

BIBLE DOCTRINES

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Special Appreciation

The devotion and hard work of the following people has made this book possible. Suzi Morgan worked tirelessly in the original composition. Randy Eplin, Brenda Sell and Jon Friedt helped me edit and revise the fourth printing.

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Introduction

Bible Doctrines are teachings or views based on the scriptures. The doctrines that are included in this book support the Word of Faith belief. To be Word of Faith means to believe the Word of God more than what one can see, hear, touch, taste or smell. To know that God, who cannot lie has given His word, the Bible, to guide us into all truth.

The intent of this book is to provide a simple, easy to read review of basic Bible truths. It is purposefully not written as deep theological text.

Keep these thoughts in mind as you read.

- Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever.
- God enjoys using the unique characteristics of His children for His purpose.
- Salvation is only the beginning of a fresh new life in Christ.
- God is a good God.

Chapter 1

THE SCRIPTURES ARE INSPIRED

The **scriptures are inspired** in both Old and New Testaments.

II Timothy 3:16-17

16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

17 That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

II Peter 1:20-21

20 Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation.

21 For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.

Here are 5 supporting arguments that the scriptures are inspired of God.

1. Jesus Himself endorsed the Old Testament

Matthew 5:17-18

17 Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil.

18 For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.

John 5:39

Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.

John 5:46

For had ye believed Moses, ye would have believed me: for he wrote of me.

Luke 24:27

And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself.

Luke 24:44

And he said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me.

2. The New Testament claims inspiration.

The Scriptures Are Inspired

II Peter 3:15-16

15 And account that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation; even as our beloved brother Paul also according to the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you;

16 As also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction.

3. The Bible is the product of one mastermind.

There are sixty-six books in the Bible. All are in agreement, written by forty different authors over a period of sixteen hundred years. The Bible was written by priests, like Ezra, poets like Solomon, prophets like Isaiah, warriors like David, shepherds like Amos, statesmen like Daniel, sages like Moses and Paul and fishermen like Peter and John.

4. The moral standards of the Bible prove it to be divine.

The Bible requires such a high standard that Romans 3:10 plainly states "*there is none righteous, no, not one;*"

Psalm 14:1-3

1 The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God. They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none that doeth good.

2 The LORD looked down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there were any that did understand, and seek God.

3 They are all gone aside, they are all together become filthy: there is none that doeth good, no, not one.

1 Peter 1:16

Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.

Matthew 5:48

Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.

5. Because of the Bible's fruits, we know it is divinely inspired.

Wherever the Bible has been preached, it has transformed lives. Its fruits are always good and produce love and righteous living. Without God's Word, evil will reign and men, women and children will suffer.

Matthew 7:20

Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.

Chapter 2

THE TRINITY

The second Bible doctrine we will discuss is the doctrine of **the Trinity: one God in three persons**. Man finds it hard to relate to perfect unity and agreement but with God it is a natural thing. There is no disagreement in the Godhead. God is one God manifest in three persons. It is like an egg that has three parts: yoke, white, and shell; yet an egg is not any one of these but all three. Water (H₂O) can be liquid, steam or ice; yet it is always H₂O (water) in its essence. i.e.: Man is a spirit who lives in a body and possess' a soul yet he is one person (individual).

Deuteronomy 6:4

Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD:

Mark 12:29, 32

29 And Jesus answered him, The first of all the commandments is, Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord

32 And the scribe said unto him, Well, Master, thou hast said the truth: for there is one God; and there is none other but he:

1. The Trinity is embedded in the Word of God.

The following scriptures speak of Jesus being baptized by John the Baptist. Jesus, the Holy Spirit, and God the Father are all manifest in one place at one time. Note the underlined portions.

Matthew 3:16-17

16 And Jesus, when he was baptized went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him:

17 And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

Mark 1:9-11

9 And it came to pass in those days, that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee, and was baptized of John in Jordan.

10 And straightway coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens opened, and the Spirit like a dove descending upon him:

11 And there came a voice from heaven, saying, Thou art my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

Luke 3:21-22

21 Now when all the people were baptized, it came to pass, that Jesus also being baptized, and praying, the heaven was opened,

22 And the Holy Ghost descended in a bodily shape like a dove upon him, and a voice came from heaven, which said, *Thou art my beloved Son; in thee I am well pleased.*

- Jesus sent His disciples into the entire world with this exhortation.

Matthew 28:19 NAS

Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit,

- We find Paul acknowledged the Trinity by ending his second letter to the Corinthians with these words.

II Corinthians 13:14

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with you all. Amen.

- Once again, we find the Trinity as Peter wrote:

I Peter 1:2

Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied.

II. Jesus is distinguished from the Father.

Daniel 7:9-14

9 I beheld till the thrones were cast down, and the Ancient of days did sit, whose garment was white as snow, and the hair of his head like the pure wool: his throne was like the fiery flame, and his wheels as burning fire.

10 A fiery stream issued and came forth from before him: thousand thousands ministered unto him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him: the judgment was set, and the books were opened.

11 I beheld then because of the voice of the great words which the horn spake: I beheld even till the beast was slain, and his body destroyed, and given to the burning flame.

12 As concerning the rest of the beasts, they had their dominion taken away: yet their lives were prolonged for a season and time.

13 I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him.

14 And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed.

Mark 13:32

But of that day and that hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels which are in heaven, neither the Son, but the Father.

Acts 7:55

55 But he, being full of the Holy Ghost, looked up stedfastly into heaven, and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God,

1 Corinthians 15:28

And when all things shall be subdued unto him, then shall the Son also himself be subject unto him that put all things under him, that God may be all in all.

Galatians 1:1

Paul, an apostle, (not of men, neither by man, but by Jesus Christ, and God the Father, who raised him from the dead.)

I John 2:22-23

22 *Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist, that denieth the Father and the Son.*

23 *Whosoever denieth the Son, the same hath not the Father: (but) he that acknowledgeth the Son hath the Father also.*

- John acknowledges the distinction.

Revelation 5:7

And he came and took the book out of the right hand of him that sat upon the throne.

Revelation 7:10

And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb.

Revelation 21:22

And I saw no temple therein: for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it.

Chapter 3

THE DEITY OF JESUS

The **deity of Jesus** means that Jesus is God, part of the Godhead. He is neither an angel nor created being, but He is eternal with the Father, He always was and always will be. The title "Son of God" is used 87 times or more in the New Testament.

Here are eight proofs of the deity of Jesus.

1. God said Jesus was His son.

Matthew 3:17

And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased

Matthew 17:5

While he yet spake, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him.

2. Jesus called God His Father.

John 5:17-18

17 But Jesus answered them, My Father worketh hitherto, and I work.

18 Therefore the Jews sought the more to kill him, because he not only had broken the sabbath, but said also that God was his Father, making himself equal with God.

John 5: 22-23

22 For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son:

23 That all men should honour the Son, even as they honour the Father. He that honoureth not the Son honoureth not the Father which hath sent him.

John 10:27-30

27 My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:

28 And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.

29 My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand.

30 I and my Father are one.

John 14:9

Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Show us the Father?

3. Isaiah said "A child is born, a son is given...."

Isaiah 9:6

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

4. John the Baptist said Jesus was the Son of God.

John 1:34

And I saw, and bare record that this is the Son of God.

5. Mark declared Jesus was the Son of God.

Mark 1:1

The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God;

6. Jesus affirmed Peter's statement that Jesus is the Christ.

Matthew 16:16-17

16 And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.

17 And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.

7. Angels and demons testified Jesus was the Son of God.

Angels:

Luke 1:32

He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David:

Demons:

Luke 4:41

And devils also came out of many, crying out, and saying, Thou art Christ the Son of God. And he rebuking them suffered them not to speak: for they knew that he was Christ.

8. The writer of Hebrews calls Jesus God.

Hebrews 1:8

But unto the Son he saith, Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: a sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of thy kingdom.

Hebrews 1:3

Who being the brightness of his 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 on the right hand of the Majesty on high;

The word translated “person” in the Greek is “hupostasis”. It is the same Greek word translated as “substance” in Hebrews 11:1. *“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.”* Jesus is of the very substance as God, therefore Jesus is God.

Listed below are additional excellent scriptures proving that Jesus is the very essence of God.

John 1:1-3, 14

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

2 The same was in the beginning with God.

3 All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.

14 And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth

John 5:22-29

22 For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son:

23 That all men should honour the Son, even as they honour the Father. He that honoureth not the Son honoureth not the Father which hath sent him.

24 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.

25 Verily, verily, I say unto you, The hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God: and they that hear shall live.

26 For as the Father hath life in himself; so hath he given to the Son to have life in himself;

27 And hath given him authority to execute judgment also, because he is the Son of man.

28 Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice,

29 And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.

John 14:6

Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

John 14:9

Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Shew us the Father?

II Corinthians 4:4

In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.

Colossians 1:12-19

12 *Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light:*

13 *Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son:*

14 *In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins:*

15 *Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature:*

16 *For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:*

17 *And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.*

18 *And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.*

19 *For it pleased the Father that in him should all fulness dwell;*

Colossians 2:9

For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily.

Revelation 1:11

Saying, I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last...

Revelation 1:17-18

17 And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last:

18 I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.

The following scriptures show that the “Almighty” in Revelation 1:8 is the same person referred to in Revelation 22:13, 16. As one can plainly see, that person is Jesus.

Revelation 1:8

I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty.

Revelation 22:13

I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last.

Revelation 22:16

I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star.

Chapter 4

MAN NEEDS A SAVIOR

The fourth doctrine is that **man needs a savior**. Man cannot save himself and the beauty of the Gospel of Jesus Christ is that He did for us what we could not do for ourselves. Every religion in the world is works oriented but Christianity is based on grace. It is not based on what we can do, but on what God did for us. The **Gospel means good news**. This is an important fact that we must remember. Many have fallen into error because they have abandoned their dependence upon God's grace and have become legalistic and performance oriented.

Legalism is the greatest destroyer of relationship. Relationship is what Jesus died for. Jesus did not die so we could have a legal code of ethics or a strict rule of do's and don'ts. He died so we could have a personal relationship with God just as Adam once had. Through this personal relationship, God changes us from the inside out. He produces holiness in us by His Spirit within us and by the new nature of our born again spirit.

Romans 8:3-4

3 For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh:

4 That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh but after the Spirit.

In Romans 14:17, the Kingdom of God is described not as meat and drink, nor is it do's and don'ts. It is described as righteousness, peace and joy. Righteousness is **right relationship**. Right relationship produces **security**. The evidence of security is **peace**, and the expression of peace is **joy**, and the joy of the Lord is our strength as in Nehemiah 8:10.

Relationship with man is God's intended purpose. Satan is always trying to destroy our relationship with God and to bring us into law. According to 2 Corinthians 3:6, the letter kills but the Spirit gives life. When we are legalistic, we lose our security, peace, and joy, which is our strength. Satan's strategy is obvious.

1. Man was created good and upright.

Man voluntarily transgressed and incurred spiritual and physical death.

Genesis 1:27, 31

27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.

31 And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day.

2. Adam sinned.

Genesis 2:17

But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.

Romans 5:12

Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:

3. Since Adam's sin, all are born with a sin nature and cannot approach God for reconciliation apart from Jesus.

Ephesians 2:1-3

1 And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins;

2 Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:

3 Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.

Romans 3:23

For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God

4. Jesus is the only savior.

God is a just God. **Justice** is enforcing the full penalty of the law, which in this case, was spiritual death resulting in physical death also. **Mercy** is to disregard the requirements of the law. However, God will not exercise mercy at the expense of justice. The only way justice and mercy can be applied is through a third party, so someone must pay the penalty of the law.

John 14:6

Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

Acts 4:12

Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

I Timothy 2:5, 6

5 For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;

6 Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.

Ephesians 5:2

And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savor.

Galatians 1:4-6

4 Who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father:

5 To whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

6 I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel:

5. Only Jesus paid the price for our sin.

Jesus paid for our sins so you and I would not have to, but we do have to receive his gift.

Romans 5:15-21

15 But not as the offence, so also is the free gift. For if through the offence of one many be dead, much more the grace of God, and the gift by grace, which is by one man, Jesus Christ, hath abounded unto many.

16 And not as it was by one that sinned, so is the gift: for the judgment was by one to condemnation, but the free gift is of many offences unto justification.

17 For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.)

18 Therefore as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life.

19 For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous.

20 Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound:

21 That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord.

Romans 3:24-26

24 Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:

25 Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God;

26 *To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus.*

II Corinthians 5:19-21 Amplified

19 *It was God (personally present) in Christ, reconciling and restoring the world to favor with Himself, not counting up and holding against [men] their trespasses [but canceling them]; and committing to us the message of reconciliation - of the restoration to favor.*

20 *So we are Christ's ambassadors, God making His appeal as it were through us. We [as Christ's personal representatives] beg you for His sake to lay hold of the divine favor [now offered you] and be reconciled to God.*

21 *For our sake He made Christ [virtually] to be sin Who knew no sin, so that in and through Him we might become [endued with, viewed as in and examples of] the righteousness of God - what we ought to be, approved and acceptable and in right relationship with Him, by His goodness.*

6. You must be born again. There is no other way to be saved.

Salvation is how grace reigns through righteousness. Now we have seen that man is born with a sin nature and cannot save himself.

John 3:3, 7

3 *Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.*

7 *Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.*

Good works will not provide salvation.

Ephesians 2:8, 9

8 *For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:*

9 *Not of works, lest any man should boast.*

Titus 3:5

Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;

We must understand that man could not live in heaven without being born again any more than fish could grow on a tree. That is not its nature. A man could not live under water because man is not a fish and does not have gills. It is not man's nature. Man could not fly as a bird because man does not have wings and feathers. It is not man's nature. To live in a heavenly atmosphere, man must be born again and receive a new nature. When a man is born again, his spirit is reborn, not his body or mind. He receives a new nature. Without this new nature, the love nature of God, heaven would not be the peaceful place we expect it to be. One would bring with him selfishness,

strife and discord, so Jesus said, “*Ye must be born again.*” Ephesians 2:3b . . . *and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.*

2 Peter 1:4

Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

Ephesians 2:3b

...we were by nature children of wrath, even as others.

I Corinthians 6:17

But he that is joined unto the Lord is one spirit.

I Peter 1:23

Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.

7. Works are the fruit or evidence of salvation.

Although works cannot save us, Jesus said a tree is known because of its fruit. We identify a person because of the fruit that he bears. A man's actions determine his character. A born-again person will begin to produce fruit and as he continues to grow, more fruit will be produced and it will never stop. Works are the fruit or evidence of salvation.

Luke 6:43-44

43 For a good tree bringeth not forth corrupt fruit; neither doth a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit.

44 For every tree is known by his own fruit. For of thorns men do not gather figs, nor of a bramble bush gather they grapes.

Always remember that **faith precedes salvation and works follow salvation.**

Matthew 5:16

Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

James 2:14-26

14 What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him?

15 If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food,

16 And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit?

17 Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.

18 *Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works.*

19 *Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble.*

20 *But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?*

21 *Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar?*

22 *Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect?*

23 *And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God.*

24 *Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only.*

25 *Likewise also was not Rahab the harlot justified by works, when she had received the messengers, and had sent them out another way?*

26 *or as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.*

8. Salvation means that one makes Jesus the Lord of one's life.

A person becomes born again by making Jesus the Lord or Boss of their life, by submitting to His authority and confessing Him as Lord. (Rom. 10:9-10) Christianity was once called the Great Confession. Confession brings possession.

Matt 10:32-39

32 *Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven.*

33 *But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven.*

34 *Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword.*

35 *For I am come to set a man at variance against his father, and the daughter against her mother, and the daughter in law against her mother in law.*

36 *And a man's foes shall be they of his own household.*

37 *He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.*

38 *And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me.*

39 *He that findeth his life shall lose it: and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it.*

Luke 9:23-24

23 *And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.*

24 *For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: but whosoever will lose his life for my sake, the same shall save it.*

Matthew 7:21

21 Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.

Confession brings possession.

Romans 10:9-10

9 That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

10 For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

Just a note on the benefits of salvation:

The Hebrew and Greek words for salvation imply the ideas of **deliverance, safety, preservation, healing** and **soundness**. All of these benefits are obtained by confessing with our mouth and believing in our heart.

Chapter 5

THE ORDINANCES OF THE CHURCH

The three **ordinances of the church** discussed in this chapter are Water Baptism, Communion, and Tithing.

1. Water Baptism

Baptism replaces the Old Testament circumcision. (Gal 2:20)

Romans 6:1-7

1 *What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound?*

2 *God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?*

3 *Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?*

4 *Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.*

5 *For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection:*

6 *Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.*

7 *For he that is dead is freed from sin.*

A. Water baptism is for believers only.

Water Baptism should follow a repentant heart.

Acts 2:38

Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

Matthew 28:19 NAS

19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit,

B. Water baptism is an outward show of an inward work.

Babies and small children are to be dedicated as Hannah dedicated Samuel. The New Testament teaches we must believe before we are baptized. If a person was baptized before he believed, he should be baptized again to fulfill the scriptural admonition to believe and be baptized. We should follow that order.

Mark 16:16

He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.

Jesus said to be baptized, so to follow Christ and do righteously, one must obey the teachings of Jesus.

Luke 7:29 Amplified

*29 And all the people who heard Him, even the tax collectors, acknowledged the justice of God [in calling them to repentance, and in pronouncing future wrath on the impenitent], being baptized with the baptism of John;
30 But the Pharisees and the lawyers [of the Mosaic Law] annulled and rejected and brought to nothing God's purpose concerning themselves, by [refusing and] not being baptized by [John].*

Matthew 3:15 Amplified

15 But Jesus replied to him, Permit it just now, for this is the fitting way for [both of] us to fulfill all righteousness—that is, to perform completely whatever is right.

If one has already received the Holy Spirit before being baptized in water, he should still follow through and obey the command to be water baptized.

Acts 10:47-48

*47 Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we?
48 And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then prayed they him to tarry certain days.*

C. The proper mode of water baptism is immersion.

The Greek word for baptism is “baptisma”, and it comes from the root word “bapto”, meaning to dip. It has jokingly been said that those who were baptized by sprinkling were saved in spots while those who had water poured on them, were saved in streaks. However light hearted this might be, it does help one to realize that if baptism is a symbol of burial in water, one surely would want to be completely covered. Five simple scriptural statements concerning baptism show us what the Word of God says about water baptism.

1. Baptism requires water.

Acts 8:36

And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized?

2. Baptism requires much water.

John 3:23

And John also was baptizing in Aenon near to Salim, because there was much water there: and they came, and were baptized.

3. Baptism requires going down into the water.

Acts 8:38

And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him.

4. Baptism is a burial in water.

Romans 6:4

Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

Colossians 2:12

Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead.

5. Baptism requires a coming up out of the water.

Matthew 3:16

And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, lighting upon him.

Acts 8:39

And when they were come up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip, that the eunuch saw him no more: and he went on his way rejoicing.

D. The proper mode of water baptism is one that recognizes the Trinity and reveals the Son as Jesus Christ.

In the following scriptures, notice how quickly after conversion, believers were baptized. Great emphasis is placed on it in the Scriptures.

Great Commission:

Matthew 28:19 NAS

19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit,

Upper room:

Acts 2:38, 41

38 Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

41 Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.

Philip:

Acts 8:12, 16, 36

12 But when they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.

36 And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized?

Paul:

Acts 9:18

And immediately there fell from his eyes as it had been scales: and he received sight forthwith, and arose, and was baptized.

Acts 22:16

And now why tarriest thou? Arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins calling on the name of the Lord.

The House of Cornelius:

Acts 10:47-48

47 Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we?

48 And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then prayed they him to tarry certain days.

Lydia:

Acts 16:14-15

14 And a certain woman named Lydia, a seller of purple, of the city of Thyatira, which worshipped God, heard us: whose heart the Lord opened, that she attended unto the things which were spoken of Paul.

15 And when she was baptized, and her household, she besought us, saying, If ye have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come into my house, and abide there. And she constrained us.

Philippian Jailor:

Acts 16:33

And he took them the same hour of the night, and washed their stripes; and was baptized, he and all his, straightway.

2. Communion or The Lord's Supper

A. Jesus Christ instituted the ordinance of communion.

Communion replaces the Lord's Passover (I Cor. 5:7) "...for even Christ our passover is sacrifice for us..."

The cup represents Christ's blood which purchased our salvation. The bread represents Christ's body which purchased our healing.

Luke 22:19-20

19 And he took bread, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them, saying, This is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me.

20 Likewise also the cup after supper, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you.

I Corinthians 11:23-34

23 For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, That the Lord Jesus the same night in which he was betrayed took bread:

24 And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me.

25 *After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me.*

26 *For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come.*

27 *Wherefore whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink this cup of the Lord, unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord.*

28 *But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup.*

29 *For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body.*

30 *For this cause many are weak and sickly among you, and many sleep.*

31 *For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged.*

32 *But when we are judged, we are chastened of the Lord, that we should not be condemned with the world.*

33 *Wherefore, my brethren, when ye come together to eat, tarry one for another.*

34 *And if any man hunger, let him eat at home; that ye come not together unto condemnation. And the rest will I set in order when I come.*

B. Jesus ordered his disciples to observe communion.

Matthew 26:26-27

26 *And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, Take, eat; this is my body.*

27 *And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it;*

The Greek meaning of “*Drink ye all of it*” is “all of you drink it.”

I Corinthians 11:24

And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me.

C. We are told to examine ourselves.

I Corinthians 11:27-32

27 *Wherefore whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink this cup of the Lord, unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord.*

28 *But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup.*

29 *For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body.*

30 *For this cause many are weak and sickly among you, and many sleep.*

31 *For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged.*

32 *But when we are judged, we are chastened of the Lord, that we should not be condemned with the world.*

Paul is referring to the manner in which the Corinthian Church was receiving communion. They went about it in an unworthy manner. Notice in verse 29 *“he that drinketh unworthily”* is better understood in the Amplified Bible which says, *“Without discriminating and recognizing with due appreciation, that body...”* Also the word *“damnation”* is translated as “judgment” in other translations such as the NAS, NIV, and Amplified. We are clearly told to approach communion with reverence and godly sincerity.

D. The Lord's Supper is a healing ordinance.

I Corinthians 11:24

And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me.

Isaiah 53:4-5

4 Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.

5 But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.

Matthew 8:17

That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esaias the prophet, saying, Himself took our infirmities, and bare our sicknesses.

I Peter 2:24

Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.

E. The Lord's Supper is an outward show of an inward work.

Finally, the Lord's Supper, like baptism, it is an outward show of an inward work, a daily relationship. John 6:48-58 shows us the Biblical way to observe communion. It would be illuminating for the serious Bible student to study this passage of Scripture in the Amplified Bible as well.

John 6:48-58

48 *I am that bread of life.*

49 *Your fathers did eat manna in the wilderness, and are dead.*

50 *This is the bread which cometh down from heaven, that a man may eat thereof, and not die.*

51 *I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.*

52 *The Jews therefore strove among themselves, saying, How can this man give us his flesh to eat?*

53 *Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you.*

54 *Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day.*

55 *For my flesh is meat indeed, and my blood is drink indeed.*

56 *He that eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, dwelleth in me, and I in him.*

57 *As the living Father hath sent me, and I live by the Father: so he that eateth me, even he shall live by me.*

58 *This is that bread which came down from heaven: not as your fathers did eat manna, and are dead: he that eateth of this bread shall live for ever.*

John 6:57 Amplified

57 *Just as the living Father sent me and I live by (through, because of) the Father, even so whoever continues to feed on Me [whoever takes Me for his food and is nourished by Me] shall [in his turn] live through and because of Me*

3. Tithing

The word tithe means tenth, just like one half is 50% of the whole or a quarter is 25% of the whole. Anything less than one tenth is not tithe. One tenth is 10%. Believers are to tithe on the gross income, not on the net income. The gross is the amount before taxes. We benefit from taxes that provide services like roads, schools, libraries and the Armed Forces, firemen and law enforcement officers that protect us. Because we profit from these services, we should tithe on our pay before taxes. We should also tithe before we pay child support

Malachi 3:6-12

6 *For I am the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed.*

7 *Even from the days of your fathers ye are gone away from mine ordinances, and have not kept them. Return unto me, and I will return unto you, saith the LORD of hosts. But ye said, Wherein shall we return?*

8 *Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings.*

9 *Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation.*

10 *Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.*

11 *And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, saith the LORD of hosts.*

12 *And all nations shall call you blessed: for ye shall be a delightsome land, saith the LORD of hosts.*

A. The scriptural reason for tithing is to learn to fear the Lord.

Tithing is more about honor than money.

Deuteronomy 14:22-23

22 *Thou shalt truly tithe all the increase of thy seed, that the field bringeth forth year by year.*

23 *And thou shalt eat before the LORD thy God, in the place which he shall choose to place his name there, the tithe of thy corn, of thy wine, and of thine oil, and the firstlings of thy herds and of thy flocks; that thou mayest learn to fear the LORD thy God always.*

Psalm 111:10

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: a good understanding have all they that do his commandments: his praise endureth forever.

The scriptural reason for tithing is to learn to fear the Lord. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. Tithing is more about honor than it is about money as noted in Proverbs 3:9. Therefore, the theme of Matthew 6:24-34 is summarized in verse 33, that is if we seek first His kingdom He will add things to us.

B. Since the church is supported by the tithe, Satan is constantly trying to stop people from tithing.

God's intent is to bless us. The law of God is that we reap what we sow. By tithing, we give God the legal right to bless our lives and remove the curse. Tithing is an act of faith based on the law of God. Satan is a legalist; therefore he is powerless to stop the blessing. Many argue against tithing not recognizing the law of sowing and reaping.

Galatians 6:7

Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap

Genesis 8:22

While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease

II Corinthians 9:6-8

6 But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully.

7 Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.

8 And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work:

Seedtime and harvest promise a rich reward for being generous. Seeds always give more back than what is planted. If you planted just one kernel of corn you would reap an entire stalk with hundreds of kernels on each ear. By looking at the following scriptures, we can clearly see that God's intent is to bless us when we trust Him with our tithe and offering. In the long run, tithing does not cost the believer. Malachi 3:10 promises that the windows of heaven will be opened for you when you bring the tithe into the storehouse.

This Scripture in Mark speaks of the hundred-fold return on your giving. However, you will notice that great sacrifice is involved when one is dealing with the hundred-fold return.

Mark 10:29-30

29 And Jesus answered and said, Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my sake, and the gospel's,

30 But he shall receive an hundredfold now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life.

Luke 6:38

Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again.

Ephesians 6:8

Knowing that whatsoever good thing any man doeth, the same shall he receive of the Lord, whether he be bond or free.

C. The tithe belongs to the Lord; we do not start giving until the tithe is paid.

The tithe already belongs to God. One cannot give what does not belong to him. Offerings are what one chooses to give to God. Tithe is a fixed 10%. Offerings are not fixed by scriptures but by the believer.

Leviticus 27:26 NIV

No one, however, may dedicate the firstborn of an animal, since the firstborn already belongs to the LORD; whether an ox or a sheep, it is the LORD's.

Leviticus 27:30 NIV

A tithe of everything from the land, whether grain from the soil or fruit from the trees, belongs to the LORD; it is holy to the LORD.

Tithing is a trust test. Your obedience to trust God will give Him the legal right to bless you. God wants to bless you so He can reach a lost and dying world. To be successful in reaching this world for the Gospel, we must be the head and not the tail financially.

Deuteronomy 8:18

But thou shalt remember the LORD thy God: for it is he that giveth thee power to get wealth, that he may establish his covenant which he sware unto thy fathers, as it is this day.

Deuteronomy 28:11-13

11 And the LORD shall make thee plenteous in goods, in the fruit of thy body, and in the fruit of thy cattle, and in the fruit of thy ground, in the land which the LORD sware unto thy fathers to give thee.

12 The LORD shall open unto thee his good treasure, the heaven to give the rain unto thy land in his season, and to bless all the work of thine hand: and thou shalt lend unto many nations, and thou shalt not borrow.

13 And the LORD shall make thee the head, and not the tail; and thou shalt be above only, and thou shalt not be beneath; if that thou hearken unto the commandments of the LORD thy God, which I command thee this day, to observe and to do them:

The first step to prosperity is to believe God wants to bless you. You cannot have faith for finances unless you believe it is God's will for you to prosper. According to III John 2, it is God's will for you to prosper. God loves you and wants you to prosper just like you want your children to succeed and do well in life.

According to financial consultant Larry Burkett (1999), only three to five percent of Christians tithe. Forty-five percent of Christians give nothing and the average evangelical Christian gives only 2.4% of their income to God {2002}.

D. Tithing is a principle, not a law.

Tithing began 600 years before the law. Abraham paid tithe to Melchisedec. The law simply emphasized something that was already in existence.

Genesis 14: 20

20 And blessed be the most high God, which hath delivered thine enemies into thy hand. And he gave him tithes of all.

Hebrews 7:1-10

1 *For this Melchisedec, king of Salem, priest of the most high God, who met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings, and blessed him;*

2 *To whom also Abraham gave a tenth part of all; first being by interpretation King of righteousness, and after that also King of Salem, which is, King of peace;*

3 *Without father, without mother, without descent, having neither beginning of days, nor end of life; but made like unto the Son of God; abideth a priest continually.*

4 *Now consider how great this man was, unto whom even the patriarch Abraham gave the tenth of the spoils.*

5 *And verily they that are of the sons of Levi, who receive the office of the priesthood, have a commandment to take tithes of the people according to the law, that is, of their brethren, though they come out of the loins of Abraham:*

6 *But he whose descent is not counted from them received tithes of Abraham, and blessed him that had the promises.*

7 *And without all contradiction the less is blessed of the better.*

8 *And here men that die receive tithes; but there he receiveth them, of whom it is witnessed that he liveth.*

9 *And as I may so say, Levi also, who receiveth tithes, payed tithes in Abraham.*

10 *For he was yet in the loins of his father, when Melchisedec met him.*

E. Tithing was not done away with the Law.

Matthew 5:17

Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil.

Jesus said He came to fulfill the law not to do away with it. God has put His laws in our minds and in our hearts. When we are truly led by the Spirit of Love, we do naturally all the things that were required in the Old Testament law. We have a new nature now and all that we own belongs to God. The tithe is just a weekly reminder that all we own belongs to God. Jesus told the Scribes and Pharisees that they did right in tithing but they should not have omitted the weightier matters of the Law like justice, mercy and faithfulness. If Old Testament saints were required to give God the tithe, then surely that should be the minimum any born again child of God would want to do.

Hebrews 8:10

...I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts...

Romans 3:31

Do we then make void the law through faith? God forbid: yea, we establish the law.

Romans 13:8, 10

8 *Owe no man any thing, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law.*

10 *Love worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law."*

Matthew 23:23

Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone.

F. The way you handle your money is important to God.

Some say that Jesus does not care about your money, but the Bible contains more about money than it does about heaven, hell, faith and love combined! One in ten scriptures as well as sixteen of thirty-eight parables deal with how to handle your possessions. Over 600 verses in the entire Bible, 100 verses in Proverbs alone, deal with the issue of money. The Bible mentions money or things that can be turned into money 2,085 times. What a person does at offering time reflects more of the nature of a person than what that person does at praise and worship or early morning prayer times. We see this occur with Jesus as He observed the widow woman in Luke 21:3, "*And he said, Of a truth I say unto you, that this poor widow hath cast in more than they all*"

Life is broken down into increments of time. One sells those increments of time for money. Forty hours of time is forty hours of life. Jesus cares about life; therefore, Jesus cares about money. When the widow cast in her last two mites, we find Jesus sitting by the treasury watching the people give.

Mark 12:41-44

41 *And Jesus sat over against the treasury, and beheld how the people cast money into the treasury: and many that were rich cast in much.*

42 *And there came a certain poor widow, and she threw in two mites, which make a farthing.*

43 *And he called unto him his disciples, and saith unto them, Verily I say unto you, That this poor widow hath cast more in, than all they which have cast into the treasury:*

44 *For all they did cast in of their abundance; but she of her want did cast in all that she had, even all her living.*

It is said that Jesus still sits by the treasury and watches people give. Jesus commended the widow's act by saying to His disciples that she had given more than any of the others because of her want or lack. Out of her lack, she cast in all that she had, all her living. Be careful not to criticize people who give sacrificially because people give according to their faith. Our heart follows our money. It is not the other way around. Your money represents your heart.

Matthew 6:21

For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

Matthew 6:24

No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.

Your money represents your life. If your money is in a motor home, your heart will be on the open road. If your money is in a motor boat, your heart will be on the open sea, but if your heart is in the Kingdom of God, your money will be in the church. Your offering represents your faith or your unbelief, your obedience or your rebellion, your liberty or your captivity, your advancement into your promised destiny or your retreat into the captivity of your past. The great missionary statesman, T. L. Osborne, said an offering and an alter-call are synonymous. Putting God first is what we do when we get saved. We make Him Lord, or Boss of our lives.

G. Tithing is a safeguard against covetousness.

Mark 4:19 (...the deceitfulness of riches...) Riches are deceitful. By putting God first in our finances we eliminate the possibility of covetousness.

Matthew 6:24 says we cannot serve God and mammon (or money or material things). This means that God must come **first**. The tithe belongs to God and according to Malachi 3:8 to use the tithe for ourselves would be the same as robbing God.

Rom 2:21-22

21 Thou therefore which teachest another, teachest thou not thyself? thou that preachest a man should not steal, dost thou steal?

22 Thou that sayest a man should not commit adultery, dost thou commit adultery? thou that abhorrest idols, dost thou commit sacrilege?

The footnote from Dake's annotated Reference Bible says the word used for sacrilege is *hierosuleo* and means to rob temples: use consecrated things for self. It is also the same as robbing God in Malachi 3:6-10.

By putting our tithe ahead of our own personal needs, we keep our priorities in proper perspective; therefore, it is a safeguard against covetousness. Tithing is a constant reminder that all we possess belongs to God and is subject to Him. When we say He is Lord, we mean He is boss which means we submit to His authority. When we put God first, He will see to it that our needs are met. When we give God our best, He will give us His best.

Matthew 6:24-34

24 *No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.*

25 *Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment?*

26 *Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they?*

27 *Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature?*

28 *And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin:*

29 *And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.*

30 *Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith?*

31 *Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed?*

32 *(For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things.*

33 *But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.*

34 *Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.*

Proverbs 3:9-10

9 *Honour the LORD with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase:*

10 *So shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine.*

Jesus said to beware of covetousness. Money in itself is not good or evil. Money takes on the characteristic of its owner. Watchman Nee says that a dollar in the hands of a Christian becomes a holy instrument. Dr. Ed Cole says there are only three reasons a Christian would not tithe. They are unbelief (Mark 16:14), fear (I John 4:18), and covetousness (Ephesians 5:5). The love of money is greed or covetousness, which is the same as idolatry (Col. 3:5).

We are told not to even eat (have fellowship) with covetous people (I Cor. 5:11).

I Cor. 5:11

11 But now I have written unto you not to keep company, if any man that is called a brother be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolator, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner; with such an one no not to eat.

Luke 12:15

And he said unto them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth.

I Timothy 6:10

For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

Ephesians 5:3-5

3 But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints;

4 Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not convenient: but rather giving of thanks.

5 For this ye know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.

Colossians 3:5-6

5 Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry:

6 For which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience:

Tithing is more about honor than it is about money.

To honor the Lord with our firstfruits is what faith is all about.

Remember the widow of Zarephath? She was told to take some of her last meal that was to be prepared for her and her son and give it to the preacher. What would the critics say now if some preacher told someone to do that today? Clearly, through her obedience in giving she and her son were sustained by God in a time of famine. God must come first and then our needs will be met.

1 Kings 17:9-16

9 Arise, get thee to Zarephath, which belongeth to Zidon, and dwell there: behold, I have commanded a widow woman there to sustain thee.

10 So he arose and went to Zarephath. And when he came to the gate of the city, behold, the widow woman was there gathering of sticks: and he called to her, and said, Fetch me, I pray thee, a little water in a vessel, that I may drink.

11 And as she was going to fetch it, he called to her, and said, Bring me, I pray thee, a morsel of bread in thine hand.

12 *And she said, As the LORD thy God liveth, I have not a cake, but an handful of meal in a barrel, and a little oil in a cruse: and, behold, I am gathering two sticks, that I may go in and dress it for me and my son, that we may eat it, and die.*

13 *And Elijah said unto her, Fear not; go and do as thou hast said: but make me thereof a little cake first, and bring it unto me, and after make for thee and for thy son.*

14 *For thus saith the LORD God of Israel, The barrel of meal shall not waste, neither shall the cruse of oil fail, until the day that the LORD sendeth rain upon the earth.*

15 *And she went and did according to the saying of Elijah: and she, and he, and her house, did eat many days.*

16 *And the barrel of meal wasted not, neither did the cruse of oil fail, according to the word of the LORD, which he spake by Elijah.*

God wants our first dollar, not necessarily our last dollar. Sometimes giving our last dollar may be likened unto giving God our scraps or leftovers. After all other needs are met, some people will then give to God, but [Leviticus 22:19-25](#) and [Malachi 1:8,13,14](#) teach that God requires our best, and will not accept second best. This principle is confirmed in the New Testament.

Leviticus 22:19-25

19 *Ye shall offer at your own will a male without blemish, of the beeves, of the sheep, or of the goats.*

20 *But whatsoever hath a blemish, that shall ye not offer: for it shall not be acceptable for you.*

21 *And whosoever offereth a sacrifice of peace offerings unto the LORD to accomplish his vow, or a freewill offering in beeves or sheep, it shall be perfect to be accepted; there shall be no blemish therein.*

22 *Blind, or broken, or maimed, or having a wen, or scurvy, or scabbed, ye shall not offer these unto the LORD, nor make an offering by fire of them upon the altar unto the LORD.*

23 *Either a bullock or a lamb that hath any thing superfluous or lacking in his parts, that mayest thou offer for a freewill offering; but for a vow it shall not be accepted.*

24 *Ye shall not offer unto the LORD that which is bruised, or crushed, or broken, or cut; neither shall ye make any offering thereof in your land.*

25 *Neither from a stranger's hand shall ye offer the bread of your God of any of these; because their corruption is in them, and blemishes be in them: they shall not be accepted for you.*

Malachi 1:8, 13-14

8 *And if ye offer the blind for sacrifice, is it not evil? and if ye offer the lame and sick, is it not evil? offer it now unto thy governor; will he be pleased with thee, or accept thy person? saith the LORD of hosts.*

13 *Ye said also, Behold, what a weariness is it! and ye have snuffed at it, saith the LORD of hosts; and ye brought that which was torn, and the lame, and the*

sick; thus ye brought an offering: should I accept this of your hand? saith the LORD.

14 But cursed be the deceiver, which hath in his flock a male, and voweth, and sacrificeth unto the LORD a corrupt thing: for I am a great King, saith the LORD of hosts, and my name is dreadful among the heathen.

God looks on the motive of the heart. Charles Haddon Spurgeon once told a story, of a king, a farmer and a nobleman:

“Once upon a time there was a king who ruled over everything in a land. One day there was a gardener who grew an enormous carrot. He took it to his king and said, “My lord, this is the greatest carrot I’ve ever grown or ever will grow; therefore, I want to present it to you as a token of my love and respect for you.” The king was touched and discerned the man’s heart, so as he turned to go, the king said, “Wait! You are clearly a good steward of the earth. I want to give a plot of land to you freely as a gift, so you can garden it all.” The gardener was amazed and delighted and went home rejoicing.

But there was a nobleman at the king’s court who overheard all this, and he said, “My! If that is what you get for a carrot, what if you gave the king something better?” The next day the nobleman came before the king, and he was leading a handsome black stallion. He bowed low and said, “My lord, I breed horses, and this is the greatest horse I’ve ever bred or ever will; therefore, I want to present it to you as a token of my love and respect for you.” But the king discerned his heart and said, “Thank you,” and took the horse and simply dismissed him.

The nobleman was perplexed, so the king said, “Let me explain. That gardener was giving me the carrot, but you were giving yourself the horse.”

Matthew 6:33

But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

Proverbs 3:9-10

9 Honour the LORD with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase:

10 So shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine.

H. That which we do not give away represents responsibility, not ownership.

All we have or ever hope to have belongs to God. When we put God first in our money, we are putting God first in our lives and are reminded that it all belongs to

Him. We are stewards, and a steward is a manager of another's business. The tithe belongs to the Lord and we are responsible to see that it gets where it belongs, in the Lord's storehouse (church). Leviticus 27:30, Malachi 3:10 Tithing is a test of trust. God is building character and faithfulness in us and He begins with our relationship to material things. Tithing could be considered the first grade in the school of faith.

Luke 14:33

So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple.

I Corinthians 4:1-2

1 Let a man so account of us, as of the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God.

2 Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.

Luke 16:11

If therefore ye have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, how will ye be faithful in the true riches?

Luke 12:42

And the Lord said, Who then is that faithful and wise steward, whom his lord shall make ruler over his household, to give them their portion of meat in due season?

1 Peter 4:10

As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

I. The scriptures declare God will bless us as we give to Him.

Proverbs 3:9-10

9 Honour the LORD with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase:

10 So shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine.

Malachi 3:10

Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.

Mark 10:29-30

29 And Jesus answered and said, Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my sake, and the gospel's,

30 *But he shall receive an hundredfold now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life.*

Luke 6:38

Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again.

II Corinthians 9:6-8

6 *But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully.*

7 *Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver. 8 And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work:*

Galatians 6:7

Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.

Ephesians 6:8

Knowing that whatsoever good thing any man doeth, the same shall he receive of the Lord, whether he be bond or free.

J. We must use wisdom in the way we give.

Farmers do not plant all their corn. They keep some of the corn to eat. Some people "plant all their seed" and have nothing left to live on while they wait for the harvest. When their money runs short they assume God has failed them.

We must balance our giving with wisdom. One should not usually give all he has with abandon. When our heart is pure, we can give objectively. We are unable to gain direction from the Spirit on how and what to give unless we remain objective. When we give out of emotions instead of out of our faith, we lack objectivity and wisdom. Then, because of our lack of wisdom, we mistakenly blame God when our harvest does not materialize. If we feel guilty because of stingy behavior, we often give out of our emotions and not the guidance of the Holy Spirit. However, if one is being led by the Spirit to give with abandon and is in genuine faith, he will certainly receive a financial miracle. We call this type of giving seed-faith.

When we do the right things and are generous and walk in love, our hearts will not condemn us and we will never be intimidated to give out of guilt or shame. Luke

11:41 in the Living Bible reads "*Purity is best demonstrated by generosity.*" Compare this scripture with I John 3:16-22 and we have a masterpiece of good will.

K. Borrowing from the tithe requires the payment of a penalty.

Leviticus 27:31

And if a man will at all redeem ought of his tithes, he shall add thereto the fifth part thereof.

God is very displeased when we doubt Him and borrow from His tithes. The fifth part is 20% of the tithe. This penalty is added **to discourage not trusting God in hard times**. If we use our tithe money for bills, we must not only make up the tithe, but add 20% of the tithe to it. In other words, if you made \$100, your tithe would be \$10. If you want to borrow from your tithe, when you make it up, it would be \$12 instead of \$10.

L. Churches should also tithe.

Tithing is a principle that works for everyone including churches. We have Biblical instruction to tithe on the tithe.

Hebrews 7:9

And as I may so say, Levi also, who receiveth tithes, payed tithes in Abraham.

Numbers 18:26

Thus speak unto the Levites, and say unto them, When ye take of the children of Israel the tithes which I have given you from them for your inheritance, then ye shall offer up an heave offering of it for the LORD, even a tenth part of the tithe.

Nehemiah 10:38

And the priest the son of Aaron shall be with the Levites, when the Levites take tithes: and the Levites shall bring up the tithe of the tithes unto the house of our God, to the chambers, into the treasure house.

Chapter 6

THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

NOTE: A less divisive term, one that may cause less argument among fellow Christians, is the phrase "**Filled with the Holy Spirit.**"

Acts 2:4

And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

A. Seven Relative Points

1. The Baptism of the Holy Spirit was prophesied in the Old Testament and fulfilled in the New Testament.

Joel 2:28-29

28 And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions:

29 And also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my spirit.

Acts chapter two gives the details of the early church receiving the Baptism of the Holy Spirit for the first time, Peter's sermon that day explains the days events and quotes Joel by saying, "*this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel.*"

Follow this series of events.

Jesus was crucified on the Passover; He was the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world, meaning this was the plan of God and not a surprise event.

John 1:29

The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.

Revelation 13:8

... of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.

Jesus showed Himself alive after His crucifixion by many infallible proofs for forty days.

Acts 1:3

To whom also he showed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God:

Jesus commanded the apostles to remain in Jerusalem until they had received the Holy Spirit in Acts 1:4.

Acts 1:4

And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me.

The apostles receive the baptism of the Holy Ghost ten days later on the day of Pentecost. Pentecost means fifty. Pentecost is fifty days after Passover.

Acts 2:4

And they were filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

2. The Holy Spirit will never leave us.

On the Day of Pentecost, Holy Ghost came and He has never left. The Holy Spirit did not come for a limited time but forever. Jesus was speaking of the Holy Spirit when He spoke these words.

Matthew 28:20

...lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world ...

John 14:18

I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you.

John 14:16

And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever;

3. The promise of the Spirit is from the Father.

Luke 24:49

And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high.

John 14:15-17, 26

15 If ye love me, keep my commandments.

16 And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever;

17 Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.

26 But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

4. The Holy Spirit is a gift that cannot be earned.

Acts 2:38

Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

Acts 8:18-20

18 And when Simon saw that through laying on of the apostles' hands the Holy Ghost was given, he offered them money,

19 Saying, Give me also this power, that on whomsoever I lay hands, he may receive the Holy Ghost.

20 But Peter said unto him, Thy money perish with thee, because thou hast thought that the gift of God may be purchased with money.

Acts 10:45

And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost.

Acts 11:17

Forasmuch then as God gave them the like gift as he did unto us, who believed on the Lord Jesus Christ; what was I, that I could withstand God?

5. The promise is for all believers.

Acts 2:39

For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call.

6. Receiving the Holy Spirit is receiving the seal and guarantee of our inheritance.

II Corinthians 1:22 NIV

set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.

Ephesians 1:13-14 NAS

13 In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation-- having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise,

14 *who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of God's own possession, to the praise of His glory.*

Ephesians 1:13-14 Amp.

13 *In Him you also who have heard the Word of Truth, the glad tidings (Gospel) of your salvation, and have believed in and adhered to and relied on Him, were stamped with the seal of the long-promised Holy Spirit.*

14 *That [Spirit] is the guarantee of our inheritance [the firstfruits, the pledge and foretaste, the down payment on our heritage], in anticipation of its full redemption and our acquiring [complete] possession of it--to the praise of His glory.*

7. The Baptism of the Holy Spirit is subsequent to salvation.

Ephesians 1:13

In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that Holy Spirit of promise,

Acts 19:2

He said unto them, Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed? And they said unto him, We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost.

Acts 8:12-17

12 *But when they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.*

13 *Then Simon himself believed also: and when he was baptized, he continued with Philip, and wondered, beholding the miracles and signs which were done.*

14 *Now when the apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent unto them Peter and John:*

15 *Who, when they were come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost:*

16 *(For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.)*

17 *Then laid they their hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost.*

B. Evidences

1. Power and boldness

Luke 24:49

And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high.

Acts 1:8

But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

The disciples did not change at the crucifixion, or at the resurrection. All told Jesus they would never deny Him, even if it cost their lives, but they did.

Matthew 26:35

Peter said unto him, Though I should die with thee, yet will I not deny thee. Likewise also said all the disciples.

It was on the day of Pentecost that they received power and boldness and Peter preached and about 3,000 people got saved. After that the lame man was healed at the Beautiful Gate (Acts 3), and Peter preached and even more were saved. No wonder Jesus commanded the disciples to wait until the Holy Spirit was received before going into the entire world to preach the Gospel. After being filled with the Holy Spirit, boldness is evident in the apostles' lives.

Acts 4:13

Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marvelled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus.

2. Speaking in Tongues

Another evidence of being filled with the Holy Spirit is **speaking in tongues**. Of the five references in the New Testament in which believers first received the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. Three of the five references plainly state that believers spoke with other tongues. The other two references are strongly connected with the act of speaking in tongues.

Acts 2:4

And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

Acts 8:17-21

17 Then laid they their hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost.

18 *And when Simon saw that through laying on of the apostles' hands the Holy Ghost was given, he offered them money,*

19 *Saying, Give me also this power, that on whomsoever I lay hands, he may receive the Holy Ghost.*

20 *But Peter said unto him, Thy money perish with thee, because thou hast thought that the gift of God may be purchased with money.*

21 *Thou hast neither part nor lot in this matter: for thy heart is not right in the sight of God*

Although not specifically stated in Acts 8:17, history teaches that the Samaritan church did speak in other tongues. The word "matter" in Acts 8:21 is the Greek word "Logos" which means, "word" or utterance. Simon had no part in this "word" or "utterance" referring to tongues.

Acts 9:17

And Ananias went his way, and entered into the house; and putting his hands on him said, Brother Saul, the Lord, even Jesus, that appeared unto thee in the way as thou camest, hath sent me, that thou mightest receive thy sight, and be filled with the Holy Ghost.

Although Acts 9:17 does not say Paul spoke with other tongues, we know that Paul did speak with other tongues and gives great emphasis to tongues because of I Corinthians 14:18 "*I thank my God, I speak with tongues more than ye all:*"

Acts 10:46

For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God...

Acts 19:6

And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied.

Churches that believe that speaking with tongues is a valid experience for today's believers, but do not believe that one must speak with tongues as evidence of being filled with the Holy Spirit, seem to have a very small percentage of their congregation that speak with tongues. Others, who believe that tongues is the initial, physical, biblical evidence seem to have a much higher percentage of their congregation that pray in other tongues.

3. Joy

When we are filled with the Spirit, we will have a song in our hearts that will overflow. Being filled with the Holy Spirit is to be an ongoing, fresh experience. In the Greek, the word "be filled" means, "be being filled." This denotes continuous action.

The Baptism of the Holy Spirit

Ephesians 5:18-19

18 *And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;*

19 *Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord;*

Seven Steps to Receiving the Holy Ghost

1. Show that God has already given the Spirit.
John 7:38, 39
John 14:16, 17
John 16:7
Acts 2:1-4
2. If you are saved, you are ready. (If you are good enough to go to Heaven, you're good enough to have a little Heaven in you.)
Acts 2:38
2 Corinthians 5:21
1 Corinthians 1:30
Acts 1:8 If you could do it yourself; you wouldn't need the Holy Ghost
3. The Holy Ghost is received by faith.
Mark 11:24
Romans 10:9, 10
2 Corinthians 4:13
4. They spake – the Spirit gives the utterance.
Acts 2:4
Acts 10:46
Acts 19:6
1 Cor. 14:2, 4, 5, 14, 15, 18, 27, 28
5. You won't get a counterfeit.
Luke 11:11-13
6. You can't speak in two languages at the same time, so don't speak in your native tongue. (Breathe in deeply and drink in the Holy Spirit.)
John 7:37
7. Let one person instruct
1 Cor. 14:33

Chapter 7

SANCTIFICATION

Sanctification is two fold. It is the setting apart from the world and dedication to God.

There are so many scriptures dealing with this subject that we will only list those that distinctly emphasize righteous living.

Titus 2:11-15

11 *For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men,*
12 *Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;*
13 *Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;*
14 *Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.*
15 *These things speak, and exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no man despise thee.*

Hebrews 12:14

Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord:

1. The Greek word for “holiness” and “sanctification” is the same. It is “hagiasmos”.

Here is a partial list of the scriptures concerning sanctification:

Romans 12:1-2

1 *I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.*
2 *And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.*

Ephesians 4:23

23 And be renewed in the spirit of your mind;

Colossians 3:8-10

8 But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth.

9 Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds;

10 And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him:

I John 2:15-17

15 Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.

17 And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.

I Thessalonians 5:23

And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

I Peter 1:15-16

15 But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation;

16 Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.

2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1

14 Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness?

15 and what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel?

16 And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

17 Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you,

18 And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.

7:1 Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

James 4:4

Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.

2. These next scriptures emphasize separation from evil.

I Thessalonians 4:3-7

3 For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication:

4 That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honour;

5 Not in the lust of concupiscence, even as the Gentiles which know not God:

6 That no man go beyond and defraud his brother in any matter: because that the Lord is the avenger of all such, as we also have forewarned you and testified.

7 For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness."

2 Timothy 2:19-21

19 Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity.

20 But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and of silver, but also of wood and of earth; and some to honour, and some to dishonour.

21 If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work.

2 Corinthians 7:1

Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

Hebrews 12:1

Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,

Every sin is a weight but not every weight is a sin.

John 14:21-24

21 He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him.

22 Judas saith unto him, not Iscariot, Lord, how is it that thou wilt manifest thyself unto us, and not unto the world?

23 *Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.*

24 *He that loveth me not keepeth not my sayings: and the word which ye hear is not mine, but the Father's which sent me.*

I John 2:3-6

3 *And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments.*

4 *He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.*

5 *But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him.*

6 *He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked."*

John 15:1-10

1 *I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman.*

2 *Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit.*

3 *Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.*

4 *Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.*

5 *I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.*

6 *If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned.*

7 *If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.*

8 *Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.*

9 *As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love.*

10 *If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love."*

3. The strength to separate us from evil comes from our devotion to God.

One does not overcome temptation by self-will, remorse, or self-castigation alone, but by relationship, by fellowship, with God.

Isaiah 40:31

But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.

Matthew 11:28-30

28 *Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.*

29 *Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.*

30 *For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."*

4. These next scriptures emphasize our need for devotion to God.

Luke 9:23-24

23 *And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.*

24 *For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: but whosoever will lose his life for my sake, the same shall save it.*

John 12:24

Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit.

Matthew 10:37-39

37 *He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.*

38 *And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me.*

39 *He that findeth his life shall lose it: and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it.*

Luke 14:25-33

25 *And there went great multitudes with him: and he turned, and said unto them,*

26 *If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple.*

27 *And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple.*

28 *For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it?*

29 *Lest haply, after he hath laid the foundation, and is not able to finish it, all that behold it begin to mock him,*

30 *Saying, This man began to build, and was not able to finish.*

31 *Or what king, going to make war against another king, sitteth not down first, and consulteth whether he be able with ten thousand to meet him that cometh against him with twenty thousand?*

32 *Or else, while the other is yet a great way off, he sendeth an ambassage, and desireth conditions of peace.*

33 *So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple.*

5. We are sanctified by Faith and the Word.

Acts 26:18

To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me.

John 17:17

Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.

Jesus is our sanctification and holiness. The Greek word for both is “hagiasmos”. When we walk in the Spirit, we walk in holiness.

Romans 15:16 ...*being sanctified by the Holy Ghost...*

I Peter 1:2 ...*through sanctification of the Spirit unto obedience...*

I Corinthians 1:30

But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption:

Hebrews 10:10, 14 Amplified

10 *And in accordance with this will [of God] we have been made holy (consecrated and sanctified) through the offering made once for all of the body of Jesus Christ, the Anointed One.*

14 *For by a single offering He has forever completely cleansed and perfected those who are consecrated and made holy.*

6. Sanctification is instantaneous and it is also progressive.

When one becomes born again, his spirit is instantly recreated and he becomes a new creature or new creation in Christ.

2 Corinthians 5:17

Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

I John 3:9-10 Amplified

No one born (begotten) of God [deliberately and knowingly] habitually practices sin, for God's nature abides in him--His principle of life, the divine sperm, remains permanently within him--and he cannot practice sinning because he is born (begotten) of God.

10 *By this it is made clear who take their nature from God and are His children, and who take their nature from the devil and are his children: no one who does not practice righteousness—who does not conform to God's will in purpose, thought and action—is of God; neither is any one who does not love*

his brother [his fellow believer in Christ].

However, we also grow in sanctification. As we mature in Christ we lay aside every sin and every weight that hinders us. Read Hebrews 12:1-15. God accepts us just as we are, but loves us too much to leave us that way. We are exhorted to grow in grace and remember grace teaches holiness.

2 Peter 3:18a

But, grow in grace...

Titus 2:11, 12

11 *For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men,*

12 *Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world.*

There are degrees of sin. The statement that *sin is sin* is a myth. There is a difference between a felony and a misdemeanor. These scriptures illustrate this point:

John 19:11 *...greater sin...*

I John 5:16-17 *...sin unto death and sin not unto death...*

Genesis 18:20 (Sodom and Gomorra) *...their sin is very grievous...* Exodus

32:21 *...so great a sin...*

Exodus 32:30, 31 *...sinned a great sin...*

I Samuel 2:17 *...sin was very great...*

Ezekiel 8:6, 13, 15 *...greater abominations...*

Ezekiel 9:9 *...iniquity... exceeding great...*

Mark 12:40 & Luke 20:47 *...greater damnation...*

Leviticus 18:17 (Amp) & 20:14 (Amp) *...it is wickedness and an outrageous offense...*

Leviticus 20:13-14 (*Emphasis Mine*)

13 *If a man lies with a male as if he were a woman, both men have committed an offense (**something perverse, unnatural, abhorrent, and detestable**); they shall surely be put to death; their blood shall be upon them.*

14 *And if a man takes a wife and her mother, it is wickedness and **an outrageous offense**; all three shall be burned with fire, both he and they [after being stoned to death], that there be no wickedness among you.*

7. Our goal is Romans 8:29.

Romans 8:29

For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.

The Living Bible says it this way:

For from the very beginning God decided that those who came to him-and all along he knew who would-should become like his Son, so that his Son would be the First, with many brothers.

We are reminded in John 15:1-17 that we cannot bear fruit of ourselves. As we continue in Jesus Christ, we will develop Christ-like character and bring forth fruit even as the branch that is connected to the Vine.

Chapter 8

THE CHURCH

The Greek word for **the church** is “ecclesia”, the assembly of called out ones. The church was not man's idea. It was God's idea. The church is built on the rock of revelation knowledge, not the logos which is the general word of God, but the rhema, a specific word for a specific situation. (Matthew 16:16-18)

A. The scriptures teach we are to attend church.

Hebrews 10:23-25 (Amp)

23 So let us seize and hold fast and retain without wavering the [a]hope we cherish and confess and our acknowledgement of it, for He Who promised is reliable (sure) and faithful to His word.

24 And let us consider and give [b]attentive, continuous care to watching over one another, studying how we may stir up (stimulate and incite) to love and helpful deeds and noble activities,

25 Not forsaking or neglecting to assemble together [as believers], as is the habit of some people, but admonishing (warning, urging, and encouraging) one another, and all the more faithfully as you see the day approaching.

Some quote Jesus' statement in Matthew 18:20 (*For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.*) to support not attending church. Jesus' statement is of course true. He was addressing the power of unity. He is in every believer, even when the believer is alone. However, there are apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers that make up the church. We are a team. In the following references we get a clear picture of what God intends the church to be as we look at the four roles of the church.

B. Four roles of the church:

1. First and foremost the church is the family of God.

Ephesians 3:14-15

*14 For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
15 Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named,*

2 Corinthians 6:17-18

*17 Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you,
18 And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.*

Ephesians 5:1 Amplified

Therefore be imitators of God—copy Him and follow His example—as well-beloved children [imitate their father].

Romans 8:14-17 NAS

14 *For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.*

15 *For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, "Abba! Father!"*

16 *The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,*
17 *and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him in order that we may also be glorified with Him.*

Romans 8:29

For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the first-born among many brethren;

1 John 3:1-2 NIV

1 *How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him.*

2 *Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.*

1 John 3:9-10 Amplified

9 *No one born (begotten) of God [deliberately and knowingly] habitually practices sin, for God's nature abides in him—His principal of life, the divine sperm, remains permanently within him—and he cannot practice sinning because he is born (begotten) of God.*

10 *By this it is made clear who take their nature from God and are His children, and who take their nature from the devil and are his children: no one who does not practice righteousness—who does not conform to God's will in purpose, thought and action—is of God; neither is any one who does not love his brother [his fellow believer in Christ].*

Hebrews 2:11-15 NIV

11 *Both the one who makes men holy and those who are made holy are of the same family. So Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers.*

12 *He says, "I will declare your name to my brothers; in the presence of the congregation I will sing your praises."*

13 *And again, "I will put my trust in him."*

And again he says, "Here am I, and the children God has given me."

14 *Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death-that is, the devil-*

15 *and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death.*

2. The church in the universal sense is the body of Christ.

Ephesians 1:22-23

22 *And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church,*

23 *Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all."*

Colossians 1:18

And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.

Ephesians 5:30

For we are members of His body, of His flesh, and of His bones.

I Corinthians 12:27 Amplified

Now you (collectively) are Christ's body and (individually) you are members of it, each part severally and distinct - each with his own place and function.

Romans 12:4-5

4 *For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office:*

5 *So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another.*

I Corinthians 12:12-28

12 *For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ.*

13 *For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.*

14 *For the body is not one member, but many.*

15 *If the foot shall say, Because I am not the hand, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body?*

16 *And if the ear shall say, Because I am not the eye, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body?*

17 *If the whole body were an eye, where were the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where were the smelling?*

18 *But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him.*

19 *And if they were all one member, where were the body?*

20 *But now are they many members, yet but one body.*

21 *And the eye cannot say unto the hand, I have no need of thee: nor again the head to the feet, I have no need of you.*

22 *Nay, much more those members of the body, which seem to be more feeble, are necessary:*

23 *And those members of the body, which we think to be less honourable, upon these we bestow more abundant honour; and our uncomely parts have more abundant comeliness.*

24 *For our comely parts have no need: but God hath tempered the body together, having given more abundant honour to that part which lacked:*

25 *That there should be no schism in the body; but that the members should have the same care one for another.*

26 *And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honoured, all the members rejoice with it.*

27 *Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular.*

28 *And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues.*

3. The church is the army of God.

Everything that God is doing in the world today He is doing through His body the church. He is the Lord of hosts meaning Lord of armies. We are a spiritual army.

Zechariah 4:6

...not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts

Matthew 16:17-19

17 *And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.*

18 *And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.*

19 *And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.*

The gates of hell shall not prevail against revelation knowledge. In the New Testament, we are sons of God and led by the Holy Spirit (Romans 8:14). Nothing can stop us as we rest in the finished work of what Jesus accomplished in His death, burial and resurrection.

We are in the army of the Lord, but it's an occupying army. We are not in battle. We are to occupy until He comes (Luke 19:13). We are simply to enforce the victory that's already been won. We do this by fighting the good fight of faith.

1 Timothy 6:12

Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses.

1 John 5:4

For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.

One might find it interesting to note that when the words “war” or “warfare” are used in the epistles, they are never used in connection with the words “devil” or “Satan.” I Corinthians 9:7; II Corinthians 10:3-5; I Timothy 1:18-19; James 4:1-2; I Peter 2:11; Romans 7:23; 2 Timothy 2:3-4

All these scriptures read in context describe the conflict between the flesh and the recreated spirit. In Ephesians 6:12, the word “wrestle”, according to W.E. Vine’s Expository Dictionary of Biblical Words is to “sway”. If we let him, the enemy will come against us and try to sway us and get us out of faith, so he can defeat us.

Ephesians 6:10-18

10 *Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.*

11 *Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.*

12 *For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.*

13 *Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.*

14 *Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;*

15 *And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;*

16 *Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.*

17 *And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:*

18 *Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;*

Let us remember that we do not war after the flesh. We are the army of God but we are not fighting natural forces nor using natural weapons. We are to overcome evil with good. Romans 12:21

2 Corinthians 10:3-5

3 *For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh:*

4 *(For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)*

5 Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;

Romans 12:17-21 NAS

17 Never pay back evil for evil to anyone. Respect what is right in the sight of all men.

18 If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men.

19 Never take your own revenge, beloved, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord.

20 "But if your enemy is hungry, feed him, and if he is thirsty, give him a drink; for in so doing you will heap burning coals upon his head."

21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

For further study on this subject, refer to The Triumphant Church by Kenneth E Hagin - Chapter 8 - page 171.

4. The Church is the Bride of Christ

We are going to marry God. We are engaged to Jesus!

2 Corinthians 11:2

For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.

J. B. Phillips says, "... For in my eyes you are like a fresh unspoiled girl whom I am presenting as fiancée to your true husband." With this thought in mind, read Ephesians 5:22-33 paying particular attention to verse 32.

Ephesians 5:22-33

22 Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord.

23 For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body.

24 Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing.

25 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;

26 That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,

27 That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.

28 So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself.

29 For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church:

30 For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones.

31 *For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh.*

32 *This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church.*

33 *Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence her husband.*

Notice these next two parables make an analogy with marriage and the relationship we have with the Father.

The Kingdom of Heaven is as a King that made a marriage for His son.

Matthew 22:1-14

1 *And Jesus answered and spake unto them again by parables, and said,*

2 *The kingdom of heaven is like unto a certain king, which made a marriage for his son,*

3 *And sent forth his servants to call them that were bidden to the wedding: and they would not come.*

4 *Again, he sent forth other servants, saying, Tell them which are bidden, Behold, I have prepared my dinner: my oxen and my fatlings are killed, and all things are ready: come unto the marriage.*

5 *But they made light of it, and went their ways, one to his farm, another to his merchandise:*

6 *And the remnant took his servants, and entreated them spitefully, and slew them.*

7 *But when the king heard thereof, he was wroth: and he sent forth his armies, and destroyed those murderers, and burned up their city.*

8 *Then saith he to his servants, The wedding is ready, but they which were bidden were not worthy.*

9 *Go ye therefore into the highways, and as many as ye shall find, bid to the marriage.*

10 *So those servants went out into the highways, and gathered together all as many as they found, both bad and good: and the wedding was furnished with guests.*

11 *And when the king came in to see the guests, he saw there a man which had not on a wedding garment:*

12 *And he saith unto him, Friend, how camest thou in hither not having a wedding garment? And he was speechless.*

13 *Then said the king to the servants, Bind him hand and foot, and take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.*

14 *For many are called, but few are chosen.*

The ten virgins that came to meet the bride groom.

Matthew 25: 1 NIV

1 At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom.

Other references that support this analogy are:

Revelation 19:7

Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready.

Revelation 21:2

And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

Revelation 21:9-10

9 And there came unto me one of the seven angels which had the seven vials full of the seven last plagues, and talked with me, saying, Come hither, I will shew thee the bride, the Lamb's wife.

10 And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and shewed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God,

Chapter 9

DIVINE HEALING

1. Deliverance from sickness is provided for in the atonement.

Deliverance from sickness is the privilege of every believer. Isaiah 53:4-5 refers to Calvary. The terms “hath borne” and “carried” denote actual substitution. They signify “to assume as a heavy burden”. Verse five assures us that healing has been bought for us by the atoning sacrifice of Jesus Christ. This verse refers to Calvary.

Isaiah 53:4

Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.

Healing has already been paid for on the cross by Jesus. To have faith, it is imperative that we understand that healing is God's will. Faith begins where the will of God is known. The will of God need never be questioned again on this subject. It is a forever-settled fact and God does not change.

Isaiah 53:5

But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.

Malachi 3:6

For I am the LORD, I change not . . .

Hebrews 13:8

Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and forever.

If there is a problem in receiving healing, we must change to get ourselves into a place of faith to receive from God. God never misses it, so if there is a problem, it must be on our part. Let us ask Him with a humble heart for direction. Notice that these next two New Testament Scriptures are quotes from Isaiah 53:4, 5.

Matthew 8:16-17

16 When the even was come, they brought unto him many that were possessed with devils: and he cast out the spirits with his word, and healed all that were sick:

17 That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esaias the prophet, saying, Himself took our infirmities, and bare our sicknesses.

I Peter 2:24

Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.

Isaiah 53:4-5

4 Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.

5 But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.

Notice I Peter 2:24 says, “by Whose stripes ye were healed.” Looking back to the cross, “were” is past tense. By these verses we can clearly see that healing was taken care of in the atoning sacrifice of Jesus. It is a finished work.

The Greek word “sozo” translated as “salvation” in Romans 10:9-10 includes the thought of **preservation, healing deliverance, safety and soundness**. The term “sozo” is inclusive. Healing is in the atonement, so when we receive forgiveness of sin, we may receive salvation for the total man: spirit, soul and body.

Notice what Jesus said concerning the paralyzed man.

Mark 2:9

Whether is it easier to say to the sick of the palsy, Thy sins be forgiven thee; or to say, Arise, and take up thy bed, and walk?

2. Sickness and death have come upon the human family because of sin.

Jesus appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself. He also appeared to put away sickness and disease.

Romans 5:12

Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:"

Hebrews 9:26

For then must he often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself.

1 John 3:8 NAS

8 the one who practices sin is of the devil: for the devil has sinned from the beginning. The Son of God appeared for this purpose, that He might destroy the works of the devil.

3. Poverty, sickness and death are a part of the curse.

To hear some people talk, one would think poverty, sickness and death were blessings. Some people will argue and defend their right to be sick, but the Bible teaches that God wants you well. Sickness is a curse, as one can readily see by the following Scriptures:

Deuteronomy 28:15-68

15 *But it shall come to pass, if thou wilt not hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe to do all his commandments and his statutes which I command thee this day; that all these curses shall come upon thee, and overtake thee:*

16 *Cursed shalt thou be in the city, and cursed shalt thou be in the field.*

17 *Cursed shall be thy basket and thy store.*

18 *Cursed shall be the fruit of thy body, and the fruit of thy land, the increase of thy kine, and the flocks of thy sheep.*

19 *Cursed shalt thou be when thou comest in, and cursed shalt thou be when thou goest out.*

20 *The LORD shall send upon thee cursing, vexation, and rebuke, in all that thou settest thine hand unto for to do, until thou be destroyed, and until thou perish quickly; because of the wickedness of thy doings, whereby thou hast forsaken me.*

21 *The LORD shall make the pestilence cleave unto thee, until he have consumed thee from off the land, whither thou goest to possess it.*

22 *The LORD shall smite thee with a consumption, and with a fever, and with an inflammation, and with an extreme burning, and with the sword, and with blasting, and with mildew; and they shall pursue thee until thou perish.*

23 *And thy heaven that is over thy head shall be brass, and the earth that is under thee shall be iron.*

24 *The LORD shall make the rain of thy land powder and dust: from heaven shall it come down upon thee, until thou be destroyed.*

25 *The LORD shall cause thee to be smitten before thine enemies: thou shalt go out one way against them, and flee seven ways before them: and shalt be removed into all the kingdoms of the earth.*

26 *And thy carcase shall be meat unto all fowls of the air, and unto the beasts of the earth, and no man shall fray them away.*

27 *The LORD will smite thee with the botch of Egypt, and with the emerods, and with the scab, and with the itch, whereof thou canst not be healed.*

28 *The LORD shall smite thee with madness, and blindness, and astonishment of heart:*

29 *And thou shalt grope at noonday, as the blind gropeth in darkness, and thou shalt not prosper in thy ways: and thou shalt be only oppressed and spoiled evermore, and no man shall save thee.*

30 *Thou shalt betroth a wife, and another man shall lie with her: thou shalt build an house, and thou shalt not dwell therein: thou shalt plant a vineyard, and shalt not gather the grapes thereof.*

31 *Thine ox shall be slain before thine eyes, and thou shalt not eat thereof: thine ass shall be violently taken away from before thy face, and shall not be*

restored to thee: thy sheep shall be given unto thine enemies, and thou shalt have none to rescue them.

32 Thy sons and thy daughters shall be given unto another people, and thine eyes shall look, and fail with longing for them all the day long: and there shall be no might in thine hand.

33 The fruit of thy land, and all thy labours, shall a nation which thou knowest not eat up; and thou shalt be only oppressed and crushed alway:

34 So that thou shalt be mad for the sight of thine eyes which thou shalt see.

35 The LORD shall smite thee in the knees, and in the legs, with a sore botch that cannot be healed, from the sole of thy foot unto the top of thy head.

36 The LORD shall bring thee, and thy king which thou shalt set over thee, unto a nation which neither thou nor thy fathers have known; and there shalt thou serve other gods, wood and stone.

37 And thou shalt become an astonishment, a proverb, and a byword, among all nations whither the LORD shall lead thee.

38 Thou shalt carry much seed out into the field, and shalt gather but little in; for the locust shall consume it.

39 Thou shalt plant vineyards, and dress them, but shalt neither drink of the wine, nor gather the grapes; for the worms shall eat them.

40 Thou shalt have olive trees throughout all thy coasts, but thou shalt not anoint thyself with the oil; for thine olive shall cast his fruit.

41 Thou shalt beget sons and daughters, but thou shalt not enjoy them; for they shall go into captivity.

42 All thy trees and fruit of thy land shall the locust consume.

43 The stranger that is within thee shall get up above thee very high; and thou shalt come down very low.

44 He shall lend to thee, and thou shalt not lend to him: he shall be the head, and thou shalt be the tail.

45 Moreover all these curses shall come upon thee, and shall pursue thee, and overtake thee, till thou be destroyed; because thou hearkenedst not unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to keep his commandments and his statutes which he commanded thee:

46 And they shall be upon thee for a sign and for a wonder, and upon thy seed for ever.

47 Because thou servedst not the LORD thy God with joyfulness, and with gladness of heart, for the abundance of all things;

48 Therefore shalt thou serve thine enemies which the LORD shall send against thee, in hunger, and in thirst, and in nakedness, and in want of all things: and he shall put a yoke of iron upon thy neck, until he have destroyed thee.

49 The LORD shall bring a nation against thee from far, from the end of the earth, as swift as the eagle flieth; a nation whose tongue thou shalt not understand;

50 A nation of fierce countenance, which shall not regard the person of the old, nor shew favour to the young:

51 *And he shall eat the fruit of thy cattle, and the fruit of thy land, until thou be destroyed: which also shall not leave thee either corn, wine, or oil, or the increase of thy kine, or flocks of thy sheep, until he have destroyed thee.*

52 *And he shall besiege thee in all thy gates, until thy high and fenced walls come down, wherein thou trustedst, throughout all thy land: and he shall besiege thee in all thy gates throughout all thy land, which the LORD thy God hath given thee.*

53 *And thou shalt eat the fruit of thine own body, the flesh of thy sons and of thy daughters, which the LORD thy God hath given thee, in the siege, and in the straitness, wherewith thine enemies shall distress thee:*

54 *So that the man that is tender among you, and very delicate, his eye shall be evil toward his brother, and toward the wife of his bosom, and toward the remnant of his children which he shall leave:*

55 *So that he will not give to any of them of the flesh of his children whom he shall eat: because he hath nothing left him in the siege, and in the straitness, wherewith thine enemies shall distress thee in all thy gates.*

56 *The tender and delicate woman among you, which would not adventure to set the sole of her foot upon the ground for delicateness and tenderness, her eye shall be evil toward the husband of her bosom, and toward her son, and toward her daughter,*

57 *And toward her young one that cometh out from between her feet, and toward her children which she shall bear: for she shall eat them for want of all things secretly in the siege and straitness, wherewith thine enemy shall distress thee in thy gates.*

58 *If thou wilt not observe to do all the words of this law that are written in this book, that thou mayest fear this glorious and fearful name, THE LORD THY GOD;*

59 *Then the LORD will make thy plagues wonderful, and the plagues of thy seed, even great plagues, and of long continuance, and sore sicknesses, and of long continuance.*

60 *Moreover he will bring upon thee all the diseases of Egypt, which thou wast afraid of; and they shall cleave unto thee.*

61 *Also every sickness, and every plague, which is not written in the book of this law, them will the LORD bring upon thee, until thou be destroyed.*

62 *And ye shall be left few in number, whereas ye were as the stars of heaven for multitude; because thou wouldest not obey the voice of the LORD thy God.*

63 *And it shall come to pass, that as the LORD rejoiced over you to do you good, and to multiply you; so the LORD will rejoice over you to destroy you, and to bring you to nought; and ye shall be plucked from off the land whither thou goest to possess it.*

64 *And the LORD shall scatter thee among all people, from the one end of the earth even unto the other; and there thou shalt serve other gods, which neither thou nor thy fathers have known, even wood and stone.*

65 *And among these nations shalt thou find no ease, neither shall the sole of thy foot have rest: but the LORD shall give thee there a trembling heart, and failing of eyes, and sorrow of mind:*

66 *And thy life shall hang in doubt before thee; and thou shalt fear day and night, and shalt have none assurance of thy life:*

67 *In the morning thou shalt say, Would God it were even! and at even thou shalt say, Would God it were morning! for the fear of thine heart wherewith thou shalt fear, and for the sight of thine eyes which thou shalt see.*

68 *And the LORD shall bring thee into Egypt again with ships, by the way whereof I spake unto thee, Thou shalt see it no more again: and there ye shall be sold unto your enemies for bondmen and bondwomen, and no man shall buy you.*

4. Satan, not God, is the author of disease and death.

Dr. Robert Young, author of *Hints and Helps to Bible Interpretation* and *Young's Analytical Concordance* says that Exodus 15:26 and many other references like it should be translated in the permissive sense rather than in the causative sense.

Exodus 15:26

And said, If thou wilt diligently hearken to the voice of the LORD thy God, and wilt do that which is right in his sight, and wilt give ear to his commandments, and keep all his statutes, I will put none of these diseases upon thee, which I have brought upon the Egyptians: for I am the LORD that healeth thee.

This suggests that God would not “allow”, rather than God would not “put”, disease on them. This is also supported by Psalm 91 and John 10:10 as well as the following.

James 1: 16-17

16 *Do not err, my beloved brethren.*

17 *Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.*

Sickness is not good nor is it perfect...healing is good. All the people Jesus healed were oppressed of the devil.

Acts 10:38

How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him.

If sickness is good, we should pray that God would bless our loved ones with it, so they could benefit by the experience. But, we know by the Scriptures that sickness is not good, and it is not a divine instrument of teaching God's children. The Holy Spirit is the Divine Teacher of the church, not sickness. Sickness is death working overtime, trying to kill us before our days are completed.

John 10:10

The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.

Luke 13:11-17

11 And, behold, there was a woman which had a spirit of infirmity eighteen years, and was bowed together, and could in no wise lift up herself.

12 And when Jesus saw her, he called her to him, and said unto her, Woman, thou art loosed from thine infirmity.

13 And he laid his hands on her: and immediately she was made straight, and glorified God.

14 And the ruler of the synagogue answered with indignation, because that Jesus had healed on the sabbath day, and said unto the people, There are six days in which men ought to work: in them therefore come and be healed, and not on the sabbath day.

15 The Lord then answered him, and said, Thou hypocrite, doth not each one of you on the sabbath loose his ox or his ass from the stall, and lead him away to watering?

16 And ought not this woman, being a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan hath bound, lo, these eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the sabbath day?

17 And when he had said these things, all his adversaries were ashamed: and all the people rejoiced for all the glorious things that were done by him.

I John 3:8 NAS

8 the one who practices sin is of the devil; for the devil has sinned from the beginning. The Son of God appeared for this purpose, that He might destroy the works of the devil.

5. Jesus was made a curse for us to set us free from the cause of sin.

Jesus became everything that we were so we could become everything that He is. Truly, we are bought with a price, and we should glorify God in our body. Sickness certainly does not glorify God. When healing takes place, we find people giving glory to God. According to Deuteronomy 28, sickness is a curse of the Law, but according to Galatians 3:13, "*Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law,*" therefore, we no longer have to be sick.

Galatians 3:13

Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree:

2 Corinthians 5:21

For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

I Corinthians 6:20

For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

6. The benefits of the Atonement must be appropriated by faith.

The benefits can not be appropriated by any other way other than faith. Many times the faith of the person receiving healing is mentioned in the scriptures.

Matthew 9:29

Then touched he their eyes, saying, According to your faith be it unto you.

“According to your faith” is exactly how it will be. All you will eventually keep is what you keep by your own faith. Many have received healing in a meeting where there was an atmosphere of corporate faith, but later lost their healing when they were alone and on their own. Those persons have need of teaching on how to fight the good fight of faith.

I Timothy 6:12

Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life . . .

Matthew 9:22

But Jesus turned him about, and when he saw her, he said, Daughter, be of good comfort; thy faith hath made thee whole. And the woman was made whole from that hour.

This reference was made by Jesus concerning to the woman with the issue of blood. If her faith made her whole, your faith will make you whole and keep you whole. Some say healing has passed away but faith has not passed away. Remember that a person must access faith to be saved and salvation has not passed away.

I Corinthians 13:13

And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three...

Ephesians 2:8

For by grace are ye saved through faith...

Faith always says the same thing that the Word of God says. It never takes sides against the Word. Faith calls those things, which are **not** as though they were.

Romans 4:17

(As it is written, I have made thee a father of many nations,) before him whom he believed, even God, who quickeneth the dead, and calleth those things which be not as though they were.

Faith comes in two halves, in your mouth and in your heart.

Romans 10:8

But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach.

Faith says "I have it now."

Mark 11:24

Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.

Hope is future, faith is now.

Hebrews 11:1

Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

Hope is a good waiter, but a poor receiver. Hope will keep you smiling while the ship goes down, but faith will keep the ship afloat. Hope is a wonderful thing and keeps good company. (I Corinthians 13:13) However, if you put hope in the place of faith, you will be disappointed. Faith is the substance or assurance of things hoped for, and the evidence of things not seen. . . or felt or smelled or heard or tasted.

Hebrews 11:1b Amplified

... Faith perceiving as real fact what is not revealed to the senses.

James 1:6-7

6 But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed.

7 For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord.

So, fight the good fight of faith. Lay hold on eternal life. Healing is received just like salvation is. Confess with your mouth, believe in your heart, and you shall receive. You do not have to wait for a special manifestation or revelation from God.

Romans 10: 6-10

6 But the righteousness which is of faith speaketh on this wise, Say not in thine heart, Who shall ascend into heaven? (that is, to bring Christ down from above:)

7 Or, Who shall descend into the deep? (that is, to bring up Christ again from the dead.)

8 But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach;

9 That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

10 For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

Believe you receive when you pray; do not wait to feel something.

Mark 11:24

Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.

James 5:15

And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him.

Faith believes before the manifestation comes. This type of belief should be a normal lifestyle because the just shall live by faith.

Romans 1:17

For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.")

The just live by faith, not by the gifts of the spirit.

2 Corinthians 5:7

For we walk by faith, not by sight:

You could say we walk by the Word, not by the senses. Faith comes by the rhema.

Romans 10:17

So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word (rhema) of God.

Rhema is the spoken word. It is a specific word for a specific person in a specific situation. The logos is the general word of God. Meditation turns the logos into the rhema. Meditate in God's word.

7. Divine healing is part and parcel of the Gospel.

Matthew 10:7-8

7 And as ye go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand.

8 Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: freely ye have received, freely give.

Luke 10:9

And heal the sick that are therein, and say unto them, The kingdom of God is come nigh unto you.

Mark 16:15-20

15 And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.

16 *He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.*

17 *And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues;*

18 *They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.*

19 *So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God.*

20 *And they went forth, and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen.*

Notice when Paul preached the Gospel to those who had never heard; his message gave the crippled man faith to be healed.

Acts 14:7-10

7 *And there they preached the gospel.*

8 *And there sat a certain man at Lystra, impotent in his feet, being a cripple from his mother's womb, who never had walked:*

9 *The same heard Paul speak: who stedfastly beholding him, and perceiving that he had faith to be healed,*

10 *Said with a loud voice, Stand upright on thy feet. And he leaped and walked.*

The Gospel means good news. It is good news to the sick, because salvation is for the whole man including the body. If what we preach does not give faith to be healed, then it is not the Gospel.

Romans 10:17

So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

Healing belongs to us. Jesus said that healing is the children's bread.

Matthew 15:26

But he answered and said, It is not meet to take the children's bread, and cast it to dogs.

8. It is God's will to heal all of the sick.

Jesus and the apostles healed all that **came** to them for healing.

Matthew 8:16

When the even was come, they brought unto him many that were possessed with devils: and he cast out the spirits with his word, and healed all that were sick:

Matthew 14:36

And besought him that they might only touch the hem of his garment: and as many as touched were made perfectly whole.

Matt 15:30-31

30 *And great multitudes came unto him, having with them those that were lame, blind, dumb, maimed, and many others, and cast them down at Jesus' feet; and he healed them:*

31 *Insomuch that the multitude wondered, when they saw the dumb to speak, the maimed to be whole, the lame to walk, and the blind to see: and they glorified the God of Israel.*

Acts 5:12-16

12 *And by the hands of the apostles were many signs and wonders wrought among the people; (and they were all with one accord in Solomon's porch.*

13 *And of the rest durst no man join himself to them: but the people magnified them.*

14 *And believers were the more added to the Lord, multitudes both of men and women.)*

15 *Insomuch that they brought forth the sick into the streets, and laid them on beds and couches, that at the least the shadow of Peter passing by might overshadow some of them.*

16 *There came also a multitude out of the cities round about unto Jerusalem, bringing sick folks, and them which were vexed with unclean spirits: and they were healed every one.*

7. Jesus committed the healing ministry first to the twelve.

Luke 9:1

Then he called his twelve disciples together, and gave them power and authority over all devils, and to cure diseases.

Then to the seventy.

Luke 10:1, 9

1 *After these things the Lord appointed other seventy also, and sent them two and two before his face into every city and place, whither he himself would come.*

9 *And heal the sick that are therein, and say unto them, The kingdom of God is come nigh unto you.*

Then to the whole church.

James 5:14-16

14 *Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord:*

15 *And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him.*

Divine Healing

16 Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much."

And finally to each believer in particular.

Mark 16:17-18

17 And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues;

18 They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.

John 14:12

Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.

I Corinthians 12:28

And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues.

Chapter 10

THE BLESSED HOPE

The **Blessed Hope** means Jesus is coming again. He is coming for those who are looking for Him.

John 14:2-3

2 In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.

3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.

Acts 1:11

Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.

Hebrews 9:28

So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation.

The Bible speaks of **Jesus coming in 3 phases**. As a babe born of a virgin, the rapture, and at the close of the Battle of Armageddon.

1. The first phase is as a **babe** born of a virgin in Bethlehem:

Matthew 1:23

Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.

Isaiah 7:14

Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

Matthew 2:4-5

4 And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he demanded of them where Christ should be born.

5 And they said unto him, In Bethlehem of Judaea: for thus it is written by the prophet,

Micah 5:2

But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.

2. The second phase of Jesus' coming is referred to as the rapture or “**catching away**” of the church. Although the word ‘rapture’ is not found in the scriptures, the meaning is. The phrase “rapture” is intended to mean “caught up”. We will be caught up in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air.

I Thessalonians 4:16-17

16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

I Corinthians 15:50-53

50 Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption.

51 Behold, I show you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,

52 In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.

We will have a new body.

Romans 8:22-23

22 For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now.

23 And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body.

Philippians 3:20-21

20 For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ:

21 Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.

With this body we should be able to walk through walls and disappear.

John 20:26

And after eight days again his disciples were within, and Thomas with them: then came Jesus, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, Peace be unto you.

Luke 24:31

And their eyes were opened, and they knew him; and he vanished out of their sight.

There will be a reckoning at His coming.

Revelation 22:12

And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.

2 Corinthians 5:10

For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.

Jesus is coming for a full grown, healthy, thriving, glorious church, not having spot nor wrinkle or any such thing.

Ephesians 4:11-13

11 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;

12 For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:

13 Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:

Ephesians 5:25-27

25 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;

26 That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,

27 That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.

The Bible teaches that **Jesus will return like He left, in the clouds.**

Acts 1:9-11

9 And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight.

10 *And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel;*

11 *Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.*

Matthew 24:23-27

23 *Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here is Christ, or there; believe it not.*

24 *For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall show great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.*

25 *Behold, I have told you before.*

26 *Wherefore if they shall say unto you, Behold, he is in the desert; go not forth: behold, he is in the secret chambers; believe it not.*

27 *For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.*

Those who died in Christ beforehand will be coming back with Him.

I Thessalonians 3:13

To the end he may stablish your hearts unblameable in holiness before God, even our Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all his saints.

I Thessalonians 4:13-17

13 *But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope.*

14 *For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.*

15 *For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent (meaning shall not proceed) them which are asleep.*

16 *For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:*

17 *Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.*

Evidently the dead in Christ will enter back into their old bodies, which will be changed instantly into glorious bodies like Jesus has. Be aware the scriptures teach no such thing as soul sleep (suggesting that we sleep in the grave until the resurrection) as some believe. Paul said in 2 Corinthians 5:8... *“We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.”*

Paul also said in Philippians 1:23, "*For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better:*" The next verse Paul says staying would be better for the Philippians.

Philippians 1:24

"Nevertheless to abide in the flesh is more needful for you."

Jesus said to **watch so you may escape.**

Luke 12:35-40

35 Let your loins be girded about, and your lights burning;

36 And ye yourselves like unto men that wait for their lord, when he will return from the wedding; that when he cometh and knocketh, they may open unto him immediately.

37 Blessed are those servants, whom the lord when he cometh shall find watching: verily I say unto you, that he shall gird himself, and make them to sit down to meat, and will come forth and serve them.

38 And if he shall come in the second watch, or come in the third watch, and find them so, blessed are those servants.

39 And this know, that if the goodman of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched, and not have suffered his house to be broken through.

40 Be ye therefore ready also: for the Son of man cometh at an hour when ye think not.

3. The third phase of Jesus' coming is at the close of the **Battle of Armageddon**. His feet will touch the Mount of Olives and it will split down the middle. The kings of the earth with their armies will gather to fight against the Lord and His army and so shall the end be. We then move into the Millennial reign of Christ.

Zechariah 14:1-5

1 Behold, the day of the LORD cometh, and thy spoil shall be divided in the midst of thee.

2 For I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle; and the city shall be taken, and the houses rifled, and the women ravished; and half of the city shall go forth into captivity, and the residue of the people shall not be cut off from the city.

3 Then shall the LORD go forth, and fight against those nations, as when he fought in the day of battle.

4 And his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east, and the mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west, and there shall be a very great valley; and half of the mountain shall remove toward the north, and half of it toward the south.

5 And ye shall flee to the valley of the mountains; for the valley of the mountains shall reach unto Azal: yea, ye shall flee, like as ye fled from before

the earthquake in the days of Uzziah king of Judah: and the LORD my God shall come, and all the saints with thee.

Matthew 24:29-30

29 Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken:

30 And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.

Revelation 16:12-16

12 And the sixth angel poured out his vial upon the great river Euphrates; and the water thereof was dried up, that the way of the kings of the east might be prepared.

13 And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet.

14 For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.

15 Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame.

16 And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon.

Revelation 19:19-21

19 And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against him that sat on the horse, and against his army.

20 And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone.

21 And the remnant were slain with the sword of him that sat upon the horse, which sword proceeded out of his mouth: and all the fowls were filled with their flesh.

Chapter 11

THE MILLENNIAL REIGN OF CHRIST

The word “millennium” is a Latin word, which means a thousand-year period of time. The **millennial reign of Christ** will begin after the rapture and after the Lord appears personally to execute judgment against His enemies at the closing of the Battle of Armageddon (Revelation 19:11-21). During the millennial reign of Christ, the curse will be lifted for the Lord's people, and Satan will be bound.

Revelation 20:1-3

1 And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand.

2 And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years,

3 And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season.

Isaiah 11:1-9

1 And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots:

2 And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD;

3 And shall make him of quick understanding in the fear of the LORD: and he shall not judge after the sight of his eyes, neither reprove after the hearing of his ears:

4 But with righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth: and he shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked.

5 And righteousness shall be the girdle of his loins, and faithfulness the girdle of his reins.

6 The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them.

7 And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

8 And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice' den.

9 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.

Isaiah 65:17-25

17 *For, behold, I create new heavens and a new earth: and the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind.*

18 *But be ye glad and rejoice forever in that which I create: for, behold, I create Jerusalem a rejoicing, and her people a joy.*

19 *And I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and joy in my people: and the voice of weeping shall be no more heard in her, nor the voice of crying.*

20 *There shall be no more thence an infant of days, nor an old man that hath not filled his days: for the child shall die an hundred years old; but the sinner being an hundred years old shall be accursed.*

21 *And they shall build houses, and inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards, and eat the fruit of them.*

22 *They shall not build, and another inhabit; they shall not plant, and another eat: for as the days of a tree are the days of my people, and mine elect shall long enjoy the work of their hands.*

23 *They shall not labour in vain, nor bring forth for trouble; for they are the seed of the blessed of the LORD, and their offspring with them.*

24 *And it shall come to pass, that before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear.*

25 *The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, and the lion shall eat straw like the bullock: and dust shall be the serpent's meat. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain, saith the LORD.*

For a thousand years there will be peace.

Isaiah 2:1-4

1 *The word that Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.*

2 *And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it.*

3 *And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.*

4 *And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.*

After the thousand years have ended, the final judgment begins.

Revelation 20:7-15

7 *And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison,*

8 *And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea.*

9 *And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them.*

10 *And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.*

11 *And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.*

12 *And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.*

13 *And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged according to their works.*

14 *And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.*

15 *And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.*

Chapter 12

THE FINAL JUDGMENT

1. The white throne judgment is for sinners only.

Christians will not appear at this judgment.

John 5:24

Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgement, but has passed out of death into life. (NAS)

The purpose of the white throne judgment is not to determine heaven or hell; this decision has already been made. This is an explanation of a verdict, a sentencing, not a determination of the verdict. No one will go to heaven or hell because of what they have done, but because of what they are. What one does is a product of what one is.

Revelation 20:10-15

10 And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.

11 And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.

12 And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.

13 And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works.

14 And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.

15 And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

2. The white throne judgment is to reward the evil according to their works.

Revelation 20:13

And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works.

3. Hell was prepared for the devil and his angels.

Those who reject salvation and choose Satan will go there with him.

Matthew 25:41

Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:

John 3:17-21

17 For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.

18 He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

19 And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.

20 For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved.

21 But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God.

Isaiah 5:14 NIV

14 Therefore the grave enlarges its appetite and opens its mouth without limit; into it will descend their nobles and masses with all their brawlers and revelers.

4. Hell is eternal.

Note that the beast and false prophet are cast into the lake of fire. When the devil is cast in, the beast and the false prophet are still there. They are not annihilated, but tormented day and night forever. Spirit cannot be destroyed by fire.

Revelation 19:20

And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone.

Revelation 20:10

And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.

(The following is excerpted from *The Revelation of Jesus* by John Walvoord; pages 304-305)

“Following the destruction of the armies of Satan, the devil is cast into the lake of fire. Attention is called to the fact that he is the deceiver. Satan who was first self-deceived in launching his career to be like God (Isa. 14:14) and then began his career by deceiving Eve in the garden is still the same character at the time of the final judgment. There is no sanctifying grace for fallen angels. In the divine act of judgment which casts Satan into the lake of

*fire, he joins the beast and the false prophet who preceded him by one thousand years. The text should be understood as teaching that both the beast and the false prophet are still in the lake of fire when Satan joins them, a thousand years after being cast into it. It is most significant the verb *basanisthēsontai* is in the third person plural, indication that the verb should be understood as having its subjects not only Satan but also the beast and the false prophet. It could be translated, "They shall be torments day and night for ever and ever." Thus the Word of God plainly declares that death is not annihilation and the wicked exist forever, though in torment. There would be no way possible in the Greek language to state more emphatically the everlasting punishment of the lost than that used here in mentioning both day and night and the expression "for ever and ever" (Gr., *eis tous aionas ton aiōnō*), literally "to the ages of ages." The lake of fire prepared for the devil and the wicked angels is also the destiny of all who follow Satan."*

Matthew 25:41, 46

41 Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:

46 And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.

Mark 9:42-48

42 And whosoever shall offend one of these little ones that believe in me, it is better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and he were cast into the sea.

43 And if thy hand offend thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to enter into life maimed, than having two hands to go into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched:

44 Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched.

45 And if thy foot offend thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to enter halt into life, than having two feet to be cast into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched:

46 Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched.

47 And if thine eye offend thee, pluck it out: it is better for thee to enter into the kingdom of God with one eye, than having two eyes to be cast into hell fire:

48 Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched.

Revelation 14:9-11

9 And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand,

10 The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb:

11 *And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name.*

5. The three Greek words used in the New Testament for hell are tartaros, hades and gehenna.

➤ **Tartaros** is used only once. It is the deepest abyss of hades. It means to incarcerate in eternal torment.

2 Peter 2:4

For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell [tartaros], and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment;

➤ **Hades** is used ten times in the New Testament. It is the place of departed spirits that do not know God. Hades is similar to the county jail. It is a place where spirits await judgment before being sentenced to the lake of fire. The lake of fire is similar to the federal penitentiary of eternity.

Matthew 11:23

And thou, Capernaum, which art exalted unto heaven, shalt be brought down to hell [hades]: for if the mighty works, which have been done in thee, had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day.

Matthew 16:18

And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell [hades] shall not prevail against it.

Luke 10:15

And thou, Capernaum, which art exalted to heaven, shalt be thrust down to hell [hades].

Luke 16:23

And in hell [hades] he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom.

Acts 2:27, 31

27 Because thou wilt not leave my soul in hell [hades], neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption.

31 He seeing this before spake of the resurrection of Christ, that his soul was not left in hell [hades], neither his flesh did see corruption.

Revelation 1:18

I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell [hades] and of death.

Revelation 6:8

And I looked, and behold a pale horse: and his name that sat on him was Death, and Hell [hades] followed with him. And power was given unto them over the fourth part of the earth, to kill with sword, and with hunger, and with death, and with the beasts of the earth.

Revelation 20:13-14

13 And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell [hades] delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works.

14 And death and hell [hades] were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.

➤ **Gehenna** is used twelve times in the New Testament. Of the twelve times it is used, Jesus spoke it eleven of those twelve times and His brother James spoke it once. Gehenna means the place or state of everlasting punishment and is synonymous with the lake of fire.

Matthew 5:22

But I say unto you, That whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment: and whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca, shall be in danger of the council: but whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell [gehenna] fire.

Matthew 5:29-30

29 And if thy right eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell [gehenna].

30 And if thy right hand offend thee, cut it off, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell [gehenna].

Matthew 10:28

And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell [gehenna].

Matthew 18:9

And if thine eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast it from thee: it is better for thee to enter into life with one eye, rather than having two eyes to be cast into hell [gehenna] fire.

Matthew 23:15, 33

15 Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye compass sea and land to make one proselyte, and when he is made, ye make him twofold more the child of hell [gehenna] than yourselves.

33 *Ye serpents, ye generation of vipers, how can ye escape the damnation of hell [gehenna]?*

Mark 9:43, 45, 47, 48

43 *And if thy hand offend thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to enter into life maimed, than having two hands to go into hell [gehenna], into the fire that never shall be quenched:*

45 *And if thy foot offend thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to enter halt into life, than having two feet to be cast into hell [gehenna], into the fire that never shall be quenched:*

47 *And if thine eye offend thee, pluck it out: it is better for thee to enter into the kingdom of God with one eye, than having two eyes to be cast into hell [gehenna] fire:*

48 *Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched.*

Luke 12:5

But I will forewarn you whom ye shall fear: Fear him, which after he hath killed hath power to cast into hell [gehenna]; yea, I say unto you, Fear him.

James 3:6

And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell [gehenna].

6. Hell is eternal separation from God. It is eternal punishment.

Let us explore 2 Thessalonians 1: 9 in several different translations. These translations emphasize eternal punishment and separation from the Lord.

2 Thessalonians 1:7-9

7 *And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels,*

8 *In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ:*

9 *Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power.*

2 Thessalonians 1:9

Amplified:

Such people will pay the penalty and suffer the punishment of everlasting ruin (destruction and perdition) and [eternal exclusion and banishment] from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power,

Twentieth Century New Testament:

...of everlasting ruin - banished from the presence of the Lord.

Goodspeed:
with eternal ruin and exclusion from the presence of the Lord.

Williams:
of eternal destruction as exiles from the presence of the Lord.

Phillips:
eternal exclusion from the radiance of the face of the Lord.

Taylor:
in everlasting hell, forever shut away from the face of the Lord.

Beck:
by being taken away from the Lord.

7. In the Old Testament all the dead went to Sheol.

The Hebrew word Sheol, like the Greek word Hades, represents the unseen world of disembodied spirits.

There has been some confusion concerning the word “sheol” because in the King James Version, “sheol” was erroneously translated 31 times as “grave”. This mistake was made because the Hebrew language was not as well understood at the time the KJV was written. Of the 65 times “sheol” is used in the Old Testament, the KJV translated it as “hell” 31 times, “grave” 31 times, and “pit” 3 times.

The use of a word in any language determines its meaning. Scholars have now found the Hebrew word “quebar” (sometimes spelled “queber” and pronounced /k/ /bar/) means sepulcher or grave. Errors that used these words interchangeably have caused some to believe that when one dies, he is dead like a dog, or that the dead knows nothing. Hell and the grave are not synonymous terms.

- ◆ The word “sheol” is never used in the plural. The word “queber” is used in the plural 29 times.
- ◆ The word “sheol” is never located on the surface of the earth; “quebar” is located on the surface of the earth 32 times.
- ◆ Bodies are never put into “sheol” by man; but bodies are put into “quebar” 37 times.
- ◆ No individual has a “sheol” of his own, but they have “quebars” 44 times.
- ◆ Man never digs a “sheol”, but man digs a “quebar” 6 times.
- ◆ Man never touches “sheol,” but the Bible speaks of man touching “quebar” 5 times.

E. W. Kenyon wrote in *The Father and His Family*, “Sheol cannot be translated grave! It is the place of departed spirits. The one who says Hell and the grave are synonymously used is either ignorant of the use of the words and their meaning in the Scriptures, or else he is dishonest.” (Page 77)

8. The Bible identifies who will go to hell.

▪ **The wicked and all nations that forget God**

Psalms 9:17

The wicked shall be turned into hell [sheol]), and all the nations that forget God.

Matthew 8:11-12

11 And I say unto you, That many shall come from the east and west, and shall sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, in the kingdom of heaven.

12 But the children of the kingdom shall be cast out into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

▪ **The fearful, the abominable, murderers and whoremongers and sorcerers and idolaters and all liars**

The New American Standard Bible uses the word cowardly and unbelieving and in the margin, uses untrustworthy to translate the word fearful in the following verse.

Revelation 21:8

But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.

▪ **The hypocrite**

Isaiah 33:12-14

12 And the people shall be as the burnings of lime: as thorns cut up shall they be burned in the fire.

13 Hear, ye that are far off, what I have done; and, ye that are near, acknowledge my might.

14 The sinners in Zion are afraid; fearfulness hath surprised the hypocrites. Who among us shall dwell with the devouring fire? who among us shall dwell with everlasting burnings?

Matthew 23:13-15, 23, 25, 27, 29, 33

13 But woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye shut up the kingdom of heaven against men: for ye neither go in yourselves, neither suffer ye them that are entering to go in.

14 Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye devour widows' houses, and for a pretence make long prayer: therefore ye shall receive the greater damnation.

15 *Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye compass sea and land to make one proselyte, and when he is made, ye make him twofold more the child of hell than yourselves.*

23 *Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites!...*

25 *Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites!...*

27 *Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites!...*

29 *Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites!...*

33 *Ye serpents, ye generation of vipers, how can ye escape the damnation of hell [Gehenna]?*

▪ **The unprofitable servant**

Matthew 25:14, 26, 30-35, 41-42, 45-46

14 *For the kingdom of heaven is as a man travelling into a far country, who called his own servants, and delivered unto them his goods.*

26 *His lord answered and said unto him, Thou wicked and slothful servant...*

30 *And cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.*

31 *When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory:*

32 *And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats:*

33 *And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left.*

34 *Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:*

35 *For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat...*

41 *Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:*

42 *For I was an hungred, and ye gave me no meat...*

45 *Then shall he answer them, saying, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye did it not to one of the least of these, ye did it not to me.*

46 *And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.*

Luke 13:6-9

6 *He spake also this parable; A certain man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came and sought fruit thereon, and found none.*

7 *Then said he unto the dresser of his vineyard, Behold, these three years I come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and find none: cut it down; why cumbereth it the ground?*

8 *And he answering said unto him, Lord, let it alone this year also, till I shall dig about it, and dung it:*

9 *And if it bear fruit, well: and if not, then after that thou shalt cut it down.*

John 15:2-6

2 *Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit.*

3 *Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.*

4 *Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.*

5 *I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.*

6 *If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned.*

▪ **The backslider**

II Peter 2:20-22

20 *For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning.*

21 *For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them.*

22 *But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, The dog is turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire.*

Hebrews 10:26-31

26 *For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins,*

27 *But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries.*

28 *He that despised Moses' law died without mercy under two or three witnesses:*

29 *Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace?*

30 *For we know him that hath said, Vengeance belongeth unto me, I will recompense, saith the Lord. And again, The Lord shall judge his people.*
31 *It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.*

▪ **The lukewarm**

Revelation 2:4-5

4 *Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love.*

5 *Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.*

Revelation 3:15-16

15 *I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot.*

16 *So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.*

▪ **Whosoever is not found written in the book of Life**

Revelation 20:15

And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

Matthew 7:13-15

13 *Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat:*

14 *Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.*

15 *Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.*

Chapter 13

HEAVEN

Heaven is described as the bride or the Lamb's wife in Revelation 21 and 22. Heaven is also described as a magnificent city, 1500 miles cubed, that comes down and sits on the earth. This city is where we will live in intimacy with Jesus forever. Its foundation is garnished with all manner of precious stones, twelve of which are named. It has gates of pearl, streets of gold, and walls of jasper. The gates are never closed. There will be no night nor sun, moon nor temple, for the glory of God and the Lamb are the light of heaven and the temple.

1. The Bible teaches that there is a literal heaven.

In Matthew 22:2-14, the parable says the Kingdom of heaven is like a King which made a marriage for his son. In verse 11, the King found a man who was not wearing a wedding garment had come into the feast. The man was bound hand and foot and thrown out into outer darkness where there was weeping and gnashing of teeth. Concerning the marriage of the Lamb, the wedding garment represents righteousness.

Revelation 19:7-8

7 Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready.

8 And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints.

The one requirement to enter heaven is righteousness and one can only become righteous by being born again. Jesus is our righteousness.

I Corinthians 1:30

But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption

2. Heaven is, and always has been, a busy place.

Genesis 28:12

And he dreamed, and behold a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven: and behold the angels of God ascending and descending on it.

John 1:51

And he saith unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Hereafter ye shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of man.

Hebrews 1:14

Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?

Here we see some that have gone on to heaven that are already busy in the work of the kingdom.

Revelation 19:10

And I fell at his feet to worship him. And he said unto me, See thou do it not: I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren that have the testimony of Jesus: worship God: for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.

Revelation 22:8-9

8 And I John saw these things, and heard them. And when I had heard and seen, I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel which showed me these things.

9 Then saith he unto me, See thou do it not: for I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren the prophets, and of them which keep the sayings of this book: worship God.

3. In heaven, it is our spiritual appetites that will be abundantly fulfilled.

We will not miss any of the old physical ones. In heaven we will not marry. At the marriage supper of the Lamb, fellowship and honor are implied more than food.

2 Peter 1:4

Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

Matthew 22:30

For in the resurrection they neither marry, nor are given in marriage, but are as the angels of God in heaven.

Revelation 19:1, 7

1 And after these things I heard a great voice of much people in heaven, saying, Alleluia; Salvation, and glory, and honour, and power, unto the Lord our God:

7 Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready.

4. Jesus said there is a heaven and we should lay up treasures there.

Jesus said that your heart follows your treasure. Remember that you cannot take it with you, but you can send it on ahead. Jesus even suggested that we sell our belongings so we could give alms and lay up treasures in heaven.

Hebrews 6:10

For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have shewed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister.

Matthew 6:20

But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal:

Matthew 6:21

For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

Luke 12:33

Sell that ye have, and give alms; provide yourselves bags which wax not old, a treasure in the heavens that faileth not, where no thief approacheth, neither moth corrupteth.

In the book by Crandall Miller, The Thimble Crown, Miller talks about the reward that will be received in heaven.

I Corinthians 3:9-15

9 For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building.

10 According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon.

11 For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

12 Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble;

13 Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is.

14 If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward.

15 If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.

5. The saints desired to go to heaven and did not fear death.

Paul was eager to get to heaven. He was not afraid to die. Paul said he was ready to depart and be with Christ. He even said to die is gain.

Philippians 1:21-24

21 For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.

22 But if I live in the flesh, this is the fruit of my labour: yet what I shall choose I wot not.

23 For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better:

24 Nevertheless to abide in the flesh is more needful for you.

Peter on the eve of his supposed execution was sleeping. He was not afraid to die; he had the hope of heaven.

Acts 12:6

And when Herod would have brought him forth, the same night Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains: and the keepers before the door kept the prison.

David looked forward to appearing before God also.

Psalms 42:1-2

1 As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God.

2 My soul thirsteth for God, for the living God: when shall I come and appear before God?

6. The New Testament encourages us to have no fear of death but to have a hope of heaven.

Any Christian, no matter how he dies, dies in victory. And we can surely say that another Christian has safely landed on the beaches of Glory!

I Corinthians 15:54-58

54 So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.

55 O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?

56 The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law.

57 But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.

Appendix

Appendix

Persistence Wins!

By: Francis Hunter

On a recent trip to the West Indies, Charles and I stopped at the small island nation of Barbados. The church we were scheduled to minister in was considered very conservative - but a miracle of God was soon to bring the entire congregation to its feet!

After we began our service, I noticed the pastor bringing a chair to a particular woman in the crowd. I could not see what her problem was,, but I called her out of the audience and asked her to come forward.

I was surprised to learn she had multiple sclerosis and had been in a wheelchair for 13 years. I couldn't help but think, Lord, why did I have to start with such a difficult disease? But I had to follow through. So in Jesus' name I cast out the spirit of multiple sclerosis, broke the generational curse by the blood of Jesus and commanded the myelin sheaths surrounding her nerve fibers to be covered. The woman dropped to the floor under the power of God.

Two "catchers" picked her up and held her in a standing position. I quoted Acts 3:6: "Silver or gold I do not have, but what I have I give you: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth...walk,"(NIV).

Those of us in the healing ministry frequently talk about the victories we see because that is what builds faith in people. But the fact is, there are also times when our faith is tried! In this case, the woman struggled and struggled, attempting to move her foot. But it was just as though it had been glued to the floor.

I began to speak to the foot, saying, "Right foot, walk in the name of Jesus!" It wouldn't budge. I looked up at the woman's face, expecting discouragement. But in her eyes was faith the likes of which I have rarely seen. I continued to command the foot-still to no avail. Then, just as I was about to conclude the foot was hard of hearing, it suddenly lunged forward at least one-half inch.

That wasn't much, but it was enough to keep me going. I began to speak to the left foot. Again and again I commanded the foot to walk. But it did not! Finally after what seemed like an eternity (it might have been only 60 seconds), the left foot moved--approximately one-half inch. But it moved.

I spoke to the right foot again, and after an unbelievable amount of time, it moved slightly forward. I looked up at the woman. Her gaze was steadily on me. The faith in her eyes would have moved mountains!

Then I spoke to the left foot again. The woman strained and struggled. Inside, I did, too. Everyone in the audience seemed to be straining forward to see what was going to happen. Finally, the left foot moved, a huge step forward this time--approximately an inch.

{ By this time, Charles was on one side of her with an usher on the other side. Suddenly the woman swung both of her arms sideways, hitting both Charles and the usher. In a blood curdling scream, she cried: "Let me go, now!"

The men let go, and I jumped out of the way. With fire in her eyes, she took a wobbly step. By herself! I wanted to reach out and steady her, but I knew in my spirit she didn't need or want my help.

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We watched as she took one wobbly step after another, pausing long in between. Finally she reached the other side of the platform and sat down. "I'm exhausted!" she said, her eyes flashing.

She got up again and started another wobbly trip across the long expanse of stage, one step at a time. At first she didn't look like she'd been healed at all, but by the time she reached the other side she was walking as normally as you and I!

She ran up and down the stairs with Charles with no effort. The last time down, she held her walking stick over her head. When she got to the bottom, the hands that had been severely weakened by disease were no longer weak. She broke the cane in two and the congregation went wild.

"Her faith in Jesus had made her whole!" I told the audience. Faith -- and persistence. She never gave up on the Lord and her belief in His ability to heal. And because she didn't, neither did I.

Appendix

Winning the Fight of Faith-- Pain Free!

By: Kenneth Copeland

Not long ago, I had a major breakthrough in my own life where walking in the fullness of God's promises is concerned. It began one night about two years ago, when I had finished preaching at a meeting. After the meeting, I drove myself back to the hotel and as I got out of the car, a sharp pain shot through my hip and leg. It was so intense; I doubled over. It felt like a pulled muscle.

When I got to my room, I sat on the bed and rested. The pain eventually left. The next night, the same thing happened again. As I got out of the car after the meeting, the pain doubled me over, then gradually went away.

In a matter of days, this pain started lasting longer. Then it began showing up during the day, at night and even while I preached. When something starts interfering with ministry and the anointing, I know something serious is up.

Like many times before, I attacked the problem with the Word of God. But the only noticeable response was that the pain spread into other areas of my leg, and it became constant.

Weeks and months passed. I did everything I could spiritually and physically to get relief from the pain, but still no change. If anything, it got worse.

When I finally realized I was failing to connect with my healing, I went to the Lord and asked Him what was wrong. I knew He couldn't be missing it. It had to be me. But where?

While on my way to preach one night, I walked out the hotel door when the Lord stopped me and asked, *Do you believe what you are about to preach?* "With all my heart," I replied. "I've lived on it for more than 30 years."

It so happened I was preaching several services that week on "You have what you say" (Mark 11:22-26). Obviously the Lord knew this.

{ For you to ask me to do something, He continued, without first doing your part by saying it in My Word puts Me in an almost impossible situation.

{ Then He said something that surprised me. He told me to call things that be not as though they were (Romans 4:17). I thought that's what I had been doing. But then I began to see that that's where I had been slipping all along.

{ Calling things that be not as though they were does not mean calling things as they are, or as you wished they would be, or even as they are going to be. It means to call and see them as already done. And that's not what I had been doing.

Well, on August 1, 2000, the second day of our annual Southwest Believers' Convention in Fort Worth, I walked into the speakers' room before the service that night. As I did, there stood Gloria, Jerry Savelle, Jesse Duplantis, Bishop Keith Butler and others. The room was full of healing anointing, and as I looked around, something *clicked* in my spirit.

"In the Name of Jesus," I said, "you folks lay your hands on me and I will be healed." They did.

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I looked at my watch. It was 7:20 p.m. "That did it," I said. "It has been said to me, 'By [His] stripes ye were healed.' So I am healed. And I want you to know that it is so wonderful to be well. It is so wonderful to be pain free."

That night, as far as I was concerned, I had been healed. At 7:20 p.m., I had been delivered from two years of constant, nagging pain.

When I walked out of the speakers' room to go preach that evening, the pain was still in my leg. In fact, my leg was hurting so bad that if my body had had anything to say about it, I would not have made it to the platform. But I went out anyway.

I went out that night declaring, "It's so good to be healed. It's so good to be pain free." I went out declaring things that be not as though they were. I did it at a level I never had before.

Now to someone else, it might have looked as though I were just lying to myself, trying to talk myself into feeling better. But that wasn't the case.

I would have been lying if I had tried to get everyone, myself included, to think that I didn't have any pain. What's more, I would not have been calling things that be not as though they were.

On the other hand, had I said anything other than what I did, I would have been calling things that be as they *are*--and that won't change anything.

You see, the key to changing any situation is not in stating the facts as you see them or, in this case, *feel* them. The key is getting in agreement with the Word of God--the more sure Word (2Peter 1:16-19).

Whatever God's Word says about healing is what we should be saying. Whatever His Word says about our prosperity is what we should be saying, even when it doesn't seem to agree with what we see in the natural world.

The moment I began declaring that it was good to be pain free, faith rose within me and began taking care of what I *could not see*.

Healing was mine. A pain-free body was mine. God had promised it to me, then provided it for me through the blood of Jesus. I just couldn't see it at the moment, but that didn't matter. I had God's Word on it. It was just as real and just as available as the pain had been for the [previous two years].

To be honest with you, the whole time I stood on the platform and preached that night, my mind was trying to tell me, Why hasn't God done this, yet? Why hasn't God... Why hasn't... Why....

So, I simply told my mind to shut up, and I continued thanking God that I was pain free.

A few days later I noticed the pain had eased some. Then it began to ease some more...and some more. Within six weeks, the pain was reduced to just a tightness in my leg, and I preached my first pain-free service. I had fought the good fight of faith...and won. (I Tim 6:12)

Oh, it's good to be pain free! BVOV

Appendix