



BIBLE STUDY PHASE-2

GOOD SHEPHERD MINISTRY INTERNATIONAL



BIBLE STUDY 8: REPENTANCE

Repentance is the first step we take to receive the salvation that GOD offers to us in the Lord Jesus Christ. To “repent” means to turn back from the former way of life and go onto a totally new direction- “to turn over a new leaf”! It is deciding to put behind your past, marred by sin and failures and deciding not to continue in it as you submit to the lordship of Jesus Christ!

“ ‘...God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ.’ When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?’ Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven.”(Acts2:36-38). Refer Acts17:30 also.

A. WHAT REPENTANCE IS NOT

1. Not Just Feeling Guilty

Feeling guilty about our sin comes before repentance, but it is not repentance itself. No one repents unless they first feel guilty about their sin, but not all who feel guilty actually repent.

“As Paul discoursed on righteousness, self-control and the judgment to come, Felix was afraid and said, “That’s enough for now! You may leave. When I find it convenient, I will send for you’” (Acts 24:25). Felix felt guilty but did not repent.

2. Not Just Being Sorry For Your Sin

Some people are very sorry because of the consequence of their sin, or because they have been caught. Many people are sorry, not for what they have done wrong, but for the penalty they receive in being caught.

“ _____ leads to repentance that brings _____ and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death.” (2Cor. 7:10). True repentance calls for being sorry for what you’ve done wrong.

3. Not Just Trying To Be A Good Person

Many people try their own strength to become a better person and change their way of life. Any self-effort has a root of self-righteousness in it, which does not acknowledge the need of repentance from sin.

*“All of us have become like one who is unclean, and _____
_____;
we all shrivel up like a leaf, and like the wind our sins sweep us away.” (Isa.64:6)*

4. Not becoming religious

The Pharisees in the Bible were extremely religious in behavior and practice. They fasted and prayed and had many religious ceremonies, yet never repented.

Look up Matt.3:7-10

Jesus told the Pharisees,

*“Produce _____ in keeping with _____”
“ ... and every tree that does not produce _____ will be
_____.”*

5. Not Just Knowing the Truth

Having an intellectual head knowledge of truth does not necessarily guarantee that the truth has become a living reality in one's life. Believing with the head and believing with the heart are different (See Romans 10:10)

“You believe that there is one GOD. Good! Even the demons believe that- and shudder.

*You foolish man, do you want further evidence that _____
_____?” (James 2:19,20)*

B. WHAT TRUE REPENTANCE IS

1. Being Sorry To GOD For Your Sins

True repentance is a sorrow not just toward one's self, or toward another person, but first and foremost it is true sorrow toward GOD.

“Have mercy on me, O GOD, according to Your unfailing love; according to Your great compassion, _____.”

Wash away all my iniquity and _____.
For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me. _____
_____ and
done what is evil in Your sight....” (Ps.51:1-4).

See also Ps.38:8.

2. Being Truthful About Your Sin

We need to see sin as “sin” is and admit it before the Lord.

“ Then I acknowledged my sin to You and did not cover up my iniquity. I said,
‘ _____ ,
_____ and You forgave the guilt of my sin.” (Ps.32:5)

In 1John1:19, it says, “ _____
He is faithful and just and will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

3. Turning away From Your Sin

It's not just to confess sin but to make a decision not to do it again.

“ He who conceals his sins does not prosper, but whosoever confesses and renounces them
finds mercy.” (Prov.28:13)

4. Hating Sin

“Thou hast loved righteousness and hated iniquity, therefore..... GOD has anointed thee..”
(Heb.1:9)

“... and you will loathe yourselves for all the evil you have done...” (Eze.20: 43,44)

5. When Possible, Paying Back to Others What You Owe

If/when possible, you need to compensate for the wrong/sin done to another by asking forgiveness or act to show true repentance. Look at the example of Zacchaeus:

“ But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, ‘Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of
my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, _____
_____ ” (Luke19:8).

See also Lev.6:1-7.

C. WHAT REPENTANCE INVOLVES

1. Turning From Sin

“Don’t be like your fathers were! The earlier prophets pled in vain with them to turn from all their evil ways. ‘Come, return to me,’ the Lord God said. But no, they wouldn’t listen; they paid no attention at all” (Zech.1:4 tlb). Read Galatians 5:19-21 and Eph. 5:5 which talk about the sins that prevent you from inheriting the kingdom of God. Here is an admonition to turn from these evils.

2. Turning From The World

“Stop loving this evil world and all that it offers you, for when you love these things you show that you do not really love God.” (1John2:15 tlb). See also James 4:4.

James says that friendship with the world is enmity with God.

“Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world, _____”

3. Turning From Yourself

“He died for all so that all who live—having received eternal life from Him—might live no longer for themselves, to please themselves, but to spend their lives pleasing Christ who died and rose again for them.” (2 Cor.5:15tlb).

See also Luke 14:26. Yes its to do with even denying oneself!

4. Turning From The Devil

“...to open their eyes to their true condition so that they may repent and live in the light of God instead of in Satan’s darkness...” (Acts 26:18tlb).

See Col.1:13

Christ has rescued us from “_____”
and brought us to _____”

5. Turning To GOD

“Therefore tell the people: This is what the Lord Almighty says, “ _____
_____, ’ declares the Lord Almighty, and I will return to you, ’ says
the Lord Almighty.” (Zech.1:3)

6. Turning To Right Living

“Do not offer the parts of your body to sin, as instruments of wickedness, but rather,

_____” (Rom.6:13)

You may reflect on a few lines of the song, ‘I have decided to follow Jesus’ as we conclude our study:

*I have decided to follow Jesus
No turning back, no turning back
The cross before me, the world behind me
Though no one joins me, still I will follow
No turning back, no turning back!!*

Assignments:

1. Are there any sins in your life that you have really not repented of? As you allow the Holy Spirit to bring to your mind any sin, do not be hesitant to let go, turn away from it and decide to move in a new direction. Ask the Lord to forgive, cleanse and lead you in a life of victory.
2. Examine Rom.6:13 again. Compare it with Rom.12:1&2. Let us prayerfully commit the members of our body as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to HIM!

Suggested Memory Verses:

1. 2Cor.7:10
2. Isa.64:6
3. Prov.28:13
4. James 4:4

BIBLE STUDY 9: FAITH

Faith has always been the mark of a disciple of Jesus. The early disciples were known as BELIEVERS. Jesus said: "... *Everything is possible for him who believes*" (Mark9:23).

Faith means total dependence on God. When Adam sinned, he stepped out of God-dependence into 'in'-dependence (which is unbelief). This is the reason God has placed such a priority on faith. Faith is the way we come back into relationship with God (God-dependence).

This dependence on God is called faith. Faith advances you beyond your five senses of seeing, hearing, tasting, smelling and touching. Faith releases you from your limited capacities. By faith, you move from 'in'-ability to 'His'-ability.

This is the walk of faith to which all of us are called- where "*nothing is impossible*" (Matt.17:20).

A. WHAT IS FAITH

Faith is obedient action in response to what God has said. True faith is expressed in 1) Obedience 2) Action in response to 3) Hearing God's Word (voice)

*"Now faith is _____ -
_____ (Heb.11:1)*

Faith means having trust, assurance or confidence in another person or in that person's words. Having faith in God involves an exchange of self-trust for God-trust. We stop trusting in our self and trust Him. We abandon reliance on our limited source of knowledge and start receiving from His unlimited source.

B. TWO KINDS OF KNOWLEDGE

"My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power, so that your faith might not rest on _____ but on God's power.

We do, however, speak a message of wisdom among the mature, but not the wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing.

No, we speak of God's _____, a wisdom that has been hidden and God destined for our glory before time began" (1Cor.2:4-7)

See also vs.8-16.

1. Sense Knowledge

All knowledge that comes to natural man comes to him through the five senses- seeing, hearing, tasting, smelling and touching. This is limited knowledge, described as "man's wisdom"

2. Revelation Knowledge

This knowledge is not based on the five senses, nor on natural reasoning but on an alternative source- the TRUTH of the Word of God. It is received through man's spirit, and is described as "God's wisdom"- "We live by FAITH, not by sight" (2Cor.5:7)

C. THE BASIS OF FAITH

The basis of having faith in God is in three important realities:

1. The Nature of God

"When God made His promises to Abraham, since there was no one greater for Him to swear by, _____" (Heb.6:13)

a. He Cannot Change

"I the Lord do not change..." (Mal.3:6)

See what James 1:17 says, "Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who _____"

b. He Cannot Fail

"I know that You can do all things; no plans of Yours can be thwarted" (Job 42: 2)

See 1Chron.28:20 also. Our God cannot fail!

c. He Cannot Lie

“God is _____

_____. Does He speak and then not act? Does He promise and not

fulfill? (Num.23:19)

Look up Titus 1:2.

2. The Redemptive Work of the Son of God

“Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, _____,
who for the joy set before Him _____, scorning
its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.” (Heb.12:2)

Christ has become the source of our faith in God. The fact of His death and
resurrection provides ground for our believing!

“... Christ Jesus...has become for us wisdom of God—that is, our _____
_____ and _____” (1Cor.1:30)

See Rom.5:1,2. Justified through faith! Peace with God! Access into His grace and by
His grace we now stand! What a privilege!

3. The Word of God

“Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away” (Matt.24:35).

Refer to Isa.40:8 also.

“The Lord said to me, ... ‘I am watching to see that My Word is fulfilled’” (Jer.1:12)

His Word stands true forever. Faith comes when God brings a specific word- out of
all He has ever said- directly to us in our circumstances. Spoken in this way, the Word of
God comes alive to us, releasing our faith.

D. HOW FAITH WORKS

The principle of faith (Rom.3:27) is to operate in our lives continually, no matter
what the circumstances. 2Cor.5:7 says, “For we walk by faith and not by sight.”

As we also see in James 1:5,6 to have faith is not to doubt. This would mean despite the circumstances. Faith works in the following way:

1. God Gives us Faith

“For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness _____
_____, just as it is

written : “The righteous will live by[His] faith” (compare with Rom1:17 and Hab.2:4)

The righteous will live by HIS faith, that is the faith He gives us as a gift.

“For by grace you have been saved _____ and that
not of yourselves, it is the _____...(Eph.2:8,9)

“....according as God has dealt to every ma...faith” (Rom.12:3)

2. Faith Comes By A Word From God

Firstly, God encourages us by speaking a “word” relevant to our circumstances. This may come as you read the Bible or by hearing the voice of the Holy Spirit inside your spirit.

“...faith comes from _____
_____ (Rom.10:17)

See how God spoke to Abraham in Gen.15: 2-3; 17: 15-21 and Joshua in Josh.1:8

3. Obedience To the Word

For faith to operate in our situation, we must obey that word- the word has to sink deep within us and the fruit of that faith should be visible in our actions or our responses.

Faith is **ACTIVE**, not passive. Most of God’s promises are conditional—He will do His part and we do our part.

“...faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by _____, is dead (James2:17)

Read carefully the following and note the action evolved out of faith:

James1:22-25 _____

Gen.15:6 _____

Matt.7:24-27 _____

4. The Crisis, or “Trial of Our Faith”

This is a period of testing. Everything happening around us appears contrary to what God has said, and there seems to be no natural evidence for our believing. At this point, our faith rests completely on God’s Word (what He has spoken to us).

“In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials.

“These have come so that your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire – may be _____

when Jesus Christ is revealed (1Pet.1;6,7)

Look through Rom.4:16-21 and Psalms 105: 17-19.

In faith we cast ourselves upon **HIS FAITHFULNESS**. In our times of doubt and struggle, God is faithful and does not abandon us.

“If we believe not, He abideth faithful. He cannot deny Himself” (2Tim.2:13).

He was faithful to Thomas and Peter when their faith was tested. Jesus didn’t abandon them. *“He will never _____*
(Heb.13:5).

5. The Result

The end result is always victory on the part of the believer, bringing glory to God

Look up these references and note the results of the test of faith

a. James 1:2-4,12 _____

b. Psa.105: 19-22 _____

c. Acts 3:16 _____

d. Heb.6:13-15 _____

“...for everyone born of God has overcome the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even _____ (1John 5:4).

MY COMMITMENT

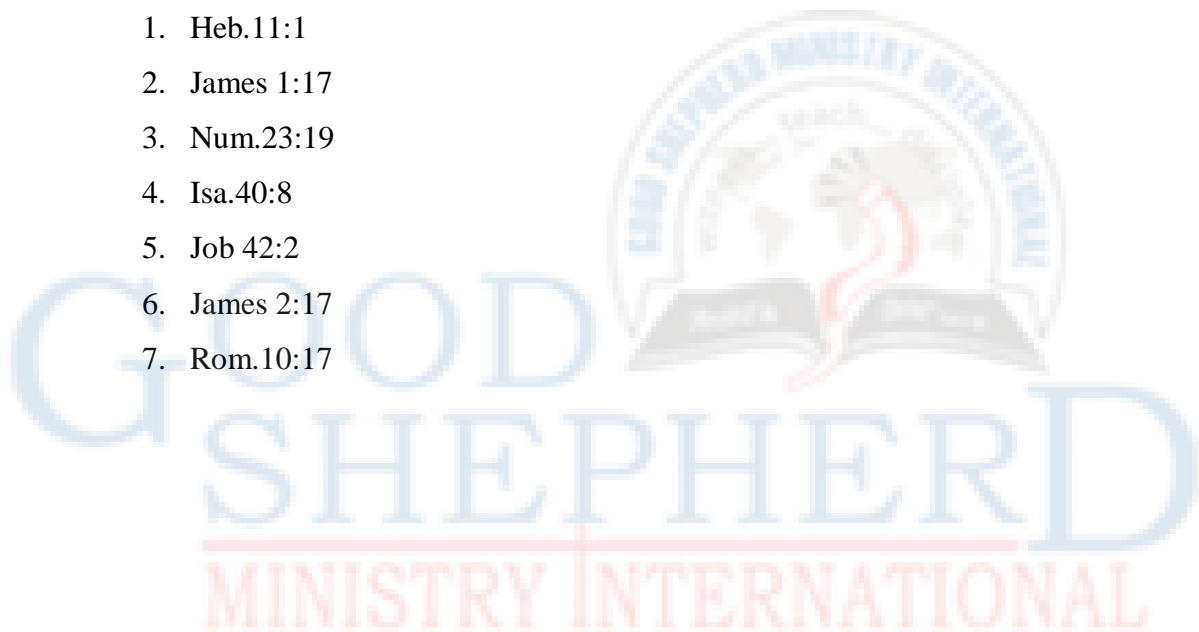
Today I decide to live by faith and trust God in all areas of my life. I acknowledge my need to be totally dependent on God- which is faith in action. In problems, challenges, and difficulties I will rely on His faithfulness. God's response will be His grace—His enabling power. I will tell others too how to rely on God's faithfulness and walk with faith in God.

Assignments

1. Examine your faith life. How have you grown from the time you became saved? Have you trusted God with the promises He spoke to you? Look back at the promises He has given you and commit yourself anew today, trusting Him in faith that He is able to fulfill all that He has promised!
2. Have you had a test of faith if so, please be free to share with the group so that you can encourage others through it?

Suggested Memory Verses:

1. Heb.11:1
2. James 1:17
3. Num.23:19
4. Isa.40:8
5. Job 42:2
6. James 2:17
7. Rom.10:17



BIBLE STUDY-10: GRACE

The word “**Grace**” is not understood in its proper sense even by the Christian world today. We need to examine what this word means to us and why the correct understanding of the word will enrich our lives from now on.

“With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and MUCH GRACE was with them all.” (Acts 4:33)

“From Attalia they sailed back to Antioch, where they had been COMMITTED TO THE GRACE OF GOD for the work they had now completed” (Acts 14:26)

Why was the grace of God so important in the experience of the early Christians? Why did the church in Antioch pray that the GRACE of God would be upon Paul and Barnabas, and later on Paul and Silas, as they set out on their missionary journeys?

A. THE MEANING OF GRACE

The most common understanding of the word, “grace” is “**God’s unmerited favor**”—in other words, even though we were sinners, deserving of judgment, God looked upon us in love and forgave us.

This, however, is only half its meaning. Grace also means “**God’s enabling power.**”

“May our Lord Jesus Christ Himself and God our Father, who loved us and by His grace gave us eternal encouragement and good hope, encourage your hearts and strengthen you in every good deed and word” (2Ths.2:16,17).

Not only does his grace make us accepted into the family of God, but it also provides the power we need to live the Christian life. Two scriptures indicate the two aspects of God’s grace in every believer.

1. God’s Unmerited Favour

“For it is by _____ [God’s unmerited favour] you have been saved , through faith—this not from yourselves, _____ -not by works, so that no one can boast” (Eph.2:8,9)

2. God's Enabling Power

"...In love, He predestined us to be adopted as His sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with His pleasure and will—to the praise of His glorious grace[enabling power], which He has freely given us in the One He loves" (Eph.1:4-6).

Read the entire chapter as it describes all that we have received by grace [by His enabling power].

In salvation, not only is God's unmerited favor expressed (in that we receive forgiveness and restored the relationship with Him even though we don't deserve it) but so also is God's enabling power –for it is only by HIS power that we can be transformed.

"Therefore if anyone is in Christ, _____
_____ (2Cor.5:17)

This principle of grace continues throughout our walk with God. In every area of our Christian life, it is God's grace that causes us to grow and be strong –God's enabling power given to us without any merit on our part.

"... grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ..."
(2Pet.3:18)

B. GRACE GIVEN TO THE HEROES OF FAITH

This operating force of grace is revealed in the lives of men and women throughout the whole Bible. Every hero of faith began his walk with God aware of his own weakness and inability.

It was only through him allowing God's grace—His enabling power—to work in his life that he was able to become the kind of person that God wanted him to be and to fulfill the plan and purpose God had for his life.

1. Grace in the life of Moses

Read Exodus 3:11-13; 4:1-13. The command the Lord gave Moses was no small task. Egypt was the ruling empire of the day. It was an evil nation, and Pharaoh, its satanic

leader, held authority that was claimed to be divine. Every nation in the known world lived in fear of Pharaoh.

When God told Moses to go down to Egypt and tell Pharaoh to let His three million people go free from slavery, Moses' immediate response—out of his own weakness and inability—was as follows:

- 3:11 *“Who am I?”*
- 3:13 *“Who are You?”*
- 4: 1 *“They won't believe me!”*
- 4:10 *“I'm not eloquent!”*
- 4:13 *“Lord, send someone else!”*

But with God's grace, Moses did go down to Egypt, and with signs and wonders brought the people of Israel out as God told him to.

2. Grace in the life of Gideon

Read Judges 6:1-24. The call of God came to Gideon to deliver His people from the conquering armies of Midian. Israel had known only defeat for many years. Gideon's response to God's word in verse 13 reveals his initial unbelief.

“But sir, Gideon replied, “If the Lord is with us, why has all this happened to us? Where are all His wonders that our fathers told us about when they said, Did not the Lord bring us up out of Egypt? But now the Lord has abandoned us and put us into the hand of Midian.”

Even when the Lord encouraged him and promised to be with him, Gideon answered, *“How can I save Israel? I'm the _____”* (vs.15)

But despite his fear and inability, with God's grace (enabling power) Gideon saved Israel. And he did it with just a small band of men. It was GRACE that made the difference!

3. Grace in the life of Apostle Paul

Read Acts 15:40. Before Paul and Silas set out on their missionary journey together, the church at Antioch prayed for them and “*commended* [them]... _____” for the work that was ahead of them.

Read Paul’s description of his experiences in 2Cor.11:22-33. It is understandable that he was first commended to the grace of God!

He needed it to survive! The Lord’s answer to Paul’s confession of weakness is His promise for us too:

“...My _____
_____.....”(2Cor.12:9)

C. GRACE RELEASED IN OUR LIVES

In our relationship with God—as we walk with Him each day—we constantly meet situations that would try to overwhelm us. Our response to God is to trust His Word. We express our trust through obedience.

This proves we believe what God’s Word says despite what the circumstances might indicate. God’s response to our faith is His grace—His enabling power, which causes us to triumph in every situation.

D. TWO IMPORTANT PROMISES

a. We have Bold Access To the Throne of Grace

“Let us then approach the _____ with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and FIND GRACE[divine enablement]to _____”(Heb.4:16)

b. God is Able

“And God is able to make ALL _____ ABOUND to you, so that _____
_____ (2Cor.9:8).

My Commitment:

Today I decide to receive God's grace—His enabling power—into every area and problem that arises in my life and I choose to believe that His Grace is sufficient for me!

Assignment:

1. Could you explain **GRACE** as “**God's merited favor**” and as “**God's enabling power**” as experienced in your life?
2. Are there areas of your life you still haven't allowed God to show forth His enabling power in you? If so identify such areas and commit them to HIM.

Suggested Memory Verses:

1. Eph.2:8,9
2. 2Cor.5:17
3. 2Cor.12:9
4. Heb.4:16



BIBLE STUDY 11- WATER BAPTISM

Jesus commanded all those who believed in Him to be baptized in water.

“Then Jesus came to them and said, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

*“Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, _____
in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit...” (Matt.28:18,19).*

See also Acts 2:38-41.

To be “baptized” means to be “totally immersed”. When a person repents from his sin and believes Jesus died for him, before many witnesses, he (or she) is to be taken to water, put right under it and brought up again. Why would Jesus command that His believers do such a strange thing?

A. UNDERSTANDING WATER BAPTISM

Understanding what water baptism is all about is the key to a victorious and liberated Christian life.

The act of going under the water and rising up from it again is a picture demonstrating what has happened to the Christian believer.

B. FOUR STAGES OF CHRIST’S WORK PICTURED

1. He died ...I died in Him

*“For we know that our _____
with Him so that the body of sin might be _____,
that we should no longer be slaves to sin—because anyone who has _____
_____.” (Rom.6:6,7)*

2. He was buried... I was Buried with Him

*“Or don’t you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were _____
_____? We were therefore _____
_____.” (Rom.6:3,4).*

3. He was raised... I have a New Life in Him

"...in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too _____ . If we have united with Him in His death, _____ (Rom.6: 4,5)

4. He Ascended ... I Ascended in Him

"And God raised _____(Eph.2:6).

See also Colo.3:1

C. WATER BAPTISM IS...

1. Your funeral Service

A burial service is not to kill a man off. It is only performed when the man is dead already. And so, because you have "died" in Christ, you bury your old life in water baptism.

2. Your Resurrection to New Life

You rise out of the water demonstrating and declaring you are a new creation in Christ!

"Now if we died with Christ, we believe that _____

For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, He cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over Him

"The death He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life He lives, He lives to God. In the same way, _____ " (Rom.6:8-11).

D. THE TWO KINGDOMS

"For He has rescued us from the dominion of _____ and brought us into the _____(Col.1:13)

Every man and woman born into the world is born into the Kingdom of Darkness; born slaves of the dictator Satan. There is no way out of this kingdom except by DEATH,

and there is no way into the Kingdom of GOD except by BIRTH. And so Jesus became both our death and new birth—and this we declare in water baptism.

E. THE TWO RACES

As there are two kingdoms, so within each kingdom is a different race of people. The Adamic Race populates the Kingdom of Darkness and the New Creation populates the Kingdom of God.

1. The First Adam

“For as in Adam, all die...” (1Cor.15:22).

“Therefore just as sin entered the world through _____, and death through sin, and in this way, death came to _____, because all sinned.” (Rom.5:12)

Adam was the father of us all, the entire human race. Adam’s sin alienated us all from God. Because of his sin, we all inherited his rebellious and diseased nature and became subject to death. Adam’s offspring are called “the Adamic Race.”

2. The Last Adam

“You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly.” (Rom.5:6)

There was no way God could change the fallen Adamic Race. He had to put an end to that race and begin a whole new race of humanity. Jesus was the last Adam. He came as the last born of the Adamic race and the firstborn of a new race.

As He hung upon the cross, He hung there as the last Adam- the last born of the Adamic race. When He died on the cross, the Adamic race and the Adamic sinful nature died.

God put to death the fallen creation in Him. The Adamic race died in Christ.

3. The Second Man

“... so in _____ all will be made alive.” (1Cor.15:22)

Jesus came as God’s new man, through which a new race would be created. Jesus was raised from the dead- not as the last Adam- but as the second man, the Head of the New Creation.

“ So it is written: ‘The first man Adam became a living soul’; the last Adam, [Christ] a life-giving Spirit...The first man was of the dust of the earth, _____”

“As was the earthly man, so are those who are of the earth; and as is the Man from heaven, _____.
And just as we have borne the likeness of the earthly man, so shall we bear _____”
(1Cor.15:45-49)

4. The New Creation

“Therefore, if any one is in _____
_____”
(2Cor.5:17)

See also Eph.2:10.

In water baptism, we declare to all our friends and acquaintances that we are no longer part of Adam’s race and the Kingdom of Darkness. We are a New Creation in Christ, belonging to the Kingdom of God!

Prayer: Thank You, Jesus, that my old nature with its sin and judgment has been put to death when You died on the Cross for me and now I can live a whole new life through Your resurrected life.

Assignments:

1. How does understanding water baptism open the door for us to a liberated and victorious Christian life?
2. In water baptism, we declare that Jesus became both our death and new birth-explain.
3. Commit your life to Christ to live a victorious new life as His New Creation through His resurrected life.

Suggested Memory Verses: Matt. 28:18,19

Eph.2:6

2Cor.5:17

Rom.6:11



BIBLE STUDY 12- THE HOLY SPIRIT

After Jesus rose from the dead, He appeared to His disciples for 40 days. Then, when they were all gathered together with Him on the top of a high hill, He was taken up into heaven before their eyes (Read Acts 1:1-11). However, before He left, Jesus gave His believers a very special and wonderful promise:

“...I will ask the Father, and He will give you another _____ to be with you for ever- the Spirit of truth... I tell you the truth: it is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, _____ will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you...”

(John 14:16-18; 16:5-7).

Jesus has not left us alone in the world. He has sent us the Holy Spirit.

A. THE HOLY SPIRIT IS GOD

The very first thing we must understand about the Holy Spirit is that He is indeed God.

“Then Peter said, ‘Ananias, how is it that Satan has so filled your heart that you have lied _____”

(Acts 5:3, 4).

See also 2Cor.3:17

God has chosen to express Himself to mankind, as Father, as Son, and as the Holy Spirit.

These are the expression of three distinct Persons (Personalities), yet the three are one.

B. THE GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

The Holy Spirit is God’s gift to every believer. When a person believes in Jesus, and receives the salvation He offers, the Holy Spirit Who comes to live in the believer, imparting spiritual life. See Acts 2:38,39 and fill carefully

“Peter replied, ‘Repent and be baptized, everyone of you, in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven. And _____”

_____. The promise is for _____ and
_____ and for _____
for _____”

Refer also John 7:37-39.

C. THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

1. In The Believer's Personal Life

The Holy Spirit comes to dwell within the believer to minister to him personally.

a. He testifies of our relationship with God

“The Spirit Himself _____
_____” (Rom.8:16).

See also 1John 3:24

b. He teaches

“But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit whom the Father will send in My name, will

_____” (John 14:26).

c. He guides

“...because those who are _____
_____” (Rom.8:14)

d. He helps us live a life pleasing to God

“So live by _____
_____” (Gal.5:16)

See also verses 17-25.

e. He helps us in prayer

“In the same way, _____

_____” (Rom.8:26)

f. He gives life to our bodies

“And if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead _____

_____” (Rom.8:11)

2. In The Believer for Service

As well as giving the Holy Spirit to dwell in the believer, God also wants to fill and baptize the believer with the Holy Spirit to empower him to serve and glorify God in the world.

a. The Holy Spirit gives power and boldness to witness

“But you will receive _____

_____” (Acts 1:8)

See also Acts 2:14-40.

b. He introduces the Supernatural Realm

The Holy Spirit equips believers for service with supernatural gifts. Note down various gifts given by the Spirit from 1Cor.12:4,8-10.

“There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit...

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____

See also Acts 2:4; 10:46; 19:6

c. He testifies that Jesus Christ is alive

“The God of our fathers raised Jesus from the dead ... We are _____

_____” (Acts 5: 30-32)

See also Acts 4:31-33

d. He brings a fresh understanding of the Word of God

“...as it is written: ‘No eye _____

_____” (1Cor.2:9-10)

See also John 16:13

e. He fills our spirit with true worship to God

“...be filled with the Spirit, speak _____

_____ (Eph.5:18,19)

Refer to John 4:24 too.

f. He glorifies Jesus

“But when the Spirit of Truth , comes, He will _____

_____. He will not speak on his own; He will speak only what

is _____.

_____ (John 16:13-15) . See John 15:26 too.

D. HOW TO BE BAPTIZED IN THE HOLY SPIRIT

God wants His Holy Spirit (Who indwells you because you are a believer in Jesus Christ) to fill you to overflowing with the power to serve Him (Eph.5:18).

1. It is a gift promised by God-so ask for it

“...how much more will your father in heaven give the _____

_____ (Luke 11:13)

See also verses 9-12.

2. Begin to praise God as you receive in faith

“Then they worshipped Him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy and they stayed continually at the temple, _____”

(Luke 24:52,53)

3. You can speak with a supernatural language

“ ...the Holy Spirit came upon them and they _____
_____. (Acts 19:6)

For further study, refer : Mark 16: 17; Acts 2:4; 10:45-46; 1Cor.14:5-18.

My Commitment: I thank God for the Gift of the Holy Spirit in my life. I make a decision today to respond to the Holy Spirit’s promptings and directing. I’m determined to learn to listen for the voice of the Holy Spirit in my heart.

Assignments:

1. Study the lesson thoroughly, understanding how the Holy Spirit impacts a believer’s life and apply what you’ve learned in the areas that you feel you are lacking in.
2. If you have not been baptized in the Holy Spirit and you desire it, ask the Lord to fill you as it empowers you in your walk with the Lord.
3. The next step is to yearn for the gift/gifts of the Spirit so that you can serve the Lord effectively.

Suggested Memory Verses: John 14:26

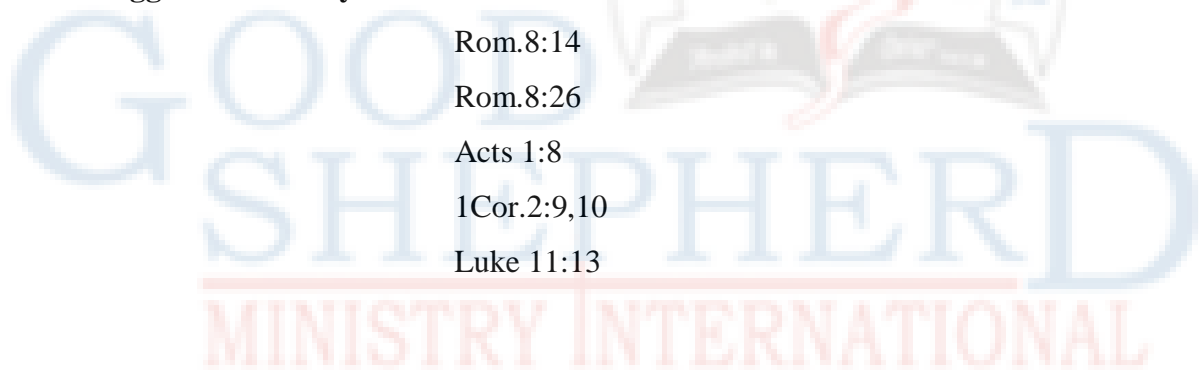
Rom.8:14

Rom.8:26

Acts 1:8

1Cor.2:9,10

Luke 11:13



BIBLE STUDY 13- TEMPTATION

A. SATAN ATTACKS

Satan attacks the individual Christian mostly through temptation. And he focuses this assault in two spheres:

1. The Desires of the World

He will seek to tempt a believer to become absorbed into the world's system:

- To make the material blessings that the world offers a central desire;
- To make the honor and recognition of this world an important goal;
- To make the comfort of being one with those of this world our basis of security

*“Do not love _____ or _____
_____. If anyone loves the world, _____
_____ (1John2:15)*

James 4:4 talks about “friendship with the world causing enmity with God”. What do you think are the ways we can fall into this trap?

Read 1Tim.6:6-11. Why do you think the love of money is the root cause of all evil?

When we desire more of the world than Christ, we can fall prey to the attractions Satan puts in our path and fall into sin.

2. The Desires of the Flesh

Through Christ's work on the cross, the true Christian is delivered from the results of sin and from the power of sin (Rom.6:6-14). But he still lives in a physical body that is subject to natural appetites and desires. Satan will use these to try and get a Christian to place greater importance upon them than the promptings of the Holy Spirit within him (Rom.8:5-9).

See also James 1:14.

"All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying _____

_____”(Eph.2:3)

B. SATAN'S ORIGINAL VICTORY

It was in the areas of the world and the flesh that Satan won his original victory in the temptation of the first man and the first woman, and these are still his tactics today.

"For all that is in the world, the LUST OF THE FLESH [craving for sensual gratification], and the LUST OF THE EYES [greedy longings of the mind] and the PRIDE OF LIFE[assurance in one's own resources or in the stability of earthly things]- these do not come from the Father but are from the world[itself]. 1John2:16 AMP.

Compare Eve's Temptation with this verse:

Gen.3:6

Good for FOOD

Pleasing TO THE EYE

Desirable for GAINING WISDOM

1John2:16

"Lust of the flesh"

"Lust of the eyes"

"Pride of life"

Since the fall of Adam and Eve, all mankind has been governed by their flesh (the three things outlined above).

The flesh is also corrupted by a sinful nature (Gal.5:19-21).

C. VICTORY WON BY CHRIST

1. Through His Life

Jesus was tempted in everything, exactly as we are, “yet was without sin” (Heb.4:15)

Compare Jesus’ Temptation with This Verse:

Luke 4:1-13

1John 2:16

Stones to bread

Kingdoms of the earth

Pinnacle of the temple

2. Through His Death and Resurrection

Faith that appropriates(claims, receives) Christ’s work releases the Christian from the power and dominion that sin had over him(Rom.8:9)

He is now free to choose to walk in obedience to God (Rom.6:8-14)

“For what the law was powerless to do in that was weakened by the sinful nature, God did by _____

_____, in order that the righteous requirements of the law might be fully met in us, _____

_____ [flesh] but according to _____”

(Rom.8:3,4)

D. THE CHRISTIAN’S CONTINUAL VICTORY

Based on the foundation of this great victory won for us by Christ, the Christian can now defeat any attack from the enemy.

Here are seven keys to continual victory:

a. Know The Victory is Already Won

Because of his defeat on the Cross, the devil’s only strength now is found in a Christian’s ignorance. It says in Hosea 4:6, “My people are destroyed from _____

_____”. But when the Christian knows the complete work of the

Cross and Resurrection in his life, the devil is stripped of any weapon against him.

b. Walk in Step With The Spirit

A new power is placed within the Christian- the Holy Spirit Himself. We are to walk in obedience to His inner promptings day by day (Gal.5:22-25).

“Since we live by the Spirit, let us _____
_____.”(vs.25).

c. Recognize Temptation For What It Is

The temptation is **NOT** sin. **YEILDING** to temptation is!

“Then, after desire _____, it gives birth to _____”
(James1:5). Refer to Genesis 4:6-7

d. Understand There Is A Way Of Escape Provided

“No temptation _____

_____ (1Cor.10:13).

Now refer to James 4:7 and write down the ways of escape:

- 1. _____
- 2. _____
- 3. _____

e. Keep The Right Focus in Life

“Since then you have been raised with Christ, _____

_____” (Col.3:1,2).

Refer to Phil.4:8; 1Tim.6:11,2; 2Pet.3:1-3

f. Keep Away From Obvious Areas of Temptation

“I will _____”

(Psalm 101:3). Read through 1Tim.6:9-11. What is the temptation mentioned here that can even cause one to wander from the faith? _____

g. Be Aware of Satan’s Schemes

It is important for us to know the tactics that the enemy uses against us so that we are not outwitted by him (2Cor.2:11)

- i. He is _____ (John 8:44)
- ii. He is a slanderer and an _____ (Rev.12:10)
- iii. _____ (Rev.12:9)
- iv. _____ (Matt.4:1-11)
- v. He is an oppressor (Acts 10:38)
- vi. He is a hinderer (1Thes.2:18)
- vii. _____ (1Pet.5:8)
- viii. _____
_____ (2Cor.11:14)

As Christians, we are called to live in VICTORY! Through Christ, this victory is ours:

- **Over the world** (1John 5:4)
- **Over the flesh** (Gal.5:16)
- **Over the enemy** (Eph.6:11,13)

PRAYER: “*Lord, thank You for Your promise to deliver me during times of temptation. I commit myself to respond to Your help which is always available for me so that I can live in victory. Amen.*”

Suggested Memory Verses:

- 1. 1John 2:15,16
- 2. 1Cor.10:13
- 3. 1Peter 5:8
- 4. Col.3:1,2

BIBLE STUDY 14- FELLOWSHIP

C. THE PURPOSE OF FELLOWSHIP

The fellowship of Christians together is very important, for it is our unity together that....

1. The Believer Is Encouraged And Grows in Christ

"I long to see you so that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to _____

_____ by each other's faith. (Rom.1:11,12)

2. The World Comes To Know That Jesus was Sent By GOD

"I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one: I in them and You in Me. May they be brought to _____

and have loved them even as You have loved Me" (John 17:22,23)

D. CONDITIONS OF FELLOWSHIP

1. A Basic Commitment To One Another

*"Be devoted to _____
_____. Honour one another above yourselves." (Rom.12:10)*

Without a basic trust, there can be no fellowship. The depth of fellowship will vary according to the depth of commitment.

2. Our Commitment Must Be Based On 'Agape'

'Agape' is a one-way love, which loves 'in spite of,' not 'because of'. Such a commitment, therefore, will not be affected by the other person's inconsistent behavior.

"A new commandment I give you: _____

_____ " (John 13:34)

3. True Fellowship is Christ-centred

Our fellowship with one another is founded in our common commitment to Christ.

“...and our _____ is with the Father and His Son, Jesus Christ.” (1John 1:3)

“If you have any encouragement from being _____,
if any comfort from His love, if any _____,
if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being _____
_____, _____, _____
_____.” (Phil.2:1,2).

4. Walking In The Light

Our fellowship embraces the need to be open, honest and truthful with one another. This at times may mean:

a) Confessing Our Own sins To Others, Or Lovingly Covering Another’s Sin

“If we claim to have _____ with Him yet walk in the _____, we lie and do not live by the truth. But if we walk in _____ as He is in the light, we have _____, and the blood of Jesus, His Son, purifies us from every sin” (1John1:6,7)

Refer to Matthew 18:15 also

b) Obedience To The Light—general and specific commandments God has given.

c) The Removal Of Any Masks or False Coverings

So much of the world’s fellowship is hypocritical—acting out a role, and is not genuine.

“Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that _____

_____ (1Peter 1:22)

5. A Genuine Interest In The Other's Well-being

There should be no hidden motives of self-gain. Our desire should be to give, not to get.

“Do nothing out of _____,

but in humility_____.

Each of you should look not only _____

_____ (Phil.2:3,4)

6. A Willingness To Lay Down One's Life

“My command is this:_____

_____. Greater love has no one than this, that_____

_____”(John 15:12,13)

Life involves more than physical life. It also includes our material possessions, our personal interests, and preferences, etc (James 2:15,16). This also means a willingness to openly share of one's self. We can only know people to the extent they are prepared to reveal themselves.

E. FELLOWSHIP IN THE CHURCH MEANS...

1. Sharing all things

There are three stages of development in their fellowship in Acts 4:32—firstly, they were of one heart (spirit), then they were of one soul(mind), and then followed the physical expression of having all things in common.

“All the believers were _____

_____. Selling their possessions and goods, they_____

_____.” (Acts 2: 44-45)

2. Laying Down Their Lives

“Greet Priscilla and Aquila, my fellow workers in Christ Jesus. They_____

_____. Not only I but all the churches of the

Gentiles are _____.” (Rom.16:3,4)

3. Devoted To Serving The Brethren

“You know that the household of Stephanas were the first converts in Achaia, and they have_____

_____” (1Cor.16:15)

4. Being A Channel Of Supply To Others In Need

*“At the present time your plenty will _____

_____.”* (2Cor.8:14)

See also 1Cor.16:17

5. Sharing In Suffering

*“Yet it was good _____
_____.”* (Phil.4:14)

6. Sacrificial Giving

*“Out of the most severe trial, _____

For I testify that they _____
_____.”* (2Cor.8:2,3)

7. Practising Hospitality

*“Dear friend, you are faithful in _____

_____.”* (3 John 5)

See also Heb.13:2

8. Building Up And Encouraging One Another

*“We loved you so much that we were _____

_____.”* (1Thes. 2:8)

See also 2Tim.3:10-14

E. RESULTS OF FELLOWSHIP

The results of fellowship in the early Church were:

- A fear of God (Acts 2:43)
- Joy (Acts 2:46)
- Favor with all people (Acts 2:47)
- Addition of new believers (Acts 2:47)
- All needs supplied (Phil.4:19)
- Emergence of leadership (1Cor.16:15,16)

PRAYER: *“ Lord, I understand the importance of having fellowship continually with other Christians. Help me to be a part of a group of believers to whom I will give my loyalty, my love, and my service.” Amen*

Suggested Memory Verses:

5. Rom.12:10
6. Phil.2:1,2
7. John 15:12,13
8. John 13:34

