

# FIRM FOUNDATIONS

CHRISTIAN BASICS

CHRISTIAN LIFE

CHRISTIAN IDENTITY



1



# FIRM FOUNDATIONS ONE

CHRISTIAN BASICS

Page 1-22

CHRISTIAN LIFE

Page 23-44

CHRISTIAN IDENTITY

Page 45-66



# Firm Foundations One

## Christian Basics, Life, And Identity

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### Lessons Index

#### Christian Basics: Understanding The Faith

- (1) What Is The Bible?
- (2) What Is God Like?
- (3) What Is The Trinity?
- (4) What Is Man?
- (5) What Is Sin?
- (6) Who Is Jesus?
- (7) What Is Man's Final Destination?
- (8) How To Be Saved?
- (9) What Is A Disciple Like?
- (10) I Recently Believed, What Is My Next Step?

#### Christian Life: Applying The Faith

- (11) What Is The Holy Spirit Like?
- (12) What Is The Local Church?
- (13) What Is Baptism?
- (14) What Is The Lord's Supper?
- (15) How Do I Study The Bible?
- (16) How Do I Pray?
- (17) How Do I Give?
- (18) What Are Spiritual Gifts?
- (19) What Is The Great Commission?
- (20) How Do I Witness And Disciple?

#### Christian Identity: Realizing The Faith

- (21) In Christ, I Am Called, Justified, And Glorified By God.
- (22) In Christ, I Am A Saint, Friend, And Son Of God.
- (23) In Christ, I Am Freed, Renewed, And Yielded To God.
- (24) In Christ, I Am Blessed, Accepted, And Loved By God.
- (25) In Christ, I Am Afflicted, Rewarded, And Victorious.
- (26) In Christ, I Am Eternally Secure.
- (27) In Christ, I Am Gloriously Sanctified.
- (28) In Christ, I Am A Royal Priest.
- (29) In Christ, I Am A Man Or Woman Of God.
- (30) In Christ, I Am Not My Own.

# **Christian Basics**

## Understanding The Faith

# Christian Basics

## Understanding The Faith

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### About These Lessons

Christianity is more than just one of the world's religions; it is more than a collection of mystical and moral principles that help guide society to a more peaceful existence. Christianity rightly understood is based on the Bible; the Bible is truth. This truth reveals to us who God is and how we can have a right relationship with Him. The claims of Christianity are absolute. Therefore, a person must humbly examine these claims if they are wanting to discover the truth. In these lessons, we want to help you understand what our faith is really about.

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### Lessons 1-10

This set of ten lessons is designed to help you understand the faith. These lessons are what we consider to be the basic understanding of Christianity. The goal is to answer the many questions you have about Christianity and lead you to a proper faith in God through Jesus. These lessons include:

1. What Is The Bible?
  2. What Is God Like?
  3. What Is The Trinity?
  4. What Is Man?
  5. What Is Sin?
  6. Who Is Jesus?
  7. What Is Man's Final Destination?
  8. How To Be Saved?
  9. What Is A Disciple Like?
  10. I Recently Believed, What Is My Next Step?
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### Structure Of The Lessons

Each lesson has a main truth, a simple outline that supports it, Bible references under many of the points, and review questions at the end. These lessons are best used when a mature believer is able to guide you through them, studying one lesson per session.

# 1. What Is The Bible?

The Bible is the basis of all Christian beliefs. The Bible is truth and as such reveals God's will to us. The three ways it instructs us are: understanding who God is, how to know Him, and how to live for Him.

John 17:17

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## The Nature Of The Bible

- The Bible was originally written in three different languages: Hebrew, Greek, and Aramaic. Today, we have the Bible preserved in many languages.

Psalm 12:6-7; 33:11

- God wrote the Bible over the course of 1600 years using over 40 men. It has absolute unity from beginning to end because God is its one Author.
  - All of scripture is given by inspiration of God. (This means that God breathed it or put it into the men what they were to write.)  
2 Peter 1:20-21; 1 Thessalonians 2:13
  - The Bible contains two main parts: the Old Testament and the New Testament. These consist of 66 individual books. The Old Testament contains 39 books and the New Testament contains 27 books.
  - Both the Old and New Testaments reveal God to us. The Old Testament refers to the time before Jesus came, and the New Testament refers to the time after Jesus came. Each is needed to correctly help us understand the other.
  - The Bible is broken down into chapters and verses to help find different areas of the Bible for study and quick reference. These were incorporated by man.
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## The Authority Of The Bible

- The authority of the Bible comes from the Bible itself. The words of the Bible are the words of God and there is no greater authority than God Himself. For who can be a witness of God except God?

2 Timothy 3:16; 1 Corinthians 14:37

- Since all the words of the Bible are the words of God, a person who does not believe or obey the Bible is saying that he does not want to believe or obey God; but to believe and obey the Bible is to believe and obey God.
- Absolute truth is independent or truth by itself. It does not change based on human opinion. Relative truth is dependent. It does change based on human opinion. This means that for relative truth, two opposing sides can both be right. The Bible is a book of absolute truths. Therefore, it's claims must be all true or all false, they cannot coincide with contradictory truths.
- The Bible is sufficient for us to know God's will and it is the only way for us to be certain about God's will. There are no dreams, visions, or anything else that has higher authority than the Bible itself.

Acts 17:11

### The Books Of The Bible

- The Old Testament (39 books): Genesis through Deuteronomy are the 5 books of the law. Joshua through Esther are 12 books of history. These 17 books together tell us about the history of God's work and His people. Job through the Song of Solomon are 5 books of poetry or wisdom about the personal experiences of God's people. Isaiah through Malachi are 17 books of the prophets that reveal God's message to His people.
- The New Testament (27 books): Matthew through John are the 4 gospels that tell us about the life and works of Jesus. Acts is 1 book that transitions from the gospels to the establishment of the church. Romans through Philemon are 13 books or letters written by Paul and then Hebrews through Revelation are 9 more books or letters written by multiple authors. These 22 letters show us how God is working today and will work in the future. Altogether, these books declare how God has kept and fulfilled His promises.

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### The Gospel Of The Bible

- Mankind was Created by God: The story of the Bible starts in the beginning with God creating everything. He creates man in His image. Everything God created was good.  
Genesis 1:1, 27, 31
- Mankind Sinned against God: The first man sinned against God; he chose not to obey. He was separated from God. Sin, death, and evil was passed upon all people.  
Genesis 2:8, 17; 3:6; Romans 5:12
- Mankind Needed a Savior: God promised a Savior; therefore, He sent His sinless Son Who died for our sin and rose again to offer us forgiveness of sins and eternal life.  
1 Corinthians 15:45-49; Romans 6:23
- Mankind's Future: God will make all things new for those who have faith in Him. He will rescue them from sin, death, and evil. Everyone else will be eternally separated from Him.  
Revelation 21:4; 20:13-15

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### Review Questions

- What is the Bible?
- What are three ways the Bible instructs us?
- Where does the Bible's authority come from?
- Is the Bible necessary for us to know God's will? Why?
- What is the Gospel of the Bible?



## 2. What Is God Like?

God is the source of all life. He is eternal. He is the Creator of mankind. He reveals Himself to us and we know what He is like. Even though we cannot fully understand Him, He created us for a purpose and invites us to have a relationship with Him.

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### The Existence Of God

- “In the beginning,” referring to the time before the world and mankind were created, God already existed.  
[Genesis 1:1](#); [John 1:1](#); [Psalm 90:2](#)
  - Who created God? No one created God. He has life in Himself. He is eternal. These truths are hard to grasp because they surpass our human understanding.  
[John 5:26](#); [Exodus 3:14](#)
  - Nothing cannot create something, so in the beginning, something or someone had to exist, and that something or someone has to be eternal. The Bible teaches that someone to be God.
  - Everything that God has created, including you and me, is evidence to the existence of God.  
[Romans 1:20-25](#)
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### The Attributes And Character Of God

- Who can tell us what God is like except for God? No one else existed in the beginning except Him. Therefore, for us to know what God is like, He must reveal Himself to us (God gives testimony to Himself).  
[Isaiah 55:6](#); [Exodus 33:18-33](#); [Titus 2:11](#); [Job 11:7-10](#)
- God is the true God and there is no other like Him. He is everything beautiful and the source of true happiness and joy.  
[Jeremiah 10:10](#); [Psalm 27:4](#)
- God is a spirit and invisible.  
[John 4:24](#); [1:18](#)
- God is independent, unchanging, jealous, and sovereign.  
[Acts 17:24-25](#); [Numbers 23:19](#); [Exodus 20:5](#); [Isaiah 48:11](#); [Ephesians 1:11](#)
- God is omnipresent, omniscient, and omnipotent.  
[Jeremiah 23:23-24](#); [1 John 3:20](#); [Jeremiah 32:17](#)
- God is good, holy, perfect, righteous, and just.  
[Luke 18:19](#); [Psalm 99:9](#); [Matthew 5:48](#); [Deuteronomy 32:4](#)
- God is love, and God hates sin.  
[1 John 4:8](#); [Romans 1:18](#)
- We cannot fully comprehend everything about God because He is infinite and we are finite. If we could know everything about God, that would make us equal to or greater than Him. Therefore, we will never comprehend Him in His entirety.  
[Psalm 145:3](#); [147:5](#); [139:6](#); [17-18](#); [Romans 11:33-36](#)

## The Revelation Of God

- God reveals Himself through natural revelation. This means that we can look at the world around us, the trees, the sky, the ocean, the animals, other people, the stars, the moon the sun, and all the complexities that true science discovers and know that there is Someone greater than ourselves, the true God.

Psalms 19:1-6

- Although this natural revelation points to the existence of a Creator God, it can only describe Him to a certain degree. Sin has ruined both the earth and mankind. The evil things of the world do not represent God and mankind now looks to material things for purpose, meaning, and worship instead of the Creator God.

- The natural revelation of God should lead us to ask this basic question, “What is the reason for our existence?” Creation itself cannot justly answer this question, therefore, we need a supernatural revelation from God himself. Thankfully, God has answered our question and has revealed Himself and His will to us through supernatural revelation (angels, visions, prophets, the Bible, Jesus).

Psalms 19:7-14; Hebrews 1:1-2; 11:1-3, Romans 1:16-22, 19

- God revealed Himself through the Bible and His Son Jesus so that we could understand He created us to know Him and enjoy a right relationship with Him. This is similar to a parent choosing to have a child. The parents desire to have a loving relationship with their offspring, and not one of dissension and hate. Because God is perfectly good, the relationship with Him that is offered to us is also perfectly good.

Isaiah 40:28; 43:7 Jeremiah 32:17; Ephesians 1:1-10

- Understanding God's supernatural revelation requires us to humbly come before Him with a heart of faith. Through the eyes of faith we can study God's Word, the Bible and know His will. Through the ears of faith we can hear the call of God to believe in Jesus, the one who became flesh so that we could know God.

Hebrews 4:2, 12; 11:3; 1 Timothy 3:16; 2 Timothy 3:15-17, Romans 10:17, 1 Peter 1:23; John 1:14, 18; Matthew 3:17, Luke 10:22; 19:10

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## Review Questions

- Who created God?
- Why did God create us?
- How did God reveal Himself to us?
- What characteristics does God have?
- How can we know God?

### 3. What Is The Trinity?

The Trinity is the belief that God is one but three persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. Therefore, the Father, the Son, and the Spirit are all one God, but the Father is not the Son or the Spirit; the Son is not the Father or the Spirit; the Spirit is not the Father or the Son.

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#### The Trinity's Meaning

- God is three-in-one: This truth is grounded in Scripture, but as with many aspects of God, it cannot be completely understood because it surpasses our human knowledge (just like God being eternal — no beginning, no end — it surpasses our human understanding). Even though we cannot fully understand this truth, it is important to believe because the Bible teaches God is three-in-one.

1 John 5:7

- Each Person of the Trinity is God: God the Father is introduced in the very first verse of the Bible as Creator. As you read the Bible, most references to “God” are usually referring to God the Father. His Son, Jesus, is also God. We are introduced to Him and the Holy Spirit/Ghost in the New Testament. The Spirit is equally God and equal to the Father and Son.

Genesis 1:1; Colossians 2:9; John 20:28, 31; 1 Corinthians 2:11; Matthew 28:19; Acts 5:3-4

- Only one God, not three: This complex truth is that even though there are three persons who make up the trinity, there is only one God. We do not worship multiple “Gods” or believe that multiple gods exist. There is only one Supreme God, the God of the Bible. He is a triune God, which means He is three and yet only one.

Deuteronomy 6:4; Isaiah 45:5; Romans 3:30; 1 Timothy 2:5; James 2:19

- Different but Equal: Each person of the Trinity will have different roles and you will find them doing different things in the Bible, but you have to remember they are equal. If you reject any person of the Trinity you also reject all the other persons of the Trinity. For example, if you honor the Son you honor the Father, but if you don't honor the Son you don't honor the Father.

John 5:19-23, 26

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#### The Trinity's Evidence

- Evidence at creation: When God was making man, He referred to making man in “our image,” showing there was more than just one person. Also, all three Persons were involved at creation: The Father spoke the earth into being. The Son carried out those words. The Spirit “moved upon” creation.

Genesis 1:2, 9-10; 26-27; John 1:3

- Evidence at Jesus' baptism: When Jesus was being baptized you also see that God the Father was speaking and God the Holy Spirit was resting on the Son, showing three distinct persons.

Matthew 3:16-17

- Evidence in the commission: We are commanded to baptize in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. These three individual names together show they are three but of equal importance.

Matthew 28:19

## Firm Foundations One

- Evidence in the different roles: Praying in the Holy Ghost, keep yourselves in the love of God, and look for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.

Jude 20-21

- Evidence at salvation: All three Persons are involved in salvation: The Father, in spite of our sin, is willing to forgive us and sent His only Son to die on the cross for us. The Son only does the will of the Father and willingly died in our place that we might receive the forgiveness of God the Father. The Holy Spirit, who was sent by the Father and the Son, opens our eyes to understand what Jesus did for us and gives us the choice to receive or reject the gift of salvation given by God through Jesus Christ.

John 3:16-17; 6:38; 14:26; 16:7; Hebrews 10:10

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### The Trinity's Importance

- Understanding the truth of the Trinity is important because we only serve one God, not three. Christianity only believes in one God, not many. This one God is triune and eternal. These two characteristics are hard to grasp, but can be believed through faith.
- Understanding the truth of the Trinity is important because each Person - Father, Son, Spirit - can only fulfill their position as God. If the Father is not God, then we do not know who created us. If the Son is not God, then He could not have died in our place. If the Spirit is not God, then He could not draw us to salvation.
- Understanding the truth of the Trinity is important because the Bible would be contradicting itself if this were not true. Therefore, this is a cornerstone doctrine of the Christian faith.

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### Review Questions

- What is the Trinity?
- Do we believe in one God or multiple Gods?
- Who is more important in the Trinity?
- Can we completely understand the Trinity? Why?
- Is each Person of the Trinity's work the same? Why?

## 4. What Is Man?

Man is a being created by God. He was created for God's glory, but mankind chose not to glorify his Creator. The price for this was death and separation from God. God loved mankind so much that He sent His son Jesus to restore them to Him. Now, man has the option to believe in Jesus and be restored, or continue to live in rebellion against His Creator.

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### Man Was Created By God

- God created all things by speaking them into existence, but He created mankind and then breathed life into us. Therefore, mankind is different from everything else that He created.  
[Genesis 2:7, 21-23](#); Psalm 139:14
  - God created us in His very image. Out of everything God created, mankind most resembles God Himself. God appointed man to rule over all of creation.  
[Genesis 1:26-30](#)
  - God created man as good and innocent. He did not create him as evil or sinful, but with a free will to obey or disobey His commands.  
[Genesis 1:31](#); Psalm 25:12
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### Man Was Created For God's Glory

- Everything God created was for His glory. The heavens declare His glory and we also reflect His glory.  
[Psalm 19:1](#); [Isaiah 43:7](#)
  - God is our Creator, the One who gave us life, so He is worthy of our glory, honor, and obedience.  
[Revelation 4:11](#)
  - God did not create us because He needed someone to glorify Him or because He was lonely, but because He wanted to share the joy of His glory with us. Because God is 100% good, we can have a joyful and loving relationship with Him.  
[Psalm 16:11](#)
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### Man Was Separated From God By His Disobedience

- After God created man, He told him not to eat the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil or he would die. Adam disobeyed God's single command. The price for that was death.  
[Genesis 2:16-17](#); 3:1-24
  - That day, mankind started to die physically and was spiritually separated from God (he died spiritually). The punishment, being banished from the Garden and forbidden to eat from the tree of life, represents this truth.  
[Genesis 3:24](#); 5:5; [Ephesians 2:1](#); 4:18
- Man is made up of two parts: the physical and the spiritual, our body and our inner being, or the material and the immaterial.  
[1 Thessalonians 5:23-24](#); [Hebrews 4:12](#); [1 Corinthians 6:20](#); [Genesis 2:7](#); [Proverbs 4:23](#)

## Firm Foundations One

- Two deaths: The first death means you will physically die and your soul will pass from this life into eternity. The second death means you will be cast into the lake of fire. This is man's final destination and he will forever be separated from God.

Revelation 20:14; 21:8

- Because we have sinned and are separated from God, we cannot glorify Him as before. Our relationship with God needs to be restored before we can experience true joy.

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### Man Was Restored To God Through Jesus

- Because of Adam's original sin, all of mankind was born sinful. Therefore, God sent Jesus to pay the price for the sins of mankind and offers us the gift of restoration.

1 Corinthians 15:21-22; Romans 5:12-19; John 3:16

- Jesus is the Son of God. He is 100% man and 100% God. He never sinned. He chose to die in the place of mankind so that our sins could be forgiven. He rose again from the dead proving He defeated death and sin.

Ephesians 2:5-10

- To accept this gift of restoration, you have to repent and believe in Jesus as Lord and Savior.

Acts 3:19; Romans 10:9-10

- After you die physically, your soul passes from this life to eternity where you will be with God forever.

2 Corinthians 5:6-10; Philippians 1:21

- Ultimately, our bodies will be changed, and we will have a new incorruptible body. We will be conformed to the image of Jesus.

Romans 8:29; 1 Corinthians 15:42, 52

- Because of Jesus we can be restored to our original purpose of bringing God glory. Therefore, believers desire to serve, worship, and obey Him.

Romans 12:1-2; John 4:23-24; 1 John 5:3

- Because of the grace that God has shown toward us through sending His son Jesus, all of mankind should repent, believe in Jesus, and start glorifying God to experience the true joy that is in Him.

2 Peter 3:9

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### Review Questions

- Who created man?
- In whose likeness was man created?
- Why was man created?
- What separated man from his Creator? Why?
- How can man have a right relationship with his Creator?

## 5. What Is Sin?

Sin is disobedience to God, and all mankind is guilty of sinning against God. Sin came when the first man disobeyed God's one law. It was then passed on to all generations. God has also revealed to us His law, and when we disobey it we sin against Him. The charge for sinning against God is death. God's love provided a way for our sin to be forgiven, and we can escape its punishment.

1 John 1:8; 3:4; 1 Kings 8:46; Psalm 14:3; Romans 3:23

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### Sin Is Passed On To Every Generation

- Man was created good, but became sinful when Adam and Eve disobeyed God's command. Therefore, sin did not come from God, but in opposition to God Himself and His law.

Genesis 2:17; 3:6; Deuteronomy 32:4; James 1:13

- Because of this, Adam and Eve became sinful beings. They were no longer good or innocent. Every person who is conceived after them would also inherit this sinful nature.

Psalm 51:5

- Every human being is born a sinner. Therefore, every part of who we are (thoughts, actions, emotions, desires, motives, physical bodies, attitude, etc.) is corrupted by sin. God sees all of our good as filthy rags. To God there is only good and bad, no middle ground.

Jeremiah 17:9; Romans 3:11-12; 7:18; Isaiah 64:6

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### Sin Is Disobedience To God's Law

- In the Old Testament, one part of the Bible that teaches us God's law is called the "Ten Commandments." Let's look at a summary of God's law with a tender conscience to see if you are guilty or not.

Exodus 20:1-17

- You shall have no other gods before God, nor make unto thee any graven image. Have you always loved the true God above all else? Have you worshipped other gods, religions, or idols? Have you made a god in your mind?
- You shall not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain. Have you ever used God's Holy Name as a curse word?
- Honor thy father and thy mother. Have you honored and obeyed your parents?
- You shall not kill, commit adultery, steal, bear false witness, or covet. Have you ever lied, stolen something (the value of the item is irrelevant), jealously desired what belongs to others, had an abortion or participated in sex outside of marriage?

- In the New Testament, Jesus helps us understand that sinning is not just in our actions but also in our thoughts and attitudes.

- God considers hatred to be equal with murder.

Matthew 5:21-22

- Looking upon someone with lust is adultery.

Matthew 5:27-28

## Firm Foundations One

- How did you measure up? Have you committed any of these? The Bible says if you have committed one, then you are guilty of all.

[James 2:10](#)

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### Sin Is Punishable By Death And Eternal Separation From God

- The day Adam sinned against God he started to die physically and was spiritually separated from God. This was also passed on to all of mankind.

[Isaiah 59:2](#)

- The consequence of sin is death. One day, every single person will die because every single person has sinned. After you die physically, you will be judged for your sin by God. Those found guilty (every person) will be cast into the lake of fire for all eternity, which is called the second death.

Hebrews 9:27; Romans 5:12; Exodus 34:7

- God hates all sin and evil because He is good, righteous and just. To be a righteous judge, He has to judge the sin of mankind. We are found guilty and must pay the price for our sin.

Psalms 5:4-5; Proverbs 6:16-19; Genesis 18:25

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### Sin Is Forgivable And We Can Escape Its Punishment

1 Corinthians 15:21-22; Romans 5:12-19

- Even though God hates sin, He still loves us and wants to redeem us from sin. God showed His love by sending His Son, Jesus Christ, into the world to save us.

John 3:16; [Romans 5:8](#)

- Jesus was perfectly good or sinless—He never disobeyed God's laws. He didn't have to die, but He loved us so much that He willingly died on the cross to pay the price for our sin.

[2 Corinthians 5:21](#)

- Three days after Jesus' death, He arose from the dead, proving everything that He had claimed was true, that He conquered death and sin, and that God accepted Him as our payment.

1 Corinthians 15:54-57

- This forgiveness of sins is a gift from God. It is not earned, nor is it a reward for good works. We deserve death because of our sin, but God is willing to offer us forgiveness because Jesus paid our sin debt.

[Romans 6:23](#); Ephesians 2:8-9

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### Review Questions

- What is sin?
- Where did sin come from?
- Are all of mankind sinners? Why?
- What is the price for sin?
- Can our sins be forgiven? How?



## 6. Who is Jesus?

Jesus is the Savior of the world. He is 100% man, and yet He is without sin. He is 100% God, and yet He died for our sins. Through His death, burial, and resurrection He provided a way for mankind to be redeemed to God. He is living and reigning today.

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### Jesus Is 100% Human

- Jesus was born of a virgin. His earthly mother, Mary, was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. His very birth was a miracle.  
[Matthew 1:18](#)
  - Jesus had a human body. He grew and waxed strong in spirit. He increased in wisdom, stature, and favor with God and man.  
[Luke 2:40](#); [2:52](#)
  - Jesus experienced many of the same things that we experience. He experienced being tired, being hungry, and being thirsty. He experienced different emotions, such as: He marveled, He wept, and His soul was troubled. All of this points to Him being fully human.  
[Matthew 4:2](#); [8:10](#); [26:38](#); [John 11:35](#); [12:27](#); [19:28](#); [Hebrews 5:7](#)
  - Even though Jesus was fully human, He was different from us in that He was sinless. Jesus never committed a sin. His virgin birth made it possible for Him to be born without sin. He lived in the same corrupted world that we do and had many of the same temptations, but He never sinned.  
[John 15:10](#); [2 Corinthians 5:21](#); [1 Peter 2:22](#); [1 John 3:5](#); [Hebrews 4:15](#)
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### Jesus Is 100% God

- Jesus being born of a virgin meant that He had no earthly father but that God was His Father. Jesus came from God. This was a miraculous work of God and the Holy Spirit. Jesus, the Son of God, became human yet was still God.  
[John 1:1-3, 14](#); [Luke 2:11](#)
  - Not only does Jesus Himself claim to be equal with God, but God the Father highly exalts Jesus above all others. The Holy Spirit confesses Jesus as Lord, and the Bible teaches that in Jesus is the fullness of God.  
[John 8:57-58](#); [Philippians 2:9-11](#); [Hebrews 1:6](#); [Colossians 1:19](#); [1 Corinthians 12:3](#); [1 John 4:2-3](#)
  - During Jesus' time on Earth, He performed many miracles, healed people from their sickness, and made many claims that no one could make unless they were God.  
[John 2:7-8](#); [5:6-9](#); [12:44](#)
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### Jesus Is The Atonement For Our Sin

- Jesus, who always existed, had to become man so that He could die in our place. In the same way that we all became sinners because of one man (Adam), all can be made righteous because of one man (Jesus).  
[Romans 5:19](#); [Hebrews 2:17](#)
- Jesus being human meant that He could die. Jesus being sinless meant that He did not have to die. Jesus being the sinless Son of God and dying on the cross showed that He was not dying for His own sins, but for the sins of the world.  
[1 John 4:9-10](#); [Romans 3:25-26](#)

## Firm Foundations One

- Jesus' death on the cross was necessary to take away our sins. When He died on the cross for us, He bore all of our sins (past, present, and future). All of God's wrath and hatred against the sin of mankind was poured out on Jesus.

Isaiah 53:12; 1 Peter 2:24; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Galatians 3:13

- Apart from the blood of Jesus, nothing could eternally take away our sins or pay sins' price in full, not even the Old Testament sacrifices.

Hebrews 4:10; 9:12; 9:26

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## Jesus Is The Risen Savior And Our Righteousness

- God raising Jesus from the dead testified that God accepted Jesus' death as the atonement for the sins of the world. It meant that the price for sin was paid in full. Jesus sat down at the right hand of God the Father, showing that this work was complete.

Romans 4:25; Hebrews 1:3

- Because Jesus completely obeyed the will of God, not only could He die in our place to take away our sin, but also His righteous life could be counted as our life. Believers are justified or made righteous because Jesus rose from the dead.

Romans 4:25; 5:19; Philippians 3:9; 1 Corinthians 1:30

- When Jesus rose from the dead, He had a physical, immortal body. In the same way, God will raise believers from the dead and give them immortal bodies to live eternally with Him.

Luke 24:39; 1 Corinthians 6:14; 15:20, 51-53; 2 Corinthians 4:14

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## Jesus Is Lord

- Lord Jesus came to earth to save us from our sins. He has provided everything that we need to have our sins forgiven, but we must repent and believe in Him for this remission of sin. He is the Lord of lords and we must recognize Him as such, forsaking our opposition to His Lordship.

Matthew 1:21; 4:17; John 6:28-29

- Lord Jesus is the only way for us to have our sins forgiven and to receive eternal life. He is The Way, The Truth, and The Life. There is salvation in no one else, nor is there another name whereby we must be saved. We must confess that Jesus is Lord.

John 14:6-7; Acts 4:12; 14:6; Romans 10:9-10

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## Review Questions

- Why is Jesus' birth a miracle?
- Jesus is 100% man, but He does not have what?
- How do we know that Jesus is God?
- Why did Jesus die on the cross?
- Jesus commanded us to do what to be saved?

## 7. What Is Man's Final Destination?

Man's final destination is determined by what his relationship is with Jesus Christ. Those who repent of their sins, believe Jesus is the Son of God, and confess Him as Lord and Savior will live eternally with Him in the Kingdom of God. They will live in eternal enjoyment with God. Those who reject Jesus or those who die in their sins will be eternally separated from God in the Lake of Fire. They will receive eternal punishment.

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### The Final Judgments

- In the final judgments, Jesus Christ will judge all mankind. He will reward all believers and punish all unbelievers for their works.  
*Revelation 11:18; 20:11-15; Acts 10:42; 2 Timothy 4:1; Matthew 25:31-33; John 5:27*
- The Great White Throne Judgment: For unbelievers, God will bring every work into judgment, good and bad. They will be righteously judged for their works and for rejecting Christ, then punished accordingly.  
*Ecclesiastes 12:14; Revelation 20:12; Romans 2:8*
- The Judgment Seat of Christ: For believers, God already punished Jesus in their place for the evil works when He died on the cross. Therefore, they will not be judged for punishment but for reward. Their good works will be judged and rewarded.  
*John 5:24; Romans 8:1; 2 Corinthians 5:10; 1 Corinthians 3:12-15*
- The question is often asked: "Why does God allow evil to exist today?" God has allowed mankind to have free will and make his own decisions. Mankind turned from God, and thus, evil exists in our world today. In the final judgment, God will punish everyone for their evil deeds. There will be justice for all mankind at that time. No evil will go unpunished.  
*Psalms 92:15; Romans 12:19; Colossians 3:25*

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### The Final Punishment: The Lake Of Fire (Hell)

- Those who die in their sins will be eternally separated from God. The Bible describes this as a place of eternal fire and torment.  
*Matthew 25:41; Mark 9:48; Luke 16:28; Revelation 14:10-11*
- Finally, Death, Hell, and all unbelievers will be thrown in the lake of fire for all eternity. Everyone who does not confess Jesus as Lord will experience this death as their righteous punishment for their evil works and rebellion against God.  
*Revelation 20:14; 21:8*

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### The Final Reward: The Kingdom Of God (Heaven)

- The Bible presents Heaven as the place where God resides. All believers will eternally live with God and live under His reign; therefore, we say that we will go to Heaven or the Kingdom of God.  
*Matthew 6:9; 1 Peter 3:22; Revelation 21:2*
- God will make all things new. There will be a new Heaven and a new Earth. We will eternally dwell with God. He shall be our God, and we shall be His people.  
*2 Peter 3:13; Revelation 21:1-3; Isaiah 65:17; 66:22; Romans 8:21*

## Firm Foundations One

- In the new Heaven and new Earth, we will have new, incorruptible bodies. It will be a place where there is no more crying, no more death, no more mourning, and no more pain. All evil will be done away with. We will be in the presence of God's glory with great joy.

Revelation 21:4; 23; 22:4; Jude 24; Romans 8:18; 1 Corinthians 15:43; 2 Corinthians 4:17; 1 Thessalonians 2:12; 1 Peter 5:4, 10; Psalm 16:11

- As believers, we long for the new Heaven and new Earth. We strive to do good and store up treasure in Heaven. We desire to live holy and righteous lives, knowing we will be rewarded in the end.

Matthew 6:20; 2 Peter 3:11, 13

- Because everything will be made new and there is no sin, we will be able to fully enjoy many things. We will ultimately enjoy our relationship with God.

Revelation 19:9; 22:1-3; Luke 22:18

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## The Final Events: When Will All Of This Happen?

- The Bible says that Jesus is coming back. No one knows the exact time when Jesus will return. He could come back anytime. After His return, we will be judged.

John 14:3; Mark 13:32

- We can only make the decision to repent and trust Jesus in this life now. After we die or He returns, we cannot change our minds. The decision to follow Jesus should not be taken lightly because your eternal destination depends on it.

- God is loving and patient. He is not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. He is seeking those who are willing to respond to Him by faith. He does not rejoice in the death of the wicked, but He does rejoice in the salvation of a sinner.

Luke 15:1-32; 2 Peter 3:9; Ezekiel 33:11; Isaiah 62:5

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## Review Questions

- What are the final judgments?
- How will God punish unbelievers for their evil works?
- How will God punish believers for their evil works?
- What is man's final destination? How do you know?
- When is Jesus coming back?

## 8. How To Be Saved?

Salvation is a supernatural work of God where He forgives the sins of a person and makes him righteous through the work of Jesus. A person is saved by grace through repentance and faith in Jesus.

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### Salvation Is Offered To All Who Realize They Need It

- Proud people do not understand their need for salvation. They are satisfied with their own achievements in life. They need to exchange the high view of their self and their importance for a high view of God's self and His importance.

Psalm 138:6; Isaiah 57:15

- The Bible tells us that we are to become like children if we want to be saved. It means that we have to become humble and dependent. We have to become dependent on God and not dependent on our own wisdom, understanding, and works.

Matthew 11:25; 18:3

- If you are trusting in your own works, goodness, religion or ideas then you may be blinded to your need of help. You have to first realize your condition even if you don't want to hear it. A sick person, who refuses to admit his condition, cannot be helped by a doctor. We have a sinful condition and are in desperate need of being saved from its penalty.

Luke 5:31-32; 18:9-14; 1 Corinthians 1:26-28

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### Salvation Is Offered To You By The Grace Of God

- Grace is the free and unmerited favor of God that makes a way for your sins to be forgiven. You must realize that apart from God, there is no one else, not even yourself, which can offer you true salvation.

Romans 3:10; 23; Ephesians 2:8-10

- God showed His grace towards us through the revelation of Jesus Christ. You need to understand who Jesus is and what He did.

- Jesus is the Son of God. He came and lived on this Earth being 100% God and 100% man. He was sinless. He was equal with God. He came as the Savior of the world. This was all testified by the Prophets, by Jesus' own works, by the Scriptures, and by God Himself.

Matthew 11:27; John 5:33-40

- Jesus willingly died in our place on the cross. He did not have to die for Himself because He had no sin; He loved us though and chose to die in our place. He became sin for us, so that our sin debt could be paid.

John 10:18; Romans 5:8; 6:23; 1 Peter 2:24

- Jesus rose again from the dead. This proved that God accepted His death as our payment for sin. It proved that everything He said and did was true. He lives and reigns today, seated at the right hand of God the Father.

Romans 4:25

- Jesus is The Way, The Truth, and The Life. There is no other way of salvation. There is no other god or person that can pay the price for your sin. Therefore, salvation is only through Jesus' death and resurrection.

John 14:6-7; Acts 4:12

## **Salvation Is Received Through Repentance And Faith In Jesus Christ**

Acts 20:21

- Repentance is renouncing your former way of life (sin, pride, self-righteousness, etc.) and turning to a new way of life that is only found in the Lord Jesus. This is a change of mind, heart, and life based on the understanding of truth.  
2 Corinthians 7:9-10; Luke 5:32; 13:3; Psalm 51; Jeremiah 14:20
- This new way of life means that Jesus is Lord and you are willing to start yielding to His authority and will.  
Acts 26:20; Matthew 3:5-6
- Faith is trusting in Jesus to save you. You trust that Jesus' death and resurrection are sufficient to forgive your sins. This is more than intellectual assent of the facts about Jesus, but you are basing your salvation on them.  
Acts 16:31; 20:21; Romans 3:22, 25, 28; 10:9-11, 17; James 2:19; Matthew 8:29
- Putting your faith in Jesus means you are choosing Jesus above everything else. It means that Jesus is the object of your faith and you are not trusting in anyone else for your salvation. You trust in Jesus alone.  
Acts 4:12; 1 Thessalonians 1:9
- Repentance and faith are both gifts of God. There are no human works that can save us. Salvation is all by the grace of God.  
Titus 3:5; Ephesians 2:1-5,8; Matthew 19:25-26; Acts 11:18; 2 Timothy 2:25

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## **Salvation Is A Personal Decision**

- Every person has to individually respond to Jesus if they want to be saved. A person cannot be saved because he grew up in a Christian family, was baptized, or did good works.
- How do you know if you are ready to repent and put your faith in Jesus for salvation? After hearing the truth, you know and agree that you are a sinner and Jesus is the Son of God who died and rose again, therefore, you are willing to repent and trust in Jesus alone to save you, confessing Him as Lord.  
Romans 10:9-10
- If you have repented and placed your faith in Jesus, you are saved.

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## **Review Questions**

- What is grace?
- Why do we need grace?
- What is repentance?
- What is faith?
- Are you saved? Why?

## 9. What Is A Disciple Like?

A disciple is one who desires to follow Jesus, submit to His will, and obey His Word. Jesus told the multitudes what a disciple of His is like and then challenged them to “count the cost” before declaring their willingness to believe and follow Him. Salvation is completely free, but living the Christian life may cost everything. Everyone who repents and believes in Jesus should be willing and obligated follow Him.

[Luke 14:28-33](#); [Ephesians 2:10](#); [Titus 1:16](#)

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### A Disciple Considers And Chooses To Follow Jesus

- There are only two kinds of people in the world: those who believe and follow Jesus and those who do not.

[Matthew 7:13-14](#)

- Two Gates: Jesus is the strait gate. Only through Him can we be saved. There is no other name whereby we must be saved. Religion is the broad gate. It only leads to destruction.

[John 10:9](#); [Acts 4:12](#)

- Two Ways: The narrow way is choosing to believe and follow Jesus no matter the obstacles in your way (your family does not approve, you will be persecuted, it is against the law, etc.) The broad way is choosing not to believe, nor follow Jesus, but choosing what you think is right (your own way, your family tradition, or your religion).

[Matthew 10:37](#); [Proverbs 16:25](#)

- Two Destinations: If you choose the strait gate and narrow way you will receive everlasting life. If you choose the wide gate and the broad way you will receive destruction.

[John 3:36](#)

- Two Crowds: Few people are willing to admit their sin, repent, and believe in Jesus as the only way of salvation. Most people want to think positive about themselves, follow their traditions, and only worry about their momentary life.

[John 14:6](#); [Luke 13:23-30](#)

- Two Builders: Those who follow Jesus are like a wise man who builds his house upon a rock. When the rain, floods, and winds come, his house will not fall. Those who do not follow Jesus are like a foolish man who builds his house upon sand. When the rain, floods, and winds come, his house will fall.

[Matthew 7:24-27](#)

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### A Disciple Discovers And Believes Jesus Is The Greatest Treasure

- If you understand what God is offering to you through the work of Jesus, then you should be willing to do whatever it takes to obtain it.

[Matthew 13:44-46](#); [Philippians 3:7-8](#)

- Kingdom of God: God is offering to allow us to enter His Kingdom where there is no more crying, no more death, no more mourning, and no more pain. We will share in the eternal joy of a loving God.

[Revelation 21:1-4](#)

- Forgiveness of Sins: God is offering to forgive all of our sins: past, present, and future. Every failure and wrong thing we have done will be forgiven.

[Psalm 103:12](#)

## Firm Foundations One

- Declared Righteous: God is offering to impart the righteousness of Christ on our lives. That means that we will be as righteous as Jesus. He gives us all of Jesus' goodness.  
Galatians 2:16
- Escape from Hell: God is offering to rescue us from Hell and the Lake of Fire. The end of every person is eternal punishment unless they are saved by the grace of God.  
Romans 3:22; 1 Thessalonians 1:8; 5:9

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### A Disciple Renounces His Life And Submits To Jesus As Lord

- Choosing to follow Jesus is not a momentary decision, but it is a lifelong decision. Repenting and believing in Jesus results in a new life, a change in action and purpose. You no longer live for self, but live for Jesus and live like Jesus.  
Matthew 16:24-26; Mark 8:34-38; John 12:24-26
- A disciple is willing to publicly identify with Jesus. He is not ashamed of being a follower of Jesus. There will be people who oppose his decision to trust in Jesus, but he chooses Jesus over them.  
Matthew 10:33; Mark 8:38; Romans 1:16
- A disciple is willing to love Jesus as the highest priority in his life. He is willing to love Him above everyone else, including his possessions, family, and self.  
Matthew 10:34-37; Luke 14:26
- A disciple is willing to lose his life for Jesus' sake. Affliction, trials, and persecutions are part of the new life and can be expected in a disciple of Jesus, just as evident as it was in the life of Jesus.  
Matthew 10:24-25; 38-39; Luke 14:27; John 15:20-21
- Submitting to Jesus' Lordship does not mean that you will not sin or fall, but that when you do, you are willing to repent and start doing right again for the glory of God. This also does not mean that you understand everything, but that you realize even though the Christian life is hard, it is worth it.

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### Review Questions

- What did Jesus tell the multitudes to do?
- What are the two gates and the two ways?
- Why is Jesus the greatest treasure?
- If a disciple does not live for himself, who does he live for?
- A disciple is willing to do what?



## 10. I Recently Believed, What Is My Next Step?

If you have repented and believed in Jesus as Lord and Savior, then you are a believer. It is a time of rejoicing. Welcome to the family of God. This is just the beginning of your journey as a believer. Your next steps can be summed up in the following: understand your new faith, grow in your new faith, and express your new faith.

[Luke 15:3-10](#)

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### Understand Your New Faith

- **Born Again:** The Bible says that when a person becomes a believer they are born again. This means that a person has realized that they are a sinner and the price for their sin is death. But Jesus died on the cross to pay the price for sin and He rose again from the dead proving He is Lord and Savior. Therefore, a person repents and believes in Jesus for salvation.

[John 3:3, 16](#); [Romans 3:23](#); [6:23](#); [5:8](#); [10:9-10](#)

- **New Creature:** Because you are born again, you have become a new creature. As a new creature, your old life has passed away and you start living your new life in Jesus. With each passing day we want to become more like Jesus.

[2 Corinthians 5:17](#)

- **Child of God:** Because you are born again, you have a new relationship with God; you are His child. Before, we were slaves to sin and to other things, but now we are in a right relationship with God.

[John 1:12-13](#); [Galatians 4:4-7](#); [1 John 3:1](#)

- **Temple of the Holy Spirit:** Because we are sons, God has given us the Holy Spirit to live inside us so that we can live out who we now are. We do not have to live out this new life in our own power, but through the power of the Holy Spirit. He helps us become more like Jesus.

[Ephesians 1:13-14](#); [Galatians 4:6](#); [1 Corinthians 6:19-20](#)

- **Abundant Life:** As we understand and grow in our faith, we will experience greater joy in knowing Jesus. There will still be struggles in life, but we will ultimately receive eternal life. We do not have to live in fear because we know our salvation is in Jesus' hands, and He will never forsake us.

[John 3:16](#); [10:10](#), [28-29](#); [Philippians 1:6](#)

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### Grow In Your New Faith

- **Repentance and Faith:** You became a believer through repentance and faith in Jesus Christ, and these are two things that you will continue to do to help you grow as a believer. Salvation occurs once, but as you grow in the grace and knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, you will need to continue repenting of your sins and trusting in the teachings of the Bible. Jesus is the object of our faith and we should never forget that.

[2 Peter 3:18](#); [Colossians 2:6-7](#)

- **Read and Study the Bible:** To grow as a believer and learn how to live out your new life you need to read and study the Bible. The Bible is what helps you to understand salvation, and it is what will help you understand how to live for God. It is your main authority in life.

[2 Timothy 2:15](#); [3:16-17](#); [1 Peter 2:1-3](#); [Acts 20:32](#)

## Firm Foundations One

- Pray and Praise: Now that you are a believer, you can pray to God and He hears your prayer. You should spend time in prayer to Him and praise Him. There are no certain prayers that you must pray, but you should be constantly praying, praising, and thanking God.

1 Thessalonians 5:17; Matthew 6:9-13; John 15:7

- Local Church: You need to become a member of a local church. A local church is an assembly of believers who consistently meet together for edification in the Word of God, to partake in the Lord's Supper and Baptism, to worship God together, and to encourage each other to do good works and spread the Gospel.

Hebrews 10:24-25; Ephesians 1:12-14; 4:12-16

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## Express Your New Faith

- Baptism: Baptism is a public expression of your faith in Jesus. Many people refer to this as a believer's first step of obedience because Jesus commanded everyone who believes in Him to be baptized. Therefore, baptism is when your whole body is immersed in water and then comes out of the water. This illustrates being buried and resurrected with Jesus and the new life that we have because of our faith in Christ. Baptism is only a symbol and has no saving power.

Acts 2:41; Romans 6:3-4

- Living Sacrifice: Jesus is our Lord and we are to start living for Him. We express our faith through the works that we do. We stop sinning and we start doing right. We are being transformed through the Bible and living out His will. Because of who we are, we will desire to do good works.

Ephesians 2:8-10; 2 Peter 1:5-11; Romans 12:1-2

- Ambassadors for Christ: We are to tell others about Jesus. We become witnesses of His and desire to spread the gospel so that they might also be saved. This means the main occupation of your life is to make disciples, teaching others who Jesus is.

2 Corinthians 5:20; Matthew 28:18-20

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## Review Questions

- What does it mean to be born again?
- Who lives inside of believers?
- What is a believer's main authority?
- What are three ways to express your faith?
- What does it mean to be an ambassador of Christ?

# **Christian Life**

## Applying The Faith

# Christian Life

## Applying The Faith

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### About These Lessons

Faith in Jesus as Lord is just the beginning of the Christian life. Now that you have a right relationship with God through Jesus, you need to learn how to apply the truths of the Bible to your life and live out your new faith. As a believer, there are certain things you need to know about your Christian life and certain spiritual disciplines that will help you grow in your faith. As God continues the work in you that He has started and you respond in obedience, God will use you for His glory. In these lessons, we want to help you know how to apply your faith and start living for God.

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### Lessons 11-20

This set of ten lessons is designed to help you apply the faith. These lessons are what we consider to be the basic applications on how to live out the Christian life. The goal is to clarify any confusion on what parts of Scripture should be lived out today. These lesson include:

11. What Is The Holy Spirit Like?
  12. What Is The Local Church?
  13. What Is Baptism?
  14. What Is The Lord's Supper?
  15. How Do I Study The Bible?
  16. How Do I Pray?
  17. How Do I Give?
  18. What Are Spiritual Gifts?
  19. What Is The Great Commission?
  20. How Do I Witness And Disciple?
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### Structure Of The Lessons

Each lesson has a main truth, a simple outline that supports it, Bible references under many of the points, and review questions at the end. These lessons are best used when a mature Christian is able to guide you through them, studying one lesson per session.

## 11. What Is The Holy Spirit Like?

The Holy Spirit is God the Spirit. He is fully God and equal to the Father and Son. Today, He lives inside of all believers as a Comforter, Counselor, and Helper. He is the one who enables man to believe in Jesus, and the one who empowers every believer to follow Jesus for the glory of God.

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### The Divinity Of The Holy Spirit

- The Holy Spirit is the third member of the Trinity. This means that He is God and equal to the Father and the Son, but also an individual that has a specific role to fulfill. He is not a force, energy, power, wind, or a dove, but He is God and we are to treat Him as such.

Acts 5:3-4

- The Holy Spirit in the Bible is called the “Spirit of God,” “Spirit of the Lord,” “Spirit of Truth,” “Comforter,” “Spirit of Life,” “Spirit of Christ,” “Spirit of Adoption,” “Spirit of the Living God,” “Spirit of Jesus Christ,” “Eternal Spirit,” and “Spirit of Grace.”

Matthew 3:16; Luke 4:18; John 15:26; 16:7; Romans 8:2; 9, 15; 2 Corinthians 3:3; Philippians 1:19; Hebrews 9:14; 10:29

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### The Work Of The Holy Spirit

- The Holy Spirit is the Author of the Scriptures. He worked through the human authors of the Bible to record exactly what He wanted them to write so that we could have the Word of God. He now uses the Word of God to reveal the will of God to us.

2 Peter 1:21; 2 Timothy 3:16; 1 Peter 1:10-11

- The Holy Spirit is the one who convicts unbelievers of their sin. Through the preaching of the Word of God, He convicts the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment.

John 16:7-11; 1 John 5:6

- The Holy Spirit causes unbelievers to repent and be born again. He is the one who washes, sanctifies, and justifies in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

John 3:4-8; 6:63; Titus 3:4-7; 1 Corinthians 6:11; 1 John 4:2-3; 2 Thessalonians 2:13; 1 Corinthians 12:3

- The Holy Spirit is the one who enables us to have a right relationship with God through Jesus. He has set us free from the law of sin and death. We no longer live in fear because there is no more punishment. We are made children of God and we live to please God.

Romans 8:1-2; 14-17; 1 John 4:18

- The Holy Spirit dwells inside all believers all the time. Jesus told His disciples that it was good for Him to leave them because He would send the Holy Spirit. In the Gospel of John, they received the Holy Spirit by the breath of Jesus. In the book of Acts, we see that they received the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. Today, every believer receives the Holy Spirit upon salvation.

Romans 8:9; John 7:37-39; 14:16-17; 20:22; Acts 2:4; 1 Corinthians 12:13

- The Holy Spirit makes believers more and more like Jesus. The Bible says believers are the Temple of the Holy Spirit and, therefore, this changes the way they choose to live. He is making them holy and producing spiritual fruit in their lives.

1 Corinthians 3:16; 6:19-20; Galatians 5:19-22

- The Holy Spirit seals the believers' salvation forever. Once they believe, they receive the Holy Spirit: this means they are sealed. They will always be saved because it is the Holy Spirit doing the work inside of them.

Ephesians 1:13-14; Romans 8:11

## The Filling Of The Holy Spirit

- As believers, we are commanded to be filled with the Holy Spirit. This is different from the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. The Baptism of the Holy Spirit puts us in Christ and happens only once at the time of salvation. The filling of the Holy Spirit happens more than once and gives us power to serve God, serve others, and be a witness of Jesus.

Ephesians 5:18; Romans 6:3-4; Galatians 3:27-28

- As believers, we are commanded to walk in the Holy Spirit. This means that our regular way of life should be characterized by the fruits of the Spirit because we are led by the Spirit.

Galatians 5:16-25; Romans 8:14; Ephesians 2:10

- As believers, we are given spiritual gifts from the Holy Spirit that we are to use to edify each other, and the church. Everyone's gifts are different, but all are useful in the body of Christ. They should be used within the realm of the church with self-control, orderliness, edification, and love.

1 Corinthians 12:4-11; 14:1

- As believers, we are filled with and walk in the Spirit when we allow the Word of God (that the Holy Spirit inspired) to change who we are. We must read, study, meditate on, and submit to it. We cannot do this on our own, so the Holy Spirit helps us in our understanding and, through the Word, fills us to walk in His ways, to be a witness of Jesus, and to do the will of God.

Colossians 3:16-17; 18-4:1

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## The Testimony Of The Holy Spirit

- The Holy Spirit testifies of the Word of God (as contained in the Bible). He will never reveal anything contrary to the Bible. The Bible is the Sword of the Spirit that all believers can use in spiritual battle. Not only does He testify of the Bible, but He also helps us to understand and remember it.

John 14:26; Ephesians 6:11; 1 Corinthians 2:10-16

- The Holy Spirit testifies of Jesus. He will always point people to Jesus and direct worship to Him. In the book of Acts, we find that believers were filled with the Holy Spirit many times. Most of the time this was for boldly proclaiming the gospel of Jesus.

John 15:26; 16:13-15; Acts 4:8, 31; 9:17; 13:9; 1 Corinthians 2:4-5

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## Review Question

- Is the Holy Spirit equal with the Father and the Son?
- What book is the Holy Spirit the Author of?
- What is the work of the Holy Spirit?
- Where does the Holy Spirit live and what kind of fruit does He produce?
- Who does the Holy Spirit testify of?

## 12. What Is The Local Church?

A local church is a group of believers who consistently gather together in one place for the common purpose of carrying out the will and work of God and to grow in the grace and knowledge of their Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

[2 Peter 3:18](#); [Hebrews 10:23-25](#)

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### The Formation Of The Local Church

- Every person who repents and believes automatically becomes part of the church in general. The church is also called the “body of Christ,” with Jesus being the Head. Although all believers are part of the body of Christ, Jesus carries out His will through local churches. The local church started with Jesus and His disciples, and it was established when they received and were filled by Holy Spirit.

[Matthew 16:13-18](#); [John 20:22](#); [Acts 2:1-4, 47](#); [Ephesians 1:22](#); [Colossians 1:18](#)

- Today, a local church exists when believers: regularly gather for edification in the Word of God desiring to obey it, are willing to baptize new believers as a testimony of their faith in Jesus alone for salvation, and eat the Lord’s Supper together in remembrance of His death, looking forward to His return.

[Acts 2:38; 4:31](#); [Colossians 1:24-26](#); [1 Corinthians 11:20-26](#)

- Therefore, the local church is not a building, nor is it a group of believers who only meet together to study the Bible. A local church is a group of believers who consistently meet together obeying what the Bible has taught about the purpose and work of a church.
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### The Function Of The Local Church

- The local church worships God together. Believers are the “praise of God’s glory.” We express our reverence and adoration for God through proclaiming the Word, singing songs, making melodies, giving offerings and giving thanks.

[Acts 13:1-3](#); [Ephesians 1:11-14](#); [5:15-21](#); [Colossians 3:16-17](#)

- The local church edifies each other. We love each other and treat each other like family. We speak to one another in psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs. We are constantly preaching, teaching, and warning each other so that we might present every man perfect in Christ Jesus. We are unified in the faith and knowledge of the Son of God.

[Ephesians 4:11-16](#); [5:19-27](#); [1 Timothy 5:1-2](#); [Colossians 1:28](#)

- The local church exists to evangelize the world. Jesus commanded believers to be witnesses of Him to the entire world. Each local church should be involved in preaching the gospel to their local area and sending missionaries to preach the gospel in all parts of the world. Together we can pray, give and go.

[Matthew 28:18-20](#); [Mark 16:15](#); [Luke 24:46-48](#); [John 20:20-21](#); [Acts 1:8](#); [Romans 10:13-15](#)

- The local church does good works. As believers we show our love through the preaching of the Word, works of compassion, works of mercy, and caring for the poor. We are to do good to all men, but especially to those in the church.

[Luke 6:35-36](#); [Acts 4:32-35](#); [11:29](#); [Galatians 6:10](#); [2 Corinthians 8:4](#); [1 John 3:17-18](#)

### The Health Of The Local Church

- A healthy church teaches the Bible correctly and obeys it. Every local church is not the same. They may be a “real church” if they are preaching the “real gospel,” but they might not be a “healthy church” if they are not fully obeying the Bible’s commands. Every believer should desire to be a member of a healthy church that does right according to the Bible.

Galatians 1:6-9; 1 Thessalonians 2:13; Hebrews 13:7-9, 20-21; 1 John 5:2; Revelation 22:18-19

- A healthy church has proper leadership. Jesus is the Founder, Builder, and Head of the church. A church has two main offices: pastor and deacon. The leadership should meet the Bible’s requirements and lead by example. The church should take financial responsibility of the pastor. Women are not to be in positions of lead teaching or offices of authority in the local church. The government has no authoritative role in the church.

Acts 20:17, 28; 1 Corinthians 14:34-35; 1 Timothy 2:11-14; 3:1-13; 5:17-19; 1 Peter 5:1-4

- A healthy church practices church discipline. Jesus gave the church instructions on dealing with believers who have fallen into sin. The goal is to restore and reconcile the believers and purge out those who are the unrepentant or not real believers.

Matthew 18:15-17; 1 Corinthians 5:6-7, 12-13

- A healthy church is unified. The members of a local church should be unified in their purpose, functions, and core beliefs. There are many members and gifts, but we all work together for the same goal.

1 Corinthians 12:12-26; Ephesians 4:4-6

- A healthy church does things decently and in order. When the members of a local church meet together, everything they do should conform to the standards of the Bible. There should not be chaos or unruliness.

1 Corinthians 14:23-25; 33; 40

- A healthy church understands and exercises spiritual gifts properly. The Holy Spirit gives gifts to each believer as He wills. Each are to be used for the common good or to build each other up. All gifts should be used in love. Also, some gifts, such as tongues and healing, have ceased along with the office of an apostle.

1 Corinthians 12:1-11; 13:2, 8; 14:1

- A healthy church has active members. As a Christian, you should find a local church as described in this lesson and join its membership. As a member, you should assemble when they do; you should be learning, worshipping, and growing in the Word of God; you should take part in the work of God through spreading the Gospel and serving others.

2 Timothy 2:2; James 1:22-25

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### Review Questions

- Who is the founder and builder of the church?
- Is the local church a building? Why or why not?
- What are the functions of a local church?
- What are some characteristics of a healthy church?
- Are you a member of a local church?



## 13. What Is Baptism?

Baptism is when a believer's whole body is immersed into water in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit as a testimony of his faith in Jesus alone for salvation. It is a symbol that expresses a believer's decision to believe in and follow Jesus.

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### The Testimony Of Baptism

- Baptism is often called a believer's first step of obedience after salvation, because as a follower of Jesus, he is being obedient to Jesus' command to be baptized.

Matthew 28:18-20; 1 John 2:3

- Baptism reminds us that we are saved by the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus. When we believe in Jesus, spiritually, our old-self is buried with Him, we die to sin, and we are raised to live for God.

1 Corinthians 15:1-4; Romans 6:1-11; Colossians 2:12

- Baptism is an outward testimony to the church and others that a person has started to believe in Jesus Christ, they are now a Christian, and they desire to identify as His follower and with His church.

Acts 2:41

- Baptism is not part of salvation, nor does it wash away your sins. We are saved by grace through faith. Only Jesus' blood washes away our sin.

Ephesians 1:7; 2:8-9; 1 John 1:7; Colossians 1:20

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### The Requirements Of Baptism

- The Bible gives us commands and many examples of baptism that we need to follow, not adding to or taking away from them. We cannot change baptism to fit our circumstances or culture. It is a specific symbol to be fulfilled in a specific way and all Christians should desire to be baptized in the proper way according to the Bible.

Acts 2:38-41; 8:36-40; 16:25-34

- The first requirement is salvation. In the book of Acts, baptism always followed salvation and never preceded it. Baptism is the outward symbol of your internal belief in Jesus.

Acts 2:41; 8:38; 9:17,18; 10:48; 16:15, 33; 18:8; 19:4,5

- The second requirement is to be baptized in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. This is a clear command that is given by Jesus Himself.

Matthew 28:18-20

- The third requirement is to be baptized by immersion. Your whole body should be immersed into the water and then should come back out. This is the only mode that can properly display our spiritual union with Christ through His death, burial, and resurrection.

Romans 6:4; Acts 8:38-39

- The fourth requirement is that baptism must be administered. You cannot baptize yourself. Every example of believer's baptism in the New Testament is administered by male Christians in the church. Therefore, based on these examples and the teaching that women are not to have positions of authority in the church, women should not baptize.

John 4:1-3; 1 Timothy 2:12; 1 Corinthians 1:11-16

## Firm Foundations One

- If you were not baptized according to the above requirements, then you have not received biblical baptism. Therefore, you need to be baptized. Biblical baptism is received after salvation; in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit; by immersion in water; and administered by a male Christian in the church as an expression of your faith in Jesus.

Acts 19:1-7

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### Concerns About Baptism

- What if I believed baptism as part of my salvation? According to the Bible, you are not baptized, nor are you saved. If you believe that you have to trust in Jesus plus get baptized to be saved, then you are not a Christian. Salvation is only through faith in Jesus Christ plus nothing else. You need to repent of your works and confess Jesus as Lord for salvation. Only then as a response to your salvation can you be baptized, knowing baptism has not part in your salvation.
- What if I was baptized as a baby or before I was saved? According to the Bible, you have not been biblically baptized. Children and/or babies who cannot make a firm salvation decision for themselves cannot be baptized. A person can only be baptized after salvation. If you are saved, then you should be biblically baptized.
- What if I was baptized by sprinkling or not baptized by immersion? According to the Bible, you have not been biblically baptized. There are no examples of sprinkling in the Bible. If you are saved, then you should be biblically baptized.
- What if I was baptized by someone unqualified? Although the focus of Scripture is not on the person who baptizes, but on the person being baptized, it seems that those who can administer baptism are limited to male Christians in the church. You should desire that your baptism is performed in this way. If this man later falls into sin, your baptism would still be valid if it was performed under the authority of a real local church.
- What if I do not get baptized? First, salvation is only by the grace of God. If you do not get baptized, you can still be a Christian. Second, since baptism is a kind of obedience (in which Christians should take joy in obeying the Lord) you would need to ask yourself why you do not want to get baptized in obedience to the Lord's command. This could be a sign that you are not a true believer.
- What if I cannot or do not have the opportunity to be baptized? If you cannot be baptized due to circumstances out of your control then the Lord knows your situation. There is no special ranking for those who are baptized and those who are not. The man hanging on the cross that believed in Jesus never was baptized (by immersion in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit after salvation).

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### Review Questions

- Baptism is an expression of what decision?
- What are the four requirements of baptism?
- Can babies or small children be baptized? Why or why not?
- Is baptism part of salvation? Why or why not?
- Why would a person need to be baptized again?

## 14. What Is The Lord's Supper?

The Lord's Supper is a gathering of believers to eat the bread and drink of the cup in remembrance of Jesus and what He did for us, and to show forth our Lord's death until He comes again.

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### The Institution Of The Lord's Supper

- The Lord's Supper was first instituted by the Lord Jesus with His disciples.  
Matthew 26:26-30, Mark 14:22-26; Luke 22:15:14-20; John 6:48-54, 63
- Jesus said He would not drink of the fruit of the vine until He could do so with us in His Father's kingdom. Therefore, we are to eagerly expect His return, or love His appearing. He waits to eat with us in His kingdom.  
Luke 22:18; Matthew 26:29; 2 Timothy 4:8
- Paul tells the church to keep the ordinances, or teachings, that we have received from the Lord. He then instructs the church about the Lord's Supper as a way to remember Jesus and show forth His death until He comes again.  
1 Corinthians 11:2; 23, 26
- The Bible is not clear about how often we are to take the Lord's Supper. It only says: "as oft as ye drink" and "as oft as ye eat". Therefore, there are no certain times that we eat the Lord's Supper, but we should desire to take the supper like Jesus desired to take it with His disciples before suffering.  
Luke 22:15; 1 Corinthians 11:25-26

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### The Ingredients And Meaning Of The Lord's Supper

- The juice we drink is the fruit of the vine and represents the blood of Jesus.  
1 Corinthians 11:25; Matthew 26:28
  - We drink juice from the fruit of the vine. This is grape juice in its natural state without the addition of alcohol. The Bible says, "The life of the flesh is in the blood," and the purpose of the juice is to remind us that God has given us the blood to make atonement for our souls by allowing His sinless Son to die in our place.  
Leviticus 17:11; Matthew 26:29, Mark 14:25, Luke 22:18
  - By Jesus' blood we have a new everlasting testament or covenant. No more sacrifice is needed. In the Old Testament, the priest had to come and offer a blood sacrifice every year for the remission of sins, but Christ has appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself.  
Hebrews 9:15-28; 13:20-21
  - When drinking the fruit of the vine from the cup, we should remember that we are now justified by Jesus' blood and saved from the wrath of God. We can have joy in God because our atonement has been received.  
Romans 5:8-11
- The bread we break is unleavened and represents the body of Jesus.  
1 Corinthians 11:24; Luke 22:19
  - We eat unleavened bread. Leaven in the Bible is a symbol for sin; therefore, we do not use leavened bread. The purpose of the bread is to remind us that Jesus became flesh and bore the punishment of our sins in His own body so that we could have everlasting life.  
Matthew 16:6; 26:26, Mark 14:22; 1 Corinthians 5:6-8, 5:8; 1 Peter 2:24

## Firm Foundations One

- Jesus willingly gave His body as the sacrifice for our sins so that we could be saved. He was beaten and bruised so badly that He did not even look like a man anymore.  
John 10:18; Isaiah 52:14; 53:5-6; 2 Corinthians 5:21; 1 John 2:2; Galatians 1:4; Ephesians 5:2; Titus 2:14

- The Lord's Supper is not a time of feasting, but it is a time to eat and drink in remembrance of Jesus. We are not to change the ingredients, because they have been specifically given to the church to be followed.  
1 Corinthians 11:20-22

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### The Requirements For Participation In The Lord's Supper

- To take part in the Lord's Supper, you must be a believer. You need to check your life and make sure of your salvation. Participation in the Lord's Supper is not part of your salvation, but it is a time to remind you about your salvation.  
2 Corinthians 13:5
- To take part in the Lord's Supper, you must be living in obedience to the Word of God. You must first examine yourself. You need to judge yourself (not others) before you eat or drink, confess any sin in your life and make sure you are growing in the faith. You do not want to take it unworthily. He that eats it unworthily brings damnation or judgment on himself. This can mean sickness or even death. We should fearfully or respectfully take part in the Lord's Supper.  
1 Corinthians 11:27-34; Hebrews 12:8; James 1:23-27; 1 John 1:9; 3:3

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### Review Questions

- What do we drink in the Lord's Supper? Why?
- What do we eat in the Lord's Supper? Why?
- How often do we eat the Lord's Supper?
- Who can participate in the Lord's Supper?
- What should I do before participating in the Lord's Supper?

## 15. How Do I Study The Bible?

Bible study is the privilege of a believer to understand God's Word through reading, interpreting, and applying the Scriptures. A healthy habit of studying the Bible will also include: meditating on Scriptural truths, obeying Scriptural commands, and teaching the Scriptures to others. This is accomplished through knowing how to properly interpret the Bible so that one will know what it says and means for themselves.

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### The Usefulness Of The Bible

- The Bible is the Word of God. It is infallible, inerrant, and complete. It is necessary for us to know God and His will. We glorify God by doing His will, and His will is revealed to us in the Bible.

Psalm 19:7; Proverbs 30:5-6; Romans 10:14-17; 2 Timothy 3:14-17; Revelations 20:18-19

- The Bible is the source of truth. As believers correctly study, interpret, and apply the Bible to their lives, it will help them in the following ways: guide them, give them victory over sin, allow them to grow in the faith, and bring them true joy.

Psalm 119:11, 105; 1 Peter 2:2; Luke 11:28; John 17:17; 1 John 1:4

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### The Believers' Attitude Towards The Bible

- Believers can spiritually understand the Bible. Only believers can understand the Bible, because the Holy Spirit lives inside of them. Therefore, believers should know, study, honor, love, obey, and teach the Bible.

1 Corinthians 2:12-14; Psalm 138:2; 119:97; Job 23:12; 2 Timothy 4:2; 1 John 2:5

- Believers should desire to understand the Bible. Like a newborn baby desires milk, believers are to desire the Word of God. We should put away our sin and receive the Word. The more we live holy lives, the more we will desire the Word and vice versa.

1 Peter 2:2; James 1:21-25; Psalm 19:10; Matthew 4:4

- Believers should diligently study the Bible. Bible study is not always easy, but it is often hard work. We should be diligent to study the Bible and pray for God to open our eyes so we can understand and apply the truth correctly.

Acts 17:10-12; 1 Timothy 5:17; Psalm 119:17; Ephesians 1:16-18

- Believers should meditate on the Bible. We should think about the Bible, consider its truths, memorize it, and constantly keep it on our minds.

Deuteronomy 6:6-7; Psalms 1:1-3; 37:31; 119:11, 105; Joshua 1:8; 1 John 5:3

- Believers should teach the Bible. We have a responsibility to communicate the Bible to others. This should motivate us to read, study, interpret, and meditate on the Bible.

Matthew 28:19-20; 2 Timothy 2:2

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### How To Study The Bible

- Read the Bible: All believers should read or have someone read the Bible to them so they know what it says. They should read the entire Bible, Old and New Testament, because it is all profitable.

1 Timothy 4:13; Revelation 1:3

- Interpret the Bible: All believers should interpret the Bible so they know what it means. When you interpret the Bible, you want to follow some principles that will help you understand its meaning. Below are four principles:

Nehemiah 8:1-8

## Firm Foundations One

- The Literal Principle: You interpret the Bible according to its natural meaning. You are not trying to find any hidden or special meanings in the text, but you interpret it in the plain normal way the author intended it and in accordance to its literary style.
- The Historical Principle: You interpret the Bible in its historical context. You should ask many questions, such as: When was it written? Who wrote this book? What was the historical setting? Who was this written to? How would they interpret it? Why was it written?
- The Grammatical Principle: You interpret the Bible according to its grammatical structure (nouns, verbs, pronouns, etc.).
- The Scripture Principle: You interpret the Bible according to the Bible. The Bible will never contradict itself, but it will always be in harmony. We compare Scripture with Scripture.
- Apply the Bible: You apply the Bible according to its interpretation. How does the scripture apply to you? This does not mean “what does this verse mean to you,” but based on the Scriptures proper meaning, “what application does it have for your life?”  
[2 Timothy 3:16](#)

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### Other Bible Study Helps

- Reading Plan: It is useful to read through the Bible in an organized way. Start at the beginning of a book and read all the way through. Decide on an amount of time or an amount of chapters to read everyday, so that you will consistently be reading the Bible.
- Bible Resources: The Bible can be hard to interpret sometimes because it was written in a different language, culture, location, and time. There are books that can help us understand these areas so that we can properly interpret the Bible (Dictionaries, Concordances, Commentaries, etc.).
- Basic Bible Study: If you do not have any Bible resources, you can still interpret the Bible through the following process: pray, read, put the passage in your own words, note your predetermined ideas, look for what the Bible says (not others), study and know the context, ask questions about the text to clarify your understanding, compare your findings with other Scripture, explain it and apply it the best you can.

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### Review Questions

- What does the Bible reveal to us?
- Why can believers understand the Bible?
- What are 3 ways to study the Bible?
- What are the 4 principles to interpret the Bible?
- Are you fulfilling your responsibility to teach others about the Bible?

## 16. How Do I Pray?

Prayer is when a believer speaks to God. This includes: asking, supplication, thanksgivings, praise, confession and intercessions. Believers know that God can hear them and that He will respond according to His will. Believers should be constantly praying and paying attention to what is going on so that they can make their requests known to God and thank Him for when He answers prayer.

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### Prayer Is For Believers

- **Our New Relationship:** As believers, we are born again, meaning that we have a new relationship with God — that of a son and father relationship. Because God is our Father, we can boldly speak to Him and know that He will hear us.  
Galatians 4:6-7; 1 Peter 3:12; Hebrews 4:16; 1 John 5:15
- **Our Helper:** As believers, the Holy Spirit lives inside of us. We often do not know how to pray or what to say, so the Holy Spirit prays for us to the Father. Thus, we can know that God is working through us even though we have faults.  
Ephesians 6:18-20; Jude 20-21
- **Our Privilege:** As believers, we have the new privilege of asking in the name of Jesus. We don't have to worry like nonbelievers, nor be anxious about everything. Instead, in everything we can pray in Jesus' name, making our request known to the Father.  
Philippians 4:4-7; John 14:13-14

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### How To Pray

- **The Example Prayer:** Jesus gave us an example prayer so that we would know how to pray. He addressed God and asked Him to do many things. His prayer included: His desire to see God glorified and God's will to be done, asking God to provide for that day's needs, for God's grace, and help to live right.  
Matthew 6:9-13; Luke 11:1-4
- **Three Types of Prayer:** (1) Supplication is when we earnestly and humbly ask God for something specific. (2) Intercession is when we pray for someone else. (3) Thanksgiving is when we thank God for who He is, what He has done, is doing, and is going to do.  
Colossians 1:3-4; 1 Timothy 4:4-5
- **Watching:** Prayer is to be a constant part of our Christian life. We should be paying attention to our lives and those around us, constantly asking God to do a work and thanking Him when He does.  
Romans 12:12; Ephesians 1:16; Colossians 4:2; 1 Thessalonians 5:17-18
- **Examples in Acts:** The church in Acts exemplified the praying life for us. They were devoted to prayer: prayed when making decisions, prayed when they performed miracles, pastors saw it as part of their main work, they prayed when they laid hands on people, and they prayed for those in persecution.  
Acts 1:14, 24; 2:41-42; 6:4, 6; 9:40; 13:3; 12:5, 12; 14:23; 20:36; 21:5
- **Bible Prayer Request:** The Bible gives us several examples of prayer requests that we should be praying for, or that would help us in our prayer life. We should use the Bible to help us pray.  
Philippians 1:9-11; Colossians 1:9-10; 4:12-13; Matthew 5:43-48; 9:36-38; 26:41; Luke 6:27-28; 10:1-2; Romans 10:1; 1 Thessalonians 1:2-3; 3:9-10; 2 Thessalonians 1:11-12; Philemon 4-7; 1; 1 Timothy 2:1-4

### Prayer Principles

- Prayer is not to be used to show off. When you pray, you should not pray to be seen of others, but you should find a place to pray in secret. Jesus exemplified this for us as He often went away to a place by Himself to pray.  
Matthew 6:5-6; 14:23; Mark 1:35; 6:46; Luke 5:16; 6:12; 9:18; 20:45-47
- Prayer is not repeating the same words over and over. We are to pray with our minds, meaning we are thinking about what we are praying and not just saying simple phrases over and over thinking we will be heard because of our repetition.  
Matthew 6:7-8
- Jesus went off and prayed by himself three times and the disciples were also to be watching and praying, but they fell asleep. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.  
Matthew 26:36-45; Mark 14:32-41
- Prayer is submitting to God's will. We should pray for God's will to be done over our personal preference. Jesus asked God to deliver Him and then He said that if there is no other way, let Your will be done. As we ask God to intervene in our lives, we should always be willing to submit to His will over our own.  
Luke 22:41-45; 1 John 5:14
- Prayer is an expression of faith. Whatever we ask in prayer through faith, believing that it will come to pass, we will receive it and it will be ours.  
Matthew 21:18-22; Mark 9:14-29; 11:20-25
- Prayer is to be consistent. God invites us to ask Him for what we need. We should be persistent in praying and seeking God for those things if we really desire to obtain them. Remember, if our earthly father knows how to take care of an earthly son, how much more does God know how to take care of His child.  
Luke 11:5-13
- Prayer requires waiting. We might not always see a prayer answered immediately, but Jesus tells us that God will give justice to those who cry to Him day and night.  
Luke 18:1-8
- Prayer requires us to be humble. We do not come to God bragging about how good we are, but we come with a humble heart, knowing that we are sinners and only made good by the grace of God.  
Luke 18:9-14
- Prayer can be hindered. Not asking, asking with wrong motives, unbelief, doubt, sin, praying without understanding (praying in tongues), or even having a bad relationship with your spouse can hinder your prayers.  
1 Peter 3:7; 4:7; 1 Corinthians 14:13-15; James 4:2-3

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### Review Questions

- What kind of relationship do we have with God?
- Who helps us pray?
- What are the three types of prayer?
- What does it mean to watch and pray?
- What are some prayer principles?



## 17. How Do I Give?

Giving is handing over our money, material possessions, and lives for the purposes of God. As believers, we realize all that we have, including ourselves, belongs to God. We desire to be good stewards and managers of our lives and everything that we own or will own.

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### Giving Stewardship

- God is the Creator of everything; therefore, He is the owner of everything. As believers, we recognize this fact and yield not only our lives, but also everything we own, including our money, to God.  
[Genesis 1:1](#); [Psalm 50:10](#)
  - When we realize everything is God's, it helps put our relationship with God, money, and things into perspective. God is the owner and we are His managers. We are to administer everything that we have according to His will. We ask God for wisdom and the more we grow in His knowledge and grace through the Bible, the more we realize how to administer all He has given us.  
[1 Corinthians 10:31](#); [James 1:5](#)
  - When a believer chooses to use his money and all that God has blessed him with for the glory of God, it shows that he does not covet or love money. We cannot serve two masters. Jesus is our Lord, not money.  
[Matthew 6:19-34](#); [1 Timothy 6:10](#)
  - Willingness to give shows that God's love abides in us. We are motivated by the love of God, and we help others who are in need. We are blessed to be a blessing.  
[1 John 3:17-18](#)
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### Giving In The Local Church

- Freewill Offerings: Giving offerings is part of the church in the New Testament. We find that the church gave to take care of their needs and their leadership, to help other believers in need, and to support those taking the gospel to other parts of the world.  
[Acts 2:45](#); [4:34-37](#); [Romans 15:25-27](#); [Galatians 6:6](#); [1 Corinthians 9:11-12](#); [1 Timothy 5:18](#); [Philippians 4:15-16](#)
- Free of Charge: The local church is not like a business. It is not authorized to have a mandatory charge for its members or anyone who attends, including any type of money, tithe, membership fee, etc. The church should be financially supported through the freewill offerings of its membership.  
[Matthew 21:12-13](#)
- Free from the Tithe: The tithe that was fully established and required under the Mosaic Law required the Nation of Israel to give multiple "one-tenths" of their agricultural produce and/or livestock as a way to support the Levites, celebrate festivals, to help others in need and worship God. In Christ, the tithes have been fulfilled and believers are freed from the law—no longer required to give tithes, offerings, or sacrifices to the tabernacle, etc; nor is the tithe carried over in the New Testament for required giving in the local church.  
[Leviticus 27:30](#); [Numbers 18:21-26](#); [Deuteronomy 14:24-29](#); [2 Chronicles 31:5](#); [Malachi 3:8-10](#); [Romans 6:14](#)

### Giving Principles

- Giving should be regular. When Paul told the Corinthian churches to take up offerings to help the believers in Jerusalem, he told them to collect the offerings on the first day of every week. This shows a pattern of giving regularly. As we receive regularly, we should give regularly.  
[1 Corinthians 16:1-2](#)
- Giving should be according to what you have. Paul also told them to give “as God hath prospered” them. So each person should give a certain amount according to how God has prospered him and within his financial limits. The more God prospers you the more you should give.  
[1 Corinthians 16:2](#)
- Giving should be willful and cheerful. Paul tells the church to give according to what they have decided in their hearts and not grudgingly or of necessity. But remember you reap what you sow; if you sow sparingly you will reap sparingly; and if you sow bountifully you will reap bountifully.  
[2 Corinthians 9:7](#)
- Giving results in blessings from God. When we give, God is faithful to take care of our needs and will bless us in return, spiritually and materially.  
[2 Corinthians 9:6, 8](#); [Luke 6:38](#)
- Giving is pleasing to God. Doing good to others by sharing what we have with them is a sacrifice that is pleasing to God.  
[Hebrews 13:15-16](#)
- Giving results in thanksgiving to God. We not only show forth that we are trusting in God to take care of us through giving, but also we cause others to give God thanksgiving.  
[2 Corinthians 9:11-15](#)

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### Giving Considerations

- 100% Participation: Every Christian should participate in giving. First, offer yourself to the Lord, then consider how you can take part in other areas of giving. The churches of Macedonia were in extreme poverty, but they gave generously.  
[2 Corinthians 8:1-5](#)
- Together is better: It is not the responsibility of just a few people to give, but it is something we do as a whole. Everyone gives willingly and according to what he has so that one's abundance supplies another's need. We can do more together than we can do separately.  
[2 Corinthians 8:13-15](#)
- Starting at grace: What should we give? For every person it is different. We need to seek God and decide in our heart what we can give regularly according to our means. We are no longer under the law but under grace. We have so much to be thankful for, so let's excel in our giving.  
[2 Corinthians 8:7](#); [9:7](#)

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### Review Questions

- What is God's position and what is our position?
- What did they give in the New Testament?
- Are we required to tithe as recorded in the law? Why?
- What are some principles of giving?
- Are you ready to start giving?

## 18. What Are Spiritual Gifts?

Spiritual gifts are certain abilities given to every believer to serve God through building up the church or the body of Christ. As we recognize our ability, we should desire to use it in accordance with the Scriptures to build up the church for the glory of God.

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### Understanding Spiritual Gifts For The Edification Of The Church

- Only believers receive spiritual gifts. The basis for receiving spiritual gifts is one's belief in "Jesus as Lord." Before belief in Jesus, you lived a lifestyle contrary to God, but the Holy Spirit revealed Jesus to you and you confessed Him as Lord; therefore, being saved you received the Holy Spirit and were given spiritual gifts.  
1 Corinthians 2:8-14; 12:1-3; 1 John 5:6-8
- There is a range of gifts, but one God. As believers, we are part of the body of Christ. Every person is in the body of Christ, but the body is made up of different members. Every person's role in the body is important and useful, but different. Therefore, we should see ourselves as one and work together for the edification of the body.  
Romans 12:4-6; Ephesians 4:4-6; 1 Corinthians 12:4-6; 12-27
- The Holy Spirit distributes the gifts to each believer according to His own will. All the gifts come from the Holy Spirit; therefore, we should use the gifts that He has seen fit to give us.  
Ephesians 4:7-8; Romans 12:3; 1 Corinthians 12:7, 11, 18, 28
- We are to desire spiritual gifts so that we can excel in edifying the church. As we understand the importance of spiritual gifts and their use in the church, we should desire them so that we may properly serve God and build up the church. Spiritual gifts are for the common good, and as we use them, we "manifest the Spirit" which in turn profits all.  
Ephesians 4:12-16; 1 Corinthians 12:7; 14:1, 12
- All spiritual gifts should be used in love (humility, gentleness, patience) to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. To use your spiritual gift without love means that you profit nothing. Love never fails, and if we dismiss love in our desire for spiritual gifts, we are missing the point. Love is superior than any other gift and should be a part of all spiritual gifts. It is the greatest manifestation of the Spirit.  
Ephesians 1:1-3; Romans 12:1-3; 1 Corinthians 12:31; 13:1-13
- All speaking gifts within the church should be used in a way that everyone in attendance can understand what is being said so that all can be edified. Also, the use of these gifts in the church should not be characterized by confusion, but be spoken one at a time, showing self-control and being done decently and in order.  
1 Corinthians 12:8-10, 28; 14:19, 23-26; 31-33
- There are two main types of gifts: temporary and permanent. The temporary gifts were given to authenticate that the Apostles were truly appointed by God and their teachings were truly from God. These signs continued as the Apostles laid the foundation of the church and ceased after the Bible was completed. The permanent gifts are still available to be used for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, and for the edifying of the body of Christ.  
Ephesians 4:12

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## Temporary Spiritual Gifts For The Establishment Of The Church

Ephesians 4:11; 1 Corinthians 12:8-10; 28-30

- **Apostles:** The apostles (and prophets) were men chosen to lay the foundation of the church and to give the Word of God to us. They were confirmed through being eyewitnesses of and chosen by Jesus, as well as, performing miraculous signs.  
Ephesians 2:20; 3:5; Acts 8:6-7; 11:28; 21:10-11; 2 Corinthians 12:12; Hebrews 2:3-4
- **The Working of Miracles:** This gift was the ability to do supernatural things that displayed the power of God. This was a sign that the person performing the miracles was from God. Jesus did many miracles as recorded in the Gospels. The disciples also had power to do miracles, such as casting out demons.  
John 2:12; Luke 9:1; 10:17-19; Acts 2:22; 6:8; 8:7; 13:6-12
- **Healing:** This gift was the ability to miraculously heal people of their sickness to authenticate the message being preached and the one who is preaching it. This gift was used by Jesus, the Apostles, the seventy, and a few others in the New Testament.  
Matthew 8:16-17; 10:1; Luke 10:1; Acts 8:5-7; 2 Corinthians 12:12
- **Various Kinds of Tongues:** This is the gift to speak the things of God in a foreign language, unknown to the speaker. This was also used to fulfill prophecy, serve as a sign to unbelievers, confirm the gospel, and show that God is now working among all people.  
Acts 2:5-21
- **Interpretation of Tongues:** The ability to interpret a foreign language being spoken.

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## Permanent Spiritual Gifts For The Operation Of The Church

Ephesians 4:11; 1 Corinthians 12:8-10; 28-30; Romans 12:6-8

- **Gifts of the Word:** These gifts are the ability to speak forth the Word of God unto men to edify, exhort, comfort, teach, convert, etc. These gifts no longer include new revelation from God or foretelling the future, like in Acts, but it is a reiteration of the already revealed Word of God. These gifts include prophets/prophecy, word of knowledge, word of wisdom, teachers/teaching, exhortation, evangelists, and pastors.
- **Gifts of Serving:** These gifts are the ability to serve efficiently and effectively. These gifts include government/ruling, helps/ministry, giving, mercy, faith, and discerning of spirits.
- **Categorizing the Gifts:** The above gifts are separated into two categories to emphasize their "main function," but are not limited to those categories. The Bible tells us what the spiritual gifts are, but does not define them nor limit it to these gifts only. Therefore, we need to be cautious when applying our spiritual gifts and always make sure it is in accordance with the Bible.

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## Review Questions

- Who receives spiritual gifts?
- Who distributes the spiritual gifts?
- What is more important than our spiritual gifts?
- What are the temporary gifts? Why were they temporary?
- What are the permanent gifts? Why are they permanent?

## 19. What Is The Great Commission?

The Great Commission is the task of the church to be continuously making disciples of all nations until Jesus' returns. This is to be carried out by going to the nations of the world preaching the gospel, baptizing new converts in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and teaching the Word of God to edify the believers.

[Matthew 28:18-20](#)

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### The Power And Authority Of The Commission

- After Jesus died and rose from the dead, He appeared to the disciples and told them that all power was given to Him. Jesus was claiming absolute, sovereign authority which would be the basis for the command that He would give them. Therefore, it is in the name of Jesus alone that we fulfill the great commission.

[John 20:21](#)

- As they fulfilled this command, Jesus told His disciples that He would be with them always. We not only obey this command in the name of Jesus but He also goes with us. We do not go on our own, but we know that He is with us.
- This command should be carried out until the end of the world. Until Jesus returns to judge the world and set up His Kingdom, we are to obey this command. The One who has all authority in heaven and earth has commanded us to do so, and He also has promised to be with us through the entire process until the end of the world.
- Jesus told the disciples to wait for the Holy Spirit to come upon them so they would have power to be witnesses of Him unto all the world. The Holy Spirit would be their power for ministry, and He is still our power for ministry today.

[Luke 24:46-49; Acts 1:8](#)

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### The Mission Of The Commission

- The mission of the Great Commission is to make disciples of Jesus from all nations. A disciple of Jesus is one who believes in Jesus as Lord and Savior. He willingly follows Jesus and desires to obey all that Jesus taught, to the glory of God. This is fulfilled through going, baptizing, and teaching.

- Going: Believers should go into all the world preaching the gospel. Those who believe the message of the gospel will be saved, and those who do not believe will be damned. Every believer should be involved in going into their local area preaching the gospel and sending believers to other parts of the world to preach the gospel.

[Mark 16:15-16](#)

- Baptizing: Once a person hears the gospel and believes, he should be baptized in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. This testifies that the person is willing to be identified as a disciple of Christ and is a step of obedience in following Christ.
- Teaching: As repentance and the remission of sins are being preached in Jesus' name, we should also be teaching all that Jesus taught, including the whole of Scripture.

## Firm Foundations One

- As we see this commandment fulfilled in the New Testament, (as they went preaching the gospel, baptizing new converts, and teaching them in the faith), it resulted in local churches being established. It was to this end that the commission was to be fulfilled: to establish local churches who would have the responsibility to continuously carry out the command to make disciples by going, baptizing and teaching.

[Acts 14:21-23](#); Acts 15:41; 1 Thessalonians 1:8; 3:2

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### The Reach Of The Commission

- The commission tells us to go into the entire world. The Bible says to go: to “all nations,” to “all the world,” “among all nations,” and “in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.” We can conclude that God wants us to make disciples of all people of every nation, country, and people group.
- We need to overcome any racial attitudes that we have towards other countries or people. Over 7 billion people are alive today and we need to see their need to hear the gospel message of Jesus Christ.
- We are to reach the world because they are condemned already and without excuse. The only hope for any person to be reconciled to God is through believing in Jesus and confessing His name.  
[John 3:18](#); [Romans 1:20](#)
- We are to be witnesses of Jesus to the entire world at the same time. You obviously will start where you are and preach the gospel in your local town, but it should be the desire of each church to be reaching out to other parts of the world at the same time through sending missionaries to preach, baptize, and teach.

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### The Responsibility Of The Commission

- Senders and Goers: The Bible is clear that anyone who calls upon the name of the Lord will be saved. How will they call on Him if they have not believed? How will they believe if they have never heard of Jesus? How can they hear if there is no preacher, and how can they preach unless they are sent? We have the responsibility to go preach the Gospel and send around the world those willing to witness of Jesus.  
[Romans 10:13-15](#)
- The Ministry of Reconciliation: God has done all the work necessary through Jesus to reconcile man to Himself. It is this message of reconciliation that He has committed to us who have been reconciled to God by Jesus Christ. We are now ambassadors for Christ.  
[2 Corinthians 5:14-21](#)
- Our Shame: Some people still do not have the knowledge of God and this is our shame. God is not willing that any should perish but that all come to repentance. Will we obey the great commission and make disciples of all nations?  
[1 Corinthians 15:34](#); [2 Peter 3:9](#)

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### Review Questions

- Where does the authority of this commission come from?
- Who gives us the power to be a witness of Jesus?
- What is the reach of the Great Commission?
- What is the mission of the Great Commission?
- How do we fulfill this mission?

## 20. How Do I Witness And Disciple?

Every believer has the responsibility to be a witness for Jesus and make disciples. This process of sharing the gospel and making disciples is one that should be continually repeated. As we preach the gospel, baptize new converts, and teach them the Word of God, they in turn should do the same.

2 Timothy 2:2

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### Believers Are Disciplers

- You are the only Bible that most people will read. This means that most people are not going to sit down and study the Bible, but they will watch your life. Your life is a living testimony to what you believe.

1 Timothy 4:12; 2 Corinthians 3:1-3

- As a person who makes disciples, you are leading people. Therefore, you are asking them to follow you. You need to make sure you are following Jesus so your way of life can be imitated. As people learn to follow the Lord, they will mimic us and the way that we follow Him.

2 Thessalonians 3:7-9; Hebrews 6:12; 13:7; 3 John 1:11; 1 Corinthians 4:16, 11:1; Ephesians 5:1; 1 Thessalonians 1:6; 2:14; Philippians 3:17

- As a person who makes disciples, we need to have a strong relationship with the Lord. We are to put off our former way of life and live unto God. Our character should become more like Jesus'. He should be changing us from the inside out.

Psalms 15; Ephesians 4:20-32; Colossians 3; James 1:21

- As a person who makes disciples, we should be consistently studying our Bibles, worshipping God, attending church consistently, giving, praying, serving, and doing good works for the glory of God. We are to model what we teach.

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### Disciplers Preach The Gospel (Four Steps To Teaching The Gospel)

- Step One: You are a sinner and death is your penalty. Most people believe they are good people, but the Bible says that all are sinners. You need to help people realize they have sinned against God, and the punishment for this is death and eternal separation from God. You can refer to different Bible verses and take people through the Ten Commandments to show them their sinful condition.

Exodus 20; 34:7; Romans 3:12-23; Hebrews 9:27; John 3:36

- Step Two: Jesus died and rose again for you. Once people realize their sinful condition, they need to know how God made a way for their sin to be forgiven through the gospel. God showed His love to us by sending His Son, Jesus Christ, into the world to save sinners. He was perfectly good or sinless—He never disobeyed God's laws. He didn't have to die, but He loved us so much that He willingly died on the cross to pay the price for our sin. Three days later He arose, proving everything that He had claimed was true.

John 3:16; Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21

- Step Three: You must repent and put your faith in Jesus Christ. Once a person realizes the death and resurrection of Jesus, then they need to hear the gospel call: repent and believe. Repentance is renouncing your former way of life (sin, pride, self-righteousness, etc.) and turning to a new way of life that is only found in the Lord Jesus. This is a change of mind, heart, and life based on the understanding of truth. Faith is trusting in Jesus to save you. You trust that Jesus' death and resurrection is enough to forgive your sins. This is more than intellectual assent of the facts about Jesus, but you are basing your salvation on them.

Acts 20:21

## Firm Foundations One

- Step Four: Salvation is a gift of grace that you must receive. Once a person is in agreement with their sinful condition, the death and resurrection of Jesus, and heard the gospel call to repent and believe, then the time has come for them to accept the gift of salvation. Explain that salvation is a gift of grace from God, therefore it is not earned by anything we do (good works, baptism) but is freely given to us with the only condition of accepting it. From a repentant heart, they can confess to God, placing their trust in Jesus, depending exclusively in Him, and nothing else for their salvation. At that point they become a believer.

Ephesians 2:8-9; Romans 6:23; 10:9-10; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Acts 4:12

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### Disciplers Make Disciples (Principles In Training Others)

- Discipleship starts with the gospel, but it does not stop there. We are to continue teaching and training every believer in the faith. Each believer should be praying that God will give them someone specifically to give the gospel to, study the Bible with, and train. After we pray, we watch for people who we can train, expecting God to answer our prayers.

Luke 6:12

- Discipleship is teaching others. Find one or more persons who would be willing to study the Bible with you, and pick a time to get together each week. When you get together here are some suggestions to follow: teach them how to pray; teach them how to read their Bibles, discuss what was read and answer any questions they have; teach a Bible lesson using the Firm Foundations lessons; help them become members of a church, find a place to serve and encourage them to take notes during the church services; help them memorize the books of the Bible and Bible verses; eventually, teach them how to start discipling others.

- Discipleship is life on life, meaning that you will not only sit down and teach them lessons about the Bible, but they also will spend time with you and learn from your life. Jesus trained His disciples by being with them. Many things are caught more than taught.

Mark 3:14; 1 Corinthians 16:10-11, 4:17

- Discipleship is double vision, meaning that you see where a person is and where a person can be through the power of the gospel. No matter how bad someone's situation is, you know what God can do to change their life. Your disciples will make mistakes, but we are called to have compassion and trust that God is doing a work in them. Your disciples will become your friends and you should refer to them as your friends and not "my disciples".

Judges 6:13-18; Hebrews 5:1-4

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### Review Questions

- Who has the responsibility to make disciples?
- What are the four steps to presenting the gospel?
- Does making disciples just mean sharing the gospel? Why or why not?
- What are some of the principles in training others?
- Are you ready to make disciples?



# **Christian Identity**

## Realizing The Faith

# Christian Identity

## Realizing The Faith

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### About These Lessons

Believers have been given a new identity in Jesus Christ. Our identity tells us who we are and what we are like. Even if we haven't realized these truths, they are already true and have been since we were born again. Our response to realizing all that God has given us in Jesus Christ should be humble praise and gratitude. Our position in Christ should have practical implications for the way that we choose to live out our lives. In these lessons, we want to help you explore these positional truths and their practical applications.

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### Lessons 21-30

This set of ten lessons is designed to help you realize your faith. These lessons are what we consider to be the basic understanding of who you are in Christ. Hopefully, they will help you realize your new position in Christ and how you should live for God accordingly. These lessons include:

21. In Christ, I Am Called, Justified, And Glorified By God. (New Standing)
  22. In Christ, I Am A Saint, Friend, And Son Of God. (New Relationship)
  23. In Christ, I Am Freed, Renewed, And Yielded To God. (New Creature)
  24. In Christ, I Am Blessed, Accepted, And Loved By God. (New Appreciation)
  25. In Christ, I Am Afflicted, Rewarded, And Victorious. (New Perspective)
  26. In Christ, I Am Eternally Secure. (New Assurance)
  27. In Christ, I Am Gloriously Sanctified. (New Holiness)
  28. In Christ, I Am A Royal Priest. (New Privilege)
  29. In Christ, I Am A Man Or Woman Of God. (New Roles)
  30. In Christ, I Am Not My Own. (New Purpose)
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### Structure Of The Lessons

Each lesson has a main truth, a simple outline that supports it, Bible references under many of the points, and review questions at the end. These lessons are best used when a mature believer is able to guide you through them, studying one lesson per session.

## 21. In Christ, I Am Called, Justified, And Glorified By God.

New Standing: In Jesus Christ, you have a new standing with God. Your salvation is all by the grace of God. He has called and saved you from the problem of sin. He has justified and saved you from the penalty of sin. He has glorified and will save you from the presence of sin. Through understanding our new standing with God, we will know we have a right relationship with Him and praise the glory of His grace.

Romans 8:30; Ephesians 2:1-10

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### In Christ, I Am Called (Saved From The Problem Of Sin)

- Every person who is "in Christ" has been called by God. This means that God chose to save us according to His own will and not according to anything good in us. God, through His love and grace, decided to show forth His grace to us, even though we were completely unworthy of it. Therefore, being called by God, I know that I am loved.

Acts 2:39; 13:48; Ephesians 1:4-6

- The Bible says that God called those whom He foreknew and predestined, meaning that God determined to know us, save us, and change us before the world began. This shows that our salvation is all by the grace of God and not according to our works.

Romans 8:28-29; 2 Timothy 1:9; Revelation 17:8

- A person responds to the call of God through repentance and faith in Jesus. The gospel is preached and we willingly choose to respond to it through faith in Jesus. As a result, God saves us from the penalty of our sin, which is eternity in hell.

2 Thessalonians 2:14; Acts 20:21; John 3:16

- Through God's grace we are part of "the called of Jesus Christ." God called us out of darkness into His marvelous light; He called us unto the fellowship of His Son Jesus Christ our Lord; He called us unto His kingdom and glory; He called us to be saints; He called us unto eternal life.

Romans 1:6; 1 Peter 2:9-10; 1 Corinthians 1:9; 1 Thessalonians 2:12; 1 Peter 5:10; 2 Peter 1:3; 1 Timothy 6:12

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### In Christ, I Am Justified (Saved From The Penalty Of Sin)

- Justification means that God has completely forgiven our sins and has given us Jesus' righteousness. Therefore we are declared righteous, or sinless. God no longer sees us as a sinner but as a righteous person. God sees our sins as belonging to Christ and Christ's righteousness belonging to us. This happens the moment you repent and believe.

2 Corinthians 5:21; Romans 10:3-9

- Justification is only possible through faith in Jesus. Our works or obedience to the law can never forgive our sins and give us perfect righteousness. It is only through faith, trusting in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, that we can be justified. We aren't worthy of this amazing gift, but God has freely given it to us by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.

Romans 3:24, 26; Galatians 2:16; Philippians 3:9

- Justification is carried out by God. This is a legal action where God, as a Judge, declares you righteous. Therefore, the price of all our sins has been forgiven (past, present, future). We will never be condemned because we are now righteous in the sight of God.

Romans 8:1; 8:33

## Firm Foundations One

- Justification results in peace with God. Now that we are made righteous, we have perfect peace with God. Now we have a right relationship with God. All is made well. This should result in us having peace, no longer fearing God as a distant judge, but seeing Him as a close Father.

Romans 5:1

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### In Christ, I Am Glorified (Saved From The Presence Of Sin)

- Glorification is when we will actually become like Christ. Believers are already saved, forgiven, and justified (positional), but it isn't until Christ returns that we will be glorified with Him (practical). Each day we are being sanctified, being made more like Christ, but when Christ returns we will be completely made like Him.

Romans 8:17, 23-24; 1 Corinthians 15:22-23

- Glorification means our bodies will be transformed. When a believer dies, his body stays on the earth, but his soul goes to be with God. When the trumpet sounds, we will be raised and changed. We will receive new, incorruptible, immortal, glorious, heavenly bodies.

1 Corinthians 15:49-52; Philippians 3:21; 1 John 3:2

- Glorification means we will be present with God and eternally removed from sin. We will eternally enjoy our new relationship with God.

Romans 8:18; 2 Corinthians 4:17

- Glorification is a blessing given to every believer by God. We need to remember that we are being made like Him today, and in the end will be like Him only because of His grace. It is God that is able to keep us from falling, and to present us faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy.

2 Corinthians 3:18; Jude 24-25; John 17:17; 4:23

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### Review Questions

- What does it mean to be called by God?
- What does it mean to be justified by God?
- What does it mean to be glorified by God?
- Understanding these truths help us realize salvation is all of what?
- Positionally, these truths are already so, but when will they be practically applied?

## 22. In Christ, I Am A Saint, Friend, And Son Of God.

New Relationship: In Jesus Christ, you have a new relationship with God. You are no longer a sinner, but a saint. You are no longer His enemy, but His friend. You are no longer a stranger, but a son. Through understanding the implications of our new relationship with God, we will know how to better live out who we are in reality. In Christ, we have been regenerated, reconciled, and redeemed.

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### In Christ, I Am A Saint Of God, Not A Sinner (Regenerated)

Ephesians 1:1-2; [1 Corinthians 1:2](#); Romans 1:7; Colossians 1:26

- Our identity before we are saved is that of a sinner. Sin was the main characteristic of our lives and it is what defined us. But after we are saved, this is no longer true. Everyone "in Adam" (sinners) will die, but everyone "in Christ" (saints) shall all be made alive.

[1 Corinthians 15:22](#)

- Our identity after we are saved is found in Jesus Christ. We no longer find our identity in what we do, but in what Jesus has already done for us. Through the work of Jesus Christ, we have been made saints. A saint is a sinner who has been made holy through faith in the death and resurrection of Jesus, not through anything he (the saint) has done.

Romans 4:14; Ephesians 2:8-9

- Our identity as saints should cause us to yield our members as servants of righteousness unto holiness. You are freed from sin and it is no longer your master. You have been made a saint and are being sanctified. You are freed from the penalty of sin, given new life, being made more like Jesus, and one day will eternally live with Him in a sinless state.

Romans 6:15-23

- Our identity should match our practice. Conventional wisdom says, "What you do dictates who you are," but the gospel changes this and says, "What Jesus did dictates who you are and who you are in Christ dictates what you should do." As a saint, we still have the ability to sin and will sin until we are eternally with Jesus, but now that we have positionally been made holy in Christ, we should practically be holy in all our conduct.

[1 Peter 1:15-16](#)

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### In Christ, I Am A Friend Of God, Not An Enemy (Reconciled)

- God hates sin. God hates those who sin. He hates them because they are contrary to who He is (holy, righteous, and just). God cannot dwell with evil. Sinners must be punished and the wrath of God abides on them. But God also loves sinners and it is His kindness that leads us to repentance.

Deuteronomy 12:31; 16:22; [Psalm 5:4-6](#); 11:5; Proverbs 6:16-19; John 3:36; [Romans 2:4](#)

- While we were still sinners, God sent His Son to die for us so that we could be saved from His wrath. God sent Jesus to suffer the penalty of His enemies so that they could be made His friends. Everyone who is in Christ has been declared righteous (justified) and has his relationship restored with his Creator (reconciled). This restored relationship gives us great joy.

[Romans 5:8-11](#)

- In Christ, we are no longer objects of God's wrath, but can draw nigh to Him as a friend. Jesus laid down His life to make us friends. Positionally, we are friends of God. Practically, we show forth our friendship by doing whatsoever He commands us.

[John 15:13-15](#); Proverbs 18:24

## In Christ, I Am A Son Of God, Not A Stranger (Redeemed)

Galatians 3:26

- In Christ, you become a child of God. God adopts you into His family. We are no longer "children of disobedience" or "children of wrath," but are given power to become the sons of God.

John 1:12; Ephesians 1:5; 2:2-3

- We can be adopted by God because He redeemed us through Jesus. No one becomes a son of God by his own will, but must be born again. Although every person was created by God and was made in His image, they are not automatically His children. Man was created to bear God's image and worship Him, but this was distorted by sin. Only in Christ can we finally be restored to bear God's image, truly worship Him, and be called children of God.

Galatians 4:4-7; John 3:3-21; Genesis 1: 26-27

- As sons, He has given us the Holy Spirit to live inside of us, crying "Abba, Father". The Holy Spirit bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God. God is now our approachable Father. We know He cares for us. We no longer have to fear that we will be punished for our sin or scared of death.

Romans 8:15

- As sons, we are also heirs of God. An heir is someone who has the right to inherit whatever the father has prepared for him. We will inherit eternal life living in the kingdom of God where God Himself will be with us and be our God.

Romans 8:17; Matthew 25:34; Galatians 3:29; 4:7; Ephesians 1:11; Colossians 1:12; 3:24; Hebrews 6:12; 9:15; 1 Peter 1:4; Revelation 21:3

- Positionally, we are now sons, but won't receive the full inheritance of our adoption until we get to heaven. Therefore, we groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption and the redemption of our bodies.

1 John 3:2; Romans 8:23

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## Review Questions

- What was the main characteristic of our lives before salvation? What is it now?
- Because I am a saint, how does this change what I do?
- Am I God's enemy? Does God hate me? Why?
- How does a person become a child of God?
- What are the privileges of being a child of God?

## 23. In Christ, I Am Freed, Renewed, And Yielded To God.

New Creature: In Jesus Christ, you are made a new creature by God. This means that old things have passed away and all things become new. The Bible refers to this as our "old man" and "new man." As we understand we are a new creature in Christ, we have to start living it out. We have to "put off" the old man and "put on" the new man. We do this through knowing our union with Christ, renewing our minds and yielding our lives to God.

Romans 6:18; 2 Corinthians 5:17; Galatians 3:27

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### In Christ, I Am Free From Sin (Know Your Union With Christ)

- Know that all believers who were baptized in Christ were baptized (planted) into His death and burial. This means that we were spiritually immersed into His death. The Holy Spirit through our faith in Christ unifies and identifies us with the death of Jesus.

Roman 6:3

- Know that our "old man" (who you were before faith in Jesus) was crucified with Jesus. This means that you died to sin. Your sinful nature died. You are no longer a slave to sin. You do not have to serve sin. You are free from sin.

Romans 6:6-7

- Know that all believers who were baptized in Christ were also raised up from the dead to walk in newness of life. Jesus was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father defeating everything evil, including death. The Holy Spirit, through our faith in Christ, unifies and identifies us with the resurrection of Jesus. This enables us to live unto God.

Romans 6:4-5; 8-10

- Reckon these truths to be true. In the same way that Jesus was crucified dying unto sin and then being resurrected to live unto God, likewise, we are to see ourselves as dead to sin and alive unto God. This is only possible through Jesus Christ. Not only does He save us and promise us eternal life, but makes us a new creature who is able to overcome sin and live for God.

Romans 6:11,22; Colossians 3:1-4

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### In Christ, I Am A New Man (Renew Your Mind)

- We no longer act according to the "vanity of our minds," but we are renewed in the spirit of our mind. Before we were saved, we were alienated from God and lived in sin, but now we have trusted in Christ and are no longer separated from God. Therefore we have a new understanding that we are to live out. As believers, we think and act differently.

Ephesians 4:17-24

- The Holy Spirit is constantly renewing our minds through the Word of God. This renewing transforms the way that we live. We don't live as unwise, not knowing what the will of the Lord is, but we redeem the time, living Holy Spirit-filled lives to the glory of God.

Romans 12:2; Colossians 3:16-17; Ephesians 5:14-21; 2 Corinthians 4:16

- As we renew our minds, we are to put off the old man—our sinful nature before faith in Christ. This old man is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts. We are at war with our old man and we are to mortify those members of sin.

Ephesians 4:22; Colossians 3:5-9

## Firm Foundations One

- As we renew our minds, we are to put on the new man—our righteous nature after faith in Christ. This new man is created in righteousness and true holiness. It is created in the likeness of God. Based on our position in Christ as the elect of God, holy and beloved, we are to put on those things that are characteristic of God Himself.

[Ephesians 4:24](#); [Colossians 3:10-14](#)

- Practically this means that we are to stop doing certain things and start doing other things. For example: we are to stop stealing and start giving; we are to stop using corrupt communication and start using edifying communication; we are to stop being bitter and start forgiving.

[Ephesians 4:25-32](#); [5:1-4](#)

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### In Christ, I Am A Servant Of God (Yield Yourself To God)

- We no longer yield to sin. We don't have to let sin reign in our bodies. Sin has no dominion over us (we live under grace, not the law). Spiritually we are righteous before God, but we still live in our earthly bodies that are capable of sinning. Our body and its members tempt us to sin, but we are to control them and not let them be instruments of unrighteousness—doing things against the will of God.

[Romans 6:12-15](#)

- We yield ourselves to God. Because of our union with Christ, we were made free from sin (we don't serve sin) and became the servants of God. Therefore, we are to yield our members as instruments of righteousness—doing things according to the will of God.

[Romans 6:13, 16-23](#)

- We yield ourselves as living sacrifices. A sacrifice in the Old Testament was the offering of dead animals to God, but we no longer need to offer sacrifices because of Jesus' death and resurrection. Therefore our only reasonable service is to offer our entire lives to God, as if we were actually giving our lives like a sacrifice requires. This means we are willing to be completely yielded to God, living lives that are holy and acceptable to Him.

[Romans 12:1](#)

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### Review Questions

- How am I set free from sin?
- What does it mean to be free from sin?
- What does it mean to yield yourself to God?
- What does it mean to renew our minds?
- What does it mean to put off the old man and put on the new man?



## 24. In Christ, I Am Blessed, Accepted, And Loved.

New Appreciation: In Jesus Christ, you are appreciated by God; meaning that no matter what your background is, God bestows you with His favor, grace and love. You are blessed, you are accepted, and you are loved. He doesn't base this on the things that you did, but on what Jesus has done for you. Therefore, we need to learn to recognize this new acceptance and live out who we are in Christ.

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### In Christ, I Am Blessed (God Bestows You With His Favor)

- From the beginning, God blessed mankind. After He created male and female in His image He blessed them. They didn't seek this blessing, but God out of His goodness chose to bless them. He commanded them to be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth, and subdue it. He gave them dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the heavens, and every living thing that moved on the earth. He gave them every plant bearing seed and every tree with seed in its fruit as food. Finally, God looked at everything and said it was "very good."

[Genesis 1:27-31](#)

- To be "blessed" means that we are well spoken of, we receive favor, or we are given benefits. In Christ, God has blessed us with all spiritual blessings. He speaks well of us and no evil. He pours out His grace on our lives daily. He has given us the benefit of a new life empowered by the Holy Spirit to live for Him.

[Ephesians 1:3](#)

- Often we only think of blessings as material goods, but Paul wants to remind us of our "spiritual blessings" in heavenly places that we have in Christ Jesus. God chose us to be holy, predestined us unto the adoption of children, made us accepted in the beloved, redeemed us through His blood, forgave our sins, and sealed us with the Holy Spirit of promise.

[Ephesians 1:3-14](#)

- The blessing we receive in Christ is all a work of God. It is all according to the good pleasure of His will and according to the riches of His grace. God is a good Father who knows how and when to give good gifts to His children. Our response to His blessings is to praise His glorious name.

[Ephesians 1:11-12](#); [Matthew 7:9-11](#)

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### In Christ, I Am Accepted (God Bestows You With His Grace)

- We are God's creation. There are certain aspects about ourselves that are predetermined before we are born that we cannot change, such as, gender, time period we are born into, our body structure, our skin color, our nationality at birth, certain abilities or talents, parents or relatives, and birth order. The Bible says we are fearfully and wonderfully made by a good God, so we should see these things as the will of God, accepting how God made us, and, in Christ, He is working them together for good.

[Psalm 139:13-18](#); [Romans 8:28-29](#)

- We are God's workmanship. Before time, God ordained a plan that would redeem us from our sin and create us new in Christ Jesus unto good works. Knowing we are His workmanship allows us to walk in the good works that He has prepared for us to do.

[Romans 8:29-32](#); [Ephesians 2:10](#)

## Firm Foundations One

- We are recipients of God's amazing grace. All of the goodness in us is because God's grace is with us. We are who we are by the grace of God. The evidence of God's grace in our lives and the lives of others should cause us to give thanks unto God.

1 Corinthians 1:3-8; 15:10; 2 Thessalonians 1:3; Ephesians 1:15-16

- Knowing that God recognizes our full worth in Christ should cause us to know that we aren't neglected but accepted; turn our bitterness into thankfulness; accept our deficiencies; stop grumbling and start being grateful and appreciative. It should cause us to be humble, not boasting in ourselves, but boasting in our great God. It empowers us to overcome our insecurities so that we can encourage and serve others with the grace we have been given.

1 Peter 4:9-10; 2 Corinthians 1:3-4; Ephesians 2:9

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### In Christ, I Am Loved (God Bestows You With His Love)

- God's love toward us is a sacrificial love. The love of God is greatly expressed through Jesus' death on the cross for us. Jesus gave His life for us. When we were still enemies of God, Jesus died for us. God's sacrificial love shows us His love is unmerited, unconditional, all-giving, and amazing.

John 15:13; Romans 5:8; 1 John 4: 9-10

- God's love toward us is a secure love. We have all of His love. He will never love us more or less. Nothing will ever separate us from this love; neither tribulation, distress, persecution, famine, nakedness, danger, sword, death, life, angels, principalities, powers, things present, things to come, height, depth, nor anything else, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus.

Romans 8:35-39

- God's love toward us is perfect love. God's love suffers long and is kind; God's love envies not; it vaunts not itself, is not puffed up, does not behave itself unseemly, seeks not its own, is not easily provoked, thinks no evil; rejoices not in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. God's love never fails.

1 Corinthians 13:4-8

- God's love toward us is a relational love. The Bible uses the metaphor of a husband and wife to help us better understand the relational aspect of the love of God. We, the church, are the bride of Christ. He leads, saves, sanctifies and cleanses us to makes us holy and without blemish, so that He might present us to Himself. He nourishes and cherishes us. In response to His loving goodness to us, we love Him in return.

Ephesians 5:22-33

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### Review Questions

- What does it mean to be blessed?
- What are some of our "spiritual blessings"?
- Are you appreciated? Why?
- What is God's love toward us like?
- What three things does God bestow us with?

## 25. In Christ, I Am Afflicted, Rewarded, And Victorious.

New Perspective: In Jesus Christ, you are given a new perspective from God. This means that you are learning that we aren't living for this world but the world to come. In this world, you will be afflicted, but God is using it to make you more like Jesus. In the world to come, you will be rewarded for how you live for God today; therefore, you can make sacrifices because this world isn't your home. As you are passing through this world, you are in a spiritual battle, but through Jesus you will have the victory, putting on the armor of God, and having done all to stand firm. In Christ, you are afflicted, rewarded, and victorious for the glory of God.

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### In Christ, I Am Afflicted (Suffering For The Glory Of God)

- As believers, living out our new life in Christ can result in suffering, persecution, and affliction. As sinful humans living in a sinful world, we all will experience some kind of affliction. This is a normal part of life. Sometimes we experience affliction because of the bad decisions we make, punishment for sin, someone takes advantage of us, or because of our associations. As believers, we will also experience persecution specifically for following Jesus and doing the will of God.

Philippians 1:29-30; 2 Timothy 3:12

- As believers, we must remember that God can use our affliction for His glory. In the midst of our affliction, we must remember that God is still good and sovereign. We won't always know why God has allowed certain things to happen or take place, but we should continue to trust in Him knowing that He can work good out of it. Responding correctly to these trials in our life is a testimony to the grace of God.

Philippians 1:6; 12-14; Romans 8:28; Genesis 50:20

- As believers, we identify with Jesus through affliction the same way He identified with us. He was sinless, yet He suffered the painful death of the cross so that we might be saved. In the midst of the affliction, He continued to obey God and do right without complaining and thus being a light to the world. He glorified God in His affliction and His affliction brought us eternal life. He was mistreated, but didn't respond in sin. Therefore, when we choose to suffer like Jesus suffered, we become more like Him.

Philippians 2:4-16; Hebrews 2:9-10

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### In Christ, I Am Rewarded (Rewards For The Glory Of God)

- As believers, we will be rewarded for our good works. All of our works will be tried by fire and if they survive the testing, then we will receive a reward. If a believer doesn't have good works he will suffer loss, but he will still be saved. Remember, we are saved by faith and no matter what our works are we will not come into judgment, but will pass from death to life.

1 Corinthians 3:13-15; John 5:24

- As believers, knowing we will receive reward should motivate us to serve God. In everything, we should work wholeheartedly unto God and not man. We should have a heavenly focus, meaning we are working to lay up treasures in heaven and not treasures here on earth.

Colossians 3:23-24; Matthew 6:19-21; Luke 6:35

- As believers, we will be rewarded for the persecution we endure because of Jesus. We can be encouraged during times of affliction and persecution because we know that in the end we will receive a reward for it.

Matthew 5:11-12; Hebrews 11:26

## Firm Foundations One

- As believers, we don't have to be in competition for these rewards because they are limitless. The Bible doesn't say specifically what these rewards are going to be, but we know that they will be just because it is the Lord who gives them to us. Therefore, we should encourage each other to love, do good works, and serve God.

Revelation 22:12-13; Ephesians 6:8

- As believers, Jesus is our ultimate reward. When He appears we will see Him as He is and we will be like Him. Our greatest reward is to come face to face with the one whom we serve: the Lord Christ.

1 Corinthians 13:12; 1 John 3:2

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### In Christ, I Am Victorious (Victory For The Glory Of God)

- As believers, we are fighting a spiritual battle. We are not at war with flesh and blood, but we are at war against the spiritual forces of evil. These are principalities, powers, and rulers of the darkness of this world. Satan is their leader and they represent the enemies of God. The kingdom of light is at war against the kingdom of darkness.

Ephesians 6:12; 2 Corinthians 10:3-5

- As believers, we are strengthened by God and supplied armor from Him for the battle. The devil attacks when he entices us to sin against God, believe false teachings and teachers, worship other gods or idols, interact with demons, etc. The armor of God enables us to firmly stand against the attacks of the devil with truth, righteousness, the gospel, faith, salvation, the word of God, and prayer.

Ephesians 6:10-20; 2 Corinthians 6:14-18; 1 John 4:1-6; James 4:7; John 8:44

- As believers, we are on the winning side. King Jesus has defeated sin, death, and Satan. Jesus nailed all accusations against us to the cross and disarmed all the principalities, powers, and rulers of the darkness of this world. He triumphs over them and is seated at the right hand of God. Let us look to Jesus as we fight this battle, knowing that in Him we have the victory all to the glory of God.

Colossians 2:13-15; Hebrews 12:2; 1 Peter 3:22; Philippians 2:9-11

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### Review Questions

- As believers, what will we experience for following Christ?
- What must we remember in the midst of our affliction?
- What will believers be rewarded for?
- What is the ultimate reward of a believer?
- As believers, why are we victorious?

## 26. In Christ, I Am Eternally Secure.

New Assurance: In Jesus Christ, you have a new assurance from God. Our salvation is freely given to us by God and forever kept by Him. This makes the gospel more distinct than any other religious message in the world because it frees us to pursue God out of joy and not fear. It is comforting to know, in Christ, we are saved by God through faith in Jesus and given eternal life that can never be lost or taken away. Our salvation is guaranteed through the seal of the Holy Spirit and we are given the Bible so that we can know that we have this eternal life.

Romans 6:23; 1 John 5:13

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### In Christ, I Am Eternally Saved (The Promises Of Eternal Life)

- Our salvation is freely given to us by God and forever maintained by Him. Our salvation does not rely on our good works or personal goodness to earn and keep it, but it relies on the grace of God who, through Jesus Christ and according to His own goodness, chose to save us and keep us eternally.

Titus 3:4-8; Ephesians 2:8-10

- Jesus promises that when He saves us He gives us eternal life. This means that from the point of salvation on we will never perish. After our bodies die, we will not be sent to hell, but will eternally live with God. This promise is guaranteed because we are securely in the hands of Jesus and God the Father and no one is able to snatch us out of their hands, not even ourselves. Remember, it is not the strength of our faith that saves us, but the strength of God in whom we put our faith that saves us.

John 10:25-30

- Jesus promises to never cast us out, lose us, leave us, or forsake us. The will of God is that everyone who believes in Jesus as the Son of God will have everlasting life and be raised by Jesus at the last day.

John 6:37-39; Hebrews 13:5

- We are sealed by the Holy Spirit of promise for the day of redemption. This seal guarantees our eternal redemption until we acquire possession of it.

Ephesians 1:13-14; 4:30

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### In Christ, I Will Eternally Live (The Meaning Of Eternal Life)

- Believers will live with God for all eternity. "Eternal" signifies that we will always have this salvation and that we can do nothing to ever lose it. This is possible because it is kept by the power of God. Therefore, all true believers receive eternal life and will keep that eternal life for all eternity.

1 Peter 1:5; John 6:40

- Believers will not pass into condemnation. Jesus tells us anyone who hears His words and believes in God has everlasting life. At the point of salvation you received everlasting life, so you never come into condemnation but pass from death into life. We will never be judged for sin, go to hell, or be rejected by God for any reason.

John 5:24; Romans 8:1

## In Christ, I Am Eternally Changed (The Evidences Of Eternal Life)

- Believers bear good fruit showing we abide in Jesus (the true vine). For a believer, bearing fruit is a natural result of repentance and faith in Jesus. Now that we are in Christ, we will produce good fruit because Christ is good. Therefore, the fruit we bear gives evidence to the faith that we say we believe. What kind of fruit are you bearing?

Matthew 3:8,10; 7:15-20; 12:33; 13:23; John 15:1-9

- Believers can examine themselves to see whether they are in the faith. Once we believe in Jesus we begin to experience many changes, some happen instantly and others happen subtly over time. Therefore, these changes can be evidences of true biblical salvation. Below are a few evidences to consider:

2 Corinthians 13:5-6; James 1:22-25; 2:26

- Are you trusting in Jesus alone for your salvation or are you trusting in the works that you are doing for Jesus to save you? He that has Jesus has life and he that doesn't have Jesus doesn't have life.

1 John 5:12; Matthew 7:21-23; Romans 11:6

- Is your way of life defined by practicing sin or practicing righteousness? Each day are you becoming more like the devil or more like Jesus?

1 John 2:1-6; 1 John 3:1-10

- Do you have new desires, such as, a yearning to do the will of God, a willingness to learn and obey the Word of God, and a desire to love one another?

1 John 4:7-12; John 13:35

- When you sin are you disciplined by God, revealing that He loves you and treats you as a Son?

Hebrews 12:5-8

- Does the Holy Spirit of God bear witness with your spirit that you are a child of God and that God abides in you?

Romans 8:16; 1 John 3:24; 4:2; 13

- Believers need to battle doubt with the truth of God's Word. Often we doubt the promises of God, our salvation, and whether we have eternal life. Some of the reasons we doubt are because: we are ignorant of what the Bible teaches; we don't understand fully how salvation works; we have misplaced our focus on our works instead of the power of God; we sin or struggle with sin and think we lost our salvation; or we are being disciplined by the Holy Spirit which makes us feel uncomfortable. We combat these doubts through filling our minds with Scripture so that we can build our faith and confidence in the truth that, in Christ, we are eternally secure.

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## Review Questions

- What is my new assurance in Christ?
- Our salvation is given by whom and maintained by whom?
- What are we sealed with that guarantees we will receive eternal life?
- How do we examine ourselves to see if we are in the faith?
- If we doubt our salvation, what should we do?

## 27. In Christ, I Am Gloriously Sanctified.

New Holiness: In Jesus Christ, you are made holy by God. At the point of salvation, you were given a new identity that says you are holy. From that point on, God starts working a process in you to make you more and more like His son Jesus. Through the power of the Holy Spirit we are given the power to start living out our new holy identity until that final day when we are completely changed into His likeness and living forever with Him.

[1 Thessalonians 5:23-24](#)

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### In Christ, I Am Sanctified (The Process Of Becoming Like Christ)

- Sanctification starts at salvation. Positionally, all the different aspects of your salvation are instantaneously true at the moment of repentance and faith. You are completely justified by God through Jesus Christ. Your sins are forgiven and you are made holy. Practically, you are freed from the power of sin and the process of sanctification starts. God is working in you to make you more and more like Jesus. This doesn't mean you won't sin anymore, but it means that you start overcoming sin and living a righteous life.

[Romans 6:11, 14, 18](#)

- Sanctification continues through our entire lives. We will never be completely freed from the presence or temptation of sin in this life; therefore, the Lord is transforming us day-by-day to be more like Him. Daily we should press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. We should constantly be growing in the Lord.

[2 Corinthians 3:18](#); [Philippians 3:13-14](#)

- Sanctification finishes after the return of Christ. Once we die, we will be completely freed from sin. After the Lord returns, He will change our vile body to be fashioned like His glorious body. We will be perfectly holy and live forever with our Lord.

[Hebrews 12:23](#); [Revelation 21:27](#); [Philippians 3:21](#)

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### In Christ, I Will Persevere (The Promise Of Becoming Like Christ)

- All true believers will persevere. At the moment of repentance and faith you are sealed by the Holy Spirit, protected by the hands of Almighty God, and given eternal life by Jesus who promises to raise you up again at the last day. Therefore, all true believers will persevere to the end because our triune God has guaranteed it.

[John 6:38-40](#); [10:27-30](#); [Ephesians 1:13-14](#)

- Only those who persevere are true believers. The evidence of a true believer is one who continues to believe and obey the truth. Those who don't truly believe will eventually fall away from the faith; therefore, only those who persevere are those with true faith. Of course true believers will struggle with sin, but they will never reject Jesus as Lord or reject the clear teachings of God's Word. True believers persevere through repentance and faith and false believers walk away from the faith.

[John 8:31](#); [Colossians 1:22-23](#); [Hebrews 3:14](#)

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### In Christ, I Am Active (The Power Of Becoming Like Christ)

- Sanctification is the work of God. He gives us the Holy Spirit, who is the Spirit of holiness, to change us and make us holy. We are led by the Spirit to live holy lives and produce spiritual fruit. It is He who is actively producing holiness within us.

[Romans 1:4](#); [1 Thessalonians 5:23](#); [Hebrews 13:20-21](#); [Galatians 5:22-23](#); [5:16-18](#)

## Firm Foundations One

- Sanctification requires our participation through the power of the Holy Spirit. We know that God is working in us and that He empowers us to work; therefore, we are told to work out our salvation. This means there are things that we do and things that we don't do. We are active participants in our sanctification and not just passive.

Romans 8:13; Philipians 2:12-13

- Sanctification involves actively separating from sin to God. This means that you develop a hatred for sin and a love for God. We should no longer live like unbelievers do, but come out from among them and be different from them. As we grow in the Lord, we are cleaning up our lives to reflect the holiness of God.

2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1; Titus 2:11-12

- We change the way we think. The Bible says, "Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ." We no longer entertain thoughts that are against God or that tempt us to do wrong. We should be careful about what we watch, listen to, and participate in. We should fill our hearts with God's Word so that we learn to not sin against Him.

2 Corinthians 10:4-5; Psalm 101:3; Romans 13:14; Psalm 119:11

- We change the way we face temptation. The Bible says, "Let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall." We cautiously live our lives, not taking sin lightly. When temptations arise, we know that God will be making a way of escape for us and we look for that escape.

1 Corinthians 10:12-13

- We change the way we make relationships. The Bible says, "Can two walk together, except they be agreed?" We should witness to our friends and share the love of Christ, but we can't continue in a relationship that would pull us away from the will of God.

2 Corinthians 6:14; Amos 3:3

- We should change the way we act. The Bible says, "Have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness." We should not have dealings with this world or the things in it (the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life). We should understand what the will of the Lord is and be busy about our Father's business through the power of the Holy Ghost.

Ephesians 5:11-19; 1 John 2:15-16

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## Review Questions

- When does sanctification start and when does it finish?
- Will all true believers persevere? Why?
- Are only those who persevere true believers? Why?
- What does God give us to make us holy?
- What are ways that we are actively separating from sin to God?



## 28. In Christ, I Am A Royal Priest.

New Privilege: In Jesus Christ, you are given a new privilege to become part of the royal priesthood of God. Jesus is our High Priest and King. He grants every believer kingship and priesthood. We are privileged to serve alongside Him with this new status. Because it was freely given to us, we desire to live holy lives that testify to the greatness of our Lord.

Revelation 5:10; Hebrews 8:6

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### In Christ, I Am Under The New Covenant (Two Covenants)

- The Hope: God made a promise to Abraham to bless all families of the earth. God then confirmed this promise with an oath saying, "The LORD hath sworn, and will not repent, Thou art a priest for ever. After the order of Melchizedek." The hope of this eternal priest was ultimately fulfilled in Jesus.

Hebrews 6:13, 17; 7:20-21; Psalms 110:4

- The Priesthood: A priest is someone who is called by God to act on the behalf of men in relation to God. The Bible tells us there are two lines of the priesthood: Melchizedek and Aaron.

Hebrews 7:11

- Melchizedek is the first priest mentioned in Scripture. He was the king of Salem and the priest of the most High God. His priesthood was royal, righteous, peaceful and unending.

Genesis 14:18-20; Hebrews 5:5-10; 7:1-3

- Aaron was called by God. His job was to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. He would first offer sacrifices for himself and then for others. Aaron's sons would also become priests according to the law because they were his physical descendants.

Hebrews 5:1, 4; 7:16

- The Guarantor: Jesus was called by God to be made a High Priest after the order of Melchizedek (not Aaron) because He, as the eternal Son of God, He can live forever to make intercession for us; He was holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens; He was sinless and didn't have to daily offer sacrifices for His sin and then others. He offered Himself on the cross, dying for the sins of the world once and for all.

Hebrews 7:11, 16-17; 22-28

- The Better Hope: Perfection was never possible through the law or the Levitical priesthood. Therefore, we needed a change. We needed a change in the priesthood and the law. This change came through Jesus. The old was set aside because it was weak and unprofitable and Jesus gave us a better hope so that we could draw nigh unto God.

Hebrews 7:11-19

- The New Covenant: The old covenant was based on what we did and the New Covenant was based on what Jesus did. Therefore, God said He would make a new covenant which would be established on better promises. Through salvation in Jesus Christ we take part in this new covenant: God is merciful to our unrighteousness, He completely forgives our sin, and He empowers us to live for Him.

Hebrews 8:6-13

## In Christ, I Have A Royal High Priest (Understanding Jesus' Position)

- Jesus is our High Priest. He is seated on the right hand of the throne of the "Majesty" in the heavens. He ministers in the true sanctuary and tabernacle that are in Heaven and built by God.

[Hebrews 8:1-2](#)

- Priests would go into the sanctuary for the service of God, but only the High priest could go into the "Holy of Holies." He had to go in alone and could only go in once a year. He offered animal blood for the sins of himself and others. This purified their sin for that year, but couldn't make them perfect.

[Hebrews 9:6-10; 10:4](#)

- Jesus, as High Priest, entered in once into the "Heavenly Holy of Holies" with His own blood and obtained eternal redemption for us. He put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself.

[Hebrews 8:11-13; 9:24-28](#)

- Jesus is our King. Like Melchizedek was a priest and a king, Jesus is also a King and Priest. He rules victorious as the King of kings. His Kingdom is not of this world but we desire to keep His commandments until His appearing.

[John 18:36; Acts 17:7; 1 Timothy 6:13-16](#)

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## In Christ, I Am A Royal Priest (Understanding Our Privileges)

- The Privilege of Status: Being redeemed through the blood of Jesus, all believers are made part of His family and are spiritual descendants of the true "Royal High Priest." The Bible says, "But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a peculiar people." In Christ we are given this new position, showing that Christ changes us from the inside out and we humbly serve Him with holy lives in return.

[1 Peter 2:5-9](#)

- The Privilege of Access: When the temple veil that separated the "Holy of Holies" was torn in two, it meant from then on we could have direct access to God through our forever High Priest, Jesus Christ. Jesus is now the only mediator between God and man; therefore, we should come "boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need."

[Hebrews 4:14-16; Matthew 27:51; 1 Timothy 2:5; Romans 5:2; Ephesians 2:18; 3:12](#)

- The Privilege of Service: As royal priests, we don't have to offer sacrifices for our sin, but we are called to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ and show forth the praises of the God who has called us out of darkness into His marvelous light.

[Hebrews 10:12; 13:15-16; 1 Peter 2:5, 9](#)

- The Privilege of Rule: Jesus is King and we are part of His royal family. We will one day rule with Him in the Kingdom of God.

[Matthew 25:31-40; 1 John 3:1-2; Revelation 5:10](#)

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## Review Questions

- What are the two covenants?
- Why is Jesus' priesthood better than the Levitical priesthood?
- Who is our Royal High Priest?
- Are we royal priests? Why?
- What are the privileges of a royal high priest?

## 29. In Christ, I Am A Man Or Woman Of God.

New Roles: In Jesus Christ, you are given the power to fulfill the roles that your gender and family status mandates, as well as live to the higher standard that your new roles demand. All men and women are equal in the sight of God, but He gave us different roles to fulfill (just like the three persons of the Trinity are equal, but have different roles). Only through Christ can we genuinely fulfill our God-given roles.

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### In Christ, Men And Women Are One (Value & Importance)

- The Equality of God's Image: God created all mankind in His image, male and female. This means that you were made to represent God to some degree. God's original intent was that both genders equally bear His image; therefore, both genders are of equal value and equal importance.

[Genesis 1:27](#)

- The Corruption of Sin: Sin corrupted the image of God that we bear. Even though we still are like God more than any other creature (being the only ones made in His likeness), sin corrupted our view of each-other. Men were seen as the superior and women as the inferior. Societies and culture molded themselves after this corrupt image and mankind has been dealing with the consequences ever since.

[Genesis 2:8, 17; 3:6; Romans 3:23](#)

- The Spiritual Transformation: The only way to be completely restored back to God's image was for our sins to be forgiven, but God had greater plans. God through Jesus not only made a way for our sins to be taken away, but also for us to become as completely righteous as Him. Therefore, the corrupt attitudes of superiority and inferiority are put to an end (within Christianity) because we are all one in Christ Jesus. All believers, men or women, are of equal value and equal importance.

[Romans 5:14-19; Galatians 3:28](#)

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### In Christ, I Am A Man Of God (Husbands & Fathers)

- A New Understanding: As a male believer, you are called to renew your role as God intended it to be and live to the higher standard that is given to you in the New Testament. As a male believer, you accept your distinct gender as the will of God and don't see yourself as superior or inferior to females. You should keep watch of danger for yourself and those you lead, stand firm in your faith and the truth of scriptures, be strong in your obedience to the Lord, and do everything with love.

[1 Corinthians 16:13-14](#)

- Role in Marriage: As a male believer, you have the role of leadership in your marriage. This means that God has chosen you to lead in the same way that Christ led the church, through sacrificial love. You are to love your wife as your own body. You are responsible to live together with her according to knowledge, showing her honor, respect, and love.

[1 Corinthians 11:3; Ephesians 5:23; 25-26; 28-29; Colossians 3:19; 1 Peter 3:7](#)

- Role in Family: As a male believer, you are to train up your children in the way of the Lord. Fathers should not provoke their children to anger, lest they become discouraged. As the Father and Husband, it is primarily your role to provide the necessities of life for your own family. This includes providing shelter, food, clothes, and spiritual nourishment.

[Colossians 3:20-21; Proverbs 22:6; 1 Timothy 5:8](#)

## Firm Foundations One

- Role in the Church: As a male believer, you edify the church through your spiritual gifts and service. You are permitted to hold positions of teaching and authority in the assembly of the church, such as pastor or deacon, as long as you meet the qualifications. Men hold the positions of leadership in the church just like they do in the home. Older men in the church should be treated as fathers and younger men should be treated as brothers. The mature male believers should be teaching the younger believers how to be Christian husbands, fathers and servants of God.

1 Timothy 3:1-7; 5:1; Titus 1:5-9

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### In Christ, I Am A Woman Of God (Wives & Mothers)

- A New Understanding: As a female believer, you are called to renew your role as God intended it to be and live to the higher standard that is given to you in the New Testament. As a female believer, you accept your distinct gender as the will of God and don't see yourself as inferior or superior to males. You should be full of good works, good speech, prayer, hospitality, compassion; and be modest in appearance, demeanor, and behavior.

1 Timothy 2:9-15; Proverbs 31:10-31

- Role in Marriage: As a female believer, you have the role of submission in your marriage. This means that God has chosen you to submit in the same way that the church submits to Christ. You are responsible to willingly put yourself under the leadership of your husband (not just another man), because this is what is fit in the Lord. You should love, serve, submit, and take care of your husband.

Ephesians 5:22; 24; Colossians 3:18; 1 Corinthians 7:32-40

- Role in Family: As a female believer, you are to train up your children in the way of the Lord. As the Mother and Wife, it is primarily your responsibility to manage, guide, and keep your home. This includes loving, teaching, caring for, and bearing children.

Colossians 3:20-21; Proverbs 22:6

- Roles in the Church: As a female believer, you edify the church through your spiritual gifts and service. You aren't permitted to hold positions of teaching and authority in the assembly of the church, such as pastor or deacon. You hold the positions of submission in the church just like you do in the home. Older women in the church should be treated as mothers and younger women should be treated as sisters. The mature female believers should be teaching the younger believers on how to be Christian wives, mothers and servants of God.

1 Timothy 2:11-14; 5:2-16; 1 Corinthians 11:3-16; 14:33-36; Titus 2:3-5

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### Review Questions

- Who did God create man and women in the image of?
- Why are men and women equal?
- Why is there a problem of superiority and inferiority among the genders?
- What are the roles of a man of God?
- What are the roles of a woman of God?

## 30. In Christ, I Am Not My Own.

New Purpose: In Jesus Christ, you have a new purpose: to know and obey the will of God. You have been bought with a price and are no longer your own but God's. Therefore, you should glorify God through living out His good, acceptable, and perfect will. God does not want you to be unwise, not knowing what His will is, but wise, understanding what it is. As a believer, you should live for the will of God, follow the new desires He has given you, and daily trust Him to guide your steps.

1 Peter 4:1-2; Ephesians 5:17; 2 Corinthians 5:15

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### In Christ, I Live For The Will Of God (His Will For All Believers)

- It is God's will for us to believe and preach the gospel. God wants all mankind to be saved. Salvation is the first step for a person to obey God's will. He wants us to hear the gospel, understand His grace, and through repentance trust in Him. If we are doubting our salvation, then we need to first get this settled before we can know the rest of God's will. His love for the world then compels us to unashamedly preach the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believes.

1 Timothy 2:3-4; 2 Peter 3:9; Romans 1:16

- It is God's will for us to be living sacrifices filled with the Holy Spirit. We are no longer our own, but we are bought with a price (the blood of Jesus) and living for the will of God is our reasonable service. This means we live according to what is holy and acceptable to God, no longer according to what is acceptable to the world. We don't live for our own pleasures, passion, or lust, but are being transformed by the renewing of our mind through letting the Word of Christ dwell in us. Therefore, if there is a command in the Bible for believers, then we know it is the will of God in us.

Romans 12:1-2; Ephesians 5:18; 1 Corinthians 6:19-20; Colossians 3:16; 1 Peter 4:3-6

- It is God's will for us to live clean, honorable, and holy lives. The Bible presents certain things as unclean and dishonorable that believers should not do, especially in reference to sexual sins. We are to abstain from all sexual sins, controlling our bodies rather than being controlled by them, not taking advantage of others sexually, but seeing marriage as honorable and the only proper place for sexual desire to be fulfilled between husband and wife. This is part of God sanctifying us, setting us apart from sin unto holiness.

1 Thessalonians 4:3-7; Romans 1:24-27; Hebrews 13:4; 1 Corinthians 6:12; 7:1-40; 1 Peter 2:11;

- It is God's will for us to live honest and submissive lives. Within our society and relationships with others (including unbelievers), we should be living sincere, obedient, sinless lives full of good works that show we are God's servants. We are to submit to the authority that is over us. We should not use our freedom in Christ as a cover up to do harm to others, but be a living testimony through our good works. Even if we are treated unjustly, we should follow Jesus' steps, suffering it as to the Lord and not to man.

1 Peter 2:12-21; Ephesians 6:5-8

- It is God's will for us to endure suffering and be thankful in all things. All that live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution and all that are saved will endure suffering. This persecution and suffering looks different for each believer, but it is a guarantee if we are living out God's will, and we are to regard it as a privilege given to us by God. We are not to render evil for evil, but seek to do good to all men. We should rejoice always, pray without ceasing, and in everything give thanks.

Philippians 1:29-30; 2 Timothy 3:11-12; 1 Peter 3:17; 5:10; 1 Thessalonians 5:15-18; Matthew 5:10-12; Acts 5:41

## In Christ, I Am Given New Desires To Follow (His Will For Me)

- God's will for all believers is clearly given to us in the Bible and it covers a multitude of areas, but it doesn't tell us about every specific decision that we need to make. This is because God allows us to make our own decisions in many of these areas. If we are obeying the will of God that is revealed to us in the Bible, then He is making us into the right person that can make personal decisions according to our wants, desires or what seems best, because His desires become ours. Even if we mess up, we know all things work together for good.

[Psalm 37:4-5; Romans 8:28](#)

- God works in all believers both to will and to do of His good pleasure. As we live out our salvation, God is working in us to accomplish His will. If we have new desires that agree with the Bible, then we can conclude that He is the One who willed it and is the One who will give us the power to accomplish it.

[Philippians 2:12-13](#)

- God gives us permission to make personal decisions. First, we need to know what the Bible says and obey it. Second, we should ask God in faith to give us wisdom to make the right decisions. Third, we make the decision that best obeys the Bible, glorifies God, and fulfills our desires.

[James 1:5-7; Proverbs 3:5-6](#)

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## In Christ, I Am Trusting God's Guidance (Advice For The Journey)

- Focus: We need to focus on what is already revealed in the Bible and not be worried about all the material things in our life. We seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness and trust God to supply our needs.

[Matthew 6:19-34](#)

- Initiative: We don't know all of God's personal will for us today, but we know His will for all believers and should be doing that now. As we are serving the Lord, then we can assuredly gather that the Lord has called us to do something more specific.

[Acts 16:1-10; James 1:22](#)

- Guidance: We will never be led by God or given a desire from Him that is contrary to the Bible. If someone claims something is God's will, but it goes against the Bible, then it is not God's will. We need to be careful not to speak for God where He didn't speak.

- Hindrances: We fight against God's will when we are selfish, wanting worldly treasures, doubt God's ability to use us, doubt His provision for us, or we simply do nothing.

- Considerations: When making decisions, we should consider the counsel of other believers, our gifts, abilities, desires, where there is a need, where is there an opportunity, the responsibility of spreading the Gospel and the glory of God.

[Proverbs 11:14; 1 Corinthians 9:16-17; 1 Samuel 17:29](#)

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## Review Questions

- As believers, what do we live for?
- How do we know what God's will is for all believers?
- How do I know what God's will is for me?
- What are the three main steps to making a decision?
- What is the advice for the journey?









# FIRM FOUNDATIONS

## **ONE**

CHRISTIAN BASICS  
CHRISTIAN LIFE  
CHRISTIAN IDENTITY

## **TWO**

CHRISTIAN DOCTRINE  
CHRISTIAN MORALS  
CHRISTIAN ATTITUDES

## **THREE**

CHRISTIAN MARRIAGE  
CHRISTIAN PARENTING  
CHRISTIAN FINANCES

## **FOUR**

CHRISTIAN MISSIONS  
CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP  
CHRISTIAN PERSECUTION

