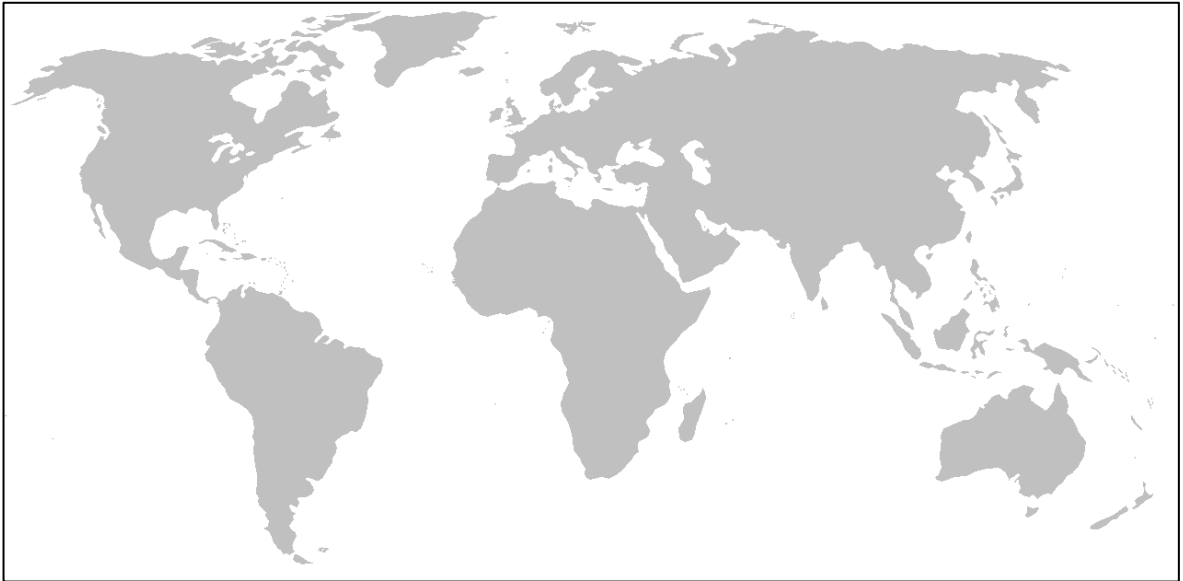


Christian Discipleship Guide



“And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, ‘All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye 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; and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.’”
(Matthew 28:18-20)

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All Scripture quotations in this book are taken from the
King James Version of the Holy Bible.

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1. Bible Infallibility

Today, Satan has launched a serious attack on the Bible, God's Word. Liberals and modernists from every side attempt to destroy the integrity and reliability of the Bible by casting doubt on its accuracy. These critics say that the Bible was written by men, and hence is unreliable. In addition, there are, at the time of this publication, over 400 different English versions of the Bible available on the market. This does nothing but cause confusion in the hearts of believers and non-believers alike. "God is not the author of confusion, but of peace..." (1 Corinthians 14:33), hence, you must study the concept of Biblical infallibility so that you will not be tossed back and forth. You also need to study the history of the Bible to learn what versions of the Bible are the most accurate translations of the original Hebrew and Greek manuscripts.

So, is the BIBLE true? Is it a trustworthy, supernatural book? Or, is it an antiquated collection of folk tales and superstitions? Many people reject the Bible, dismissing it as full of errors and therefore unreliable, so they ignore its message and say it has no relevance for them. Is there any evidence to back up the claims that the Scriptures are true? Actually, there are numerous pieces of evidence that can be examined. Here are several.

Evidence from Prophecy

No book other than the Bible has ever given precise predictions of future events hundreds of years in advance, predictions that were fulfilled exactly. Far from vague generalities or guesses, like those given by fortunetellers, the prophecies in Scripture contain explicit details that no human could possibly devise on their own. Imagine trying to come up with the name, ancestry, birthplace, and manner of death for a person who would be born 700 years from now. That would be humanly impossible! Only God could make such predictions and see them carried out perfectly. But that is exactly what we have in the Bible. Jesus' identity, name, birthplace, triumphal entry into Jerusalem, betrayal, suffering, death, and burial were all foretold in the Old Testament at least 700 years before He was born.

Jesus fulfilled more than 300 prophecies in the Old Testament by His birth, life, death, and resurrection! If only 48 of these prophecies were fulfilled by one person, the odds would be 1 in 10^{157} , that is, 1 followed by 157 zeros! In addition, no other religion in the world has a founder and leader who rose from the dead and whose tomb is empty.

God's prophets also predicted the downfall of many nations, including Ammon, Edom, Moab, and Philistia. They predicted the downfall of cities such as Babylon, Nineveh, Tyre, and Sidon. And not one of these nations or cities exists today!

About 150 years before Cyrus, king of Persia, was born, Isaiah predicted his birth, gave his name, and foretold that he would release the Jews from captivity (*Isaiah 44:28*). And Josiah, one of Judah's kings, was named 300 years before he was born (*1 Kings 13:2*). Only God could have revealed these facts, a clear indication of the supernatural origin and nature of the Bible.

Prophecy, then, stands up in court as a strong witness that the Bible is true!

Evidence from Archaeology

Critics have questioned many of the Bible's historical statements, yet archaeological discoveries in recent decades have turned up evidence that proves them wrong. For example, the Bible refers to the Hittite people 36 times. Since no record outside the Bible had affirmed their existence, objectors said the Bible could not be trusted. However, excavations in Turkey have now shown that the Hittite Empire was extensive.

The Elba Tablets, discovered in Syria in the 1960s, include the names of Ur, Sodom, and Gomorrah, cities that Bible opponents said did not exist. These tablets also dispel the notion that (since writing was not practiced in the 1400s B.C.) Moses could not have written the first five books of the Bible. Yet these tablets were written about 1,000 years before Moses!

The Bible's references to the many Assyrian kings are accurate. Archaeologists have uncovered Assyrian artifacts that record the names of all these kings. Certain customs recorded in Genesis are also noted in the Nuzi Tablets found in present-day Iraq.

So, again and again, archaeology gives strong evidence that disproves the claims of the critics of the Bible.

Evidence from Science

Many people think that the Bible has scientific errors. But the Bible is accurate when it addresses various aspects of science. Take water, for example. Water evaporates from the oceans, lakes, and rivers; collects in the clouds; and falls on the earth as rain or snow. This cycle is in accord with what the Bible says in *Job 26:8*; *Job 36:27-28*; and *Ecclesiastes 1:7*. But, for centuries, scientists did not understand this phenomenon.

Up until a few centuries ago, people believed the earth was flat; but, several hundred years before Christ, Isaiah wrote of the circular shape of the earth (*Isaiah 40:22*). And centuries before Isaiah, Job wrote that the earth is suspended on nothing (*Job 26:7*).

In 1628, William Harvey discovered the circulation of blood in the body. Yet long before that, the Bible recorded that the life of living beings is sustained by their blood (*Leviticus 17:11*).

Here stands yet more evidence for the defense of the Bible.

Evidence from Impact

If you read the Muslim Koran, the scriptures of Hinduism, or the writings of Buddhism, you will find no satisfactory answers to the following questions: Where did the universe come from? How did the human race originate? What is wrong with the world? Why is there suffering in the world? What is the answer to people's sense of guilt? How can people live upright lives? What will happen to the world?

Only the Bible answers these questions. Only the Bible gives an answer to people's grief, loneliness, sadness, bitterness, and hatred. Only the Bible tells what is wrong with the human heart and gives a solution. Unlike any book written by a mere human, the Bible can transform people's lives, make people good inside, and give them peace, forgiveness, and purpose.

Countless numbers of people through the centuries have been rescued from despair, despondence, and distress by the message of the Bible. This book has given hope to the spiritually hopeless, life to the spiritually dead, and deliverance to the spiritually enslaved. No other book in the world can make such a claim.

The Defense Rests Its Case

The huge body of evidence from prophecy, archaeology, science, and impact gives testimony that the Bible is God's reliable truth. If the Bible has mistakes in history, science, or geography, we might wonder if it is reliable when it discusses spiritual subjects. But because it is trustworthy in physical matters, it is also dependable in religious issues.

The Bible's central message focuses on the problem of sin – and God's answer. Jesus died on the cross to deal with sin. In fact, He carried our sins on the cross so that we may have salvation by trusting in Him as our Savior. Because the Bible is trustworthy, Jesus Christ can be trusted. He said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by Me." (*John 14:6*) That is, He is the way to God, He is trustworthy and true, and He offers us spiritual eternal life. By trusting in Him, you (like millions of others throughout history) can find salvation and peace in Christ.

Bible Versions

With the multitude of different versions of the Bible that are available to us today, we should use a version that was translated from the most accurate and reliable manuscripts that were handed down from the early church. These manuscripts came from the *Traditional Text* that was preserved at Antioch and several other locations. After Jerusalem was destroyed by the Romans in 70 A.D., Antioch became the major center of Christian evangelism and for the preservation of the Bible. Translations from the *Traditional Text* include the following versions: Tyndale's (1525), Coverdale's (1535), Matthew's (1537), Taverner's (1539), the Great Bible (1539), Geneva (1557), Bishop's (1568), and the King James Version (1611). The King James Version built upon the strengths of earlier English versions. The translators also had a better understanding of the original languages (Hebrew and Greek), enabling them to produce a Bible that was a faithful and accurate translation of the very words inspired by the Holy Spirit.

Other manuscripts came from the *Alexandrian Text* that came from Alexandria, Egypt. Alexandria was a major copying center for Scripture; but because of the heretical and pagan teachings of Alexandria, the manuscripts were corrupted and false doctrines were introduced into the copying of the Alexandrian manuscripts. Translations from the *Alexandrian Text* include the following versions: Origen's Revision (250), Constantine's (312), Vaticanus (325), Sinaiticus (350), Jerome's Latin Vulgate (380), Wycliffe's (1380), Douay-Rheims (1582), Confraternity (1941), New American Bible (1970), Wescott & Hort Greek Text (1881), Revised Version (1881), American Standard Version (1901), New American Standard Bible (1963), and the New International Version (1973).

Conclusion

The Word of God is the most important and necessary element to the growth of a believer. It is as important as the sun and rain are to the growth of a plant, or as important as food and water are to the nourishment of the body. God's Word is a great source of comfort and also your only offensive weapon against the strategies of the devil. This study will aid you in seeing these principles and hopefully cause you to esteem and apply the Bible in your life. Read it, study it, memorize it, meditate upon it day and night, and you will steadily be conformed to the image of God's Son, Jesus Christ.

Questions:

1. According to *John 17:17*, God's Word is the only source of _____.
2. According to *2 Timothy 3:16*, all scripture is given by _____ of God.
3. According to *2 Samuel 23:2; Isaiah 51:15-16; Jeremiah 1:9; Ezekiel 1:3; Hosea 1:1; Haggai 1:1-2; Zechariah 1:1*, Who is responsible for providing the words of the Bible?

4. According to *Matthew 24:35*, how long will God preserve His Word for man's benefit?

Additional Scripture Verses:

Exodus 24:4; Deuteronomy 8:3; Job 23:12; Psalm 12:6; Psalm 68:11; Psalm 119:89; Psalm 119:105; Psalm 119:130; Psalm 119:140; Jeremiah 30:1-2; Matthew 4:4; Romans 10:17; Hebrews 4:12; Ephesians 5:26; Ephesians 6:17; 2 Peter 1:16-21.

2. Salvation

What happened when we got saved, and what is our new relationship with God?

Your decision to trust Jesus Christ as your personal Savior is the greatest decision you could ever make. It is very important that you understand the true significance of what has happened in your life so you can be an effective member of God's family.

There are only two spiritual families in the world: The Devil's Family and God's Family. Regarding the devil's family, the Bible speaks of a group of people who are of their father the devil (*John 8:38, 44*). We entered this family by birth through our physical father, who is ultimately a descendant of Adam. *Genesis 5:3* shows that the descendants of Adam are born in Adam's image and likeness, which is that of a fallen sinner. We inherited our sin nature from our earthly father Adam (*Romans 5:12*). As a result of our sin, we were sentenced to die both physically and spiritually (*Romans 5:12; Romans 6:23; 1 Corinthians 15:22*).

But the good news is that we can choose to leave the Devil's family and join God's family. We do this by trusting in Jesus Christ as our Savior. *John 1:12-13* says, "But as many as received Him (Jesus), to them gave He power to become sons of God (our entrance into God's family), even to them that believe on His name: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man (it is not a physical birth), but of God." It is a spiritual birth. This new birth puts us into God's family in exactly the same way our physical birth put us into our human father's family. We are now a son of God *by spiritual birth*. As a result of our new birth, we have inherited God's divine nature, and we now have eternal life (*John 3:36, John 6:47, and 1 John 5:12*).

When we trust in Jesus Christ as our Savior (*Romans 10:13*), we acknowledge that the blood He shed for us on Calvary paid the price for our sins (*Romans 5:8*). If Jesus had never paid the price for our sins, there is no way we could ever earn eternal life on our own merits (*Romans 3:23*). Christ's blood covers our sins just as the blood of the Passover Lamb's blood covered the Mercy Seat (the lid on the Ark of the Covenant), so that when God looks down on us from heaven, He no longer sees our sin because it is covered by the blood of Jesus (*Exodus 25:17-22, Exodus 26:34, Exodus 30:10, Exodus 40:20, Leviticus 16:14-15, John 1:29*). (Note: The Ark of the Covenant contained the stone tablets upon which the Ten Commandments were inscribed. The Ten Commandments were God's Law for men. When we sin, we break God's Law. When Jesus shed His blood for us, He covered our sins from the sight of God with His own blood. Christ's blood protects us from God's judgment and provides us with God's mercy.)

Our body is now the temple of the Holy Spirit, that is, God's Holy Spirit lives inside us (*1 Corinthians 6:19*). We are now new creatures reconciled to God. As such, God commands the believer to maintain a difference between himself and the unsaved (*2 Corinthians 6:14-18*), to turn away from the sinful lifestyle, to be separate from worldly things, and to follow Jesus. Our new life is perfectly summarized in *2 Corinthians 5:17-18*, "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ..."

We have a new relationship with God. He is our heavenly Father, and we are his child (*1 John 2:1*). Now that we are saved, God no longer deals with us as a sinner. He deals with us as His son or daughter.

This relationship is pictured by the earthly relationship between a father and his son:

- A good father loves and cares for his son (*1 Peter 5:7*).
- A good father protects his son (*Matthew 18:6*).
- A good father provides for his son (*Philippians 4:19*).
- A good father guides and teaches his son (*John 14:26*).
- A good father helps his son (*Psalms 46:1*).
- A good father encourages his son (*Philippians 4:13*).
- A good father disciplines his son (*Hebrews 12:5-11*).
- A good father feeds his son (*Matthew 4:4*).
- A good father has a plan for his son (*Romans 8:28-29*).

The good father will never do anything to purposely hurt his son. He will only do those things that will help his son grow and mature into the man he wants him to be. Our heavenly Father operates in the same way, only His ways are perfect. Unlike earthly fathers who sometimes make mistakes, God never makes a mistake in His dealings with His sons (*Matthew 7:11*).

We need to remember that we do not lose our physical nature at the time of our spiritual birth. This is obvious because we are still physically alive. But we now have two natures: the old physical and sinful nature in Adam's image, and the new spiritual and perfect nature in God's image. Both natures are present constantly, and the one that controls us is the one we feed the most (*Colossians 3:5-10; 2 Corinthians 4:14-18; Ephesians 4:22-32; Romans 6*). So, even after we are saved, we will continue to sin because we still have our old sin nature (*Romans 7:25*). But God does not kick us out of His family when we sin, instead He disciplines us as a son (*Hebrews 12:5-11*). And when we sin, we need to confess our sin and trust the blood of Jesus Christ to cleanse us (*1 John 1:6-10; Proverbs 28:13*).

Questions:

1. How does a person enter God's family? (See *John 1:12* and *John 3:3*)

2. What does God promise in *John 3:36*, *John 6:47*, and *1 John 5:12*? _____

3. When a Christian chooses to continue in a particular sin, what can he expect from God? (See *Hebrews 12:5-11*.)

4. According to *1 John 1:9*, when we confess our sins to God, then He will _____ us and _____ us from all unrighteousness.

Additional Scripture Verses:

Matthew 7:11; John 3; 5:24; 10:28-31; Romans 3:19-28; 5:1-21; 2 Corinthians 6:14.

3. Assurance of Salvation

Once an individual has settled the question of salvation as the Bible declares it, that is, saved by grace through faith in Jesus Christ, it is imperative that he understands how that decision has affected his eternal life. From Biblical facts, a person can settle the question of the eternal security of the Christian believer. In other words, once saved, always saved.

Jesus Christ promised that He will not cast us out of His family under any circumstances (*John 6:37*). He also made it clear that no man can cause us to lose our salvation, because God our Father is greater than all men; therefore, no man is able to pluck us out of His hand (*John 10:27-29*).

But, can we do something that would cause us to lose our salvation? The Bible states that salvation is by grace through faith, and not by works. It is a gift from God. No man can lose his salvation on his own, because no man earned his salvation (*Ephesians 2:8-9*). If we had to do anything to earn or keep our salvation, we would lose it easily (*Galatians 3:10; James 2:10*). It is Jesus Christ who keeps us saved, not we ourselves (*2 Timothy 1:12*). The Bible states clearly that, if we could become righteous by anything we do, then Jesus Christ's death on the cross was in vain (*Galatians 2:21*).

If God won't cast me out, if no man can cause me to lose my salvation, and if I can't lose it myself, then is there anything else that can cause me to lose my salvation. No, because according to the God's Word in *Romans 8:38-39*, we can't lose it when we die; we can't lose it while we're alive; angels can't take it from us; the government (principalities) can't take it from us; the powers of the devil can't cause us to lose it; nothing happening right now today can take it away; nothing in the future can make us lose it; and nothing above us (height), nothing below us (depth), nor any other creature will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

We can be sure that we have eternal security because our relationship with God is now a father/son relationship by spiritual birth (*John 1:12-13*). When we were born physically, there was a record made of our birth called a Birth Certificate. When we were "born again" spiritually, a record was also made in heaven (*1 John 5:11-13*). Our birth certificate was stamped with a seal. Our spiritual birth is sealed by the Holy Spirit of God (*Ephesians 1:13; Ephesians 4:30*). We will be our physical father's son for eternity, because we were born of his seed. We could leave the country, disown each other, change our name, and never see him, hear from him, or even think about him for the rest of our lives, but it will never change the fact that he is our father. The same is true of our heavenly Father. We can die, but we can never be unborn. Our birth is fixed forever, both physically and spiritually, and even God Himself cannot change that fact.

Even if we don't feel saved, our salvation is not based on our feelings, but upon the objective factual truth of the Word of God. *1 John 3:20* says, "For if our heart condemns us (that is, if we think or feel unsaved), God is greater than our heart, and knoweth all things." God knows if we are saved, even if we don't feel saved. God promised eternal life to those who believe, and God cannot lie (*Titus 1:2*). Trust God and believe what He has promised (*1 John 2:25*).

Questions:

1. What is the promise we can claim from *John 6:37*?

2. From *John 10:27-29*, why is it that no one can cause you to lose your salvation?

3. We cannot do anything ourselves that would cause us to lose our salvation. What can we learn from *Ephesians 2:8-9* to support this?

4. What does *1 John 3:20* teach us concerning the promise of eternal life?

Additional Scripture Verses:

John 1:12-13; John 3:16; John 3:36; John 5:24; Romans 10:9-13; 1 John 5:12-13; 1 John 5:19-21; 1 Corinthians 6:19-20; 2 Corinthians 1:21-22; 2 Corinthians 5:17; Hebrews 13:5.

4. Believer's Baptism

After we have been saved by grace through faith in Jesus Christ, our first act of obedience in service to the Lord is baptism. Any believer can be baptized; it takes no special talent or effort. Jesus set the example Himself by submitting to baptism before beginning His public ministry (*Matthew 3:13-17; Mark 1:9-11; Luke 3:21-22*). It is clear that Jesus was baptized in obedience to God's plan. In *Matthew 3:15*, Jesus said, "... Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfill all righteousness." This point of submission and obedience is the single most important thing to realize regarding baptism. Other biblical examples of those who submitted to baptism after salvation are the Ethiopian eunuch (*Acts 8:26-39*), the Apostle Paul (*Acts 9:18*), the Philippian jailer (*Acts 16:25-33*), Crispus - the chief synagogue ruler in Corinth (*Acts 18:8*), and Lydia of Thyatira (*Acts 16:14-15*).

There are two purposes of baptism (*Romans 6:3-4*). One is that baptism pictures the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The other is that baptism is a public testimony of the new believer's identification with Jesus Christ through the death, burial, and resurrection, which is how we were saved. Baptism identifies us with the Lord Jesus Christ.

The clearest case of an individual's baptism in the Bible is the Ethiopian eunuch (*Acts 8:26-39*). In this passage, the eunuch asked Philip, "... what doth hinder me to be baptized?" Philip then answered with the condition of baptism in verse 37, "... If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest (be baptized)." Then the eunuch's response sealed the matter, "... I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God." Hence, the only requirements for baptism are the same requirement for salvation as found in *Romans 10:9-10*, that is, **heart belief** in Jesus Christ as the Lord and Savior, and **confession** that Jesus is Lord and Savior. There are no cases of baptism in the Bible of anyone but believers. Some other instances of baptism immediately after salvation are the Samaritans converted by Philip (*Acts 8:12*) and Crispus, the chief synagogue ruler in Corinth (*Acts 18:8*).

Water baptism by immersion (not by sprinkling) pictures our identifying with Christ in His death, burial, and resurrection. As we are immersed into the water, it reveals to others the death of the "old man," that is, the unsaved man facing eternal damnation. When we are under the water, it pictures our life as dead and buried in Christ. As we are raised up out of the water by another's power, we go forth to walk in newness of eternal life. The clearest example of baptism by immersion was when Philip and the Ethiopian eunuch went down into the water and came up out of the water (*Acts 8:38-39*). Jesus was baptized in the same manner by John the Baptist (*Matthew 3:16*). And, John the Baptist needed a large volume of water to perform baptisms (*John 3:23*). As seen previously, baptism is a picture of death, burial, and resurrection. The only way to bury someone is to put them completely underground. The biblical method of baptism is by complete immersion. No one in the Bible was ever sprinkled, because no one can be buried by sprinkling dirt on them.

It is important to understand that baptism is *not* essential for salvation. The Bible makes it clear that a man is saved by grace through faith without works, including baptism (*Ephesians 2:8-9*). But, the "Great Commission" proves it is essential for service and spiritual growth. Baptism is an integral part of the commission, preceding teaching (*Matthew 28:19-20*). So, before anyone can be taught to follow Jesus Christ, they must be willing to submit to this first act of obedience. If a person refuses to obey the Lord in the first point, he will not obey in future points (*Matthew 3:13-15*).

Since baptism is a public confession of our faith in Jesus Christ, most often it will be done publicly in front of the local church community. Many times, people will be baptized in lakes, ponds, creeks, or rivers, which is fine. The Lord Jesus Christ was baptized in the Jordan River. The actual place of baptism is not important. It is the act of public testimony of your identification with the Lord Jesus Christ that is the important point.

Questions:

1. Give the key reason why God instructs the Christian to be baptized.

2. What are the purposes for baptism found in Romans 6:3-4?

(1) _____

(2) _____

3. According to Acts 8:36-37 and Romans 10:9-10, the Ethiopian eunuch had to fulfill two requirements before he could be baptized. What were the two requirements?

(1) _____

(2) _____

4. Is Baptism essential for salvation? _____. Explain your answer using Ephesians 2:8-9.

Additional Scripture Verses:

Matthew 3:13-17; Matthew 28: 19-20; Mark 1:9-10; Mark 16:15-16; Acts 2:1-8; Acts 2:38; Acts 2:41; Acts 8:12-13; Acts 8:35-39; Acts 9:18; Acts 10:47-48; Acts 16: 14-15; Acts 18:8; Acts 19:3-5; Romans 1:16; Romans 6:1-6; 1 Corinthians 12:13; 1 Corinthians 15:1-4; Galatians 3:27; Ephesians 4:5; Ephesians 5:26; Colossians 2:12; Titus 3:5-7; Hebrews 6:1-3; 1 Peter 3:21.

5. Prayer

Someone once said that a Christian is only as strong as his prayer life. There is a great deal of truth in this because prayer is simply our direct communication with God. When we read the Bible, God speaks to us. When we pray, we speak to God. Our personal relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ cannot grow without proper communication, so prayer is a very important part of our spiritual life. A proper prayer life can open the lines of communication between us and the Lord, and can have a positive effect on our lives. One thing we can do right now, to see the effect that prayer can have in our lives, is to keep a list of prayer requests as well as the answers to those prayers in our own “prayer journal.”

Much can be accomplished through prayer. Leonard Ravenhill wrote, “Poverty stricken as the Church is today in many things, she is most stricken here, in the place of prayer. We have many organizers, but few agonizers; many players and payers, but few prayers; many singers, but few clingers; lots of pastors, but few wrestlers; many fears, few tears; much fashion, little passion; many interferers, few intercessors; many writers, but few fighters. Failing here, we fail everywhere.” Things that can be accomplished through prayer are the following: prayer changes us so that we rely on God to direct our paths (*Proverbs 3:5-6; Philippians 4:7; Romans 8:26-28*); we are able to fight spiritual warfare (*Ephesians 6:11-18; Luke 22:31-32; 1 Thessalonians 1:2*); we acknowledge our submission to the will of God (*Matthew 26:42*); God demonstrates His presence and power in our daily lives (*Hebrews 4:12-16*); prayer serves as a spiritual watchdog against temptation (*Mark 14:38; 2 Corinthians 13:7; 1 Corinthians 10:13*); and prayer is pleasing to God (*Revelation 5:8; Revelation 8:3-4; Proverbs 15:8*).

Prayer places the believer in an attitude of expectancy. The individual who does not pray tends to depend on human invention, circumstances, and expediency to make decisions. The praying Christian is spiritually sensitized to the Spirit of God (*1 John 4:1-3*). To the Christian, “coincidences,” “luck,” and “accidents” are really “miracles” where God chooses to remain anonymous (*Ephesians 3:20-21*).

According to *Luke 11:1-13* and *Matthew 6:5-15*, Jesus taught us how to pray. There are several necessary ingredients of prayer:

1. Worship, Adoration and Praise – Our prayers are often characterized by selfishness. The objective of our prayers tends to be the fulfillment of our personal desires and wellbeing. If we worship God, we “must worship Him in spirit and in truth” (*John 4:24*). We must recognize God for who He is and worship Him in His holiness (*Daniel 9:3-4; Isaiah 6:1-3*).
2. Confession – As sinners, not one of us is worthy to approach the throne of God. But, because of our position in Christ who is our great High Priest, the Bible instructs us to boldly approach the throne of grace (*Hebrews 4:16*). Even though Christ purged our sins, confession reminds us of God’s mercy and helps us to assume a humble posture before God. For example, see David’s prayer in *Psalms 51:4* and Daniel’s prayer in *Daniel 9:3-19*.
3. Restitution – Our willingness to make restitution (where it is possible) is the proof of genuine, sincere, repentant confession. Restitution also reaffirms our faith in God and His provision for our life. Zacchaeus, a chief tax collector, when faced with his sins of dishonesty, was so overwhelmed by the righteousness and holiness of Jesus that he promised Jesus that he would not only make full restitution to anyone he cheated, but he would pay them back four times what he owed them (*Luke 19:8*).
4. Thanksgiving – The Apostle Paul taught his Christian brothers (and us) to present requests to the Lord with an attitude of thanksgiving (*Philippians 4:6; Hebrews 13:15*).
5. Forgiveness – Jesus instructed us to forgive others if we expect our heavenly Father to forgive us (*Matthew 6:12-15*).

6. Unity – The Apostle Paul reprimanded some of the Christians in the early church for quarreling and divisiveness. He encouraged them to be in harmony with one another so that they might be perfectly united in mind and thought as followers of Jesus (*Acts 2:42-47; 1 Corinthians 1:10*). And in *Matthew 18:19-20*, Jesus said, “Again I say unto you, that if two of you shall agree on earth as touching anything that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of My Father which is in heaven. For where two or three are gathered together in My name, there am I in the midst of them.”
7. Faith – The Apostle James tells us to ask of God in faith, without wavering (*James 1:5-6*). “Asking in faith” does not mean that we must conjure up a positive assurance within ourselves that what we ask for will take place if we believe hard enough. James suggests that we should not waver in what we ask, and that our Christian walk should be consistent with our talk (*James 2:17-18*), that is, we show our faith by our actions or works. Someone once said, “Your actions speak so loudly, I can’t hear a word you’re saying.” Our actions are an outward manifestation of our inner faith.
8. Petition – Both *Matthew 7:7-8* and *Luke 11:9* captured Jesus’ words to “... Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you.” These words convey the thought that, not only are we to make our requests known to God, but we should also be persistent in our prayer requests. Jesus emphasized this principle in *Luke 11:8* where He said to present our petitions with importunity, that is, urgently and persistently.
9. Submission – At Gethsemane (*Matthew 26:42*), Jesus gave us the ultimate ingredient of prayer when He submitted to the Father’s will by saying, “Thy will be done.”
10. Without Repetition – When we pray, we should not use what Jesus called “vain repetitions” (*Matthew 6:7*). For example, the Muslims use strings of prayer beads containing 99 beads, with each bead representing one of the 99 names of Allah that appear in the Koran. They repeat the 99 names of Allah over and over as one of their major forms of prayer.

The Bible tells us to pray everywhere (*1 Timothy 2:8*), but especially in our own private place (*Matthew 6:6*) and in church (*Luke 18:10; Acts 3:1; Psalm 26:12; 1 Kings 8:22-53*). We are to pray always (*Luke 18:1; 1 Thessalonians 5:17*): in the morning (*Psalm 5:3*), at noon and in the evening (*Psalm 55:17*), every day and every night (*Psalm 86:3; Daniel 6:10; Psalm 88:1*), and before every meal. And, the Bible tells us to pray specifically for the return of Christ, the will of God to be done, daily provisions, forgiveness, guidance, victory over temptation and sin (*Matthew 6:9-13*); the sick (*James 5:13-16*); those in authority in our government and the salvation of the lost (*1 Timothy 2:1-4*); health and long life (*Isaiah 38:1-5*); safety for ourselves and others (*Daniel 6:18-23*); wisdom, knowledge and understanding (*2 Chronicles 1:7-12; 1 Kings 3:5-9*); travel safety (*Romans 1:10*); spiritual maturity of Christian brethren (*Colossians 1:28*); and those in authority over us in our local church (*1 Timothy 5:17*).

However, nowhere in the Bible does God tell us to pray for the dead, for once a person dies, he or she is either saved by grace through faith in Jesus Christ and goes to heaven or is unsaved and faces eternal damnation (*John 3:16; Acts 4:12*). When the Good Thief expressed his faith in Jesus, Jesus promised that the thief would be with Him in Paradise that same day (*Luke 23:42-43*). The Apostle Paul wrote that “whilst we (believers) are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord: ... We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord” (*2 Corinthians 5:6-8*).

Likewise, we are not to pray to the dead, to spirits or to idols (*Deuteronomy 18:10-12; 2 Kings 23:24; John 14:6*). This would go directly against God’s First and Second Commandments (*Exodus 20:2-5*). Hezekiah even destroyed the brass serpent that Moses had made during the Exodus because the children of Israel were burning incense to it and venerating it (*Numbers 21:8-9; 2 Kings 18:4*).

Even though we pray, sometimes God does not answer our prayers, or does not answer them the way we would like Him to. For example, the label on a can of paint reads, "Clean the surface thoroughly. Remove dirt, grease, wax, and oil. Scrape off any loose paint. Patch and prime large cracks. Do not apply if temperature is below 50 degrees Fahrenheit." If we violate these instructions, we will have one big mess on our hands. Likewise, when we get into a mess with God, He does not answer our prayers if any of the following conditions exist:

1. If we willingly violate His will and commandments. Our sin keeps God from answering our prayers (*Psalm 66:18; Proverbs 28:9; Isaiah 59:2; John 9:31; 1 John 3:22; 1 Peter 3:12*).
2. When our requests contradict His intended means of chastisement in our lives. In the case of David, God could have spared the life of his child, but God determined that it would be more beneficial for David if the chastisement were complete (*2 Samuel 12:16-18*). By the way, God can change His mind as He did in the case of Nineveh (*Jonah 3:10*).
3. When someone prays to the wrong god (*1 Kings 18:26; Acts 17:22-31*).
4. If we want our prayers answered in our timing. Our timing is not always God's timing, and He teaches us faith, patience, and perseverance in just such circumstances where we must wait upon Him. Time is not nearly as important to God as it is to us. God's "delays" are well thought out. In *Nehemiah 1:1 to 2:6*, four months pass between request and answer.
5. When we have improper interpersonal relationships, such as between a husband and wife (*1 Peter 3:7*), holding grudges (*Ephesians 4:26; Mark 11:25-26; James 5:9*), or imagining evil against others (*Zechariah 7:9-13*).
6. When prayer is pretentious (*Matthew 23:14*), insincere (*Psalm 109:7*), hypocritical (*Ecclesiastes 5:3*), or repetitious (*Matthew 6:7*).
7. When prayer is used strictly for selfish reasons (*James 4:3*).
8. When God chooses not to answer. Sometimes the answer is "no." God is sovereign above us and is not someone who "must" answer our prayers. He is not a "911 Emergency" operator who "must" respond to every call. God does not act without purpose (*2 Corinthians 12:7-10; Matthew 26:39-44; 1 John 5:14-15; Romans 8:27*). The miracle is that He does hear us and does answer many of our prayers.
9. When we are prideful and will not, in humility, assume our proper place before Him (*Luke 18:10-14*).

Throughout the Scriptures, prayer is often accompanied by the biblical practice of fasting (*Mark 9:29*). To "fast" is to abstain from food voluntarily for a particular time. The idea is to deny our flesh and show God how serious we are about our prayer. In *Matthew 17:18-21*, the disciples asked Jesus why they were not able to cast out a particular demon, and He replied that this kind of devil does not get cast out except by prayer and "fasting." Prayer with fasting is still beneficial for us today and will move the hand of God on our behalf (*2 Chronicles 20:1-12; Ezra 8:21-23; Nehemiah 1:1-11; Isaiah 58:6; Matthew 4:1-2; Acts 13:1-3; Acts 14:23; Acts 27:33; Matthew 9:25-29; Jonah 3:1-10*).

Questions:

1. List several necessary ingredients of prayer:

- (1) _____
- (2) _____
- (3) _____
- (4) _____
- (5) _____
- (6) _____
- (7) _____
- (8) _____
- (9) _____
- (10) _____

2. Where are we to pray?

- (1) _____
- (2) _____
- (3) _____

3. When are we to pray? _____

4. What prayer of Abraham did God NOT answer (see *Genesis 18:20-33*)?

5. What city did God spare from destruction because they fasted and prayed (see *Jonah 3:1-10*)?

Additional Scripture Verses:

1 Chronicles 4:9-10; Psalm 2:8; Proverbs 28:9; Jeremiah 29:11-14; Matthew 6:10-13; Matthew 7:7-11; Matthew 21:21-22; Luke 11:5-13; Ephesians 6:10-18; Philippians 4:6; Hebrews 4:15-16; James 4:1-2; James 5:16-18; 1 John 5:14-15.

6. Overcoming Temptation and Sin

A famous preacher once said that, when a saved person begins to battle sin in his own life, he enters a combat so intense it makes *World War II* look like a Sunday School picnic. This truth is not always evident to us as young Christians, but as we grow spiritually, we get a deeper realization of the intensity of the struggle.

When we got saved, we became two people: (1) the old man in Adam's image that has a sinful nature and (2) the new man in Christ Jesus having God's image. We need to learn to combat the sin nature of the old man.

Sin is the breaking of God's law (*1 John 3:4*), any unrighteousness (*1 John 5:17*), or anything done apart from faith (*Romans 14:23*). We commit sin because we inherited a sinful nature from Adam (*Romans 5:12; 1 Corinthians 15:45-49*), because our old nature draws us into sin (*James 1:13-14; Romans 7:14-25*), and because of temptation in three major areas: the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life (*1 John 2:15-16*). Jesus Himself was tempted in these three areas, yet He did not sin (*Hebrews 4:15*). To get a better understanding of these three major areas of temptation, let's compare the temptations of Eve to those of Jesus:

- First, Eve was tempted by "the lust of the flesh" when she saw that the tree of knowledge of good and evil was "good for food" (*Genesis 3:6*). Jesus was tempted in this point when Satan tried to get Him to turn stones into bread (*Matthew 4:3*).
- Second, Eve was tempted by "the lust of the eyes" when she saw the tree was "pleasant to the eyes." Jesus was tempted as well when Satan showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and promised to give them to Him in exchange for worship (*Matthew 4:8-9*).
- Third, Eve fell into the temptation of "the pride of life" when Satan told her that the fruit of the tree was "to be desired to make one wise." Jesus overcame Satan's temptation to cast Himself down from the pinnacle of the temple to prove the angels would take care of Him (*Matthew 4:5-6*).

After we are saved, God looks at our sin as having been judged by Him and the penalty for it having been paid at Calvary by the blood of Jesus Christ (*2 Corinthians 5:21*). But, if we continue to sin, God will chastise us as a father chastises his son (*Hebrews 12:5-11*). God will allow us to reap according to what we have sown (*Galatians 6:7-8*).

There are a number of ways that we can overcome sin:

- We need to understand that sin is our own fault. We need to accept responsibility for our sin. We will never correct anything until we face up to our responsibility (*Proverbs 28:13*).
- We cannot allow sinful thoughts to control our minds (*2 Corinthians 10:5*).
- We must not make provisions to fulfill the lusts of the flesh (*Romans 13:14*).
- We need to realize that we are dead to sin in Jesus Christ and must not serve sin (*Romans 6:6-13; Colossians 3:1-10*).
- We need to agree with God that sin is sin. We must judge our sin for the evil it is (*1 Corinthians 11:31-32*).
- We need to confess our sins to God and ask for His forgiveness (*1 John 1:9*).
- We need to fill our hearts and minds with God's Word to battle sin. The Bible says that God will not allow us to be tempted above what we are able to handle, and He will make a way for us to escape from temptation (*1 Corinthians 10:13*). The way of escape is the Word of God (*Psalms 119:9-11*). Jesus showed this to us by His example when He overcame His temptations from Satan by quoting Scripture. The only sure way of overcoming sin in our lives is through the power of the Word of God as we embrace it in our hearts and apply it to our lives.
- We need to trust God's promises to cleanse us and help us fight our battles (*2 Corinthians 7:1; Hebrews 4:15-16*).

- We need to learn to walk in the power of the Holy Spirit (*Galatians 5:16-25; Romans 8:1-8*).
- We cannot involve ourselves with sinful activities. Of course, we have to associate with unsaved people in order to try to win them to Christ, but we cannot get involved in their sin (*Ephesians 5:5-12*).
- We must separate ourselves from the ways of the world and follow the Lord Jesus Christ (*James 4:4; 2 Corinthians 6:14-18*). We need to realize that “separation” is also a positive thing. Not only are we to be separate from worldly things, but we are to separate ourselves unto the gospel (*Romans 1:1*).

Understanding and overcoming temptation in a believer’s life is one of the most practical and essential truths we can learn. Remember that “Great men are not always wise...” (*Job 32:9*), so we need to prepare ourselves with God’s defense, and then we will be able to stand strong in the evil day.

Questions:

1. Give three definitions of sin.

(1) _____

(2) _____

(3) _____

2. All sin originates from one of three categories. List the three that are found in *1 John 2:16*.

(1) _____ (2) _____ (3) _____

3. Why must we accept responsibility for our sin? (See *Proverbs 28:13*)

Additional Scripture Verses:

Genesis 3:6; Psalm 119:9-11; Proverbs 6:16-19; Matthew 4:3-11; Romans 1:1; Romans 6:6-13; 1 Corinthians 10:13; 1 Corinthians 15:45-49; 2 Corinthians 6:14-18; 2 Corinthians 10:5; Colossians 3:1-10; Hebrews 4:15; James 1:13-14; 1 John 2:15-16.

7. The Will of God

Someone once said that a successful man is a man who finds out what God wants him to accomplish with his life and then fulfills it. We need to realize that the true measure of a man's success is not his social status, his bank account, his influence, or his fame. It is simply doing what God wants him to do. We need to get a clear understanding of what the will of God is, as revealed in the Bible, so we can begin to accomplish those things that God would have us accomplish. We also need to understand the difference between God's will for our lives and God's plan for our lives.

Many people, including Christians, often ask or wonder about such questions in life as: "What should I do when I grow up?" ... "Who should I marry?" ... "Where should I live?" ... etc. These are important questions, and as Christians, it is important for us to have God's input in the decision-making process concerning these matters. But, how can we know what God wants for our life? This is not an unreasonable or foolish question, for as Christians we realize that we are not our own, but were bought with a price (*1 Corinthians 6:19-20*). God created us for a purpose, and that purpose is found in *Revelation 4:11*, "Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power: for Thou hast created all things, and for Thy pleasure they are and were created."

There is, however, a difference between what God's will is and what His plan is for our lives. God's will is the same for every person, but His plan for each individual is different. God is much more interested in us being the type of person He wants us to be than in our doing "mighty works." We need to be what God wants us to be, and He will show us what it is He wants us to do.

God's will is no mystery. It is not something we have to wonder about. It is clearly revealed in the Bible, and God wants us to understand what His will is (*Ephesians 5:17-33*). God's will has several elements:

- God's will is that all men be saved. God is not "willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance" (*2 Peter 3:9*). In fact, God commands "all men everywhere to repent" (*Acts 17:30*), because God "will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of truth" (*1 Timothy 2:4*).
- God's will is not only that all men be saved, but that all men should be Spirit filled. This means we should be yielded and controlled by the Holy Spirit (*Ephesians 5:18*).
- God's will is that we be thankful in all things (*1 Thessalonians 5:18*). Closely associated with being filled with the Holy Spirit is thankfulness (*Ephesians 5:20*).
- God's will is that we be sanctified, that is, "set apart for holy purposes" (*1 Thessalonians 4:1-7*). We are not to be conformed to this world, but transformed by the renewing of our minds (*Romans 12:1-2*). When we live holy, sanctified lives, we are separated from evil (*2 Corinthians 6:16-18; 1 Thessalonians 5:22*).
- God's will is that we be submissive servants (*Ephesians 6:5-8; 2 Corinthians 8:3-5; 1 Peter 2:13-15*). First, we are to serve God, and then man from our hearts with pure motives. The Bible instructs us to be careful to maintain good works for necessary uses that we may be profitable, fruitful, and able to put to silence the ignorance of foolish men (*Titus 3:8-14; 1 Peter 2:15*). Always remember, "ye serve the Lord Christ" (*Colossians 3:24*).
- God's will is that we be ultimately conformed to the image of God's own beloved Son. The Lord Jesus Christ is the one we are to be like (*Romans 8:28-29; John 17:20-23; Ephesians 4:13-15*).
- God's will is that we sometimes suffer (*1 Peter 2:15-21; 1 Peter 3:17; 1 Peter 4:19*).

As human beings, suffering is something we want to avoid, so we need to understand *how* suffering comes to us. It comes through our own sins and mistakes (*Galatians 6:7*), through the sins and mistakes of others (*Genesis 37:23-28*), through temptations (*1 Corinthians 10:13*), and through God's providential dealings with man as in the case of Job (*Job 1:8-22; Job 5:6-11; John 16:33*).

It is hard for us to understand *why* we sometimes have to suffer. The Bible tells us that we suffer for a number of reasons, including divine chastisement (*Galatians 6:7; Numbers 32:23; Hebrews 12:6-11*), for Christ's sake (*Philippians 1:29; Acts 9:16*), to identify with Christ's suffering and follow in His steps (*1 Peter 2:21; Philippians 3:10*), in persecution (*1 Corinthians 4:12; Acts 5:28-29; Acts 5:41; 2 Corinthians 4:11*), in the expenditure of our personal resources (*Philippians 2:30*), in oppression by Satanic forces (*Job 1*), and that the works of God might be made manifest (*John 11:4*).

If it is God's will that we sometimes suffer, there must be some *spiritual benefit* that we receive as a result of our suffering. The Bible gives us a list of specific benefits that we can receive. Suffering produces patience, perseverance, and faith (*Romans 5:3; 2 Thessalonians 1:4-5; James 5:10*). It produces experience through which we might comfort others (*Romans 5:3-4; 2 Corinthians 1:4-5*). It produces hope through our experiences (*Romans 5:3-5*). It produces holiness and a harvest (*Hebrews 12:10-11*). Suffering makes us spiritually perfect (*1 Peter 5:10; 2 Corinthians 12:9; Job 23:10; James 1:2-4*). It establishes and strengthens us (*1 Peter 5:10*). It is proof of godliness (*2 Timothy 3:12*). Suffering unifies the body of believers, that is, the church (*1 Corinthians 12:26*). Lastly, suffering glorifies God (*1 Peter 1:7; 1 Peter 4:14-16*).

So now that we know that suffering is a reality in our lives, there are a number of ways we can respond to it. We can despise it and rebel against it (*Job 5:17*). We can faint in the day of adversity (*Proverbs 24:10; Hebrews 12:4; 1 John 4:4; 1 John 5:4; 2 Corinthians 12:9*). We can yield reluctantly. Or, we can yield to the will of God with rejoicing.

As Christians, we should accept the following biblical truths and develop a proper attitude toward suffering:

- Suffering is an unavoidable part of human life (*Job 5:6-11*).
- Suffering is part of our Christian calling (*Philippians 1:21*).
- Realize that God's plan is bigger than we are (*Ephesians 2:6-7; Daniel 4:32-35*).
- Realize that it is good to be afflicted (*Psalms 119:67-75*).
- If we suffer, we shall reign (*2 Timothy 2:12*).
- We should rejoice when we suffer (*Colossians 1:24; Acts 5:41; Job 23:10*).
- Realize that all temptation, trials, and suffering must pass through the permissive will of God (*Job 1 and Job 2*).
- Worship amidst suffering proves our loyalty to God and repudiates Satan's lies (*Job 1:13-22*).
- Realize that all things work together for good to them that love God (*Romans 8:28; Genesis 50:20*).
- Our suffering cannot be compared to the glory that will be revealed in us (*2 Corinthians 4:17; Romans 8:18*).

Now that we have a better understanding of God's will for our lives, let's see what the Bible says about God's plan for each of our lives. One thing we know for sure is that we will never find God's will or His plan outside the Word of God. We definitely won't find it from horoscopes, fortune tellers (such as Nostadamus), Tarot Cards, Ouija Boards, astrology, numerology, psychics, or séances. We will find God's will and plan by renewing our minds (*Romans 12:1-2*). We renew our minds by putting them in conformity with the mind of Christ (*Philippians 2:5*). We need to replace carnal thoughts with God's thoughts by immersing ourselves in the holy Word of God (*2 Corinthians 10:5*). We must be in conformity to the clearly revealed will of God before He will reveal His plan for us. Our priority should be to fulfill the general will of God in our daily lives and then trust Him to guide us in the detailed plan for each of our lives. Sometimes God reveals His will through opportunities, circumstances, the wishes of parents, the advice of friends, personal inclinations, the evaluation of one's own individual abilities, the needs of the day, and our conscience.

Three things concerning God's will and plan are true:

1. The Word of God directs. God often guides through Scripture verses that speak loudly to us. But, we need to be cautious. We don't just open the Bible, close our eyes, and point to a verse at random. God is a God of order, not randomness. And, we need to saturate ourselves with the Word of God so that the Lord can bring various portions of Scripture to our minds. God's WILL never contradicts His WORD, therefore, we need to know the Bible (*Psalm 119:105; Joshua 1:8-9; Psalm 1:1-3*).
2. Our inner conviction or conscience agrees. God gave us His Holy Spirit to guide us, and He bears witness with our spirit that a certain course of action is right or wrong (*John 16:13*). But, we need to be cautious that the "voice" we hear is indeed the voice of God, not the voice of our own selfish desires (*1 John 4:1-3*). The "old" man (our human nature) is deceitful and desperately wicked; so, if we delight ourselves in God, He will give us the proper desires (*Psalm 37:4-7*).
3. The circumstances permit. God opens and closes doors of opportunity. Nothing happens to the child of God by chance, coincidence, or luck. The Bible assures us that "all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose" (*Romans 8:28*). Just as road signs serve as guideposts in our travels, we accept circumstances as guideposts in the direction of God's leading, even if God on occasion should allow Satan to control circumstances, as in the case with Job (*Job 1 and 2*).

Rev. F.B. Meyer (a contemporary and friend of D. L. Moody and a Baptist pastor in England) said, *"When the Word of God, the impulse of the Holy Spirit in my heart, and the outward circumstances are in harmony, then I am convinced that I am acting in accordance with the will of God."*

Our desires may be our own and not God's, and so we can't fully trust our desires. The circumstances may be dismal or contrived by our adversary the Devil, and so we don't want to blindly follow opened or closed doors. But God's "Word is truth" (*John 17:17*) and that is where we must ultimately place our trust. We need to have the same trust that Simon Peter had when he said to Jesus, *"Master, we have toiled all the night, and have taken nothing: nevertheless, at Thy word I will let down the net"* (*Luke 5:5*).

In summary, Jesus laid down a principle that should govern all our life, *"But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you"* (*Matthew 6:33*), that is, we need to fulfill God's will that is clearly revealed in the Scriptures. Then, *"Trust the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths"* (*Proverbs 3:5-6*).

Questions:

1. God has a direct and clearly revealed will for man. From *1 Timothy 2:4*, what is one thing that God specifically wills for us:

2. List some ways that suffering comes to us.

(1) _____

(2) _____

(3) _____

(4) _____

3. In general principle, what three things should be true for us to know that we are in God's will?

(1) _____

(2) _____

(3) _____

4. Briefly explain the difference between the will of God and the plan of God.

Additional Scripture Verses:

Genesis 37:23-28; Numbers 32:23; Job 5:6-11; Job 23:10; Psalm 1:1-3; Psalm 37:1-5; Psalm 119:67-75; Proverbs 3:5-6; Matthew 6:33; John 16:33; John 17:20-23; Acts 5:28-29,41; Acts 9:16; Acts 17:30; Romans 5:3-4; Romans 8:28-29; Romans 12:1-2; 1 Corinthians 6:19-20; 2 Corinthians 4:11; 2 Corinthians 6:16-18; 2 Corinthians 8:3-5; 2 Corinthians 12:9; Ephesians 4:13-15; Ephesians 5:20; Philippians 3:10; Colossians 3:24; 1 Thessalonians 5:22; Titus 3:8,14; Hebrews 12:6-11; James 5:10; 1 Peter 1:7; 1 Peter 2:13-21; 1 Peter 3:17; 1 Peter 4:19; 1 Peter 5:10; 2 Peter 3:9.

8. The Holy Spirit

The day you received the Lord Jesus Christ as your personal Savior, the Holy Spirit of God took up permanent residency inside your body (*Ephesians 1:13-14*). This third person of the Trinity is perhaps the most misunderstood and ignored part of a Christian's relationship with God. We will now learn about the functions and attributes of the Holy Spirit and get a basic understanding of what the Holy Spirit does in our lives.

The Holy Spirit is God. He is the third member of the Trinity (*Matthew 28:19; 1 John 1:1; 1 John 5:6-7; Hebrews 9:14; Isaiah 48:16-17*). He is a person, not just an unseen "force" (*Romans 8:27; John 16:7-15*). In the Bible, He is called by various names, including Holy Ghost (*Acts 2:4*), Comforter (*John 14:16,26*) and "the Spirit" (*John 1:33*). He is distinct from the Father and the Son, as can be seen in the following Bible verses:

- According to *John 14:16*, the Son prays, the Father sends, and the Holy Spirit comes to abide.
- In *Acts 2:33*, the Son is exalted to the right hand of the Father, the Father is on His throne, and the Holy Spirit is received by the Son and given to the Church.
- In *Luke 3:21-22*, at the baptism of Jesus, God the Father said, "Thou art my beloved Son, in Thee I am well pleased." God the Son was baptized by John the Baptist in the Jordan River. God the Holy Spirit descended in bodily shape in the form of a dove.

In the words of R. A. Torrey, "The Father, Son and Holy Spirit are three separate personalities, with mutual relations one to another, speaking to one another, recognizing each other."

The Holy Spirit performs a number of important functions in our lives, including the following:

- The Holy Spirit convicts of sin (*John 16:8-9*).
 1. In the unsaved, He convicts of sin to bring them to salvation.
 2. In the saved, He convicts of sin to keep them clean and show them how to live for Jesus Christ.
 3. Acknowledging conviction by the Holy Spirit can lead to repentance, forgiveness and reconciliation with God (*2 Corinthians 5:17-18*).
 4. Ignoring conviction by the Holy Spirit can lead to a seared conscience and hardened heart (*1 Timothy 4:1-2; Hebrews 3:13-15; Revelation 12:10*).
- The Holy Spirit creates and regenerates (*Genesis 1:2; Job 33:4*). In Jesus Christ, you are a new creature, born again by the Holy Spirit (*John 3:3-8*).
- The Holy Spirit enters you and seals you once you are saved (*1 Corinthians 6:19-20; Ephesians 4:30; Ephesians 1:13-14*).
- The Holy Spirit bears witness to you of your salvation (*1 John 4:13; Romans 8:16*).
- The Holy Spirit teaches you the Bible (*John 14:26; John 16:13-15; 1 Corinthians 2:9-10*).
- The Holy Spirit intercedes in prayer for you (*Romans 8:26-27; Ephesians 2:18*).
- The Holy Spirit comforts you in time of need (*John 14:15-18; 2 Timothy 1:7*).
- The Holy Spirit empowers you to serve God (*Zechariah 4:6; Ephesians 3:16; 2 Corinthians 4:7*).

The Holy Spirit of God produces a set of character qualities in you as you give your life to Him and walk in His power. This set of character qualities is called the FRUIT (singular) of the Spirit. It is singular because all of these qualities are produced at the same time by a close relationship with the Holy Spirit (*Galatians 5:22-23*). The **FRUIT of the Spirit** consists of Love, Joy, Peace, Longsuffering, Gentleness, Goodness, Faith, Meekness, and Temperance. When you are born again, you have all nine qualities.

We will now see what it means to “be filled with the Spirit” and learn how we can accomplish this fullness.

- Comparing Scripture with Scripture shows that by reading the Word of God and letting it dwell in our hearts, we can produce the same results in our lives as being filled with the Spirit. The more we saturate our minds with the Word of God, the closer our relationship to the Holy Spirit will be (*Ephesians 5:18-19; Colossians 3:16*).
- We simply walk in the Spirit. Walking is a steady, consistent, natural process of growth (*Galatians 5:16-18; Galatians 5:25; Romans 8:1*).
- We need to allow God to control our lives. The filling of the Holy Spirit is not us getting more of the Holy Spirit. We received all of Him at the time of salvation. It is the Holy Spirit getting more of us.
- We need to be patient and consistent! Being controlled by the Holy Spirit does not happen overnight. It is a lifelong process of spiritual growth.

Questions:

1. At what time does the Holy Spirit come into the believer’s life?

2. Why does the Holy Spirit convict the unsaved of sin?

3. What can happen if someone ignores conviction by the Holy Spirit?

4. What is the result of the Holy Spirit in your life?

5. In order for Christians to be “filled with the Spirit,” in what they must invest time learning & living?

Additional Scripture Verses:

Matthew 28:19; 1 John 5:6-7; Hebrews 9:14; Isaiah 48:16-17; 1 John 1:1; Romans 8:27; John 16:7-8; John 13-15; 1 Corinthians 6:19-20; Galatians 5:16; Galatians 5:22-23.

9. The Local Church

God established three major institutions on this earth: the Family, Civil Government, and the Local Church. It is the local church that has been commissioned by God to carry out His purposes in reaching the lost and perfecting the saved. Therefore, God's plan for a Christian will always be fulfilled best when the believer is connected with the local church. The local Church should play a central role in the Christian's everyday life and should enable the Christian to develop special relationships with other Christians.

We need to understand that the Local Church *is not* a building. We worship God in spirit and truth (*John 4:24*). Our bodies are the temple of God (*1 Corinthians 6:19*).

The Local Church *is not* a denominational group of congregations.

A Local Church *is* a body of men and women who have been saved and called by God to serve in specific areas or ministries. "The Church" is the body of Christ, the saved multitudes from every nation. Paul, writing to saved people, stated clearly that, "Ye are the body of Christ," when he compared the Church body to the human body (*1 Corinthians 12:14-27*). He said that each member has a different function, no member can function alone, each member's contribution is important, and a properly functioning body operates as a single unit.

The first local church in the Bible was organized in Jerusalem (*Acts 2:41-47*). The believers there organized their church for the purposes of teaching the Word of God, having fellowship with other believers, participating in prayer, observing the two ordinances of the Church (Baptism and the Lord's Supper), being a living testimony of God's grace and power, providing mutual assistance and ministry, reaching out into the community, and glorifying and praising God. And, the single most important priority of the local church is to edify (build up, teach, strengthen) the saints (*Ephesians 4:11-16*).

So how do we function properly in the Church Body? During our Christian life, we should be maturing in three stages. First, like a child, we observe and learn. Our first priority should be to submit to the teachings of the Word of God and learn to be the man or woman God wants us to be (*2 Timothy 2:15*). Second, like a youth, over time, we will grow spiritually to the point where we can begin to serve and take on some of the church's basic functions through the already established ministries of our local church (*James 1:22-25*). Thirdly, like an adult, as our growth continues, we should reach the point where we can begin to minister to others in the same way we have been ministered to (*2 Timothy 2:2*). These three stages can be roughly compared to the stages of growth physically: child, youth, and adult. And, we need to be patient! This process takes time. We just need to be sure to remain faithful to God's Word and His established institution – the local church.

In today's society, there are many churches and denominations that claim to be true followers of Jesus and who claim to adhere to the Bible, but we need to have wisdom in finding a particular local church through which God wants us to serve Him. We have all heard of cults and "so called" Christian churches that actually prey upon unsuspecting people, cults such as the ones led by David Koresh (the Branch Davidians & Waco Massacre), Jim Jones (Peoples Temple & Jonestown Massacre), Tony Alamo (Arkansas cult leader), and others. So how does one discern which churches are really true to Jesus and the Bible?

One can determine if a church is true to Jesus and the Bible by carefully taking the following steps:

- Pray about it! Ask the Lord for wisdom to show you with which particular local church to associate (*James 1:5*).
- Ask the particular church to provide you with their “Articles of Faith”. If the church is not able or willing to provide you with a written statement of their beliefs, it is a good indication that they are not standing firm on the Bible or that they have something to hide about their true beliefs. Many churches are too willing to tell people what they want to hear, not what they need to hear. They want to make people feel good so they can grow their congregations, but they don’t tell people to repent of their sins or turn away from their sinful lifestyles. Some churches even go so far as to tell their congregations that there is no Hell and that everyone is going to Heaven, which is clearly contrary to what the Bible teaches.
- Observe the qualities of a particular church and compare them with the biblical requirements of a proper church, including the following:
 - Do they believe and teach the Bible as the Word of God and the infallible guide for life (*Titus 1:9*)?
 - Is the membership encouraged to read and study the Bible as much as the leadership does (*Acts 17:10-12*)?
 - Is there evidence of soul winning (*Matthew 7:20; Acts 2:47*)?
 - Do they minister to the needs of people and help other members of the body (*Acts 6:1*)?
 - Do they send out and support missionaries (*Acts 13:1-3*)?

Now let’s look at how we are related to other Christians. They are our brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ. We need to understand that only those in Jesus Christ (saved people) are our brothers and sisters, regardless of any other factors. Likewise, those who are not in Jesus Christ (unsaved people) are not our brothers and sisters regardless of any other factors (*Romans 8:29; 1 John 3:1-3; Romans 9:8; Hebrews 2:9-12*). Also, other Christians are our fellow laborers in service for Jesus Christ (*1 Corinthians 3:5-10; Psalm 119:165*).

As Christians, we have responsibilities to other Christians. We should pray for each other. Almost every one of Paul’s letters opens with a prayer for those to whom he is writing (for example, see *1 Thessalonians 1:2-3; 2 Timothy 1:3*). We are to minister to each other physically, including those in our local church family, as well as for the entire body of Christ in other areas of the world (*Galatians 6:10; Romans 12:13; Acts 11:27-30*). We are also to minister spiritually (*Galatians 6:1-2; Romans 15:1-2; Hebrews 13:3*). We are to encourage and edify one another (*1 Thessalonians 5:11*). And, we are to serve one another (*Philippians 2:3-4; Matthew 20:25-28*). Our primary attitude toward other Christians should be to love them (*1 John 3:14-16; 1 Peter 4:8*). We should also be patient with them (*Romans 15:5-7*), be sensitive to their needs (*1 John 3:17-18; James 2:15-16*), and be forgiving of each other (*Ephesians 4:32; Colossians 3:13*).

“Fellowship” is a term commonly used by Christians, generally referring to getting together for activities or times of sharing common interests. However, this is only a small part of true fellowship. It is true that to fellowship is to share things, but true biblical fellowship goes far beyond just a meal or an activity. It is the sharing of life through the person of the Lord Jesus Christ with other believers. The essential elements of true biblical fellowship are not physical matters, such as social status, friendship, common interests, etc.; they are spiritual requirements of personal character that include Humility (*Philippians 2:3-8*), Honesty (*Ephesians 4:25; 2 Corinthians 4:2*), Love (*John 13:35; Galatians 5:13-15*), and Hospitality (*Titus 1:8; Acts 2:42; Acts 2:46-47*). The areas of true fellowship include Prayer (*2 Corinthians 1:11*), Faith (*Romans 1:12*), Ministry (*2 Corinthians 8:4; Galatians 2:9*), and Suffering (*Philippians 3:10; 1 Peter 4:13; 1 Peter 5:1*).

Although doctrinal beliefs are vitally important, true biblical fellowship is not based on exact doctrinal agreement, but in the person of the Lord Jesus Christ. We must learn to have fellowship with Jesus personally before our fellowship with other believers will be proper (*1 John 1:3-7*).

Unfortunately, at one point or another and because we are human and have a fallen human nature, another Christian may offend us. This might happen as we spend time with our brothers and sisters in Christ. There might be times of offense, hurt, or disagreement within the body of Christ, just as in our physical family. If and when this happens, the Bible gives a definite progression of principles to guide us in dealing with the matter:

First, we are to take the offense directly to the other party, privately, and try to settle it between ourselves (*Matthew 18:15*).

Second, if the matter is not resolved privately, we are to take it to a leader in our church to attempt to mediate the situation (*Matthew 18:16; 1 Corinthians 6:1-5*).

Third, we are **not** to go to the unsaved (that is, lawyers or public courts) to settle a problem within the body of Christ (*1 Corinthians 6:6*).

Fourth, if the matter still cannot be resolved, we are to personally accept the wrong (*1 Corinthians 6:7-9*), commit the situation to the Lord Jesus Christ who will handle it justly (*1 Peter 2:19-23*), forgive our brother or sister (*Colossians 3:13*), and pray for our brother or sister (*Matthew 5:43-48; Romans 12:14*).

Questions:

1. List some things that a church is not.

2. Define the following terms:

(1) Local church --- _____

(2) "The Church" --- _____

3. What is the most important priority of a local church?

4. When a Christian is looking for a local church in which to serve, what are some qualities for which he or she should be checking?

(1) _____

(2) _____

(3) _____

(4) _____

(5) _____

Additional Scripture Verses:

Matthew 18:15-17; Luke 17:1; Romans 16:17; Galatians 6:1-5; Ephesians 4:11-12; Ephesians 4:32; 1 Corinthians 12:27; 1 John 1:7.

10. Giving to the Lord

A somewhat difficult principle for new Christians to understand and accept is that there are a number of responsibilities that come along with the promises and privileges that are ours. Giving is one of the most misunderstood subjects in Christianity, but it involves the Christian's responsibility in stewardship of his life as well as his resources. Before we can properly understand giving, we need to understand that God does not need our money, for "the earth is the LORD's ..." (*Psalms 24:1*). But God does want us to have a loving, generous, and giving heart; and to be partakers in investments that have eternal rewards. The more we invest in the Lord's work here on earth, the greater will be our return, both here and in heaven (*2 Corinthians 9:6*).

A Christian's responsibilities regarding giving are based on the concept of gratefulness to Christ for what He has done for us. Jesus wants to be more than our Savior, He wants to be the Lord and Master of our lives. As such, we should be wise stewards of everything the Lord entrusts to us. We should give to the Lord to honor God through obedience (*Proverbs 3:5-10*), to demonstrate thankfulness for what He has first done for us by giving us eternal life (*2 Corinthians 9:15*), to acknowledge His ownership of all things (*Psalms 50:10-12; Psalm 104:24; Psalm 115:15-16; Job 41:11*), to prove our love for God (*2 Corinthians 8:8*), to develop in us godly attributes of giving (*John 3:16; 1 John 4:9*) and grace (*2 Corinthians 8:6-7; 2 Corinthians 9:8; 1 Peter 4:10*), to make eternal investments (*Philippians 4:17; Matthew 6:19-21; Revelation 3:18*), and to procure God's blessings on our personal finances (*Luke 6:38; Malachi 3:10*). God's overriding principle for any investment (whether it be family or finances, whether it be soul-winning or service) is that the more I invest, the greater will be my return (*2 Corinthians 9:6*).

Faithful giving of our resources to the Lord through a local church supports a number of vital ministries. Giving supports missionaries, for not everyone can go to the missions, but all can send (*Philippians 4:15-16; 2 Corinthians 11:9*). Giving supports those within the church body who are unable to support themselves, that is, those who are faithful to the church (*Acts 6:1*) as well as those who do not have anyone else to help them, such as widows and orphans (*1 Timothy 5:16*). Giving also supports the leaders of the local church (*1 Timothy 5:17-18*) and the on-going operations of church facilities that are used to further God's kingdom (*2 Corinthians 8:4*).

We should have confidence in the way our church leaders handle God's money. Although not necessary, an annual financial report and an "open door" financial policy, where any church member could address a question to an administrative manager or deacon, would certainly build member confidence. If we are curious or have good reason to believe that the church's resources are not being used scripturally, then we should speak to the individuals who have the financial responsibility and accountability (*2 Corinthians 8:20-21*).

We need to remember that we ourselves have been purchased by God with Christ's blood and we belong to Him (*1 Corinthians 6:19-20*), so there are several things we should be prepared to give unto the Lord. We should give ourselves completely to the things of God (*1 Timothy 4:15; 2 Corinthians 8:3-12; Romans 12:1*); read, study, and meditate on God's Word (*1 Timothy 4:13*); heed what we have heard (*Hebrews 2:1*); give ourselves to prayer (*Acts 6:4*); give thanks for everything (*1 Thessalonians 5:18*); and cheerfully give voluntarily of our time, talent, and possessions.

The Lord specified a minimum that we should give to the work of the church. It is called a "tithe" or one-tenth of our income (*Genesis 14:20; Hebrews 7:1-7; Malachi 3:10-12; Luke 6:38; Leviticus 27:30; Proverbs 11:24; Proverbs 13:7; Matthew 6:19-21; Matthew 23:23*). God promised that, if we are faithful in giving the tithe, He will pour out abundant blessings on us, and no one can "out give" God. Any offerings given to missions or other worthy causes should not be deducted from the tithe. Offerings are above and beyond the tithe (*Philippians 4:13-19; 2 Corinthians 8:1-2*).

Realizing that the tithe goes to further the kingdom of God on earth, we should give liberally and sacrificially (2 *Corinthians 8:1-2*; *Mark 12:41-44*), faithfully (1 *Corinthians 16:2*), cheerfully (2 *Corinthians 9:7*), willingly (2 *Corinthians 8:3-12*), and individually (1 *Corinthians 16:2*).

Questions:

1. What are the four primary reasons for giving?

(1) _____

(2) _____

(3) _____

(4) _____

2. What can we learn about man and money from 1 *Timothy 6:10*?

3. What attitude should we have concerning wealth that we can emulate from *Job 1:21-22*?

Additional Scripture Verses:

Exodus 36:2-7; Exodus 38:21-31; Mark 12:41-44; John 10:10; 1 Corinthians 16:1-2; 2 Corinthians 8:1-2; Ephesians 3:20.

11. Liberty in Christ

Since all my sins are forgiven, am I free to do as I please?

The New Testament is very clear that, as saved people, we are no longer bound by any law to please God, but we are under His grace. However, many people take this freedom as an opportunity to sin, thinking they are free to do as they wish. This is not true. Christians need to understand just what are their “liberties” in Jesus Christ, and what lines need to be drawn in their lives in relation to their actions as children of God.

Personally, regarding their own lives, Christians are free to make their own choices (John 8:36; Romans 14:22; Titus 1:15). Believers are eternally secure in Jesus Christ. If they have genuinely placed their trust in Jesus as their Savior, they cannot go to Hell. They will go to heaven regardless of what they do and whether they like it or not (Galatians 2:16; Ephesians 2:8-9). They are not bound by any laws (Romans 8:2; Galatians 3:24-25). For example, Christians are not bound by the Mosaic laws of circumcision (Acts 15:5-11).

However, the liberty that believers have in Jesus Christ gives them freedom to do what is right, without the constraints of any laws, as opposed to giving them license to sin or do whatever they want (Romans 6:1-2; Galatians 5:13). Their liberty must not be used to feed their sinful flesh (Romans 6:12-18). Their liberty enables them to serve God (1 Peter 2:16). For example, Jesus cured a blind man on the Sabbath and was accused by the Pharisees of working on the Sabbath (John 9:14-16, 30-33).

Christians are free to make their own choices, but if they choose to sin, they should be aware of the following consequences:

- They will not bear fruit (John 15:1-8).
- God will chasten (discipline) them as His children (Hebrews 12:5-11).
- God will allow them to reap what they have sown (Galatians 6:7-8).

God will receive the glory from our lives one way or another, either as a vessel of honor or a vessel of dishonor. The choice is ours (2 Timothy 2:20-21).

Our freedom in Christ affects those around us as well. Our lives will be a testimony for good or for bad, whether we want it to be or not (Romans 14:7). We are to avoid things which could cause weaker Christians to stumble in their faith (Romans 14:13-15); 1 Corinthians 8:9-13). We are to avoid things which appear wrong even though they may not be wrong (Romans 14:16; 1 Thessalonians 5:22). We are to have a good testimony toward both saved (Acts 6:1-3; Acts 16:1-2) and lost people (Romans 14:18; Colossians 4:5; 1 Timothy 3:7) so as to influence them for good in the Lord Jesus Christ (Acts 11:22-24; 1 Corinthians 9:19-23).

Now let us consider the bounds of our liberty in Christ. There are many “gray areas” in dealing with certain things with which we may or may not want to be involved. In these cases, we can ask ourselves some questions:

- Am I being brought under the power of something that should not be controlling my life (1 Corinthians 6:12)?
- Am I edifying myself or others (1 Corinthians 10:23)?
- Can I ask God to bless it with a clear conscience (Colossians 3:17; Acts 24:16)?
- If the Lord returned at this moment, would I be ashamed (1 Corinthians 1:8; 1 Thessalonians 5:23)?
- Would it cause a brother to stumble (Romans 14:13-15; Romans 15:1-2)?
- Would it be cause for an unsaved person to reject the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior (1 Corinthians 10:31-33)?
- Does my conscience condemn me for it (1 Peter 3:16; Hebrews 13:18; 1 Timothy 1:5)?

In summary, rather than thinking about freedom to do as we please, we need to think about our freedom to serve one another (Galatians 5:13) and to please God in everything we do (1 Corinthians 10:31).

Questions:

1. As Christians, are we free to do whatever we please? Briefly explain.

2. The Word of God draws boundaries on our freedom. Explain those boundaries from each of the following verses:

(1) Galatians 5:13 --- _____

(2) Romans 6:18 --- _____

(3) 1 Peter 2:16 --- _____

3. When we choose to sin, what are the consequences of our choice?

(1) _____

(2) _____

(3) _____

Additional Scripture Verses:

Romans 6:1-2; Romans 6:15; Romans 15:1.

12. Employers and Employees

The Bible has a great deal to say about how we are to conduct ourselves on our jobs. People spend about one-fourth of their adult lives on the job, so it is essential to learn how the Lord Jesus Christ would have us look at this area of our responsibilities. If we intend to be effective servants of God, we must do so with all our life and not three-fourths of it. We need to have the kind of attitude toward our jobs and our employers (employees) that God would want us to have.

All saved people are called to “Full-Time Christian Service.” The Bible says that our vocation is to serve Jesus Christ (Ephesians 4:1). God’s Word is very clear that every saved person is an integral part of the body of Christ and that each member’s contribution is important. God expects every Christian to be involved in the Lord’s work (1 Corinthians 12:12-27; Ephesians 4:11-16). Our service for God is to be at all times, not just when we go to church (1 Peter 3:15; 2 Timothy 4:2).

The primary purpose of our jobs is to support our ministries. Of course, our first ministry is to our family (1 Timothy 3:5; 1 Timothy 5:8). Our second ministry is to our church family (Galatians 6:10). And, our third ministry is to reach the lost for Christ (2 Corinthians 5:20). Our resources should be yielded to God’s service. Those resources are to be used to glorify God through the above three ministries.

Our attitude toward our job should be to view our job as a ministry of opportunity, not just a job. For most Christians, our fellow workers are the greatest exposure we have to unsaved people (2 Corinthians 5:10). Our lives may be the only true witness of the Lord Jesus Christ they will ever see. We are a light representing Jesus Christ (Matthew 5:14-16), and our lives should reflect the Bible (2 Corinthians 3:2). We will have a much greater influence on those with whom we spend the most time. Although total strangers are surely an opportunity for a witness, those who can see a consistent testimony of a Christian’s life are much easier to win over to the Lord.

Our attitudes toward our business leaders and the Company for which we work should include obedient service, good will, respect, giving our best, helping the company succeed, being diligent not lazy, and minding our own business. In other words, we should serve as if the Lord Jesus Christ were our employer (Ephesians 6:5-8; Colossians 3:22-24). We should respect the authority of the leader’s position. Obviously, no employer or leader will be correct in every point, and we can certainly and respectfully disagree with them. However, we are to submit to their leadership and use our submission as an opportunity to show them a testimony of the Lord Jesus Christ (Titus 2:9-10). We should respect the company’s property because it does not belong to us (Leviticus 19:11). We should respect the company’s time by doing eight hours of honest work for eight hours of pay (2 Corinthians 8:21; Colossians 3:22). We are to do the very best we can to help the company succeed and make our employer look good (Romans 12:11; 1 Corinthians 10:24; Proverbs 10:4; Proverbs 18:9; Proverbs 21:25; Proverbs 22:29). Joseph is the greatest example of this in the Bible (Genesis 39-50). And lastly, we should mind our own business and not let someone else’s laziness affect us (1 Thessalonians 4:11; 2 Thessalonians 3:10-13).

For those who are employers or leaders, the Bible also shows how they are to relate to those under their leadership. They are to treat their people justly and equally. When they set standards for their subordinates, they are to adhere to those same standards themselves (Colossians 4:1; Ephesians 6:9). That is, they are to “walk the talk.” They should consider the needs of those around them and not be consumed by their own self-interests (Philippians 2:2-3). Even in a leadership position, they should always maintain the attitude of a servant (Mark 10:42-45). And, they need be sure not over-extend themselves, that is, they need to consider the following points whenever a promotion or transfer opportunity presents itself:

1. They need to be sure they can handle what their current responsibilities. A great Bible principle is, “He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much...” (Luke 16:10).
2. They must realize that the more responsibility they have, the more potential there is for problems to arise (James 3:1; Ecclesiastes 8:9).
3. They should realize that the more responsibilities they have, the more time and energy is demanded. They need to be sure the new responsibilities will not hinder their service for God (2 Timothy 2:4).

There may come a time when our job priorities and/or responsibilities might conflict with spiritual matters. Regarding priorities, some conflict between church activities and our work schedule might occur. We cannot quit our job and take some time off work because of a few minor conflicts. We need to remember that our job is a ministry opportunity. However, we must not use our job as an excuse to neglect our responsibilities to our church. We need to maintain a balance in this area. But, when our job responsibilities are contrary to Bible principles, then we must draw the line, such as refusing to lie or steal for our employer, refusing to violate other clear commandments of God, guarding against temptations, and not allowing ourselves to be influenced by sinful activities around us.

There may also come a time when we might experience “persecution” on the job. Most persecution in our culture is a result of the Christian’s own ignorance or lack of personal commitment to the Lord. If someone is being “persecuted,” it is for one of two reasons: their behavior is improper, or their testimony is an offense to someone (1 Peter 3:16-17). Remember that we can expect a certain amount of adversity from the world if we are truly serving Jesus Christ (2 Timothy 3:12). If we do experience adversity, we need to learn how to commit that adversity to the Lord (1 Peter 2:18-23).

If adversity should become too intense or if a new job opportunity should present itself, there are several factors we should consider when looking for employment.

1. We should take the matter to God in prayer (James 1:5; Philippians 4:6-7).
2. We need to ask ourselves if the new job will destroy what God is trying to build in our life. This is a complex issue and we should not be afraid to seek wise counsel in this area from another brother in Christ that we respect.
3. If we would be required to move to another city, we need to know if there is a church there that can continue to provide for our spiritual needs. This is an extremely critical point.
4. In looking for a change of job, we need to discern if we are running away from something that we should be facing and trying to correct.

In summary, we need to be the type of employee or employer that God would have us to be.

Questions:

1. The primary purpose of our job is to support our ministries. List the three ministries we need to support.

(1) _____

(2) _____

(3) _____

2. What are some of the attitudes we should have toward our company and/or leader?

(1) _____

(2) _____

(3) _____

(4) _____

(5) _____

(6) _____

3. When looking for a new job, what are some factors to take into consideration?

(1) _____

(2) _____

(3) _____

(4) _____

Additional Scripture Verses:

2 Timothy 2:4; Mark 10:44-45; Colossians 3:23.

13. Christians in the World

The Bible is very clear that the present world system is contrary to God's eternal purpose. The Word of God commands His children to be separate from this world system; yet at the same time, to reach the lost men and women who live in it for Jesus Christ. Christians need to learn how to live a balanced and consistent life in order to influence people for the Lord Jesus Christ, without having the world influencing them for evil.

As Christians, we must realize that if we truly live for Jesus Christ, we will encounter opposition from the world. We will be opposed because Jesus Christ was opposed (John 15:18-21). And, we will be opposed only if we live for Him. If, however, we go along with the world, they will not oppose us (2 Timothy 3:12).

There are four main areas from which opposition will come. Our primary opposition will come from those closest to us who know us best, that is, from friends, family, fellow workers, and acquaintances (Matthew 10:35-36, John 1:11, Mark 6:4). Secondly, opposition will come from unsaved people in general. The two spiritual families (the Devil's family and God's family) have never gotten along and never will (Galatians 4:29). Thirdly, opposition will come from society in general. The nature and course of this present world system is against God. This opposition is communicated subtly through the media, such as literature, music, television, radio, newspapers, video games, etc. We must judge those things by the Word of God (1 John 2:15-17; James 4:4). Lastly, the mastermind behind all this opposition is Satan himself. He is our adversary (1 Peter 5:8). And, he is currently at work in unsaved people (Ephesians 2:2).

As Christians, there are a number of ways we can overcome this opposition. We can give a soft answer and avoid fights whenever possible (Proverbs 15:1; Romans 12:18). We can please God with our life (Proverbs 16:7). We can have faith in God (1 John 5:4-5). We can love our enemies and help them. Jesus loved His enemies enough to die for them when He did not have to. The world cannot understand this type of love, and those who are seeking the truth will be drawn to it (Romans 12:14; Romans 12:20-21). We can pray for our enemies, and pray with pure motives (Matthew 5:44; Luke 17:1). We can keep good company, and especially associate with people who love God and want to serve Him (Proverbs 13:20; 1 Corinthians 15:33). And, we can immerse ourselves in the Word of God (Romans 12:1-2).

A Christian's life should be a good example to the unsaved world. The world should know that we love God – not by our mouth as much as by our life (1 Corinthians 8:3). Our lifestyle should separate us from the world, and our behavior should be different from that of the unsaved (2 Corinthians 6:14-18; 1 Peter 2:9). However, we should not be so different that we lose influence (1 Corinthians 9:22). The world should see us as being open and honest in all matters (2 Corinthians 8:21; Romans 12:17). They should see in us a living testimony of the grace of God (Philippians 2:14-15). And, lastly, we should be of "good report" (1 Timothy 3:7; Colossians 4:5-6).

Once a person becomes a believer, they should have a special view of the unsaved world. They should see themselves as pilgrims in a strange land (Hebrews 11:13; 1 Peter 2:11). They should realize that their true home is in Heaven (Ephesians 2:6; Philippians 3:20). They should see this world as a "mission field" to reach the lost for Jesus Christ (Acts 1:8; Matthew 28:18-20). Someone once said that, "for the saved, this world is a bad as it's going to get; and for the unsaved, this world is a good as it's going to get."

Lastly, Christians all over the world are living under various forms of governments, such as democracies, monarchies, dictatorships, etc. The Bible describes our responsibilities to our governments:

- The government is one of the three institutions ordained by God, the other two being the Family and the Church. All governments are controlled by Satan (Luke 4:5-6) and, therefore, are essentially against God. However, we are still to submit to the ordinance of God (Romans 13:1-2).
- If we do what is right, we have no reason to fear. God will honor us for doing right (Romans 13:3-5).
- We are to render to the government what is due by law (Romans 13:6-7; Matthew 17:24-27; Matthew 22:15-22).
- We are to submit to government ordinances (1 Peter 2:13-15).
- We are to honor those in authority, even the wicked, without partaking of their wickedness. We should commit any adverse situations to God and let Him handle them. When Peter wrote the words “Honor the king” (1 Peter 2:17-23), Nero was the king of the Roman Empire and was perhaps the most wicked ruler that Rome ever had.
- We need to realize that we cannot legislate morals or change mankind through political action. Man is “by nature” fallen and sinful, and must be changed individually, from inside out, through personal saving knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ (Titus 2:14).

In summary, Christians need to live a balanced and consistent life in order to influence people for the Lord Jesus Christ, without letting the world influence them for evil.

Questions:

1. List the sources of opposition that Christians will face.

2. How should a Christian view the unsaved world? Give three viewpoints.

(1) _____

(2) _____

(3) _____

3. Many “Christian” groups today are trying to force morality on people through the passing of laws. Why won’t this process work?

Additional Scripture Verses:

2 Timothy 3:12; 1 John 2:15-16; 1 Corinthians 8:3.

14. The Judgment Seat of Christ

Many new Christians know that there is a heaven and a hell. They know they are saved by grace through faith and that they will be with the Lord Jesus Christ forever in heaven. They know there are consequences for sin, and that God disciplines His children when they disobey His Word. But, they also wonder if there will be a Judgment Day for Christians and what will be their accountability to a holy God.

The Christian life is a series of paradoxical truths. The Bible says that God's ways are not our ways because man looks on the outward physical matters, while God looks at the heart attitude and operates in the spiritual realm. If we are going to serve God effectively, we must take our focus off of physical matters and concentrate on the spiritual and eternal matters. We need to focus on eternal matters and have a thorough understanding of our final accountability to the Lord Jesus Christ as His servants.

So, yes, there will be a Judgment Day and a final accountability for all Christians. But, what is the "Judgment Seat of Christ?" The Bible says that God will judge every human being who has ever lived (Proverbs 29:26; Hebrews 9:27). But God already judged the sin of the world at Calvary. So, by placing our faith in Jesus Christ, we do not have to fear judgment of our sins, because Jesus took our judgment upon Himself (1 Peter 2:24; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Galatians 3:13). Our judgment, when we stand before Christ, will be for our service to the Lord Jesus Christ after our salvation. This event is called the "Judgment Seat of Christ" (2 Corinthians 5:10; Romans 14:10).

At this event, we will be judged for our work as a servant of Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 3:11-15). Our work will be judged for the motive behind it and the quality, as opposed to the quantity. It will matter "of what sort (what kind) it is" (1 Corinthians 3:13). And, our heart attitudes will be more important than actual works. If the proper attitudes are developed, the proper works will come naturally (Ephesians 6:6; 1 Thessalonians 2:4).

We also need to understand that there are negative consequences of this judgment. The apostle Paul said, in speaking of the Judgment Seat of Christ, that it is the "terror of the Lord" (2 Corinthians 5:11). A Christian should never fear going to Hell, but there are some things to beware of in relation to the final judgment. Some Christians will be found ashamed for not living for the Lord Jesus Christ at His appearing (1 John 2:28). Some will be suffering loss because their works were temporal and not eternal (1 Corinthians 3:15). Some will be losing rewards because they lived in sin rather than for Jesus Christ (Galatians 6:7-8; 2 Corinthians 5:10). We need to remember that appearances are many times very deceiving. So, we should not be fooled by outward appearances, in our own lives as well as the lives of others. Many people only appear to be servants of the Lord (Luke 16:15; 1 Corinthians 1:27-31). We need to be sure to invest in heavenly rewards instead of earthly rewards. The real servants of the Lord will be revealed at the Judgment Seat of Christ (Matthew 6:19-20; Colossians 3:1-4).

The rewards obtainable at the Judgment Seat of Christ can be seen by studying the five crowns in the New Testament:

1. The **Crown of Righteousness** will be given to those who love the appearing of the Lord Jesus Christ (2 Timothy 4:8). The Bible closes with "Even so, come, Lord Jesus" (Revelation 22:20). Our overriding desire should be, at all times, to be with the Lord (Philippians 1:23-24).
2. The **Crown of Life** is the martyr's crown (Revelation 2:10). It will be given to those who endure temptation and are faithful to death (James 1:12), that is, to those who overcome temptation by dying to self (Romans 6:6-11).
3. The **Incorruptible Crown** will be given for temperance or moderation (1 Corinthians 9:25). The context of 1 Corinthians 9:18-27 deals with temperance or moderation in all matters (physical, spiritual and mental) to be a testimony to others. Temperance is balanced by remembering that some have infirmities for the purpose of glorifying God. Paul is a great example (2 Corinthians 12:7-10).

4. The **Crown of Rejoicing** is the soul-winner's crown (1 Thessalonians 2:19). It will be given to those who win people to Jesus Christ (Philippians 4:1). It will be called the Crown of Rejoicing because it produces rejoicing in Heaven when someone gets saved (Luke 15:7).
5. The **Crown of Glory** is the shepherd's crown (1 Peter 5:4). It will be given to those who pastor or shepherd people in the Word of God. The New Testament is very clear that all saved people are to be actively teaching someone the Word of God, not just preachers (Ephesians 4:11-16). It requires great wisdom which can only be obtained through the Word of God (Proverbs 4:7-9).

The focus on the return of the Lord Jesus Christ is one of the most practical doctrines in the Bible for everyday living. Notice in the following verses how many practical character qualities are produced by focusing on the return of the Lord Jesus Christ:

1. Patience (James 5:7-8; 2 Thessalonians 3:5).
2. Peace (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18).
3. Joy (1 Thessalonians 2:19).
4. Holiness (1 Thessalonians 3:13; 1 John 3:1-3).
5. Confidence (Philippians 1:6; 1 John 2:28).
6. Diligence in service (2 Timothy 4:1-8).
7. Righteous living (Titus 2:11-14).
8. Faith even in difficult times (1 Peter 1:5-7).

The rewards we receive on earth are all temporal and will perish. The rewards we receive at the Judgment Seat of Christ are eternal and will never perish (2 Corinthians 4:17-5:4). By constantly focusing on the Judgment Seat of Christ, we will naturally develop a desire to please God rather than men. Developing this attitude is the surest way to handle criticism and opposition (2 Corinthians 5:6-9; 1 Corinthians 7:23).

In summary, we need to set our affection on things above, not on things on the earth.

Questions:

1. What group of people will be judged at the Judgment Seat of Christ. _____
2. For what will we be judged at the Judgment Seat of Christ.

Additional Scripture Verses:

2 Corinthians 5:8-9; 1 John 2:28; Luke 16:15.

15. The Lord's Supper

One of the ordinances that God instructed us to keep is that of the Lord's Supper, so we need to understand the importance of the Lord's Supper in our lives. The Lord's Supper signifies many spiritual truths that apply to us as Christians today. Although it does not play a part in our salvation, its importance is to act as a memorial of Jesus Christ's death. We need to know what the Bible teaches about the Lord's Supper, its importance, and the attitude with which it should be celebrated and conducted.

The Lord's Supper is intended to bring to our remembrance the death of the Lord Jesus Christ (Luke 22:19; 1 Corinthians 11:26). It is intended to bring our attention back to what Christ has done for us. Not only are we to remember His death, but also His suffering. This is signified in the breaking of the bread (1 Corinthians 11:24; Matthew 26:26). The blood, which is able to cleanse us from our sin and save our souls, is pictured in the cup from which we drink during the Lord's Supper. This blood was shed for us according to Mark 14:24 when Jesus said, "... This is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many." And, the importance of the shedding of blood is stated in Hebrews 9:22 when Paul writes that "... without shedding of blood is no remission."

There are some religions and denominations that teach that the body and blood of Christ are really consumed when they take communion, but this teaching is not scriptural for the following reasons:

- When Jesus spoke of eating His flesh and drinking His blood, He was very careful to explain that He was not speaking literally. The Bible tells us that the words Christ spoke unto them "are spirit." They were not to physically eat Him, but to spiritually "partake" of His life and death (John 6:53-63).
- The Jews were commanded not to eat blood, for the blood is the life of the flesh (Leviticus 17:11-12). That is why the Jews were confused with Christ's statements and they said, "This is an hard saying." They were trying to apply literally and physically what Jesus had said. They thought He was teaching them to go against the Old Testament Scripture (John 6:52, 60).
- Would Christ teach us to be cannibalistic? And, if He did teach us that, how would we eat of His body today? He is risen from the dead and ascended to the Father. There is no body available to eat.

But, not everyone should partake in the Lord's Supper. The passage of Scripture that is used to teach the Lord's Supper was written to one of the early churches, and it describes how the Lord's Supper should be conducted. The people that the Apostle Paul was writing to were believers. Lost (or unsaved) people are not included at the Lord's table because they are not saved, and the death and suffering of Christ would not have any significance to them (1 Corinthians 11:20-34).

Regarding the frequency of partaking in the Lord's Supper, the only instructions that God has given us is found in 1 Corinthians 11:25-26. In verse 25 it says, "... and as oft as ye drink it," and verse 26 states, "For as often as ye eat this bread and drink this cup ...," indicating that it is decided by the church leaders when the Lord's Supper should be held. No other passage tells us how often this ordinance is to be celebrated.

The Scriptures give no explicit instructions on how to perform the Lord's Supper. However, unleavened bread should be used as in accordance with the Passover Feast, which the Lord's Supper typifies (Matthew 26:17; Luke 22:1). Throughout the Bible, leaven symbolizes spoilage, so unleavened bread is to be used. The drink is to be the "fruit of the vine" not "wine." Throughout the Bible, the "fruit of the vine" means "juice from ripe fresh-squeezed grapes" (Matthew 26:29; Genesis 40:10; Isaiah 65:8). Those believers who wish to participate should be allowed to do so, and as God wants all things done, it should be done decently and in order (1 Corinthians 14:40).

There are three ways in which the Lord's Table should be approached:

1. With fear and trembling: Paul rebukes the Corinthians for taking this event lightly. They had turned it into some kind of feast for satisfying one's hunger rather than making it a time of remembering the Lord's death. The Lord's Supper is a sacred time and it should be approached with a sacred attitude (1 Corinthians 11:17-34).
2. With desire: Jesus desired to eat the Passover with His disciples (Luke 22:15). Although the Lord's table should be approached with reverence, believers should look forward to the Lord's Supper as a way of bringing their attention back to what Christ has done for them.
3. With a clean heart: The Bible tells us to examine and judge ourselves when we partake of the Lord's Supper (1 Corinthians 11:28, 31). This examination and self-judging is to make sure that our relationship with God is right and that we do not participate "unworthily" (1 Corinthians 11:27, 29). 1 Corinthians 11:30 states, "For this cause many are weak and sickly among you, and many sleep (died)." God chastises those who partake that are not clean before Him. The Lord's Supper is a reminder that our sin was the reason for Christ giving His life for our salvation, and God wants us to be clean when we partake of the Lord's Supper.

Questions:

1. When we partake of the Lord's Supper, are we actually eating Jesus' body and drinking His blood? Explain.

2. List three ways by which we should approach the Lord's Supper.

(1) _____

(2) _____

(3) _____

Additional Scripture Verses:

John 6:63; 1 Corinthians 11:26-28.

16. Evangelism and Missions

Christians, even new believers, have a responsibility to take the Gospel to the Lost World. In order for us to get saved, someone had to take the time and make the sacrifice to bring the Gospel to us. We need to take the same Gospel to the Lost World around us so that others may be saved.

We will now examine the Bible verses that we can use to lead someone else to Christ. And, we will also become acquainted with missions so that we can understand what our responsibility is and what we can do to further God's purposes in this world.

It is important for us to realize that we ourselves cannot save another person's soul, nor can we by our own power draw that person to the point of salvation. It is the work of God to do this. In Lesson 8 on "The Holy Spirit," we learned that the Holy Spirit must convict a person of their sin (John 16:8-9). The Father must draw them to the point of salvation (John 6:44). And, it took the sacrifice of the Son in order to pay the price for their sins (2 Corinthians 5:21).

While the supernatural act of salvation can be done by God, and God alone, it is the Christian that God uses as His tool to bring about that salvation. We are farmers that must sow the seed (Matthew 13:3-8), that is, spread the Gospel. We are preachers that must proclaim the Word (Acts 8:4; Romans 10:13-15). And, we are ambassadors that must reconcile man to Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17-20).

The Lord Jesus Christ gave us a Great Commission to take the Gospel to all the world (Matthew 28:19-20; Mark 16:15). In the power of the Holy Spirit, we must be witnesses "unto the uttermost part of the earth" (Acts 1:8). We must speak the words of eternal life to others (Acts 5:20).

A proven biblical way to present the Gospel to the unsaved is sometimes called "The Romans Road" because each step in the presentation has a biblical basis from the Book of Romans:

1. Man must realize that he is a sinner (Romans 3:10, 23).
2. Man must understand that God died for him while he was still a sinner, not after he cleaned up his life (Romans 5:8).
3. Man must come to God with genuine, godly repentance (Romans 2:4; Acts 20:21; 2 Corinthians 7:10).
4. Man must believe that he is justified by the blood of Christ (Romans 5:9; Colossians 1:14). Justified means that the blood of Christ covers a person's sins and places the person in a state before God as if that person had never sinned.
5. Man must see that the payment of Christ's blood saves us from the wrath of God, which is eternity in Hell (Romans 5:9; Romans 6:23; Revelation 20:14).
6. Man must, above all, understand that it is his faith in the blood of Christ without additional good works that saves him (Romans 3:28; Galatians 2:21; Ephesians 2:8-9; Titus 3:5). If Christ had never shed His blood, nothing anyone could do would be enough to earn him eternal salvation, that is, without Christ's blood, no amount of good works could get him to heaven.
7. Man must call upon the Lord to save him (Romans 10:9-13).

Now that we know some key Bible verses that we can use to lead someone else to Christ, let's learn about missions. Missions is ... the Lord burdening my heart for a young man who got saved and got burdened for his sister. His sister got saved and got a burden for her cousin who got saved ... and the chain continues on. Missions is nothing more than one nobody telling another nobody about Somebody who can save anybody. Missions is one beggar telling another beggar where to find the food of eternal life. Missions is an unbroken chain of burdens for our lost friends, friend reaching friend for Christ. Missions is the heartbeat of God (John 3:16). Missions is a ministry of reconciliation (2

Corinthians 5:18-20). Missions is evangelism (Acts 1:8). Missions is discipleship (2 Timothy 2:2). Missions is church planting – believers reproducing believers, churches reproducing churches.

The Bible gives us several reasons for missions:

1. To obey the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20; Mark 16:15; John 20:21).
2. To follow the example of the disciples (Acts 13:1-5).
3. To show our love for the Lord. It is our love for the Lord Jesus Christ and all that He has done for us that motivates us to tell others about Him (2 Corinthians 5:14-15).
4. To receive rewards for faithful service. The Apostle Paul said that it was necessary for him to preach the gospel and that he would receive a reward for doing so willingly (1 Corinthians 9:16-17). There is a great joy and a crown to be received for having a part in bringing others to a saving knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ (1 Thessalonians 2:19).

Throughout the Bible, there have been many messengers who have been committed to missions:

- Adam was the first missionary. God told him to “Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth...” (Genesis 1:28).
- Noah was given the same mandate after the flood (Genesis 9:1).
- In Abraham, we see God beginning to unfold His plan of redemption. Abraham received a divine call and received the promise that “in thee (Abraham) shall all families of the earth be blessed” (Genesis 12:1-3). God was saying, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men” (Matthew 4:19). God was reaching down to man with a worldwide purpose. As a result, Abraham influenced the surrounding nations (Genesis 14). And, Abraham persisted in intercession for heathen peoples, even those in Sodom and Gomorrah (Genesis 18).
- The nation of Israel itself had a three-fold purpose in God’s plan of redemption. First, Israel was the recipient of God’s revelation to the world (Hebrews 1:1-3). Second, Israel was the channel through whom the Redeemer would come (Matthew 1:1; Genesis 49:10; Romans 1:3). Third, Israel was God’s witness in the midst of the nations (Isaiah 43:10; Isaiah 44:1-8).
- The prophet Jonah was called to be God’s missionary to the wicked Ninevites in the book call by his name.
- Obadiah, Nahum, Jeremiah, Ezekiel and Daniel were prophets also called to be missionaries in the Old Testament.
- The consummation of God’s redemption and the greatest missionary to ever live was God Himself in the person of the Lord Jesus Christ (John 3:17; Luke 19:10; 1 John 2:2; 1 John 4:14).

The Apostle Paul teaches us several things about missionaries:

- They are called by the Holy Spirit through the local church (Acts 13).
- They have a home church to go out from and report to on a regular basis, that is, they are accountable to their church leaders.
- They start local churches wherever they go.
- Their message is primary: “According to the Scriptures” (1 Corinthians 15:3-4). They depend on the Word of God to ensure their message is God’s truth.
- They watch over and care for the local churches they established.
- They commit and give their lives to the missions, sometimes even through martyrdom.

Today, every Christian should be committed to missions, whether we become missionaries ourselves or support missionaries spiritually (by our prayers) or materially (with finances and donations of food, clothing, etc.). God calls families like ours, from churches like ours, to be missionaries to the uttermost parts of the world. Not everyone is

called to go to Africa, China or some other remote and isolated land. However, every Christian can and should be involved with and committed to missions; after all, it is the heartbeat of God.

God would have us be like Abraham – a blessing to those around us, influencing them for the cause of Christ.

God wants us – our time, our talents (abilities), our treasures (money), and our availability.

We can be a missionary right where we live. We will never be a missionary to China until we can be a missionary right where we are, reaching out to the souls of men, women and children with whom we come in contact every day. We can be involved and committed to missions by supporting other Christians are on foreign fields with our prayers and finances. There will be fruit that abounds to our eternal account (Philippians 4:16-17).

Missions is a direct outreach of the local church. Paul and Barnabas were sent out from the local church, and they reported back to that local church in Antioch, showing responsibility and accountability (Acts 13:1-5; Acts 14:25-27). It is the responsibility of the church to send and support. It is the responsibility of the missionary to go, show and report.

The goal of missions is church planting – we have the example of our Master’s plan to follow:

1. Evangelism: “Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God...” (Mark 1:14). We too need to proclaim the gospel to people who do not know it, using all available appropriate means.
2. Discipleship: Jesus took 12 men “that they should be with Him (for training) and that He might send them forth to preach” (Mark 3:14).
3. Partnership: Knowing the He would not always be with them (physically), Jesus’ next step was to put His disciples to work as partners with Him. Jesus sent His disciples out two by two. They did as He did, and they all rejoiced together (Mark 6:7; 12, 30).
4. Full responsibility: The time came when the Master put the responsibility for His ministry into the hands of His disciples. He continued to work with them through the Holy Spirit, but they became responsible for the work that He had begun (Mark 16:14-20).

The sending church (the local church, such as our church) must uphold the missionary and his work in prayer and support him financially that the work may continue. The church members must pray for the laborers (Matthew 9:37-38) and for Holy Ghost power (1 Thessalonians 1:5; Ephesians 6:18-19).

Jesus told the disciples when and where they were to spread the Gospel when He said, “But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.” (Acts 1:8).

A Christian children’s song says:

Be a missionary every day.

Tell the world that Jesus is the way.

In Africa, China or wherever you may stay,

Be a missionary, be a missionary be a missionary every day.

Questions:

1. What tool does God use to do His work of evangelism? _____
2. What three things might a Christian be compared to in his effort to evangelize the world?
 - (1) _____
 - (2) _____
 - (3) _____
3. How far are we to take the Gospel? _____
4. In what ways can we be involved and committed to missions?
 - (1) _____
 - (2) _____
 - (3) _____
 - (4) _____

Additional Scripture Verses:

Romans 3:23; Romans 5:8-9; Romans 10:9, 13; John 3:16-17; Matthew 9:37-38; Matthew 28:19-20.

17. Discipleship

There is an abundance of biblical materials in our world. Bibles, books, tapes, videos, tracts and the like are found in plentiful supply. If there is a missing ingredient in learning the Bible, it is the process of biblical discipleship, that is, a loving, caring, selfless Christian who is committed to teach another "All things whatsoever I have commanded you" (Matthew 28:20). Revival, evangelism, missions and **discipleship**, all energized by effectual, fervent prayer, done in a spirit of charity, are the lifeblood of the Church.

A disciple's purpose is to become like his Master and to adhere strictly to the Master's teaching and truth. All Christians are not disciples! Discipleship, like salvation, involves a conscious decision to follow the Savior whatever the cost. There are five primary ministerial goals that serve to fulfill the biblical command of what we call "The Great Commission." They are as follows:

1. To evangelize the world (Acts 1:8; Mark 16:15).
2. To establish edifying churches (Acts 11:19-26).
3. To build individual disciples (Matthew 28:18-20; Ephesians 4:11-16; 2 Timothy 2:2; 2 Peter 3:18).
4. To bring disciples and their churches to "Christ-likeness" (Romans 8:29; Galatians 4:19).
5. To bring glory to God (Isaiah 43:7; Romans 11:36; 1 Corinthians 10:31).

Discipleship is the pivotal element between goals 1 & 2 and 4 & 5 (above). Although Christ certainly evangelized and established His Church, He did not build what we would call a "big" church during His ministry on earth. His goal was to leave disciples behind at His ascension that could do what He had done. Christ's three-and-a-half-year ministry was primarily a discipleship ministry. In the establishment of New Testament churches, the Apostle Paul understood and taught this principle when he said: "And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also" (2 Timothy 2:2). Jesus said: "Teaching them to observe all things..." This is not primarily a pulpit process, but a personal, people process, one on one!

Discipleship is not ...	an activity	...	Discipleship is ...	an attitude
	a program	...		a philosophy
	a series of lessons	...		a way of life
	education only	...		edification / exhortation
	teaching only	...		your life as an example
	a handbook	...		heart-to-heart ministry
	a rapid formula	...		a long-lasting relationship

Personal Discipleship accomplishes many things, including the following:

1. It establishes the Christian in the foundational truths of biblical Christianity (1 Thessalonians 3:2).
2. It provides the new believer with a caring, comforting friend to help him or her through the difficulties of transformation (1 Thessalonians 3:2).
3. It affords the Christian additional spiritual protection through the counsel and prayer support of a mature Christian (1 Thessalonians 3:5).
4. It provides mutual accountability both to the disciple and disciple. The accountability factor affords both with motivation to grow in Christ and walk in faith (1 Thessalonians 3:6).
5. Discipleship provides fellowship. The Christian needs Christian friends. The discipler assumes the role and responsibilities of a friend and serves to introduce the disciple to others in his fellowship (1 Thessalonians 3:6).
6. It provides the Christian with encouragement. The disciple serves to motivate the Christian to higher levels of growth, dedication and commitment (1 Thessalonians 3:8).

7. It brings the Christian toward perfection or maturity in Christ, “And he gave some ... teachers; for the perfecting of the saints ...” (Ephesians 4:11-12; 1 Thessalonians 3:10).
8. It most naturally leads to ministry rather than mere activity. Many Christians are in motion, few are in ministry. Discipleship exemplifies what Christianity is all about – people serving other people (1 Thessalonians 3:12).
9. It provides the Christian with a living picture of what a Christian ought to be. The discipler becomes the disciple’s example (1 Thessalonians 3:12).
10. It provides godly counsel to the disciple. It divides the load of the counseling ministry among those in the local church body (1 Thessalonians 3:13).
11. Discipleship, therefore, in accomplishing all of these purposes, must bring forth glory to God (1 Thessalonians 3:13).

Our discipleship investment is intended to bring forth a godly product. In fact, our ultimate goal is to bring glory to God. What should the final product look like? Our seven-fold goal for our disciples is to bring them to loyalty and obedience to Christ (Luke 14:26); submission and selflessness (Luke 14:26); focus and tenacity (Luke 14:27); priorities and perspective (Luke 14:33); reading, studying and meditation (John 8:31); charity (John 13:35; 2 Peter 1:4-8); and fruit bearing (John 15:8; John 15:15-16). Charity and fruit bearing are at the top rungs of what is known as the “ladder of Christian maturity.”

The Christian’s growth process should focus on the following principles found in 2 Peter 1:5-7: faith, virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, godliness, brotherly kindness and charity. And, according to the apostle Peter, “For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ” (2 Peter 1:8).

Discipleship involves a number of things. The Lord Jesus Christ stated what some call “The Disciple’s Oath” in Luke 9:23, “... If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.” This biblical commitment to discipleship involves at least the following five things:

1. Desire: “If any man ...”
2. Decision: “will come after me ...”
3. Denial: “let him deny himself ...”
4. Dedication: “take up his cross daily ...”
5. Determination: “and follow me.”

“Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you...” (Matthew 28:20).

Questions:

1. What are the five primary ministerial goals of the local church?

(1) _____

(2) _____

(3) _____

(4) _____

(5) _____

2. Briefly describe what biblical discipleship is NOT.

3. List the seven-fold goal of biblical discipleship.

(1) _____

(2) _____

(3) _____

(4) _____

(5) _____

(6) _____

(7) _____

Additional Scripture Verses:

Luke 9:23; 2 Timothy 2:2.

18. Bible Prophecy

One of the most talked about subjects of the Bible is that of prophecy. Prophecy deals with God's plan for the future of this world. Saved or lost, many people want to know the details of the end of the world as we know it. Let's get acquainted with the order of the major events of the "end times." We will give a brief description of these events and where you can find them in Scripture.

Bible Prophecy Sequence of Events

0 A.D.	Birth of Jesus Christ, the First Coming
33 A.D.	Death, Burial, Resurrection and Ascension of Jesus Christ
2,000+ years	The PRESENT AGE (a.k.a. The Church Age, The Age of Grace) Revelation 1-3 describes the Church Age.
May 14, 1948	Restoration of the nation of Israel (Ezekiel 37:12).
?	Rapture of the Church - Christians meet Jesus in the air, Judgment Seat of Christ (Bema Seat), Marriage Supper of the Lamb.
?	Psalm 83 War between Israel and 10 surrounding nations. (Psalm 83, Obadiah, Ezekiel 25:14)
?	Ezekiel's War (Ezekiel 38-39). Destruction of Gog (Russia) and Magog (Iran/Persia).
?	Antichrist rises to world power and signs seven-year Peace Treaty with Israel. Three and a half years of peace is followed by three and a half years of tribulation.
?	The GREAT TRIBULATION (a.k.a. The Time of Jacob's Trouble), Mark of the Beast, two Witnesses in Jerusalem, 144,000 Witnesses (12,000 from each of the 12 Tribes).
?	Return of Jesus Christ, the Second Coming, Day of the Lord, Battle of Armageddon.
1,000 yrs.	MILLENNIAL REIGN – 1,000 years, Reign of Jesus Christ on Earth, Satan Loosed, Final Rebellion, Great White Throne Judgment of the damned, Lake of Fire, New Heaven, New Jerusalem, New Earth, Eternity.

The Rapture

The first major event to occur in the end times is called the "Rapture." Although this term is not in the Bible, it means "transport." The Rapture will take place at the end of the "Church Age." This age began after the resurrection of Christ and is made up of people who have been "saved by grace through faith." The Rapture will occur so God's people will avoid the coming judgment upon the Earth. This judgment will be for the nations' rejection of God and His promises to Israel. In other words, God will protect His bride, the Church. There are two main scripture verses to support the Rapture:

1. 1 Corinthians 15:51-57 ... This was a mystery revealed to the Apostle Paul that even Jesus did not speak about. It will happen in a blink of the eye and will give Christians a new body as they go up to Heaven.

2. 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 ... The bodies of Christians who have already died will come out of their graves, be changed and reunite with their souls in the clouds with Jesus. Those Christians who are alive will follow immediately with changed bodies as well. Notice we are to be comforted with this thought, not afraid of it.

The Bible gives us pictures or types of the Rapture. Enoch was taken bodily up to Heaven before God's judgment on Earth, the Flood (Genesis 5:24; Hebrews 11:5). The Prophet Elijah was taken bodily up to Heaven by a whirlwind (2 Kings 2:1-11). The Prophet Isaiah was taken up to Heaven and given a vision of the throne room of God (Isaiah 6:1-9). The Apostle Paul was taken up to the third Heaven and given visions and revelations of the Lord (2 Corinthians 12:1-4). The Apostle John was taken up to Heaven and shown God's judgment on Earth, called the Great Tribulation (Revelation 4:1-2).

The Body of Christ (saved people) will be taken up to Heaven before God's judgment on Earth, the Great Tribulation. This is when the Judgment Seat of Christ takes place (see Lesson 14). After the Judgment Seat will be the Marriage Supper of the Lamb. This is where Christ will take His bride, the saved people of the Church Age (Revelation 19:5-9).

Psalm 83 War – A Confederacy of 10 surrounding nations will come against Israel

1. Tents of Edom Palestinians and Southern Jordanians
2. Ishmaelites Saudis (*Ishmael was the father of the Arabs*)
3. Moab Palestinians and Central Jordanians
4. Hagarenes Egyptians (*Hagar was an Egyptian Matriarch*)
5. Gebal Hezbollah and Northern Lebanese
6. Ammon Palestinians and Northern Jordanians
7. Amalek Arabs of the Sinai Area
8. Philistia Hamas of the Gaza Strip
9. Tyre Hezbollah and Southern Lebanese
10. Assyria Syrians and Northern Iraqi's

Ezekiel War – The Invaders that will come against Israel (Ezekiel 38:1-6):

1. Magog The Southern Steppes of Russia
2. Rosh Russia
3. Meshech and Tubal Turkey (Turkmenistan)
4. Persia Iran
5. Ethiopia Sudan and Somalia
6. Libya Libya (may include Algeria, Morocco, and Tunisia)
7. Gomer North-Central Turkey
8. Togarmah Eastern Turkey

The Great Tribulation

Following the Rapture, there will be a seven-year period of God's wrath upon the Earth, known as the "Time of Jacob's Trouble" (Jeremiah 30:7; Ezekiel 38-39), Daniel's "Seventieth Week" (Daniel 9:24-27), and the "Great Tribulation" (Matthew 24:21). The details of the Great Tribulation are found in the book of Revelation Chapters 6-19. Jesus also gives a description in Matthew 24. Among some of the events that will happen at this time are:

1. Wars and rumors of wars (Matthew 24:6; Revelation 6:4)
2. Famines (Matthew 24:7; Revelation 6:5-6)
3. Pestilences, that is, epidemic diseases that are highly contagious, infectious, virulent and devastating (Matthew 24:7; Revelation 16:2)
4. Earthquakes (Matthew 24:7; Revelation 16:12)
5. False Prophets (Matthew 24:11; Revelation 13:11-15; Revelation 16:13-14)
6. Rise of Antichrist (Daniel 9:27; Matthew 24:15; 2 Thessalonians 2:1-4; Revelation 13:1-8)
7. Mark of the Beast (Revelation 13:16-18; Revelation 14:9-11)
8. Martyrs (Matthew 24:9; Revelation 6:9; Revelation 13:15)

The Second Coming of Jesus Christ

Just as the First Coming of Christ was a literal, physical event (His birth), so will be the Second Coming (His coronation). This is not to be confused with the Rapture where Jesus will meet us in the clouds and will not actually touch down on Earth. At the return of Christ, every eye will see Him (Zechariah 12:10; Revelation 1:7). The first time Christ came, it was love (John 3:16; 1 John 4:10). The second time will be in wrath (Isaiah 63:1-6; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9). He will clean up the Earth from His enemies and make ready His kingdom. The climax of this event will be what is known as the Battle of Armageddon (Zechariah 12:8-11; Revelation 16:12-16).

The following verses further describe the Second Advent of Jesus Christ:

1. Acts 1:9-12 --- Christ will descend in like manner as the disciples saw Him ascend into heaven.
2. Zechariah 14:1-5 --- All nations will battle against Jerusalem... Christ will fight against the nations... His feet will stand upon the Mount of Olives...
3. Matthew 24:27-51 --- Immediately after the tribulation... then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory...
4. 2 Peter 3:10 --- ... the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night...
5. Revelation 6:12-17 --- For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?
6. Revelation 11:15-19 --- And the temple of God was opened in heaven, and there was seen in his temple the ark of his testament: and there were lightnings, and voices, and thunderings, and an earthquake, and great hail.
7. Revelation 14:14-20 --- ... behold a white cloud, and upon the cloud one sat like unto the Son of man, having on his head a golden crown, and in his hand a sharp sickle.
8. Revelation 19:11-21 --- ... And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war.

As a result of Christ's return, the Beast and the False Prophet (two thirds of the Satanic trinity) will be cast into the Lake of Fire (Revelation 19:20). Satan (the remaining one third of his trinity) will be chained up and cast into the Bottomless Pit for 1,000 years (Revelation 20:1-3). This will allow Jesus Christ to establish His kingdom on Earth without interference.

The Millennial Reign of Christ

After the Great Tribulation, Jesus will set up His 1,000 year kingdom on Earth, known as the Millennium, where He will rule with a rod of iron (Revelation 12:5; Revelation 19:15). He also will allow His followers from the Church Age and Great Tribulation to reign with Him (2 Timothy 2:12; Revelation 5:9-10; Revelation 20:4-6). This millennial reign is also referred to in Scripture as the Kingdom of Heaven (Matthew 5:3). It will be a time of peace and perfection.

A description of this kingdom is given in the following passages:

1. Isaiah 2:1-4 - ... and he (Christ) shall judge among the nations ...
2. Isaiah 11:1-9 - ... The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb ... the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD ...
3. Isaiah 33:20-22 - ... the LORD is our judge, the LORD is our lawgiver, the LORD is our king ...
4. Isaiah 40:9-11 - ... the Lord GOD will come with strong hand, and his arm shall rule for him ...
5. Jeremiah 23:5-8 - ... a King (Jesus Christ) shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth ...
6. Zechariah 14:8-9, 16 - ... the LORD shall be king over all the earth ... every one that is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall even go up from year to year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts ...
7. Daniel 7:22, 27 - ... And the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people of the saints of the most High, whose kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey him.
8. Luke 22:28-30 - ... I (Jesus) appoint unto you a kingdom, as my Father hath appointed unto me; That ye may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom, and sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

At the end of the 1,000 years, Satan will be loosed and will gather all those who want to rebel against Jesus Christ. He once again will be defeated, and this time will be cast into the Lake of Fire forever (Revelation 20:7-10).

The Great White Throne Judgment

The Bible tells us that there will be a resurrection of life and a resurrection of damnation (John 5:28-29). The resurrection of life will take place at the Rapture and is for the saved. The resurrection of damnation is for the unsaved and will take place at the Great White Throne. The lost will be taken out of Hell, brought before God and cast into the Lake of Fire. It is at this judgment they will be told why they must suffer torment, that is, their rejection of Jesus Christ as Savior (Revelation 20:11-15). This judgment will not be for Christians. Each individual will be judged according to their works and given a different degree of punishment in the Lake of Fire (Matthew 10:14-15; Matthew 11:20-24).

New Heaven, New Earth, New Jerusalem, Eternity

Once the Great White Throne Judgment is complete, Eternity will begin with God and His servants. Revelation 21 and 22:1-5 give us a brief description of what it will be like, including streets of gold, gates of pearl, and the throne of God.

There are three specific places mentioned in Eternity. The following is a possibility of who will abide where:

1. New Heaven: Gentiles who came through the Great Tribulation and Millennium
2. New Earth: Jews
3. New Jerusalem: Bride of Christ / Church-Age Saints

Many people worry about the End Times and the Great Tribulation, but Christians do not need to worry if they remember the promises that Jesus gave His followers:

“Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto Myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.” (John 14:1-3)

“But as it is written, eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love Him. But God hath revealed them unto us by His Spirit...” (1 Corinthians 2:8-10)

Questions:

1. What event will begin the End Times? _____
2. What will be Christ’s attitude when He returns? _____
3. Who will be judged at the Great White Throne? _____

Additional Scripture Verses:

1 Corinthians 15:52; 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18; Revelation 20:6.

Appendix A. Answers

1. Bible Infallibility

Answers:

1. According to *John 17:17*, God's Word is the only source of TRUTH.
2. According to *2 Timothy 3:16*, all scripture is given by INSPIRATION of God.
3. According to *2 Samuel 23:2; Isaiah 51:15-16; Jeremiah 1:9; Ezekiel 1:3; Hosea 1:1; Haggai 1:1-2; Zechariah 1:1*, Who is responsible for providing the words of the Bible?

THE LORD

4. According to *Matthew 24:35*, how long will God preserve His Word for man's benefit?

HEAVEN AND EARTH SHALL PASS AWAY BEFORE GOD'S WORD SHALL BE LOST

2. Salvation

Answers:

1. How does a person enter God's family? (See *John 1:12* and *John 3:3*)

BY RECEIVING JESUS AS THEIR SAVIOR, THAT IS, BY BEING "BORN AGAIN" IN THE SPIRIT

2. What does God promise in *John 3:36*, *John 6:47*, and *1 John 5:12*? EVERLASTING LIFE
3. When a Christian chooses to continue in a particular sin, what can he expect from God? (See *Hebrews 12:5-11*.)

DISCIPLINING

4. According to *1 John 1:9*, when we confess our sins to God, then He will FORGIVE us and CLEANSE us from all unrighteousness.

3. Assurance of Salvation

Answers:

1. What is the promise we can claim from *John 6:37*?

WHOEVER COMES TO JESUS, GOD WILL NOT CAST OUT UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES

2. From *John 10:27-29*, why is it that no one can cause you to lose your salvation?

BECAUSE GOD YOUR FATHER IS GREATER THAN ALL MEN, THEREFORE NO MAN IS ABLE TO PLUCK YOU OUT OF HIS HAND

3. We cannot do anything ourselves that would cause us to lose our salvation. What can we learn from *Ephesians 2:8-9* to support this?

SALVATION IS BY GRACE THROUGH FAITH, AND NOT BY WORKS. IT IS A GIFT FROM GOD. NO MAN CAN LOSE SALVATION ON HIS OWN BECAUSE NO MAN EARNED HIS SALVATION.

4. What does *1 John 3:20* teach us concerning the promise of eternal life?

SALVATION IS NOT BASED ON FEELING, BUT ON FACT. GOD KNOWS IF YOU ARE SAVED, EVEN IF YOU DON'T FEEL LIKE YOU ARE.

4. Believer's Baptism

Answers:

1. Give the key reason why God instructs the Christian to be baptized.

BAPTISM IS THE FIRST ACT OF OBEDIENCE IN SERVICE TO THE LORD.

2. What are the purposes for baptism found in *Romans 6:3-4*?

(1) **IT PICTURES THE DEATH, BURIAL, AND RESURRECTION OF JESUS.**

(2) **IT IS A PUBLIC TESTIMONY OF THE NEW CONVERT'S IDENTIFICATION WITH JESUS THROUGH THE DEATH, BURIAL, AND RESURRECTION, WHICH IS HOW THE PERSON WAS SAVED.**

3. According to *Acts 8:36-37* and *Romans 10:9-10*, the Ethiopian eunuch had to fulfill two requirements before he could be baptized. What were the two requirements?

(3) **BELIEVE WITH ALL YOUR HEART THAT JESUS CHRIST IS THE SON OF GOD**

(4) **CONFESS THAT JESUS CHRIST IS THE SON OF GOD**

4. Is Baptism essential for salvation? NO. Explain your answer using *Ephesians 2:8-9*.

MAN IS SAVED BY GRACE THROUGH FAITH WITHOUT WORKS, INCLUDING BAPTISM.

5. Prayer

Answers:

1. List several necessary ingredients of prayer:

(1) WORSHIP, ADORATION, AND PRAISE

(2) CONFESSION

(3) RESTITUTION

(4) THANKSGIVING

(5) FORGIVENESS

(6) UNITY

(7) FAITH

(8) PETITION

(9) SUBMISSION

(10) WITHOUT VAIN REPETITIONS

2. Where are we to pray?

(1) EVERYWHERE

(2) IN A PRIVATE PLACE

(3) IN CHURCH

3. When are we to pray? ALWAYS

4. What prayer of Abraham did God NOT answer (see *Genesis 18:20-33*)?

TO SPARE THE CITY OF SODOM

5. What city did God spare from destruction because they fasted and prayed (see *Jonah 3:1-10*)?

NINEVEH

6. Overcoming Temptation and Sin

Answers:

1. Give three definitions of sin.
 - (1) **SIN IS BREAKING GOD'S LAW.**
 - (2) **SIN IS ANY UNRIGHTEOUSNESS.**
 - (3) **SIN IS ANYTHING DONE APART FROM FAITH.**
2. All sin originates from one of three categories. List the three that are found in *1 John 2:16*.
 - (1) **LUST OF THE FLESH** (2) **LUST OF THE EYES** (3) **PRIDE OF LIFE**
3. Why must we accept responsibility for our sin? (See Proverbs 28:13)
WE WILL NEVER CORRECT ANYTHING UNTIL WE FACE UP TO OUR RESPONSIBILITY.

7. The Will of God

Answers:

1. God has a direct and clearly revealed will for man. From *1 Timothy 2:4*, what is one thing that God specifically wills for us:
THAT ALL MEN BE SAVED.
2. List some ways that suffering comes to us.
 - (1) **THROUGH OUR OWN SINS AND MISTAKES.**
 - (2) **THROUGH THE SINS AND MISTAKES OF OTHERS.**
 - (3) **THROUGH TEMPTATIONS.**
 - (4) **THROUGH GOD'S PROVIDENTIAL DEALINGS WITH MAN.**
3. In general principle, what three things should be true for us to know that we are in God's will?
 - (1) **THE WORD OF GOD DIRECTS.**
 - (2) **OUR INNER CONVICTION OR CONSCIENCE AGREES.**
 - (3) **THE CIRCUMSTANCES PERMIT.**
4. Briefly explain the difference between the will of God and the plan of God.
THE WILL OF GOD IS THE SAME FOR EVERY PERSON, BUT HIS PLAN FOR EACH INDIVIDUAL DIFFERS. GOD WILL SHOW YOU WHAT HE WANTS YOU TO DO.

8. The Holy Spirit

Answers:

1. At what time does the Holy Spirit come into the believer's life?
THE MOMENT HE OR SHE RECEIVES JESUS AS THEIR PERSONAL SAVIOR.
2. Why does the Holy Spirit convict the unsaved of sin?
IT IS HIS FUNCTION TO BRING UNSAVED PEOPLE TO SALVATION.
3. What can happen if someone ignores conviction by the Holy Spirit?
IT CAN LEAD TO A SEARED CONSCIENCE AND HARDENED HEART.
4. What is the result of the Holy Spirit in your life?
THE FRUIT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.
5. In order for Christians to be "filled with the Spirit," in what they must invest time learning & living?
WORD OF GOD.

9. The Local Church

Answers:

1. List some things that a church is not.
IT IS NOT A BUILDING AND IT IS NOT A DENOMINATIONAL GROUP OF CONGREGATIONS.
2. Define the following terms:
 - (1) Local church --- **IS A BODY OF MEN AND WOMEN WHO HAVE BEEN SAVED AND CALLED BY GOD TO SERVE IN A SPECIFIC AREA OR MINISTRY.**
 - (2) "The Church" --- **IS THE BODY OF CHRIST, THE SAVED MULTITUDES FROM EVERY NATION.**
3. What is the most important priority of a local church?
TO EDIFY (BUILD UP, TEACH, AND STRENGTHEN) THE SAINTS (BELIEVERS).
4. When a Christian is looking for a local church in which to serve, what are some qualities for which he or she should be checking?
 - (1) **THEY BELIEVE AND TEACH THE BIBLE AS THE WORD OF GOD AND INFALLIBLE GUIDE FOR LIFE.**
 - (2) **THE MEMBERSHIP IS ENCOURAGED TO READ AND STUDY THE BIBLE.**
 - (3) **THERE IS EVIDENCE OF SOUL WINNING.**
 - (4) **THEY MINISTER TO THE NEEDS OF PEOPLE.**
 - (5) **THEY SEND OUT AND SUPPORT MISSIONARIES.**

10. Giving to the Lord

Answers:

1. What are the four primary reasons for giving?

- (1) **TO SUPPORT MISSIONS**
- (2) **TO SUPPORT THOSE WITHIN THE CHURCH BODY WHO ARE UNABLE TO SUPPORT THEMSELVES**
- (3) **TO SUPPORT THE LEADERS OF THE LOCAL CHURCH**
- (4) **TO SUPPORT THE OPERATIONS OF THE LOCAL CHURCH**

2. What can we learn about man and money from *1 Timothy 6:10*?

THE LOVE OF MONEY IS THE ROOT OF ALL EVIL

3. What attitude should we have concerning wealth that we can emulate from *Job 1:21-22*?

JOB SAID, "THE LORD GAVE, AND THE LORD HATH TAKEN AWAY; BLESSED BE THE NAME OF THE LORD." JOB WORSHIPED AND HONORED GOD MORE THAN MONEY.

11. Liberty in Christ

Answers:

1. As Christians, are we free to do whatever we please? Briefly explain.

NO - THE LIBERTY THAT BELIEVERS HAVE IN JESUS CHRIST GIVES THEM FREEDOM TO DO WHAT IS RIGHT, WITHOUT THE CONSTRAINTS OF ANY LAWS, AS OPPOSED TO GIVING THEM LICENSE TO SIN OR DO WHATEVER THEY WANT. BELIEVERS SHOULD WANT TO PLEASE GOD IN EVERYTHING THEY DO.

2. The Word of God draws boundaries on our freedom. Explain those boundaries from each of the following verses:

(1) Galatians 5:13 --- **DO NOT USE LIBERTY AS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR THE FLESH, BUT THROUGH LOVE SERVE ONE ANOTHER.**

(2) Romans 6:18 --- **CHRISTIANS HAVE BEEN SET FREE FROM SIN AND HAVE BECOME SLAVES TO RIGHTEOUSNESS, THAT IS, CHRISTIANS ARE TO FOLLOW THE PATH OF RIGHTEOUSNESS.**

(3) 1 Peter 2:16 --- **CHRISTIANS ARE TO LIVE AS FREE MEN, BUT NOT USE THEIR FREEDOM AS A COVER-UP FOR EVIL. THEY ARE TO LIVE AS SERVANTS OF GOD.**

3. When we choose to sin, what are the consequences of our choice?

- (1) **WE WILL NOT BEAR FRUIT.**
- (2) **GOD WILL CHASTEN AND DISCIPLINE US.**
- (3) **GOD WILL ALLOW US TO REAP WHAT WE HAVE SOWN.**

12. Employers and Employees

Answers:

1. The primary purpose of our job is to support our ministries. List the three ministries we need to support.

- (1) OUR FAMILY
- (2) OUR CHURCH FAMILY
- (3) TO REACH THE LOST

2. What are some of the attitudes we should have toward our company and/or leader?

- (1) SERVE AS IF JESUS WERE OUR EMPLOYER.
- (2) RESPECT THE AUTHORITY OF THEIR POSITION. SUBMIT TO THEIR LEADERSHIP.
- (3) RESPECT THE COMPANY'S PROPERTY.
- (4) RESPECT THE COMPANY'S TIME.
- (5) DO OUR BEST TO HELP THE COMPANY SUCCEED.
- (6) MIND OUR OWN BUSINESS AND DON'T LET SOMEONE ELSE'S LAZINESS AFFECT US.

3. When looking for a new job, what are some factors to take into consideration?

- (1) TAKE THE MATTER TO GOD IN PRAYER.
- (2) ASK OURSELVES IF THE NEW JOB WILL DESTROY WHAT GOD IS TRYING TO BUILD IN OUR LIFE.
- (3) WE NEED TO KNOW IF THERE IS A CHURCH THERE THAT CAN CONTINUE TO PROVIDE FOR OUR SPIRITUAL NEEDS.
- (4) WE NEED TO DISCERN IF WE ARE RUNNING AWAY FROM SOMETHING THAT WE SHOULD BE FACING AND TRYING TO CORRECT.

13. Christians in the World

Answers:

1. List the sources of opposition that Christians will face.

THOSE CLOSEST TO US, UNSAVED PEOPLE, SOCIETY, AND SATAN.

2. How should a Christian view the unsaved world? Give three viewpoints.

(1) **HE IS A PILGRIM IN A STRANGE LAND.**

(2) **HIS REAL HOME IS IN HEAVEN.**

(3) **THIS WORLD IS A MISSION FIELD TO REACH THE LOST FOR CHRIST.**

3. Many “Christian” groups today are trying to force morality on people through the passing of laws. Why won’t this process work?

MAN IS BY NATURE FALLEN AND SINFUL. MAN MUST BE CHANGED INDIVIDUALLY, FROM THE INSIDE OUT. MAN MUST BE CHANGED THROUGH A PERSONAL SAVING KNOWLEDGE OF JESUS CHRIST.

14. The Judgment Seat of Christ

Answers:

1. What group of people will be judged at the Judgment Seat of Christ. **CHRISTIAN BELIEVERS**

2. For what will we be judged at the Judgment Seat of Christ.

FOR OUR WORK, OUR MOTIVE, AND THE QUALITY AS OPPOSED TO THE QUANTITY.

15. The Lord’s Supper

Answers:

1. When we partake of the Lord’s Supper, are we actually eating Jesus’ body and drinking His blood? Explain.

NO, JESUS WAS NOT SPEAKING LITERALLY. WE SPIRITUALLY PARTAKE OF HIS LIFE & DEATH.

2. List three ways by which we should approach the Lord’s Supper.

(1) WITH FEAR AND TREMBLING, (2) WITH DESIRE, (3) WITH A CLEAN HEART.

16. Evangelism and Missions

Answers:

1. What tool does God use to do His work of evangelism? **CHRISTIANS**
2. What three things might a Christian be compared to in his effort to evangelize the world?

(1) FARMERS THAT MUST SOW THE SEED (SPREAD THE GOSPEL).

(2) PREACHERS THAT MUST PROCLAIM THE WORD OF GOD.

(3) AMBASSADORS THAT MUST RECONCILE MAN TO GOD,

3. How far are we to take the Gospel? **TO ALL THE WORLD**

4. In what ways can we be involved and committed to missions?

(1) OUR TIME.

(2) OUR TALENTS (ABILITIES).

(3) OUR TREASURES (MONEY).

(4) OUR AVAILABILITY.

17. Discipleship

Answers:

1. What are the five primary ministerial goals of the local church?

(1) TO EVANGELIZE THE WORLD.

(2) TO ESTABLISH EDIFYING CHURCHES.

(3) TO BUILD INDIVIDUAL DISCIPLES.

(4) TO BRING DISCIPLES AND THEIR CHURCHES TO CHRIST-LIKENESS.

(5) TO BRING GLORY TO GOD.

2. Briefly describe what biblical discipleship is NOT.

IT IS NOT AN ACTIVITY, A PROGRAM, A SERIES OF LESSONS, EDUCATION ONLY, TEACHING ONLY, A HANDBOOK, OR A RAPID FORMULA.

3. List the seven-fold goal of biblical discipleship.

(1) LOYALTY AND OBEDIENCE TO CHRIST

(2) SUBMISSION AND SELFLESSNESS

(3) FOCUS AND TENACITY

(4) PRIORITIES AND PERSPECTIVE

(5) READING, STUDYING AND MEDITATION

(6) CHARITY

(7) FRUIT BEARING

18. Bible Prophecy

Answers:

1. What event will begin the End Times? **THE RAPTURE.**

2. What will be Christ's attitude when He returns? **WRATH.**

3. Who will be judged at the Great White Throne? **THE UNSAVED PEOPLE.**

Appendix B. Bible Numbers (Quick Reference Guide)

- 1 - Unity
- 2 - Union, Division, Witnessing
- 3 - Resurrection, Divine Completeness and Perfection
- 4 - Creation, World
- 5 - Grace (God's Goodness)
- 6 - Weakness of Man, Evils of Satan, Manifestation of Sin
- 7 - Completeness, Spiritual Perfection
- 8 - New Birth, New Creation, New Beginning
- 9 - Fruit of the Spirit, Divine Completeness from the Lord
- 10 - Testimony, Law and Responsibility
- 11 - Judgment and Disorder
- 12 - Governmental Perfection
- 13 - Depravity and Rebellion
- 14 - Deliverance or Salvation
- 15 - Rest
- 16 - Love
- 17 - Victory
- 18 - Bondage
- 19 - Faith
- 20 - Redemption
- 21 - Exceeding Sinfulness of Sin
- 22 - Light
- 23 - Death
- 24 - The Priesthood
- 25 - The Forgiveness of Sins
- 26 - The Gospel of Christ
- 27 - Preaching the Gospel
- 28 - Eternal Life
- 29 - Departure
- 30 - The Blood of Christ, Dedications
- 31 - Offspring
- 32 - Covenant
- 33 - Promise
- 34 - Naming of a Son
- 35 - Hope
- 36 - Enemy
- 37 - The Word of God
- 38 - Slavery
- 39 - Disease
- 40 - Trials, Probation, Testings
- 42 - Israel's Oppression, Lord's Advent
- 45 - Preservation
- 50 - Holy Spirit
- 60 - Pride
- 66 - Idol Worship
- 70 - Universality, Israel and Her Restoration
- 100 - God's Election of Grace, Children of Promise
- 119 - The Resurrection Day, Lord's Day
- 120 - Divine Period of Probation
- 144 - The Spirit Guided Life
- 153 - Fruit Bearing [153=17(victory)x9(fruit)]
- 200 - Insufficiency
- 600 - Warfare
- 666 - The Number of the Beast Anti-Christ
- 888 - The First Resurrection Saints
- 1000 - Divine Completeness and The Glory of God

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