you healed so he may be glorified. Repent of those things that are holding back your healing. **Romans 12:1.** “*Present your body to God as a living sacrifice*”

Practical Directions when praying for someone’s Healing.

- **The prayer of faith, James 5:15** *will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise him up if he has sinned, he will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for*

each other that you may be healed.” Healing is in the church. Find out if there is sin, call for the elders, have them anoint with oil. Body and soul healed together. Don’t give up. Persistent believing God will do what he has said.

- **Know who you are representing.** Prepare yourself.
- **Compassion Mark 1:41.** *“Filled with compassion Jesus reached his hand.”* You can teach compassion. It has to be learned.
- **Laying on of hands. Hebrews 6:2** Transmission of power. Not just a transmission of blessing. We are at war!
- **Rebuke the cause.** Speak to the root of the sickness. **Matthew 21:19.** Jesus spoke to the root of the fig tree and it withered.
- **Pray, “in the Name of Jesus”.** **John 16:23.** *“Whatever you ask the Father in my name He will give to you.”* This is not a magic formulae, but you come in the authority of the King.

Practical Direction for those receiving healing.

- Commit your body to Him & claim His promise.
- Be fully persuaded of God’s Word in the matter.
- Be fully assured of the will of God to heal you.
- Be right with God.
- Act your faith. **Mark 2;11.** Jesus heals the paralytic. *“I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home.”* (NIV). *“Arise and walk.”*

LESSON 12.

THE RETURN or SECOND COMING OF JESUS.

Be ready for the Lord’s return. There are two main opinions regarding the return of Jesus. One is the “Rapture”, i.e. the belief that those who are saved will be caught away before various prophesied judgments take place on earth, then, once these have been completed, return with Jesus to reign with him. Others believe that both the saved and unsaved will be on earth when Jesus returns. An Afrikaner lady who once lived in Volksrust, KZN would say when opening the curtains of her home at the beginning of each day, “Maybe today Lord; maybe today.” And each & every evening as she closed them for the night would say, Maybe tonight Lord; maybe tonight. We too should be like her. Jesus can come at any time.

When Our Lord’s disciples asked Jesus, after his resurrection, **when he would return** Jesus responded by saying, *“It is **not for you to know the times or dates** the Father has set by his own authority. But **you shall receive power** after the Holy Spirit has come upon you and **you shall be my witnesses to all nations.**”* (**Acts 1:8**). Some have fallen into the trap of guessing at dates, trying to determine when Jesus will return. This is error. Jesus told us to be **continually ready**, to be filled with His Spirit & carry out his will until He comes.

BE READY. Jesus’ coming is a FACT. The Second Coming of Jesus Christ to earth is, without doubt, the most important future event of the New Testament. **Read Matthew 24 & Mark 13. His coming will be:**

- **Personal.** **John 14:3** *“I will come back & take you to be with me where I am.”*
 - **Literal.** **Acts 1:10-11** *“This same Jesus who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way as you have seen him go.”*
 - **Visible.** **1 Thes. 4:16** *“The Lord himself will descend from heaven”*
 - **Glorious.** **Zechariah 14:4** *“On that day his feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, east of Jerusalem & the Mount of Olives will be split in two from east to west, forming a great valley.”*
- **CHRIST WILL COME TO REIGN. Revelation 11:15.** *“The kingdom of this world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ & he shall reign forever & ever”*

To subdue rebels. Psa. 2:9. *“You will rule them with an iron scepter. You will dash them to pieces like pottery.”* **2 Thessalonians 1:7-9.** *“He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord...on the day he comes to be glorified.”*

To destroy the Anti-Christ. 2 Thessalonians 2:8. *“And then the lawless one will be revealed whom the Lord Jesus will destroy with the breath of his mouth and destroy by the splendor of his coming.”*

The Anti-Christ spirit is already in the world. **1 John 4-3.** *“Every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not of God. This is the spirit of the antichrist.”*

To people we add governments who have promoted their own legislation above the Word of God and in many instances nullified God’s commands.

There is a final Anti-Christ. **See 2 Thes. 2:3.** He is referred to as *“the man of lawlessness*. He will arise in the last days and assume great power politically, **see Daniel 7:8;** commercially, **see Revelation 13: 16-17** He will be anti-God and anti-Christ, and will persecute believers in an attempt to destroy Christianity. **Daniel 7:25 & 8:24; Revelation 13:7 and 15.**

However the same Scriptures assure us that God will triumph and that upon the ruins of the anti-Christ world empire the Lord Jesus will establish his own rule where the kingdom of God is supreme. **Daniel 2:34 -35 & 44; Revelation 11:15 and 19:11-21.**

- **CHRIST WILL RETURN TO JUDGE. 2 Timothy 4:1.** *“Christ Jesus will judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom I give you this charge: Preach the word...”*

People in all nations. Matthew 25:31-41 *“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his throne in heavenly glory. All the nations will be gathered before him and he will separate the people one from another....To some he will say, “Come you blessed of the Lord.” TO OTHERS, “Depart from me.”*

To bring peace. Isaiah 2:4. *“He will judge between the nations and settle the disputes of many peoples. They will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore.”* (See Psalm 72:7 & Isaiah 11:9).

Those who reject him will mourn. Revelation 1:7. *“Look he is coming with the clouds and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him; and all the peoples of the earth will mourn because of him.”*

- **CHRIST WILL RETURN TO REWARD HIS SERVANTS. Matthew 16:27.** *“For the Son of man is going to come in his Father’s glory with his angels, and then he will reward each person according to what he has done.”*
- **CHRIST WILL RETURN TO DELIVER AND RESTORE ISRAEL.** Jesus is the promised Messiah of Israel. Israel will pass through a period of fiery trial and be surrounded by hostile nations bent on her destruction. As Messiah, Jesus will return IN TIME to deliver them from near destruction by her enemies. He will gather them from the four corners of the earth, restore them and rule over them. Zechariah records the effect the return of Christ will have on the Jewish nation. **Zechariah 12:10-11.** *“And I (God) will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and supplication. They will look on Me the one they have pierced and they will mourn for him as one mourns for an only child and grieve bitterly for him as one grieves for a firstborn son. **On that day** (the day of Christ’s return) the weeping in Jerusalem will be great.”* The reason for weeping is that the One who the Jews rejected and pierced (crucified), is the same One who now returns to rescue them. The Jewish nation is brought to repentance, weeping because of centuries of spiritual blindness during which they rejected their Messiah.
- **JESUS’ RETURN WILL SEE HIS POWER EXERTED ON THE EARTH.**

Set all creation at liberty.

Romans 8:18-21. Paul puts our present sufferings and the glory that *“is about to be revealed in us,”* side by side with creation being freed *“from its bondage to decay.”*

Produce a new heaven and a new earth.

2 Peter 3:12-13. *“That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat. But in keeping with God’s promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteous.”* **BE READY.**

LESSON 13.

RESURRECTION OF THE DEAD

Why is the resurrection of JESUS important? The resurrection is a public testimony of Christ’s guarantee that he has successfully carried our sin & is an evidence of the Father’s acceptance of

his work of atonement. Because it is true that Christ rose from the dead, the gospel is true. If Christ did not rise from the dead, then the gospel is false. For this reason false religions try to discredit the resurrection.

- **The resurrection of Jesus FORTOLD. Psalm 16:8-11.** *“I have set the Lord continually before me. Because he is at my right hand I will not be moved. Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory [my inner self] rejoices; my body too shall rest & confidently dwell in safety. For You will not abandon me to Sheol [the place of the dead], neither will You let your Holy One see corruption.”* (Amp.).
- **The resurrection of others FORTOLD. Job 19:25-27.** *“For I know that my Redeemer lives & that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth: And though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh I shall see God: Whom I shall see for myself, & my eyes shall behold, I & not another.”* (KJV).

Daniel 12:2. *“Multitudes who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake, some to everlasting life, others to shame & everlasting contempt.”*

- **The outpouring of the Holy Spirit closely followed by the resurrection of Jesus FORTOLD. Hosea 6:2.** *“After two days he will revive us: in the third day he will raise us up, & we shall live in his sight. Then shall we know, if we follow on to know the Lord; his going forth is prepared as the morning; & he shall come to us as the rain, as the latter and former rain unto the earth.”* (KJV).

All will be resurrected. Daniel 12:2 *“Multitudes who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake: some to everlasting life, some to shame and everlasting contempt.”* See also: **Isa 26:19; John 5:28-29; Acts 10:42; Acts 24:25.**

All will give account. Romans 14:11-12. *“So then everyone of us shall give account of himself to God.”*

- **Our resurrected body.**

Firstly. All believers receive resurrection bodies; **both** those who have died “in Christ” and those on earth when He comes. **Jude 14 (Amp.)** *“Behold, the Lord comes with myriads of His holy ones – ten thousands of His saints.”* The power Christ exerts when He comes again will be the same power that will change both the “dead in Christ” and those living so they may receive resurrected bodies. **Philippians 3:2.** *“He shall change our vile body (Greek-the body of our humiliation) that it may be fashioned like unto His glorious body, conforming to the body of His glory”.* A body which embraces, enjoys and reveals the glory of God. **See 1 Corinthians 15:35-49.**

Secondly, follows the judgment of **our works** while here on earth. It is **not** a judgment for our sins **John 3:18.** *“He that believes is not condemned. We are already saved and forgiven through Jesus. This is for rewards* and is known as the **Bema Seat of Christ.** **1 Corinthians 5:10.** *“For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ (the BEMA,*

; that everyone may receive the things done in his body, according to that which he has done, whether it be good or bad.” See 1 Cor. 3:10 – 15

Five most frequently used objections to the resurrection of Jesus.

1. Christ’s resurrection is a myth.

The conversion of Saul. The conversion of Saul (Paul) was a momentous miracle. He began as a violent enemy of the church. **Acts 8:3.** *“Saul began to destroy the church. Going from house to house, he dragged off men & women & put them in prison.”* While Phillip was engaged in preaching the gospel, *“Saul was still breathing out murderous threats against the Lord’s disciples.” (Acts 9:1).* He was totally turned around becoming Christ’s servant, choosing suffering which included prison, flogging, exposure to death, receiving maximum punishment of 39 lashes five times, shipwreck & being exposed in the open sea for a day & a night all for Christ’s sake. (2 Cor.11:23f). Paul endured all these things because he had a personal encounter with the risen Christ. No one would do those things for a myth.

The apostles were convinced by the appearance of Jesus. It enabled them to overcome their initial fears & doubts, enabling them to proclaim the good news of a risen Christ across their world. Each of the disciples, except John died a martyr’s death. They would not have done so if the resurrection of Jesus was a myth.

2. The body was stolen.

There is no question. The tomb was empty! The emptiness of the tomb was an established fact. Even the opponents of Jesus recognized that. It would have been impossible for the disciples to steal the body of Jesus, protected as it was by a Roman guard, except that they had come with force.

Why would the disciples (or anyone else) want to risk their lives to steal Christ’s body? The Bible tells us they were scared, discouraged and disheartened. Their only motive, had they done so, would be to deceive. But the record shows they were good & honest men. They would not have hidden a corpse & endured imprisonment, beatings & death for something they knew to be a lie. No sane person chooses these things for what he knows is false.

3. Miracles are not possible.

They are. Jesus performed many miracles, a number of which were performed in front of those who hated him. They did not deny them. Jewish religious leaders were as adamantly opposed to Jesus as Islamists and others are today. On occasions they accused him of breaking the Sabbath in order to find some fault. But they could not deny the miracles.

4. Jesus did not really die.

The argument that a battered, bruised, wounded Jesus survived the Roman cross, was physical able to push the stone blocking the tomb aside, then to limp out of the tomb by his own power is stupid enough, but to suggest that he could have been hidden to emerge & convince his

despairing disciples a few days after his crucifixion, in his condition, that he was “The Risen Lord of Life”, is totally absurd. Jesus did not faint & later recover from his wounds. The Roman soldiers pronounced him dead, and that is what he was. **Dead**. The mixture of blood and water which poured from the wound they made in his side was clear evidence.

5. The witnesses were just “seeing things”.

Hundreds of witnesses saw Christ alive after his death. Once he appeared to over 500 people at once. (**1 Corinthians 15:6**). Many were still alive at the time when Paul wrote recording the event. Jesus appeared on numerous times after his death and resurrection. **Acts 1:3** records, “*After his suffering, he showed himself to these men, and gave them many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days*”. During those face to face appearances it is said that, “*he spoke about the kingdom of God.*”

Apart from those numerous appearances there are **eleven different appearances** of our risen Lord recorded in the New Testament where specifics regarding those appearances are given. They are:-

1. To Mary Magdalene at the sepulcher alone. **John 20:11-18**.
2. To certain women, “the other Mary,” Salome, Joanna and others as they returned from the sepulcher. **Matthew 28: 1-10**
3. To Simon Peter alone on the day of the resurrection. **Luke 24:34 & 1 Cor. 15:5**.
4. To the two disciples on the way to Emmaus. **Luke 24:13-35**
5. To the 10 disciples (Thomas being absent) and others “with them” at Jerusalem on the evening of the resurrection day. **John 20:19-24**.
6. To the disciples again at Jerusalem a week later (Thomas being present) **John 20: 26-28**
Mark 16: 14-18
7. To the disciples when fishing at the Sea of Galilee. **John 21:1-23**.
8. To the eleven, and above 500 brethren at once, at an appointed place in Galilee. **1 Corinthians 15:6. Compare Matthew 28: 16-20**
9. To James, but under what circumstances we are not informed. **1 Cor. 15:7**.
- 10 To the apostles immediately before the ascension. They accompanied him from Jerusalem to Mount Olivet and there they saw him ascend “*until a cloud received him out of their sight.*” **Mark 16:19 ; Luke 24:50-52 ; Acts 1: 4-10**.

11. To Paul on the Damascus road. **Acts 9:3-9, 17 ; 1 Corinthians 15:8 and 9:1**

Jesus gave the disciples and others plenty of opportunity of testing the fact of his resurrection. He spoke with them face to face. They touched him and he ate with them.

Living proof of Christ’s resurrection from the dead is the baptism in the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit was only given **after** Christ was raised from the dead. **John 7: 37-39**. “*If any man thirst let him come to me and drink. He that believes on me as the Scripture has said, out of his belly (innermost being) will flow rivers of living water. (But this spoke he of the Spirit, which they which believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given: because that Jesus was no*

yet glorified.”). Each person baptized in the Holy Spirit, is **living proof** that Jesus is resurrected from the dead. Praise God. Jesus is alive and because he is risen we shall rise also!!

LESSON 14. ETERNAL JUGDMENT – HELL. Hebrews 6:2

The destiny of the wicked is eternal separation from God and eternal suffering, known as the “second death.” (**Revelation 20:14**). Because of its terrible nature it is a subject from which one shrinks. However, as it is a positive revelation of Divine truth and of which Christ warned, it is something that must be faced, What Jesus said concerning the hope of heaven can also be applied to the existence of hell. *“If it were not so I would have told you.”* (**John 14:2**).

The Bible speaks of “eternal judgment”, (**Hebrews 6:2**), “eternal damnation”, (**Mark 3:29**), and “eternal fire”, all terms that relate to hell *“It is better for you to enter into life maimed or crippled than for you to have two hands and two feet and be thrown into eternal fire.”* (**Matthew 18:9**).

Jesus also referred to hell as “outer darkness”, (**Matthew 8:12**). Scoffers of eternal punishment delight in pointing out a supposed contradiction i.e. Where there is light there cannot be darkness and visa-versa.

Correctly understood, “Fires” indicate **loss and punishment**. That fire is “eternal”, means the consequences are forever. The “outer darkness” of which Jesus spoke is literal, in as much that anyone under the sentence of eternal judgment would henceforth be **incapable of** the remotest possibility of receiving any further **spiritual revelation** from the Lord. In **Matthew 6:23** Jesus says, *“How great is that darkness.”*

False Views of Hell

The following Scriptures are but a few of many that could be given against these damnable heresies.

Universalism. The teaching that says everybody will eventually be saved. That God is too loving to exclude anyone from heaven.

The Bible says: Romans 6:23. *“The wages of sin is death ”* **John 3:36** *“Whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God’s wrath remains on him.”*

Romans 11:22. *“Consider the kindness and sternness of God: sternness to those who fell but kindness to you, provided you continue in his kindness.”*

Restorationism. Teaches that punishment in hell (*Gehenna*) is not eternal, but a temporary experience for the purpose of purifying the sinner so that he might be fit for heaven.

The Bible says: Matthew 25:41 *“Depart from me, you who are cursed of the Lord, into eternal fire.”*

Second Chance. This teaches that people will be given a second opportunity to accept salvation between death and the resurrection.

The Bible says that at death man's destiny is fixed. **Hebrews 9 :27.** *"Man is destined to die once and after that the judgment."* **Hebrews 2:3** says, *"How shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation?"*

Annihilationism Teaches God will annihilate the wicked.

The Bible says:

Romans 2:7-8. *"To those who by persistence in doing good seek glory, honour and immortality, he will give eternal life. But for those who are self-seeking and who reject the truth and who follow evil, there will be wrath & anger."*

Man has a choice.

Either to believe on Christ and **be saved** or refuse the offer of salvation and **be lost**.

John 3:16-18 (NIV) *"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son that whoever believes (see Study 3) in him shall not perish but have eternal life. V17. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. V18 Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God's one and only Son."*

Bible Words Translated as "Hell" and their Meaning.

Old Testament.

Hebrew - "SHEOL" This word can refer to **"the grave"** or **"the pit"** OR the **"unseen world"**.

For example, **Genesis 37:35.** *"In morning I will go down to **the grave**.(sheol) to my son."*

Genesis 42:38. *"You will bring my grey head down to **the grave** in sorrow"* **1 Samuel 2:6** *"The Lord....brings down to **the grave** and makes alive."*

In other Old Testament verses the word **"sheol"** means **"the unseen world"** and **does** involve the notion of **punishment**.

For example. **Deut. 32:22.** *"For a fire has been kindled by my wrath, one that burns to the realm of death (sheol) below."*

Psalms 9:17. *"The wicked shall be turned into hell, (sheol)"*

New Testament.

Greek - "HADES"

In the New Testament the Greek word "hades" takes the place of the Hebrew word "sheol" and as in the case of the Old Testament can mean "the grave". For example. **Acts 2:31.** When speaking of Jesus, Peter in his address to the people on the Day of Pentecost, quotes the prophets and says, *"Seeing what was ahead, he spoke of the resurrection of Christ, that he would be raised from the dead, and he would not see corruption."*

*not abandoned **to the grave**, (hades) nor did his body see corruption.” 1 Corinthians 15:55. ‘ death, where is your sting, O grave (hades) where is your victory?’*

But it also carries the meaning of the “**unseen world**”.

For example. **Revelation 1: 18.** *“I hold the keys of death and Hades”*

Revelation 6:8. *“It’s rider was Death and Hades was following.”*

Greek. “GEHENNA” or “GEENA” Hell fire, is the final end for Christ rejecters. Jesus referred to “GEHENNA” in the following Scriptures.

Matthew 5:22. *“Anyone who shall say, “You fool”, shall be in danger of hell fire.”*

Matthew 5:29-30 *“It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to go into hell.” (See Mark 9:43, 45 & 47 and Luke 12:5).*

Matthew 10:28. *“Be afraid of the One who is able to destroy body and soul in hell.*

Matthew 23:15. *“You hypocrites...you make him twice as much the son of hell as you.”*

HADES = HELL

Hell (sheol), was the place to which all who died before Jesus came to earth went.

HOWEVER from **Luke 16:19-31** we learn that “**hell**”, that is, “the unseen world” had **two divisions**. One part is called “Abraham’s Bosom”. The other is just known as a place of **tormen**

Before the death of Jesus the souls of the wicked went to the place of torment and flame, while the souls of the “righteous” (those who died in faith in God), to “Abraham’s Bosom”. Between the one part and the other of this unseen world (hell) there was a “**great gulf**” or chasm, so that there could be no crossing over from one side to the other. **(See verse 26).**

When the Scripture speaks of Christ’s descent into “hell” (the unseen world) **after his crucifixion** and **before his resurrection**, it is speaking of that portion of “the unseen world” (hell) where **the righteous** were. They were the ones who had died in faith waiting for their Redeemer to come. They could not go directly into the presence of God **as believers do today** since Jesus had not yet died. They were being kept there until Christ had paid the penalty for their sins. **1 Peter 3:19** says, Christ “*went and preached to the spirits in prison.*” When he had completed his mission, he emptied the part of “hell” known as Abraham’s Bosom of **the righteous** and took them with him into the Father’s presence. **Ephesians 4: 8-10** says, *When he ascended on high, he led captivity captive ...* that is, he took those who had been in “captivity” waiting for their Messiah, with him. *What does “he ascended” mean except that he also descended to the lower, earthly regions. He that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens...*

The unsaved are **still confined** in Shoel awaiting **final judgment**. This is known as the Great White Throne judgment.

HELL-GEHENNA or GEENA is the Final Destiny of the Wicked. (Unsaved).

How Hell described?

1. **It is a place of extreme suffering. Matt. 11 :23**
2. **Memory and remorse.** It is a place of absolute regret. **Luke 16:19-31**
3. **Unsatisfied desire (Luke 16:24).** Hell is living with your own nature.
4. **Contempt. Daniel 12:2 .** *“Multitudes that sleep in the earth*
5. *shall awake: some to everlasting life, others to shame and everlasting contempt.*
Humiliation.
6. **Vile companionship. Revelation 21 :8.** *“But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts...will be in the fiery lake of burning sulphur. This is the second death.”*
7. **Hopelessness. (Proverbs 11: 7.** *“When a wicked man dies, his hope perishes.”*
Matthew 25:41. *“Then he (Jesus) will say...”Depart from me, you who are cursed, into eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.”* Hell is a place where repentance no longer achieves anything. Confessing Jesus is Lord comes too late. **Luke 19:14.** *“We will not have this man to rule over us.”* Hell is a place where that request is granted.
- 8 **It is a place where the love of God finally stops. Hosea 9:15.** *“Because of all their wickedness.....I will no longer love them.”*

STUDY 15. POLYGAMY

God in the beginning created one man and one woman. **Genesis 2:21-25.**

The first man to take a second wife while the other was living was Lamech (**Genesis 4:19**) , whose name means “Overthrower”, Because he overthrew the will of God.

A man should leave his father and mother and cleave to his **one** wife. **Matthew 19:3-6**

Even to kings God gave the command, *“Do not multiply wives.”* **Deut. 17:17**

That is how **Abraham** fell. **Genesis 16:3.**

And **Esau** grieved his father and mother. **Genesis 26:34-35**

And how **Gideon** left God’s path. **Judges 8:30.**

And how **Elkanah** introduced bitterness into his home. **1 Samuel 1:2**

How **Absalom** rebelled. **2 Samuel 3:3.**

And what led **Solomon** astray. **1 Kings 11:3-4.**

How **Rehoboam** fell. **2 Chronicles 11:18 & 12:2.**

Don't despise your first wife by taking a second. **Malachi 2:15.**

A Christian husband should dwell with his **one wife** and a Christian wife should dwell with her **one husband.** **1 Corinthians 7:2.**

One can only be an overseer on condition of having **one only wife.** **1 Timothy 3:2 and 12.**
Titus 1:6.