



C W C

FOUNDATIONS

CLASS

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Week 1 – Repentance & Faith

Repentance

To repent means to change your mind and attitude about sin, so that you turn from your sin, and you turn to God (Jesus Christ) for forgiveness and cleansing.

1. Who preached repentance?

- **Matthew 3:1-2** - *1 In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea, 2 and saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”*
- **Matthew 4:17** - *17 From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, “Repent! For the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”*
- **Mark 6:7-12** - *Then Jesus went to the surrounding villages, teaching. 7 He called to Him the twelve, and began to send them out two by two, and gave them authority over unclean spirits. 8 He commanded them to take nothing for their journey except a staff: no bag, no bread, and no money in their purse, 9 but to wear sandals, and not put on two tunics. 10 He said to them, “Wherever you enter a house, remain there until you depart from that place. 11 And whoever will not receive you or hear you, when you depart from there, shake the dust off your feet as a testimony against them. Truly I say to you, it will be more tolerable for Sodom and Gomorrah on the Day of Judgment than for that city.” 12 So they went out and preached that men should repent. 13 And they cast out many demons and anointed with oil many who were sick and healed them.*

- **Acts 2:38** - 38 Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins, and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.
- **Acts 17:22-30** - 22 Then Paul stood in the middle of the Areopagus, and said: “Men of Athens, I perceive that in all things you are very religious. 23 For as I passed by and looked up at your objects of worship, I found an altar with this inscription: Whom you therefore unknowingly worship, Him I proclaim to you. 24 “God who made the world and all things in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by hands. 25 Nor is He served by men’s hands, as though He needed anything, since He gives all men life and breath and all things. 26 He has made from one blood every nation of men to live on the entire face of the earth, having appointed fixed times and the boundaries of their habitation, 27 that they should seek the Lord so perhaps they might reach for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us. 28 ‘For in Him we live and move and have our being.’ As some of your own poets have said, ‘We are His offspring.’ 29 “Therefore since we are the offspring of God, we ought not to suppose that the Deity is like gold or silver or stone or an engraved work of art or an image of the reflection of man. 30 God overlooked the times of ignorance, but now He commands all men everywhere to repent.

2. What are characteristics of true repentance?

- **2 Corinthians 7:9-10** - 9 Now I rejoice, not that you were made sorrowful, but that your sorrow led to repentance. For you were made sorrowful in a godly way, that you might not suffer loss in any way through us. 10 Godly sorrow produces repentance that leads to

salvation and brings no regret, but the sorrow of the world produces death.

- **Luke 18:9-14** - *9 He told this parable to some who trusted in themselves, as though they were righteous, and despised others: 10 “Two men went up to the temple to pray, the one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. 11 The Pharisee stood and prayed these things about himself, ‘God, I thank You that I am not like other men: extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. 12 I fast twice a week, and I tithe of all that I earn.’ 13 “But the tax collector, standing at a distance, would not even lift his eyes to heaven, but struck his chest, saying, ‘God, be merciful to me a sinner.’ 14 “I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.”*

- **1 Thessalonians 1:9** - *9 For they themselves declare how we were received by you, and how you turned to God from idols, to serve the living and true God*

3. Repentance is a change of 3 elements:

- Intellectual element - A change of mind. What we think.
- Emotional element - A change of heart. What we desire.
- Volitional element - A change of will. What we do.

4. Result of repentance - The result of repentance is a life lived in obedience and right relationship to Jesus.

- **2 Corinthians 7:10** *For the kind of sorrow God wants us to experience leads us away from sin and results in salvation. There’s*

no regret for that kind of sorrow. But worldly sorrow, which lacks repentance, results in spiritual death.

5. It is to be our message to the unbeliever:

- **Luke 24:44-48** - *44 He said to them, "These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and in the Prophets and in the Psalms concerning Me." 45 Then He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures. 46 He said to them, "Thus it is written, and accordingly it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, 47 and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. 48 You are witnesses of these things. 49 And look, I am sending the promise of My Father upon you. But wait in the city of Jerusalem until you are clothed with power from on high.*

Faith

1. How does the Bible define faith?

- **Hebrews 11:1** - *1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.*
- **What is faith?** It is the confident assurance that something we want is going to happen. It is the certainty that what we hope for is waiting for us, even though we cannot see up ahead.

2. Where does faith come from?

- **Hebrews 12:1-2** - *1 Therefore, since we are encompassed with such a great cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us. 2 Let us look to Jesus, the*

author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

3. How do we receive our faith?

- **Romans 10:17** - *17 So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.*

4. The importance of faith:

- We should live by it - **2 Corinthians 5:7** - *7 For we walk by faith, not by sight.*
- We are saved by it - **Ephesians 2:8-9** - *8 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not of yourselves. It is the gift of God, 9 not of works, so that no one should boast.*
- It is our defense (shield) against the enemy - **Ephesians 6:16** - *16 and above all, taking the shield of faith, with which you will be able to extinguish all the fiery arrows of the evil one.*
- It never gives up - **Hebrews 11:7, 30** - *7 By faith Noah, being divinely warned about things not yet seen, moved with godly fear, prepared an ark to save his family, by which he condemned the world and became an heir of the righteousness that comes by faith. 30 By faith the walls of Jericho fell down after they were encircled for seven days.*

(Stories found in **Genesis 6:13-22** & **Joshua 6** -)

- It gives us victory over the world and its problems - **1 John 5:4** - *4 for whoever is born of God overcomes the world, and the victory that overcomes the world is our faith.*

The principle element in repentance is a change of mind and attitude about Christ; a change from an unbelieving and rejecting attitude to a believing and accepting attitude. True faith in Christ involves the confession and forsaking of sin. True repentance and faith are inseparable. They are mutually dependent upon each other.

Application Question: How have I repented and trusted in Christ?

(Isaiah 1:18) - *18 Come now, and let us reason together, says the Lord. Though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.*

Assignment: Read **1 John**, memorize **John 1:12-13**, and pray for one another by name.

Week 2—Sin, Salvation & Forgiveness

Sin

1. **What is sin?** *Webster's Dictionary* - Sin - : an offense against religious or moral law

: an action that is or is felt to be highly reprehensible

it's a sin to waste food

: an often serious shortcoming : FAULT

: transgression of the law of God

: a vitiated state of human nature in which the self is estranged from God.

Biblical Definition of Sin

- **Isaiah 1:2** - *2 Hear, O heavens, and give ear, O earth. For the Lord has spoken: I have nourished and brought up children, and they have rebelled against Me*
- **Isaiah 53:6** - *6 All of us like sheep have gone astray; each of us has turned to his own way, but the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.*
- **1 John 2:15-17** - *15 Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in them. 16 For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—comes not from the Father but from the world. 17 The world and its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives forever.*

2. Who Sins?

- **Romans 3:23** - *23 For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God*

3. Where did sin come from?

- **Isaiah 14:12-15** - *12 How are you fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, you who weaken the nations! 13 For you have said in your heart, "I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will sit also on the mount of the congregation, In the recesses of the north; 14 I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High." 15 Yet you shall be brought down to Hell, to the sides of the pit.*
- **Ezekiel 28:14-17** - *14 You were the anointed cherub that covers, and I set you there; you were upon the holy mountain of God; you walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire. 15 You were perfect in your ways from the day that you were created, until iniquity was found in you. 16 By the multitude of your merchandise, you were filled with violence in your midst, and you sinned; therefore I have cast you as profane out of the mountain of God; and I have destroyed you, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire. 17 Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty; you have corrupted your wisdom by reason of your brightness; I cast you to the ground, I lay you before kings, that they may see you.*

4. Why do I sin?

- Adam's decision in the Garden of Eden: God told Adam not to eat the fruit of the tree of Knowledge and of the tree of Good and Evil - **Genesis 2:9, 16, 17** - *9 Out of the ground the Lord God made to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food.*

The tree of life was also in the midst of the garden, along with the tree of knowledge of good and evil. 16 And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, “Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat, 17 but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you will surely die.”

- Sin in the human race originated in Adam’s free decision to disobey God’s will - **Genesis 3:1-6** - *1 Now the serpent was more subtle than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said to the woman, “Has God said, ‘You shall not eat of any tree of the garden?’” 2 And the woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit from the trees of the garden; 3 but from the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, ‘You will not eat of it, nor will you touch it, or else you will die.’ ” 4 Then the serpent said to the woman, “You surely will not die! 5 For God knows that on the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” 6 When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasing to the eyes and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she gave to her husband with her, and he ate.*

The effects of Adam’s decision on us today:

- **Sin** entered the world through one man, Adam - **Romans 5:12** - *12 Therefore as sin came into the world through one man and death through sin, so death has spread to all men, because all have sinned.*

- **Adam's sin** separated man from God - **Genesis 3:22-24** - 22 *The Lord God said, "The man has become like one of us, knowing good and evil. And now, he might reach out his hand, and take also from the tree of life, and eat, and live forever"—* 23 *therefore the Lord God sent him out from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from which he was taken. 24 He drove the man out, and at the east of the garden of Eden He placed the cherubim and a flaming sword which turned in every direction, to guard the way to the tree of life.*
- **Adam's sin** resulted in both physical and spiritual death for man:
 - **Physical Death** - separation of the soul from the body, **Genesis 3:19** - 19 *By the sweat of your face you will eat bread until you return to the ground, because out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you will return."*
 - **Spiritual Death** - separation of the soul from God for eternity
 - Romans 6:23** - 23 *For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.;*
 - 2 Thessalonians 1:8-10** - 8 *in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 They shall be punished with eternal destruction, isolated from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power, 10 when He comes, in that Day, to be glorified in His saints and to be marveled at by all those who believe, because our testimony among you was believed.*
 - Revelation 21:8** - 8 *But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the abominable, the murderers, the sexually immoral, the*

sorcerers, the idolaters, and all liars shall have their portion in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone. This is the second death.”

- **Therefore I sin because I am a ...** Does a believer sin?

Contrast 1 John 1:8 to 1 John 3:9

- **1 John 1:8** - *8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.*

- **1 John 3:9** - *9 Those who have been born into God’s family do not make a practice of sinning, because God’s life is in them. So they can’t keep on sinning, because they are children of God.*

- **Romans 5:20 - 6:1-4** - *20 God’s law was given so that all people could see how sinful they were. But as people sinned more and more, God’s wonderful grace became more abundant. 21 So just as sin ruled over all people and brought them to death, now God’s wonderful grace rules instead, giving us right standing with God and resulting in eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. 1 Well then, should we keep on sinning so that God can show us more and more of his wonderful grace? 2 Of course not! Since we have died to sin, how can we continue to live in it? 3 Or have you forgotten that when we were joined with Christ Jesus in baptism, we joined him in his death? 4 For we died and were buried with Christ by baptism. And just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glorious power of the Father, now we also may live new lives.*

- **1 John 2:1-6** - (if we sin not when we sin) 1 *My little children, I am writing these things to you, so that you do not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the Righteous One.* 2 *He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.* 3 *By this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments.* 4 *Whoever says, "I know Him," and does not keep His commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him.* 5 *But whoever keeps His word truly has the love of God perfected in him. By this we know we are in Him.* 6 *Whoever says he remains in Him ought to walk as He walked.*
- **Romans 7:14-25** - 14 *So the trouble is not with the law, for it is spiritual and good. The trouble is with me, for I am all too human, a slave to sin.* 15 *I don't really understand myself, for I want to do what is right, but I don't do it. Instead, I do what I hate.* 16 *But if I know that what I am doing is wrong, this shows that I agree that the law is good.* 17 *So I am not the one doing wrong; it is sin living in me that does it.* 18 *And I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. I want to do what is right, but I can't.* 19 *I want to do what is good, but I don't. I don't want to do what is wrong, but I do it anyway.* 20 *But if I do what I don't want to do, I am not really the one doing wrong; it is sin living in me that does it.* 21 *I have discovered this principle of life—that when I want to do what is right, I inevitably do what is wrong.* 22 *I love God's law with all my heart.* 23 *But there is another power within me that is at war with my mind.*

This power makes me a slave to the sin that is still within me. 24 Oh, what a miserable person I am! Who will free me from this life that is dominated by sin and death? 25 Thank God! The answer is in Jesus Christ our Lord. So you see how it is: In my mind I really want to obey God's law, but because of my sinful nature I am a slave to sin.

We sin frankly because we are human and our flesh is weak, but looking at scripture there is no excuse for living a life of continual sin or practicing sin. We will have weak moments and give into temptation from time to time, but remember God has already made a way of escape for you from temptation. As the Bible says, **if we sin; not when we sin**, we have an advocate, Jesus Christ. We strive to live a righteous and holy life relying on the Holy Spirit to help us and guide us, but do not beat yourself up if you mess up from time to time. You are a human, and the Apostle Paul wrestled with his flesh so we surely will.

Salvation

1. Definition of salvation

- Being saved from the penalty, power, and dominion of sin in our life, and from eternity apart from God.

2. What is God's gift (grace) to us?

- **John 3:16** - 16 *"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life. - Romans 6:23* - 23 *For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

3. How are you saved?

- **Ephesians 2:8-9** - *8 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not of yourselves. It is the gift of God, 9 not of works, so that no one should boast.*

4. What do we put our faith in for salvation?

- **Romans 10:9, 10, 13** - *9 that if you confess with your mouth Jesus is Lord, and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved, 10 for with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. 13 For, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."*

Forgiveness

1. Definition of forgiveness is an act of pardon.

- What does God want to do with your sin?
 - **1 John 1:7-10** - *7 But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin. 8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 10 If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar and His word is not in us.*
 - **Psalm 103** - *1 Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless His holy name. 2 Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits, 3 who forgives all your iniquities, who heals all your diseases, 4 who redeems your life from the pit, who crowns you with lovingkindness and tender mercies, 5*

who satisfies your mouth with good things, so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's. 6 The Lord does righteousness and justice for all who are oppressed. 7 He made known His ways to Moses, His acts to the people of Israel. 8 The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in mercy. 9 He will not always accuse, neither will He keep his anger forever. 10 He does not treat us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities. 11 For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is His mercy toward those who fear Him; 12 as far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us. 13 Like a father shows compassion to his children, so the Lord gives compassion to those who fear Him. 14 For He knows how we are formed; He remembers that we are dust. 15 As for man, his days are as grass; as a flower of the field he flourishes. 16 For the hot wind passes over it, and it is gone; the place where it was is not known. 17 But the mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting upon those who fear Him, and His righteousness to children's children, 18 to those who keep His covenant, and to those who remember to do His commandments. 19 The Lord has established His throne in the heavens, and His kingdom rules over all. 20 Bless the Lord, you His angels, who are mighty, and do His commands, and obey the voice of His word. 21 Bless the Lord, all you His hosts; you servants who do His pleasure. 22 Bless the Lord, all His works, in all places of His dominion. Bless the Lord, O my soul!

- What must we be willing to do?
 - **Mark 11:25** - *25 And when you stand praying, forgive if you have anything against anyone, so that your Father who is in heaven may also forgive you your sins.*
 - **Matthew 18:22-35** - *22 Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven. 23 "Therefore the kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. 24 When he began to settle the accounts, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. 25 But since he was not able to pay, his master ordered that he be sold with his wife, their children, and all that he had, and payment to be made. 26 "So the servant fell on his knees, pleading with him, saying, 'Master, have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' 27 Then the master of that servant was moved with compassion, released him, and forgave him the debt. 28 "But that same servant went out and found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii. He laid hands on him and took him by the throat, saying, 'Pay me what you owe.' 29 "So his fellow servant fell down at his feet and entreated him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' 30 "But he would not and went and threw him in prison until he should pay the debt. 31 So when his fellow servants saw what took place, they were very sorry and went and told their master all that had taken place. 32 "Then his master, after he had summoned him, said to him, 'O you*

wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. 33 Should you not also have had compassion on your fellow servant, even as I had pity on you?’ 34 His master was angry and delivered him to the jailers until he should pay all his debt. 35 “So also My heavenly Father will do to each of you, if from your heart you do not forgive your brother for his trespasses.”

- How does God now see my sin?

- **Isaiah 43:25** - *25 I, even I, am He who blots out your transgressions for My own sake, and will not remember your sins.*

- **Jeremiah 31:34** - *34 They shall teach no more every man his neighbor and every man his brother, saying, “Know the Lord,” for they all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, says the Lord, for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.*

2. What is our response to God’s gift (grace) of salvation to us?

- **Ephesians 2:10** - *10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, so that we should walk in them.*

Salvation is a free gift from God. We have to Recognize our sin, Receive Jesus Christ as our personal Lord and Savior, and Rejoice that God has given us eternal life in His Son.

Assignment: Read **Romans 6 & 8**, memorize **Romans 6:18**, and pray for one another.

Week 3—The Word of God, Part 1

1. **Definition** - The Bible is God's revelation of Himself to man, His creation. The Bible forms one continuous story; the story of humanity in relation to God. From the beginning to the end, the Bible has one great theme; the Person and work of Jesus Christ. **John 1:1, 14** - *1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 14 The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, the glory as the only Son of the Father, full of grace and truth.*

2. **Read Hebrews 1:1-3** - *1 God, who at various times and in diverse ways spoke long ago to the fathers through the prophets, 2 has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, and through whom He made the world. 3 He is the brightness of His glory, the express image of Himself, and upholds all things by the word of His power. When He had by Himself purged our sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high.*

- In these verses we see that God's Word is a progressive revelation.
- Various times
- Diverse manners
- Times past
- Unto the fathers by the prophets
- In these last days
- Unto us by/in His Son (The express image of His person)

3. **Read 2 Timothy 3:16-17** - *16 All Scripture is inspired by God and is profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for instruction in*

righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

- What portion of Scripture is inspired by God?
- The word “inspired” in this verse means “God Breathed.” It’s as if God spoke it Himself. (See Genesis 2:7).
- What is God’s Word profitable for?
 1. _____
 2. _____
 3. _____
 4. _____

4. Characteristics of the Word of God

- The Word of God: **1 Peter 1:23 - 25** - *23 for you have been born again, not from perishable seed, but imperishable, through the word of God which lives and abides forever. 24 For “All flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withers, and its flower falls away, 25 but the word of the Lord endures forever.” This is the word that was preached to you.*
- The Word is: **Hebrews 4:12-13** - *12 For the word of God is alive, and active, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, of joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intents of the heart. 13 There is no creature that is not revealed in His sight, for all things are bare and exposed to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.*
- My Word will: **Luke 21:33** - *33 Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away.*

- The Gospel of Christ is: **Romans 1:16-17** - *16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ. For it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. 17 For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith. As it is written, "The just shall live by faith."*

5. How do I know the Bible is reliable and without error?

- **2 Peter 1:19-21**- *19 And we have a more reliable word of prophecy, which you would do well to follow, as to a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star arises in your hearts. 20 But know this first of all, that no prophecy of the Scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation. 21 For no prophecy at any time was produced by the will of man, but holy men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.* - These verses assure us that God's Word is true and reliable. Note: There are over 300 prophecies in the Old Testament fulfilled during the life and ministry of Jesus. If we analyze the probability of one person fulfilling just eight, the probability would be 1 in 10 with 17 zeros after it! We can understand why Peter declares that the written word of prophecy is more sure.
- **2 Timothy 3:16** - *16 All Scripture is inspired by God* - Tells us that all Scripture finds its origin in God.
- **Titus 1:2** - *2 in hope of eternal life which God, who cannot lie, promised before the world began* - Tells us that God cannot lie.
- **John 17:17** - *17 Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.*
What does this verse say about the reliability of God's Word?

Note: God's Word is the only thing HE puts above HIS name!!!

Psalm 138:2 - *2 I will worship toward Your holy temple, and praise Your name for Your lovingkindness and for Your truth; for You have exalted Your word above all Your name.*

Assignment: Read **Psalm 119:1-88**, memorize **Psalm 119:105**, and pray for one another.

Week 4—The Word of God, Part 2

How important is God's Word to you?

1. An overview of the Bible:

- The Bible contains 66 books: 39 in the Old Testament, and 27 in the New Testament.
- The books are divided into chapters (1240AD by Hugo de Sancto Caro, Hugo Cardinalis), and verses (1445AD by rabbi Mordecai Nathan) for reference.
- The Old Testament was written in the Hebrew language. Collected by Ezra, in 536BC divided the scrolls into 1– Torah, 2– Nevi'im, 3– Ketuvim = TaNaKh. These divisions are mentioned by Jesus in **Luke 24:27, 44** - *27 And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, He explained to them the things concerning Himself in all the Scriptures. 44 He said to them, "These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and in the Prophets and in the Psalms concerning Me."*
- The New Testament was written in the Greek language. (Remember that our English Bible is a translation from these original languages.)
- Did God make a mistake? Why the need for a New Testament? What's wrong with the Old one? Read **Hebrews 8:9-10** - *9 not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt; because they did not continue in My covenant, and I rejected them, says the Lord. 10 This is the covenant that I will make with the*

house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put My laws into their minds and write them on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.

- The foundation of the Old covenant with Israel was man's obedience to it (verse 9).
- The foundation of the New covenant is God's action on behalf of man. (Note the "I wills" in verse 10). It was enacted by the shed blood of Jesus Christ. **Luke 22:20** - *20 In like manner, He took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood which is shed for you.*

2. How to study the Scriptures:

2 Timothy 2:15 - *15 Study to show yourself approved by God, a workman who need not be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.*

Hebrews 5:13-14 - *13 Everyone who lives on milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a baby. 14 But solid food belongs to those who are mature, for those who through practice have powers of discernment that are trained to distinguish good from evil.*

Deuteronomy 29:29 - *29 The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but those things which are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, so that we may keep all the words of this law.*

Isaiah 28:9-13 - *9 "To whom shall He teach knowledge, and to whom shall He interpret the message? Those just weaned from the milk and drawn from the breasts? 10 For He says, 'Precept upon precept, precept upon precept, line upon line, line upon line, here a little, there a little.' " 11 For with stammering lips and foreign*

tongue He will speak to this people, 12 He who said to them, "This is the rest. Give rest to the weary," and, "This is repose," yet they would not listen. 13 So the word of the Lord will be to them, "Precept upon precept, precept upon precept, line upon line, line upon line, here a little, there a little,"

- Precept upon precept: a precept is an established fact of God's Word, i.e., "all have sinned"; "God is love"; "Jesus is risen".
- Line upon line: The systematic story line of Scripture that ties the established facts of God together.
- Here a little, there a little: The use of foundation facts of Scripture to understand other portions of Scripture.

Note: The New Testament is contained in the Old Testament, and the Old Testament is explained in the New Testament.

3. Because the Bible is inspired, we need the Holy Spirit to help us understand it:

- The man without the Spirit does not understand the things that come from God - **1 Corinthians 2:14** - *14 But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.*
- The Holy Spirit (Greek - Parakletos - One called along side to help) will teach us and help us to remember - **John 14:26** - *26 But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, will teach you everything and remind you of all that I told you.*

1 John 2:27 - 27 *But the anointing which you have received from Him remains in you, and you do not need anyone to teach you. For as the same anointing teaches you concerning all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and just as it has taught you, remain in Him.*

4. The chart on this page outlines the “Inductive Bible Study” method.

Observation	Interpretation	Application
<p><u>Narrative Form</u> -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ask: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Who? 2. What? 3. When? 4. Where? 5. How? 6. Why?... narratives retell the event. • Find the relationship between characters. • Feel the emotions. • Place yourself in the shoes of the character. What do you see? feel? think? <p><u>Epistles Form</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outline the development of ideas in the passages. • Note repeated words. • Look For: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Comparisons ○ Contrasts ○ Transition words: therefore, in order that, because, for, since. <p><u>Prophetic Form</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hebrew poets used parallelism, one idea said two different ways. • A proverb is a type of statement where human behavior is compared to something in nature. (ex. Proverbs 5:3) • A parable is an art form Jesus used to deliberately hide the truth from those who did not want to hear. (Matthew 13:10-13) • Prophetic revelation tells divinely inspired revelations of future and present events. 	<p>What did the passage mean to the people who originally heard it?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) What does the author: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • mean to make him write this way? • see to make him write this way? • feel to make him write this way? • think to make him write this way? 2) What would it mean to the people who heard it in Biblical time and culture? <p>There are some good tools that are good for instructional and exhortive forms.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. What is the reason for the idea? b. Why did the author use it? c. Could he have used another word? d. What does the idea mean? e. What is the relationship of this idea to the events following ideas? f. Context is most important. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Appeal to the Holy Spirit for teaching - 1 Corinthians 2:9-16 2. Apply main point to your life, like: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is there an example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ I/we should follow? ○ sin I/we should forsake? ○ error I/we should avoid? ○ promise I/we should claim? ○ command I/we should obey? ○ action I/we should take? 3. So what? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What do I plan to do about it? • What difference will this make in my life? • What specific plans can I make?

5. Basic divisions of Scripture:

- Old Testament: Historical preparation for the Messiah
- 5 books by Moses - Beginning history/law
- Joshua/Esther - Messiah preparation history
- Job - Song of Solomon - Poetic & wisdom
- Isaiah to Daniel - Major prophets
- Hosea to Malachi - Minor Prophets
- New Testament: Manifestation - Consummation of Christ
- The Gospels: The life & works of Christ
- Acts: The further works of Christ through the Apostles
- The Epistles: Church doctrine
- Revelation: Jesus' rule established

6. Basic themes of scripture:

- **God - Genesis 1:1** - *1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.*
- **Hebrews 1:1** - *1 God, who at various times and in diverse ways spoke long ago to the fathers through the prophets*
- **Psalms 103** - *1 Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless His holy name. 2 Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits, 3 who forgives all your iniquities, who heals all your diseases, 4 who redeems your life from the pit, who crowns you with lovingkindness and tender mercies, 5 who satisfies your mouth with good things, so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's. 6 The Lord does righteousness and justice for all who are oppressed. 7 He made known His ways to Moses, His acts to the people of Israel. 8 The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to*

anger, and abounding in mercy. 9 He will not always accuse, neither will He keep his anger forever. 10 He does not treat us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities. 11 For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is His mercy toward those who fear Him; 12 as far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us. 13 Like a father shows compassion to his children, so the Lord gives compassion to those who fear Him. 14 For He knows how we are formed; He remembers that we are dust. 15 As for man, his days are as grass; as a flower of the field he flourishes. 16 For the hot wind passes over it, and it is gone; the place where it was is not known. 17 But the mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting upon those who fear Him, and His righteousness to children's children, 18 to those who keep His covenant, and to those who remember to do His commandments. 19 The Lord has established His throne in the heavens, and His kingdom rules over all. 20 Bless the Lord, you His angels, who are mighty, and do His commands, and obey the voice of His word. 21 Bless the Lord, all you His hosts; you servants who do His pleasure. 22 Bless the Lord, all His works, in all places of His dominion. Bless the Lord, O my soul!

- **Man/Creation - Genesis 2:7** - *7 Then the Lord God formed man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and man became a living being.*
- **Satan/spirit world - Genesis 3:1** - *1 Now the serpent was more subtle than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made.*

And he said to the woman, “Has God said, ‘You shall not eat of any tree of the garden’?”

○ **2 Corinthians 4:4** - *4 The god of this world has blinded the minds of those who do not believe, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them.*

• **Sin - 1 John 2:15-17** - *15 Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father, but is of the world. 17 The world and its desires are passing away, but the one who does the will of God lives forever.*

○ **Romans 3:23** - *23 For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God*

• **Jesus - John 5:37** - *37 The Father Himself, who has sent Me, has borne witness of Me.*

○ **Luke 24:7, 44, 45** - *7 ‘The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again.’ ” 44 He said to them, “These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and in the Prophets and in the Psalms concerning Me.” 45 Then He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures.*

• **Redemption - Romans 3:24** - *24 being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,*

○ **Romans 10:8-13** - 8 *But what does it say? “The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart.” This is the word of faith that we preach: 9 that if you confess with your mouth Jesus is Lord, and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved, 10 for with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. 11 For the Scripture says, “Whoever believes in Him will not be ashamed.” 12 For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is generous toward all who call upon Him. 13 For, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”*

• **Salvation - Romans 1:16** - 16 *For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ. For it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.*

○ **Romans 10:8-13** - see above in Redemption

• **Prophecy - 2nd coming of Jesus - Revelation 3:11** - 11 *“Look, I am coming quickly. Hold firmly what you have, so that no one may take your crown.*

• **Man - Beginning and final end - John 3:17-19** - 17 *For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. 18 He who believes in Him is not condemned. But he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. 19 This is the verdict, that light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.*

7. Basic types of Scripture:

- Historical: narrative that lays foundation for future things, i.e., Genesis/Gospels
- Poetical: song-like, worshipful or proverb-like. Psalms
- Prophetical: the Word describing future events, i.e., Isaiah, Revelation, portions of the Gospels
- Instructional: practical application of Scripture, i.e., Romans, Deuteronomy, Corinthians, Proverbs

Assignment: Read **Psalm 119:89-176**, memorize **Psalm 119:18**, and pray for one another.

Why should we always be thankful for God's Word? Could it change your life?

Week 5—God the Father

1. The Existence of God

- The Bible does not seek to prove the existence of God. The fact that there is a God is assumed throughout the Scriptures. The first verse of the Bible, **Genesis 1:1**, is an example. *“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.”* God’s existence is presented as a statement of fact that needs no proof. *The man who says there is no God is called a fool* in **Psalms 14:1**.
- However, even apart from the Bible, there are certain evidences for the existence of God.
- Mankind has always believed in a universal being.
- Creation must have a Creator. The universe could not originate without a first cause.
- The wonderful design which we see in creation demands an infinite Designer.
- Since man is an intelligent being, the Creator must have been of a much higher order in order to create him.

2. The Nature of God

God is Spirit - He is invisible.

- **John 1:18** - *18 No one has seen God at any time. The only Son, who is at the Father’s side, has made Him known.*
- **John 4:24** - *24 God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship Him in spirit and truth.”*

God is a person - Personal names are used in reference to Him.

- **Exodus 3:14** - *14 And God said to Moses, “I am who I am,” and He said, “You will say this to the children of Israel, ‘I am has sent me to you.’ ”*
- **Exodus 6:3** - *3 and I appeared to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, by the name of God Almighty, but by My name, The Lord, I was not known to them.*

3. The Attributes (Characteristics) of God

- Omnipresent (present everywhere) - **Jeremiah 23:23-24** - *23 Am I a God who is near, says the Lord, and not a God far off? 24 Can a man hide himself in secret places so that I do not see him? says the Lord. Do I not fill heaven and earth? says the Lord.*
- Omnipotent (all powerful) - **Jeremiah 32:17, 27** - *17 Ah Lord God! Truly, You have made the heavens and the earth by Your great power and outstretched arm, and there is nothing too hard for You. 27 Behold, I am the Lord, the God of all flesh. Is anything too hard for Me?*
- Omniscient (all knowing) - **Job 34:21** - *21 “For His eyes are upon the ways of man and He sees all his goings.*
- Eternal (everlasting) - **Deuteronomy 33:27** - *27 The eternal God is your refuge, and underneath you are the everlasting arms; He will drive out the enemy before you, and will say, “Destroy them.”*
- Holy (free from all defilement; absolutely pure) - **Isaiah 6:3** - *3 One cried to another and said: “Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord of Hosts; the whole earth is full of His glory.”*
- Righteous or just (always does what is right) - **Psalms 145:17** - *17 The Lord is righteous in all His ways and loving in all His works.*

- Merciful (doesn't give us what we deserve) - **Deuteronomy 4:31** - *31 (for the Lord your God is a merciful God), He will not abandon you or destroy you or forget the covenant of your fathers which He swore to them.*
- Immutable (He doesn't change) - **Malachi 3:6** - *6 For I am the Lord, I do not change; therefore you, O sons of Jacob, are not consumed.*
- Truthful (cannot lie) - **Titus 1:1-2** - *1 Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, according to the faith of God's elect and the knowledge of the truth which leads to godliness, 2 in hope of eternal life which God, who cannot lie, promised before the world began*
- Awesome (inspiring awe, which is reverent wonder tinged with fear) - **Deuteronomy 7:21** - *21 You must not be frightened of them, for the Lord your God is among you, a great and awesome God.*
- Personal characteristics are ascribed to Him:
 - Knowledge - **Isaiah 55:8-11** - *8 For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways, says the Lord. 9 For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts. 10 For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven, and do not return there but water the earth and make it bring forth and bud that it may give seed to the sower and bread to the eater, 11 so shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; it shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.*
 - Emotions - **Genesis 6:6** - *6 The Lord was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and it grieved Him in His heart.*

- Will - **Joshua 3:9-10** - 9 So Joshua said to the children of Israel, *“Draw near and hear the words of the Lord your God.”* 10 And Joshua said, *“By this you will know that the living God is among you, and that He will thoroughly drive out the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Hivites, the Perizzites, the Girgashites, the Amorites, and the Jebusites from before you.*

4. The Love of God

- What is the very essence of His nature?
 - **1 John 4:7, 8, 16** - 7 Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God, and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. 8 Anyone who does not love does not know God, for God is love. 16 And we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in him.
- Whom does God love?
 - God loves His Son - **Matthew 3:17** - 17 And a voice came from heaven, saying, *“This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”*
 - God loves the world - **John 3:16** - 16 *“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life.*
- How did God demonstrate His love for us?
 - **Romans 5:8** - 8 *But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.*

- How do I experience God's love each day?
 - **Romans 5:5** - *5 And hope does not disappoint, because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.*

5. The Father is God

- The Father holds the place of authority within the Godhead. He is not more important than the Son or the Holy Spirit, but authorizes their ministries.
 - **John 6:38** - *38 For I came down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.*
 - **John 14:16** - *6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.*
- Are you able to call your Heavenly Father Papa/Daddy? See **Romans 8:15** - *15 For you have not received the spirit of slavery again to fear. But you have received the Spirit of adoption, by whom we cry, "Abba, Father."*

Note: God revealed Himself to Moses as... **Exodus 34:5-7** - *5 Then the Lord descended in the cloud, and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of the Lord. 6 The Lord passed by before him, and proclaimed, "The Lord, the Lord God, merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in goodness and truth, 7 keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of fathers on the children and on the children's children, to the third and the fourth generation."*

Assignment: Read **John 8**, memorize **1 John 1:3**, and pray for one another by name.

Week 6—Jesus the Son

Jesus the Son

1. Jesus possesses all of the attributes of God.

- Omnipresent - **Matthew 28:18-20** - 18 *Then Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all things I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Amen.*
- Omnipotent - **Matthew 28:18** - 18 *Then Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.*
- Omniscient - **John 16:30** - 30 *Now we know that You know everything and do not need anyone to question You. By this we believe that You came from God.”*
- Eternal - **John 1:1-2** - 1 *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God.*
- Holy - **Acts 3:14** - 14 *You denied the Holy and Righteous One and asked for a murderer to be granted to you*
- Creator - **Colossians 1:16-17** - 16 *For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they are thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers. All things were created by Him and for Him. 17 He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.*

- Immutable - **Hebrews 13:8** - *8 Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and today, and forever.*
 - **Malachi 3:6** - *6 For I am the Lord, I do not change; therefore you, O sons of Jacob, are not consumed.*

2. Jesus is called God in the New Testament

- **John 10:29-33** - *29 My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all. No one is able to snatch them from My Father's hand. 30 My Father and I are one." 31 Again the Jews took up stones to stone Him. 32 Jesus answered them, "I have shown you many good works from My Father. For which of those works do you stone Me?" 33 The Jews answered Him, "We are not stoning You for a good work, but for blasphemy, and because You, being a Man, claim to be God."*
 - **John 10:28** - *28 I give them eternal life. They shall never perish, nor shall anyone snatch them from My hand.*
- Who is called God in **Hebrews 1:8** - *8 But to the Son He says: "Your throne, O God, lasts forever and ever; a scepter of righteousness is the scepter of Your kingdom."*

3. The uniqueness of Jesus (Webster's definition of unique: "being the only one")

- Unique in His virgin birth:
 - Prophesied in **Isaiah 7:14** - *14 Therefore the Lord Himself shall give you a sign: The virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.*
 - Fulfilled in **Matthew 1:18-25** - *18 Now the birth of Jesus Christ happened this way: After His mother Mary was engaged to Joseph,*

before they came together, she was found with child by the Holy Spirit. 19 Then Joseph her husband, being a just man and not willing to make her a public example, had in mind to divorce her privately. 20 But while he thought on these things, the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for He who is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. 21 She will bear a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins. 22 Now all this occurred to fulfill what the Lord had spoken through the prophet, saying, 23 "A virgin shall be with child, and will bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel," which is interpreted, "God with us." 24 Then Joseph, being awakened from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him, and remained with his wife, 25 and did not know her until she had given birth to her firstborn Son. And he called His name JESUS.

- Unique in His sinless life - **Hebrews 4:14-16** - *14 Since then we have a great High Priest who has passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to our confession. 15 For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who was in every sense tempted like we are, yet without sin. 16 Let us then come with confidence to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.*
- Unique in His death: Why did He die? - **1 Peter 3:18** - *18 For Christ also has once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, so that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but made alive by the Spirit*

- He was separated from the Father for the first time - **Matthew 27:46** - *46 About the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, "Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?" which means, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?"*
- Unique in His resurrection from the dead (cannot be disproved). It is recorded in the Bible. **Matthew 28; Mark 16; Luke 24; John 20 & 21**
- Witnessed by over 500 people - **1 Corinthians 15:1-8** - *1 Now, brothers, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which you have received, and in which you stand. 2 Through it you are saved, if you keep in memory what I preached to you, unless you have believed in vain. 3 For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: how Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 was buried, rose again the third day according to the Scriptures, 5 and was seen by Cephas, and then by the twelve. 6 Then He was seen by over five hundred brothers at once, of whom the greater part remain to this present time, though some have passed away. 7 Then He was seen by James and then by all the apostles. 8 Last of all, He was seen by me also, as by one born at the wrong time.*
- Because of His power over death and sin, we too, have spiritual power in our lives. **1 Corinthians 15:12-14, 56, 57** - *12 Now if Christ is preached that He rose from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? 13 If there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not risen. 14 If Christ has not risen, then our preaching is vain, and your faith is also vain. 56*

The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law. 57 But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ!

○ **Romans 5:10** - *10 For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of His Son, how much more, being reconciled, shall we be saved by His life.*

- The Christian faith rests on His resurrection - **1 Corinthians 15:17** - *17 If Christ is not raised, your faith is vain; you are still in your sins.*

4. Christ desires to live His life through His children - Galatians

2:20 - *20 I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.*

- What do I receive in exchange for my life before Christ?
- How do I allow Christ to live through me? (Romans 6)

5. The only life that pleased the Father was that of His Son: Luke

9:35 - *35 A voice came from out of the cloud, saying, "This is My beloved Son. Listen to Him." 36 When the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. They kept silent and told no one in those days anything they had seen.*

- The only way to the Father is through Jesus. **John 14:6** - *6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.*
- There is only one life that pleased the Father - Jesus'. **Acts 4:12** - *12 There is no salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."*

Assignment: Read **John 1**, memorize **John 3:16**, and pray for one another.

Week 7—Prayer

Everyone engages in prayer at one time or another. Even that person who says, “I don’t believe in God,” cries out when the crisis looms, “Oh God, help me!” We are all acquainted with prayer to some extent or another. Prayer is one of the greatest privileges God has given man. We can come into the presence of God, the Creator of this universe, and talk with Him. And what’s more, He always listens!

Prayer

1. What is Prayer? Prayer is giving our attention to God in a two-way spiritual relationship where we talk to God and also listen to Him.

2. Who should pray?

- **Psalm 32:6** - *6 For this cause everyone who is godly will pray to You in a time when You may be found; surely in the floods of great waters they will not reach him.*
- **Hebrews 4:14-16** - *14 Since then we have a great High Priest who has passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to our confession. 15 For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who was in every sense tempted like we are, yet without sin. 16 Let us then come with confidence to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.*

3. To whom should we pray?

- **Matthew 6:6, 9** - *6 But you, when you pray, enter your closet, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly.*

9 *“Therefore pray in this manner: Our Father who is in heaven, hallowed be Your name.*

4. How should we pray?

- **Romans 8:26, 27** - 26 *Likewise, the Spirit helps us in our weaknesses, for we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. 27 He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.*
- **1 John 5:14** - 14 *This is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.*
- **Matthew 5:6** - 6 *Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled.*
- **Jude 20** - 20 *But you, beloved, build yourselves up in your most holy faith. Pray in the Holy Spirit.*
- **1 Corinthians 14:15** - 15 *What is it then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding. I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding.*

5. What should we pray for, and about?

- **Philippians 4:6** - 6 *Be anxious for nothing, but in everything, by prayer and supplication with gratitude, make your requests known to God.*
- **Matthew 6:10** - 10 *Your kingdom come; Your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.*
- **Matthew 9:38** - 38 *Therefore, pray to the Lord of the harvest, that He will send out laborers into His harvest.”*

- **2 Thessalonians 3:1** - *1 Finally, brothers, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may quickly spread and be glorified, even as it did with you.*
- **James 5:13-16** - *13 Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone merry? Let him sing psalms. 14 Is anyone 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 will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed any sins, he will be forgiven. 16 Confess your faults to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man accomplishes much.*
- **Ephesians 3:14-19** - *14 For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, 15 from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, 16 that He would give you, according to the riches of His glory, power to be strengthened by His Spirit in the inner man, 17 and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, 18 may be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth and length and depth and height, 19 and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.*

6. Where should we pray?

- **1 Corinthians 1:2** - *2 To the church of God which is at Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all*

who in every place call on the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both their Lord and ours

- **Luke 19:45-46** - *45 Then He entered the temple and began to drive out those who sold and bought in it, 46 saying to them, "It is written, 'My house will be a house of prayer,' but you have made it 'a den of thieves.'"*
- **Matthew 6:6** - *6 But you, when you pray, enter your closet, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly.*

7. When should we pray?

- **Luke 18:1** - *1 He told them a parable to illustrate that it is necessary always to pray and not lose heart.*
- **1 Thessalonians 5:17** - *17 Pray without ceasing.*

8. Why pray?

- **Luke 22:40** - *40 When He came there, He said to them, "Pray that you may not fall into temptation."*
- **Ephesians 6:10-12** - *10 Finally, my brothers, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. 11 Put on the whole armor of God that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. 12 For our fight is not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, and against spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.*
- **Ephesians 3:20** - *20 Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly beyond all that we ask or imagine, according to the power that works in us*

- **John 15:5** - 5 *“I am the vine, you are the branches. He who remains in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit. For without Me you can do nothing.*

9. Hindrances to prayer:

- **Isaiah 59:2** - 2 *But your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden His face from you so that He will not hear.*
- **1 Peter 3:7** - 7 *Likewise, you husbands, live considerately with your wives, giving honor to the woman as the weaker vessel, since they too are also heirs of the grace of life, so that your prayers will not be hindered.*
- **James 1:6-8** - 6 *But let him ask in faith, without wavering. For he who wavers is like a wave of the sea, driven and tossed with the wind. 7 Let not that man think that he will receive anything from the Lord. 8 A double-minded man is unstable in all his ways.*
- **Luke 18:9-14** - 9 *He told this parable to some who trusted in themselves, as though they were righteous, and despised others: 10 “Two men went up to the temple to pray, the one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. 11 The Pharisee stood and prayed these things about himself, ‘God, I thank You that I am not like other men: extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. 12 I fast twice a week, and I tithe of all that I earn.’ 13 “But the tax collector, standing at a distance, would not even lift his eyes to heaven, but struck his chest, saying, ‘God, be merciful to me a sinner.’ 14 “I tell you, this man went down to his house*

justified rather than the other. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.”

What keeps our prayers from being answered?

Assignment: Read **Ephesians 1:15-23** and **3:14-21**, memorize **James 5:16**, and pray for one another.

Week 8—Satan and Spiritual Warfare

Satan

1. His names give us insight into his evil character:

- Satan - (Greek) Satanias (adversary or opponent) most common name used 52 times - **Revelation 12:9** - *9 The great dragon was cast out, that ancient serpent called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world. He was cast down to the earth, and his angels were cast down with him.*
- The devil (slanderer) 35 times - Revelation 12:9
- A liar and murderer - **John 8:44** - *44 You are of your father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks from his own nature, for he is a liar and the father of lies.*
- The god of this age - **2 Corinthians 4:4** - *4 The god of this world has blinded the minds of those who do not believe, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them.*
- An angel of light - **2 Corinthians 11:14-15** - *14 And no wonder! For even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. 15 Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also disguise themselves as ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works.*
- Ruler of the kingdom of the air - **Ephesians 2:1, 2** - *1 And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, 2 in which you formerly walked according to the age of this world and according to the prince of*

the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience

- The tempter - **1 Thessalonians 3:5** - *5 For this reason, when I could no longer endure it, I sent to inquire about your faith, lest by some means the tempter might have tempted you, and our labor might have been in vain.*
- Apollyon (destroyer) - **Revelation 9:11** - *11 They had as king over them the angel of the bottomless pit, whose name in Hebrew is Abaddon, and in Greek his name is Apollyon.*
- The accuser of our brothers - **Revelation 12:10** - *10 Then I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying: "Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brothers, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down.*

Also read **Job chapters 1 & 2.**

2. The origin of Satan:

- **Ezekiel 28:14-17** - *14 You were the anointed cherub that covers, and I set you there; you were upon the holy mountain of God; you walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire. 15 You were perfect in your ways from the day that you were created, until iniquity was found in you. 16 By the multitude of your merchandise, you were filled with violence in your midst, and you sinned; therefore I have cast you as profane out of the mountain of God; and I have destroyed you, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire. 17 Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty; you have corrupted your wisdom by reason of your brightness; I*

cast you to the ground, I lay you before kings, that they may see you.

- **Isaiah 14:12-15** - *12 How are you fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, you who weaken the nations! 13 For you have said in your heart, "I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will sit also on the mount of the congregation, in the recesses of the north; 14 I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High."*

3. How does Satan operate?

- As a schemer - **Ephesians 6:11** - *11 Put on the whole armor of God that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil.*
- As a lion - **1 Peter 5:8-9** - *8 Be sober and watchful, because your adversary the devil walks around as a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. 9 Resist him firmly in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world.*
- As a liar - **John 8:44** - *44 You are of your father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks from his own nature, for he is a liar and the father of lies.*
- As a deceiver - **Genesis 3:13** - *13 Then the Lord God said to the woman, "What have you done?" And the woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."*

- **Revelation 20:10** - *10 The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet were. They will be tormented day and night forever and ever.*

Spiritual Warfare - Ephesians 6:10-18 - *10 Finally, my brothers, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. 11 Put on the whole armor of God that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. 12 For our fight is not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, and against spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. 13 Therefore take up the whole armor of God that you may be able to resist in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. 14 Stand therefore, having your waist girded with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, 15 having your feet fitted with the readiness of the gospel of peace, 16 and above all, taking the shield of faith, with which you will be able to extinguish all the fiery arrows of the evil one. 17 Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. 18 Pray in the Spirit always with all kinds of prayer and supplication. To that end be alert with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints.*

How do we stand strong against Satan's schemes, lies, and attacks?

1. Be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might; not by ourselves.

- **Ephesians 6:10** - *10 Finally, my brothers, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might*

2. Put on the full armor, not part of it, or there will be a weak spot for Satan to attack.

- **Ephesians 6:11, 13** - *11 Put on the whole armor of God that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. 13 Therefore take up the whole armor of God that you may be able to resist in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.*
 - The Belt of Truth - Truth overcomes deceit and lies, and is the key to every area of the Christian life.
 - The Breastplate of Righteousness - This speaks of right acts as practiced by the believer. The breastplate was to protect the heart of the soldier.
 - The Sandals of the Gospels - The sandals speak of mobility and preparedness. We are to be ready to use God's Word in spiritual battle (**1 Peter 3:15** - *15 But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts. Always be ready to give an answer to every man who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you, with gentleness and fear.*).
 - The Shield of Faith - (Above all, take this up) - the shield of faith protects us from the attacks (those fiery darts) of Satan (such as temptations, impure thoughts, etc.).
 - The Helmet of Salvation - It refers to the intake of the Word which will help protect our thoughts from doubt and the world, the flesh, and the devil. It will make us secure in our relationship with the Lord.
 - The Sword which is the Word of God - It is the only offensive weapon. When attacked, respond with the Word.

3. Realize it is not a physical battle; it is spiritual -

Ephesians 6:12 - *12 For our fight is not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, and against spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.*

- Read **2 Corinthians 10:4-6** - *4 For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds, 5 casting down imaginations and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ, 6 and being ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is complete.*
What can spiritual weapons accomplish?

4. Pray always.

- It is God's will that we pray continually (**1 Thessalonians 5:17** - *Pray without ceasing.*) - **Ephesians 6:18** - *18 Pray in the Spirit always with all kinds of prayer and supplication. To that end be alert with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints.*

5. How did Jesus respond to Satan's attack?

Read **Matthew 4:1-11** - *1 Then Jesus was led up into the wilderness by the Spirit to be tempted by the devil. 2 And He had fasted for forty days and forty nights, and then He was hungry. 3 And the tempter came to Him and said, "If You are the Son of God, command that these stones be turned into bread." 4 But He answered, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God.'" 5 Then the devil took Him up into the holy*

city, and set Him on the highest point of the temple, 6 and said to Him, “If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down. For it is written, ‘He shall give His angels charge concerning you,’ and ‘In their hands they shall lift you up, lest at any time you dash your foot against a stone.’” 7 Jesus said to him, “It is also written, ‘You shall not tempt the Lord your God.’” 8 Again, the devil took Him up on a very high mountain and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their grandeur, 9 and said to Him, “All these things I will give You if You will fall down and worship me. ” 10 Then Jesus said to him, “Get away from here, Satan! For it is written, ‘You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only shall you serve.’ ” 11 Then the devil left Him, and immediately angels came and ministered to Him.

- What was Jesus’ physical condition?
- What did Jesus respond with to Satan’s 3 offers? **Matthew 4:4, 7, 10**
- What is the only offensive weapon we have in the spiritual armor? See **Ephesians 6**.
- What does this tell us about handling temptation or trials of any kind?
- What is the promise of **1 John 4:4** - *4 You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.*

Note: James 4:7 - *“Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.”*

Assignment: Read **Matthew 4:1-11** and **Jude**, memorize **Ephesians 6:12**, and pray for one another.

Week 9—Putting Christ First

1. Definition of Lordship: The Lordship of Jesus Christ is the daily submission and surrender of our entire self to the authority and leadership of Jesus, recognizing His sovereign right to rule over us.

- **2 Corinthians 5:14-15** - *14 For the love of Christ constrains us, because we thus judge: that if one died for all, then all have died. 15 And He died for all, that **those who live should not** from now on **live for themselves**, but for Him who died for them and rose again.*
- **Colossians 1:18** - *18 He is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that in all things **He may have the preeminence.***

2. What is Jesus' plan for His disciples?

- **Luke 9:23** - *23 Then He said to them all, "If anyone will come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me*
- This verse states the heart of discipleship. **1 Peter 5:3** - *1 I exhort the elders who are among you, as one who is also an elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ as well as a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed: 2 Shepherd the flock of God that is among you, take care of them, not by constraint, but willingly, not for dishonest gain, but eagerly. 3 Do not lord over those in your charge, but be examples to the flock.*
- **Deny yourself** - Putting the Lord and others first; refusing to live my life to please myself.

- Take up your cross daily - Submitting our will to the will of God.
Luke 22:42 - 42 *“Father, if You are willing, remove this cup from Me. Nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done.”*
- Follow Me - Following Jesus, and no one or nothing else.
Matthew 4:19 - 19 *And He said to them, “Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.”*
- **1 Peter 2:21** - 21 *For to this you were called, because Christ suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps*
- **Revelation 22:4-5** - 4 *They shall see His face, and His name shall be on their foreheads. 5 Night shall be no more. They need no lamp nor the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light. And they shall reign forever and ever.*

The whole principle of Lordship is the removal of self off of the throne of one’s life, and the invitation to Jesus to sit on the throne and rule, trusting Him to do what is best for us.

- The battle of submission: 2 reasons why people do not acknowledge Jesus Christ as Lord of their life:
 - We’re afraid God may ask us to do something we don’t want to do.
 - We are not sure that God has our best interest at heart.
Jeremiah 29:11 - 11 *For I know the plans that I have for you, says the Lord, plans for peace and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.*

3. How do I know if Christ is Lord of my life?

- We show our love for Jesus by obeying His commands. **John 14:15, 21, 23** - 15 *“If you love Me, keep My commandments. 21 He who has My commandments and keeps them is the one who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father. And I will love him and will reveal Myself to him.” 23 Jesus answered him, “If a man loves Me, he will keep My word. My Father will love him, and We will come to him, and make Our home with him.*
 - **1 John 3:23** - 23 *And this is His commandment: that we should believe on the name of His Son Jesus Christ and love one another as He commanded us.*
- We must read the Word of God, see what God’s will is for our lives, and then we must do it. **James 1:22-25** - 22 *Be doers of the word and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. 23 For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man viewing his natural face in a mirror. 24 He views himself, and goes his way, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. 25 But whoever looks into the perfect law of liberty, and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this man will be blessed in his deeds.*

4. What is the blessing of putting Christ first in my life?

- **1 Peter 3:15-16** - 15 *But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts. Always be ready to give an answer to every man who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you, with gentleness and fear. 16 Have a good conscience so that evildoers who speak evil of you and falsely accuse your good conduct in Christ may be ashamed.*

- **Romans 12:1-2** - *1 I urge you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy, and acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service of worship. 2 Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is the good and acceptable and perfect will of God.*
- **Romans 6:22** - *22 But now, having been freed from sin and having become slaves of God, you have fruit unto holiness, and the end is eternal life.*

The Lordship of Jesus Christ is the most crucial issue of any Christian's life. We are all aware of those around us who are reaping in their lives the by-products of their lack of obedience. Jesus has our best interests at heart. We must give Him our entire life, and we must live only for Him daily. Only then will we experience the full life that He has promised us. As we continually confess Jesus Christ as Lord of our lives, we are assured of true faith living in our hearts. **Romans 10:9-10** - *9 that if you confess with your mouth Jesus is Lord, and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved, 10 for with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.*

Note: Psalm 37:3-7 - *3 Trust in the Lord, and do good; dwell in the land, and practice faithfulness. 4 Delight yourself in the Lord, and He will give you the desires of your heart. 5 Commit your way to the Lord; trust also in Him, and He will bring it to pass. 6 He will bring forth your righteousness as the light, and your judgment as the noonday. 7 Rest in the Lord, and wait patiently for Him;*

*do not fret because of those who prosper in their way,
because of those who make wicked schemes.*

Assignment: Read **Romans 7 and 8**, memorize **Matthew 16:24**, and pray for one another.

Week 10—Fellowship

1. Definition:

- Fellowship - Sharing something with another person in a deep way. Friendly relation and companionship. An association of people with similar interests and tastes.

2. The distinction between the saved and the lost: 1 Peter 2:9-11 -

9 But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, so that you may declare the goodness of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light. 10 In times past, you were not a people, but now you are the people of God. You had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. 11 Dearly beloved, I implore you as aliens and refugees, abstain from fleshly lusts, which wage war against the soul.

- What names does the Lord call us in 1 Peter 2:9?
- Have we always been His people according to 1 Peter 2:10?
- How are we described in this present world in 1 Peter 2:11?
- What should be our response to 1 Peter 2:9?

3. With whom do we fellowship?

- **2 Corinthians 13:14** - *14 The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen.*
- **1 John 1:3** - *3 we declare to you that which we have seen and heard, that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ.*

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

4. What is our motivation to fellowship?

- **Romans 8:35-39** - *35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? 36 As it is written: "For Your sake we are killed all day long; we are counted as sheep for the slaughter." 37 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. 38 For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, neither angels nor principalities nor powers, neither things present nor things to come, 39 neither height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*
- **1 John 2:3-6** - *3 By this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. 4 Whoever says, "I know Him," and does not keep His commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him. 5 But whoever keeps His word truly has the love of God perfected in him. By this we know we are in Him. 6 Whoever says he remains in Him ought to walk as He walked.*
- **Hebrews 10:25** - *25 Let us not forsake the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but let us exhort one another, especially as you see the Day approaching.*

5. What activities did the early believers share in?

- **Acts 2:42-47** - *42 They continued steadfastly in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread and in the prayers.*

43 Fear came to every soul. And many wonders and signs were done through the apostles. 44 All who believed were together and had all things in common. 45 They sold their property and goods and distributed them to all, according to their need. 46 And continuing daily with one mind in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, 47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.

- **Colossians 3:15-16** - 15 Let the peace of God, to which also you are called in one body, rule in your hearts. And be thankful. 16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

6. The key issue of fellowship is love.

- **John 13:34-35** - 34 “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. 35 By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”
- **1 John 3:18** - 18 My little children, let us love not in word and speech, but in action and truth.
- **Galatians 6:10** - 10 Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who are of the household of faith.

7. What do we do when we fellowship?

- **Hebrews 10:25** - *25 Let us not forsake the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but let us exhort one another, especially as you see the Day approaching.*
- **James 5:16** - *16 Confess your faults to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man accomplishes much.*
- **Hebrews 10:24** - *24 And let us consider how to spur one another to love and to good works.*
- **1 Corinthians 11:24-26** - *24 When He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "Take and eat. This is My body which is broken for you. Do this in remembrance of Me." 25 In the same manner He took the cup after He had supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me." 26 As often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.*
- **Romans 12:9-13** - *9 Let love be without hypocrisy. Hate what is evil. Cleave to what is good. 10 Be devoted to one another with brotherly love; prefer one another in honor, 11 do not be lazy in diligence, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord, 12 rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer, 13 contribute to the needs of the saints, practice hospitality.*
- **Acts 11:29-30** - *29 Then every disciple, according to his ability, determined to send relief to the brothers who lived in Judea. 30 Indeed they did, and sent it to the elders by the hands of Barnabas and Saul.*

- **Romans 15:1-2** - *1 We who are strong ought to bear the weaknesses of the weak and not please ourselves. 2 Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, leading to edification.*
- **Matthew 18:19-20** - *19 “Again I say to you, that if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by My Father who is in heaven. 20 For where two or three are assembled in My name, there I am in their midst.”*
- **Colossians 3:16-17** - *16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. 17 And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.*

8. Is fellowship optional for Christians?

- **Hebrews 10:25** - *25 Let us not forsake the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but let us exhort one another, especially as you see the Day approaching.*
- What are the dangers of not fellowshiping with other Christians regularly?

9. How should we fellowship?

1 Corinthians 14:40 - *40 Let all things be done decently and in order.*

When we come together to fellowship in any way, it should be done in an orderly fashion with no confusion or chaos. We should strive not to be a distraction during any service or activity at or with the church.

Assignment: Read the book of **Philippians**, memorize **Hebrews 10:25**, and pray for one another.

Week 11 – The Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit - His Deity & Person

1. The Holy Spirit is a person: In Greek, personal pronouns are used - He, Him, etc.

- Greek (parakletos) - “One called alongside to help,” Helper, Comforter, Counselor.
- In **John 14:16-17** - *16 I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Counselor, that He may be with you forever: 17 the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, for it does not see Him, neither does it know Him. But you know Him, for He lives with you, and will be in you.*

Who is the “He” referring to?

2. He does things only a person can do:

- He teaches and helps us to remember. **John 14:26** - *26 But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, will teach you everything and remind you of all that I told you.*
- He calls men to service (He speaks). **Acts 13:2** - *2 As they worshipped the Lord and fasted, the Holy Spirit said, “Set apart for Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.”*
- He convicts us of sin. **John 16:8** - *8 When He comes, He will convict the world of sin and of righteousness and of judgment*
- He leads. **Romans 8:13-14** - *13 For if you live according to the flesh, you will die, but if through the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. 14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are the sons of God.*

3. Being a person, He can be affected by our actions or attitudes:

- We can lie to Him. **Acts 5:1-3** - *1 Now a man named Ananias, with his wife Sapphira, sold a piece of property. 2 He kept back part of the proceeds with his wife's knowledge, and brought a part of it and placed it at the apostles' feet. 3 Then Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to deceive the Holy Spirit and keep back part of the proceeds of the land?"*
- We can grieve Him. **Ephesians 4:30** - *30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, in whom you are sealed for the day of redemption.*
- We can quench Him. **1 Thessalonians 5:19** - *19 Do not quench the Spirit.*
- We can insult Him. **Hebrews 10:29** - *29 How much more severe a punishment do you suppose he deserves, who has trampled under foot the Son of God, and has regarded the blood of the covenant that sanctified him to be a common thing, and has insulted the Spirit of grace?*

4. The Holy Spirit possesses all of the attributes of God:

- Omnipresent - **Psalms 139:7-10** - *7 Where shall I go from Your spirit, or where shall I flee from Your presence? 8 If I ascend to heaven, You are there; if I make my bed in Sheol, You are there. 9 If I take the wings of the morning and dwell at the end of the sea, 10 even there Your hand shall guide me, and Your right hand shall take hold of me.*
- Omnipotent - **Luke 1:35** - *35 The angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will*

overshadow you. Therefore the Holy One who will be born will be called the Son of God.

- Omniscient - **John 14:26** - *26 But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, will teach you everything and remind you of all that I told you.*
 - **John 16:12-13** - *12 "I have yet many things to tell you, but you cannot bear them now. 13 But when the Spirit of truth comes, He will guide you into all truth. For He will not speak on His own authority. But He will speak whatever He hears, and He will tell you things that are to come.*
- Eternal - **Hebrews 9:14** - *14 how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?*
- Holy - **Romans 1:4** - *4 and declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead.*
- Creator - **Job 33:4** - *4 The Spirit of God has made me, and the breath of the Almighty has given me life.*
 - **Psalms 104:30** - *30 When You send forth Your Spirit, they are created, and You renew the surface of the ground.*

5. He is distinct from the Father and Son:

- **Matthew 28:19** - *19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit*

- **Luke 3:21-22** - 21 Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heavens were opened, 22 and the Holy Spirit descended in a bodily form like a dove on Him, and a voice came from heaven which said, “You are My beloved Son. In You I am well pleased.”

6. What is the Spirit’s part when we are saved:

- He regenerates us (makes us spiritually alive). **John 3:3-8** - 3 Jesus answered him, “Truly, truly I say to you, unless a man is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.” 4 Nicodemus said to Him, “How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born?” 5 Jesus answered, “Truly, truly I say to you, unless a man is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. 6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. 7 Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’ 8 The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.”
 - **Titus 3:4-7** - 4 But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward mankind appeared, 5 not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of rebirth and the renewal of the Holy Spirit, 6 whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, 7 so that, being justified by His grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

- He indwells us. **1 Corinthians 3:16** - *16 Do you not know that you are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?*
 - **1 Corinthians 6:18-20** - *18 Escape from sexual immorality. Every sin that a man commits is outside the body. But he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body. 19 What? Do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God, and that you are not your own? 20 You were bought with a price. Therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.*
- He brings satisfaction for our needs. **John 4:13-14** - *13 Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will thirst again, 14 but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. Indeed, the water that I shall give him will become in him a well of water springing up into eternal life."*
 - **John 7:37-39** - *37 On the last and greatest day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink. 38 He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart shall flow rivers of living water." 39 By this He spoke of the Spirit, whom those who believe in Him would receive. For the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.*
- He is the seal of our salvation. **Ephesians 1:13-14** - *13 In Him you also, after hearing the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and after believing in Him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, 14 who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.*

The Holy Spirit is recognized as God in **Acts 5:3-4** - 3 *Then Peter said, “Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to deceive the Holy Spirit and keep back part of the proceeds of the land? 4 While it remained unsold, was it not your own? And when it was sold, was it not under your authority? Why have you conceived this deed in your heart? You did not lie to men, but to God.”*.

He is active upon man convicting him of sin, and guiding the believer into all truth. **John 16:7-11** - 7 *Nevertheless I tell you the truth: It is expedient for you that I go away. For if I do not go away, the Counselor will not come to you. But if I go, I will send Him to you. 8 When He comes, He will convict the world of sin and of righteousness and of judgment: 9 of sin, because they do not believe in Me; 10 of righteousness, because I am going to My Father, and you will see Me no more; 11 and of judgment, because the ruler of this world stands condemned.*

Summary of the Trinity

1. The word for God in Hebrew is Elohim. Genesis 1:1 - 1 *In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.*

- Singular word for God - El; dual tense - Elah; 3 or more - Elohim (uniplural noun).

2. The doctrine of the Trinity is not explicit in the Old Testament, but it is implied:

- **Genesis 1:26** - 26 *Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness, and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the livestock, and over*

all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”

- **Genesis 3:22** - 22 *The Lord God said, “The man has become like one of us, knowing good and evil. And now, he might reach out his hand, and take also from the tree of life, and eat, and live forever” —*
- **Genesis 11:7** - 7 *Come, let us go down and there confuse their language, so that they may not understand one another’s speech.”*
- **Deuteronomy 6:4** - 4 *Hear, O Israel: The Lord is our God. The Lord is one!*

3. It is explicit in the new Testament:

- **Matthew 3:16-17** - 16 *And when Jesus was baptized, He came up immediately out of the water. And suddenly the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending on Him like a dove. 17 And a voice came from heaven, saying, “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”*
- **Jude 20, 21** - 20 *But you, beloved, build yourselves up in your most holy faith. Pray in the Holy Spirit. 21 Keep yourselves in the love of God while you are waiting for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ, which leads to eternal life.*
- **1 John 5:7** - 7 *There are three who testify in heaven: the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit, and the three are one.*

4. The Bible teaches there is only one God:

- **Deuteronomy 4:39** - 39 *Know therefore today, and consider it in your heart, that the Lord, He is God in heaven above and on the earth below. There is no other.*

- **2 Samuel 7:22** - 22 *“Therefore You are great, Lord God. There is none like You, and there is no God except You, according to everything that we have heard with our ears.*
- **Isaiah 43:10** - 10 *You are My witnesses, says the Lord, and My servant whom I have chosen that you may know and believe Me, and understand that I am He. Before Me there was no God formed, nor shall there be after Me.*

5. Even creation implies the doctrine of the Trinity:

- Space: Length, width, depth in 1 space
- Man: Body, soul, spirit in one man (**1 Thessalonians 5:23** - 23 *May the very God of peace sanctify you completely. And I pray to God that your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.*)

In the Holy Trinity we have one God manifested (revealed) to us in 3 distinct persons, all having the same attributes, and all being called God. It is difficult to understand totally; we must accept it by faith.

- $1 \times 1 \times 1 = 1$
- Water = liquid, ice, steam
- Remember **Deuteronomy 29:29** - 29 *The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but those things which are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, so that we may keep all the words of this law.*

Assignment: Read **John 14-17**, and memorize **John 14:18**.

Week 12—The Spirit Filled Life

In what way did you see the Holy Spirit at work in your life this week?

1 Corinthians 12:13 says every believer has been baptized into, or identified with, the body of Christ.

1 Corinthians 12 - *1 Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be ignorant. 2 You know that you were Gentiles, carried away to these dumb idols, however you were led. 3 Therefore I make known to you that no one speaking by the Spirit of God says, “Jesus be cursed!” And no one can say, “Jesus is the Lord,” except by the Holy Spirit. 4 There are various gifts, but the same Spirit. 5 There are differences of administrations, but the same Lord. 6 There are various operations, but it is the same God who operates all of them in all people. 7 But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to everyone for the common good. 8 To one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom, to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit, 9 to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit, 10 to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, and to another the interpretation of tongues. 11 But that one and very same Spirit works all these, dividing to each one individually as He will. 12 For as the body is one and has many parts, and all the many parts of that one body are one body, so also is Christ. 13 For by one Spirit we are all baptized into one body, whether we are Jews or Gentiles, whether we are slaves or free, and we have all been made to drink of one Spirit. 14 The body is not one part, but many. 15 If the foot says, “Because I am not the hand, I am not of the body, is it therefore not of*

the body? 16 And if the ear says, "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 would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? 18 But now God has established the parts, every one of them, in the body as it has pleased Him. 19 If they were all one part, where would the body be? 20 So there are many parts, yet one body. 21 The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you," nor the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." 22 No, those parts of the body which seem to be weaker are necessary. 23 And those parts of the body which we think are less honorable, upon these we bestow more abundant honor. And our less respectable parts are treated with much more respect, 24 whereas our more respectable parts have no need of this. But God has composed the body, having given more abundant honor to that part which lacks it, 25 so that there should be no division in the body, but that the parts should have the same care for one another. 26 If one part suffers, all the parts suffer with it, and if one part is honored, all the parts rejoice with it. 27 Now you are the body of Christ and members individually. 28 God has put these in the church: first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, and various tongues. 29 Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Are all workers of miracles? 30 Do all have the gifts of healings? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret? 31 But earnestly covet the greater gifts. Yet I show you a more excellent way.

The Spirit Filled Life

1. The Holy Spirit places us into the body of Christ

- Whose body is it according to 1 Corinthians 12:27?
- Are all the members in a church body the same? 1 Corinthians 12:14, 17; **Romans 12:4-5** - *4 For just as we have many parts in one body, and not all parts have the same function, 5 so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and all are parts of one another.*
- Who gives us our place in the body? 1 Corinthians 12:18; **Ephesians 4:11-12** - *11 He gave some to be apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers, 12 for the equipping of the saints, for the work of service, and for the building up of the body of Christ*
- Are we all needed in the body? 1 Corinthians 12:21-25; **1 Peter 4:10** - *10 As everyone has received a gift, even so serve one another with it, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.*
- Do you need the other members of the body? 1 Corinthians 12:21-26
- Who is the Head of the body? **Colossians 1:18** - *18 He(Jesus) is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that in all things He may have the preeminence.* **Ephesians 1:22-23** - *22 And He put all things in subjection under His feet and made Him the head over all things for the church, 23 which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all things in all ways.*

2. The Holy Spirit gives each person certain abilities - Look back at 1 Corinthians 12

- According to verses 4-6, does everyone have the same gifts?

- Is there anyone who does not have at least one gift according to verse 7?
- For whose benefit did God give these gifts?
- What are some examples of gifts in verses 8-10?
- Whose choice is it as to who receives which gifts? Verse 11
- According to verse 31, what can we pray for?
- What is the greatest gift according to Paul in verse 31? (See 1 Corinthians 13)
- Paul makes some very strong statements in **1 Corinthians 13:1-3** - *1 If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not love, I have become as sounding brass or a clanging cymbal. 2 If I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not love, I am nothing. 3 If I give all my goods to feed the poor, and if I give my body to be burned, and have not love, it profits me nothing.* concerning the importance of love. In these verses, which is the most important: using our gifts or showing love?

Pursue the perfect love of God and all things will work out for the good.

3. The promise of the coming of the Holy Spirit:

- It was prophesied in the Old Testament. **Joel 2:28-29** - *28 And it will be that, afterwards, I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh; then your sons and your daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, and your young men will see visions. 29 Even on the menservants and maidservants in those days I will pour out My Spirit.*

- **Acts 2:14-16** - *14 But Peter, standing up with the eleven, lifted up his voice and said to them, “Men of Judea and all you who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to my words. 15 For these are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is the third hour of the day. 16 But this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:*
- It was promised by Jesus in the New Testament.
 - **John 14:16-18, 26** - *16 I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Counselor, that He may be with you forever: 17 the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, for it does not see Him, neither does it know Him. But you know Him, for He lives with you, and will be in you. 18 I will not leave you fatherless. I will come to you. 26 But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, will teach you everything and remind you of all that I told you.*
 - **John 15:26-27** - *26 “But when the Counselor comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will bear witness of Me. 27 And you also will bear witness, because you have been with Me from the beginning.*

In Acts 1:4-5, what did Jesus tell His disciples to wait for?

Acts 1:4-5 - *4 Being assembled with them, He commanded them, “Do not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, of which you have heard from Me. 5 For John baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”*

4. Acts 1:8 - *8 But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you shall be My witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”*

- The word “power” comes from the Greek word “dunamis” which also means “dynamite”. Where does the power (the ability) to witness for Christ come from?
- Before we were Christians, the Holy Spirit was with us convicting us of sin, and drawing us to Christ. **John 16:7-8** - *7 Nevertheless I tell you the truth: It is expedient for you that I go away. For if I do not go away, the Counselor will not come to you. But if I go, I will send Him to you. 8 When He comes, He will convict the world of sin and of righteousness and of judgment:*
- When we became Christians, the Holy Spirit was in us.
 - **John 14:17** - *17 the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, for it does not see Him, neither does it know Him. But you know Him, for He lives with you, and will be in you.*
 - **1 Corinthians 3:16** - *16 Do you not know that you are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?*
- The third experience of the Holy Spirit is when He comes on or upon us, and overflows out of our life. **John 7:37-39** - *37 On the last and greatest day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, “If anyone is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink. 38 He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart shall flow rivers of living water.” 39 By this He spoke of the Spirit, whom those who believe in Him would receive. For the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.*

- Flow (Greek) literally means to gush forth.
- Baptize (Greek - Baptizo) overflowed. We become a channel through which the Holy Spirit overflows to everyone around us. (Greek lit. = immersed, saturated)
- Look at these examples of the Spirit coming upon a believer:
 - **Acts 2:1-4** - *1 When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. 2 Suddenly a sound like a mighty rushing wind came from heaven, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. 3 There appeared to them tongues as of fire, being distributed and resting on each of them, 4 and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues, as the Spirit enabled them to speak.*
 - **Acts 10:44-48** - *44 While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell on all those who heard the word. 45 All the believers of the circumcision who had come with Peter were astonished, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles. 46 For they heard them speaking in other tongues and magnifying God. Then Peter continued, 47 “Can anyone forbid water for baptizing these, who have received the Holy Spirit as we have?” 48 So he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then they asked him to stay a few days.*
 - **Acts 19:1-6** - *1 While Apollos was at Corinth, Paul passed through the upper regions and came to Ephesus. He found some disciples 2 and said to them, “Have you received the Holy Spirit since you believed?” They said to him, “No, we have not even*

heard that there is a Holy Spirit.” 3 He said to them, “Into what then were you baptized?” They said, “Into John’s baptism.” 4 Paul said, “John indeed baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people that they should believe in the One coming after him, that is, in Christ Jesus.” 5 When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. 6 When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in other tongues and prophesied.

5. When we are baptized with the Holy Spirit, what happens?

- We receive power to witness for Jesus, and to serve Him in whatever area He asks us to.
- We receive increased power to overcome sin.
- The Scripture comes alive to us.
- Our relationship with God is more alive and vital.
- We receive spiritual gifts when we pray to God and ask for the baptism of the Holy Spirit. We receive it by faith (Luke 11:11-13; Galatians 3:2, 5, 13-14), just as we received Jesus Christ into our life by faith.
- The baptism of believers in the Holy Spirit is witnessed by the initial physical sign of speaking with other tongues as the Spirit of God gives them utterance (Acts 2:1-44; Acts 10:44-48; Acts 19:1-6. Read these above in section 4.) Speaking in tongues is the initial evidence that someone is baptized in the Holy Spirit, also it is a sign for the unbeliever (**1 Corinthians 14:22** - *22 So tongues are for a sign, not to believers, but to unbelievers.*).
- You speak mysteries to God that no one knows, not even the enemy (**1 Corinthians 14:2** - *2 For he who speaks in an unknown*

tongue does not speak to men, but to God. For no one understands him, although in the spirit, he speaks mysteries.).

- The Bible tells us not to forbid to speak in tongues (**1 Corinthians 14:39** - *39 Therefore, brothers, eagerly desire to prophesy, and do not forbid speaking in tongues.*).
- The Bible says in (**Mark 16:17-18** - *17 These signs will accompany those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; 18 they will take up serpents; if they drink any deadly thing, it will not hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.*”) that those who believe should earnestly seek Jesus for the Baptism of The Holy Spirit.

Sharing Your Faith

1. What must happen in our personal lives before we are ready to share our faith?

- **1 Peter 3:15** - *15 But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts. Always be ready to give an answer to every man who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you, with gentleness and fear.*

2. What does it mean to “sanctify” the Lord in our hearts?

Sanctifying the Lord God in our hearts means giving our wholehearted allegiance to Jesus Christ and worshiping Him only—despite the cost. It reveals profound trust in Jesus as our sovereign Lord and King. We recognize that He alone is in control of our circumstances and those who threaten us are not (1 Peter 1:6–7). To the One who sits on the throne of our hearts we commit ourselves, and we continue to do what is right even if we suffer because of our faith in Him.

3. Basic points that should be covered:

- All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. Romans 3:23
- The wages of sin is death. Romans 6:23
- God demonstrated His love to us by sending Jesus Christ to die. Romans 5:8
- We are saved by faith in Jesus Christ. Romans 10:9-10, 13

4. Tools for witnessing:

- A Bible - A pocket New Testament is sufficient.
- Tracts - “The Big Question” and the “Bridge to Life” are excellent.
- Memorize Scripture - Roman’s road is best.

Romans 3:23 - *23 For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God*

Romans 5:8 - *8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.*

Romans 6:23 - *23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

Romans 10:9-10 - *9 that if you confess with your mouth Jesus is Lord, and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved, 10 for with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.*

5. Remember:

- The Holy Spirit is the One who will speak through you. **Matthew 10:19-20** - *19 But when they deliver you up, take no thought of how or what you will speak. For it will be given you at that time*

what you will speak. 20 For it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father who speaks through you.

- The Lord is the One who adds to the church daily. **Acts 2:47** - *And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.*
- **1 Corinthians 3:7** - *7 So then neither is he who plants nor he who waters anything, but God who gives the increase.*

Summary: When you became a Christian, you immediately became a child of God, and were placed into a new spiritual family; the family which is the body of Christ. Just as a human body functions best when each member does its job, so the body of Christ, the church, is healthiest when each member is growing spiritually and fulfilling its special role. Seek fervently after the baptism of the Holy Spirit to have the power and boldness to be a witness for Jesus in this evil world. Seek after the gifts of the Spirit which is given to encourage and grow the church and you spiritually.

Assignment: Read the book of **Acts & Galatians**, memorize **Philippians 1:6 & Acts 1:8**, and pray for one another.

Week 13 – Worship and Tithing

1. Worship:

- Hebrew = SHA CAH (shawkaw) - show reverence to; bow down in homage to
- Greek = PROSKUNEO (proskooneh o) - to kiss like a dog licking his master's hand
- To bow down, paying homage (kiss), out of respect, i.e. Psalm 95:6

2. Who is able to receive worship?

- **Exodus 20:1-6** - *1 Now God spoke all these words, saying: 2 I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.3 You shall have no other gods before Me. 4 You shall not make for yourself any graven idol, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water below the earth. 5 You shall not bow down to them or serve them; for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and fourth generation of them who hate Me, 6 and showing lovingkindness to thousands of them who love Me and keep My commandments.*
- Matthew 4:10 - *10 Then Jesus said to him, “Get away from here, Satan! For it is written, ‘You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only shall you serve.’ ”*

It is an abomination to worship anything else.

- **Deuteronomy 7:25-26** - The carved images of their gods you shall burn with fire. You shall not covet the silver or the gold that is on

them or take it for yourselves, lest you be ensnared by it, for it is an abomination to the Lord your God.

3. Christ was worshipped by:

- Angels - **Hebrews 1:6** - *6 And again, when He brings the firstborn into the world, He says: "Let all the angels of God worship Him."*
- Magi - **Matthew 2:11** - *11 And when the Magi came into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary, His mother, and fell down and worshipped Him. And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh.*
- Men - The blind man worshipped Jesus - **John 9:38** - *38 Then he said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshipped Him.*
- Women - **Matthew 15:25** - *25 Then she came and worshipped Him, saying, "Lord, help me."*
- Disciples - **Matthew 28:16, 17** - *16 Then the eleven disciples went away to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. 17 When they saw Him, they worshipped Him.*
- The Heavens - **Psalms 19:1** - *1 The heavens declare the glory of God, and the firmament shows His handiwork.*

4. How do we worship?

- **John 4:23-24** - *23 Yet the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth. For the Father seeks such to worship Him. 24 God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship Him in spirit and truth."*

- Worship in Prayer; as the incense on the Levitical altars. **Psalm 141:2** - *2 Let my prayer be set forth before You as incense, and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.*
 - **Hebrews 13:15** - *15 Through Him, then, let us continually offer to God the sacrifice of praise, which is the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name.*
- We worship in Songs of Praise. **Ephesians 5:19** - *19 Speak to one another in psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord.*
 - **Colossians 3:16** - *16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.*
 - **Psalm 150** - *1 Praise the Lord! Praise God in His sanctuary; praise Him in the firmament of His power! 2 Praise Him for His mighty acts; praise Him according to His excellent greatness! 3 Praise Him with the sound of the trumpet; praise Him with the lyre and harp! 4 Praise Him with the tambourine and dancing; praise Him with stringed instruments and flute! 5 Praise Him with loud cymbals; praise Him with the clanging cymbals! 6 Let everything that has breath praise the Lord. Praise the Lord!*
- We worship in our Daily Walk. **2 Corinthians 3:2-3** - *2 You are our letter written in our hearts, known and read by all men. 3 For you are prominently declared to be the letter of Christ, prepared by us, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on human tablets of the heart.*

- We worship in Sacrifice, Personal Sacrifice. **2 Corinthians 9:11** - *Yes, you will be enriched in every way so that you can always be generous. And when we take your gifts to those who need them, they will thank God. 12 So two good things will result from this ministry of giving—the needs of the believers in Jerusalem will be met, and they will joyfully express their thanks to God.* 13 *As a result of your ministry, they will give glory to God. For your generosity to them and to all believers will prove that you are obedient to the Good News of Christ. 14 And they will pray for you with deep affection because of the overflowing grace God has given to you.*

Personal Sacrifice; Tithing

1. Giving to the Lord - Deuteronomy 8:18 - *Remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth.*

1 Chronicles 29:12-14 - *Everything in heaven and earth is Yours, O LORD. Wealth and honor come from you; you are the ruler of all things. In your hands are strength and power to exalt and give strength to all. “God, we give you thanks, and praise your glorious name. But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to give as generously as this? Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand.”*

- How to give? **2 Corinthians 9:6-8** - *6 But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. 7 Let every man give according to the purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or out of necessity, for God loves a cheerful giver. 8 God is able to make all grace abound*

toward you, so that you, always having enough of everything, may abound to every good work.

○ Paul encourages the church to Excel at giving. God desires excellence in our giving. **2 Corinthians 8:7** - *Just as you excel in everything-- in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us-- see that you also excel in this grace of giving.*

- Method of collection - one example? **2 Kings 12:9** - *9 So Jehoiada the priest took a chest, made a hole in its lid, and set it beside the altar on the right side as one enters the house of the Lord. The priests guarding the threshold put there all the money that was brought into the house of the Lord.*
- This tradition of giving was carried into the New Testament (contrast the condition of the heart to the amount given). **Luke 21:1-4** - *1 Jesus looked up and saw the rich putting their gifts in the treasury. 2 He also saw a poor widow putting in two mites, 3 and He said, "Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all of them. 4 For all these out of their abundance have put in their gifts for God. But she out of her poverty has put in all the living she had."*

2. How much to give?

- The First Fruits belong to the Lord. **Proverbs 3:9, 10** - *9 Honor the Lord with your substance, and with the first fruits of all your increase; 10 so your barns will be filled with plenty, and your presses will burst out with new wine.*

- The Lord's challenge: God says not to rob him but to bring our tithe(10% of our income) plus an offering. God actually dares us in this scripture. He says test me and see if I will not pour out from the open windows of heaven upon you. He says that He will open up the windows of heaven and bless us with blessings we could not contain. Who would not want this to happen for them, to receive blessings from God, they are so big you count hold it all - **Malachi 3:7-10** - *7 From the days of your fathers you have gone away from My ordinances and have not kept them. Return to Me, and I will return to you, says the Lord of Hosts. But you say, "How shall we return?" 8 Will a man rob God? Yet you have robbed Me. But you say, "How have we robbed You?" In tithes and offerings. 9 You are cursed with a curse, your whole nation, for you are robbing Me. 10 Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house, and test Me now in this, says the Lord of Hosts, if I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you a blessing, that there will not be room enough to receive it.*
- Jesus never said not to tithe, but actually encourages us to give more as an example with the rich young ruler. He told him to sell all he has and give it to the poor and follow Me. Jesus is not telling us to give the farm away unless He directly speaks to you to do something of that magnitude, please don't do anything hastily - **Matthew 23:23** - *23 "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! **You tithe** mint and dill and cumin, but have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faith. **These you ought to have done** without leaving the others undone.*

3. Purpose of giving:

- The needs of the congregation - **1 Corinthians 16:1-2** - *1 Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given instruction to the churches of Galatia, so even you must do. 2 On the first day of the week let every one of you lay in store, as God has prospered him.*
 - **Romans 12:13** - *Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.*
- To help those in need - **Proverbs 14:31** - *Whoever oppresses a poor man insults his Maker, but he who is generous to the needy honors Him.*
- In order to **receive** you must **give** - **Luke 6:38** - *38 Give, and it will be given to you: Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will men give unto you. For with the measure you use, it will be measured unto you."*
- Why do we tithe(10%)? The Bible says the purpose of tithing(10%) is to teach you always to put God first in your life (Deuteronomy 14:23 TLB). Tithing is a reminder that God is the supplier of everything we have. It is also God's personal invitation to an outpouring of His blessing in your life Malachi 3:7-10, Luke 6:38. Tithing(10%) existed before the Law, so naturally it would be seen as a biblical discipline and principle and not just a requirement of the Law. Abraham tithed(10%) to the King of Salem hundreds of years before the Law was given. **Genesis 14:18-20** - *18 Then Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine. He was the priest of God Most High. 19 And he blessed him and said, "Blessed*

be Abram by God Most High, Creator of heaven and earth; 20 and blessed be God Most High, who has delivered your enemies into your hand.” Then Abram gave him a tenth of everything.

Read aloud together: Psalm 150 - *1 Praise the Lord! Praise God in His sanctuary; praise Him in the firmament of His power! 2 Praise Him for His mighty acts; praise Him according to His excellent greatness! 3 Praise Him with the sound of the trumpet; praise Him with the lyre and harp! 4 Praise Him with the tambourine and dancing; praise Him with stringed instruments and flute! 5 Praise Him with loud cymbals; praise Him with the clanging cymbals! 6 Let everything that has breath praise the Lord. Praise the Lord!*

Note from the Pastor

Thank you very much for being a part of this class. We hope it will help you in your walk and relationship with the Lord as you grow to be a disciple of Jesus Christ. Continue daily in all these things that we have discussed and studied. Create a habit to continually practice these disciplines daily. They will make you a powerful and blessed disciple for Jesus. God Bless you all, and we love you here at CWC.

In His Service,

Pastor David E. Moseley