

# THE LORDSHIP OF CHRIST

## KINGDOM LIVING

### Lesson I

### Notes

**Key Verses:** *“But what does it say, ‘The word is near you even in your mouth and in your heart’ (that is, the word of faith which we preach): that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes to righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made to salvation.”*

(Romans 10:8-10)

**Purpose:** The purpose of this lesson is for you to understand God’s sovereign election of grace in your life, so that you may surrender to the full Lordship of Jesus Christ.

### INTRODUCTION

The Lordship of Jesus Christ means that Jesus rules supreme over every area of one’s life. Someone or something will control your life. You are either submitted to the Lordship of Christ to learn and do His will, or you are submitted to the devil and his demon forces to be controlled by your own selfish desires: the pursuit of money, pleasure, popularity, etc. Jesus demands total control of your life. The issue of Lordship must be settled in your heart and mind in order for you to be able to advance any further in the Kingdom of God.

#### 1. What does the Lordship of Christ mean to you?

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### I. GOD’S SOVEREIGN ELECTION

It is important to understand God’s sovereign election of grace in your life. You are saved because God is omniscient (all knowing) and omnipotent (all powerful), and He chose you. We did not choose God but *“...He chose us in Him (Christ) before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love”* (Ephesians 1:4). The issue of who chose whom is important because it deals with who is in control. God does not share His sovereignty (His control) with man or any other created being. Rather, He *“works all things according to the counsel of His will, that we who first trusted in Christ should be to the praise of His glory”* (Ephesians 1:11-12).

**2. Why is the issue of who chose whom important?**

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**A. The Fall of Man**

**STOP!** Before you go any further, read the account of creation and the fall of mankind recorded in Genesis chapters 1 through 3.

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth, and all that dwell therein. All that God created, including mankind, was declared to be good (Genesis 1:31). God breathed the breath of life into man, and man became a living being. Adam and Eve were made in the image of God having a spirit, soul and body. They experienced spiritual communion with the Lord and were given freedom to eat of the tree of life. They were given a soul: the mind (to think), the will (to choose), the emotions (to feel). They were also given a physical life, their bodies. Though Adam and Eve had no sin in them, they had need for character development. This need is seen in Genesis 3 when the serpent, who was the devil, deceived them and they began to doubt God’s Word.

When Adam and Eve disobeyed God and ate of the tree of knowledge of good and evil, they experienced immediate spiritual death. The privilege of eating from the tree of life was taken from them. The result was that they were afraid of God (His wrath, Ephesians 2:3), and they hid from God. They experienced shame of their nakedness before God, and for the first time played the blame game (Genesis 3:7-13). Not only did Adam and Eve die spiritually, they experienced death in the way they thought (mind), chose (will) and felt (emotions). Finally, they died physically.

Adam and Eve’s sin was passed on to all mankind, and thus all men have the same character and nature of Adam and Eve. **All who are not in Christ are spiritually dead.**

*“...the imagination of man’s heart is evil from his youth...”* (Genesis 8:21)

*“Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned. “...Death reigned, even over those who had not sinned according to the likeness of the transgression of Adam...”* (Romans 5:12-14)

**3. In your own words, describe how sin and death came into the world.**

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**4. Does this help you to understand why there is evil in the world today? How?**

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**5. In Genesis 3:14-19, we find some consequences that entered the world because of sin. Briefly describe these consequences:**

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*“And I shall put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head and you shall bruise His heel.” (Genesis 3:15)*

**6. The serpent represents the devil, while the Seed of the woman is Christ. What promise is made about Jesus and the devil?**

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Jesus came and experienced the bruising of His heel (death on the cross), but He bruised the serpent’s head once and for all.

*“Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it (the cross).” (Colossians 2:15)*

*“Inasmuch, then, as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself (Jesus) likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil and release those who through the fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.” (Hebrews 2:14-15)*

*“He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.” (I John 3:8)*

**7. List at least two things Jesus accomplished when He came.**

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**B. The Gift of Spiritual Life**

God’s solution to the first Adam’s sin and death is found in the last Adam, Jesus Christ. Jesus said in John 10:10, *“I have come that they may have life and that they may have it more abundantly.”*

The New Testament describes different kinds of life using different Greek words. “Psyche” (consider “psychology”) is most often used to describe the natural life or the soul. However, the “Zoe” describes the divine nature, or the God kind of life. It is this kind of life that all believers in Christ must learn to walk in if they are to be fruitful in their relationship with God. The Bible often describes this kind of life as “eternal life” or “everlasting life.” All people possess a physical life and a soul (or self). However, only those whom God has chosen as His elect in the earth receive the Zoe, the divine nature, or the God kind of life.

*“Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.” (John 3:3)*

*“Nor is He worshipped with men’s hands, as though He needed anything, since He gives to all life, breath and all things. And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their preappointed times and the boundaries of their habitation.” (Acts 17:25-26)*

**8. What must happen before one can ever “see the kingdom of God” ?**

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**9. In your own words, briefly describe the difference between the different kinds of life described in the New Testament.**

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10. Read Ephesians 2:1-5 and describe the status of fallen man.

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11. Ephesians 2:1-5 describes the spiritual death of man, or the lack of Zoe (the God kind of life). When you were dead in trespasses and sins, what did God do for you?

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**C. The Gift of Faith**

Faith is translated from the Greek word “pistis.” It is defined as conviction, confidence, trust, belief, reliance, trustworthiness and persuasion. Fallen man does not have the ability to create faith. It is a gift from God.

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

12. We have been saved by \_\_\_\_\_ through \_\_\_\_\_. Faith is described as a gift from \_\_\_\_\_.

Faith is described in Hebrews as *“the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen”* (Hebrews 11:1). **God puts faith in our hearts as we hear the Word of God and act on it.**

*“So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God.”* (Romans 10:17)

**D. Responders to God’s Call**

Because of the total fallen nature of man and his spiritual death, man does not go looking for God. God was never lost, man was. Remember that Adam and Eve hid from God, because they were afraid of His wrath. However, God in His mercy came looking for them and made a covenant with them that a Savior would come (Genesis 3:14-15). As we have already discussed, this is the first recorded promise of Christ.

Since all men are by nature children of God’s wrath (Ephesians 2:3), all hide from God. However, God in His mercy still comes calling for man. **Men and women are responders to His call!**

Romans 10:8-10 states, *“But what does it say? ‘The word is near you, even in your mouth and in your heart’ (that is, the word of faith which we preach): that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes to righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made to salvation.”*

13. The word of faith is near you, in your \_\_\_\_\_ and in your - \_\_\_\_\_ . Since we know that faith is a gift of God, how do you think the word of faith, or the ability to believe, got in your mouth and heart?

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14. Paul states our response to God’s faith being placed in our heart and mouth like this: “For with the heart one \_\_\_\_\_, and with the mouth \_\_\_\_\_.

**E. Assurance of Salvation and Eternal Life**

Read: I John 5:6-13

15. List the three who bear witness in heaven (found in vs. 7).

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16. List the three who bear witness on the earth (found in vs. 8).

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17. According to vs. 10, he who believes in the Son of God has the witness . . .

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18. How do you know that you have eternal life?

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\_\_\_\_\_

**II. EXPERIENCING THE LORDSHIP OF CHRIST**

As a believer in Christ, it is important to know the difference between the legal side of your redemption and the vital side of your redemption. Imagine yourself growing up in a federal prison. You were placed there from birth because of the sin of your father, who broke the law. The prison walls and cells are all you have ever known. You’ve never seen the outside world. Now, someone pays the price in full for the sin of your father (and your own sin), and you are given papers of freedom. Legally you are free to go. However, the papers are of no value to you until you step out and experience life beyond the prison walls. Legally, you might say, “I can leave.” Vitally, you must step out and leave. Then you can say, “I have left.” **Experiencing the full Lordship of Christ is freedom from the bondage of self and Satan.**

Legally, God has declared you to be the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus (II Corinthians 5:21). Your sins have been forgiven because of the blood of Jesus, and you have been sanctified (set apart, made holy) (Hebrews 10:10). By the offering and sacrifice of Christ Jesus you have been made perfect forever (Hebrews 10:14). Because you are in Christ, you are a new creation; old things have passed away and all things have become new (II Corinthians 5:17). These truths impart to the believer in Christ what God has already accomplished in the work of the cross.

The vital side of your redemption is that truth which has been made real in you by the Holy Spirit. For this reason the apostle Paul prays *“that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him (Jesus), the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe...”* (Ephesians 1:17-19). **God’s truth becomes revelation in us after the Holy Spirit illumines the truth in our lives and we have lived it out.**

**19. In your own words, explain the difference between the legal side of your redemption and the vital side of your redemption.**

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**A. You Are Not Your Own**

Father God paid a tremendous price for you: His only begotten Son whom He loved.

*“Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God’s.”* (I Corinthians 6:19-20)

**20. Who owns you?**

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*“...just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.”* (Matthew 20:28)

*“Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.”* (Acts 20:28)

**21. What was the price (ransom) that God paid in full for you?**

\_\_\_\_\_

**22. Since God owns you, is there anything you can give Him that He doesn't already own? yes\_\_\_ no\_\_\_. Since the Lord owns you -- all of your time, money, ambitions, desires, plans, relationships, etc. -- what should your attitude be towards Him?**

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**B. A New Reason for Living**

We now have a new reason for living! We live to obey anything and everything our Lord Jesus asks us to do. God has a purpose and a plan for your life that He will reveal to you as you experience His total control of your life.

*“For the love of Christ compels us, because we judge thus: that if One died for all, then all died; and He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again.” (II Corinthians 5:14-15)*

**23. Since Jesus died for you, who does God expect you to live for?**

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*“For to this end Christ died and rose and lived again, that He might be Lord of both the dead and the living.” (Romans 14:9)*

**24. Jesus is Lord of whom, according to this verse?**

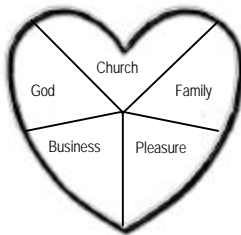
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**III. THE LORDSHIP OF CHRIST MUST BE TOTAL**

Suppose you purchased a car and paid full price for it. You shook hands with the dealer and he left to bring you your car. Instead, he brought a box with a steering wheel, a brake shoe and a tire. You would tell him, “That wasn't the deal. I bought the whole car! I paid the full price, I can demand the full product.”

In the same way, Jesus Christ has paid the full price for us. He has the right to demand the full product. Every area of our lives, not just some of the areas, must be under His control.

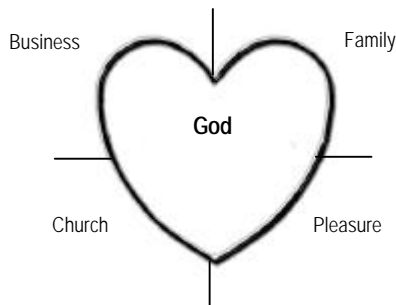
**The Divided Heart**



*“Their heart is divided; now shall they be found faulty.” (Hosea 10:2)*

In the divided heart, God is a part of the person’s life, but only a part. God is placed in competition with family, business and even church for this person’s time and affection.

**The Whole Heart**



*“Blessed are they that keep His testimonies, and that seek Him with the whole heart.” (Psalm 119:2)*

In the whole heart, every area of the person’s life is under the Lordship of Christ. His stewardship of time, money, relationships, and ambitions are all submitted fully to Jesus Christ and are under His control.

God understands our needs: physical, financial, emotional and spiritual. As we yield to His control, He has promised to supply all our needs.

*“But my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 4:19)*

*“But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.” (Matthew 6:33)*

**25. If we seek first the kingdom of God (His rule) in our lives, what percentage of the things we need has God promised to supply?**

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Remember: God is ready to take full responsibility for the life that is fully yielded to Him.

**RESPONSE TO TRUTH:**

The claims of Jesus Christ upon your life demand a response on your part. In light of the truths given in this lesson, several questions must be answered.

**1. Have you repented of your sins and bowed before Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Savior?**

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

# THE LORDSHIP OF CHRIST

## Lesson I

## Notes

If the answer is no, turn from your sins and come to Jesus Christ right now. Surrender all of your life to Him. Trust Him to cleanse you of your sins and give you eternal life. Remember the promise of God's Word: *"That if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes to righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made to salvation"* (Romans 10:9-10).

### 2. Is Jesus Christ right now Lord over every area of your life?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

If the answer is no, surrender right now those areas of your life to Him where you have resisted His Lordship. He will forgive and cleanse you. Remember this promise from God's Word: *"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness"* (I John 1:9).

### ASSIGNMENT:

Below, respond to the following two statements in your own words.

#### 1. Here's how I know that I have eternal life (re-read I John 5:11-13):

#### 2. Here's how I know that Jesus is Lord over every area of my life right now:

## THE LORDSHIP OF CHRIST

### Lesson I

### Notes

3. Ephesians 1:3-5 states that Father God “...chose us in Him (Christ) before the foundations of the world... having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will...”

Stop and write a note of thanksgiving to Father God for choosing you to be one of His children.

# WATER BAPTISM

## KINGDOM LIVING

### Lesson II

### Notes

**Key Verse:** *“Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.”* (Romans 6:4)

**Purpose:** The purpose of this lesson is for you to understand your death in Christ, and to experience the freedom that you have because of it.

### INTRODUCTION

Water baptism is one of several baptisms that you will experience as a believer in Christ. Other baptisms include: baptism into the Body of Christ, baptism in the Holy Spirit, baptism into the man of God and baptism in fire. The writer of Hebrews refers to these as the *“doctrine of baptisms”* (Hebrews 6:2). These baptisms will be discussed in later chapters.

New Testament Christians, baptizing by immersion, considered water baptism an important part of their profession of faith in Christ. In fact, baptism was the normal way in which new believers gave public confession of their faith in Christ during the time in which the New Testament was written. No Christian in the early days of the New Testament would have omitted this step of obedience. *“And He commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord...”* (Acts 10:48).

#### 1. List five baptisms that are included in the “doctrine of baptisms.”

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|----------|----------|
| a. _____ | d. _____ |
| b. _____ | e. _____ |
| c. _____ |          |

### I. WATER BAPTISM AS OBEDIENCE

Water baptism is an act of obedience for every believer in Christ who has confessed the Lordship of Christ. The Bible teaches water baptism both by example and by direct commandment. You need to experience water baptism and the reality of your death and burial with Christ.

#### A. Jesus’ Baptism in Water

*“Now when all the people were baptized, it came to pass that Jesus also was baptized; and while He prayed, the heaven was opened.”* (Luke 3:21)

#### B. Jesus and the Apostles’ Commandment for Water Baptism

*“Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for*

*the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.” (Acts 2:38)*

*“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you.” (Matthew 28:19-20a)*

NOTE: Further references include Acts 2:41, Mark 16:16, I John 5:3, Acts 8:12-13 and Acts 19:3-5.

**2. As a believer in Christ, why is it necessary for you to be baptized in water?**

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**II. THE MEANING OF WATER BAPTISM**

The Greek word from which we get baptism is “baptizo.” It literally means to dip in or under, to immerse, to sink, to drown or to bathe. When you experience water baptism, you will be completely immersed in water, signifying your death and burial with Christ. You will then be raised out of the water, signifying your resurrection with Christ. In truth, this death, burial and resurrection is what you experienced when you responded to God by your confession of the Lordship of Christ.

*“Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.” (Romans 6:4)*

**3. What does “to baptize” literally mean?**

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**A. Death and Burial of the “Old Man”**

The old man is characterized by the apostle Paul in Galatians 5:19-21: *“Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, licentiousness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outburst of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.”*

However, that old man died and was buried with Christ. It is no longer a part of who you are, and you are free from it. You no longer have to live out any part of

the old man. The apostle Paul states this truth in Romans 6:6, “*Knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with (rendered powerless, ineffective), that we should no longer be slaves of sin. Because the body of sin has no more power over you, you are now free to live and love just as Jesus of Nazareth lived and loved.*”

**4. What is meant by the “old man”?**

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**5. Describe the current status of the old man.**

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**6. How much power does the old man have over you?**

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**The only power that the old man has over you is what power you give it through the unrenewed mind.** Consider this command in Ephesians 4:22-24: “*That you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in righteousness and true holiness.*”

Again, we see a similar truth in Colossians 3:8-10, “*But now you must put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth. Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him.*”

**7. How do you think you can “put off” the old man and “put on” the new man?**

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**B. Freedom from Six Deadly Emotions**

You died and are free from six main deadly emotions. These emotions are buried with Christ and have no power over you!

**a) Anxiety**

Anxiety reveals a lack of trust in God. Submit and commit your problems to Him.

*“Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God.”* (Philippians 4:6)

*“Casting all of your care (anxiety) upon Him, for He cares for you.”* (I Peter 5:7)

**b) Fear**

*“For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, ‘Abba, Father’.”* (Romans 8:15)

*“For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.”* (II Timothy 1:7)

*“I sought the Lord, and He heard me, and delivered me from all my fears.”* (Psalm 34:4)

*“Come, you children, listen to me; I will teach you the fear of the Lord.”* (Psalm 34:11)

*“There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love.”* (I John 4:18)

Unhealthy fear is a result of the fall of Adam and Eve. After they sinned, they had an unhealthy fear of God. This unhealthy fear often shows itself in one-another relationships. You died to an unhealthy fear of God and man and were made alive to a healthy, reverent fear of God.

**Special Note:** Extreme and uncontrollable anger usually has its root in deep-seated fear or resentment. The scripture gives this command to the believer in Christ: *“Be angry, and do not sin”* (Ephesians 4:26). Paul is speaking of a righteous anger that God gives to His children to confront sin. As you experience your freedom from fear and resentment, you will experience freedom from uncontrollable anger, so that you may have God’s righteous anger against sin.

**c) Inferiority**

God sees us as His own righteousness in our union with Christ. To view ourselves as less than what God says about us in His Word is sin. Feelings of inferiority hinder the work of the Holy Spirit in your life.

*“For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.” (II Corinthians 5:21)*

*“...as He is, so are we in this world.” (I John 4:17b)*

*“...by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.” (II Peter 1:4)*

Do not think too lowly of yourself, nor too highly of yourself. Think righteously of yourself (Romans 12:3).

**d) Guilt**

Our co-crucifixion with Christ frees us from condemnation. The blood of Jesus perpetually cleanses us if and when we fail.

*“There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.” (Romans 8:1)*

*“But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.” (I John 1:7)*

**e) Resentment**

God has sovereignly saved you by His grace and given you His divine nature. Now we are able to forgive those who hurt us or sin against us. We must develop a forgiving attitude. Holding unforgiveness or resentment grieves the Holy Spirit.

*“And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.” (Matthew 6:12)*

*“For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.” (Matthew 6:14-15)*

*“Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice.” (Ephesians 4:30-31)*

**f) Depression**

Depression has its root in the old man. Because of the fall of Adam and Eve, the old man is bent toward depression. For this reason, the world has come up with many pseudo-remedies for depression, and science has spent millions to battle it in people's lives. However, the answer is found in Christ.

# WATER BAPTISM

## Lesson II

*“Anxiety in the heart of man causes depression, but a good word makes it glad.”*  
(Proverbs 12:25)

Self-pity, resentment and unconfessed sin will also cause depression.

*“Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Blessed is the man to whom the Lord does not impute iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no guile. When I kept silent, my bones grew old through my groaning all the day long. For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me.”* (Psalm 32:1-4)

*“The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because the Lord has anointed Me to preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound. To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn in. To console those who mourn in Zion, to give them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they may be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that He may be glorified.”* (Isaiah 61:1-3)

**8. List six main negative emotions that you are free from because you died and were buried with Christ.**

- |          |          |
|----------|----------|
| a) _____ | d) _____ |
| b) _____ | e) _____ |
| c) _____ | f) _____ |

You are now free to reign in life.

*“For if by the one man’s offense death reigned through the one, much more those who receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.”* (Romans 5:17)

### III. THE PURPOSE OF WATER BAPTISM

The apostle Paul states his struggle with the old man like this: *“For what I am doing, I do not understand. For what I will to do, that I do not practice; but what I hate, that I do.”* (Romans 7:15). However, this is not an excuse to live under the power of the old man. The old man has been rendered powerless. Paul is describing his life before he understood that the old man died and was buried with Christ.

#### **STOP!**

**Read Romans 6:1-23**

# WATER BAPTISM

## Lesson II

## Notes

There is a difference between the sin nature and acts of sin that a person commits. The sin nature is the power that causes all people to commit sins. This sin nature was inherited from Adam (Romans 5:12). Man cannot stop sinning until the sin nature is dealt with. This passage describes the death and burial of your sin nature, or the old man.

**9. In your own words, describe the difference between the sin nature and sins that you commit.**

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In Romans 6:1-23 it becomes clear that God does not intend for His children to continue in sin. Water baptism signifies your separation from the old man, the sin nature. Water baptism is a time when God can make these truths real in your experience through the power of the Holy Spirit.

**10. Why is water baptism necessary preparation for believer's life on earth?**

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According to Romans 6:1-23, there are three steps in the transformation from a life dominated by sin to a life of "righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit." (Romans 14:17): **KNOW, RECKON, YIELD.**

**A. Know that your old man has been crucified with Christ and buried in baptism.**

*"Knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin." (Romans 6:6)*

**B. Reckon ~~3/4~~or count on the fact—that because the old man has been buried, it will never rule over you again. You do not have to sin.**

*Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Romans 6:11)*

You can reckon yourself to be dead and buried to sin by thinking about this truth and speaking this truth to God, to yourself and to others around you.

**11. How can you reckon yourself to be dead and buried to sin?**

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**C. Yield—or present—yourself to God, not to sin and unrighteousness. Because the old man (the power of sin) is dead and buried with Christ, you have the ability to yield yourself (all of your spirit, soul and body) totally to the Lord.**

*“And do not present (yield) your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present (yield) yourselves to God as being alive from the dead and your members as instruments of righteousness to God.” (Romans 6:13)*

**12. List three steps found in Romans 6 which enable the believer in Christ to live free from sin in righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.**

- a) \_\_\_\_\_
- b) \_\_\_\_\_
- c) \_\_\_\_\_

**RESPONSE TO TRUTH:**

**1. Do you believe that water baptism is an essential part of a successful Christian life?**

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

**2. Since you have responded to God’s call by faith and confession of the Lordship of Christ, have you been baptized in water?**

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

**ASSIGNMENT:**

**1. Re-read Romans 6:1-23. Describe in your own words the meaning of water baptism.**

**2. Read this confession out loud to the Lord and to yourself, then to someone else.**

“I thank you Father God that I have been crucified with Christ, and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life that I now live in the flesh, I live by the faith of the Son of God who loved me and gave Himself for me.”

“I thank you Father God that I have been buried with Christ. The old man is buried and sealed in the grave, and has no more power over me. Because my old man is buried with Christ, I am free from the sin of anxiety, from the sin of fear, from the sin of inferiority, from the sin of resentment, from the sin of depression, and I am free from guilt. I am free from sin to live and love like Jesus of Nazareth lived and loved.”

**3. List characteristics or attributes of your old man that are dead and buried with Christ. Confess to the Lord and to yourself that you are free from these faults and no longer under their power. They are dead and buried with Christ.**

# THE NEW NATURE

## KINGDOM LIVING

### Lesson III

### Notes

**Key Verse:** *“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.”* (II Corinthians 5:17)

**Purpose:** The purpose of this lesson is to help you understand your new nature in Christ as it is described by the Word of God.

### INTRODUCTION

It is important for every believer in Christ to understand by spiritual revelation that she/he is a new creation in Christ. In the mind of God, you no longer have a fallen nature to hinder you in your walk with God. You have one new nature—the nature of Christ.

It is because of your new nature that you are now able to fulfill all of the claims of Christ upon your life. You have the ability (power) to obey Him within you. It is now “Christ in you, the hope of glory” (Colossians 1:27).

The apostle Paul describes this truth in Galatians 2:20 saying, *“I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.”*

#### 1. What does it mean to be crucified with Christ?

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#### 2. Who lives in you now to empower and enable you?

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#### 3. In the mind of God you no longer have a fallen nature to hinder you in your walk with God.

True \_\_\_\_\_ False \_\_\_\_\_

### I. RENEWING THE MIND

*“And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.”* (Romans 12:2)

As believers in Christ, we are commanded to be transformed by the renewing of our minds. We can renew our minds by meditating on (thinking about, repeating) the Word of God.

As you read and meditate on the Word of God, take special notice of truths that describe who you are in Christ. As you renew your mind to these truths you will be transformed to be like Jesus in the way you think, feel, speak, etc.

**4. According to Romans 12:2, how will you be transformed into the image of Christ?**

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**A. The Transformation Process**

Most of us have watched or heard about the transforming process (metamorphosis) a caterpillar goes through to become a butterfly. In Romans 12:2 the word “transformed” is from the Greek word *metamorphoo*. It literally means “to change into another form.” The change may be an external change, a change of state or an inner change.

The same word is used to describe the “transfiguration” of Jesus in Matthew chapter 17.

**5. Read Matthew 17:1-8. Describe Jesus’ transfiguration before His disciples.**

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Jesus actually experienced a change in His bodily appearance.

**As you renew your mind to the truths of scripture that emphasize who you are in Christ, you can expect a full change in your personality.** The Holy Spirit who is in you will cause it to happen. You may also experience a change in your physical body; the way you walk, your health, your personal appearance, etc. Renewing your mind in the Word of God is a worthwhile investment of your time.

**6. What can we expect God to do as we renew our minds in the Word of God?**

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**B. Knowing the Truth**

*“Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, ‘If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.’” (John 8:31-32)*

To know the truth is to know with a personal intimate knowledge. We all know some things with intimate knowledge. You know your wife or husband, your children, a sport, a field of work, etc., by becoming familiar with them. As you become familiar with and experience the truths of who you are in Christ, these truths will set you free to live and love just as Jesus lived and loved. Keep in mind this goal: *“He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked”* (I John 2:6).

**7. What does it mean to know the truth?**

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**8. As you come to know the truth of who you are in Christ, you will be free for what purpose?**

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**II. THE DIVINE NATURE**

According to the Word of God, you are no longer a mere human who is destined to failures. The apostle Paul says in II Corinthians 5:17, *“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.”* **You are now a partaker of God’s divine nature.**

*“By which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust”* (II Peter 1:4). You now have the very nature of Christ in you. He has come to live inside of your human temple to express His glory through you. Everything you do now can be summed up by saying it is *“Christ in you the hope of glory”* (Colossians 1:27).

**9. Describe your new nature in Christ.**

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**A. A New Heart and Spirit**

*“Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols. I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them.” (Ezekiel 36:25-27)*

**10. According to this scripture, what did God take out of you and put in you?**


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God took out your old heart and crucified it with Christ. He has transplanted a new heart within you—one that longs to do His will, have fellowship with Him and worship Him. This was the Lord’s action. Our responsibility is to agree with Him about what He has done for us in Christ.

**B. All of God Living Inside You**

Father God did not take out your heart of stone to replace it with another faulty human heart. Rather, He replaced your old heart and desires with Himself.

*“And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.” (John 14:16-17)*

*“If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him.” (John 14:23)*

Do you realize what Jesus is describing in these passages? We know God as Father, Son (Word) and Holy Spirit. God has not placed just one aspect of Himself in you, but He has placed His whole character and nature in you. Father God, Jesus the Son (Word) and Holy Spirit have all come to make their home with you. **You are God’s dwelling place** (John 14:2; Hebrews 3:6; I Corinthians 6:19).

Jesus said in John 14:20, *“At that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you.”* He is describing our union with Father God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit. *“At that day...”* describes the day when the Holy Spirit makes the truth real in your life.

11. How much of Himself did God place inside of you when He gave you a new heart?

\_\_\_\_\_

12. What does it mean to be in union with Father God, Jesus (Word) and the Holy Spirit?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**III. A DESCRIPTION OF YOUR NEW NATURE**

In I John 4:17 we see a powerful statement about our new nature in Christ: *“Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness in the day of judgment; because as He is, so are we in this world.”* Since we are like Jesus, we need to find out what Jesus is like.

**A. Jesus is righteous.**

The prophet Jeremiah describes the present reign of Jesus Christ in Jeremiah 23:5-6, *“Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, that I will raise to David a Branch of righteousness; a King shall reign and prosper, and execute judgment and righteousness in the earth. In His days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell safely; now this is His name by which He will be called: THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.”*

Since Jesus is righteousness, so are we. *“For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him”* (II Corinthians 5:21).

13. How did the prophet Jeremiah describe Jesus?

\_\_\_\_\_

14. How do you identify with Jesus in His righteousness?

\_\_\_\_\_

**B. Jesus is holy.**

*“And for their sakes I sanctify Myself (make Myself holy), that they also may be sanctified by the truth.” (John 17:19)*

*“By that will we have been sanctified (made holy) through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.” (Hebrews 10:10)*

**15. How did God make you holy?**

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**C. Jesus is perfect (complete).**

*“For the law appoints as high priests men who have weakness, but the word of the oath, which came after the law, appoints the Son who has been perfected forever.” (Hebrews 7:28)*

*“For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified.” (Hebrews 10:14)*

*“And you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power.” (Colossians 2:10)*

**16. What does it mean to you that He has “perfected” you?**

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**D. Jesus is the Son of God.**

*“And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, ‘This is My beloved Son in whom I am well pleased.’” (Matthew 3:17)*

You are also a son of God, and Jesus is your older brother (Romans 8:29; Hebrews 2:10-11).

*“And because you are sons (and daughters), God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out ‘Abba, Father!’” (Galatians 4:6)*

*“For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.” (Romans 8:14)*

*“For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.” (Romans 8:29)*

17. What privileges do you have because you are a son of God?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

E. Jesus is the heir of God.

*“God, who at various times and in different ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds.”*  
(Hebrews 1:1-2)

*“Therefore you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.”* (Galatians 4:7)

18. An heir is one who has an inheritance. As the Son of God, Jesus has obtained His inheritance. You also have an inheritance that you will obtain. What do you think your inheritance is through Christ?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

These descriptions of Jesus and you are only the beginning of who God has declared you to be in Christ. The following list further describes your new nature in Christ:

**WHO AM I?**

- I am the salt of the earth. (Matthew 5:13)
- I am the light of the world. (Matthew 5:14)
- I am a part of the True Vine, a channel of Christ’s life. (John 15:1,5)
- I am chosen and appointed by Christ to bear His fruit. (John 15:16)
- I am a slave of righteousness. (Romans 6:18)
- I am enslaved to God. (Romans 6:22)
- I am a temple (a dwelling place) of God. (I Corinthians 3:16, 6:19)
- I am united to the Lord and am one spirit with Him. (I Corinthians 6:17)
- I am a member of Christ’s Body. (I Corinthians 12:27; Ephesians 5:30)
- I am a new creation. (II Corinthians 5:17)
- I am reconciled to God and am a minister of reconciliation. (II Corinthians 5:18-29)

I am a saint. (Ephesians 1:1; I Corinthians 1:2; Philippians 1:1, Colossians 1:2)  
 I am God's workmanship created in Christ for good works. (Ephesians 2:10)  
 I am a citizen in heaven, seated in heaven right now. (Phil. 3:20; Ephesians 2:6)  
 I am a son of light and not of darkness. (I Thessalonians 5:5)  
 I am a holy partaker of a heavenly calling. (Hebrews 3:1)  
 I am one of God's living stones, being built up in Christ as a spiritual house.  
 (I Peter 2:5; Ephesians 2:20-22)  
 I am a member of a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for  
 God's own possession. (I Peter 2:9-10)  
 I am an enemy of the devil. (I Peter 5:8)  
 I am an epistle (letter) of Christ, known and read by all men. (I Corinthians 3:2-3)  
 I am accepted in the Beloved (Jesus and His Body). (Ephesians 1:6)  
 I am holy and without blame before Him in love. (Ephesians 1:4)  
 I am part of Father God's inheritance. (Ephesians 1:18)  
 I am Christ's representative on the earth. (Matthew 10:40)  
 I am seated with Christ at the Father's right hand. (Ephesians 1:20-21, 2:6)

#### IV. THE SPIRITUAL LAW OF YOUR CONFESSION

There are all types of laws in the universe that God has set in place for our good. Take for example the law of gravity. This physical law, though we cannot see it, allows us to walk, drive, sit, lay down, etc., without floating away. As long as we do not violate the law of gravity, it is our friend. However, when we violate the law of gravity, it can do us great harm. Children often learn about this law the hard way: jumping out of a tree, falling down stairs, falling on the side walk, etc.

God has set spiritual laws in place that, though you may not see them, will either be your friend or your enemy, depending on how you deal with these laws. One such law is the spiritual law of your confession.

The following passages of Scripture describe this law:

*"Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruit."* (Proverbs 18:21)

*"Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven."* (Matthew 10:32-33)

**You must learn to confess the truth about yourself as it is declared in the Word of God.** The writer of Hebrews states it like this: *"Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession"* (Hebrews 4:14).

If you will confess the truths of the Word of God that describe who you are in Christ, these truths will become real in your experience. Read these truths, meditate on these truths and speak these truths. Your confession brings possession.

**19. In your own words, describe the spiritual law of your confession.**

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**20. How does using this spiritual law benefit you with regard to your new nature in Christ? How could violating this law hurt you?**

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**RESPONSE TO TRUTH:**

**1. Since you have confessed the Lordship of Christ have you been thinking: too lowly of yourself \_\_\_\_\_ , too highly of yourself \_\_\_\_\_, or righteously of yourself \_\_\_\_\_ ?**

**2. What can you do to begin thinking about yourself like Father God thinks about you in Christ?**

**ASSIGNMENT:**

**1. Look back at section III, A DESCRIPTION OF YOUR NEW NATURE. Read aloud the descriptions of who you are in Christ.**

**2. Find a friend and read aloud to him/her the descriptions of who you are in Christ.**

# REPENTANCE AND CLEANSING

## KINGDOM LIVING

### Lesson IV

### Notes

**Key Verses:** *“The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel.”* (Mark 1:15)

**Purpose:** The purpose of this lesson is for you to learn about and experience godly repentance.

### INTRODUCTION

As believers in Christ, we are all in the process of being conformed to the image of Jesus, our elder brother. The Scriptures declare that God is working **all things** toward that purpose in our lives. The apostle Paul states this truth in Romans 8:28-29: *“And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose. For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.”*

Because of your new nature in Christ, you now have the potential to live above sin through the renewed mind of Christ. However, where there are areas of the mind that are not renewed to the truth of the Word of God, there is still potential to sin. Jesus referred to these unrenewed parts as “dark parts” that have not yet been illumined by the Holy Spirit. *“No one, when he has lit a lamp, puts it in a secret place or under a basket, but on a lampstand, that those who come in may see the light. The lamp of the body is the eye. Therefore, when your eye is good, your whole body also is full of light. But when your eye is bad, your body also is full of darkness. Therefore take heed that the light which is in you is not darkness. If then your whole body is full of light, **having no part dark**, the whole body will be full of light, as when the bright shining of a lamp gives you light”* (Luke 11:33-36).

The only way that the dark parts of your mind can be made light is by spiritual revelation (Ephesians 1:17-18). When you renew your mind to the truth of the Word of God, you open yourself up to receive spiritual revelation from the Holy Spirit. Not all spiritual revelation is easy to receive at first. Have you ever been in a dark room, asleep, when someone turns on a bright light? Your first reaction was probably unpleasant, or even aggressive. However, if you allow your eyes to adjust to the light, you will become accustomed to it, and you will appreciate the light. It helps you see more clearly. God’s spiritual light (revelation) is able to take away every dark part, enabling you to live and love just as Jesus lived and loved.

Remember this goal: *“He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked”* (I John 2:6).

Now we come to repentance and cleansing. **Repentance is a turning from sin—and turning to God. It is a change of mind followed by a willful turn and change in behavior.** When a child of God falls short of God’s goal of obedience for his life, he must repent and receive cleansing from the Lord so

that he may continue to grow and receive further spiritual light (revelation).

**1. Define repentance.**

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**I. GOD’S ATTITUDE TOWARD REPENTANCE**

According to Scripture, true repentance is followed by a new lifestyle. *“But if a wicked man turns from all his sins which he has committed, keeps all My statutes, and does what is lawful and right, he shall surely live; he shall not die. None of the transgressions which he has committed shall be remembered against him; because of the righteousness which he has done, he shall live. Do I have any pleasure at all that the wicked should die? says the Lord God, and not that he should turn from his ways and live? Again, when a wicked man turns away from the wickedness which he committed, and does what is lawful and right, he preserves himself alive. Because he considers and turns away from all the transgressions which he committed, he shall surely live; he shall not die”* (Ezekiel 18:21-23, 27-28).

**2. In your own words, restate Ezekiel 18:21-23,27-28.**

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**3. Does God have pleasure in destroying or hurting someone who has sinned?**

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**4. If you sin, what do you believe is God’s desire for you?**

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**II. REPENTANCE FROM “SIN” AND “SINS”**

Remember that there is a difference between the sin nature of man and sins that he commits. The sin nature was given to us from Adam. *“Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned”* (Romans 5:12).

**A. Repentance from the Sin Nature**

Sinful actions are a result of the sin nature we inherited from Adam. The sin nature causes people to commit sins! However, remember the good news. You died to sin when you died with Christ. You are a new creation, and the sin nature no longer has control over you.

The key verse for this chapter is Mark 1:15: *“The time is fulfilled and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel.”* “Gospel” literally means “good news.” As a believer in Christ, you must repent (change your mind and actions) and believe the good news. Stop believing that you are a sinner; God has made you a saint (Ephesians 2:19). Stop believing that you are unable to live as Jesus lived and loved; God has given you His divine nature and declared you to be the righteousness of God in Christ (II Peter 1:4; II Corinthians 5:21). Let your mind and actions be changed about the way you view yourself in Christ.

**5. How can you repent from the sin nature?**

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**B. Repentance from Sinful Actions**

While learning to repent from the sinful nature and believe the good news in the Word of God, you will also find it necessary to repent from sinful actions. We are responsible to God to live according to the light He has given us. When we fail, we must repent in order to move forward with God’s working in our lives.

*“He who covers His sin will not prosper, but whoever confesses and forsakes them will have mercy.”* (Proverbs 28:13)

*“I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish.”*  
(Luke 13:3)

6. According to Proverbs 28:13, the end result of one who repents is \_\_\_\_\_; but one who refuses to confess and forsake his sins shall \_\_\_\_\_.

III. FORGIVENESS TIED TO REPENTANCE

As a believer in Christ you have a continual cleansing from sin by the blood of Jesus. *“But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son (continually) cleanses us from all sin”* (I John 1:7).

However, if you sin and do not repent, you block the flow of God’s cleansing for you. When a person does not repent, he enters into self-deception. *“If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us”* (I John 1:8).

God’s answer for one who has sinned is found in I John 1:9: *“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”* To confess your sin to God is to agree with God that what you did was sin. Remember, denial brings self-deception. When you agree with God that you sinned and repent, He is faithful and just to forgive and cleanse. Consider the Psalmist’s thoughts about God’s cleansing: *“As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us”* (Psalm 103:12).

Unconfessed sin in a Christian’s life can cause great harm. Again the Psalmist declared his experience with sin and cleansing: *“Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Blessed is the man to whom the Lord does not impute iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no guile. When I kept silent, my bones grew old through my groaning all the day long. For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me; my vitality was turned into the drought of summer. I acknowledged my sin to You, and my iniquity I have not hidden. I said, ‘I will confess my transgressions to the Lord,’ and You forgave the iniquity of my sin”* (Psalm 32:1-5).

7. What does it mean to confess your sin to God?

\_\_\_\_\_

8. What is God faithful and just to do when we confess our sins?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**REPENTANCE AND CLEANSING**

**Lesson IV**

**Notes**

**9. Re-read Psalm 103:12. How far has God removed your sins from you once you have confessed them?**

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**10. Re-read Psalm 32:1-5. Describe in your own words the results of unconfessed sin.**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**11. What did God do when the Psalmist confessed his transgressions to the Lord?**

\_\_\_\_\_

**IV. GODLY SORROW AND WORLDLY SORROW**

Read II Corinthians 7:8-12.

*“Godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death.” (II Corinthians 7:10)*

Second Corinthians 7:8-12 describes the results of the apostle Paul confronting sin in the lives of the believers in Christ at Corinth. It is common for the Lord to use someone to confront us with sin, that we may repent and live.

When we are confronted with sin, we either experience godly sorrow or worldly sorrow. Worldly sorrow is a regretting of the fact that we’ve been caught. Most of us have experienced this kind of sorrow as children, when our parents caught us doing something we knew we shouldn’t be doing. However, godly sorrow is a regretting of the fact that we’ve sinned. This happens when our conscience is touched.

**12. Godly sorrow produces \_\_\_\_\_.**

**13. Describe the results of godly sorrow listed in II Corinthians 7:10-11.**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**A. Godly Sorrow Requires Restitution**

*“If a man steals an ox or a sheep, and slaughters it or sells it, he shall restore five oxen for an ox and four sheep for a sheep.” (Exodus 22:1)*

*“But if, in fact, it is stolen from him, he shall make restitution to the owner of it.” (Exodus 22:12)*

The concept of restitution is not well known in today’s American culture. However, it is part of God’s requirement for the believer in Christ who will walk out repentance and godly sorrow. A person experiencing true godly sorrow will make restitution with a willing heart and attitude, knowing that God will use it to futher develop the character necessary to resist the future temptation of sin. If the issue is theft, the person who stole must restore in value what was stolen. If the issue is lying, a person’s trust has been stolen. No sin can be appropriately repented of without some form of restitution.

**14. What is restitution?**

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**15. How do you think restitution can be made for the following:**

**a. Stealing** \_\_\_\_\_

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**b. Lying** \_\_\_\_\_

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**c. Cheating** \_\_\_\_\_

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**d. Wrong attitude** \_\_\_\_\_

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**e. Unfaithfulness** \_\_\_\_\_

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V. EDUCATING THE CONSCIENCE

You have a conscience that you learned from your upbringing by parents, society and local authority figures (teachers, police, pastors, etc.). However, your conscience can be educated to be like Christ’s conscience. God desires to educate your conscience through His Word, His Spirit and His people. Only by submitting to God’s delegated authorities in your life will you gain a Christ-like conscience.

*“Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God. Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves. For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to evil. Do you want to be unafraid of the authority? Do what is good, and you will have praise from the same. For he is God’s minister to you for good. But if you do evil, be afraid; for he does not bear the sword in vain; for he is God’s minister, an avenger to execute wrath on him who practices evil. Therefore you must be subject, not only because of wrath but also for conscience’ sake.”* (Romans 13:1-5)

The apostle Paul describes a pure conscience:

*“This being so, I myself always strive to have a conscience without offense toward God and men.”* (Acts 24:16)

*“...holding the mystery of the faith with a pure conscience.”* (I Timothy 3:9)

Paul also describes those who continually violate their conscience without repentance:

*“Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, speaking lies in hypocrisy, **having their own conscience seared with a hot iron.**”*  
(I Timothy 4:1-2)

You can maintain a pure conscience, void of offense toward God and man, by obeying your conscience. Choose to repent and be cleansed when you violate your conscience, and God will educate your conscience to the conscience of Christ.

16. Why is a good and pure conscience important?

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**REPENTANCE AND CLEANSING**

**Lesson IV**

**Notes**

**17. How does God educate our consciences?**

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**18. If you violate your conscience, what is God’s answer for you?**

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**RESPONSE TO TRUTH:**

**1. Are there areas in your life where you need to “repent, and believe the gospel (good news)” about: God \_\_\_yes \_\_\_no; yourself \_\_\_yes \_\_\_no; others \_\_\_yes \_\_\_no. What are these areas?**

Repent and believe the truth of the Word of God in these areas.

**2. Are there any unconfessed sins in your life that have not been repented of? \_\_\_yes \_\_\_no.**

Stop and repent of any such sin. Ask for God’s cleansing of your sin and begin to thank Him for forgiving you and cleansing you.

**3. Are there any areas where you have repented that require restitution? If so, make a list of people whom you must make restitution to.**



# BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT

## KINGDOM LIVING

### Lesson V

### Notes

**Key Verses:** *“I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.”* (Matthew 3:11)

*“And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit.”* (Ephesians 5:18)

**Purpose:** The purpose of this lesson is for you to understand the baptism of the Holy Spirit so that you may experience the Holy Spirit’s anointing for a Spirit-led lifestyle and ministry.

## INTRODUCTION

The baptism in the Holy Spirit is another baptism experienced by New Testament believers in Christ. Jesus baptizes believers in the Holy Spirit to provide the necessary anointing for a Spirit-led lifestyle and ministry. As a believer in Christ, you need to experience the baptism of the Holy Spirit to successfully fulfill the claims of Christ on your life.

*“I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance, but He (Jesus) who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.”* (Matthew 3:11)

### 1. Who baptizes believers in the Holy Spirit? Why?

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## I. WHO IS THE HOLY SPIRIT?

God is revealed to us in Scripture as Father, Son (Jesus, the Word) and Holy Spirit; God is one Spirit, yet revealed as three persons. The Holy Spirit, though He is known as the third part of the trinity, is no less God than the Father or Jesus, the Word.

Holy Spirit has a mind (Romans 8:27), a will (I Corinthians 12:11) and emotions (Ephesians 4:30). He is actively working in the heart of the believer in Christ as well as the unbeliever (John 16:8-15). Holy Spirit is also known to us as “the Spirit of Truth” (John 14:17) and as the “Helper” (John 14:16,26). The Greek word from which we get “Helper” is “parakletos,” which describes an encourager, an intercessor, an attorney or one called along side of you to help you. Lastly, Holy Spirit is referred to as “the Spirit of Christ” and “the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead” (Father God) (Romans 8:9-11).

# BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT

## Lesson V

## Notes

Jesus thoroughly describes the Holy Spirit and His work in John 14-16. STOP! Read the following passages: John 14:15 through 16:15; Acts 1:4-8.

### 2. In your own words, describe the person of Holy Spirit.

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## II. THE MINISTRY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Nothing happens between God and man that doesn't happen through the Holy Spirit. That is why Jesus declared the seriousness of blasphemy against the Holy Spirit: *“Therefore I say to you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men, but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven men. Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man, it will be forgiven him; but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit, it will not be forgiven him, either in this age or in the age to come”* (Matthew 12:31-32).

**This is the Holy Spirit's hour! Since the outpouring of the Holy Spirit after Jesus' resurrection, the Holy Spirit has been in the spot light of God's dealings with His children. It is therefore especially important to understand who the Holy Spirit is and what is His ministry.**

Consider the following aspects of the Holy Spirit's ministry.

- A. The Holy Spirit draws people to Jesus. (John 16:8-11,14)
- B. Regeneration is the work of the Holy Spirit. (Titus 3:5; John 3:3-5)
- C. The Holy Spirit dwells within every believer. (I Corinthians 6:19; Romans 8:9)
- D. The Holy Spirit seals the believer. A seal is an insignia of possession. Therefore, the believer is possessed by the Holy Spirit.(Eph.1:13,14, 4:30)
- E. The Spirit infills the believer. (Ephesians 5:18; Acts 2:4)
- F. Believers are guided by the Holy Spirit. (Romans 8:14; Galatians 5:16)
- G. The Spirit empowers the believer. (Galatians 5:22,23; Romans 8:2; Acts 1:8)

**3. List seven aspects of the Holy Spirit’s ministry.**

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**III. THE HOLY SPIRIT IN YOU**

God the Holy Spirit has come to live inside of every believer in Christ. This is what Jesus is describing in His discussion with Nicodemus in John 3: *“Jesus answered and said to him, ‘Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.’ Nicodemus said to Him, ‘How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born?’ Jesus answered, ‘Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’ The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit”* (John 3:3-8).

As a believer in Christ you are called “the temple of the Holy Spirit.” *“Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own?”* (I Corinthians 6:19). Because of the working of the Holy Spirit, you are in spiritual union with God. *“At that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you.”* (John 14:20). Holy Spirit is the one who makes this union real to you. Remember that you are a spirit, you have a soul (mind, will, emotions) and you live in a body. When you were born again, the Holy Spirit came to live inside your spirit. As you allow the Holy Spirit, who is in you, to lead you and be in control, you will live in union with God in your soul (mind, will, emotions) and your body as well.

**4. Unless one is \_\_\_\_\_, he cannot see the kingdom of God.**

**5. Who causes a person to be born again?**

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**6. What does it mean to be the temple of the Holy Spirit?**

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**7. In your own words, describe your spiritual union with God.**

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**IV. NEW TESTAMENT EXAMPLES OF THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**

**A. Jesus' Baptism in the Holy Spirit**

*“Then Jesus, when He had been baptized, came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him. And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, ‘This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.’” (Matthew 3:16-17)*

Though Jesus had never sinned, and lived in perfect union with His Father, He needed the Holy Spirit’s anointing for ministry. Jesus’ baptism in water at the river Jordan and subsequent baptism in the Holy Spirit marks the beginning of His miracle working ministry.

**8. Why do you think Jesus needed to be baptized in the Holy Spirit?**

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**B. The Disciples' Baptism in the Holy Spirit**

In John 20:22, Jesus’ disciples received the Holy Spirit and were born again:  
*“And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, ‘Receive the Holy Spirit.’”*

# BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT

## Lesson V

## Notes

However, in Acts 1:4-8 we find Jesus instructing the disciples to wait in Jerusalem until they experienced the baptism in the Holy Spirit.

*“For John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now. But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”* (Acts 1:5,8)

In Acts 2:4 we find the fulfillment of Jesus’ promise: *“And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.”*

The result of the disciples’ experience with the Holy Spirit was a bold witnessing and speaking, and about 3000 people were saved that day. (Acts 2:1-41).

**9. In your own words, describe the disciples’ experience of baptism in the Holy Spirit.**

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**C. Samaritans’ Baptism in the Holy Spirit**

*“Now when the apostles who were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them, who, when they had come down, prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit. For as yet He had fallen upon none of them. They had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.”* (Acts 8:14-17)

**D. Paul’s Baptism (filling) in the Holy Spirit**

*“And Ananias went his way and entered the house; and laying his hands on him he said, ‘Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you came, has sent me that you may receive your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.’ Immediately there fell from his eyes something like scales, and he received his sight at once; and he arose and was baptized.”* (Acts 9:17-18)

## BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT

### Lesson V

### Notes

Paul had already met Jesus on the road to Damascus, but he needed the baptism in the Holy Spirit to fulfill the ministry that God had called Him to (Acts 9:1-20). *“Immediately he preached the Christ in the synagogues, that He is the Son of God”* (Acts 9:20).

**10. What did Paul “immediately” begin to do after His experience of being baptized in the Holy Spirit?**

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#### **E. The Gentiles’ Baptism in the Holy Spirit**

*“While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who heard the word. And those of the circumcision who believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also. For they heard them speak with tongues and magnify God. Then Peter answered, ‘Can anyone forbid water, that these should not be baptized who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?’ And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then they asked him to stay a few days.”* (Acts 10:44-48)

**11. How did Peter and his companions know that the Gentiles had received the gift of the Holy Spirit (vs. 46)?**

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#### **F. The Ephesian Disciples’ Baptism in the Holy Spirit**

*“And it happened, while Apollos was at Corinth, that Paul, having passed through the upper regions, came to Ephesus. And finding some disciples he said to them, ‘Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?’ And they said to him, ‘We have not so much as heard whether there is a Holy Spirit.’ And he said to them ‘Into what then were you baptized?’ So they said, ‘Into John’s baptism.’ Then Paul said, ‘John indeed baptized with a baptism of repentance, saying to the people that they should believe on Him who would come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus.’ When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. And when Paul had laid hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke with tongues and prophesied.”* (Acts 19:1-6)

**12. What was the Ephesian disciples’ response when the Holy Spirit came upon them (vs. 6)?**

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**V. THE IMPORTANCE OF THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**

According to I Timothy 1:16, Jesus is our pattern to live by. Remember I John 2:6: *“He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked.”* Since Jesus needed the baptism of the Holy Spirit, the anointing for His miracle-working ministry, you also need to experience this anointing.

The apostle Paul also said: *“Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ”* (I Corinthians 11:1). Since Paul needed the baptism of the Holy Spirit to fulfill the claims of Christ on his life and ministry, you also need to experience this anointing.

In Acts 1 we saw where Jesus told the disciples to wait until they were baptized in the Holy Spirit. Since they had need of the Holy Spirit’s anointing for life and ministry, you also need to experience the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

**13. Explain in your own words why you need to experience the baptism of the Holy Spirit?**

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**14. Read Acts 2:38. List three steps given by Peter as initial steps in the Christian walk.**

- a) \_\_\_\_\_
- b) \_\_\_\_\_
- c) \_\_\_\_\_

Remember that the words “to baptize” literally mean to dip in or under, to immerse, to sink, to drown or to bathe. Therefore, to experience the baptism of the Holy Spirit is to be bathed in Him, to be immersed in Him, drowned in Him. When you were baptized in water, you were completely surrounded and encompassed by water. When you are baptized in the Holy Spirit, you will experience a greater manifestation of His presence, an anointing of God for Christian life and ministry.

**VI. HOW TO RECEIVE THE BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT**

**A. The heart must be prepared through repentance (Acts 2:38).**

**B. One must arrive at Biblical conclusions about the baptism in the Holy Spirit.**

1. It is Biblical (Acts 1:8).
2. It is necessary for abundant Christian living (Ephesians 5:17-18).
3. It is applicable for today (Acts 2:38-39).
4. It is an experience beyond salvation (Acts 9:17).
5. It is marked by praise, prophesying and speaking in tongues (Acts 2:11, 2:46-47, 10:44-46, 19:1-6).
6. It is beneficial to the believer (Romans 8:26-27).

**C. One must have a hunger for the fullness of the Spirit (Matthew 5:6).**

**D. Ask to receive (Luke 11:13).**

**E. Expect to receive (Luke 11:13).**

**F. Act in faith.**

*“And I say to you, ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds and to him who knocks it will be opened. If a son asks for bread from any father among you, will he give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent instead of a fish? Or if he asks for an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!” (Luke 11:9-13)*

**When you ask for the baptism in the Holy Spirit, you need not fear receiving less than God’s promise. Just relax in faith. It is not necessary to work up one’s emotion. Simply yield to God and begin to vocalize the “wonderful works of God,” speaking in tongues and prophesying. The Holy Spirit is not received after many years of struggle trying to live for God. God wants people to receive the Holy Spirit at the beginning of the Christian experience.**

**15. In your own words, describe how a person can experience the baptism of the Holy Spirit?**

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**VII. PRACTICING THE FULLNESS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**

**A. Be Filled with the Spirit**

*“And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, submitting to one another in the fear of God.” (Ephesians 5:18-21)*

This passage of Scripture comes from a letter written to the Ephesian believers in Christ. Remember that they had already experienced the baptism of the Holy Spirit in Acts 19. Now Paul is exhorting the Ephesians to practice the fullness of the Holy Spirit.

**16. List four ways listed in Ephesians 5:19-21 that you can practice the fullness of the Spirit.**

- a) \_\_\_\_\_
- b) \_\_\_\_\_
- c) \_\_\_\_\_
- d) \_\_\_\_\_

**B. Walking the Spirit**

*“I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusts against the Spirit and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.” (Galatians 5:16-18)*

**17. How do you think you can practice walking in the Spirit?**

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**18. Read Galatians 5:22-23. List the fruit or result of walking in the Spirit.**

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**C. Experiencing the Death of the Flesh**

*“Therefore, brethren, we are debtors <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.” (Romans 8:12-14)*

The key to putting to death the deeds of the body is that it must be done **by the Spirit**. You are not strong enough within yourself to “grunt out” victory over sin. You must depend on the Holy Spirit’s strength inside you.

**19. What does it mean, by the Spirit, to put to death the deeds of the body?**

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**D. Speak in Tongues and Prophecy**

Paul says in I Corinthians 14:4-5: *“He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself, but he who prophesies edifies the church. I wish you all spoke with tongues, but even more that you prophesied.”*

You need to edify yourself by speaking in tongues on a regular basis. As you are edified (built up, encouraged), you will be able to edify (build up, encourage) others. Consider Jude 20: *“But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit.”* Praying in the Spirit (in tongues) will build up your faith.

20. Why is it important to speak in tongues and prophecy on a regular basis?

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**RESPONSE TO TRUTH:**

1. Have you experienced the baptism of the Holy Spirit with the response of speaking in tongues and prophesying?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ If not, stop now and ask to be baptized in the Holy Spirit for the anointing for your Christian lifestyle and ministry.

2. Since you have received the Holy Spirit's anointing for life and ministry, have you practiced the fullness of the Spirit by:

a) Speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, giving thanks always for all things to God the Father , submitting to one another?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

b) Walking in the Spirit, producing the fruit of the Spirit?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

c) Putting to death the deeds of the body by the Spirit?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

d) Speaking in tongues and prophesying?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

**ASSIGNMENT:**

1. Practice prophesying the truth to yourself now. Begin with this statement of truth and continue in other truth that the Holy Spirit reveals to you:

**“I have been crucified with Christ, and I no longer live. The life that I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me. I have been buried with Christ and the old man has no power over me. I have defeated Satan with Christ, and have been made alive with Christ by His Holy Spirit who lives in me. I have been raised with Christ to a new way of living and seated with Christ at the**

## **BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT**

### **Lesson V**

### **Notes**

**Father's right hand, above all principalities and power and every name that is named."**

**"I am God's righteousness, holiness, and perfection on the earth. I have been made righteous, holy, perfect and accepted by the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross. I am God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which He prepared in advance for me. I stand holy and without blame before Father God in His love."**

**"God is able to do exceedingly, abundantly beyond all that I can ask or think according to His power that works in me. He has baptized me with His Holy Spirit and given me power to live and love as Jesus lived and loved. I have been set free from all bondage through the blood and truth of Jesus, and I can live free through the power of the Holy Spirit..."**

# BAPTISM INTO THE BODY OF CHRIST

## KINGDOM LIVING

### Lesson VI

### Notes

**Key Verse:** *“But now God has set the members, each one of them, in the body just as He pleased.”* (I Corinthians 12:18)

**Purpose:** The purpose of this lesson is for you to understand your baptism into the body of Christ, so that you may have lasting fruit as a believer in Christ.

### INTRODUCTION

The baptism into the body of Christ is another doctrine of baptism that you need to understand in order to have lasting fruit in your Christian life. Consider the words of Jesus: *“You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, **and that your fruit should remain**, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you”* (John 15:16).

When you experienced salvation and responded to God by the confession of the Lordship of Christ, you were immediately baptized into the universal body of Christ. That is, you, along with every other believer in Christ, can know God as your Father. Jesus is the head and all believers in Christ make up the corporate body of Christ.

*“And He put all things under His feet and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.”* (Ephesians 1:22-23)

*“And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence.”* (Colossians 1:18)

*“Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually.”* (I Corinthians 12:27)

*“There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.”* (Ephesians 4:4-6)

**1. In your own words, describe the corporate body of Christ.**

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While it is important for you to understand that you are a member of the corporate body of Christ, God desires every believer in Christ to go further. **You must become joined to a local body of Christ where you can interact in close relationships with other believers in Christ.** To be joined to a local church is to receive that church’s vision as your own. You then use your gifts and abilities to advance that vision. Without that joining of your heart, faith and vision to a local body of Christ, you will not have what Jesus referred to as fruit that remains (John 15:16).

**2. What does it mean to be joined to a local body of Christ, or church?**

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**I. BEING PLACED IN THE LOCAL BODY OF CHRIST**

As believers in Christ, it is not left up to us to shop and choose a church or local body that fits our natural thinking or lifestyle. Remember that you are now the temple of the Holy Spirit and you are not your own, because you’ve been bought at a price (I Corinthians 6:19-20). God, who owns you, places you in the body of Christ as it pleases Him.

*“But now God has set the members, each one of them, in the body just as He pleased.” (I Corinthians 12:18)*

**3. How do you get placed in the local body of Christ?**

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How do you know where God is placing you in the body of Christ?

**A. The local church should be biblically based on the gospel of Jesus Christ.**

*“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.” (II Timothy 3:16)*

*“But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed. As we have said before, so now I say again, if anyone preaches any other gospel to you than*

*what you have received, let him be accursed.*" (Galatians 1:8-9)

*"For I am jealous for you with godly jealousy. For I have betrothed you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ. But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. For if he who comes preaches another Jesus whom we have not preached, or if you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or a different gospel which you have not accepted, you may well put up with it."* (II Corinthians 11:2-4)

**B. The local church should be connected to, or have functioning within it, the five-fold ministry of Christ.**

*"And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness by which they lie in wait to deceive, but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head  $\frac{3}{4}$  Christ  $\frac{3}{4}$  from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love."* (Ephesians 4:11-16)

**C. The local church should have a current vision from the Lord.**

*"Where there is no revelation (prophetic vision), the people cast of restraint..."* (Proverbs 29:18)

*"Therefore I will not be negligent to remind you always of these things, though you know them, and are established in the **present truth.**"*  
(II Peter 1:12)

**D. Follow the leading of the Holy Spirit.**

*"For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God."*  
(Romans 8:14)

*"However, when He, the Spirit of Truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth..."* (John 16:13a)

**4. In your own words, summarize how you can know where God is placing you in the body of Christ.**

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**II. UNDERSTANDING YOUR FUNCTION IN THE BODY OF CHRIST**

**A. The Analogy of a Body**

STOP! Read I Corinthians 12:12-27 and Romans 12:4-8.

The apostle Paul described the body of Christ like a human body. Jesus is the head, the one in charge. We are other members individually, having different functions. One may function as a finger, as a toe, an arm, etc. Think of your own body. Imagine yourself running. Your head must tell your feet to run, your toes to spring, your arms to move in coordination, your eyes to see so that you don't run into a tree, your lungs to breathe so you don't collapse, etc. Every part has a function.

You have a function and purpose in the body of Christ. Be sensitive to the Holy Spirit and church leadership to help you discover that purpose and function. Imagine your head telling your feet to get up and walk. However, your feet develop a will of their own and decide that they are tired of being feet. It is just too much pressure. So the feet detach themselves and leave the body. Not only is the body now handicapped and unable to do what it could with feet, but the feet will die without the body. Without a flow of blood, oxygen and nutrients, the feet will die, turn strange colors and begin to smell. This is what happens to believers in Christ who refuse to stay joined to the body where God placed them.

Note: The analogy still works in understanding the importance of staying in the specific church where God places you. Your feet will not fit on my body, nor my feet on yours. My feet may be too big or small for your body, making you clumsy and awkward.

**5. In your own words, describe why it is important for you to discover your purpose and function in the body of Christ.**

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**B. The Analogy of a Building**

*“Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, in whom the whole building, being **fitted together**, grows into a holy temple in the Lord.” (Ephesians 2:19-22)*

In order for a building to function rightly, each piece must fit together perfectly. A good foundation must be laid. Wood, nails and bricks must be placed correctly. Roofing and shingles must be placed in a way to keep out water, etc. You are part of the household of God, “being fitted together” in the local body of Christ.

**6. What does it mean to be “fitted together” in the household of God?**

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**7. What is the foundation of the household of God?**

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**8. Who is the “chief cornerstone” of the whole building?**

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**C. The Analogy of the Vine and Branches**

Stop! Read John 15:1-7,16.

Jesus is the vine, and we are the branches. As a branch stays connected to the vine, it can bear fruit that will remain. However, a branch that does not stay connected is dried up and bears no fruit. The branch is dependent on the vine for food, nutrients, water, roots, etc.

**9. According to this analogy, why is it important for you to stay connected to Jesus and His local body?**

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**III. HANDLING RELATIONSHIPS RIGHTLY**

One of the reasons we are placed in a local body of Christ is so we can learn how to relate to one another rightly. You can measure your love for the Lord by how much you love His people.

*“This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one’s life for his friends. You are My friends if you do whatever I command you.” (John 15:12-14)*

*“We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love his brother abides in death. Whoever hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him.” (I John 3:14-15)*

**10. How do you know that you have passed from death to life?**

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**A. Handling Offenses**

*“Moreover if your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he hears you, you have gained your brother. But if he will not hear, take with you one or two more, that ‘by the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.’ And if he refuses to hear them, tell it to the church. But if he refuses even to hear the church, let him be to you like a heathen and tax collector. Assuredly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again I say to you that if two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in*

heaven. For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them.” (Matthew 18:15-20)

**11. List the appropriate steps to take when a brother or sister in Christ sins against you.**

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“Take heed to yourselves. If your brother sins against you, rebuke him; and if he repents, forgive him. And if he sins against you seven times in a day, and seven times in a day returns to you, saying, ‘I repent’ you shall forgive him.” (Luke 17:3-4)

**12. How often do you forgive a brother or sister in Christ who sins against you and then repents?**

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**B. The Parable of the Unforgiving Servant**

Stop! Read Matthew 18:21-35.

The master forgave the first servant 10,000 talents, equivalent to approximately 10 million pieces of silver in our day. This represents how much God forgave us. In contrast, the servant would not forgive a fellow servant 100 denarii, equivalent to about 18 cents today. The sin that God forgave you will always greatly outweigh any sin or offense that you forgive another.

**13. How often did Jesus command Peter to forgive (Luke 17:3-4)?**

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**14. What happened to the servant who did not forgive his fellow servant?**

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**15. What do you think it means for a person to be turned over to the torturers?**

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Many Christians have crippled their faith by holding unforgiveness. God places us in close relationships so that we may learn to forgive as He forgives.

**IV. THE TRUE FAMILY**

*“Then His brothers and His mother came, and standing outside they sent to Him, calling Him. And a multitude was sitting around Him; and they said to Him, ‘Look, Your mother and Your brothers are outside seeking You.’ But He answered them, saying, ‘Who is My mother, or My brothers?’ And He looked around in a circle at those who sat about Him, and said, ‘Here are My mother and My brothers! For whoever does the will of God is My brother and My sister and mother.’” (Mark 3:31-35)*

Jesus describes the true family, those who do the will of God. Consider also the following passage: *“Do not think that I came to bring peace on earth. I did not come to bring peace but a sword. For I have come to set a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law; ‘and a man’s enemies will be those of his own household.’ He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me” (Matthew 10:34-37).*

Lastly, look at the promise for you if you endure the loss of relationships and other things for the sake of Christ: *“Then Peter began to say to Him, ‘See, we have left all and followed you.’ So Jesus answered and said, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My sake and the gospel’s, who shall not receive a hundred-fold now in this time <sup>3/4</sup>houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions <sup>3/4</sup>and in the age to come, eternal life’” (Mark 10:28-30).*

**16. In your own words, describe the true family of God.**

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**17. What promise is yours when you must endure the loss of things or rejection in personal relationships for Christ’s sake?**

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**V. THE SPIRITUAL LAW OF AGREEMENT**

Stop! Re-read Matthew 18:15-20 (given on page 56).

God places members in the body of Christ so that they may operate by the spiritual law of agreement.

The spiritual law of agreement is a higher law than natural laws (i.e. gravity, electromagnetism, etc.). As with natural laws, you can greatly benefit from this law or you can be hurt by it. Consider again the law of gravity; it helps you walk, drive, etc. However, if you violate it by jumping off a tall building you will be hurt by it.

The concept of agreement was introduced in a type, or picture, in Exodus 25:10-22 and Numbers 7:89. The people of Israel came into agreement with God by sprinkling blood on the mercy seat which sat on top of the ark of the covenant.

In new covenant relationships, the blood of Jesus Christ has already been sprinkled upon the mercy seat. **Therefore, the Holy Spirit can lead you into agreement with Father God through the Word. This is where we come into agreement with Father God. When we are in agreement with Father God, we can come into agreement with one another on the horizontal level.**

**18. In your own words, describe the spiritual law of agreement.**

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**19. “If two of you agree on earth concerning \_\_\_\_\_ that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven.”**

**20. Why do you think Jesus linked the spiritual law of agreement (Matthew 18:19-20) to the subject of handling offenses (Matthew 18:15-18)?**

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Amos 3:3 states: *“Can two walk together, unless they are agreed?”*

**21. Do you think that God will change course to walk in the direction you want to go?**

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ If not, how can you and Father God walk in agreement?

**RESPONSE TO TRUTH:**

**1. Have you allowed yourself to be placed in a local body of Christ?**

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

**2. Are you functioning (serving) in a local body in a way that advances the vision of the church?**

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ If yes, in what way?

**3. Have you been handling relationships rightly?**

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ If no, make a list of the people you need to go to in order to have right relationships with them.

**ASSIGNMENT:**

**1. Ask the Holy Spirit to give you further revelation of your function or service in the body of Christ. Write in the space below what it is He is asking you to do in your local church.**

**2. Make a list of the people whom you consider to be the true family (those who do the will of God) in your life.**

# SPIRITUAL GIFTINGS FROM GOD

## KINGDOM LIVING

### Lesson VII

### Notes

**Key Verse:** *“But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all.”* (I Corinthians 12:7)

**Purpose:** The purpose of this lesson is for you to understand that God imparts His grace/gifts to His people, **through** His people.

## INTRODUCTION

The issue of spiritual giftings need not be confusing, nor mysterious. Just as surely as God sovereignly chose His elect for salvation before the foundations of the world, He also elects to move in and through His elect to edify, encourage and direct them. God humbles His children as they realize they are not capable of living a full, rich life without the grace that comes through others in the body of Christ. The only prerequisite to functioning with spiritual gifts is that one be born-again with the nature of Christ.

### 1. Will God ever use another Christian to help meet your needs in life?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

## I. MISCONCEPTIONS ABOUT SPIRITUAL GIFTS

### A. Givers, Deliverers, and Receivers

Confusing the gift with the delivery person is a common mistake good believers in Christ make. God is the giver, the person that He gives the gift through is the deliverer, and the one that the gift is intended for is the receiver.

### 2. Name the three persons involved in the gift-giving process.

\_\_\_\_\_

### B. Candidates for Spiritual Gifts

Another misconception is to assume that spiritual gifts are awards given to the mature Christian. Actually, God uses all believers to deliver spiritual gifts to others. Even the babe in Christ can be a channel for these gifts.

### 3. Does a believer in Christ have to have many years of training and maturity to function with spiritual gifts?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

**C. The Owner/Controller of Gifts**

One more misconception is that the spiritual gifts are under the control of the person delivering them, or that the deliverer somehow owns the gift himself. In every case, the deliverer of spiritual gifts is just the vessel that God uses. God is the only owner/controller of spiritual gifts (I Corinthians 12:11).

**4. Who really owns and controls spiritual gifts?**

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**II. THE SETTING FOR THE EXERCISE OF SPIRITUAL GIFTS**

*“When you come together as a church...”* (I Corinthians 11:18). The grace/gifts flow best when the church has one heart and mind. God’s children have the same Spirit; He is called the Spirit of Christ, or the Holy Spirit. He is present to unify, direct, empower, heal and provide for the saints. As the local group of believers humble themselves by submitting to God and one another, the exercise of spiritual gifts should be the normal flow every time they come together.

When the local church does not practice attitudes of humility, submission and obedience, many are weak, sick and some are dead, *“not discerning the Lord’s body”* (I Corinthians 11:29-30).

**5. What is the individual believer’s part to set the stage for the Holy Spirit to distribute gifts among them?**

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**III. THE PURPOSE FOR THE EXERCISE OF SPIRITUAL GIFTS**

*“But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all...”* (I Corinthians 12:7). God intends to meet all of His children’s needs. Every Christian should expect his/her provisions of life to be found in Christ and in His body—whether the need is direction in life, physical needs for life, or maturity to live life.

**6. What is the purpose for spiritual gifts?**

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**IV. THE SPIRITUAL GIFTS IN I CORINTHIANS 12**

Stop! Read I Corinthians 12:1-11.

Let's look at two Greek words in this text before we go any further.

**A. Spiritual (*Pneumatikos*)**

“Pneumatikos” describes all that pertains to spirit: the invisible quality of existence; the workings of spirit beings. God is Spirit, and He created mankind in His image and likeness. The spiritual dimension is a totally separate realm from the natural realm, and the spiritual realm governs the natural realm. Spiritual involves the uniting and functioning of spirit to spirit. God’s Spirit is at work in His children’s spirits to cause them to live as Christ lived.

*“Now concerning **spiritual gifts** (pneumatikos, literally “spirituals”), brethren, I do not want you to be ignorant.” (I Corinthians 12:1)*

**7. What is the Greek word for spiritual, and what does it mean?**

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**B. Gift (*Chrisma*)**

A “chrisma” is a gift of God’s grace—a free gift of God’s power, ability, provision, wisdom, etc. The key to remember is that God is the only source for the gifts that really matter in life.

*“Now there are diversities of **gifts**, but the same Spirit.” (I Corinthians 12:4)*

**8. What is the Greek word for gift, and what does it mean?**

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**C. Three Spiritual Gifts That Allow Believers to See as God Sees**

**Word of wisdom** (I Corinthians 12:8) is a word inspired by God and spoken by a believer to enable the receiver to make right decisions in life; the ability to “use knowledge rightly.” The wisdom that God gave Solomon in the Old Covenant was unparalleled, until Christ came. Matthew 12:42 says, “a greater than Solomon is here.” As we are united with the Spirit of Christ, we also are united to the unlimited supply of His wisdom. Wisdom can be given as a gift, and it is also the fruit of God’s nature in the believer that grows with life experiences.

**9. What is the purpose of a word of wisdom?**

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**Word of knowledge** (I Corinthians 12:8) is a word inspired by God and spoken by a believer to give the receiver “information” pertaining to life decisions. A word of knowledge could reveal sin, help you find something, warn of danger, reveal thoughts, etc.

**10. What is the purpose of a word of knowledge?**

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**Discerning of spirits** (I Corinthians 12:10) is the supernatural insight to know what type of spirit you are dealing with; to know if the spirit is from a human being, a demon or God.

**11. What is the purpose of discerning of spirits?**

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**D. Three Spiritual Gifts to Empower the Believer**

**Faith** (I Corinthians 12:11) is the spiritual surge of God-given confidence that arises to meet a specific need. This faith must be spoken to release the full power and see the need met.

**12. What is the purpose of the gift of faith?**

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The gift of **healings** (I Corinthians 12:9) is the power of God flowing from one believer into another to heal them spiritually, mentally, emotionally, physically or relationally. The power usually flows through the spoken word, and often the laying on of hands is beneficial.

**13. What is the purpose of the gift of healings?**

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**Miracles** (I Corinthians 12:10) are the supernatural power of God that causes people and circumstances to change. A miracle is something that a person could not accomplish with his own wisdom, ability or might.

**14. What is the purpose of the gift of miracles?**

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**E. Three Spiritual Gifts which are Words Directly from God**

**Prophecy** (I Corinthians 12:10) is the declaring of God's word to a believer in Christ. It is a word that comes by spiritual revelation to benefit the receiver. In the general sense, every word about Christ is prophecy: "*the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy*" (Revelation 19:10); but the gift of prophecy is a very specific word for a specific situation.

**16. What is the purpose of the gift of prophecy?**

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# SPIRITUAL GIFTINGS FROM GOD

## Lesson VII

## Notes

**Tongues** (I Corinthians 12:10) is a Spirit-inspired word to a believer, or believers, in a language that the mind does not understand. This tongue is to encourage, build up, or direct the believer; therefore it must be accompanied by an interpretation. This tongue has a different purpose from the devotional “prayer/spirit” language that a believer may exercise daily with the Lord. The “private” tongue is between God and the individual believer; the “gift” of tongues is from God, through one believer, to another.

### 17. What is the purpose of the gift of tongues?

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**Interpretation of tongues** (I Corinthians 12:10) is spirit-inspired revelation to speak to a believer, or believers, to make spiritual sense of the gift of tongues.

### 18. What is the purpose of the interpretation of tongues?

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## IV. THE SPIRITUAL GIFTS OF ROMANS 12

Stop! Read Romans 12:1-8.

These spiritual giftings flow out of the acts of service in the church. Prophecy, service, teaching and exhortation are abilities from the Spirit of God to “build up and serve one another.” The key is to use the gifts according to the proportion of faith that God has given each one (Romans 12:6).

### 19. What is the primary purpose for the Romans 12:6-8 giftings?

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## V. THE SPIRITUAL GIFTS IN EPHESIANS 4

Stop! Read Ephesians 4:7-16.

These spiritual giftings are people that Christ has given to the Church “for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ” (Ephesians 4:12).

# SPIRITUAL GIFTINGS FROM GOD

## Lesson VII

## Notes

**Apostles** are those apprehended and sent forth by God to establish the Church. They have the assignment, the anointing and the authority from God to enlarge, build up and administrate the Church of Jesus Christ. Of the five-fold gifts that Christ has given to His Church, the apostles are the only ones that touch/influence all the others.

**Prophets** are the ones that consistently speak for God. They speak only from revelation, but the authority of God is upon them and their words. Every believer should prophesy, but not every believer is a prophet.

**Evangelists** are the ones that speak the message of Christ to the lost so that they might be saved. Every believer should evangelize, but not every believer is an evangelist.

**Pastors** are the shepherds of Christ's sheep. They feed, lead, encourage, strengthen and correct the people of God. True pastors lay their lives down for the saints (John 10:11-18).

**Teachers** are those with a specific giftedness to teach the Truth to the Church. Every believer should teach others, but not every believer is called to be a teacher.

**20. Who has chosen and given the five-fold ministry gifts to the Church?**

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**21. Who are the five ministry gifts to the church, and what is each one's primary purpose?**

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**VI. THE DEVOTIONAL TONGUE**

One of the most precious privileges that all believers may practice is the devotional/spiritual tongue. This is not to be confused with the “gift of tongues,” that has application for others when the Church comes together. The devotional tongue is a private exercise involving God and the individual believer in Christ.

**A. Speaking to God**

*“For he who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God, for no one understands him; however in the spirit he speaks mysteries”* (I Corinthians 14:2). The devotional tongue is a perfect form of communication between God’s Spirit and man’s spirit.

**22. To whom does the believer speak the devotional tongue?**

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**B. A Spirit Language**

*“...in the spirit he speaks mysteries.”* (I Corinthians 14:2). Everyone is accustomed to communicating in a language that the **mind** has learned. For most people in America that language is English. A mind language uses words to stand for something else like people, places, things, etc. The **spirit** language bypasses the mind’s need to understand. The believer’s spirit is praying directly to God’s Spirit. The tongue is the channel. Paul says in I Corinthians 14:13 that we can ask God for the interpretation when we pray in the spirit. This allows the mind to have benefit if God so desires.

**23. What kind of language is the devotional tongue?**

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**C. Believers do the Speaking**

*“He who speaks in a tongue...”* (I Corinthians 14:4). God does not speak in tongues, nor does He require believer allows believers the privilege to do the speaking. It is not necessary to wait for a feeling. Simply choose to speak as an act of obedience. Just as a baby feels no inhibition to express himself with vowels, consonants and syllables that have no connection to a mind language, in the same manner a “child” of God can be free to express himself before God without fear of rejection.

**24. Who speaks in the devotional tongue, and what is the basic requirement to speak?**

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**D. Edifying Yourself**

*“He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself...”* (I Corinthians 14:4). The Greek word for edify is “oikodome.” It means the act of building, such as a house or building. When a believer prays in tongues, he is building up the Christ from within. The spirit to Spirit flow is causing growth that is substantial and permanent.

**25. What benefit does the individual receive when speaking in the devotional tongue?**

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**E. For Every Believer**

*“I wish you all spoke with tongues...”* (I Corinthians 14:5). The devotional tongue is for every believer in Christ. Some have confused the difference between the “gift of tongues” and the “devotional tongue.” The gift of tongues is something the Holy Spirit gives when the Church comes together. When the gift of tongues and interpretation are ministered in the Church, they edify the group. The devotional tongue is a private way of praying to God that edifies the individual. The devotional tongue is something the believer **practices** as an act of obedience.

**26. Is the devotional tongue for every believer in Christ?**

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**F. Praying and Singing.**

*“I will pray with the spirit, and I will also pray with the understanding. I will sing with the spirit and I will sing with the understanding”* (I Corinthians 14:15). Not only may a believer communicate prayers to God in the spirit, but he may also sing to God in the spirit. This is a wonderful form of worship to God and an opportunity to become sensitive to the Spirit no matter where you are or what the circumstance.

**27. What is the purpose for singing in the devotional tongue?**

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**G. Offering Blessing and Thanks**

*“...if you bless with the spirit, how will he who occupies the place of the uninformed say ‘Amen’ at your giving of thanks, since he does not understand what you say? For you indeed give thanks well...” (I Corinthians 14:16-17)*

Speaking to the Lord in tongues is an unlimited way to bless and thank Him. Even with thousands of words in the English language, a believer often finds himself at a loss for words to bless the Lord. The spirit language has no boundaries; it is as unlimited as God Himself.

**28. Why is the devotional tongue beneficial in blessing the Lord?**

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**RESPONSE TO TRUTH:**

**1. Have you allowed the Holy Spirit to operate His spiritual giftings through you?**

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ If yes, describe a circumstance where this took place. If no, describe a circumstance where it would have been beneficial to allow the Holy Spirit to operate one of His spiritual giftings through you.

**2. What can you do to make yourself more sensitive to the flow of the Holy Spirit in His operation of spiritual giftings?**

## SPIRITUAL GIFTINGS FROM GOD

### Lesson VII

### Notes

3. Do you pray in “devotional tongues” regularly?  
Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ If not, why?

#### ASSIGNMENT:

1. I Peter 4:10 states: *“As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.”*

Ask the Lord to show you what kind of steward you have been with His gifts.  
Write below what He shows you.

# THE PRINCIPLE OF AUTHORITY

## KINGDOM LIVING

### Lesson VIII

### Notes

**Key Verses:** *“Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God.”* (Romans 13:1)

*“Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you.”* (Hebrews 13:17)

**Purpose:** The purpose of this lesson is for you to understand and live by the principle of authority. As you learn to submit to God’s direct authority and His delegated authority, you will experience the practical benefits of this kind of lifestyle.

### INTRODUCTION

Before the creation of time, one will existed—God’s. Divine authority flowed uninterrupted from the throne of God. God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit and all angelic and heavenly beings lived in perfect harmony. When pride entered the heart of the angelic being Lucifer, he rebelled against God’s authority. This created chaos in the universe (Ezekiel 28:11-19; Isaiah 14:12-14).

God, who is a good god, wants to restore peace and harmony to the universe. The flow of life, peace and joy comes as we submit totally to God’s authority and come into line with His will.

Insubordination to God’s authority is prevalent today. The same pride that came into Lucifer’s heart still keeps people from understanding the principle of authority. However, as you submit to the Spirit of Truth (the Holy Spirit), He will lead you and guide you into all truth (John 16:13); this truth will set you free (John 8:32).

#### 1. What created chaos in the universe?

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#### 2. What keeps people from understanding the principle of authority today?

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**I. DELEGATED AUTHORITY**

*“Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God. Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves. For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to evil. Do you want to be unafraid of the authority? Do what is good, and you will have praise from the same. For he is God’s minister to you for good. But if you do evil, be afraid; for he does not bear the sword in vain; for he is God’s minister, an avenger to execute wrath on him who practices evil. Therefore you must be subject, not only because of wrath but also for conscience’ sake. For because of this you also pay taxes, for they are God’s ministers attending continually to this very thing. Render therefore to all their due: taxes to whom taxes are due, customs to whom customs, fear to whom fear, honor to whom honor.” (Romans 13:1-7)*

In order to fully submit to God’s authority, you must learn to submit to God’s delegated authority. All delegated authority is placed in your life to bring you to maturity in Christ. When dealing with the delegated authority in your life, remember God’s goal for you: *“And we know that all things work together for good for those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose. For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren” (Romans 8:28-29).*

**3. For there is no authority except from \_\_\_\_\_, and the authorities that exist are appointed by \_\_\_\_\_. Whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of \_\_\_\_\_. Authorities are \_\_\_\_\_’s ministers to you for good.**

**A. Jesus lived under delegated authority as an example.**

Even to the point of dying on the cross, Jesus recognized and submitted to the delegated authorities of the Roman Empire. Consider the following examples:

*“Then Pilate said to Him, ‘Are You not speaking to me? Do You not know that I have power to crucify You, and power to release You?’ Jesus answered, ‘You could have no power at all against Me unless it had been given you from above. Therefore the one who delivered Me to you has the greater sin.’” (John 19:10-11)*

*“For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps: ‘Who committed no sin, nor was guile found in His mouth’; who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed Himself to Him who judges righteously.” (I Peter 2:21-23)*

#### **B. The apostle Paul submitted to delegated authority as an example.**

Even to the point of capture, imprisonment and death the apostle Paul submitted to delegated authority.

*“And the high priest Ananias commanded those who stood by him to strike him on the mouth. Then Paul said to him, ‘God will strike you, you whitewashed wall! For you sit to judge me according to the law, and do you command me to be struck contrary to the law?’ And those who stood by said, ‘Do you revile God’s high priest?’ Then Paul said, ‘I did not know, brethren, that he was the high priest; for it is written, ‘You shall not speak evil of the ruler of your people.’” (Acts 23:2-5)*

*“But I want you to know, brethren, that the things which happened to me have actually turned out for the furtherance of the gospel, so that it has become evident to the whole palace guard, and to all the rest, that my **chains are in Christ.**” (Philippians 1:12-13)*

#### **C. Jesus Himself is a delegated authority.**

Jesus currently rules the universe as a delegated authority.

*“Then Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, ‘**All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.**’” (Matthew 28:18)*

*“For as the Father has life in Himself, so he has granted the Son to have life in Himself, **and has given Him authority** to execute judgment also, because He is the Son of Man.” (John 5:26-27)*

#### **D. Jesus taught His disciples the principle of delegated authority.**

*“He who receives you receives Me, and he who receives Me receives Him who sent Me.” (Matthew 10:40)*

*“Then Jesus said to them again, ‘Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.’” (John 20:21,23)*

#### **E. The apostle Paul viewed himself as a delegated spiritual authority.**

*“Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ (implied authority), as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ’s behalf, be reconciled to God.” (II Corinthians 5:20)*

*“For even if I should boast somewhat more about our authority, which the Lord gave us for edification and not for your destruction, I shall not be ashamed.” (II Corinthians 10:8)*

**F. God uses delegated authorities in His church today.**

God’s plan to mature the body of Christ, which includes you as an individual, will not be fulfilled apart from submission to His delegated spiritual authorities.

*“And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>Christ<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.”*  
(Ephesians 4:11-16)

**4. List six reasons from Scripture why you must learn to submit to God’s delegated authority.**

a) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

b) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

c) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

d) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

e) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

f) \_\_\_\_\_

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**II. DELEGATED AUTHORITY—GREAT FAITH**

Stop! Read Matthew 8:5-13.

**5. What did the centurion say that caused Jesus to marvel and say the man had great faith?**

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The centurion understood the principle of authority and submitted to it. He understood that as he remained under authority, he had authority.

**6. Why do you think understanding and submitting to the principle of authority shows great faith?**

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The centurion also understood that Jesus operated under the principle of authority. Jesus was under the authority of Father God, and therefore had authority to “speak a word” for the healing of the centurion’s servant.

**III. PRAYING FOR AUTHORITIES**

*“Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.” (I Timothy 2:1-4)*

**7. Why are we encouraged to pray for “all who are in authority?”**

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As you pray for your authorities, you can develop a confidence that God is working in the lives of your authorities. Remember that He is bigger than your authorities and is able to work through them to accomplish His purposes.

*“The king’s heart is in the hand of the Lord, like the rivers of water; He turns it wherever He wishes.” (Proverbs 21:1)*

**8. How much control does God have over your authorities?**

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Through your prayers you will have authority over all authority in your life (Ephesians 1:20-22, 2:6). Therefore, pray for God to direct your authority’s heart. Then submit to your authority as unto the Lord. The only exception to obeying the delegated authority over you is if he/she commands you to do something contrary to a direct command of God in Scripture (Daniel 6; Acts 4:19-20).

**9. How can you exercise authority over the authorities in your life?**

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**10. What is the only exception to obeying a delegated authority over you?**

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**IV. HANDLING CONFLICTS WITH DELEGATED AUTHORITY**

As part of your growth process, God will require you to properly handle conflicts with delegated authorities in your life.

# UNDERSTANDING THE PRINCIPLE OF AUTHORITY

## Lesson VIII

## Notes

God is sovereign. You are not placed under your delegated authorities by chance. Look for the reason God has placed the authority over you. The hard-to-get-along-with characteristics of the authority represent an underlying purpose of God in your life.

*“For exaltation comes neither from the east nor from the west nor from the south. But God is the Judge: He puts down one, and exalts another.” (Psalm 75:6-7)*

### 11. Who places or displaces delegated authorities?

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#### A. The Example of the Prophet Daniel

The story of Daniel gives us a good example of how to handle conflicts or disagreements with authority. When the Babylonians conquered Jerusalem, they took the boy Daniel (along with other children) away from his homeland and family to be trained as a wise man. Daniel had to learn to submit to the Babylonian authority, even though they had caused he and his family great harm.

As Daniel related rightly to the Babylonian authority, God exalted him.

Stop! Read Daniel 1:1-2:49.

### 12. In your own words, summarize how God exalted Daniel to a position of authority.

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**B. Steps of Action When You Disagree with Authority**

If you come to a point of disagreement with your authority, there are specific actions you can take.

1. Make sure your attitudes are all purified with tender love. Do not allow a condemning, resistant, impure spirit into your heart (i.e. Daniel 1:9).
2. Make sure your conscience is clear, that you have corrected your offending attitudes, and that you have sought forgiveness and made restitution as far as possible (Daniel 9:20). Lay aside your own wishes for the wishes of the one over you.
3. Discern the basic intention of the one over you. Is he looking out for your well-being? What is his frame of reference? (Daniel 1:10).
4. Then, with that information, design a creative alternative that satisfies both your authority and you. (Daniel 1:8, 11-13).
5. Without condemning him, present that alternative as an appeal, emphasizing how it will meet his goals. Leave the final decision with your authority. (Daniel 1:12-13).
6. Give God time to change his mind. (Daniel 1:16). Know that God will be putting pressure on him; that he, therefore, will probably put pressure on you; and that God can use that pressure to build Godly character in your life. Make sure you constantly respond in love and righteousness.
7. Finally, at times you may have to suffer even though you have done nothing wrong. (Daniel 6:12-16). God will be your strength.

**13. Summarize the seven steps to take when you have a disagreement with a delegated authority.**

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**RESPONSE TO TRUTH:**

1. Are you living in submission to the delegated authorities in your life in the way you: a) think, yes \_\_\_\_\_ no \_\_\_\_\_ b) speak, yes \_\_\_\_\_ no \_\_\_\_\_ c) act, yes \_\_\_\_\_ no \_\_\_\_\_ d) have attitudes, yes \_\_\_\_\_ no \_\_\_\_\_? If you answered no to any of the above, stop and repent so that you may be cleansed. Remember that repentance often requires going to God and the person you have sinned against.

2. Stop and ask the Lord to show you areas that need improvement in the way you relate to your authority figures. List below the authorities that God shows you and how you will change in relationship to that authority.

**ASSIGNMENT:**

1. Obtain and read Authority, the Controversy of the Universe by A. Wilson Phillips. Summarize below what parts of this booklet stand out to you the most.

## UNDERSTANDING THE PRINCIPLE OF AUTHORITY

### Lesson VIII

### Notes

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2. Romans 13:7 states: *“Render all their due...honor to whom honor.”*  
Write a paragraph of honor (praise) to one of your authority figures.

Give the paragraph to them or speak it to them in your own words.

# BAPTISM INTO THE MAN OF GOD

## KINGDOM LIVING

### Lesson IX

### Notes

**Key Verses:** *“All were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea.”*  
(I Corinthians 10:2)

*“Jesus answered and said to them, ‘This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent.’”* (John 6:29)

**Purpose:** The purpose of this lesson is for you to understand God’s plan for your baptism into the man of God.

### INTRODUCTION

The baptism into the man (or woman) of God is another of the doctrines of baptisms that you must understand in order to come to full maturity in Christ. Remember God’s goal for you: *“For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren”* (Romans 8:29); and *“He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked”* (I John 2:6).

In God’s sovereign plan for your life, He will lead you to be baptized into delegated spiritual authority so that you may learn to lay down personal agendas to obey God’s agenda for your life. This baptism is not for your salvation. Though being baptized into Christ is the only baptism required for new birth, the baptism into the man of God is necessary for you to come to full maturity in Christ. Consider the apostle Paul’s concern for the Corinthian church: *“For though you might have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet you do not have many fathers; for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel. Therefore I urge you, imitate me.”* (I Corinthians 4:15-16)

Paul’s concern for the Corinthians was that they were still acting as carnal Christians, or babes in Christ (I Corinthians 3:1-4). However, if they would receive him as a father (delegated spiritual authority), they would grow up to the calling of God in their lives.

**1. What does “to baptize” mean? (See chapter 2 for definition.)**

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**2. From your definition of “to baptize,” describe what you think it means to be baptized into the man of God.**

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**I. EXAMPLES OF SCRIPTURE**

The Scriptures are full of examples of God’s plan to bring His children under delegated spiritual authority. The following are a few examples:

**A. Moses**

*“All were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea.”*  
(I Corinthians 10:2)

Moses led the children of Israel out of Egypt and operated as God’s delegated spiritual authority. The story of Moses and the children of Israel can be read in Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy, but the following verses are some outstanding examples:

1. God required Aaron, Moses’ brother, to receive Moses as a delegated spiritual authority. *“Now you shall speak to him and put the words in his mouth. And I will be with your mouth and with his mouth and I will teach you what you shall do. So he shall be your spokesman to the people. And he himself shall be as a mouth for you, and you shall be to him as God”* (Exodus 4:15-16).

2. God required Miriam, Moses’ sister, to receive Moses as a delegated spiritual authority. Read Numbers 12:1-16.

3. God required the people of Israel to receive Moses as a delegated spiritual authority in order to prosper. *“Now it shall come to pass, if you **diligently obey** the voice of the Lord your God, to observe carefully all His commandments **which I command you today**, that the Lord your God will set you high above all nations of the earth”* (Deuteronomy 28:1).

**3. From the examples of Moses, write in your own words the meaning of baptism into the man of God.**

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**4. In your own words, briefly restate the story of Miriam’s rebellion against the man of God in her life.**

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**5. According to Deuteronomy 28:1, how could the people of Israel be set “high above all the nations of the earth?”**

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**6. According to Exodus 4:15-16, do you believe God would use a delegated spiritual authority to put words in your mouth?**

**Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ Why? \_\_\_\_\_**

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**B. David**

*“Then all Israel came together to David at Hebron, saying, ‘Indeed we are your bone and your flesh. Also in time past, even when Saul was king, you were the one who led Israel out and brought them in; and the Lord your God said to you, “You shall shepherd My people Israel, and be ruler over My people Israel.” ‘Therefore all the elders of Israel came to the king at Hebron, and David made a covenant with them at Hebron before the Lord. And they anointed David king over Israel, according to the word of the Lord by Samuel.” (I Chronicles 11:1-3)*

David had already been anointed by the prophet Samuel several years before this Chronicles account (I Samuel 16:13). God showed the **people** that His anointing was on David, and **they** anointed him (received him) as the man of God. As the people allowed David to encompass them, and as they obeyed David from the heart, they enjoyed peace and prosperity. The people are baptized (surrounded/encompassed) in the man of God, who Himself is baptized into God.

**7. In essence, what are the people saying about the man or woman of God when they anoint him/her?**

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*“All these men of war, who could keep ranks, came to Hebron with a loyal heart to make David king over all Israel; and all the rest of Israel were of one mind to make David king.” (I Chronicles 12:38)*

God teaches His children obedience, order, loyalty and unity as they practice being under the authority of the man of God. To make their leader successful is their ambition. In one sense, God’s people take on the identity of the one that leads them. They are baptized into the man of God.

**8. What do the people learn as they submit to God’s anointed one?**

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**9. What should be their ambition?** \_\_\_\_\_

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**C. Paul**

*“For even if I (Paul) should boast somewhat more about our authority which the Lord gave us for edification and not for your destruction, I shall not be ashamed. We, however, will not boast beyond measure, but within the limits of the sphere which God appointed us <sup>3/4</sup>a sphere which especially includes you.” (II Corinthians 10:8,13)*

Here we have an example of being baptized into the man of God in the New Covenant. The apostle Paul was anointed by God to encompass specific people. He was given authority to build them up in their faith. It stands to reason that these people could not come to maturity apart from submitting to Paul (as to God) from a pure heart.

*“Now He who establishes us with you in Christ and has anointed us is God.” (II Corinthians 1:21)*

*“You are in our hearts to die together and to live together.” (II Corinthians 7:3)*

**10. Who chooses the man of God that you are to be baptized into?**

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**11. Can a believer go around his spiritual authority and choose another one? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ Why? \_\_\_\_\_**

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**D. Jesus Christ**

*“I (Jesus Christ) and My Father are one.” (John 10:30)*

*“He who has seen Me (Jesus) has seen the Father.” (John 14:9)*

Not only are you baptized into Christ as your salvation, but you also see in Him a pattern concerning submitting to God in a **man**. Christ, the man, was God’s representative authority to people. Though Christ did not cease to be God, He functioned as a man in His earthly ministry (Philippians 2:5-11). As a man, He encompassed those that the Father had given Him. He protected them, taught them, loved them and corrected them (John 17:1-26).

**12. As seen in the man Jesus Christ, what are some of the benefits of being baptized into the man of God?**

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**II. MORE BENEFITS**

**A. Complete Cleansing and Maturity**

*“If I do not wash you, you have no part with Me.” (John 13:8)*

In one of Jesus’ more intimate moments with his disciples, He teaches a powerful truth concerning the baptism into the man of God. He took a towel and began to wash His disciples’ feet. Their natural (unrenewed) minds saw this as backward; they should be washing His feet (a sign of serving). When Peter resisted Jesus washing his feet, Jesus made it clear that He must be allowed to clean the whole man, or Peter could not have any of His benefits.

Said another way, the man of God must be allowed to cleanse every area of our lives. Many Christians consider themselves to be private individuals,

disallowing others to know their deep, hidden mysteries. This is the beauty of God’s way. He requires you to humble yourself to an anointed person of authority for complete cleansing and maturity. You cannot pick and choose what you want to receive from God’s man—you let him touch **every area of your life**, or you don’t receive any of his benefits.

**13. What was Jesus’ purpose in washing His disciples’ feet?**

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**B. God’s Best Blessings and Rewards**

*“This is the work of God, that you **believe in Him whom He sent.**”*  
(John 6:29)

*“He who receives you receives Me (Jesus Christ), and he who receives Me receives Him (Father God) who sent Me. He who receives a prophet in the name of a prophet shall receive a prophet’s reward. And he who receives a righteous man in the name of a righteous man shall receive a righteous man’s reward.”* (Matthew 10:40-41)

Jesus further underscores that the **flow** of God’s blessings and rewards comes through receiving those that He sends. In fact, your ability to understand and fulfill God’s will for your life is entirely dependent on this principle. Again, God is humbling His children by requiring their submission to another. Through this channel flows all of the benefits of God’s Kingdom. If you receive (submit and obey from the heart) a prophet, you actually receive the same reward/benefit that he receives. Wow!

**14. Do you have to be a prophet to receive a prophet’s reward?**

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ Explain. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

*“Believe in the Lord your God and you shall be established; believe in His prophets and you shall prosper.”* (II Chronicles 20:20)

As you believe in (receive, obey, humble yourself to, trust in) God you will become steady in life, immovable and secure. As you believe God’s prophets, you will prosper. This word has no limitation. **Prosper means “prosper!”**

**15. What are some of the benefits of receiving God and His anointed ones according to II Chronicles 20:20?**

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**C. An Unlimited Supply**

*“For he whom God has sent speaks the words of God for God does not give the Spirit by measure. The Father loves the Son, and has given all things into His hand.” (John 3:34-35)*

The man of God has an unlimited supply of the Spirit of God and the authority of God. Therefore, when you receive the man of God, you also receive an unlimited supply of the Spirit of God and His authority. All that you will ever need to accomplish God’s will for your life is available when you need it.

**16. What are some of the benefits of receiving the man of God according to John 3:34-35?**

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**III. LAYING ON OF HANDS**

*“Therefore, leaving the discussion of the elementary principles of Christ, let us go on to perfection, not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, of the doctrine of baptisms, of laying on of hands, of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment.” (Hebrews 6:1-2)*

*“Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you by prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the eldership.” (I Timothy 4:14)*

In the laying on of hands, the person performing the act should realize that there is a spiritual impartation to the person on whom his hands are laid. In other words, the person who lays his hands on another must have faith that the power of God in his own life is of such strength as to overcome whatever power besets the person in need. Under the law, the priest laid his hands on the animal to be sacrificed (see Leviticus 1:4, 3:2, 4:15, 16:21). This representatively transferred the sins of the people onto the innocent sacrifice. It typified how our sins were placed on Christ.

*“All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.” (Isaiah 35:6)*

The only authority any man has is that which God authorizes. There is no “magical touch” involved in the Biblical doctrine of laying on of hands. **Rather, there must be an understanding of the principle of delegated spiritual authority.**

**A. Old Testament References**

1. Joshua

*“Now Joshua the son of Nun was full of the spirit of wisdom, for Moses had laid his hands on him”* (Deuteronomy 34:9). See Numbers 27:18-23.

2. Results of the laying on of hands in the Old Testament

Joshua’s call ordained (Numbers 27:18; Deuteronomy 34:9).

Impartation (Deuteronomy 34:9; Numbers 27:20).

Acknowledgment of divine appointment (Numbers 27:18).

Transfer of spiritual authority (Numbers 27:23).

**17. What did the laying on of hands accomplish in the Old Testament?**

- a) \_\_\_\_\_
- b) \_\_\_\_\_
- c) \_\_\_\_\_
- d) \_\_\_\_\_

**B. New Testament References**

1. Healing

*“...they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick and they will recover.”* (Mark 16:18)

2. Infilling of the Holy Spirit

*“...Simon saw that through the laying on of the apostles’ hands the Holy Spirit was given.”* (Acts 8:18)

3. Impartation of spiritual gifts

*“For I long to see you, that I may impart to you some spiritual gift, so that you may be established.”* (Romans 1:11)

*“Therefore I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands” (II Timothy 1:6). See also II Timothy 1:14.*

*“Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you by prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the eldership.” (I Timothy 4:14)*

4. Blessings on children

*“And He took them up in His arms, laid His hands on them and blessed them” (Mark 10:16). See Genesis 48:14-16.*

5. Ordination of ministers

*“Whom they set before the apostles; and when they prayed they laid their hands on them.” (Acts 6:6)*

6. Sending out of ministries

*“As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Spirit said, ‘Now separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.’ Then, having fasted and prayed, and laid hands on them, they sent them away.” (Acts 13:2-3)*

**18. Explain the relationship between the person laying his hand on someone and the person on whom the hands are laid.**

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**19. When hands are laid on a person because he is sick, whose power heals that person?**

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**C. Scriptural Guidelines**

1. Use discernment

The laying on of hands means that a person enters into ministry with another person. Therefore, it should not be done hastily or without discernment. *“Do not lay hands on anyone hastily, nor share in other people’s sins; keep yourself pure” (I Timothy 5:22).*

2. Show no partiality

Laying on of hands must not be done to show favoritism of one over another. *“I charge you before God and the Lord Jesus Christ and the elect angels that you observe these things without prejudice, doing nothing with partiality”*

(I Timothy 5:21).

**20. What are Paul’s cautions to Timothy regarding the laying on of hands?**

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**RESPONSE TO TRUTH:**

1. Have you discovered God’s delegated spiritual authority(ies) at this point in your life? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ If not, stop and ask the Holy Spirit to reveal to you that person or persons He desires to use to mature you in Christ.

2. Do you believe God is pleased with the way you have been relating to His delegated spiritual authority in your life? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ If no, what needs to change?

**ASSIGNMENT:**

1. Read Ephesians 4:11-16. Describe in your own words God’s plan for bringing His Church (which includes you) to maturity.

# GROWING IN GRACE

## KINGDOM LIVING

### Lesson X

### Notes

**Key Verses:** *“Being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ.”* (Philippians 1:6)

*“For it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.”* (Philippians 2:13)

**Purpose:** The purpose of this lesson is for you to understand God’s sovereign purpose in saving you. His plan is to grow you up into maturity, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.

## INTRODUCTION

God’s original intention in creation was to reflect His glory. His glory is the manifested presence of His character.

God created mankind to rule the earth. In Genesis 1:27-28 we read: *“So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. Then God blessed them, and God said to them, ‘Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.’”* God made mankind in His own image (implied authority), then gave mankind the assignment of subduing the earth, or using his authority.

Subduing the earth would have been a lifetime plus assignment for Adam and Eve, but it would have included the subduing of the serpent, also known as Satan or the devil. The only condition placed on man was that he remain under the authority of God throughout the subduing process. In Genesis 2:15-17 we read: *“Then the Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it. And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, ‘Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.’”*

Though Adam and Eve were created without sin, there was still room for character development in their lives. This character development would have taken place as they went about the process of fulfilling God’s assignment and vision for them: subduing and populating the earth. Subduing the serpent, Satan, would have brought character development. However, in Genesis 3 we find that rather than subduing the serpent, Adam and Eve were subdued by him. The serpent did this with a lie: *“Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said to the woman, ‘Has God indeed said, “You shall not eat of every tree of the garden?”’”* (Genesis 3:1).

When Adam and Eve sinned by rebelling against God’s authority and eating of the tree of knowledge of good and evil, they came under the sway of the serpent.

Therefore, all mankind is born under the sway of the serpent, who is the devil, or Satan (Ephesians 2:1-3; Romans 5:12; Hebrews 2:15). The good news is that God’s plan is not thwarted through Satan or man. Jesus became the “last Adam” described as “a life-giving spirit.” He is called the “second Man” who is “Lord from heaven” (I Corinthians 15:45-49). Rather than being subdued by the serpent, the devil, Jesus conquered him and rendered the devil powerless.

*“Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil.” (Hebrews 2:14)*

*“He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.” (I John 3:8)*

*“Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it.” (Colossians 2:15)*

Through Christ and the great exchange of the cross, God has restored to mankind His original purpose in creation. All of creation will reflect His glory and mankind will rule and subdue the earth, including the devil and his influences. You can be a part of this reigning population, the mature Church, as you “grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ” (Ephesians 4:15).

*“For if by the one man’s offense death reigned through the one, much more those who receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.” (Romans 5:17)*

**1. What was God’s original purpose in creation?**

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**2. What role was mankind to play in God’s creation?**

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**3. In Christ, God has restored His elect to the original role for man, to reign in life and subdue the earth, including Satan, the devil or the serpent. How can you be a part of God’s reigning population?**

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**I. GROWING THROUGH SUFFERING**

God has a plan for your growth and development as a believer in Christ to bring you to full maturity. Consider the following passages:

*“Being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ.” (Philippians 1:6)*

*“Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.” (Philippians 2:12-13)*

*“Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful, who also will do it.” (I Thessalonians 5:23-24)*

**4. Who began a good work in you? \_\_\_\_\_  
Who will complete the good work in you? \_\_\_\_\_**

**5. “It is \_\_\_\_\_ who works in you both to \_\_\_\_\_ and to \_\_\_\_\_ for His good pleasure.”**

**6. “Now may the God of peace sanctify you \_\_\_\_\_; . . .He who calls you is \_\_\_\_\_, who will also do it.”**

God’s plan of growth and development for you as a believer in Christ includes suffering. The following are some examples from Scripture of people who grew, developed, and matured through suffering. In each case, they recognized suffering as part of God’s sovereign plan for their development and growth to maturity.

**A. Jesus**

**Jesus** learned obedience and was perfected (matured) through suffering.

*“For it was fitting for Him (God), for whom are all things and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to make the captain of their salvation (Jesus) perfect through sufferings.” (Hebrews 2:10)*

*“Who in the days of His flesh (Jesus), when He had offered up prayers and supplications, with vehement cries and tears to Him (God) who was able to save Him from death, and was heard because of His godly fear, though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered. And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him.” (Hebrews 5:7-9)*

**8. How did Jesus learn obedience to His heavenly Father?**

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Just as the first Adam needed character development apart from sin, so the last Adam, Jesus, had to learn obedience and be perfected (matured) apart from sin. God's tool to accomplish this was sufferings.

**9. Jesus is our pattern. Since Jesus had to learn obedience and be perfected (matured) through suffering, what does this say about God's plan for your life?**

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**B. Paul**

The apostle **Paul** was matured through sufferings. God revealed suffering as part of Paul's calling: *"But the Lord said to him, 'Go for he is a chosen vessel of Mine to bear My name before Gentiles, kings, and the children of Israel. For I will show him how many things he must suffer for My name's sake'"* (Acts 9:15-16).

Paul discovered this calling to maturity through suffering in time. Consider the following statements written by Paul:

*"But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us. We are hard-pressed on every side, yet not crushed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed<sup>3/4</sup>always carrying about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body. For we who live are always delivered to death for Jesus' sake, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh. So then death is working in us, but life in you...Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day. For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory." (II Corinthians 4:7-12, 16-17)*

*"For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us." (Romans 8:18)*

*"But I want you to know, brethren, that the things which happened to me have actually turned out for the furtherance of the gospel." (Philippians 1:12)*

*“Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me His prisoner, but share with me in the sufferings for the gospel according to the power of God.” (II Timothy 1:8)*

Because of the development and maturity that came to Paul through suffering, he was able to give the following testimony: *“Now thanks be to God who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and through us diffuses the fragrance of His knowledge in every place” (II Corinthians 2:14).*

**10. “For our light affliction...is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal \_\_\_\_\_.”**

**11. What was Paul’s testimony that he had developed into through his sufferings? (II Corinthians 2:14)**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Paul lays out the path to reigning in this passage: *“If we endure, we shall also reign with Him” (II Timothy 2:12).*

**12. Since God took the apostle Paul down the path of enduring sufferings to reign with Christ, what path do you think God will take you so that you may reign with Christ?**

\_\_\_\_\_

**C. Peter**

The apostle **Peter** also understood God’s plan of suffering. Read the following passages of Scripture written by Peter:

*“Servants, be submissive to your masters with all fear, not only to the good and gentle, but also to the harsh. For this is commendable, if because of conscience toward God one endures grief, suffering wrongfully. For what credit is it if, when you are beaten for your faults, you take it patiently? But when you do good and suffer, if you take it patiently, this is commendable before God. For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps: ‘Who committed no sin, nor was deceit found in His mouth’; who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed Himself to Him who judges righteously; who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness”*<sup>34</sup>*by whose*

*stripes you were healed. For you were like sheep going astray, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.” (I Peter 2:18-25)*

*“Therefore, since Christ suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same mind, for he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, that he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh for the lusts of men, but for the will of God.” (I Peter 4:1-2)*

*“Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you; but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ’s sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy. If you are reproached for the name of Christ, blessed are you, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. On their part He is blasphemed, but on your part He is glorified. But let none of you suffer as a murderer, a thief, an evildoer, or as a busybody in other people’s matters. Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in this matter. For the time has come for judgment to begin at the house of God; and if it begins with us first, what will be the end of those who do not obey the gospel of God?” (I Peter 4:12-17)*

**13. What does Peter say about the person who “because of conscience toward God...endures grief, suffering wrongfully”? (See I Peter 2:19.)**

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**14. “If you are reproached for the name of Christ, blessed are you, for the \_\_\_\_\_ rests upon you.” (I Peter 4:14)**

#### **D. Other Examples**

For other Biblical patterns of suffering and triumph, you may look at the stories of Joseph (Genesis 37-50), David (I Samuel 16 - 2 Samuel 7) and Job (Book of Job).

## **II. DON’T WASTE YOUR SORROWS**

As a believer in Christ, the question is not whether or not you will experience suffering. The question is whether or not you will benefit from your sorrows and sufferings or waste your sorrows and sufferings.

### **A. A Pitfall to Avoid**

Stop! Read Hebrews 12:1-15.

God disciplines every son whom He receives. *“Whom the Lord loves, He chastens...”* (Hebrews 12:6). He is able to discipline His children with a perfect discipline (vs. 9-10), never being too hard or too soft. Remember that

He is in complete control of all things, and is working “all things according to the counsel of His will” (Ephesians 1:11). **Nothing happens by chance!** The key to receiving discipline (suffering) from the Lord is to let it break you and mature you, producing the character of Christ in you. The pitfall to avoid is found in Hebrews 12:15, “*Looking diligently lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled.*” To become bitter through suffering is to waste your sorrows.

**15. According to Hebrews 12:6, whom does the Lord discipline?**

\_\_\_\_\_

**16. What is the key to receiving God’s discipline (suffering)?**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**17. What is the pitfall to avoid when experiencing suffering?**

\_\_\_\_\_

**B. Remembering God’s Purpose**

*“And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose. For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.” (Romans 8:28-29)*

**18. “And we know that \_\_\_\_\_ work together for good to those who love God...”**

**19. In Romans 8:29 we see that God predestined you to be conformed to the image of His Son. What do you think it means to be predestined?**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**III. AUTHORITY TO BECOME**

In John 1:12-13 we read: “*But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name: who*

were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.” The word “right” is from the Greek word “Exousia,” meaning “executive authority.” You have been given the authority to become a child of God. You must learn to use that authority in order to experience maturity to reign in life.

**A. The Sons of God**

“For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.” (Romans 8:14)

The sons of God are described as those who are led by the Spirit of God. It is these who will reign as heirs of God (Romans 8:17). You have the authority within you to be led by the Spirit.

**20. Define the sons of God.**

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**B. Spirit, Soul, Body**

It is difficult to learn how to be led by the Spirit of God without understanding how God made you: spirit, soul, body (I Thessalonians 5:23). The following diagram illustrates your makeup.

- Spirit** intuition  
          communion  
          conscience
- Soul** mind (to think)  
          will (to choose)  
          emotions (to feel)
- Body** see smell  
          hear feel  
          taste

You are a spirit being and God has come to live in your spirit. You are in spiritual union with Him.

You have a soul, made up of your mind (to think), will (to choose) and emotions (to feel).

You live in a body where you experience natural senses: seeing, hearing, tasting, smelling and feeling.

In order to be led by the Spirit, you must experience the dividing of your soul and spirit. The Word of God does this for us: *“For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart”* (Hebrews 4:12).

Once divided, you can allow your spirit (in union with God’s spirit) to lead your soul and body. In other words, you must learn to be led by the spirit rather than your natural way of thinking or feeling. As you are led by the Holy Spirit who lives in your spirit, you will experience the benefits of being a son and heir of God.

**21. Use the space below to diagram the way God made you: spirit, soul and body.**

**22. You are a \_\_\_\_\_, you have a \_\_\_\_\_, which is made up of your mind, will, and emotions, and you live in a \_\_\_\_\_.**

**23. Read I Corinthians 6:17. “He who is joined to the Lord is \_\_\_\_\_.”**

**24. In your own words, briefly explain why it is necessary for the Word of God to divide between your soul and spirit.**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**C. The Spiritual Mind**

As you allow the Holy Spirit, who is in union with your spirit, to train your mind, you will develop what the Bible calls a spiritual mind. Only by the development of a spiritual mind can you grow to full maturity in Christ. *“For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be”* (Romans 8:5-7).

25. “For to be carnally minded is \_\_\_\_\_, but to be spiritually minded is \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.”

26. The carnal mind, or natural way of thinking, is at enmity against God. What do you think it means to be at enmity against God?

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**Does this motivate you to develop a spiritual mind?**

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ Why? \_\_\_\_\_

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Much scientific research has been done to learn about the development of a child’s mind. Children’s minds are developed by watching adults and other children, imitating what they see, playing, reading, interacting with adults, speaking things they have heard, etc. Similarly, you will develop a spiritually mature mind by watching mature Christians, imitating their Christ-like attitudes and behavior, reading the Word of God and other materials with spiritual concepts, interacting with more mature Christians, and speaking God’s spiritual language, the Word of God.

The apostle Paul states the principle like this: “*The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you*” (Philippians 4:9).

**27. How can you develop a spiritual mind?**

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**RESPONSE TO TRUTH:**

**1. Have you accepted the fact that nothing takes place by chance and that God will use suffering to develop and mature you in Christ?**

**2. Consider your past sufferings and sorrows. Have you been wasting them or benefiting from them?**

**How do you know if you are wasting your sorrows or benefiting from them?**

**Give a recent example of a suffering or sorrow you experienced and tell how you handled it.**

**ASSIGNMENT:**

**1. Read Psalm 139:1-18. Briefly explain the message of the psalmist.**

**2. Re-read Philippians 2:12-13. Why do you think Paul put your responsibility (“Work out your own salvation”) and God’s sovereign working (“for it is God who works in you”) in the same sentence?**

# THE AUTHORITY OF SCRIPTURE

## KINGDOM LIVING

### Lesson XI

### Notes

“The Book is a divine production; it is perfect, and is the last court of appeal—‘the judge which ends all strife.’ I would as soon dream of blaspheming my Maker as of questioning the infallibility of His Word.”  
Charles H. Spurgeon

**Key Verse:** *“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.”*  
(II Timothy 3:16-17)

**Purpose:** The purpose of this lesson is to affirm that the Bible is God’s inerrant Word and to demonstrate the importance of the Bible for your life.

### INTRODUCTION

As children of God, we must have a proper view of the Scriptures. It is not that the Scriptures become God’s Word just when they are quickened (made alive to an individual personally), but the Scriptures are God’s Word whether a person sees them as they are stated or not.

The promise of the Bible regarding those persons who place their confidence in the inerrancy (belief that the Bible is perfect, containing no errors) of the Scriptures is this: *“Therefore whosoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock”* (Matthew 7:24-25).

However, of those persons who decide that they will not believe all of the Word, but will only accept that which they prefer, Jesus said: *“Now everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall”* (Matthew 7:26-27).

**1. According to what you have just read, in your own words, state briefly the final outcome of those who place their confidence in the inerrancy of the Word of God and those who do not accept all the Bible as being inspired by God.**

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**I. THE BIBLE: AUTHORITATIVE AND INERRANT**

If the Bible is not God’s Word, those who have believed it throughout the ages are sadly mistaken. Those who have given their lives to spread the Gospel have died in vain. There are numerous reasons, however, for accepting the Bible as God’s Word. We will look at four areas of proof of Biblical inerrancy: 1) The Bible teaches inerrancy; 2) Jesus affirmed inerrancy; 3) The Church has believed in inerrancy; and 4) God’s character demands inerrancy.

**A. The Bible teaches inerrancy.**

*“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness” (II Timothy 3:16)*

The word translated as “inspiration” means “breathed out by God.” God Himself gave the Scriptures. Rephrased, this verse says that all Scripture was breathed out by God.

**2. According to II Timothy 3:16, the Scriptures are profitable in at least four ways. List those ways and briefly explain them in your own words.**

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*“For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled.” (Matthew 5:18)*

Jots and tittles are small marks in the Hebrew alphabet which distinguish one letter from another. The meaning here is that all the Bible will be fulfilled, even what appears very insignificant. None will remain unfulfilled.

**3. Does the Bible teach that some small part of Scripture will go unfulfilled? Explain:** \_\_\_\_\_

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In II Peter 1:16-18, Peter describes one of his experiences with Jesus (the transfiguration on the mountain top, Matthew 17). Then he says in verse 19 that he has “...*the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star*

*rises (revelation) in your hearts.” Peter’s experience confirmed the prophetic word, or the Word of God to him.*

The Word of God is the basis for beliefs. The Holy Spirit gives us experiences to confirm God’s Word in our hearts. What is contained in the Word is not from “...*the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit*” (II Peter 1:21).

**4. In your own words, describe how you can “heed” the Word of God “as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your heart” (II Peter 1:19) .**

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**B. Jesus affirmed inerrancy.**

Persons who believe portions of the Scriptures to be in error often refer to the first eleven chapters of Genesis as erroneous. These chapters include the accounts of the creation and the flood. Jesus believed in these portions of Scripture. He even used these two particular events as references in His teaching.

*“Have you not read that He who made them at the beginning ‘made them male and female?’” (Matthew 19:4)*

*“But as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.” (Matthew 24:37)*

Jesus reaffirmed what the Bible says about itself. Every word will be fulfilled.

*“Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill. For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled.” (Matthew 5:17-18)*

*“Then He said to them, ‘These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me.’ And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures” (Luke 24:44-45)*

Jesus went to the Old Testament passages which refer to Himself and showed His hearers that those things which were written in the past were being fulfilled in Him. The fulfillment of prophecy should have shown the people that the Bible is without error. Jesus, referring to these passages, proved that He believed them. Jesus said that the Scriptures cannot be broken. Can we take a lesser view of the Scriptures than Jesus did and claim to be His followers?

**5. According to Jesus, what portions of the Bible will go unfulfilled? How do you know this?**

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**C. The Church affirms the Bible.**

For 1800 years, the Church has believed the Bible. This fact alone does not prove the inerrancy of the Scriptures but this generation cannot disregard the foundation of Christian belief throughout the ages. It would be folly to deny what was accepted by Christians of previous centuries. They accepted the Scriptures as God’s Word.

Martin Luther said, “The Scriptures, although they were written by men, are not of men nor from men, but from God.”

John Calvin wrote, “We owe to the Scripture the same reverence which we owe to God; because it has proceeded from Him alone and has nothing belonging to man mixed with it.”

George Washington declared, “It is impossible to rightly govern without God and the Bible.”

**6. Is it of any significance to us that the Church has accepted the Bible for the past 1800 years? If so, what is the significance?**

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**D. God’s character demands that the Bible be true.**

The character of God Himself proclaims the Bible to be without fault because He is without fault:

“*The entirety of Your word is truth...*” (Psalm 119:160)

“*Your word is truth.*” (John 17:17)

“*God, who cannot lie, promised...*” (Titus 1:2)

7. Name the four major reasons given in Section I that show that the Bible is without error.

- a) \_\_\_\_\_
- b) \_\_\_\_\_
- c) \_\_\_\_\_
- d) \_\_\_\_\_

**II. THE BIBLE IS A LIVING BOOK**

*“For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”* (Hebrews 4:12). Because this Bible is a living book with a divine authorship, it has the power to change your life.

The sections of the Bible may be described as follows:

**A. The Old Testament**

- 1. Books of the Law (Genesis through Deuteronomy)
- 2. Books of History (Joshua through Esther)
- 3. Books of Poetry (Job through the Song of Solomon)
- 4. Books of the Prophets (Isaiah through Malachi)

**B. The New Testament**

- 1. The Gospels (Matthew through John)
- 2. Early Church History and Pattern for Church Life (Acts)
- 3. Letters to the Churches (Romans through Jude)
- 4. Prophecy (the Revelation)

**III. THE IMPORTANCE OF STUDYING THE BIBLE**

There are several reason why we should study the Bible.

- A. The Bible will keep a person from sin. (Psalm 119:9,11)**
- B. The Bible is alive and active; it uncovers sin and error. (Hebrews 4:12)**
- C. The Bible is man’s guide for a way of life. (II Timothy 3:16-17)**
- D. The Bible works effectually in believers. (I Thessalonians 2:13)**
- E. The Bible is the Word of God to man. (Matthew 4:4)**
- F. The Word cleanses. (John 15:3; Ephesians 5:25-26)**
- G. The Bible causes people’s lives to be fruitful and prosperous. (Psalm 1:2-3)**

- H. The Word gives victory over sin. (Psalm 119:11)**
- I. The Bible gives prayer words for prayer power. (John 15:7)**
- J. “Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God.” (Romans 10:17)**

**8. Look up several of the passages given above. Select any two verses and explain in your own words what benefits one can receive by studying the Bible.**

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**IV. MAN’S OPINION IN LIGHT OF GOD’S WORD**

The authority of God’s Word has been clearly established. However, there are those who believe and teach contrary to the Word. What is to be our attitude about this?

**A. Obedience**

Once we have a knowledge of the Word, we must be obedient to that Word in order to call Him Lord.

*“But why do you call Me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and do not do the things which I say?” (Luke 6:46)*

**B. Subjection of Personal Opinions to Scriptural Authority**

Our preconceived ideas must be put away if they do not follow the established guidelines of the Bible.

*“Casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ.” (II Corinthians 10:5)*

**C. Becoming More Like Jesus**

As we see the will of God, our former doctrines, ideas, and imaginations are changed. We become more like Jesus as the Spirit does the work.

*“But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.” (II Corinthians 3:18)*

**9. In view of the Word, what must happen to everything in our lives, including previously taught doctrines and ideas, when we are shown through the Word that they are incorrect?**

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**V. THE ORIGIN OF THE BIBLE**

God brought infallible revelation through fallible men over a period of 1600 years. The Holy Spirit was the divine author. About forty men were used to pen the words.

**A. The Bible was given by inspiration of God.**

*“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work”*  
(II Timothy 3:16-17)

**B. The Spirit of God moved on men to give them the Word.**

*“Knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.”* (II Peter 1:20-21)

**10. Explain in your own words how the Bible was written.**

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**VI. WHY THE BIBLE IS DIVIDED INTO TWO TESTAMENTS**

**A. God’s revelation to man is progressive.**

*“Whom will He teach knowledge? And whom will He make to understand the message? Those just weaned from milk? Those just drawn from the breasts? For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept, line upon line, line upon line, here a little, there a little.”* (Isaiah 28:9-10)

**B. The Old Testament was preparatory to the New Testament.**

*“For the law, having a shadow of the good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with these same sacrifices, which they offer continually year by year, make those who approach perfect.”* (Hebrews 1:10)

*“For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.”*  
(Romans 15:4)

**C. The Old Testament sets forth types and shadows of the New Testament Church.**

*“Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, on whom the ends of the ages have come”*  
(I Corinthians 10:11)

**11. The two divisions of the Bible are the \_\_\_\_\_  
and the \_\_\_\_\_**

**12. In your own words, explain the relationship between the Old Testament and the New Testament.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**VII. WHY BIBLE STUDY IS NECESSARY**

The study of God’s Word is necessary if we are to grow in our relationship with God.

**A. Applying the Word to One’s Life**

*“Open my eyes, that I may see wondrous things from Your law”*  
(Psalm 119:18)

As you read the Word of God, you are dependent on the Holy Spirit, who authored it, to interpret the Word to you. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you as you read. As you maintain a spirit of humility and dedication to God’s Word, Holy Spirit will be faithful to *“guide you into all truth”* (John 16:13). Then, *“you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free”* (John 8:32).

When you read a passage, ask the Holy Spirit, who lives in you, these three questions to help you further understand it.

- 1. What does it say?
- 2. What does it mean?
- 3. How do I apply it to my life today?

**13. Who are you dependent upon to guide you into all truth as you read the Word of God?**

\_\_\_\_\_

**14. What is the appropriate attitude to have when you read from the Word of God?**

\_\_\_\_\_

**15. What three questions should you ask the Holy Spirit, who lives in you, to help you further understand a passage of Scripture?**

a) \_\_\_\_\_

b) \_\_\_\_\_

c) \_\_\_\_\_

**B. Dedicate Yourself to the Obedience of God’s Word**

Faith is acting on the Word of God.

After reading God’s Word, meditation (a reflection, pondering and rephrasing in one’s mind the words that have been read) further causes the Word to sink into a person’s spirit. Then as you act on the revealed Word of God, God will cause you to have a continuous flow of faith to be victorious in every circumstance of life.

*“This Book of the Law shall not depart from you mouth but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.” (Joshua 1:8)*

Remember Peter’s exhortation: *“We also have the prophetic word made more sure, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts” (II Peter 1:19).*

**16. According to Joshua 1:8, how can you make your way prosperous and successful?**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**RESPONSE TO TRUTH:**

1. Do you believe that the Bible is the in-breathed Word of God to you?  
yes \_\_\_\_\_ no \_\_\_\_\_ Why? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Are you allowing the Bible to dictate your conduct in :

- a) doctrinal beliefs, yes \_\_\_\_\_ no \_\_\_\_\_
- b) sexual conduct, yes \_\_\_\_\_ no \_\_\_\_\_
- c) financial accountability, yes \_\_\_\_\_ no \_\_\_\_\_
- d) family relationships, yes \_\_\_\_\_ no \_\_\_\_\_
- e) all other relationships, yes \_\_\_\_\_ no \_\_\_\_\_
- f) use of time, yes \_\_\_\_\_ no \_\_\_\_\_

**ASSIGNMENT:**

1. Faith is acting on the Word of God. In II Timothy 2:15 we read: *“Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”*

Set a time each day when you can diligently spend time in the Word of God. Often the best time is in the morning, before you become involved in the activities of the day, when you are most rested. As you set an appointment with the Lord each morning, He will reveal Himself to you through His Word. Write the time of day below and what things you can do to keep that appointment with the Lord.

# AN ESCHATOLOGY OF VICTORY

## KINGDOM LIVING

### Lesson XII

### Notes

**Key Verse:** *“For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.”* (Habakkuk 2:14)

**Purpose:** The purpose of this lesson is for you to understand God’s plan for the future. His plan includes a victorious, mature Church through which restoration and healing will come to all the nations. God, therefore, desires for you to develop a positive outlook towards the future.

## INTRODUCTION

The word eschatology comes from the Greek word “eschatos,” meaning last or final. Eschatology, therefore, is the study of the last things or end times. It is important for you to understand how God views the end times because we have been living in the end times since the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The apostle Peter established this fact in his first sermon after receiving the baptism of the Holy Spirit. In explaining the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in Acts 2, Peter states: *“For these are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day. But this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel: ‘And it shall come to pass in the **last days**, says God, that I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophecy, your young men shall see visions, your old men shall dream dreams.’”* (Acts 2:15-17)

The book of Hebrews confirms Peter’s conviction: *“God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these **last days** spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds”* (Hebrews 1:1-2).

When the Scripture speaks of the last days or end times, they refer to what may be called **the present reign of Jesus Christ**. Simply put, Jesus Christ is currently ruling and reigning with all authority over all the heavens and all the earth. **He is in complete control.**

*“And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, ‘All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.’”* (Matthew 28:18)

*“..Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth.”* (Revelation 1:5)

*“In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will.”* (Ephesians 1:11)

### 1. Define eschatology.

2. In your own words, describe what the Scriptures are referring to when they speak of the end times or last days.

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\_\_\_\_\_  
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**I. THE PRESENT REIGN OF JESUS CHRIST**

The most quoted/referred to Old Testament passage in the New Testament is a psalm of King David, Psalm 110:1-4. This Old Testament passage is revealed in the New Testament as a prophecy of the enthroned Christ (cf. Acts 1:9-11, 3:20-21; I Corinthians 15:25; Hebrews 10:12-13; Colossians 3:1; Matthew 22:41-45; Ephesians 1:20-23).

**Stop! Read Psalm 110:1-4.** Now let’s look at the psalmist’s (King David’s) revelation of the enthroned Christ.

**A. The LORD said to My Lord**

The Hebrew words for LORD and Lord are not the same. The first “LORD” is from the Hebrew word “Yahweh,” known to David as the God of all the universe. The second “Lord” is from the Hebrew word “Adonai,” known to David as the Messiah or Christ. “Yahweh” was always used to refer to the all powerful God, revealed to man as the great “I Am who I Am” (Exodus 3:14). “Adonai” was a term of respect often used for human authorities, owners, masters, kings, etc. (II Samuel 16:9 “...my Lord the king”).

Therefore, we read: “Yahweh said to Adonai...”

Peter in Acts 2:34-35 quotes this psalm referring to Father God and Jesus. Then he says in verse 36, “Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ.” Therefore, in New Testament understanding we could read this passage like this: “Father God said to Jesus Christ...”

3. In your own words, describe who is speaking to whom in the Psalm 110:1-4 passage of Scripture.

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**B. Sit...Until**

Now let's look at what Father God said to Jesus. *"Sit at My right hand, till I make Your enemies Your footstool."* This is where we are today. Jesus is currently at Father God's right hand, having all authority and power, waiting until all of His enemies are put under His feet.

*"But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God, from that time waiting till His enemies are made His footstool."* (Hebrews 10:12-13)

From the position of the Father's right hand (delegated authority), Jesus currently rules the earth.

*"For He must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet. The last enemy that will be destroyed is death."* (I Corinthians 15:25-26)

**4. Where is Jesus now?**

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**5. From the passage of Scripture above, how long will Jesus stay seated at the Father's right hand?**

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**C. When Will Jesus Return?**

There is much talk about "the signs of the times" and "the imminent return" of Christ in Christian circles today. However, Peter gives us insight about the return of Christ: *"Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that He may send Jesus Christ, who was preached to you before, whom heaven must receive until the times of restoration of all things, which God has spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began"* (Acts 3:19-21).

Combined with the understanding that Jesus will sit at the Father's right hand until all of His enemies are made His footstool, we are able to see a picture of what must take place before the return of Christ. Think of it, all of the enemies of Christ coming under His feet.

6. According to the Scriptures, what must take place before the return of Christ?

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7. Name several things that you see as “enemies” of Christ that are in the earth today.

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8. All of Jesus’ enemies will be made His footstool before He returns. Describe what that means about the enemies listed in question number 7.

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**D. In the Mean Time**

The question now arises about how all of Jesus’ enemies will be placed under His feet. We can see the answer again in Psalm 110. *“The Lord shall send the rod of Your strength out of Zion. Rule in the midst of your enemies!”* (Psalm 110:2).

Yahweh is sending the rod of Jesus’ strength out of Zion. The rod of Jesus’ strength is the Word of God. *“Who (Jesus) being the brightness of His (Father God’s) glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high”* (Hebrews 1:3).

Zion represents the Church. *“But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels, to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are registered in heaven, to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of just men made perfect”* (Hebrews 12:22-23).

Therefore, we understand the prophecy to read like this: “Father God shall

send the word of God (rod of Jesus’ strength) out of the church (Zion). Rule in the midst of Your enemies!” HALLELUJAH! This is taking place today. God uses the Church to speak God’s word, bringing the enemies of Christ under His feet. Since you are a part of the Church, the body of Christ, you are a part of this process. As God leads you to speak His word, you will be placing the enemies of Christ under His feet!

**9. In your own words, describe how all of the enemies of Christ will be made His footstool.**

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**E. The Result of Speaking God’s Word**

The result of the body of Christ, the Church, speaking God’s word is found in verse 3: *“Your people shall be volunteers in the day of Your power; in the beauties of holiness, from the womb of the morning, You have the dew of Your youth”* (Psalm 110:3).

Today is the day of Jesus’ power, and God is raising up volunteers to accomplish His purpose (Revelation 19:14). The “beauties of holiness” describe the honor and splendor of God’s people characterized by holiness (Psalm 8:5). The “womb of the morning” describes new beginnings such as your coming under the Lordship of Christ (II Corinthians 5:17). The “dew of Your youth” refers to a great multitude of people (Psalm 2:8).

**10. In your own words, describe the result of the Church speaking God’s word.**

**a) An army of volunteers (Revelation 19:14)**\_\_\_\_\_

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**b) The beauties of holiness (Psalm 8:5)**\_\_\_\_\_

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c) The womb of the morning (II Corinthians 5:17)\_\_\_\_\_

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d) The dew of Your youth (Psalm 2:8)\_\_\_\_\_

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**F. Jesus, Our High Priest**

Psalm 110:4 describes Jesus’ activity while seated at the Father’s right hand. He is acting as our High Priest.

*“The Lord has sworn and will not relent, You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.”* (Psalm 110:4)

Jesus lives to make intercession for you continuously before the throne of God. This is His ministry.

*“Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us.”* (Romans 8:34)

Now consider what the ministry of Jesus means to you.

*“Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.”* (Hebrews 4:14-16)

*“If God is for us, who can be against us?”* (Romans 8:31)

**11. In your own words, describe the ministry and activity of Jesus as a High Priest.**

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**12. Describe what this ministry means to you as a believer in Christ.**

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**II. THE CHURCH’S REIGN WITH JESUS CHRIST**

Remember that God’s plan in the beginning was for man to subdue the earth and all that dwelled therein, which included the serpent or Satan. His plan has not changed. Because of our union with Christ, we are to rule with Him. Consider the following scriptures:

*“And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all”* (Ephesians 1:22-23).

*“Even when we were dead in trespasses, (God) made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus”* (Ephesians 2:5-6).

*“For if by the one man’s offense death reigned through the one, much more those who receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ”* (Romans 5:17).

*“If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory”* (Colossians 3:1-4).

**13. According to Ephesians 1:22-23 and Ephesians 2:5-6, describe where you are seated.**

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**14. In your own words, describe what it means in your personal life to be seated with Christ at the Father’s right hand.**

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15. According to Colossians 3:1-4, “you \_\_\_\_\_, and your life is \_\_\_\_\_.”

**A. The Head and the Body Are One**

Jesus is the head and we, the Church, are the body.

*“And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence.” (Colossians 1:18)*

In a healthy person, the head and the body are one. The head gives instructions, and the body obeys. The head and the body depend upon one another. So it is with Christ and His Church; He gives the instructions and we obey. However, the body has the feet. Since the body has the feet, we learn that all of Jesus’ enemies becoming His footstool means that the enemies will come under us.

**16. All of Jesus’ enemies are being made His footstool. We are the body of Christ. We have the feet. What does this say about the enemies of Christ and the Church?**

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**B. Our Priestly Ministry**

Jesus is currently ruling and reigning at the Father’s right hand through His priestly ministry. He has all authority as our High Priest. Because we are one with Him, He has shared that authority with us, the Church.

*“He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you” (John 16:14).*

*“And have made us kings and priests to our God; and we shall reign on the earth.” (Revelation 5:10)*

You have authority as a priest of God. We discover that authority as we mature in Christ.

**17. The following scriptures show some of our job description as priests of God on the earth. Look them up and describe them in your own words.**

a) **John 20:21-23** \_\_\_\_\_

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b) II Corinthians 5:18-20 \_\_\_\_\_  
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c) I Timothy 2:1-6 \_\_\_\_\_  
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d) Hebrews 13:15-16 \_\_\_\_\_  
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**III. THE KINGDOM OF GOD**

*“Now when He was asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, He answered them and said, ‘The kingdom of God does not come with observation; nor will they say “See here!” or “See there!” For indeed, the kingdom of God is within you.’” (Luke 17:20-21)*

Many today are asking when the kingdom of God will come (referring to Jesus return, etc.). Jesus gave us the answer. The kingdom has come! The kingdom is within you. Jesus taught the principles of the kingdom through many of His parables. Then to help the disciples understand the present reality of His kingdom He said to them: *“And I bestow upon you a kingdom, just as My Father bestowed one upon Me, that you may eat and drink at My table in My kingdom, and sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel” (Luke 22:29-30).*

**18. Where is the kingdom of God?**

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**A. Describing the Kingdom of God**

The kingdom of God is described in both the Old Testament and the New Testament. The kingdom of God was revealed to the prophet Daniel through a vision recorded in Daniel 2. **Stop! Read Daniel 2.**

Daniel 2:35 reveals the growth principle of the kingdom of God: *“And the stone that struck the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth.”*

*“And in the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever. Inasmuch as you saw that the stone was cut out of the*

*mountain without hands, and that it broken pieces the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver, and the gold. The great God has made known to the king what will come to pass after this. The dream is certain, and its interpretation is sure.” (Daniel 2:44-45)*

Jesus described this same growth principle of the kingdom through the parable of the mustard seed: *“Another parable He put forth to them, saying: ‘The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and sowed in his field, which indeed is the least of all the seeds; but when it is grown it is greater than the herbs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and nest in its branches’” (Matthew 13:31-32).*

**19. From Daniel’s vision and Jesus’ parable, describe in your own words the growth principle of the kingdom of God.**

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(For further study of parables describing the kingdom of God, see Matthew 13:1-52, 20:1-6, 22:1-14, 25:1-46.)

The prophet Isaiah describes the growth principle of the kingdom saying, *“Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end, upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, to order it and establish it with judgment and justice from that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the Lord of host will perform this” (Isaiah 9:7).*

The end result of the growth of the kingdom of God is found in Isaiah 11:9 and Habakkuk 2:14: *“They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain, for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea...For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.”*

**20. In your own words, describe the end result of the kingdom growing in the hearts of God’s people.**

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**B. The True Israel of God**

As a believer in Christ, it is important for you to understand who the true Israel of God is. Many prophecies and promises are made to Israel. Yet Paul says in II Corinthians 1:20, *“For all the promises of God in Him (Jesus) are Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us.”* Paul was writing to Gentile Christians about all the promises made in the Old Testament to Israel. Let’s stop and figure out what gave him the confidence to make such a statement.

*“For he is not a Jew who is one outwardly, nor is circumcision that which is outward in the flesh; but he is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the Spirit, not in the letter; whose praise is not from men but from God.”* (Romans 2:28-29)

*“For we are the circumcision, who worship God in the Spirit, rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh.”* (Philippians 3:3)

*“There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you are Christ’s, then you are Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise.”* (Galatians 3:28-29)

*“For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but a new creation. And as many as walk according to this rule, peace and mercy be upon them, and upon the Israel of God.”* (Galatians 6:15-16)

The apostle Paul clearly teaches that the Church is the true Israel of God. Jesus taught this principle when he spoke to the Jews of His day: *“Therefore I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken from you and given to a nation bearing the fruits of it. And whoever falls on this stone will be broken; but on whomever it falls, it will grind him to powder”* (Matthew 21:43-44).

Understanding that the Church is the true Israel of God allows the Holy Spirit to put faith in our hearts when we read prophecies and promises that are addressed to God’s chosen people, Israel. These prophecies and promises are being fulfilled in Christ and His church.

**21. Who is the true Israel of God?****22. How does this understanding help you when reading prophecies or promises addressed to Israel?**

**RESPONSE TO TRUTH:**

1. After studying this chapter, do you believe your view of the future has been too negative \_\_\_\_\_, too positive \_\_\_\_\_, just right \_\_\_\_\_? Why?

**ASSIGNMENT:**

1. Re-write Psalm 110 with New Testament understanding of what was written. For example: Father God said to Jesus...

2. Read Zechariah 8:23. Since you have discovered that the church is the true Israel of God, what does this verse say about you?

# DEVELOPING A DEVOTIONAL PRAYER LIFE

## KINGDOM LIVING

### Lesson XIII

### Notes

**Key Verse:** *“Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.”* (I John 5:14-15)

**Purpose:** The purpose of this lesson is to reveal how “right” and how “necessary” and how “do-able” a daily, devotional prayer life is to the believer in Christ.

## INTRODUCTION

We have, in Christ, a pattern for all believers to follow. One of the key elements to Christ’s success as a Spirit-led man was His communion with the Father—Prayer! Many believers consider prayer mysterious and ,therefore, unattainable. This lesson will unravel the mystery of prayer and enable **every believer** to enjoy all the benefits of continual intimacy and fellowship with the Father, Son and Spirit.

### I. WE ARE HIS “HOUSE OF PRAYER”

*“And He said to them, ‘It is written, My house shall be called a house of prayer...’”* (Matthew 21:13)

*“Do you not know that you are the temple (house) of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?”* (I Corinthians 3:16)

These two scriptures show that the New Covenant believer **is the house of God**, and that His house is to be a **house of prayer**. Since prayer is to be in communion (communication) with God, this is one of the foremost purposes of every Christian.

#### 1. What, or who, is the house of God?

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#### 2. What is one definition of prayer?

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## II. PRAYER BEGINS BY KNOWING GOD INTIMATELY

### A. Meditating in the Word

*“This book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall*

*meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.”* (Joshua 1:8)

*“Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.”* (Colossians 3:16)

The word for “meditate” in the Hebrew language meant to reflect, to moan, to mutter, to ponder, to make a quiet sound such as sighing, to think on the words as one repeats them, to abandon all outside distractions while quietly repeating the words over and over again. We should begin our day with this practice of meditation on the Word of God, and we should practice meditation throughout the day. In the spare moments that you have, recycle truth from the Scripture through your mind and your mouth. Who knew how simple prayer could be?

**3. What does the word “meditate” mean?**

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**B. Intimacy With The Holy Spirit**

*“Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for (with) us with groanings which cannot be uttered. Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God.”* (Romans 8:26-27)

The Holy Spirit is your source and channel of prayer. Christ gave His Spirit to be with you and in you (John 14:17), to manifest Christ to you (John 14:21) and to guide you into all truth (John 16:13). Prayer is not a formula or ritual; it is a flow of fellowship that involves communication between you and God. The Holy Spirit is always present to enable you to pray. He knows what the Father and Son are thinking—He knows what you are thinking—and He knows how to align your thoughts with God’s thoughts through prayer. Practicing intimacy with the Holy Spirit makes a believer consistent in hearing the “voice” of the Holy Spirit.

**4. How does being intimate with the Holy Spirit help you in your prayer life?**

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**C. Worship, an Essential Part of Prayer**

*“Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him, and bless His name”* (Psalm 100:4). Though God’s presence is always in the Christian, and He never leaves, you enter into God’s presence in a special way with the attitude and practice of worship. Worship means to bow your will to His will. This “positions” you to commune with God.

**5. What should be your attitude as you come into God’s presence to pray?**

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*“You also as living stones are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ”* (I Peter 2:5). All believers in Christ are “priests” to God.

*“Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name.”* (Hebrews 13:15)

As New Covenant priests to God, the sacrifices that you make to Him are the sacrifices of praise and thanks. The surrendered heart overflowing with praise and worship to God is prayer.

**6. What is the sacrifice that you offer God today as His priests?**

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**D. Worshipping/Praying God’s Names**

God’s character and attributes are made known in His names in Scripture. Speaking His names releases a wealth of revelation, faith, security, boldness, joy, peace, etc.

Here are some of the compound names of God in the Old Covenant with the fulfillment in Christ in the New Covenant:

- Jehovah-Tsidkenu—God is your righteousness  
(Jeremiah 23:6; II Corinthians 5:21)
- Jehovah-M’Kaddesh—God is your sanctifier  
(Exodus 31:13; I Thessalonians 5:23)
- Jehovah-Shalom—God is your peace  
(Judges 6:24; Ephesians 2:13-14)
- Jehovah-Shammah—God is always there with you  
(Ezekiel 48:35; Hebrews 13:5)
- Jehovah-Rophe—God is your healer  
(Exodus 15:26; Matthew 8:17)
- Jehovah-Jireh—God is your provider  
(Genesis 22:14; Philippians 4:19)
- Jehovah-Nissi—God is your banner (victory)  
(Exodus 17:15; Revelation 12:11)
- Jehovah-Rohi—God is our shepherd  
(Psalm 23:1; John 10:11)

**7. Why should you worship/speak God’s names in prayer?**

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**E. Worshipping God With Your Whole Being**

*“I beseech you therefore brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is our reasonable service.”* (Romans 12:1)

Worship requires the whole person: spirit, mind, will, emotions and body. Worship begins with the spirit that is united to the Spirit of Christ (John 4:23); it flows through the mind, will and emotions (Deuteronomy 6:5); and it is expressed through the tongue, hands, feet and even posture (Hebrews 13:15; Psalm 63:4; Lamentations 3:41; Psalm 149:3; Psalm 95:6).

**8. Read all the scriptures in the paragraph above and list some of the ways that worship is to be expressed to God.**

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**F. Worship God With Spiritual Language**

*“I will pray with the spirit, and I will also pray with the understanding. I will sing with the spirit, and I will also sing with the understanding. Otherwise if you bless with the spirit, how will he who occupies the place of the uninformed say ‘Amen’ at your giving of thanks, since he does not understand what you say? For you indeed give thanks well...”* (I Corinthians 14:15-16)

Praying in the spiritual language is a valid and profitable way to commune with God in prayer. See Chapters V and VII concerning the spiritual language.

**9. Why is the spiritual language an important ingredient in the devotional prayer life?**


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**III. AGREEING WITH GOD**

*“Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.”* (Matthew 6:10)

*“Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.”* (I John 5:14-15)

As a believer in Christ, you practice communion/intimacy with Christ’s Word and His Spirit, which means you come to think like Christ. Your will and His will are in agreement. This is the **beginning of all prayer**. All true prayer originates from God, He shares His thoughts/will with you, and you speak it into being through prayer.

*“I and My Father are one.”* (John 10:30)

*“Jesus lifted up His eyes and said, Father I thank you that you have heard Me. And I know that You always hear Me...”* (John 11:41-42)

As Jesus was one with the Father’s will, there was a perfect flow of communication between them. All things that Jesus asked the Father to do He already knew to be the Father’s will.

**10. Where does all true prayer originate?**

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**11. How can you know that your prayers will be answered?**

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**A. Agreeing With God About People**

*“Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions and giving of thanks be made for all men, for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence”* (I Timothy 2:1-2). God desires that we pray His will into being for people in authority, as well as members of our family, our church, our acquaintances, etc.

**B. Agreeing With God About Our Needs and Desires**

*“Give us this day our daily bread...”* (Matthew 6:11)

*“And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.”* (Philippians 4:19)

God wants to bless His children greatly through the provision of the covenant in Christ.

**C. Agreeing With God About Our Purposes and Plans**

*“If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire and it shall be done for you. By this is My Father glorified that you bear much fruit, so you will be my disciples.”* (John 15:7-8)

*“Whatever you ask the Father in My Name He will give you.”* (John 16:23)

God has wonderful plans for His children. As we abide in His Word and Spirit, He reveals them to us, and we call them forth with boldness.

**12. What are three areas that we need to agree with God about and call forth in prayer?**

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**IV. AGREEING WITH PEOPLE**

*“Therefore if you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.” (Matthew 5:23-24)*

Christ clearly states that your prayers/worship will be to no avail if you are not cleared out with your brother or sister in Christ. The flow of communion with God is on a circuit that includes the flow of communion with God’s children. If you break the circuit of flow with one of your brothers in Christ, you break the flow between yourself and God.

*“Again I say to you that if two of you agree on earth, concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven.” (Matthew 18:19)*

God intends that this earth be restored through the prayers of His saints that practice living in agreement. Agreement is more than just agreeing about a matter, it is actually agreeing first in “heart” with Christ and one another, and then agreeing about the “specifics.” Jesus said that this type of prayer will always be answered.

**13. How necessary is your agreement with your brothers and sisters in Christ in having your prayers answered? Why?**

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\_\_\_\_\_

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**V. MAKE AN APPOINTMENT**

*“The Lord has given Me the tongue of the learned that I should know how to speak a word in season to him who is weary. He awakens Me morning by morning, He awakens My ear to hear as the learned. The Lord God has opened My ear and I was not rebellious, nor did I turn away.” (Isaiah 50:4-5)*

*“Through the Lord’s mercies we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness. The Lord is my portion, says my soul, therefore I hope in Him! The Lord is good to those who wait for Him, to the soul who seeks Him.” (Lamentations 3:22-25)*

*“Now in the morning, having risen a long while before daylight, He (Jesus) went out and departed to a solitary place; and there He prayed” (Mark 1:35).*

It is a good practice to set a time in your day, when you are fresh and not distracted by the duties of the day, to commune with God. For many people, the early morning works best. This is not to be a rigid formula, but there is nothing wrong with healthy discipline. Disciples practice good disciplines of faith...prayer is one of those good disciplines.

**14. Should a person set a time each day to commune/pray with God? If so, when is usually the best time, and why?**

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**VI. COMMUNE/PRAY CONTINUALLY**

*“Pray without ceasing.” (I Thessalonians 5:17)*

*“Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints...” (Ephesians 6:18)*

*“A fire shall always be burning on the altar; it shall never go out.” (Leviticus 6:13)*

*“I will bless the Lord at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth.” (Psalm 34:1)*

Since prayer is communion with God, it should be something that you practice all the time. Even when you must direct your attention to work, school, etc., you can still have an awareness of God’s presence within. Plus, it only takes a moment to breathe a word to God or to think on His truth. This fire is the fire of the Holy Spirit within you that never needs to go out. Just as God Himself is eternal and never sleeps, so your spirit is eternal in its union with Christ.

**15. How can a believer pray without ceasing?**

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**VII. PUT ON THE ARMOR OF CHRIST**

Stop! Read Ephesians 6:10-20.

*“Finally brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.”* (Ephesians 6:10-11)

Christians live in victory daily by continually thinking and speaking/praying the truth about God, themselves and others. Paul gives some very helpful ways to remind yourself of the truth daily and to enjoy the security that Christ is to you. He is literally suggesting that you clothe yourself with who Christ is!

**16. List the armor of God that Paul mentions in Ephesians 6:10-20 and explain what each one does for you.**

**RESPONSE TO TRUTH:**

**1. Have you set a time each day to you have an appointment with the Lord to pray and read devotionally. \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No If not, stop and make that appointment with the Lord. Briefly write below when that appointment will be and what steps you will take to make sure you keep that appointment.**

**ASSIGNMENT:**

**1. Look up the scriptures found in section I. D. that deal with the covenantal names of God. To understand how God revealed each name, it may be necessary to read the story or passage around the Old Testament scripture listed.**

**Take time to briefly write out how God revealed each name in Scripture.**

**2. Memorize the covenantal names of God so that you may use them in your devotional prayer life. Speak them out loud to the Lord.**

**For example, you might say: “Lord, I praise You as Jehovah-Tsidkenu our righteousness. Thank You for Your righteousness that fills my life. I praise You as Jehovah-Jireh my provider. You have provided Jesus as the Lamb of God for me so I can have relationship with You. You provide in our finances. You are the provider for all things...”**