

Bible Foundations

Foundational truths are what all other great teachings of the Bible are built upon, they are the support on which all truth rests. It is necessary we understand these basic spiritual facts before we can properly understand what is often considered the "deep" things of God. The topics covered in this series should never be disdained or held in lack of respect simply because they are foundational. It is these foundational things that are absolutely necessary before we can build anything that will withstand the rigors of life and the onslaughts of Satan.

Many people have been Christians for years and have very little knowledge of these basic truths that you will be learning as you study this series.

As you study, pray the scriptures and be open to the Holy Spirit, He is the Great Teacher. Maintain a positive attitude and expect God to reveal wonderful, exciting things from the word of God.

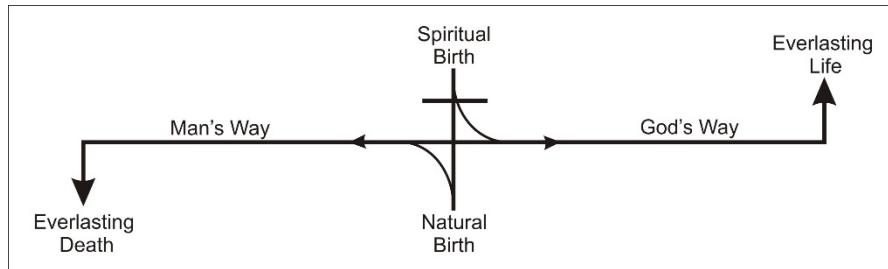
Therefore every scribe constructed concerning the kingdom of heaven is like a householder who brings out of his treasure things new and old. Matthew 13:52

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SALVATION

Salvation is where it all begins with God. Each of us begins our walk with God by the new birth of the Spirit. Although no one comes to God except he be "Saved" and becomes a partaker in this wonderful Salvation, the average Christian of today does not comprehend the fullness of this "Great Salvation" spoken of in Hebrews 2:3.



1. Everyone of us begins our lives with a birth. Jesus referred to this as being "born of water".

John 3:1-9

2. However, in this natural birth there is no hope at all because of the sin factor.

Psalms 51:5

Romans 5:12-19

3. We all are about the same and each of us think we have it all figured out, we think we know where we're going.

Proverbs 14:12

Jeremiah 10:23

Romans 3:23

Romans 6:23

4. Jesus was the only man born into this world that did not have the sin factor in His life. His birth differed from ours. He was born of the Spirit at the time of His natural birth. We could say He had a dual birth and His walk was always in the direction and leading of God.

Matthew 1:18-20

5. When we come to the Lord Jesus Christ and believe on Him, God demands that we repent (change of mind and purpose, turn from a previous course).

Acts 16:30-31

Acts 2:36-38

Acts 26:20

Psalms 119:59-60

6. When we turn to God and repent He no longer holds our sins against us.

Hebrews 8:12

Psalms 103:10-12

7. We become partakers in the "new birth" and are "born of the Spirit".

John 3:8

8. Our lives now become directed by God and our walk becomes His walk.

I John 2:5-6

9. Let us set our will to walk like Jesus walked.

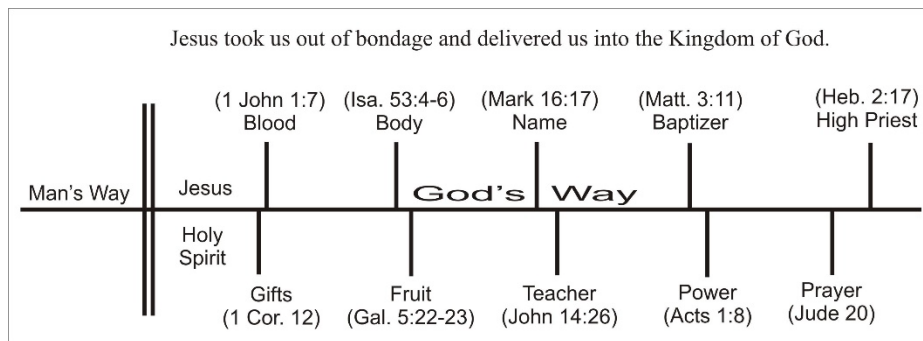
John 14:10

John 15:10

As Christian we begin to walk in the Spirit. We learn to be directed by Him.

Jesus took us out of our former bondage and delivered us into the Kingdom of God.

Provisions of Salvation



Jesus began a wonderful thing when He saved our spiritual man; however, that was not the end of His ministry to us. Both He and the Holy Spirit continue to minister to us this "Great Salvation" as shown above. The very word "Salvation" means to be: saved, healed, preserved, to do well, be in health, be whole and delivered. This is not just for our spirit; it is for the whole man...Body, Soul, and Spirit. However, it is one thing to have legal rights and another to be partaker of the things our legal rights provide. This walk with Jesus by means of the Holy Spirit is one of faith. So then in order to be a partaker in the things of God we must believe.

We got into the Kingdom of God by faith in Jesus Christ and we continue to be partakers of the good things of God's Kingdom by faith.

1. God provides even our faith.

Romans 12:3

2. God wants us to see ourselves as He sees us. He wants us to know His truth and be set free. He wants us to have our minds, our thinking straightened out.

Romans 12:2

Ephesians 1:17-19

Ephesians 4:13

3. God's desire is to have prosperous sons and daughters but much of the burden of entering into this prosperity rests on us.

III John 2

Philippians 2:12

Isaiah 12:3 (Note: You draw out of this great salvation)

Soteriology

Often we think of Salvation or being Saved only in a "religious" sense, that is only the salvation of our spirit. However the words "saved and salvation" are translated from two Greek words "Sozo" and "Soteria". It is interesting to note that the translators translated these two words into a number of different English words in order to express the intended thought. In doing this the full meaning of these words is brought out as we shall see in the chart following.

Health	Healed	Preserved	Do Well
Acts 27:34	Acts 14:9 Mark 5:23 Luke 8:36	2 Tim. 4:18	John 11:12
Be Whole	Made Whole	Saved - Save	Salvation
Matt. 9:21-22	Mark 6:56 Mark 10:52 Luke 8:48-50	Mark 8:35 Mark 15:30-31 Luke 9:56 1 Cor. 1:21 1 Tim. 1:15 James 5:15 Mark 16:16 Luke 18:42 1 Tim. 2:15 1 Pet. 3:21	Rom. 1:16 Rom. 10:10 Phil. 3:15 2 Tim. 3:15

When we see the full meaning of salvation we understand that God is concerned for the whole man and has made provision for him. God has given us a packaged deal. We receive eternal life through the ministry of Jesus and many side benefits along the way; however, we must draw from these benefits to meet our needs.

Isaiah 12:1-3

WATER BAPTISM

For too long Water Baptism has been considered a ritual of the Church. A dead formalistic symbol of some vague something. The commission and commandment of our Lord Jesus Christ is to: "Go therefore and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you." Matthew 28:19-20. The portion of this command we are concerned with is Water Baptism. Please note that there is a command to be water baptized. We can't take an option on this. We must be water baptized.

Water Baptism is one of God's triune witnesses in earth to make the complete Christian.

I John 5:8-9

As the people of the Old Testament were brought under obligation to the Law by their baptism in the cloud and in the sea we also are separated and set apart by Baptism.

I Corinthians 10:1-2

There are four categories of this subject that we will cover:

1. Who may be baptized.
2. When to be baptized.
3. How to be baptized.
4. Why be baptized.

1. Who may be baptized.

There is no question that a person must be a Christian before he can be Baptized. He must know Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior and be "Born Again".

Mark 16:16

Acts 8:36-38

There is no basis for infant baptism in the Bible. Contrariwise the tragedy of infant baptism is that many people go through life thinking they are "saved" just because they were baptized as infants. Many also believe that their water baptism made them members of the church. It may have made them members of a church, but not the church of God.

2. When to be baptized.

The revelation of the Scriptures makes it clear that a person should be baptized as soon as possible after he has been saved.

Acts 2:41

Acts 8:12-13

Acts 8:36-38

Acts 9:18

Acts 10:44-48

Acts 16:30-34

Acts 18:8

Acts 19:5

3. How to be baptized.

Our word baptism comes from the Greek word "baptizo" which means to be fully whelmed or fully wet. It was used among the Greeks to signify the dyeing of a garment or the drawing of water by dipping a vessel into another. There is no question that Water Baptism is by total immersion.

Matthew 3:16

Acts 8:38-39

John 3:23

4. The question of "Why be Baptized" will be discussed in this and succeeding lessons.

First Jesus commanded it and if we knew nothing more this should be enough.

Matthew 28:19-20

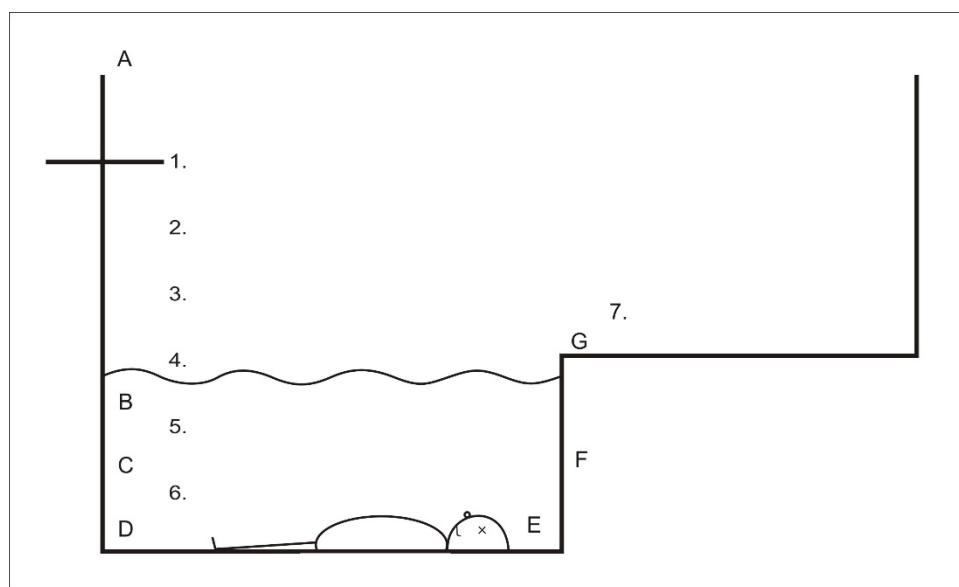
Peter preached it in his first message.

Acts 2:37-38

It is basic Bible doctrine.

Hebrew 6:1-2

In Water Baptism we follow the Lord Jesus Christ in His death, burial, and resurrection.



A) II Cor. 5:21

1) Gal. 2:20

7) Col. 2:12

2) Gal. 6:14

8) Col. 3:1-4

3) Rom. 6:6

B) Eph. 4:8-10

4) Rom. 6:6

F) Eph 4:8-10

G) Acts 1:3

5) Col. 3:3

6) Rom 6:1-14

C) Matt. 12:40

D) Heb. 2:14

E) Rev. 1:18

We are identified with Christ.

Buried	Resurrection	Separation	New Life	The Name
Rom. 6:4	Rom. 6:5	I Cor. 10:1-2	Rom. 6:7-11	Matt 28:19
		Acts 2:38	Acts 8:16	
		Acts 10:48	Acts 19:1-6	

How does the Baptism of John the Baptist fit in to our Christian Baptism?

The Baptism of John is called the Baptism of Repentance for the remission of sins.

Matthew 3:5-12

Mark 1:4-5

Luke 3:3

Preparations for the coming Messiah were repentance and confession of sins in the experience of Water Baptism.

Matthew 3:1-6

However, John's Baptism was not adequate for Christian Baptism.

Acts 18:24-28

Acts 19:1-6

John's was a Baptism of repentance for the remission of sins.

Our Christian baptism is symbolic of our death, burial and resurrection.

Jesus said it was necessary for Him to be baptized "to fulfill all righteousness."

Matthew 3:13-17

John 1:30-34

There were 3 main steps in preparing Jesus for His ministry.

1. Birth
2. Water Baptism
3. Spirit Baptism

All of the Old Testament or the old contract was fulfilled in Jesus Christ.

Matthew 5:17

In the New Testament era every Christian needs the three fold witness of God in his life to be like Jesus.

1. New birth
2. Water Baptism
3. Spirit Baptism

Old Testament typology of Christian Water Baptism.

1. Genesis 1:1-12 In the Creation.

- a. The world was without form and void and was in complete darkness. This is a type of man in sin.
- b. God sent the light to light this shapeless mass. He sent Jesus as the light of the world.
- c. On the third day the dry land appeared and began to bear fruit.
Jesus was raised the third day and we follow Him and begin to bear fruit. (Ephesians 2:6-10)

2. Genesis 6:5-18 (Genesis 7:16-23) The flood in the time of Noah – A type of death, burial and resurrection.

- a. All of the people of the world manifested themselves in the most evil way.
This is a type of our sinful nature, our old man. (Romans 6:6)
- b. God determined that this must be destroyed. We are crucified with Christ and dead to sin. (Romans 6:2)
- c. God's purpose was to bury the old so that the new life could begin.
- d. Those that were in the safety of the ark were the only ones resurrected on the water, their rest were destroyed.
(I Peter 3:20-21)

3. Exodus 14:10-31 (I Corinthians 10:1-2) The Red Sea crossing by Israel.

- a. Israel was saved out of the bondage of Egypt by the blood of the lamb.
The Lord Jesus Christ saves us and delivers us out of the bondage of Satan. (Colossians 1:13)
- b. They were all baptized in the sea which separated them from their old life and they began their new walk with God.
We rise to walk in newness of life in Him.
- c. The Egyptians that were buried in the sea are a type of our old nature.
Israel that came up on the other side is a type of the Church.

4. Joshua 3 & 4. The Crossing of the River Jordan by Israel.

- a. This second generation of Israel was to cross over this river and possess the promised land.
If we are to possess the land we must die to ourselves and trust God only.
- b. The ark was to pass over 2,000 cubits before Israel.
Jesus, who is the anti-type, went through death 2,000 years before all of the Church is passed over or taken out.
- c. The ark stood in the midst of the river of death until all crosses over.
Jesus continues to minister and protect us until all is complete.

What Water Baptism is not and what it does not do.

1. Does Water Baptism save us?

- a. John 3:5 "Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit he cannot enter into the Kingdom of God."

The word born is taken from the Greek word "gennao" which means to procreate or bring forth a beginning. It is not related to baptism (to be fully whelmed). The answer to verse 5 is found in verse 6 which states that we must be "born of the flesh and of the Spirit." Our first or natural birth is one of water much like any other animal form on earth.

- b. Acts 22:16 "Arise and be baptized and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord."

The sins were washed away by calling on the name of the Lord. (Amplified) Yet there is a wonderful truth in the putting off our sin nature in baptism.

Acts 2:38 "Repent and be baptized everyone of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins."

The word remission has been translated "deliverance and liberty" in Luke 4:18. It means to gain freedom from or release from. The waters of baptism are a vital part in putting off our sin nature. This happens when we are buried with Christ and rise to walk in newness of life. However, baptism does not cleanse us from our sins.

Revelation 1:5 - Our sins are washed by Jesus blood

c. Mark 16:16 "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved, but he that believeth not shall be damned."

The criteria for total salvation is to be: 1. born of the Spirit; 2. baptized in water; 3. baptized in the Holy Spirit. But the only thing that will cause eternal damnation is "he that believeth not."

d. I Peter 3:21 "The like figure where unto even baptism doth also now save us", (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh but the answer of a good conscience toward God), by the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

In this case baptism is a figure of Noah's ark which was saved or resurrected above the water and we also are saved "by the resurrection of Jesus Christ."

e. Ephesians 5:26 "That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of the water by the Word."

Titus 3:5 "But according to His mercy He saved us by the washing of regeneration and the renewing of the Holy Ghost."

Hebrews 10:22 "Having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water."

The above scriptures speak of a cleansing and washing through our minds and souls, presenting ourselves as holy sacrifices to God in our daily walk.

There is only one thing that can cleanse us from our sins, only this one thing is necessary to give us eternal life and that is the blood of Jesus (Revelation 1:5).

However, God wants us to live holy separated lives here and now and it is the Word and the Spirit that are constantly washing us through and through, renewing our minds and lives.

Romans 12:1-2

When we are thinking of Salvation or being saved we must remember that our salvation consists of more than Soul Salvation. It is Salvation for the whole man: Body, Soul, and Spirit.

2. Should we baptize for the dead?

I Corinthians 15:29 "Else what shall they do which are baptized for the dead, if the dead rise not at all? Why are they then baptized for the dead?"

This scripture does not teach that we should baptize for the dead. It shows an inconsistency in the Corinthian Church. There were some that did not believe in the resurrection of the dead and were at the same time baptizing for the dead. Water Baptism is symbolic of death, burial and resurrection, hence the inconsistency.

No, do not baptize for the dead.

THE BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT

An Historical Perspective

The baptism in the Holy Spirit was prophesied and promised in the Old Testament.

Joel 2:28,29 - "It shall come to pass" (This was a sure thing.)

Acts 2:16-18 - "This is that spoken by Joel"

It was also prophesied and promised in the New Testament.

1. By John the Baptist - Matthew 3:11

2. By Jesus - Luke 11:9-13

John 7:37-39

John 14:16-18

Luke 24:49

This experience was received and utilized in the early Church.

1. By Jews - Acts 1:4-5

Acts 2:1-4

2. By Gentiles - Acts 10:44-46

Acts 19:1-6

3. By a mixture of both

Acts 8:14-17

The Purpose of the Baptism in the Holy Spirit

This was a gift given the Church. A vital and necessary gift that every believer must have to be a successful witness for Jesus. Without it the Christian does not have the power and ability to be this witness. This is not a matter of witnessing for Jesus with just words; it is having your whole life on display as a witness to the world of what God's doing to you and for you and through you.

Acts 1:8

This was given at the birth of the Church to individuals for individual ministry so that the whole Body of Christ could function as God wanted. It was not given to the Church in a collective sense. Each Christian had to receive for himself. Nor was it given to the early Church and then removed by God. There is no scriptural evidence that God recalled this wonderful gift. In fact, the scriptures say that it is for today.

Acts 2:38,39

Romans 11:29 (Amplified)

Receiving the Baptism in the Holy Spirit

After we received Jesus Christ as our Saviour, we realized He was always available as our Saviour. We just had to receive Him and when we did He became real to us. The same thing applies to the Baptism in the Holy Spirit. After we receive the baptizer (Jesus), we can receive our Baptism in the Holy Spirit. The same type of receiving action applies.

1. Who may receive?

- a. The unsaved cannot - John 14:16,17
- b. Every believer can - Acts 2:38,39; Acts 5:32

2. Do we receive the Baptism of the Holy Spirit when we are saved?

All Christians receive the Holy Spirit when they receive Jesus and are born again. If this were not so your new birth which is a spiritual birth could never take place (John 3:5-7). However, most Christians do not receive the Baptism in the Holy Spirit at the time of their new birth. This was the way it happened to the first Christians.

- a. The Apostles and first disciples.
 - 1. They were born of the Spirit - John 20:22
 - 2. They were Baptized in the Spirit - Acts 1:4-8; 2:1-4
- b. At Samaria
 - 1. Born of the Spirit - Acts 8:12
 - 2. Baptized in the Spirit - Acts 8:14-17
- c. At Ephesus
 - 1. Born of the Spirit - Acts 19:1-2
 - 2. Baptized in the Spirit - Acts 19:6

This is not always the case because we find some are born of the Spirit and their Baptism in the Spirit follows so close it seems to have happened at the same time.

Acts 10:44-48

3. What are the Prerequisites?

- a. As we have discussed, the unsaved cannot receive; however, every believer can. When the "Blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth us from all sin" that takes care of the sin in our lives. We are clean! As for holiness and righteousness, God has given us His, and we can't become any more holy or any more righteous.

II Corinthians 5:21

I Corinthians 3:17

- b. Surrender to the Baptizer - Jesus is the Baptizer in the Holy Spirit. (Luke 3:16,17) As we yield to the one who baptizes us in water so that He may put us under, we must also yield to Jesus so that He may baptize us with the Holy Spirit.

4. How do we receive?

- a. By faith, i.e. believe that what God said is the truth. Have no reservations, no carnal doubts, trust God's integrity.

Galatians 3:1-3 (13-14)

Acts 5:32

Hebrews 11:6

- b. Like any gift, we don't receive the Baptism in the Spirit by works. We simply receive from the Giver.

Acts 2:38, 39

Acts 19:2

Galatians 3:2

Acts 10:45, 46

- c. By asking

Luke 11:9-11

Always remember, receiving is an act of our will. God does not force us to receive any of His gifts.

Speaking in Tongues

Nearly always, when the Baptism in the Holy Spirit is discussed, the subject of tongues is introduced and well it should be, because the two are inseparable. The subject of "tongues" is a stumbling block to many Christians. However, it shouldn't be as this subject of tongues is mentioned over 25 times in the New Testament as well as in the Old Testament. It is as much a part of the Word of God as John 3:16.

1. Jesus said every believer would.
Mark 16:17
2. Paul said he wanted every Christian to speak in tongues.
I Corinthians 14:5
3. Paul said he spoke in tongues more than anyone.
I Corinthians 14:18

Speaking in tongues is the initial evidence of the Baptism in the Holy Spirit. There is no other scriptural evidence, although many would like to think there is.

Acts 2:4

Acts 10:44-48

Acts 19:6

Acts 11:15-17

In every case they spoke in tongues (or other languages) as the sign of their Baptism.

Note: The word "for" in Acts 10:46. The reason they knew that they were Baptized in the Holy Spirit was because they heard them speak in tongues. (For = in view of the fact, because of).

Acts 2:16 - "This" (what they heard and saw) "is that which Joel spoke of.

Acts 2:33 - "He has shed for this which ye now see and hear."

Acts 8:14-21

The Gift & Sign of Speaking In Tongues

When we discuss the subject of tongues, it is important for us to know that there is a difference between tongues as a sign of the Baptism in the Holy Spirit and tongues as a gift of the Spirit.

I Corinthians 12:1 - "now concerning spiritual gifts"

I Corinthians 12:7 - "to profit withal"

I Corinthians 12:30 - "do all speak with tongues"

(As a gift to the Body of Christ for its edification)

I Corinthians 14:2-5 - speaking or praying in tongues for self edification.

Sign	Gift
Mark 16:17	I Corinthians 12:1
Acts 2:4 (11-17) (33)	I Corinthians 14:26-28
Acts 19:6	I Corinthians 14:5

The rule for the gift of tongues is no more than 3 at any one meeting and it must be interpreted.

However, at Pentecost there were 120 at the house of Cornelius. There was himself, his family and friends and at Ephesus there were 12 men. They were not out of order in any one of these instances.

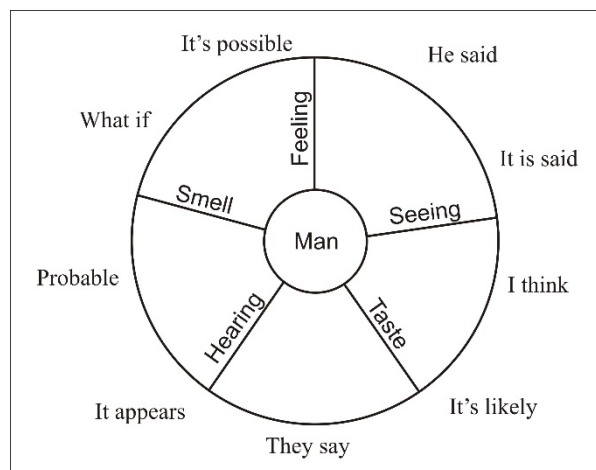
- | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. All may speak at one time | 1. Only one speaker at a time |
| 2. All may speak at one meeting | 2. At the most three may speak |
| 3. No interpretation | 3. Must be interpreted |

There is no baptism without the sign and there is no sign without the baptism. The two are inseparable.

THE GODHEAD

The Godhead is not revealed through our natural understanding. Man has, since the beginning of time, tried to understand God and has been unable to do so. It is no wonder then when we speak of the "Trinity" that many are confused. How can God, who is one God, be three persons? Yet this is so. God is three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and these three are one.

First we should never try to understand any spiritual thing through our natural senses. Because if the thing we are attempting to understand is spiritual, it can only be understood by our spirit through the Holy Spirit.



I Corinthians 2:9-14

Anything outside His sphere of understanding is speculation. Man begins to philosophize and this is where he gets into trouble.

Romans 1:21,22 (Amplified)

Colossians 2:8 (Amplified)

1. Is there one God?

Mark 12:29 - "God is one God"

Galatians 3:20 - "God is one"

2. Can God be plural even through He is one?

Note: The word "God" of Genesis 1:1 is from the Greek word Eloheem, which is plural.

I John 5:7 - "These three are one"

Genesis 1:26,27 - "let us" - "in his"

Matthew 3:16,17 - Jesus baptized, Spirit descended, Father spoke.

Matthew 28:19 - the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

John 1:1-3 (14) - Father, Son, and Spirit in creation

3. Who is called God?

a. The Father

II Peter 1:17 - "God the Father"

b. The Son

John 20:28 - "My Lord and my God" (Jesus did not deny this)
(1) Jesus shares equal honor with the Father.

John 5:23 - "even as they honor the Father"

Hebrews 1:8 - Jesus is called God

Revelation 1:5 - The blood of God

Acts 20:28

Hebrews 3:1-4 - Jesus the creator

Isaiah 9:6 - His name is Father and Jehovah

Jeremiah 23:5-6

I Timothy 3:16 - God manifest in the flesh

c. The Spirit

II Cor. 3:17 - "The Lord is that Spirit" (Romans 8:9-11)

Acts 5:3-4 - lied to the Spirit, lied to God

Acts 13 - called by the Spirit

4. The oneness of the Trinity

John 10:30 - "I and my Father are one"

Exodus 3:14 - Both Father and son claim to be the "I AM"

John 8:58 - Both are past, present, and future, the Alpha and Omega
(Revelation 1:8, 17, 18; Isaiah 44:6)

John 14:7-11 - "he that has seen me has seen the Father."

Acts 5:3-4 - God the Holy Spirit

5. Only God is to be worshipped. (Exodus 34:14)

Revelation 4:8-11- God the Father is worshipped

Hebrews 1:6 - God the Son is also worshipped

Jesus was worshipped by many that come to Him and He did not rebuke any of them.

6. The Trinity in action

Acts 3:26 - God raised up Jesus

John 10:17-18 - Jesus raised Himself

Romans 8:11 - The Spirit raised up Jesus

7. There is only one God. There never has been any except Him. There never will be any but Him. Therefore, God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit always existed: they are eternal.

Isaiah 43:10,13

TITHING

When we begin to speak about money and giving to the work of God, many people immediately close their minds. And tithing is considered such a radical approach to the support of God's work that many people who call themselves Christians reject it. To tithe is to give 10% of one's gross income. God said to bring in the "first fruits of all thine increase". (Proverbs 3:9) If people tithed on their net, after taxes, utilities, rent, payments, etc. were taken out, most would have nothing left to tithe on.

1. Tithing before the Law was given.

Tithing did not begin with the Law, it was instituted before the Law and continued over into that period as a part of the Law.

- a. Abraham tithed to God - Genesis 14:18-20, we should remember that we are not under the Law but we are the children of Abraham. (Galatians 3:7)
- b. Jacob tithed. This son of Abraham continued to tithe even though he had almost nothing. Abraham tithed when he was rich. Jacob began to tithe when he was poor. (Genesis 28:16-22)

2. Tithing was a part of the Law given through Moses to Israel.

- a. The 10th of everything belonged to the Lord.

Leviticus 27:30-34

- b. It was given to support the tribe of Levi as they performed the ministry of the Tabernacle. They in turn gave a tithe to the priests.

Numbers 18:21-28

3. Jesus commended tithers. He did not rescind tithing but on the contrary said that they should tithe.

Matthew 23:23

4. What the New Testament says about it.

- a. The implication is that in our time as in the time of the Law, men received tithes.

Hebrews 7:8

- b. Our giving should be systematic and be as God has prospered us. In other words it should be a percentage of whatever we have.

I Corinthians 16:1-3

- c. Our tithing supports the work of God which includes the men that are working for God as pastors, evangelists, teachers, etc.

I Corinthians 9:1-14

Note: The "even so" in verse 14 means that just as the Levites were supported by the tithes of Israel under the Law, the church leaders of today are to be supported by the contributions to the church. This is a New Testament command to tithe!

I Timothy 5:17-18

d. God has ordained that the ones who tithe are blessed.

Luke 6:38

Malachi 3:7-12

Proverbs 3:9-10

Even though Malachi 3:8-12 and Proverbs 3:10 are from the Old Testament, they are not a part of the Law. They are promises of God to anyone who will believe.

e. Basic reasons why some don't tithe

- (1) love of money
- (2) over obligated
- (3) lack of understanding
- (4) lack of faith

Proverbs 11:24

COMMUNION

The word "Communion" is translated from the Greek word "Koinonia". Koinonia has been translated into the word fellowship 12 times, and communion 6 times in the King James version. The full meaning is: having in common, partnership, fellowship, to share a common experience, oneness. Therefore, when we speak of the communion Service or Lord's supper, we are participating in the death of the Lord Jesus Christ in all its fullness.

I Corinthians 11:26

I Corinthians 10:16-18

The two outstanding features of the Communion Services are the Blood and Body of the Lord Jesus. We are to become partakers of the bread and wine which are emblems of His blood and body. As we partake of them we are to remember or bring to mind what they stand for.

I Corinthians 11:23-25

In order to establish a foundation for this subject, consider both the Old and New Testaments.

Luke 22:19-20

I Corinthians 11:20-34

I Corinthians 5:7

Exodus 12:1-28

The Blood of the Lord Jesus has two basic functions:

1. To establish a new contract, testament or covenant (I Corinthians 11:25)

- a. The Abrahamic covenant established by blood. The substitute of God's and man's blood was shed.

Genesis 15:5-9

Genesis 17:1-11

- b. When Jesus shed His blood, it was no longer a substitute, it was the blood of God.

Acts 20:28 (Amplified)

His Blood was also the blood of man as He was the Son of man. Thus the contract was sealed by the blood of both parties. God's and man's in one sacrifice of the Lord Jesus Christ.

2. To cleanse away sin. - The blood of Jesus removes sin and delivers us from the judgment of sin. (Matthew 26:28) (Revelation 1:5)

I John 1:7

Revelation 1:5

Matthew 26:28

The blood of the Passover Lamb was the only means of salvation from the judgment of death. The blood had to be over the door and the people had to remain inside their homes. Jesus' blood was shed. He is the door and the only safe place is in the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Body

The body of the Lord Jesus Christ is also a provision for us as the body of that Passover Lamb was for Israel. We must discern or understand the body of the Lord Jesus.

I Corinthians 11:29-30

Israel was to partake of the Passover Lamb as we are to be partakers of the body of Jesus, our Passover Lamb. (I Corinthians 11:24 "take, eat"). Israel's Passover Lamb caused them to be completely whole.

Psalms 105:37

The body of Jesus also makes us whole.

Isaiah 53:4-6 (10) (Amplified)

Matthew 8:17

I Peter 2:24

The lack of understanding of the Body of Christ has caused many Christians to be weak and sick and die prematurely. (I Corinthians 11:29-30). The stripes or wounds of Jesus are for our healing, both spiritual and physical.

But, there is another truth to understand here and that is that we are also the Body of Christ.

Ephesians 5:30

I Corinthians 10:16-17 (Amplified)

And as such we should remember that we are to minister to one another and accept the ministry of another as a part of that body.

Ephesians 4:16

We should take a look at the type (the Passover Lamb) to see what other truths are there.

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Israel was to keep the lamb for 4 days before it was killed. | Jesus was taken from the foundation of the world and held for 4 one thousand year days before he lay down His life. I Peter 1:18-20, II Peter 3:8 |
| 2. Seven days of unleavened bread were to follow the slaying of the lamb. | Leaven is a type of sin and the number 7 stands for completeness or fullness. The blood of Jesus cleanses us from sin for all time. Only one sacrifice was necessary for total cleansing and we should remain sin free to the end. |
| 3. The lamb was eaten with bitter herbs. | Along with the blessings and deliverance of God, there is tribulation. We are no longer members of this world and we will suffer. Ro. 8:17 |
| 4. They were to eat all of it. | We are to partake of the fullness of Christ, everything that He is and has for us. |
| 5. No bones were broken of the lamb. Exodus 12:46 | Not one of His bones were broken. John 19:36 |
| 6. They were to eat ready to travel, fully equipped. | God wants us to put on all He has for us for our protection and the work of the ministry. Eph.6:10-18 |

SATAN

Satan is the arch enemy of God and the Church. His intent is to destroy the work of God by any means possible; therefore, we should understand just who this enemy is and how he works.

He has several names and titles recorded in the Bible.

- | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. the devil | 8. adversary |
| 2. Beelzebub | 9. ruler of darkness |
| 3. god of the world | 10. serpent |
| 4. murderer | 11. tempter |
| 5. prince of devils | 12. unclean spirit |
| 6. prince of this world | 13. wicked one |
| 7. accuser | 14. father of lies |

1. Who is he?

He was a very powerful angelic being of great beauty.
Ezekiel 28:11-19

He has under his control a host of angels
Revelation 12:1-10

He is the god and prince of this world
II Corinthians 4:4

John 14:30

Ephesians 2:2

He has a kingdom
Matthew 12:24-26

2. What was his sin?

His was the sin of pride, wanting to be lifted up and to be like God. He enticed Eve with this same error in the garden.
Isaiah 14:12-17

3. Is he a real personage and not just an evil force?

- He talked with God about Job. (Job 1:6-12, 2:1-7)
- He talked with Jesus. (Luke 4:1-13)
- He stood up against Israel. (I Chronicles 21:1)

4. How does he work?

- He lied and cheated Eve.
II Corinthians 11:3
- Takes away the Word that saves men's lives.
Matthew 13:19
- Binds men's minds.
II Corinthians 4:3-4

- d. Places his people in the midst of the church to defraud it.

Matthew 13:25-28

II Corinthians 11:12-15

- e. Temptation.

Matthew 4:1-11

I Thessalonians 3:5

- f. Wrests the scriptures.

Matthew 4:6

- g. Tries to stop God's people from doing the work of God.

I Thessalonians 2:18

Zechariah 3:1

- h. Power and signs and lying wonders.

II Thessalonians 2:9

- i. Accuser of the brethren.

Revelation 12:10

- j. Steals, kills and destroys.

John 10:10

- k. Causes God's people to turn from God.

I Timothy 5:15

- l. Causes sickness and infirmities.

Luke 13:11-16

- m. Brings fear.

Romans 8:15

- n. Possesses men's lives and minds.

Ephesians 2:2

Luke 4:33-35

- o. Tempts men to lie

Acts 5:3

5. How can we expect him to come against us?

- a. As an angel of light.

II Corinthians 11:14

- b. As a roaring lion.

I Peter 5:8

- c. Through his ministers.

II Corinthians 11:13-15

6. How did Jesus confront him and what was the outcome?

- a. He healed the sick and cast out demons.

Luke 6:17-19

- b. Through the use of the scriptures.

Matthew 4:1-11

- c. Through His death.
Isaiah 53:4-5

Hebrews 2:14-15

- d. Through His resurrection.
I Corinthians 15:3-4 (12-17)

- e. Jesus made void all of Satan's works.
I John 3:8

7. What is our position?

- a. We withstand and resist him every time we encounter him.
I Peter 5:8-9

James 4:7

- b. Don't give him any place in our lives. No footholds or opportunity to cause us to deviate from the doing right.
Ephesians 4:27

- c. Don't try to flight him with carnal measures.
II Corinthians 10:3-5

- d. We overcome by our confession and Jesus' blood.
Revelation 12:11

Romans 10:9

- e. Remember that we are sons of God and can do anything God has given to His sons.
John 14:12

John 17:16-22

More than anything else, we must understand that Satan is a defeated enemy. He has no power over the children of God. His only weapon is a lie. We are delivered out of his control and authority.

Colossians 1:12-13

HELL AND THE LAKE OF FIRE

Although this subject is not edifying, every Bible student should have some understanding of its truths. There are many questions in people's minds concerning hell. Is it a real place, do all unsaved people go there, will it continue to exist forever, will people who are consigned there be tormented forever or will they be annihilated? The only way to understand this subject is to make a progressive study through the whole Bible from Genesis to Revelation.

There are five names used in the Bible to describe the place we commonly call Hell and each adds its truth so that when completed we have a deeper and more profound understanding of God's attitude toward the unrighteous dead.

1. Sheol is the Hebrew word of broad meaning which is translated as "hell", "grave", and "pit" in the King James Versions. Most Bible scholars consider it to mean "the unseen state" or "The place of the dead". The various usages of Sheol in the Old Testament make it a word of uncertain meaning. It is necessary to examine the context in order to determine the meaning. No scholar can explain the word in detail; all are compelled to accept Sheol as a word that means "the world of the dead", the hidden world, the unseen world. It does not mean "the lake of fire", it does not mean the "pit", or the "grave"; it simply denotes the place of "departed spirits" or those who have "departed this life". Thus, we find that God begins His instruction on the wicked's abode by using a word of uncertain meaning.

- a. When translated "hell": Deuteronomy 32:22, II Samuel 22:6, Job 11:8 & 26:6, Psalms 9:17, 16:10, 18:5, 55:15, 86:13, 116:3, 139:8, Proverbs 5:5, 7:27, 9:18, 15:11 & 24, 23:14, 27:20, Isaiah 5:14, 14:9 & 15, 28:15, 57:9, Ezekiel 31:16 & 17, 32:21 & 27, Amos 9:2, Jonah 2:2, Habakkuk 2:5.
- b. When translated "grave": Genesis 37:35, 42:38, 44:29 & 31, I Samuel 2:6, I King 2:6 & 9, Job 7:9, 14:13, 17:13, 21:13, 24:19, Psalms 6:5, 30:3, 31:17, 49:14-15, 88:3, 89:48, 141:7, Proverbs 1:12, 30:16, Ecclesiastes 9:10, Song of Solomon 8:6, Isaiah 14:11, 38:10 & 18, Ezekiel 31:15, Hosea 13:14.
- c. When translated "pit": Numbers 16:30 & 33, Job 17:16.

2. Hades is the Greek word of the New Testament which is most closely allied in thought to the "Sheol" of the Old Testament. Once again, the Bible scholars cannot give us an absolute definition of the word in the original language. Harper's Analytical Greek Lexicon calls it: "The invisible abode or mansion of the dead...." Thayer's Greek-English Lexicon refers to it as "...the common receptacle of disembodied spirits." This word of uncertain definition appears eleven times in the New Testament.

"Hades", however, is not quite as difficult as "Sheol", because in one of the eleven references we have the description, by Jesus, of a man who was consigned to that place! Thus, although the original language is somewhat unclear, we find that the Bible itself is beginning to supply us with contextual information which causes the meaning of "hell" to clarify.

- a. When translated "hell": Matthew 11:23, 16:18, Luke 10:15, 16:23, Acts 2:27 & 31, Revelation 1:18, 6:8, 20:13 & 14.
- b. When translated "grave": I Corinthians 15:55

3. Gehenna is the Greek word which Jesus particularly used in describing the abode of the wicked dead. The word itself is of Hebrew origin, from "Valley" and "Hinnom". The valley of the Sons of Hinnom was the valley on the S.E. of Jerusalem which was used as a garbage dump. Its reference in scripture is used for the place of "Unending Punishment." It received this name from the cries of the little children who were thrown into the fiery arms of Moloch, i.e. of an idol having the form of a bull. The Jews so abhorred the place after these horrible sacrifices had been abolished by King Josiah (II Kings 23:10) that they cast into it not only all manner of refuse, but even the dead bodies of animals and of unburied criminals who had been executed. And since fires were always needed to consume the dead bodies, that the air might not become tainted by their putrefaction, it came to pass that the place was called "heena tou puros" (Gehenna of the fire...) Thayer's Greek Lexicon, page 111.

Here are 12 references (11 spoken by Jesus): Matt. 5:22, 29, 30, 10:28, 18:9, 23:15 & 33, Mark 9:43, 45, 47, Luke 12:5, James 3:6.

4. Tartarus appears only once in the Bible...II Peter 2:4, To the Greek mind this name conveyed the thought of the "abode of the wicked dead, where they suffer punishment for their evil deeds". Strong's Greek dictionary defines the word as meaning "the deepest abyss of Hades". Generally, Tartarus was to the Greek what Gehenna was to the Jews.

5. The lake of fire (and brimstone) is the fifth expression used by God's word in describing the place of unrighteous dead. It only appears in the last book of the Bible.

At last we have a clear picture of the final abode of the unrighteous! That which was dim in the shadows of Old Testament is now clearly revealed in the light of Revelation's great throne of judgment.

The references: Revelation 14:10, 19:20, 20:10, 14, 15, 21:8.

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE ABODE OF THE UNRIGHTEOUS DEAD

1. A place of fire: The New Testament used eighteen graphic "fire" expressions.

"hell fire" - Matt. 5:22	"out of the fire" - Jude 23
"furnace of fire" - Matt. 13:42	"fire and brimstone" - Rev. 14:10
"everlasting fire" - Matt. 18:8	"lake of fire burning with brimstone" - Rev 19:20
"fire that never shall be quenched" - Mark 9:43	"lake of fire and brimstone" - Rev. 20:10
"fire is not quenched" - Mark 9:44	"lake of fire" - Rev. 20:15
"salted with fire" - Mark 9:49	

2. A place of torment: Jesus used the most extreme human reactions that He knew in portraying the torment of the unrighteous after life...

"weeping and gnashing of teeth" - Luke 13:27
"wailing and gnashing of teeth" - Matt. 13:42
"it had been good for that man if he had not been born" - Matt. 26:24
"in hell he lifted up his eyes, being in torments" - Luke 16:23
"but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented" - Luke 16:25
"lest they also come into this place of torment" - Luke 16:28
"and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone" - Rev. 14:10
"and smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever" - Rev. 14:11
"and shall be tormented day and night forever and ever" - Rev. 20:10

3. A place that will always continue without ceasing: "absolute endlessness". Note that in Mark 9 beginning with verse 43, Jesus emphasizes five times that the fire of Gehenna will never be extinguished!

Since certain cults have challenged the above meaning of "everlasting", let us note the eleven ways that "everlasting" is descriptively in the Bible: (1) God Himself - Romans 16:26, (2) divinely imparted life - Matthew 19:29, Luke 18:30, John 3:16, 36, 4:14, 5:24, 6:27, 40, 47, 12:50, Acts 13:46, Romans 6:22, Galatians 6:8, I Timothy 1:16, (3) punishment - Matthew 25:46, (4) tabernacles or dwelling places - Luke 16:9, (5) destruction - II Thessalonians 1:9, (6) comfort or consolation - II Thessalonians 2:16, (7) the might and power of the Lord - I Timothy 6:16, (8) the blood covenant - Hebrews 13:20, (9) the kingdom - II Peter 1:11, (10) fire - Matthew 18:8, 25:41, (11) gospel - Revelation 14:6.

Note: "For ever and ever" is used to describe the duration of:

- (1) Attributes of God:** (a) Glory - Galatians 1:5, II Timothy 4:18
(b) Honor - I Timothy 1:17
(c) Throne - Hebrews 1:8
(d) Praise, Glory, and Dominion - I Peter 4:11,
(e) Existence - Revelation 4:9-10
(f) Reign - Revelation 11:15, 22:5.

- (2) Torment of:** (a) Beast's followers - Revelation 14:11
(b) Babylon - Revelation 19:3
(c) Devil, Beast, and False Prophet - Revelation 20:10
(d) Unsaved - Revelation 20:12-15

It may be logically concluded that: As long as God's people exist in the blessing and presence of the Almighty---just that long will the Devil and his followers exist in a state of torment and judgement.

RESURRECTION

The resurrection of the dead is a basic fundamental truth of the Gospel. Jesus became the first fruits of the dead when He was resurrected from the dead.

I Corinthians 15:12-20

The resurrection is more than an event. Jesus said that He was the resurrection.

John 11:25-26

Our resurrected body will not be like our present body. Our present one is sown as a seed and then dies and God causes our new one to come forth in its new glory. Our old one is natural, our new one is spiritual.

I Corinthians 15:35-58

Yet our new body is very real. It will be like the resurrected body of the Lord Jesus Christ.

I John 3:2

In His resurrected body Jesus ate and drank and they touched Him.

Luke 24:36-43

We can expect to eat and drink in our resurrected body.

Matthew 26:29

Our body will not be spirit; it will be spiritual. The life of our present body is our blood. The life of our new body will be spirit.

OUR PRESENT BODY

1. Flesh and blood - I Cor. 15:50
2. Natural (our life is in our blood) - Lev. 17:11
3. Earthly (from the first Adam)
4. Dishonor, vile (disgrace, low estate)
5. Weak (tired and infirm)
6. Corruptible (sickness and decay)
7. Mortal (subject to death)

I Corinthian 15:35-58

Philippians 3:20-21

OUR RESURRECTED BODY

1. Flesh and bone - Luke 24:39
2. Spiritual (our life is in the spirit) - Rom. 8:11
3. Heavenly (from the last Adam)
4. Glorious (dignity and honor)
5. Powerful (never weary)
6. Incorruptible (eternal health)
7. Immortal (will never die)

There are two resurrections. One to everlasting life and one to everlasting contempt. Dan. 12:2, John 5:28-29.

1. The first resurrection takes place at the beginning of the millennium period. This is the resurrection of the righteous and takes place when Jesus returns.

I Thessalonians 4:13-18

I Corinthians 15:51-56

The dead in Christ rise first, then the living believers "shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air and so shall we ever be with the Lord". All the hosts of the redeemed then return to the earth to rule and

reign with Christ a thousand years. This first resurrection takes place at the beginning of the millennium. (the 1,000 years of rest)

Revelation 20:4-6

2. The second resurrection which is of the unrighteous dead takes place at the end of the millennium, one thousand years after the first resurrection.

Revelation 20:5-10

At the same time that Satan is released from the bottomless pit, these hordes of unrighteous dead are resurrected from the dead and again live on the earth. They are not taken up into the air as the righteous were, but are earth bound. They are again deceived by Satan and will try to destroy God's people. However God intervenes and stops them. Everyone then stands before God's judgment throne and are judged from the books of God. The unrighteous ones are cast into the lake of fire, (the ones not found in the Book of Life).

THE BIBLE, THE WORD OF GOD

The Bible is God's written expression of His will to man. When we consider that it is God speaking to man, it should never be considered as just instruction in a general sense, but God's instruction to me as a person. In other words, each of us should read the Bible with the thought in mind that "God is speaking to me".

1. Where did it come from?

I Thessalonians 2:13

II Peter 3:16

2. How was it given?

II Timothy 3:16

Galatians 1:11-12

Men divinely inspired wrote the Word of God...

3. How is it understood?

John 14:26

John 16:13-15

I Corinthians 2:9-14

Man can only understand the Word of God if he has received the teacher, the Holy Spirit.

4. What should we as Christians do with it?

Hebrews 2:1-3 - heed what it has to say

II Timothy 2:15 - study it

Joshua 1:7-8 - meditate on it and don't stray from it

Psalms 1:2 - delight yourself in it

Psalms 119 - become totally involved in it

5. Is it of any real value to us?

Hebrews 4:2 - only when we believe it

Mark 7:13 - we can make it ineffective by our traditions

6. Even though it's the Word of God, is it just words with no real power or is it something more than we understand words to be?

Genesis 1:1-27 - all creation was created by God's word

Hebrews 11:3 - world framed by the word

II Peters 3:5-7 - world is preserved in order by God's word

Hebrews 4:12 - it is alive and full of power

We should remember when we think of God's Word that Jesus is the Living Word, i.e. the "logos", the total expression of God to us. He is everything that God wants us to know.

John 1:1-14

7. A good example for us to follow was that of the early church. How did they relate to it?

Acts 2:41 - received it

Acts 4:4 - believed it

Acts 6:7 - it increased

Acts 12:24 - it grew

Acts 19:20 - it prevailed

They allowed the Word to do its work in their lives and their ministry and the church grew because of it. We should just speak and believe the Word and God will do the rest.

8. God has a responsibility to the words He has spoken.

Ezekiel 12:25 - The word He speaks shall come to pass

Isaiah 55:11 - It shall accomplish what God wants

Isaiah 46:9-11 - God purposed it, He will also do it

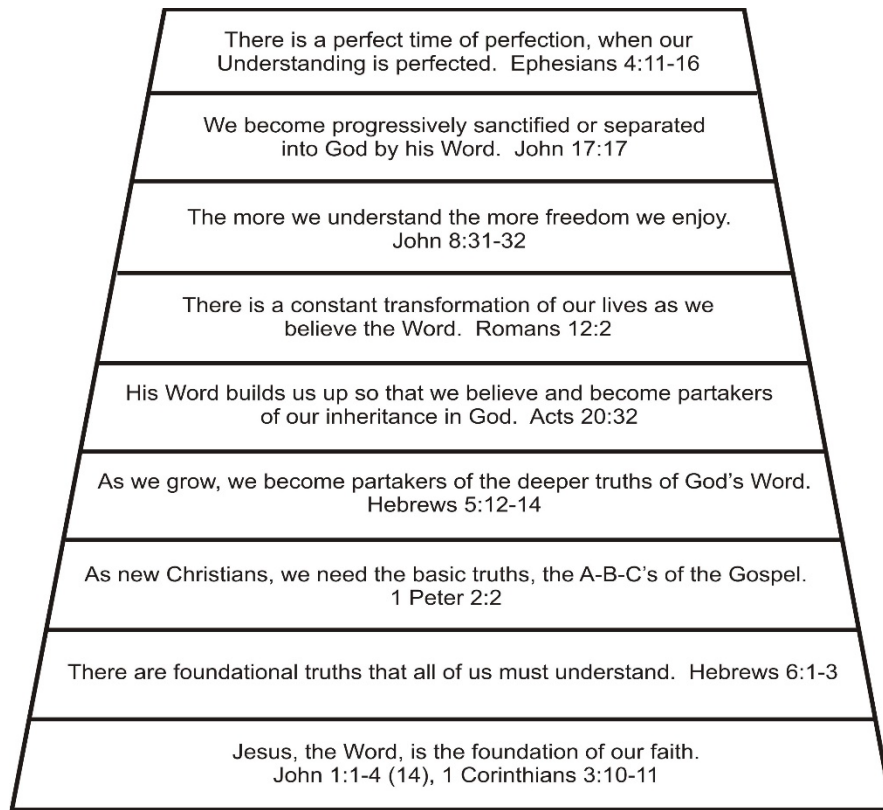
II Timothy 2:13 - He cannot contradict Himself. (He is just and can't be inconsistent with Himself.)

Titus 1:2 - God can't lie

9. Our responsibility to the words that God has spoken.

Romans 3:3-4 - let God be true

Romans 4:21 - be fully persuaded that what He had promised, He is able also to perform



The Word is our sure foundation. It is also our source of growth and is the factor in our maturity in God.
Colossians 2:2-3 (Amplified)

THE HOLY SPIRIT HIMSELF

The Holy Spirit is the silent member of the eternal Godhead. By that, we mean He never projects Himself. He always glorifies God the Father and God the Son. The question therefore arises....how important is the study of this subject and why should we study it at all? The answer, of course, is that the Holy Spirit and His ministry is one of the most important doctrines of the Bible. Without the Holy Spirit the Church could not function, nor would it even be in existence.

1. Some of the things the Holy Spirit does are:

- a. We are born of the Spirit (John 3:5-6)
- b. We are led by the Spirit (Romans 8:14)
- c. We are baptized in the Spirit (Matthew 3:11)
- d. We are aided by the Spirit (John 14:16)
- e. He makes us fruitful (Galatians 5:22-23)
- f. Gifts are given by the Spirit (I Corinthians 12)
- g. He convinces & convicts (John 16:8)
- h. He teaches and guides (John 16:13)
- i. He prays for us (Romans 8:26)

We should remember that the Holy Spirit is a person and not an influence or force from God.

Jesus said that He would send another comforter (John 16:7) when He returned to be with God the Father and that the Holy Spirit would represent Jesus in every way. He came to take Jesus' place and in doing so He fulfills the ministry of Jesus on the earth. In order to do this He must be equal to Jesus. He must be a person.

The words "spirit" or "ghost" tend to cause us to think of some nebulous thing. Yet God is a spirit (John 4:24) and we know Him as a person.

We can best understand the Holy Spirit to be a person by who He is and what He does.

2. His personal characteristics:

- a. knowledge I Corinthians 2:10-13
- b. will I Corinthians 12:11

3. His work:

- a. searches all things I Corinthians 2:10
- b. teacher John 14:26
- c. testifies John 15:26
- d. guides John 16:13, Acts 16:6-7
- e. reveals the will of God II Peter 1:21
- f. makes our Sonship real Galatians 4:6

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| g. places us into the ministry | Acts 13:2, Acts 20:28 |
| h. leads individuals | Romans 8:14, Acts 16:6-7 |
| i. causes the new birth | John 3:5-6 |
| j. convicts and convinces | John 16:8-11 |
| k. gives God's gifts | I Corinthians 12:7-11 |
| l. gives us God's character | Galatians 5:22-23 |
| m. gives us a new language | Acts 2:4 |
| n. works miracles | Acts 8:39 |
| o. builds the Church | Ephesians 2:22 |
| p. makes preaching effective | I Peter 1:12, I Corinthians 2:4 |
| q. gives power | Acts 1:8 |

4. As a person, He has feelings and can be:

- | | |
|---------------|------------------|
| a. grieved | Ephesians 4:30 |
| b. lied to | Acts 5:3 |
| c. blasphemed | Matthew 12:31-32 |
| d. insulted | Hebrews 10:29 |
| e. resisted | Acts 7:51 |
| f. tested | Acts 5:9 |
| g. displeased | Isaiah 63:10 |

HOLY SPIRIT, THE PERSON

Even though God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit are one, they are three persons. Therefore, there is a clear distinction of the Holy Spirit from the Father and the Son.

1. Each is distinctive.

- a. the Father sent John the Baptist John 1:33
- b. the Father sent Jesus John 8:16
- c. John and Jesus are in the river
 The Holy Spirit comes upon Jesus
 The Father speaks from Heaven Luke 3:21-22

2. The Son prays. The Father gives the Holy Spirit. The Spirit is given. John 14:16

3. The Father sends the Spirit. He comes in the Son's name. The Spirit teaches. John 14:26

4. The Spirit comes from the Father. The Son sends the Spirit. The Spirit testifies of the Son. Jn. 15:26

5. The Son goes to the Father. The Son sends the Spirit. The Spirit comes. John 16:7-10

6. The Father gives the Son all things. The Son gives to the Spirit. The Spirit shows things. Jn. 16:13-15

7. The Son seated at the right hand of the Father. The Father gives the promised Spirit to the Son.
 The Son gives the Spirit to the Church. Acts 2:33

8. Stephen is full of the Spirit. He sees Jesus at the right hand of God, the Father. Acts 7:55-56

9. Our access to the Father is through the Son, by the Spirit. Ephesians 2:18

NOTE: See also:

II Corinthians 13:14
Ephesians 3:14-16
Hebrews 9:14
I Peter 1:2

I Peter 3:18
I John 3:23-24
I John 5:7

NAMES, TITLES, & SYMBOLS OF THE SPIRIT

Through the names, titles, and symbols of the Spirit, we better understand His character and ministry.

1. Comforter.

Intercessor, Counselor, Advocate. Jesus had been their strength, but He could only be the strength to those with whom He was in contact. However, the Spirit is omnipresent; therefore, He could be strength to all. John 14:16

2. Spirit of God. Matthew 3:16

3. Spirit of the Lord. Luke 4:18

4. Spirit of Christ.

The Holy Spirit represents the Godhead during the Church Age. He is therefore the Spirit of God, the Spirit of Christ, the Spirit of the Lord. In other words, He is the Spirit of the Godhead. Ro. 8:9-10

5. Spirit of Promise. Ephesians 1:13, Luke 24:49, Ezekiel 36:26-27, Joel 2:28-29

6. Spirit of Truth.

Jesus said that He had only taken the disciples part way in their understanding; however, the Spirit would guide them into all truth. John 16:13, I John 5:6

7. Spirit of Grace. Hebrews 10:29

8. Spirit of Life.

The source of our spiritual life is the Holy Spirit. He causes the new birth and enables us to live the abundant life Jesus spoke of in John 10:10. Romans 8:1-2

9. Spirit of Adoption.

We are not adopted into the family of God in the normal sense, we get into it by the new birth; yet we are not of the natural branches. Romans 8:15-16, Romans 11:11-25

10. Spirit of Glory.

The impartation to us of the Glory of God is the Holy Spirit. I Peter 4:14, John 17:22

11. Spirit of Burning.

Burning up the chaff in our lives is a work of the Spirit. He purifies. Isaiah 4:4, Matthew 3:11-12

12. Spirit of Judgement. Isaiah 4:4, Acts 5:1-11, John 16:8-11

13. Spirit of Wisdom, Understanding, Counsel, Might, Knowledge, Fear of the Lord.

The Son operated under the anointing of the Spirit. Isaiah 11:1-3

14. Spirit of Power. II Timothy 1:7, Acts 1:8

15. Spirit of Love. II Timothy 1:7, I Corinthians 13, Galatians 5:22

16. Spirit of a Sound Mind. II Timothy 1:7

17. Water.

As water is indispensable to natural life, so is the Spirit to spiritual life. John 4:14, John 7:38-39

18. Seal.

He puts God's seal upon us. We know who we belong to! Ephesians 1:13-14

19. Oil.

He is the anointing oil of God. Matthew 25:1-9

20. Dove.

He is gentle, tender, and makes God's peace real to the believer. Luke 3:22

THE HOLY SPIRIT IN JESUS' LIFE

There is no question that the Holy Spirit was active in the life of Jesus from His birth to His resurrection. It is clear from the scriptures that Jesus did not function in His ministry alone. He did only what He was shown by the Father.

It seems that Jesus' total reliance upon the "anointing" He received from the Father is a lesson for us that our lives must also be as His; we must rely only upon the Word and the Spirit. When we do, we will fulfill John 14:12, "The works that I do shall ye do also".

1. In Birth.

The Spirit came upon Mary and she conceived. He was born of the Spirit and this sanctified His humanity. Luke 1:35

2. In Baptism.

He was sanctified by the Spirit in birth, but He was anointed by the Spirit in baptism and it was here that His ministry began. (It is one thing to be a son of God, and another to be an anointed son of God.) Luke 3:21-22, Acts 10:38

3. In Ministry.

Led by the Spirit. Luke 4:1

Anointed by the Spirit Luke 4:18

Cast out demons by the Spirit. Matthew 12:28

Performed miracles by the Spirit. Acts 10:38

4. In Crucifixion.

He offered Himself by the Spirit. Hebrews 9:14

5. In Resurrection.

Quickened by the Spirit. I Peter 3:18

Raised by the Spirit. Romans 8:10-11

THE HOLY SPIRIT IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

The Holy Spirit, of course, has been active long before the beginning of time, yet we continue to think of Him as only a New Testament manifestation. His activity in the Old Testament is overshadowed by the Father; however, He is ever present and ever active throughout the Old Testament.

1. In Creation

He moved upon the water in the creation of the world. Genesis 1:2

He made man and gave him life. Job 33:4 (Genesis 2:7)

Creation of the heavens. Psalms 33:6 (Job 26:13)

Creation of animals and sea creatures. Psalms 104:30

2. Enabling Leaders and Workers to do Special Work.

Transferring the Spirit which was upon Moses to others. Numbers 11:16-17

Building the Tabernacle. Exodus 31:1-5

The Spirit dwelt in Joshua. Numbers 27:18-20

The Spirit came upon Gideon. Judges 6:34

The Spirit moved in Samson. Judges 14:6 (19) (16:25)

The Spirit came upon Saul to prophesy. I Samuel 10:10

The Spirit spoke through David. II Samuel 23:1-2

God's men spoke by the Holy Spirit. II Peter 1:21... All scripture is given by inspiration of God.
(The word "inspiration" is "God-breathed".) II Timothy 3:16

When God wants something done, He wants it done His way and He wants it done right. He gives the Holy Spirit to be sure it is done according to His plan.

God sets members in the Body. I Corinthians 12:13 (18)

Makes master builders of men. I Corinthians 3:10

Every member has a job. Ephesians 4:8-16

PRAYER

The instruction in the Bible is that "men ought always to pray and not to faint" (Luke 18:1) Yet, the prayer life of most Christians is sadly lacking. The intention of this lesson series is not only to teach the subject of prayer but also to inspire you to pray. Knowing how to pray is important. Jesus instructed His disciples how to pray when they asked Him. We shall never become so perfect or mature that we need not pray. We should take our example from Jesus, the Perfect One. He knew it was necessary for Him to communicate with His Father through prayer and He made time for it.

The following are some of the various themes we will study on this subject:

- | | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. How to pray. | 4. Praying with faith | 7. Who and what to pray for. |
| 2. How not to pray. | 5. Causes for unanswered prayer. | 8. Praying in the Spirit. |
| 3. Posture in prayer. | 6. Persistence in prayer. | |

1. Let us consider how Jesus prayed. He is our perfect example.

- a. He sought to be alone. Matthew 14:22-23
- b. He spent all night in prayer. Luke 6:12
- c. He rose up from sleep in the very early morning. Mark 1:35
- d. In the garden of Gethsemane. Matthew 26:36-44
- e. He prayed for the church. John 17

2. How not to pray. Faulty prayer life disrupts our communication with God.

- a. Don't pray so that others can hear how good you are at praying. Matthew 6:5-6
- b. Lip service is not prayer. It must be from our heart. Matthew 15:8-9
- c. Long prayers for long prayers sake don't get the job done. Mark 12:38-40
- d. God won't hear a person who is a one-member admiration society. Luke 18:10-14
- e. To ask with the wrong purpose. The motive is wrong. James 4:3
- f. Don't ask Jesus to do your praying for you. Go first to the Father in Jesus' Name. John 16:26-27

3. Posture in prayer

There are many that feel they have to get into a certain position before they can pray. Posture becomes a very important thing for them. However, when we consider Peter walking on the water and then sinking and calling out to Jesus for help (there is no question that this was an effective prayer because Jesus rescued him) our posture in prayer becomes meaningless.

The Bible cites several examples of posture:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------|
| a. With bowed head | Exodus 34:8 |
| b. Jesus fell on His face | Matthew 26:39 |
| c. Standing and praying | Mark 11:25 |
| d. Lifting up your eyes | John 17:1 |
| e. Sitting down | Acts 2:1-2 (Acts 1:14) |
| f. In prison, fastened in stocks | Acts 16:24-25 |
| g. Kneeling down | Acts 20:36 |
| h. Lifting up your hands | I Timothy 2:8 |

God is obviously not concerned about posture in prayer. He just wants us to pray.

John 14:13

4. Praying with faith

The key word in prayer is faith. God is not obligated to answer just any prayer, but only the prayer of faith. You may have heard the statement "God always answers prayer, but He may say 'yes' or 'no' or 'wait'". This sounds good and it has some truth, but many times when we do not get the requested results we "cop-out" and say "God said no" when, in fact, we did not ask in faith. Don't blame God for your unanswered prayers, but look to your own deficiencies.

1. Believe that you receive your request when you pray. Don't always put the answer off into the future. Mk 11:21-24
2. Let the word of God live in you and you will always ask according to His will. John 15:7
Our will becomes His will as we are changed by His word.
3. Have complete confidence in God. Let Him fulfill your request in His way. I John 5:14-15
4. Always ask in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ. This name has been placed above all others by God and there is nothing or no one who can stand against it. John 14:13-14
5. We must know that we will receive from God.
James 1:5-8

Hebrews 6:11-15
6. Just to know that God has what we need is not enough - we must ask. The one who asks receives.
John 14:13

John 15:7

John 16:24

Matthew 21:22

Mark 11:20-24

5. Reasons for unanswered prayer

It's a fact that God does not answer all prayer. As we have discussed, faith is absolutely necessary. However, there are other reasons for unanswered prayer.

1. If we keep and harbor sin in our lives. Psalms 66:18, Isaiah 1:15-16, 59:1-2
2. If we turn from those in need. Proverbs 21:13
3. Turning away from God's Word. Proverbs 28:9, Zechariah 7:11-13
4. We don't forgive. Mark 11:25-26
5. Our own greed. James 4:3
6. A man that waivers in his faith. James 1:5-7
7. Man and wife not in their proper places. I Peter 3:7

6. Persistence in prayer

The subject of persistence in prayer is found in Luke 11:5-10 and is a lesson every Christian must understand to have an effective prayer life.

The teaching of Jesus concerning the person who came to his friend at night and kept knocking on his door and asking for bread teaches a wonderful truth in receiving from God our needs and desires.

1. The person came to the one who he knew could help. He knew he had bread.
2. His "importunity" (persistence, urgent request, to press or urge with persistence, shameless) was the factor that made his friend give him the bread.

This trait is the opposite of shame or modesty.

Hebrews 4:16

I John 5:14-15

Men become displeased with importunity; however, God is pleased with it. God wants us to be persistent and insistent in our prayer life.

James 5:16-18

I Kings 18:41-46

7. Who and what to pray for

Who and what to pray for is a question in many people's minds. There is confusion because we may be praying for the wrong thing and it may not be in the will of God. The only way to determine who and what to pray for is to search the Bible for specific scriptures and examples. Jesus is our best example; therefore, we should follow His lead.

	For Whom	For What
1. Matthew 26:36-44	Himself	To be delivered from the cross
2. Matthew 27:46	Himself	God had forsaken Him
3. Luke 23:34	the unsaved	To forgive them for their actions
4. Luke 23:46	Himself	Committing His spirit to the Father
5. John 12:27-28	Himself	To deliver Himself from His intended purpose
6. John 17	Himself and Church	Return of His glory, glory for the Church
	Church	Unity for the Church and many other things
7. Matthew 11:25	Church	For revealing the things of God to babes

Paul's example is as follows:

1. Romans 1:9	church	General needs
2. Ephesians 1:16-18	church	That God may give them wisdom, revelation, and knowledge
3. Ephesians 3:14-21	church	To be strengthened by the Spirit and rooted and grounded in love and have full knowledge of God
4. Philippians 1:4	church	General needs
5. Philippians 1:9-12	church	That love, knowledge, and judgement may abound
6. Colossians 1:3	church	General needs
7. I Thessalonians 1:2	church	General needs
8. I Thessalonians 5:23	church	That they be preserved blameless

Other examples:

1. Acts 4:23-30	church	Boldness to speak God's Word and for signs and wonders
2. Colossians 4:12	church	That they stand perfect and complete in God's will
3. Romans 10:1	Israel	To be saved
4. Acts 7:60	Unsaved	Forgiveness for their actions

The reason that the bulk of prayer is directed for the church is because it is the Body of Christ on the earth and the ministry of Jesus to the lost world is to be done through His Body, the Church.

John 17:9 (18-21)

II Corinthians 5:17-19

Although prayer for the unsaved is not to be ruled out, it becomes obvious that God's intent is that most of our prayer should be for the believer.

8. Praying in the Spirit

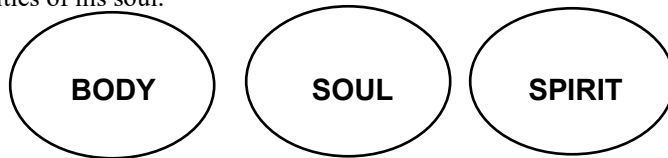
The instruction in the Word of God is to pray with the Spirit and with the understanding also.

Often people who have had an emotional experience while praying, where they feel they have been caught up in prayer beyond their normal prayer life, will refer to this as praying in the Spirit. However, there is no scriptural foundation for this teaching. What then does the Bible mean when it refers to praying with the Spirit?

When the church was born at Pentecost, the Holy Spirit filled all who were awaiting Him in the upper room and they were filled with the Spirit and He gave them an utterance in a new language.

Acts 2:1-13

Man is a triune being, made up of spirit, soul, and body. When he prays with his understanding he is utilizing the capabilities of his soul.



The soul is the mind, intellect, emotions, will and "normal" control center of the man.

The Bible says that our "normal" mind is opposed to the things of God.

Romans 8:1-8

Until we have fulfilled Romans 12:1-2, and have our minds renewed as God would have us to, we cannot expect to have a complete prayer life by using only our understanding. Therefore, God has given us a perfect prayer life in the spirit where our minds do not come into play at all.

Praying in the Spirit is praying in the new language that God gives after we have been baptized in the Spirit.

I Corinthians 14:14-18

The Bible instructs us all to pray in a new language.

I Corinthians 14:5

Praying in the Spirit is for the edification of the one who is praying and is not the same as the Gift of Tongues referred to in I Corinthians 12 and 14. The Gift of Tongues or languages is to be used during a meeting of the church and must be interpreted. (I Corinthians 14:27-28). The one who is praying in other languages in his private prayer life is then built up. He becomes a stronger Christian.

I Corinthians 14:1-4

Jude 20

Because our understanding is incomplete we don't always know what to pray for. The Holy Spirit helps us in this respect, also.

Romans 8:26

Ephesians 6:18

REPENTANCE

Repentance is often thought of as a state of sorrow and much tears. Although that has a part in repentance it is only a small part of the whole.

II Corinthians 7:8-10

To repent is to:

1. Have a change of mind. (A resolution to change.)
2. Have a change of attitude. (This leads to a state of penitence where our whole nature is changed to conform to God's grace and desire.)
3. Have a change in outward actions. (Our works our outward actions will always conform to any inner change.)

Repentance is not confined to the New Testament. God had called Israel to repent time after time.

Ezekiel 18:31-32

II Chronicles 7:14

Jesus began by commanding men to repent.

Mark 1:14-15

Most people feel that they are going the right way, but they are not.

Proverbs 14:12

The Word is that if men don't repent they will die in their sins.

Luke 13:1-5

Repentance of one sinner causes the angels of God to rejoice.

Luke 15:10

One of the first instructions Peter gave to the unsaved was to repent.

Acts 2:38

Acts 3:17-20

Because all are sinners God commands everyone to repent.

Acts 17:30-31

Repentance is not a matter of what a persons says he will do, it's what he does.

Matthew 21:28-32

There is not true repentance unless we practice activities consistent with the repentance of our mind and heart.

Acts 26:19-20

Luke 3:8

Hebrews 6:1

I thought and I turned. (repented) Psalm 119:59-60

GOD'S GRACE

When we think of God's grace we must consider the Gracious One who bestows grace and then also the recipient of this grace. We then have:

- 1. God, the Gracious One, from whom all grace proceeds.** (I Peter 5:10)
Grace comes from God through the Lord Jesus Christ. (John 1:14-17, I Corinthians 1:4)
- 2. The grace that is bestowed,** i.e. love, kindness, mercy, fruit of the Spirit, gifts of the Spirit, strength, ministry, and every favor and blessing. (Romans 12:3-8)
- 3. The receiver of this grace.** The one who is in favor with God. (Genesis 6:8)

Grace is anything and everything that is bestowed by God upon one who has found favor in His eyes. It is totally unearned and undeserved. It is free to the receiver from the giver. (Romans 4:16, 11:6)

By faith Paul bestows grace to the reader within the salutation of all of his epistles.

The source of grace is God. We therefore come to Him for the grace we so sorely need.

Hebrews 4:16

The grace of God is manifold. Anything and everything we need is by God's grace.

I Peter 4:10

John 1:16-17

- 1. We are saved by grace.**

Ephesians 2:8

- 2. We are justified by grace.**

Romans 3:24

- 3. We stand in grace.**

Romans 5:1-2

- 4. We reign in grace.**

Romans 5:17

- 5. We are established by grace.**

Hebrews 13:9

6. We grow in grace.

II Peter 3:18

The Bible speaks of those who "are fallen from grace".

Galatians 5:1-4

When a person leaves the realm of grace, he has gone his own way and is trying to justify himself by his own works.

Galatians 3:1-12

Colossians 2:16-23 (Amplified)

There are also those who believe they are eternally secure and can therefore do anything they want. They feel they can sin and keep on sinning and God's grace will cover all. This is a gross error.

Romans 6:12-16

Jude 4

Permissiveness is not grace!

THE LAYING ON OF HANDS

Although some are repelled by the thought of having someone lay their hand on them for a need in their lives, it is nevertheless a fact of scripture that the touch of ones hands who is directed by God can have a tremendous impact. Laying on of hands is found throughout the Bible, both in the New and Old Testaments.

God has ordained this method to transmit to the recipient blessing, healing, anointing, power, and sin.

1. Laying on of hands in the Old Testament. (With these next few scriptures we establish a principle.)

- a. Hands were laid upon the sacrifice to impart the sinner's sin onto the animal.

Leviticus 1:1-4, 3:2-8, 3:12, 4:4, 4:13-15, 4:28-33, 8:14, 16:20-22

- b. Blessings were imparted by the laying on of hands.

Genesis 48:9-20

- c. The Spirit of wisdom and leadership was transmitted by the laying on of hands.

Numbers 27:18-23

Deuteronomy 34:9

- d. The Levites placed in service by the laying on of hands.

Numbers 8:9-15

The flow is from the one whose hands are employed, to the recipient. With this in mind, we can better understand why we are to lift up our hands and bless the Lord.

Leviticus 9:22

Psalms 134

I Timothy 2:8

2. Laying on of hands in the New Testament.

- a. It is one of the fundamental doctrines of the Bible.

Hebrews 6:2

- b. Jesus employed this means to heal the sick.

Mark 6:5

Mark 8:22-25

Luke 4:38-40

Luke 13:10-16

- c. Jesus blessed children by laying His hands on them.

Mark 10:13-16

- d. Jesus instructed all believers to lay hands on the sick and heal them.

Mark 16:18

- (1) We are kings and priests. I Peter 2:9, Revelation 5:10
- (2) The anointing lives in us. I John 2:27
- (3) That which we have needs to be given to others. Matthew 10:8, Acts 3:1-8

- e. Many signs and wonders were done as the contact was made with their hands.

Acts 5:12

Acts 14:3

- f. Men were ordained to a ministry through this means.

Acts 6:6

Acts 13:1-3

- g. The Holy Spirit was imparted by the laying on of hands.

Acts 8:18

Acts 9:17 (12)

Acts 19:6

- h. People were healed at the touch.

Acts 28:8

- i. There is a warning not to lay hands on anyone too quickly. This would seem to mean that we should not ordain one who has not been first proved.

I Timothy 5:22

- j. Imparting gifts.

I Timothy 4:14

II Timothy 1:6

- k. Dead raised.

Luke 7:11-15

HEALING

Is God in the healing business? Is God concerned about our physical needs? Does God heal today? Why do some receive healing and others don't? Is sickness from God? How can I be healed?

The above are some of the questions in people's minds. Our physical needs are very real and very important, especially to the one who is sick. The only way to determine the will of God and find answers to the above questions is to consult the Bible and lay aside all unscriptural teachings we have been subject to in the past.

1. Is God in the healing business?

God has been concerned with man's physical health since the beginning of time. However, it was not until after the fall that healing was necessary.

- a. He healed Israel as a nation.

Psalms 105:37

- b. He promised them health if they continued to follow Him.

Exodus 15:26

2. Is God concerned about our physical needs today?

- a. God has made provisions for our sickness and it is for today.

James 5:14

Mark 16:18

- b. God not only wants to heal us, He wants us to be healthy all the time.

III John 2

God bore away our sickness and infirmities. It's done. We don't have to bear them. (Isaiah 53:4-5, Matthew 8:17, Some would say the healing referred to here is "spiritual" healing, but we were never "sick" in our sins, we were "dead" in our sins.)

- c. Healing is a part of our salvation.

The very words "saved and salvation" are from two Greek words "sozo" and soteria" which include in their full meaning, healing.

- d. Healing is as much a part of the atonement as is the removal of sin.

Isaiah 53:1-10

Matthew 8:16-17

3. Does God heal today?

God is constant. If it was His will to heal once, it is still His will to heal now! (Hebrews 13:8) God is the great "I AM", unchanging, ever-present. (Exodus 3:14, John 8:58) Jesus said "I will to heal."

Mark 1:40-41

The quotation "if it be thy will" is a faith destroyer. Jesus said "I WILL". Jesus healed all that come to Him for healing.

Matthew 8:16

Matthew 12:15

Matthew 14:36

Luke 6:19

I Corinthians 12:9 Healing is one of the gifts of the Spirit to the Church.

The early church practiced healing and it has never been rescinded by God.

Man has taken healing away from the church, but God has not. It is still available to believers.

4. Is sickness from God?

There is no question that God has allowed certain people to become sick. However, there is no scriptural evidence that God has made even one of His children sick.

Jesus said healing and deliverance was the children's bread.

Matthew 15:22-28

Jesus came to do the will of His Father and part of that was to heal the sick.

John 5:19

It makes no more sense to believe that God makes His people sick than to believe that He makes people sin. Jesus paid the price for both.

Isaiah 53:4-5 (10)

5. How can I be healed? - There are a number of methods for receiving healing in the Bible.

- a. Elder's anointing with oil. - James 5:14-15
- b. Laying on of hands. - Mark 16:18
- c. Cloths which have been taken from the possession of believers. - Acts 19:11-12
(Note: God wrought the special miracles -- not Paul.)
- d. Spoken word. - Acts 14:8-10
- e. Agreement in prayer. - Matthew 18:19

Regardless of the method used, it is God that performs the healing by the working of the Holy Spirit. Give God the credit and the glory and don't try to retain any for yourself.

6. Why isn't everyone healed?

a. Faith is the prime factor in everything we receive from God. Without it, the Bible says, we shall receive nothing from God, and this includes healing.

James 1:6-8

Faith grows by the Word and there is a lack of teaching on the subject of healing.

Romans 10:13-17

b. Confession is also a factor. We must confess what the Bible says about healing and not our symptoms or doubt or unbelief or man's opinion. Confession is simply agreeing with God. In Romans 10:9-10 we confess unto salvation. "Salvation" is the Greek word "Soteria" which includes physical healing.

Hebrews 3:1, 10:23

c. Sin can cause unanswered prayer

Is 59:1-2

Sins of commission

Is. 1:15-17, Pr. 28:9

Sins of omission

Is. 1:18-20, Pr. 1:7, 28-30

Sins of rebellion

Ps. 66:18

Sins of the heart

James 4:1-3

Sins of greed

Ps. 78:17-22, 31-32

Sins of unbelief

d. John's prescription for getting your prayers answered.

I John 3:22, John 14:15, 15:7, 15:10-12 Love one another, Obey God, Abide in His presence.

AUTHORITY OF THE BELIEVER

If someone were to say "We can do anything that God says we can do" we would immediately agree. In that brief statement lies that "Authority of the Believer". If God says something, it must be true. We are everything that God says we are and we can do everything God says we can do.

God has established limits in His Bible; however, we have fallen far short of these limits because of our unbelief. We don't believe what He has said about us and therefore limit ourselves and God's potential in us.

What does God say about our authority?

Mark 16:17-18 says that "these signs shall follow them that believe."

The key is the word "believe" or the one who believes, the believer i.e. the one who has faith, the one who trusts in, relies on, and adheres to any truth that God has said. It is evident then that the stated signs will not necessarily follow every Christian but only the Christian who believes that they will follow his ministry. We could say that "these signs shall follow them that believe that these signs shall follow them".

1. Where does the power and authority of God rest?

- a. Jesus gave His disciples power and authority.

Luke 9:1-6

We should note that He did not say they should pray to the Father for help. He gave them the power and authority. It was theirs.

- b. Peter and John said "look on us" and "such as I have give I thee".

Acts 3:1-8

They had something to give which they had received from God. It was theirs to give.

- c. Jesus said "without me ye can do nothing".

John 15:5

But we are not without Him.

I Corinthians 3:16 - God dwells in us. (Colossians 1:27)

II Corinthians 6:16 - I will dwell in them and walk in them.

He said "I am with you always.

Matthew 28:20

- d. He also said "With God nothing shall be impossible."

Luke 1:37

And because He is always with us "nothing shall be impossible" to you.

Matthew 17:20

- e. In view of the above, we can see what Jesus meant when He said we should continue His work. And we should work the same way He did.

John 14:12

John 17:18

John 20:21

2. God delegates His authority and power.

a. God the Father has made Jesus, Lord over all

(1) Acts 2:36

(2) Matthew 28:18

(3) Philippians 2:9-11

(4) Ephesians 1:20-23

b. We in turn are made sons of God through Jesus Christ and given the necessary power and authority to continue God's work.

(1) Jesus sends us. John 17:18

(2) We are ordained or appointed by Him. John 15:16

(3) He fills everyone everywhere with His fullness. Eph. 1:22-23, Col. 2:9-10 (Amp.)

(4) He has qualified us to the ministry. II Corinthians 3:5-6

(5) We have the Word of God to the world. II Corinthians 5:17-19

(6) We, like His first disciples, have been given God's power and authority. It is ours to give.

Acts 1:8

Ephesians 3:20-21

Colossians 1:27-29

Romans 10:6-8

3. It is evident that no Christian has reached the "measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ". (Ephesians 4:13) But in God's time we will come to know experientially what a tremendous work God has done in us.

Those that know what God has done in them will do great works. To know is to believe and act.

Daniel 11:32

FASTING

Fasting should be a part of every Christian's life, just as prayer and study. Without it we can never be the person of God that He wants us to be. Fasting is necessary to complete Christian growth.

1. What is fasting?

Fasting is to abstain from food only. To abstain from food and water would take a supernatural intervention from God. Our bodies can go without food for a number of days, but to go without water for just a few days would be harmful to our health. Fasting can be for any length of time, from one meal to 30 or 40 days.

2. How not to fast.

- a. Don't try to appear to be fasting when you fast.
Matthew 6:16-18
- b. When you do fast, don't allow yourself to become proud.
Luke 18:9-14

3. Why should we fast?

- a. Jesus introduced the subject and commanded His disciples to fast. If we knew nothing else than the fact that He commanded us to fast, it should be enough.
Luke 5:33-35
- b. The Bible does not leave us with just a command to fast, but reveals the reasons for fasting and what fasting will do for us. The Bible tells us that fasting "afflicts" the soul, i.e., it forces it down, causes it to be abased, depresses it, and makes it humble.

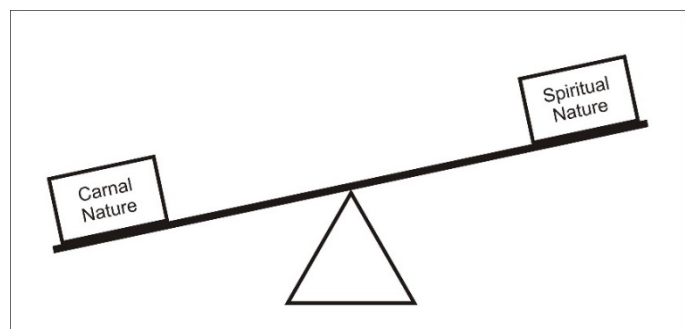
Psalms 35:13

Psalms 69:10

The soul of man is his:

- (1) intellect
- (2) will
- (3) emotion
- (4) normal (carnal) control center

With this in mind, we understand that man's carnal soul must be pressed into a position of humility.



Romans 8:1-8

If we "mind" the things of the Spirit we press down or depress the things of the flesh and build up or edify our spiritual nature. Fasting is one of the major factors employed to bring our carnal nature under the control of our spiritual man.

Our whole man becomes transformed by the renewing or making new of our minds.

Romans 12:1-2

We become less and less under the control of our carnal mind.

c. Jesus taught that His disciples could not cast out a demon because of their unbelief, and that the unbelief was caused, at least in part, by not fasting. In other words, fasting builds faith.

Mark 9:18-29

Matthew 17:14-21

d. The prime reason for fasting is to build up the Christian so that he can perform his ministry. He becomes less and less carnal and more and more spiritual.

Isaiah 58:5-12

The spiritual Christian will:

- (a) Loose the bands of wickedness
- (b) Undo the heavy burdens
- (c) Let the oppressed go free

e. Break every yoke.

Lu. 13:10-16 - bound by Satan

Mark 9:17-18 - spirit seized or captured him

II Cor. 4:4 - blinded minds by the god of this world

Galatians 5:1 - bondage of the law

Romans 7:23 - bondage of sin

II Peter 2:19 - bondage of sin

The breaking the yoke and setting the oppressed free begins in the Christian's life and then he is in a position to free others.

f. Deal thy bread to the hungry.

g. Bring the poor into thy house.

Matthew 11:5 - the poor are ministered to

h. Cover the naked.

Rev. 3:18 - man's nakedness (sin) needs to be covered

I Peter 4:7-8 - love covers sin

Speak the words of life to a poor lost world who are naked in their sins and are exposed in their uncleanness. They need to be clothed with God's righteous.

i. Hide not thyself from thy own flesh.

I Cor. 14:1-5 - we are to build up the church

II Timothy 1:6 - stir up your gift

Romans 15:1-2 - bear the infirmities of the weak

Galatians 6:1-2 - restore and bear one another

Ephesians 4:11-16 - we are members of one another and are to supply the needs of each one.

"Our own flesh", i.e., the Body of Christ, of which each Christian is a part, is functional only when each member supplies his portion to the rest of the members. Each, therefore, must strive to become the spiritual person God wants him to be so that he can perform his function in the Body of Christ.

4. Fasting was employed for the preparation of the ministry.

- a. Jesus' fast. Matthew 4:1-4
- b. Barnabas and Saul. Acts 13:1-4
- c. Ordained elders. Acts 14:23

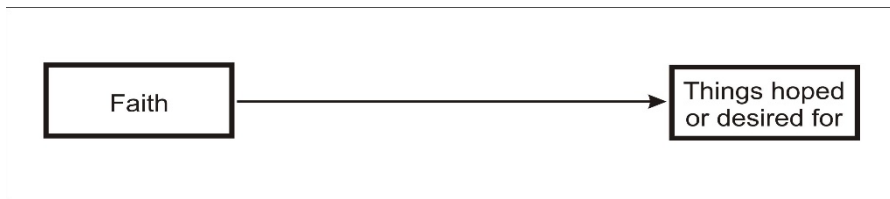
We have a ministry both to the saved and to the unsaved, and fasting is one of the methods we must employ if we are to minister as God desires.

THE GIFT OF FAITH

The gift of faith like all of the other eight gifts is only temporary and will not be needed "When that which is perfect is come". But until that time of perfecting for the church, we need these "temporary" gifts of God to help perfect the church.

1. Faith is the:

- a. Expectation
- b. Absolute assurance
- c. Complete confidence
- d. Total reliance
- e. support
- f. Essence
- g. Substance of the thing hoped for or desired. Hebrews 11:1



Faith knows that you are a possessor of the thing hoped for before you receive the tangible evidence. Real faith is not subject to evidence revealed by any of the five senses.

2. Natural or normal faith, the faith that is given to every man, grows.

Romans 12:3

Matthew 17:20

Romans 1:17 (Amplified)

Romans 10:17

However, the gift of faith is imparted to the person from the God of faith. It is a part of the perfect faith of God, given to a person for a specific purpose. God had perfect faith in what He said would come to pass.

Genesis 1

He knew that whatever He said would come to pass. When we exercise faith, we know with the same assurance that what God has said will come to pass. We simply believe God.

3. Some examples of faith:

Mark 11:12-24

Acts 3:1-7

Acts 9:32-35

THE GIFT OF THE WORD OF KNOWLEDGE

God is omniscient or all knowing; there is nothing He does not know from the past, in the present, or the future.

The gift of the word of knowledge is a supernatural impartation of God-known facts. It is a part of God's all knowledge which is given to one of His children. The person who has this gift does not possess all of God's knowledge, but only a small portion of it.

The "Word" of knowledge is not necessarily a spoken word or a written word, but rather the expression of thought. The gift is not intended to invade privacy. Nor will God reveal something to someone about another for the sole purpose of embarrassing or degrading him.

It does not take the place of study.

II Timothy 2:15

It is often in operation when teaching or preaching.

Probably the best approach to understanding what this gift is and how it operates is to cite Biblical examples.

- (1) Matthew 16:13-21
- (2) Matthew 17:24-27
- (3) Matthew 21:2-3
- (4) Luke 22:10-13
- (5) Luke 22:33-34
- (6) John 4:16-18
- (7) John 11:1-6, 11-15
- (8) John 13:21-27
- (9) Acts 5:1-5
- (10) Acts 27:9-10, 21

One thing stands out in the above examples. There was no way that they could have gained the knowledge they displayed by natural means. God had given to them a portion of His all knowledge.

This gift, like the others, is temporary. It is to be used while we are in our present state. There will come a time when we will know all things.

II Corinthians 13:8-12

THE GIFT OF THE WORD OF WISDOM

The "Word" of wisdom is not relegated to only a written or spoken word, but is rather an expression of thought. It is God, impressing a portion of His wisdom to a person for that person to utilize. The person who is used in this gift is not all-wise. He does not have all of God's wisdom. He is merely a vessel used of God to guide others by God's wisdom.

I Corinthians 1:26-31

Supernatural wisdom is not natural wisdom that has been developed and intensified. It is above and beyond the natural. We don't develop it through our many years of being children of God. It is God given and may be given to a babe in Christ.

Knowledge and wisdom are often found being used together, knowledge will show us certain facts and wisdom will show us what to do with these known facts. Wisdom is not the answer to a solution but the method to the answer.

Examples of God's wisdom as it has been given to men are found throughout the Bible.

1. In the Old Testament:

Exodus 31:1-4

I Kings 3:11-28

2. In the New Testament:

Matthew 22:15-22

Luke 7:19-22

John 8:3-11

Acts 6:9-10

Acts 23:1-7

God has promised His wisdom to everyone of us when we need it.

Luke 21:12-15

James 1:5

THE GIFT OF DISCERNING OF SPIRITS

The gift of discerning of spirits is used to understand, detect, separate and make distinction between spirits.

Some of the things this gift is not:

1. It is not the "Gift of Discernment. By it, we are not given the ability to discern all types of things. It is the "Gift of Discerning of Spirits".
2. It has nothing to do with our ability to find faults in others (we naturally exercise this "gift").
3. It has no relationship to some supposed ministry of straightening out churches.
4. It is not mind reading. It does not reveal other's thoughts, hearts, or dispositions.
5. It has nothing to do with psychology or the psychic (in the general understanding of the term).

There are several types of spirits and we are concerned with all of them.

1. Angelic Spirits
2. Satanic Spirits
3. Holy Spirit

1. Angelic Spirits: Angels are very real and are ever-present spirits. However, for the most part we are not aware of them.

Hebrews 1:13-14

Psalms 34:7

Matthew 18:10

Hebrews 13:2

Galatians 1:8

2. Satanic Spirits: Demon spirits effect people in different ways and yet they are all of the same kindred. They all belong to the same family (Matthew 17:21)

I Kings 22:19-23 - lying spirit

Matthew 12:22 - blind spirit and dumb

Mark 9:20-25 - deaf and dumb

Luke 8:27-35 - insane spirit

Luke 13:11-16 - spirit of in infirmity

Acts 16:16-18 - spirit of divination

II Cor. 11:12-15 - deceiving spirits

3. The Holy Spirit is ever present and we should be aware when He is moving and speaking.

Romans 8:14

John 14:16-17 (26)

We are able to determine which spirit is in operation over a period of time by their fruits. However, much damage may be done by demon spirits if we are not aware that it is they who are at work. It is, therefore, important we know by the Gift of Discerning of spirits who is at work as soon as possible so that the spirit might be dealt with.

The prime function of this gift as I see it, is to determine when and which demon spirits are involved in a situation. To attempt to cast out a demon spirit when there is none leads to confusion and doubt. However, when you are sure there is demon spirit involved, it needs to be dealt with directly and not simply prayed about.

We need to know when someone is influenced by a demon spirit.

THE GIFT OF PROPHECY

Prophecy, in the minds of some, is anointed preaching and teaching. Prophecy may be in operation by an anointed preacher or teacher; however, it is something more than what we generally consider anointed speaking. Prophecy is the speaking forth the mind and counsel of God.

The Old Testament prophets were moved upon to prophecy by the Holy spirit. (II Peter 1:20-21)

We should look for prophecy to do three things according to I Corinthians 14:3

1. Edify - build up (cause to grow)
2. Exhort - stir up (urged to pursue your course)
3. Comfort - cheer up (soothe and console)

However, this is not an exclusive list as I Cor.14:24 says that prophecy also brings conviction.

What the Word says about the Gift of Prophecy.

- 1. The Word of God and prophecy.** - Prophecy should always be compared with the Word. The gift of prophecy is temporary and the Word of God is forever.

I Corinthians 13:8-12

I Peter 1:22-25

- 2. Regulation of prophecy.** - The gift should always be regulated and judged by the Word, the one who is being used and the ones who hear.

I Corinthians 14:29-33

Romans 12:4-7

- 3. Used in predicting the future**

Acts 11:27-28

Acts 21:4 (8-11)

- 4. Used in imparting other gifts**

I Timothy 4:14

- 5. Our attitude toward prophecy** - We should encourage prophecy. It is needed to build up of the church.

I Thessalonians 5:19-21

I Corinthians 14:1-5

The one who prophesies is of great value to the Body of Christ.

THE GIFTS OF TONGUES AND INTERPRETATION OF TONGUES

These two gifts of the Spirit are inseparable, therefore, we will study them together. Neither is to be used without the other.

I Corinthians 14:28

Before we study the gift of tongues, we should make the distinction between the Gift and the Sign of speaking in tongues.

Gift

1. Only one may speak at one time.
2. No more than three at one meeting.
3. This tongue must be interpreted.

I Corinthians 14:27-28

I Corinthians 12:30

Sign

1. All may speak at one time.
2. All may speak at one meeting.
3. this tongue requires no interpretation.

Acts 2:4

Acts 10:46

Acts 19:6-7

1. What is this "Gift of Tongues" and the "Gift of Interpretation of Tongues"?

First of all, they are "gifts" from God. We do not earn them, we simply receive them.

Other "tongues" or languages are spoken by the person who is being used by the Spirit. This language will probably be "unknown" to anyone present, however, it may be "other" tongues or one of the known languages of the earth and someone present may understand what is said without it being interpreted. The language used will, almost without exception, be the same "other tongues" as the person uses in their private prayer life.

The interpretation of the tongue is just that, an "interpretation" it is not a translation. The thought of the message is spoken to the ones present for their edification.

I Corinthians 12:10

2. What good do these gifts do? What is their value to the church today?

We are in an imperfect state at the present time. It is while we are in the present condition of imperfection that God has given us the gifts of the Spirit. Tongues and interpretation of tongues are two of these gifts which we will have until we come into perfection.

I Corinthians 13:8-12

The gift of tongues by itself would be of no profit to the church. However, when the gift of interpretation of tongues is used with it they perform essentially the same service as prophecy. The church is built up and strengthened.

I Corinthians 14:4-5

3. How can one be used in these gifts?

To seek after the best gifts should be the desire of our hearts. We should become so zealous to be used in these gifts to the point of covetousness. We should have a craving for possession.

I Corinthians 12:28-31

I Corinthians 14:1

Three times the Greek word "zeloo" is used concerning spiritual gifts (I Cor. 12:31, 14:1, 14:39). It means to earnestly covet, desire and have a warm feeling for and to be zealous. This should be our attitude toward all spiritual gifts including the gift of tongues and interpretation of tongues.

I Corinthians 14:12-13

4. How should these gifts be used? What is the regulation? Who does the regulating?

These gifts are a fundamental part of all Christian meetings.

I Corinthians 14:26

The regulation is primarily done by the one who is used and the one who is in charge of the meeting.

I Corinthians 14:27-28

There should be no more than three tongues and interpretations during one meeting. The point is not to monopolize the meeting with only part of the total ministry of the Body.

I Corinthians 14:37-40

THE GIFT OF MIRACLES

A miracle is a supernatural intervention into the ordinary course of nature. It is a supernatural act in the natural realm. We should never try to explain a miracle because there is no explanation other than God is at work. If we can find a natural cause for what would seem to be a miracle then it is not a miracle.

There are a number of types of miracles mentioned in the Bible, both in the New and Old Testaments. However, miracles were never done just for exhibition. They were used to:

1. Deliver God's people.
2. Provide for those in need.
3. Confirm the Word.

Jesus did not perform a miracle for Satan's benefit when He was tried in the wilderness.

Some of the miracles of the Old Testament are:

1. 10 plagues of Egypt to deliver God's people and defame the gods of Egypt.
2. Manna from heaven and water from a rock.
3. Widow's oil that never failed.
4. Crossing the Red Sea and Jordan River.
5. Destruction of the walls of Jericho.
6. No rain for 3 1/2 years.
7. Sun standing still.
8. Israel's clothing that did not wear out.

We should keep in mind when we study the miracles of the Bible that Jesus said "the works that I do shall ye do also" (John 14:12). In other words, they are examples for us to follow. They are miracles for the church to perform today.

Some in the New Testament are:

1. Providing for those in need.

Matthew 17:27

John 2:1-11

John 6:1-14

2. Overruling nature.

Matthew 8:23-27

Matthew 14:22-23

3. Raising the dead.

Luke 7:11-16

Luke 8:49-56

John 11:41-45

Acts 9:39-42

Acts 20:9-12

4. For a sign and confirmation of the Word.

Matthew 11:21-23

Matthew 21:19-21

Mark 16:15-20

Acts 13:10-12

God wants to perform miracles through His church today. He wants to confirm His Word.

Matthew 24:14

John 5:20 (36)

Acts 4:33

We should not be deceived by the working of every miracle because some are from Satan and not from God. Every miracle that God does will build His cause. He will be glorified and His church will be helped.

Satan does and will yet perform miracles and we should be aware of them.

Matthew 24:23-24

II Thessalonians 2:1-12

THE GIFTS OF HEALING

There is no question that healing for the whole man, body, soul, and spirit is included in the atonement.

Isaiah 53:1-5 (10)

Matthew 8:16-17

Jesus became sin for my sin - II Corinthians 5:21. Jesus became sick for my sicknesses - Is.53:10 (Amp.)

Every Christian believer has the authority to lay hands on the sick for their healing.

Mark 16:18

1. Why is this gift necessary for the church today?

With all of our medical knowledge today, why don't we just let the doctors do the work?

First of all, healing is necessary because people are sick. And a sick person is a person who has very little victory in any other part of their life. If this were the only reason for healing we might very well rationalize that doctors should do all the healing, even though their capabilities are limited. Even though doctors lose many of their patients, they cause many to be made well; however, they can never perform healing as God wants His church to perform. And they detract, rather than add to, the other benefits that are derived from healing when God heals.

- a. Satan's work is destroyed.

I John 3:8

Acts 10:38

Luke 13:10-16

- b. God is glorified and the reality of Jesus is established.

Acts 3:1-7

Mark 2:12

John 5:36

- c. People are attracted to the gospel.

John 6:2

- d. Unbelievers are convinced and the gospel becomes more effective.

John 14:11

Acts 4:29-33

2. If a person has been gifted by God with the gifts of healing, can he heal everyone?

The answer, of course, is no. Unbelief will nullify the effort.

Matthew 13:53-58

3. What are the methods used?

There are a number of examples in the Bible, plus the methods we have been instructed to use.

Mat. 8:8-13 - spoken word

Mark 16:18 - laying on of hands

Acts 5:12-16 - Peter's shadow

Acts 19:11-12- handkerchiefs and aprons

James 5:14 - anointing with oil

It is time we as Christians woke up and returned healing to the church as one of it's functions. For the most part, we have given over our sick to the doctors to heal. It is no more consistent to believe that doctors heal by the power of God than it is to say that our universities can save a soul from sin. One question we should ask ourselves. Would God turn His sick people over to unsaved and ungodly doctors and give His gifts to ungodly men?

ETERNAL SECURITY

ARE CHRISTIANS ETERNALLY SECURE?

Can one be saved and then lost? Do some people go through a continuous cycle of being saved and lost, saved and lost, over and over again? Is it possible for a Christian to live in the worst kind of sin and still have eternal life?

These are some of the questions people have concerning the doctrine of eternal security.

The answers are found in the Bible. It is not necessary, nor advisable to go elsewhere for these answers. That is, we should not consider opinions if they are not based on scripture, whether they are our own or other's.

There is no question we are eternally secure as long as we remain in Christ. God has a strong grip on each of us and has no desire to let us go back into our former status of being dead in sin and cut off from Him.

“The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance” (2 Peter 3:9)

There is a teaching that has been brought on the church that once a person has been saved there is no way he can again be lost. The great danger of the teaching is that it can, in some cases, turn the grace of God into a total disregard for any regulation or rules of the Spirit and of the Bible. Contempt can develop in men toward holiness and living the right way. People may begin to think they can walk any way they want, and still be walking in God's way.

“... It was needful for me to write unto you and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints. For there are certain men crept in unawares ... turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness ... these are spots in your feasts of charity, when they feast with you, feeding themselves without fear ...” (Jude 3-13).

1. God's Word warns us how not to fall.

Old Testament Israel is an example to us. This God-chosen nation was a type of the New Testament Church. We can learn much from their mistakes and failures as well as their triumphs. We are to continue to press into the things of God lest we fall.

“Moreover brethren, I would not that ye should be ignorant, how that all our fathers were under the cloud and all passed through the sea ... and did all eat the same spiritual meat ...but with many of them God was not well pleased, for they were overthrown in the wilderness ... Now these things were our examples, to the intent we should not lust after evil things, as they also lusted ... neither let us tempt Christ as some of them also tempted and were destroyed ... Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth, take heed lest he fall” (1 Cor 10:1-12).

2. Some shall depart from the Christian faith.

The Bible is clear on this. They shall leave their secure position in Christ and return to their original position of being lost.

“Let no man deceive you by any means; for that day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition.” (2 Thessalonians 2:3).

“Now the Spirit expressly says, that in the latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits, and doctrines of demons, speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their own conscience seared with a hot iron ... if you instruct the brethren in these things, you will be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished up in the words of faith and of good doctrine which you have carefully followed” (1 Tim 4:1-6).

“For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers, and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables” (2 Timothy 4:1-4).

The fact is, that one cannot *fall from* a position he has not occupied, any more than one can come back from a place he has not been. There has been and will be the apostasy, named for the ones who fall away from the faith. The word *apostasia* found in 2 Thessalonians 2:3 means ones who have *defected* from the truth of the Christian faith. It is a strong word, implying revolt. It comes from a root word meaning *to incite, to revolt, to detest and depart*. The word is found in Acts 21:21 where it is translated *forsake*, or to teach *apostasy* from the Law of Moses. So then, we see that the Word of God does acknowledge that there are people who fill this category.

3. There is a possibility that any can fall with the ones who fall away.

One may be drawn away from God by the seemingly reasonable ideas of other persons (Colossians 2:7-8 (The Amplified Bible)).

“Be diligent to present yourself approved to God ... but shun profane and idle babblings, for they will increase to more ungodliness. And their message will spread like cancer... Nevertheless the solid foundation of God stands, having this seal, ‘The Lord knows those who are his.’ and, ‘Let every one who names the name of Christ depart from iniquity” (2 Timothy 2:15-19).

4. The word of warning is in the Bible.

If it were not possible to fall from God's position of grace, there would be no need of warning.

“Therefore, since a promise remains of entering His rest... let us therefore be diligent to enter that rest, lest anyone fall according to the same example of disobedience” (Hebrews 4:1-11)

a. There are a number of *ifs* in the Bible concerning our eternal life (Hebrews 3:6-19, 4:1; 2 Peter 3:13-17).

“By which also you are saved, *if* you hold fast that word which I preached to you- unless you believed in vain” (1 Corinthians 15:2).

“... Yet now He has reconciled ... to present you holy ... in his sight: *if* indeed you continue in the faith grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel ...” (Colossians 1:21-23).

“Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make you calling and election sure, for *if* you do these things you will never stumble” (2 Peter 1:10)

b. God warns us not to be a partaker with the unsaved in their sin or their judgment.

“Therefore be imitators of God as dear children ... let no one deceive you with empty words. For because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. Therefore do not be partakers with them” (Ephesians 5:1-7.)

c. To deny God and His ministry in us works both ways. If we deny Him, He will deny us.

“This is a faithful saying: for if we died with Him, we shall also live with Him. If we suffer, we shall also reign with Him: if we deny Him, He also will deny us” (2 Timothy 2:11-12)

5. God cuts off those who have turned from Him (Romans 11:13-22).

a. God judges His people.

“... It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God ... do not cast away your confidence, which has great reward. For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise ... Now the just shall live by faith; but if anyone draws back, My soul has no pleasure in him. But we are not of those who draw back to *perdition*: but of those who believe to the saving of the soul” (Hebrews 10:30-39).

This drawing back unto *perdition* or *to waste* and *destruction* is a possibility or it would not have been written to warn us. The word, *perdition*, indicates loss of *wellbeing*, not of being. The destruction then, is everlasting, that is, without annihilation. I don't believe anyone knows where this cut off point is. We are not to judge nor are we to be the judges, because we don't have all the facts in each case. And even if we did, we would not have the wisdom to analyze them. God is the righteous judge and there is a point where God says, "No more. That's it."

b. There is that point where the once saved, will become completely reprobate, in their minds and actions.

"For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened and have tasted the heavenly gift and have become partakers of the Holy Spirit, and have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the age to come, if they fall away, to renew them again to repentance, since they crucify again for themselves the Son of God, and put Him to an open shame" (Hebrews 6:4-9).

6. These were once Spirit-filled Christians. They enjoyed the blessings of God.

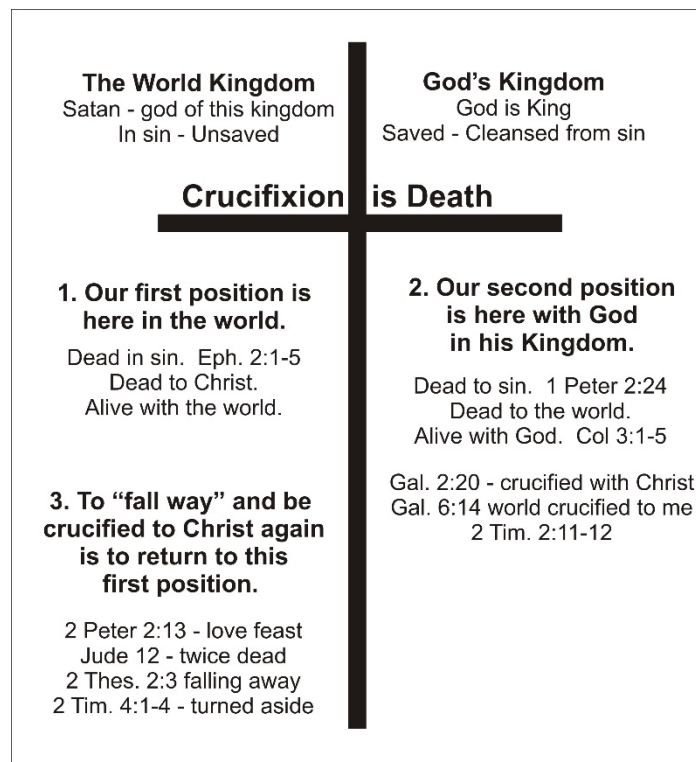
- a. They were enlightened (John 1:6-12).
- b. They tasted God's salvation (John 3:16; (Romans 6:23).
- c. They were made partakers of the Holy Spirit (Acts 19:2-6).
- d. They tasted of the good Word of God (Hebrews 5:12-14).
- e. They experienced the powers of the world to come (Acts 1:8; (Romans 8:18-19).

The words *fall away* describe the person's willful and voluntary position. It means to walk alongside or out of the will of God with no intent of returning to God's way. This is totally apostasy. This means that there has been an open renunciation of Jesus Christ, and a joining with the enemies of Christ. This falling away does not mean to just fall into sin. A person may fall into sin without falling away. Many of God's people are backslidden and out of fellowship with God and His people, yet they are still His children, that is, their relationship has not been severed, only their fellowship. However, the one who falls away will of course go back into sin. To fall away consists of total renunciation of Christ and Christianity.

7. It is impossible to bring these people back to repentance because there is no desire on their part to repent.

They, “crucify again for themselves the Son of God...” This means they consider themselves dead to Christ once more. When we were unsaved, we were dead to Christ and when we are saved, we are ALIVE with Christ and dead to the world (Hebrews 6:4-6; Romans 6:6-11).

“He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love” (Colossians 1:13).



8. Describing those who have become apostate: The following verses describe further those who have *fallen away*. Verse 29 in Hebrews 10 describes a person who has become apostate. The person spoken of here is without question one who has been a Christian.

“... For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation, which will devour the adversaries (Hebrews 10:23-39).

a. The blood of Jesus sanctified him. To be sanctified means to be set apart from the world unto God.

b. He has trodden underfoot the Son of God. This means to trample under foot the person of Jesus and all that He is and has done. To count Him as refuse. This is an act of utter contempt for Christ.

c. He has counted the blood of Jesus as unholy. He devalues the precious, sinless blood of Jesus, likens it to that of a pig or an unclean thing.

d. He has done despite unto the Spirit of grace. The Holy Spirit who he had received by God's grace, he insults. He insults all of the work of the Spirit that he had been a partaker of, that is, salvation, baptism, healing, gifts, fruit, etc.

9. God will judge His people.

The entire second chapter of 2 Peter describes persons once saved who have gone back from God and become apostate. Read the entire chapter and note that these people are still in the church as false teachers. These people were saved.

- a. **They lead people astray by their false teaching** (2 Peter 2:2-3).
- b. **God will bring them to destruction** (2 Peter 2:4-14).
- c. **They have forsaken, left behind and abandoned the right way** (2 Peter 2:15). Note: you can't leave and abandon a position you haven't been in.
- d. **Elsewhere, Jesus referred to some religious leaders as, "white washed sepulchers."** In this chapter, Peter refers to such men, who appear to be righteous and holy, as empty wells without water (2 Peter 2:17).
- e. **They have an ability to persuade Christians into a life of sin** (2 Peter 2:18-19).
- f. **They had escaped the pollution and uncleanness of the world through the knowledge of Christ and are once again entangled and overcome** (2 Peter 2:20).
- g. **They had known God's way and turned away from it.** (2 Peter 2:21-22).

10. The book of Jude describes apostate leaders.

These men once walked with God and have fallen away, now they attempt to draw others away with them.

- a. **We are warned about false teachers and leaders who appear to be one with us yet have become apostate.** God compares these people to the unbelieving Israelites, fallen angels and Sodom and Gomorrah (Jude 3-11).
- b. **They are among God's people yet are spots (stains, blemishes and defects) in Christian feasts of love** (Jude 12).
- c. **They may appear holy but are empty** (Jude 12).
- d. **They are twice dead and pulled up by the roots** (Jude 12).
Being *twice dead* means that they were once dead in sins but were born again by believing in Jesus Christ as their Savior. Then they died again, but this time by rejecting Christ and turning back into their first state of being dead in sin.

Being *pulled up by the roots* means that their last position is final, and there is no further hope of life again in Jesus Christ.
- e. **Their final judgment is darkness forever** (Jude 13-19).

11. Can one's name be removed from the Lamb's Book of Life?

It would seem that whoever has their names recorded in that book were recorded before the beginning of creation.

"... All who dwell on the earth will worship him (the beast), whose names have not been written in the book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world" (Revelation 13:7- 8)

"The beast that you saw was, and is not; and will ascend out of the bottomless pit and go into perdition. And those who dwell on the earth will marvel, whose names are not written in the Book of Life from the foundation of the world, when they see the beast that was, and is not, and yet is" (Revelation 17:8)

Assuming the Lamb's Book of Life of Philippians 4:3, Revelation. 20:12-15 and Revelation 21:27 are the same as God's book of Exodus 32:32-33; the names are prewritten and can be removed.

Only the one who sins against God is removed from His book.

“Yet now, if You will forgive their sin- but if not, blot me out of Your book which You hast written. And the Lord said to Moses, ‘Whoever has sinned against Me, I will blot him out of My book’” (Exodus 32:32-33).

“Let them be blotted out of the book of the living and not be written with the righteous” (Psalms 69:28).

“He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments, and I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life; but I will confess his name before My Father, and before His angels” (Revelation 3:5).

12. Once saved always saved?

Is that right? There are some scriptures that seem to say that a person once saved is always saved, regardless of what his life style might be. However, let us look at them in context of scripture.

a. God gives eternal life.

“My sheep hear My voice and I know them, and they follow Me. And I give unto them eternal life, and they shall never perish, neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. My Father who has given them to Me is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father's hand” (John 10:27-30).

Look at these three points. People have eternal life from the time they are born again. It is theirs. They shall never perish. Wonderful! There is no chance of them being with the ones who perish. No one can pluck a saved soul out of Jesus or out of the Father's hand. The promise is that none can seize or catch away anyone who is in the protection and security of God's authority and power.

These scriptures say, in context, that anyone who hears (gives audience) to the truth and instruction of God so that it produces action to *follow* (to be in the same way with) Him; is totally secure. The point being, we must have Jesus as Lord of our lives and be in submission to Him and become His disciple. It's not enough to just pray the sinner's prayer and go our own way. There must be repentance, that is, a turning from our former way of life unto God.

b. There is nothing that will keep God from loving us (John 3:16). He did and does love even them who are still in sin and unsaved. However, great this love is that sent Jesus to die for the world, God still requires that we respond to His love and receive Jesus as Lord and Savior. Only the person himself can turn from God's love, and reject it.

“Who shall separate us from the love of Christ ... nor any other created thing shall be able to separate us from the love of God” (Romans 8:35-39).

c. Those who fellowship with darkness will not live in the light with God. When we read such scriptures as 1 John 1:7-10 and 1 John 5:16 we see that God is speaking about one who deliberately, knowingly and habitually commits sin. It is his nature to do so because he has never been saved.

On the other hand, whoever deliberately walks in the light with God lives in fellowship with Him.

“Whosoever has been born of God does not sin, for his seed remains in him: and he cannot sin, because he has been born of God” (1 John 3:9).

d. The example of being chosen by God, and then being lost, is brought out in the ministry of Jesus. Judas was chosen by Jesus and then became lost.

“While I was with them in the world, I kept them in Your name. Those whom you gave Me I have kept; and none of them is lost, except the son of perdition, that the Scripture might be fulfilled” (John 17:12).

Jesus chose Judas as He did the other apostles, yet his end was eternal separation from God. So then we see from the Bible that one can be lost after once being saved. However, consider the following verse.

“Beloved, we are convinced of better things concerning you and the things that accompany salvation though we are speaking this way” (Hebrew 6:9 American Standard Version).

13. Conclusion

There is no question that the believer is eternally secure.

“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God” (Ephesians 2:8).

“... He who hears my word and believes in Him who sent me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but is passed from death into life” (John 5:24).

Where faith in God is, eternal life is. Where there is no faith in God, eternal life with God is forfeited (Colossians 1:21-23).

a. **“... If we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope ...”** (Hebrews 3:6).

b. **“... Lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief”** (Hebrews 4:11).

c. **“... Lest any man fail of the grace of God ...”** (Hebrews 12:15).

d. **“... If they do not continue in unbelief ...”** (Romans 11:22-23).

e. **“... If a man keeps my saying, he will never see death”** (John 8:51).

WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED?

Believe in Jesus. That is, trust in, cling to and rely on the saving power of our Lord Jesus Christ. Yield to His Lordship and live forever with God.

AFTERTHOUGHTS

FOUNDATIONS

The laying of foundations is critical in whatever we do, whether it's building a structure of concrete, wood and steel, doctrines of faith or preparing for one's future.

There is a prevailing thought today with many people of, "I want it now. I want to see the building finished now. I want to know all the deep things of God now!"

These impatient people have no time for foundations. They want to see the final finished product in all its glory without taking the time or effort to lay proper foundations. You see, foundations tend to be costly, take time to construct and are not very visible.

Jesus has a thought about this recorded in Matthew. It is the story of two men. One was wise and one was foolish. The first man built his house on a solid foundation and it was able to withstand all the onslaughts thrown against it. The second, a foolish man, didn't build on a solid foundation, and when adversity came his whole structure fell into ruin.

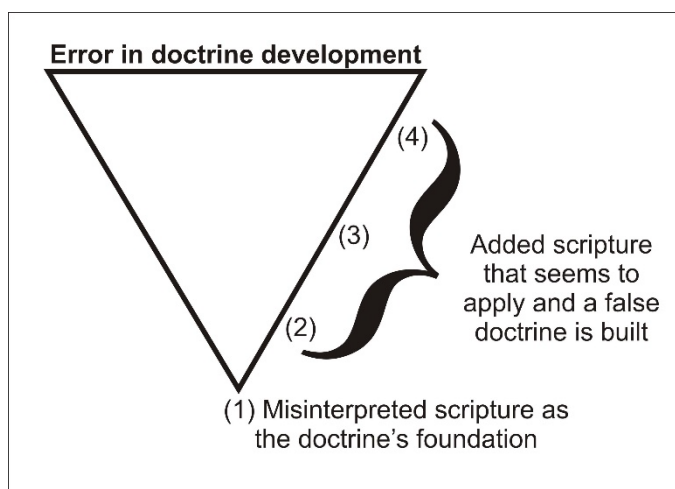
"Therefore, whosoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man, who built his house on the rock: And the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall; for it was founded on the rock. But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: and the rain descended, the floods came and the winds blew and beat on that house: and it fell. And great was the fall of it" (Matthew 7:24-27).

This story has to do with hearing and doing the Word of God. Jesus is the rock of our Christian faith. He is the Word of God and He left us with the Bible, which is also the Word of God. All doctrines of our faith must be founded and established on the Word of God.

Consider the people in the church at Berea, they had open minds toward the gospel but were not gullible. They searched the scriptures daily to find out whether these things were true.

Over the years I have encountered teachings that at first glance seemed correct but when weighed by the whole of scripture they were found wanting.

Many times the author of these false doctrines has started with a scripture or two that they had misunderstood and interpreted wrongly. They then went on to apply more scriptures on top of their foundation scriptures that they had misinterpreted. I call this the "inverted triangle principal".



We are wise to look first at the very foundation of every doctrine of our Christian faith. We must make sure the foundation is securely founded from scripture and not some idea of man.

Men often want to promote their own ideas by adding scriptures to them, but that merely develops a doctrine of men. Let's be wise. It is our intention and desire that these transformational truth lessons in this book will help you in establishing foundations in your Christian walk.

“Hear, my son, and receive my sayings, and the years of your life will be many. I have taught you in the way of wisdom; I have led you in right paths. When you walk, your steps will not be hindered, and when you run you will not stumble. Take firm hold of instruction, do not let go. Keep her, for she is your life” (Proverbs 4:10-13).