



LESSONS TO TEACH

First Lesson/s for Bible Studies: To Motivate People to Study the Bible

- 1 Belief Based On God's Word
- 2 The Bible Is God's Word

Lessons for Conversion: Faith in Jesus

- 3 Why We Need A Savior
- 4 Jesus, The Savior Of The World
- 5 Salvation By Grace Through Faith

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BELIEF BASED ON GOD'S WORD

Being religious, like many Filipinos are, is not enough. *A person must evaluate his religious beliefs if these are based on God's word or not.*

Jesus said, "You are in error because you do not know the Scriptures." (MAT 22:29)

IT IS EASY TO SAY `YES, I BELIEVE IN GOD, but

1. Do you know what God wants you to believe, what God promised? What God wants?
The "Seven Last Words" of Jesus on the cross is the only word of God some people know.
2. Do you know which religious thing did God command and did not command?
Example: Some sincere devotees think they can earn God's favor or salvation if they build chapels for their patron saints. How about those who have no money to do that?

BIBLICAL ILLUSTRATION OF SUCH CASE: Israel – Read Romans 10:1-3.

1. GOOD STARTING POINT - "They are zealous (devoted) to God", v.2
2. HARMFUL DISADVANTAGE - "Their zeal is not based on Knowledge" (v.2), "they did not know the righteousness that comes from God" (v.3), meaning - they do not know God's way of putting people right before God (see v.4)
3. ERRONEOUS CONSEQUENCE - "they sought to establish their own way" (v.3). They set up their own ways and effort to reach God. This is the essence of all religions.
4. CONTRARY RESPONSE TO THE GOSPEL - "they did not submit to God's righteousness (v.3). When presented with God's way of righteousness which is in Christ Jesus, they will not anymore accept it but rather cling to their erroneous beliefs.
5. TRAGIC CONDITION - "they are not saved" (v.1) - not put right with God. (Illus: a man who took the wrong bus and arrived in a wrong place because he did not read the sign board of the bus).

THE NEED TO PREACH GOD'S WORD

1. It is the power of god unto salvation. Satan knows this so he takes away God's Word and promotes error instead.
Rom 1:16- I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile.
Luke 8:12-Those along the path are the ones who hear, and then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved.
2. Faith comes only by hearing god's word .*Rom 10:17-... faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.*

GOD WANTS OUR FAITH TO BE BASED ON HIS WORD.

Jesus commanded the Church to preach His Word (MAT 28:19-20) so that people can have a basis for their beliefs and action. Jesus wants people to have their belief based on God's Word. This is true faith as against presumption. *FAITH is believing and acting based on the evidence of truth. PRESUMPTION is believing and acting without or against the evidence of truth.*

CHALLENGE: *What do you have? Presumption or faith based on God's Word?*

THE BIBLE IS GOD'S WORD

INTRODUCTION: FACTS ABOUT THE BIBLE

1. It is consistently the world's best seller.
2. Originally written in three languages - Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek, the Bible is the book that has been translated into more languages than any other book.
3. It is the most persecuted book. Many tried to destroy it by burning, banning them, yet it still is the book that is most found in homes, hospitals and other institutions.
4. It is one of the oldest books in the world yet its message is applicable to modern times. It gives answers to the greatest questions that man asks through generations: 'Where I came from?', 'Where am I going?', 'Why I am here?' These facts tell us that the Bible is not an ordinary book.

THE BIBLE - GOD'S WORD FOR MANKIND

1. The Bible is God's written revelation to man through the process called inspiration. Many different people wrote the Bible by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit: (2TI 3:16) All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness.
2. The Bible has one central theme - Even though the Bible is made up of 66 books, it has one central theme: **GOD'S REDEMPTION PLAN FOR MANKIND**. This theme is developed from the Old Testament to the New Testament. The Old Testament, tells of God's work of raising up a nation through which Jesus, the Son of God, the Redeemer will come forth. The New Testament tells about the birth, life, ministry, substitutionary death on the cross and resurrection from the dead of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the Redeemer.
3. The greatest promise in the Bible John 3:16 - "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

THE PURPOSE FOR THE BIBLE

1. The main reason why God gave us the Bible is for us to know the way of salvation: The Bible teaches the way of salvation which is through faith in Christ Jesus. (2TI 3:15) ...you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. READ: EPH 2:8; ROM 3:22-24; ROM 9:30-32; ACT 15:9; GEN 15:6
2. God's word further teaches the believer how to live for God. To be a Christian is not just having a religion. It's having a living relationship with the Holy God. Thus a Christian, ought to live a holy life as the God he believes in. (2PE 1:3,4) His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires. (PSA 119:9-11) *How can a young man keep his way pure? By living according to your word. I seek you with all my heart; do not let me stray from your commands. I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.*

CONCLUSION: Through the Bible, God communicates to man His loving plan of salvation. God saw to it that this plan is given in the written form so we can be certain about the way of salvation.

WHY WE NEED A SAVIOR

Introduction: In order to accept the “good news” of salvation, people must first realize their sin and see their need for a Savior.

FELLOWSHIP BETWEEN GOD AND MAN IN THE BEGINNING

- a. **GOD CREATED MAN IN HIS IMAGE** – means man has the spirit part, that which is able to communicate with God. Gen 1:27
- b. **GOD WOULD VISIT MAN IN EDEN.** *‘Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day’* Gen.2: 8

FELLOWSHIP BROKEN WHEN MAN SINNED AGAINST GOD

God provided for all the needs of man. But he also gave them command not to eat of the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil. (Gen 2:16) But Adam and Eve disobeyed & sinned against God. When God visited them in the Garden, they were ashamed and tried to hide themselves from God. (Gen 3:8b). Then God drove them out of the Garden of Eden. The fellowship was broken.

THE RESULTS OF THE FIRST SIN ON THE HUMAN RACE

What came into the heart of Adam & Eve after they sinned?

- a. **GUILT** – being aware they have violated God & His law, they hid from God
- b. **FEAR** – because they God rightly have something against them.
- c. **DEATH** – Sin brought death! Rom.6:23. Death as a result of sin means:
State of separation: man’s spirit became dead towards God, even if he is physically alive - *‘you were dead in your transgressions and sins’* .Eph 2:1
Eternal separation from God (Who is God) – *‘it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment. Heb 9:27. ‘He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the majesty of his power’. 2 Th 1:8-9*
- d. **CONDEMNATION** – *‘under God’s wrath’* – already condemned. *Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God's one and only Son.* John 3:18

RESULTS OF THAT FIRST SIN UPON US PERSONALLY

- a. **WE ARE BORN WITH A SINFUL NATURE** – *‘All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath.Eph.2:3*
- b. **WE ARE GUILTY** – Because of our sinful nature, we sin, and so we are guilty and deserving punishment.
- c. **WE ARE BOUND** – under the control of sin. *I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. For what I do is not the good I want to do; no, the evil I do not want to do-- this I keep on doing.* Rom 7:18-19

THE CONCLUSION:

WE ARE IN DANGER – WE NEED TO BE SAVED

WE CANNOT SAVE OURSELVES – WE NEED A SAVIOR.

Let Jesus save you, today

JESUS: THE SAVIOR OF THE WORLD

Many believe that JESUS CAN SAVE, but many do not know what kind of Savior He is.



HE IS THE SUFFICIENT SAVIOR

John 8:36 - So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed. You or another person cannot do anything to add to the saving work of Christ. No need for additional yoke such religious requirements, observance of sacraments, traditions, etc.

HE IS THE ONLY SAVIOR: Exclusive

Acts 4:12- Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved. "Because Jesus is sufficient, God did not provide other "saviors" but made Him to be the only savior for all mankind.

HE IS THE DIVINE SAVIOR

To be a savior, you must be God! Jesus cannot be the Savior if He is not God.

Jesus is both God and Savior!

Titus 2:13 - while we wait for the blessed hope-- the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ,

Jesus is the true God and eternal life!

1 Jn 5:20 -We know also that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know him who is true. And we are in him who is true-- even in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life.

HE IS THE ABLE SAVIOR

Jesus is able to the worst of sinners., even whom man considers impossible.

1 Tim 1:15 - Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners-- of whom I am the worst.

Matt 19:25-26 - When the disciples heard this, they were greatly astonished and asked, "Who then can be saved?" Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."

HE IS THE PERMANENT SAVIOR

Because Christ is God, He ever lives to make intercession for us. Thus, He has a permanent priesthood. He has not given His work as mediator to anyone.

Heb 7:23-24-Now there have been many of those priests, since death prevented them from continuing in office; but because Jesus lives forever, he has a permanent priesthood.

HE IS AN ACCESSIBLE SAVIOR – JOHN 6:37; 3:17

Christ is readily available to all kinds of people! You can go directly to Him.

John 3:17 -For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

John 6:37 - All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away.

CHALLENGE: JESUS IS THE ENTIRE SAVIOR YOU NEED. JESUS MUST BE YOUR SAVIOR, OR YOU HAVE NO SAVIOR AT ALL! BELIEVE; TRUST IN HIM NOW AS YOUR SAVIOR! HE IS READY AND ABLE TO COMPLETELY SAVE YOU!

SALVATION BY GRACE THROUGH FAITH

DEFINITIONS:

FAITH – is trust and confidence in God. It is obedient action based on

1. The Nature of God – He cannot change (James 1:17), He cannot fail (Job 42:2) and He cannot lie (Titus 1:2).
2. The Redemptive Work of Christ (Heb 12:2, 1 Cor 1:30).
3. The Word of God (Jer. 1:12; Matt. 24:35).

GRACE – God's unmerited favor, even though we were sinners and, deserving judgment, God looked upon us in love and forgave us. It is expressed in what we receive from God such as forgiveness and restored relationship with Him.

SALVATION: By GRACE THROUGH FAITH...

1. LEAVES OUT BOASTING BECAUSE OF WORKS

*Eph 2:8-9 - For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith-- and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God-- not by works, so that no one can boast.
Gal 2:21- I do not set aside the grace of God, for if righteousness could be gained through the law, Christ died for nothing!"*

2. SHOULD NOT BE CHANGED

Gal 1:6-8

- 6 *I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you by the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel--*
- 7 *which is really no gospel at all. Evidently some people are throwing you into confusion and are trying to pervert the gospel of Christ.*
- 8 *But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, let him be eternally condemned!*

4. ABRAHAM, HIMSELF WAS JUSTIFIED BY FAITH,

Consider Abraham: "He believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness." Gal 3:6

5. RELATION OF THE LAW (WORKS) WITH FAITH.

Gal 3:21 -- Is the law, therefore, opposed to the promises of God? Absolutely not! For if a law had been given that could impart life, then righteousness would certainly have come by the law.

Gal 3:23-26 -- Before this faith came, we were held prisoners by the law, locked up until faith should be revealed.

23 So the law was put in charge to lead us to Christ that we might be justified by faith.

24 Now that faith has come, we are no longer under the supervision of the law.

25 You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus

THINK OF THESE: If salvation is by good works:

1. How many good works will a man do in order to be saved?
2. Who will judge that a man has done enough good works?

WHAT IS SIN

The Bible says unless we repent we will all likewise perish (Luke 13:3). But people cannot repent unless they see sin in themselves.

SIN IS BREAKING GOD'S LAW

1 Jn 3:4 Everyone who sins breaks the law; in fact, sin is lawlessness.

1. Sin is doing acts contrary to God's commands; like murder, rape, stealing, lying, coveting (Refer to Ten Commandments). This is sin of commission.
2. God is the Lawgiver! He alone sets the standard by which man are measured. One sinful act makes you guilty of all the crimes in all the Law, because you sin, not against the items of the Law but against the Law Giver.

JAS 2:10 - For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it.

Ps 51:4 - Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are proved right when you speak and justified when you judge.

SIN IS NOT DOING THE GOOD THING WE SHOULD DO

James 4:17 - Anyone, then, who knows the good he ought to do and doesn't do it, sins.

We may not be guilty of telling lies, but are we spreading God's truth? We may not be guilty of stealing, but we are we giving to the needy? This is called the sin of omission.

SIN IS FALLING SHORT OF GOD'S GLORY

By man's measurement of goodness we may feel somewhat good but by God's standards no man is good enough.

Rom 3:23 - all have sinned and come short of the glory of God

Isa 64:6 - All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags; we all shrivel up like a leaf, and like the wind our sins sweep us away.

SIN IS LIVING FOR SELF RATHER THAN GOD

Sin is going our "own way", having a wrong purpose, living under a wrong master "SELF".

Isa 53:6 - We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

SIN IS NOT LOVING GOD WITH OUR ALL.

In answer to the question which is the greatest commandment, Jesus replied in

Mark 12:30 -28-31- Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' If this is the greatest and most important commandment, then disobeying it is the greatest sin.

SIN IS REJECTING JESUS. JOH 3:36

The greatest mistake: Rejecting Jesus who is the only remedy for sin God offers. Acts4:12

2 Th 1:8-9 - He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the majesty of his power'.

John 3:36 - Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on him."

CHALLENGE: Seeing your real condition opens the door for your salvation through repentance. Don't stay long under condemnation. Repent and accept God's forgiveness.

THE WEIGHT OF SIN

Because of increasing wickedness in the last days, people tend to regard sin lightly. This hinders them from repenting and turning to God for His mercy and forgiveness. People should realize the seriousness and weight of sin as revealed in the fact that sin caused the Son of God to die on the cross. The burden of man's sin was loaded upon Jesus.

1. ALL SIN IS MORTAL

Every kind of sin is the same in the eyes of God. Religion has confusing classifications of sin thereby producing licentiousness without remorse or regret. All sin brings death to the soul and is death deserving.

Rom 6:23 - For the wages of sin is death!

1 Cor 6:9-10 - Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor male prostitutes nor homosexual offenders, nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God.

2. ALL MAN IS GUILTY

Every kind of man is equally sinful in the eyes of God: the rich and the poor, the freeman or prisoner, the master and the slaves. We are all sinners! God is right and we are wrong.

Rom 3:10 - As it is written: "There is no one righteous, not even one;

Rom 3:23 -for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

1 Jn 1:8 -If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

3. ALL MUST BE PUNISHED

Each one is guilty and will give an account of his/her life to God

Romans 2:11 God's shows no favoritism.

Ezekiel 18:20 – the soul who sins is the one who will die. The son will not share the guilt of the father, nor will the father share the guilt of the son.

4. ALL PUNISHMENT OF MAN'S SIN WAS Poured OUT ON JESUS

Because every man is guilty, no one has a chance to receive help from another person. Only the sinless one can save, that sinless one is JESUS the Son of God. He tasted death for every one.

Imagine how heavy was all of mankind's sin and punishment that was poured on Him!

Heb 2:9 - But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, now crowned with glory and honor because he suffered death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.

CHALLENGE:

Although all sin is mortal, but all sin can be forgiven. Christ has already paid for the punishment for our sin. He is our substitute. He died in our place. You need not pay for the punishment of sin yourself.

1 Jn 5:10-12-13 - He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life.

REPENTANCE

People need to understand what repentance is so that they can truly repent.

WHAT REPENTANCE IS NOT

1. NOT JUST CONVICTION - feeling guilty.

Repentance begins with conviction through the work of the of the Holy Spirit
"And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment (JOH 16:8). But not all who 'feels guilty' but they don't stop doing the things they were convicted of. Example - Felix in ACT 24:24 – 25.

2. NOT JUST SORROW FOR SIN –being sorry for your sin.

This is sorrow that comes only when caught, or when suffering a consequence of sin. But there is no hatred for the sin enough to quit it. This is called worldly sorrow.

2CO 7:10 - For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death.

3. NOT JUST REFORMATION- trying to be a good person.

Many try in their own effort to become a better person. But self-effort has a root of self-righteousness that does not acknowledge the need for God's help. Hence, the person has no real need to repent. *ISA 64:6 - All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags*

4. NOT BECOMING RELIGIOUS - resorting to good, religious works.

The Pharisees were extremely religious but Jesus demanded from them proof of true repentance. *Matt 3:7-8 But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to where he was baptizing, he said to them: "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Produce fruit in keeping with repentance.*

WHAT REPENTANCE IS

1. TOWARDS GOD

- a. BEING SORRY TO GOD FOR YOUR SIN. True repentance is sorrow towards God. *'Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions. Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are proved right when you speak and justified when you judge. (PSA 51:1,4)*
- b. TURNING TO GOD.(ZEC 1:3) *'This is what the Lord Almighty says: 'Return to me,' declares the Lord Almighty, 'and I will return to you,' says the Lord Almighty.'*

2. TOWARDS SIN

- a. ADMITTING SIN AS SIN. (PSA 32:5) *Then I acknowledged my sin to you and did not cover up my iniquity. I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord" - and you forgave the guilt of my sin.*
- b. HATING SIN- (EZE 20:43) *there you will remember your conduct and all the actions by which you have defiled yourselves, and you will loathe yourselves for all the evil you have done.*
- c. QUITTING & RENOUNCING SIN-(PRO 28:13) *He who conceals his sins does not prosper, but whoever confesses and renounces them finds mercy. Also ROM 6:13.*

3. TOWARDS SELF- turning from self and living for god.

(2CO 5:15) And he died for all that those who live should no longer live for himself but for him who died for them and was raised again.

CHALLENGE: God is ready to forgive, but first, He demands true repentance

Acts 17:30 In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent.

BEING SURE

How can you as a new believer be sure you are really saved? Satan's immediate weapon of attack against the new believer is doubt. It is important that you understand what God says so you will be assured of your experience.

Matt 13:19 "When anyone hears the word of the kingdom, and does not understand it, the evil {one} comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is the one on whom seed was sown beside the road.

1. GOD CANNOT LIE!

ROM 3:4 Let God be true, and every man a liar.

2. BELIEVE GOD'S TESTIMONY

Doubting God's testimony is accusing God of lying. Believe God's testimony rather than the devil's or people's words that can cause you to doubt.

I Jn 5:9-13

9 We accept man's testimony, but God's testimony is greater because it is the testimony of God, which he has given about his Son.

10 Anyone who believes in the Son of God has this testimony in his heart. Anyone who does not believe God has made him out to be a liar, because he has not believed the testimony God has given about his Son.

11 And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.

12 He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.

13 I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life.

3. THREE SOURCES OF ASSURANCE

a. God's Word is true, God does not lie

Titus 1:2 In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began;

Heb 6:18.. it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled to take hold of the hope offered to us may be greatly encouraged.

b. You have Christ, He is in your life Now

John 3:36 Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on him."

John 5:24 "I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life.

c. The witness of God's Spirit in you

Rom 8:16 The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children.

4. HAVE THE RIGHT FOUNDATION FOR YOUR FAITH, DO NOT TRUST IN FEELINGS

Be established in the facts of God's Words.

John 20:31 But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

I Jn 5:13 I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life.

CHALLENGE: Whom will you believe? The devil, other people or God who cannot lie? God says you are saved. That should settle it. Can you verbalize in prayer of thanksgiving the assurance you have with regards to your salvation?

NOW THAT YOU HAVE DECIDED

Receiving Jesus Christ as your personal Savior is the greatest and wisest decision you have ever made. You'll realize this as you see the result of that decision.

1. Let us review the GOSPEL:

- a. The Gospel is God's Power to save, -----ROM 1:16
- b. We are SINNERS, we can't save ourselves -----ROM 3:23
- c. The penalty for sin is DEATH -----ROM 6:23
- d. But God loves us, gave His SON TO DIE for us ---- ROM 5:8
- e. So NOW, salvation is a FREE gift ----- ROM 3:23

Rom 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth

2. What you did to receive this gift of salvation:

- a. REPENTED of all your sinfulness -----LUK 3:3
- b. CONFESSED your sins to God -----1JO 1:9
- c. BELIEVED in the Lord Jesus Christ ----- ACT 16:31
- d. RECEIVED Jesus into your Life -----JOH 1:12

Acts 16:30-31 Sirs, what must I do to be saved? And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.

3. What happened to you?

- a. Jesus has become your Savior -----1TI 1:15-17
- b. He has TAKEN AWAY all your sins ----- HEB 10:17
- c. You are now SAVED! ----- EPH 2:8-9
- d. You have become a CHILD of God ----- ROM 8:15,16
- e. You are a BRAND NEW CREATION ----- 2CO 5:17
- f. Jesus begins to show you His Kingdom! ----- JOH 3:3
- g. You are born-again; you have new life in Christ. ----- EPH 2:1-5.

2 Cor 5:17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!

Heb 10:17 And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more.

4. Where you belong now:

- a. Not anymore in Satan's kingdom of darkness ----- 1PE 2:9
- b. Not anymore of the world, but to God ----- JOH 15:18-21
- c. Therefore, the Devil is never your friend ----- 1PE 5:8
- d. Stay in submission to God to resist the Devil ----- JAM 4:7
- e. Jesus in you is greater than the devil ----- 1JO 4:4
- f. Believers are prepared for trials & tribulations ----- ACT 14:22

1 Pet 2:9 But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

CHALLENGE: Be ready and do not be surprised if you will meet persecution and opposition. The devil is alerted that you don't anymore belong to his kingdom. But be of good courage, you are now God's Child and He will protect you.

Thank God for the free gift of salvation, for forgiveness of sin, and for the new life.

YOU ARE READY TO GROW

Your decision to accept Christ as your Savior resulted to the following:

1. You have become the CHILD of God – Romans 8:15,16
2. You are now a NEW CREATION – 2 Cor. 5:17
3. You have been born again, so you have a NEW LIFE – Eph. 2:1-5

GROWTH IS THE EVIDENCE OF THE NEW LIFE IN YOU!

*Having a new life, you are to establish new patterns of behavior. When a baby is born in the natural, it will die unless its parents take care of it. It is also true about your spiritual life. If you feed it, you will grow, if you neglect it, it will die. God has already started something in your life, He wants to complete it.. **YOUR NEXT STEP IS TO GROW***

1. GROW IN YOUR NEW LIFE, LIKE A NEW BORN BABY --Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation (1 Pet 2:2)
2. Growth should be towards becoming like Christ -- And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. Rom 8:28-29
3. Our Heavenly Father eagerly looks at our development toward maturity. So we must be conscious of God's working to mature us daily -- being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus (Phil 1:6) May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful and he will do it. (1Thes 5:23-24)
4. God has provides what a believe needs for growth - His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness.(2 Pet 1:3).

PERSONAL DISCIPLINES FOR SPIRITUAL GROWTH

1. **STUDY AND MEDITATION OF GOD'S WORD** - The Bible is our Spiritual food. Growth is in direct proportion to our increasing knowledge of God's Word.
1 Pet 2:2 Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation
Matt 4:4 Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"
2. **PRAYER & COMMUNION WITH GOD** -Prayer can be likened to our breathing. So prayer is a two way communication. We talk to God, God talks to us. The people who listens to God will have a God that listens to them. *Read with convert Pro.1:24-31 to show that there should be two way communication between God and the believer.*
3. **OBEDIENCE TO THE HOLY SPIRIT** - God expects us to live a Christ like life. But we can't do this on our own. So God gave us the Holy Spirit to enable us. We need to yield to the Holy Spirit to be victorious and continually change. Change happens through our obedience to the voice of the Holy Spirit.
Gal 5:16 So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature.

CHALLENGE: Start these disciplines for growth early in your Christian life.

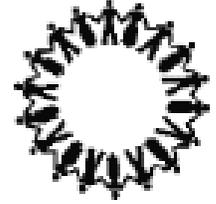
GROWING WITH OTHER BELIEVERS

GROWING WITH OTHER BELIEVERS

There are aspects of spiritual growth that a Christian experiences with other believers. When one becomes a child of God through faith and repentance, God adds him to the church.

BASIC TRUTHS ABOUT THE CHURCH

ORIGIN OF THE CHURCH



- a. Jesus is the builder - Matt.16:18
- b. He died for it, and bought it - 1 Peter 1:18,19
- c. Christ is the cornerstone (Eph 2:20) and the Head (EPH 4:15)

Summary: The church is a divine idea, its origin is God!

MEANING OF THE WORD CHURCH

- a. Greek word 'ekklesia' - means "the called out and called unto". In the NT it refers to people who are *called out from sin and called unto God*.
- b. English word derived from root word w/c means "that which belongs to God".

THE CHURCH CONCEPT: A BODY, PEOPLE - NOT A PLACE, NOT A BUILDING

The verses below tell us that all who accepted the message were added to the body of believers - not to an organization nor to a building

A body with many parts, each part functional, and all parts relating to one another.

- *Acts 2:41 Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.*
- *Acts 5:14 Nevertheless, more and more men and women believed in the Lord and were added to their number.*

The church as a body means the church is people in relationship to God and to one another.

Eph 4:15-16 ... we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ. From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH MODEL

The Biblical church life involves the gathering of the believers in two manners:

1. IN SMALL GROUPS
2. AS A CONGREGATION IN CORPORATE CELEBRATION GATHERING

Acts 2:46 Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts,

Acts 5:42 Day after day, in the temple courts and from house to house, they never stopped teaching and proclaiming the good news that Jesus is the

Acts 20:20 You know that I have not hesitated to preach anything that would be helpful to you but have taught you publicly and from house to house.

WELCOME TO THE BODY OF BELIEVERS here in _____

1. See you in the grand opening Service on _____
2. Join a Bible Study group nearest to you or host one in your home.
3. Enroll in the Discipleship Program

WATER BAPTISM

The mark that a person truly knows the Lord is obedience. Jesus commanded all those who believed in Him to be baptized in water. Water baptism is the first act of obedience a new believer should do.

We know that we have come to know him if we obey his commands (1 Jn 2:3).

“Then Jesus came to them and said, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.’ (Matt 28:18-19)

DEMONSTRATES WHAT HAPPENED TO A BELIEVER

To be “baptized” means to be “totally immersed.” The act of going under the water and rising up from it is a picture of what has happened to the believer in union with Jesus Christ.

1. HE DIED...I DIED WITH HIM

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

2. HE WAS BURIED...I WAS BURIED WITH HIM

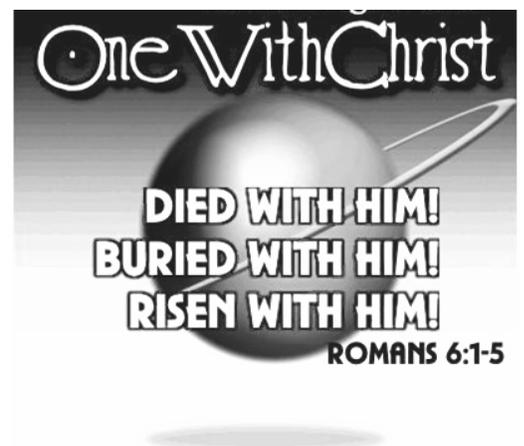
Rom 6:3-4 Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death

3. HE WAS RAISED...I HAVE A NEW LIFE IN HIM

Rom 6:4-5 -.... just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. If we have been united with him like this in his death, we will certainly also be united with him in his resurrection.

4. HE ASCENDED,,I ASCENDED IN HIM

Eph 2:6- God raised us up with Christ& seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ



MEANING OF WATER BAPTISM

1. PICTURE OF A FUNERAL OR BURIAL SERVICE – Baptism shows that a person is putting behind him, and burying forever, his past sinful life. Notice again that baptism by itself does not put to death our past life – only repentance and faith in Christ can do that. **BAPTISM BURIES** what repentance and faith has already put to death. You can only bury what is already dead.

2. PICTURE OF A BEING PLANTED – Baptism is indeed the beginning of a new life. But there is a long way to go before the young plant reaches maturity. It must grow and develop. And so must we, otherwise we risk returning to our former sinful ways. It is a decision to totally change our life from one that was self-centered, and sin centered, to one that is God-centered. In baptism we show our **DETERMINATION TO FOLLOW** Christ for the rest of our lives.

WHEN SHOULD A BELIEVER SUBMIT TO WATER BAPTISM

AS SOON AS POSSIBLE (Acts 8:36-38)– In the NT church, baptism was an almost immediate act after confessing Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. The eunuch stopped his chariot, was baptized, then continued his journey!

CHALLENGE: If we love Jesus we will obey His commands

BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT

INCLUDED IN THE LAST WORDS OF JESUS, Read Luke 24:46-49; Acts 1:4,5,8.

Before He went up to heaven, Christ's Last Words to His disciples were:

- Go and preach the gospel to all nations; and
- Wait until you are endued with power from on High.

CALLED THE PROMISE OF THE FATHER

Acts 1:4 On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about.

IT IS POWER FOR WITNESSING

Acts 1:8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

INITIALLY EVIDENCED BY SPEAKING IN TONGUES

Speaking in tongues is a gift of the Holy Spirit given to the believer as a prayer language - through this prayer language, the Holy Spirit helps us in our weaknesses and enables us to pray according to the will of God

Rom 8:26-27 In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God's will.

HOW TO RECEIVE THE BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT

1. Ask For It - It is a gift promised by God

Luke 11:13 – “..how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!”

2. Receive It By Faith - Begin to praise God as you received it.

“Then they worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God.” (Luke 24:52-53)

3. Begin to speak in tongues – it is you, not the Holy Spirit who speaks In other tongues, as the Holy Spirit enables you.

Acts 2:4 of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

Acts 19:6 -When Paul placed his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied.



IT IS FOR ALL BELIEVERS

Acts 2:4- All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit...

Acts 2:38 Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

CHALLENGE: It is also for you!

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