

Basics For Believers

Bible Studies

By Troy J. Edwards

**Victorious
Word** 
Christian Fellowship

Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture quotations are taken from the *King James Version* (KJV) of the Bible.

Basics for Believers Bible Studies by Troy J. Edwards

Copyright (c) 1997 by Troy J. Edwards

Published by **Victorious Word Christian Publishing**

The author gives permission to have any portion of this book copied if it will assist other believers in receiving all that God has for them and/or if it will lead someone to Christ. The material here is for the edification of the body of Christ. However, it is a violation of Christian ethics to use the authors material for personal profit gain. Remember that we must all stand before the judgement seat of Christ to give an account for the deeds that are done in the body (1 Cor. 3:8-15). Therefore, please comply within the limits of this permission statement.

Contents

Contents

1. Lesson One: Being Born Again	5
2. Lesson Two: Assurance Of Salvation	7
3. Lesson Three: Christ's Death For Us	9
4. Lesson Four: Water Baptism	11
5. Lesson Five: The Baptism With The Holy Spirit	13
6. Lesson Six: Speaking In Tongues	15
7. Lesson Seven: The Local Church	17
8. Lesson Eight: The Holy Communion	19
9. Lesson Nine: Understanding The Trinity of the Godhead	21
10. Lesson Nine: Importance Of Bible Study	23
11. Lesson Ten: How To Study The Bible	25
12. Lesson Eleven: The Necessity Of Prayer	27
13. Lesson Twelve: Asking Gets Answers - 7 Principles for asking and receiving	29
14. Lesson Fourteen: The Prayer of Intercession	31
15. Lesson Fifteen: Fasting	33
16. Lesson Sixteen: 7 Reasons Why Faith Is Important	35
17. Lesson Seventeen: How To Operate In Faith	37
18. Lesson Eighteen: Guidance	39
19. Lesson Nineteen: Divine Healing	41
20. Lesson Twenty: The Power of Praising God	43
21. Lesson Twenty-One: Worship	45
22. Lesson Twenty-Two: Tithes And Offerings	47
23. Lesson Twenty-Three: Witnessing	49
24. Lesson Twenty-Four: The Devil	51
25. Lesson Twenty-Five: Trials and Tribulations	53
26. Lesson Twenty-Six: Overcoming Sin	55
27. Lesson Twenty-Seven: God's Forgiveness	57
28. Lesson Twenty-Eight: End Time Events (Part One)	59
29. Lesson Twenty-Nine: End Time Events (Part Two)	61
30. Lesson Thirty: Eternal States	63

Basics For Believers

Lesson One: Being Born Again

I. To become a TRUE Christian One must be born again.

1. John 3:1-7

a. We must be born of the water and the Spirit. This water is not speaking of water baptism but of the Word of God (1 Pet. 1:23; James 1:18; 1 Cor. 4:15; Eph. 5:25-27).

b. There is only ONE avenue into heaven and that is to be born again. Water baptism, church membership, religious duties, giving to the poor, living a moral life, taking the Lord's supper, being a member of a denomination, or an INTELLECTUAL reception (vs. a heart reception) of Jesus Christ cannot save you. You must be born again.

II. Why must we be born again?

1. In our natural birth we were born dead in sin. This is speaking of a spiritual death, not a physical one. This death is a separation from God.

a. Eph. 2:1-2; Ps. 51:5; Rom. 5:12-21

2. This spiritual death came about in the garden of Eden.

a. Man was made in the image of God - Gen. 1:26

b. God gave man the choice to choose spiritual life or death - Gen. 2:15-17 (Deut. 30:19).

c. Man chose to disobey God and therefore he lost the life of God. This brought forth death in the inner man - Gen. 3:1-7 (James 1:13-15).

III. What does it mean to be born again?

1. To be born again is to have a change in our inner nature. All of our past is wiped away and we become NEW Creations.

a. 2 Cor. 5:17; Gal. 6:15

2. When man disobeyed God and instead obeyed the devil, he took on the devil's nature - John 8:44; 1 John 3:8.

a. Satan was thrown out of heaven. Anything that is of a devilish nature cannot be allowed into heaven. That is why we must be BORN AGAIN. People go to hell because they have the nature of Satan and cannot be permitted into God's presence. **People do not go to hell only because of what they have done but because of what they are.**

IV. Benefits of being born again.

1. You become a world overcomer

a. 1 John 5:4-5

2. You have complete victory over sin

b. 1 John 2:29; 3:9, 14

3. Protection from the devil

c. 1 John 5:18

CONCLUSION: Are you born again? After studying this lesson and getting a true understanding of what it means to be born again perhaps you realize that you have never had this experience.

To be born again is very simple. You need only accept Jesus Christ as your Lord and Saviour. In lesson three we will be explaining Christ's death for you but you need not wait until then. Why not give your heart to Him today. All you need do is ask Him to come into your life. If you are not sure of how to do this here is a simple prayer to pray:

Lord Jesus

I ask you to come into my heart right now. You said in your word that if I confess you with my mouth and believe in my heart that God raised you from the dead then I will be saved (Rom. 10:9). I recognize that I am a sinner and I need your forgiveness and a change in my nature. I repent of all my sin. I know that all that come to you, you will not reject (John 6:37). Thank you for your dying for me so that I can be born again. Thank you Father for Jesus. Thank you Holy Spirit for coming in to my life. AMEN.

You are now born again. It's that simple.

By the way, welcome to the family!

Basics For Believers

Lesson Two: Assurance Of Salvation

I. God's Word gives us assurance of our salvation

1. 1 John 5:13; John 20:31

2. The epistle of John was written to those who are already born again, in other words, those who have accepted Christ as savior. We must learn to believe what God's Word says about our salvation.

a. John 1:12; 5:24; 6:47; Acts 10:43

b. *We obtain assurance of eternal life through what is "written," therefore in order to obtain assurance we should study the Word. The assurance that rests upon our states of feeling will come and go as those states vary. But the assurance that rests upon the unchanging Word of God will be intelligent and steadfast. Ignorance of the Word of God is one of the greatest sources of the lack of assurance.* - R.A. Torrey

II. The Holy Spirit resides in our hearts to bring assurance

1. Rom. 8:16; 1 John 5:10; Gal. 4:6

2. Once we believe what God's Word says about salvation we will have the supernatural presence of the Holy Spirit to bring us further assurance.

III. The Key to assurance is FAITH, not FEELING

1. Eph. 2:8,9; Rom. 10:9-10; John 6:37; 2 Cor. 5:7

2. Feelings come and go but God's Word stands sure. The first thing that you must always remember is that God is not a liar. He does not trick people. He does not use subversive tactics. If you have made Jesus your Lord and you hear a voice telling you that you are not saved then the source is not God but satanic and demonic. Accept no such voices that contradict the assurance of God's Word.

IV. Can one LOSE their salvation?

1. No one can take salvation away from you - John 10:27-30; Rom. 8:14, 35-39.

2. This is dependent upon us following Him. If we are not following then we are in SIN. Long persistence in sin brings DEATH to the inner man - Rom. 6:23; James 1:14-15; 1 Cor. 3:16-17; 6:8-11; Gal. 5:16-20; Ezekial 3:20-21; 18:24-26.

a. If you sin, confess it to God. He will cleanse you - 1 John 1:9

CONCLUSION: After being presented with this lesson you should no longer have any doubt concerning your eternal state. However, if you are still not sure then pray this prayer:

Dear Heavenly Father

I know that you sent your Son Jesus Christ to die on the cross for my sins. You loved me that much to give your only Son. I accept this fact. You promised that whoever comes to you, you will not reject that person (John 6:37). I now believe this promise and I come to you. I now believe that I am born again.

Thank you Jesus for dying for me. Thank you Father that I am going to heaven and not hell. In Jesus name. Amen.

From this point on do not doubt your salvation. Accept the written testimony of God's Word and the dwelling presence of the Spirit by faith. If and when you do sin, simply go to God and He will forgive you.

Basics For Believers

Lesson Three: Christ's Death For Us

I. The Wrath Of God Upon Sin

1. Man's transgression brought sin and death into the world.

a. Gen. 2:17; Rom. 3:9-18, 23; 5:12, 19; 6:23; 1 Kings 8:46; Gal. 3:22; Isa. 53:6

2. God is a HOLY God. He cannot overlook sin and allow it to go unpunished. All sin is a transgression of His laws and His holiness.

a. Col. 3:5-6; Rom. 1:18; Ps. 5:4-6; 106:39-43; Gen. 6:5-7

b. It is because of His holiness that sinners must spend eternity in separation from God - Matt. 25:41-46; 2 Thess. 1:8-9; Rev. 21:8

II. The Need For Atonement

1. Although God is a Holy God and must inflict His wrath upon sin, He is also a LOVING God and throughout the Bible has made provision to have sin atoned.

a. Gen. 3:13-15, 21; 4:3-7

b. Before sinful man can approach God there must be some kind of atonement made for his sin.

2. Blood is LIFE and was the required as the payment for sin (death).

a. Lev. 17:11; Lev. 14:19-31; Ex. 12:21-25

III. Christ paid the FULL penalty for all of our sin

1. John 3:16-17; Rom. 5:6-10; 2 Cor. 5:21; Gal. 1:3, 4.

a. Christ was our substitute. He took the punishment that we should have taken ourselves.

b. The whole Bible is written to proclaim the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ on our behalf - Luke 24:44-47; 1 Cor. 15:3-4.

2. Christ made this atonement by His BLOOD.

a. Heb. 9:22-27; Eph. 1:7; 1 John 1:7-9; Matt. 26:28

IV. The Exchange made at the cross

1. Isa. 53:4-10; Matt. 8:16-17; Gal. 3:13-14 (Deut. 28)

a. Christ not only took upon Himself our sin and it's punishment, but He also took upon Himself the RESULTS of our sin. There is no need to suffer anything that Christ has already suffered on our behalf.

Borne by Christ

1. Punishment

2. Sickness and pains

3. Guilt and condemnation

4. Curse

5. Poverty

6. Death (spiritual, physical, and eternal)

7. Defeat

8. Sin

Offered To The Believer

1. Peace, forgiveness, reconciliation

2. Healing and Health

3. Righteousness

4. Blessing

5. Prosperity

5. Life (spiritual, physical, and eternal)

7. Victory

8. Sanctification

CONCLUSION: Some say, "God is too good to damn someone." They are correct. God has made every provision for escape from damnation through Jesus Christ. If people are so foolish and stubborn as not to believe and accept this truth then they bring themselves under judgment and damnation (John 3:18-21).

The believer must learn to walk in ALL that Christ has provided in His death, burial, and resurrection. Too many believers are living far below their privileges. The good news is that every blessing in Christ is available to the believer today (Eph. 1:3; 2 Pet. 1:3, 4).

Basics For Believers

Lesson Four: Water Baptism

I. Water Baptism: It's meaning

1. Greek: Baptizo - to plunge under, dip, or immerse.

a. Some churches teach a sprinkle of water. This is not true to the meaning of the word.

b. Two Greek words translated "sprinkle" are *RANTIZO* and *ECHEO*. Neither word is found in the Bible in relation to baptism.

2. Matt. 3:13-17; Acts 8:36-39

a. Matt. 3:16 tells us Jesus "*went up straightway OUT OF the water.*" This does not sound like a sprinkling.

b. Jesus is our example in ALL things. We should get baptized since He was baptized. We should also be baptized the way He was baptized.

II. Water Baptism - Identification With Christ

1. We acknowledge our total identification with Christ in His death, burial, and resurrection.

a. Rom. 6:1-7; Col. 2:12-13

2. You and I were in Christ when He was laid on the cross. He died our death for us. He was buried and went to hell for us. He rose again for us. He did all of this so we would not have to though we deserve it and He did not. When we are baptized we are by faith and public confession declaring that we believe and accept all of this.

III. Baptism and salvation

1. Baptism can be the means for SALVATION (deliverance)

a. Mark 16:16; 1 Pet. 3:20-21

b. Greek: *Soteria* - deliverance, preservation, soundness, healing.

2. When we teach that baptism is a means for salvation, realize that we are not talking about getting into heaven. There are many sinners who have been baptized are in hell today. There are some who have never been baptized but are in heaven.

a. Luke 23:39-43

b. Salvation implies much more than escape from hell. There are many who have testified to healing and bondages broken after being baptized. Faith exercised in baptism brings salvation from many of lifes negatives because you are identifying yourself with Christ.

IV. Controversial questions answered.

1. Can babies be baptized?

a. No. One must be able to believe and repent of their sins. Babies do not have this capability.

b. Mark 16:16; Acts 8:35-38

2. There are two baptismal formulas mentioned in the Bible: The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (Matt. 28:19) and in Jesus' Name (Acts 2:38; 10:48). Which formula is correct?

a. If you use the formula in Matt. 28:19, you still cover Jesus. If you use the formula in Acts you still cover the Godhead (Col. 2:9). The formula is not the issue. The meaning of baptism and it's effects upon you is what is important.

CONCLUSION: If you have received Jesus Christ as Lord but you have not yet been baptized we suggest you do so immediately. It is not that the lack of it would keep you out of heaven but it be obeying what God has clearly commanded us.

When you are baptized imagine your sin nature, the sickness on your body, and all of your problems being buried. When you come up from the water imagine yourself as a brand new person. What you desire from God could manifest at this time if you apply faith.

Lastly, if you are basing your eternal salvation off of the fact that you were baptized at one time or that you were sprinkled on the head with water by a priest you are living in danger. Reevaluate your standing with God. If you do not recall ever giving your life to the Lord then do so at this time and then be re-baptized.

Basics For Believers

Lesson Five: The Baptism With The Holy Spirit

I. What Is This Baptism?

1. He is a Gift to be given to the believer - Acts 2:38.

a. Every born again Christian has the Holy Spirit in them but not every Christian has received the BAPTISM (immersion) with the Spirit.

2. He is also a PROMISE that can be claimed - Acts 1:4

a. A promise implies something that one has a legal right to claim. You need not beg, plead, and do things to earn this blessing. He is a gift so it's free. He is a promise so you can claim Him by faith.

3. He can be received AFTER one is born again - Acts 19:1-6.

II. The Three works of the Spirit

1. Regeneration - The impartation of spiritual life into the sinner to make them a child of God - Titus 3:5; John 3:3-5

2. Spirit filled - To be full of the Spirit. To be controlled by Him - Eph. 5:18; Acts 2:4; 4:31.

3. Spirit Baptism - To be immersed in the Spirit - Mark 1:8; Acts 1:5-8; 11:15-17.

a. In most Pentecostal/Charismatic circles the terms Spirit filled and Spirit baptised are used synonymously. Yet they are two different works of the Spirit. However, they can occur at the same time.

III. Why receive this baptism?

1. Jesus received it and so should we - Luke 3:21-22.

2. The early apostles and disciples received - Luke 24:49; Acts 2:1-4.

3. Power to become an effective witness - Acts 1:8; 8:5-8

4. Supernatural prayer power - 1 Cor. 14:2, 4, 16-17; Jude 20; Rom. 8:26-27

IV. How To Receive.

1. The fundamental element for receiving is faith - Gal. 3:2, 5, 14.
2. We must ASK - Luke 11:9-13.
3. Yield your tongue to Him and receive a new language.
4. Sometimes we may need to have hands laid on us - Acts 8:15-17; 9:17-18.

CONCLUSION: After having gone through this lesson you should be convinced that this baptism is for you and you can receive. If you have not yet entered into this wonderful blessing then follow the steps outlined in this lesson. Though it is better to ask God for this baptism in your own way, below is a prayer that may help you if you are at a loss as to how to ask:

Heavenly Father

The Lord Jesus promised that I can receive the baptism with the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking with other tongues. You promised that if I ask then I would receive exactly that which I have asked you for. Father I thank you in the name of your son Jesus and I yield myself to you Holy Spirit. Thank you for baptizing me with Your Spirit.

Now just lift your hands and receive. Don't forget to share this blessing with others.

Basics For Believers

Lesson Six: Speaking In Tongues

I. What Are Tongues?

1. It is a gift that is available to EVERY believer

a. Mark 16:15-17

2. The initial physical evidence of having received the baptism with the Holy Spirit.

a. Acts 2:4; 10:44-46; 19:6.

3. The Bible gives no other initial physical evidence other than tongues.

II. The Benefits Of Speaking In Tongues (Part 1)

1. You receive a new prayer language - 1 Cor. 14:2, 14,15; Rom. 8:26, 27.

a. *Praying in the Spirit guarantees perfect prayer that is directed by the Holy Spirit; untouched by doubt and fear of the mind; and impossible for the devil to understand or hinder* - D. Stewart.

2. Your spirit man is edified and encouraged - 1 Cor. 14:4, Jude 20.

3. Resisting The Devil - Eph. 6:10-12, 18.

III. The Benefits Of Speaking In Tongues (Part 2)

1. Helps us to enter into God's perfect rest - Matt. 11:28; Heb. 4:3, 9, 10; Isa. 28:11-12.

2. Giving God perfect thanks and praise - 1 Cor. 14:14-17; Acts 10:46.

3. Enables us to operate in the gift of tongues and interpretation - 1 Cor. 14:5, 13.

4. A sign to the unbeliever - 1 Cor. 14:22; Acts 2:11-12.

IV. Some Practical Things.

1. Practice speaking in tongues to yourself at every opportunity (Car, shower, work, etc.) - 1 Cor. 14:18.
2. If you have not received this wonderful gift, ask God - Luke 11:13.
3. If you do not believe in this gift do not forbid anyone else to use it - 1 Cor. 14:39, 40.

CONCLUSION: The issue of tongues has been the greatest subject of controversy amongst Christian. This is still so today. This teaching seems to be the greatest area of attack by the devil more than any other doctrine in the Bible. This is so because in many cases, praying in other tongues is the gateway to much spiritual power.

We do not think less of those who do not believe in speaking in other tongues. There are many men and women who are being used of God that either do not believe that God does this today, or that some do and some don't. Regardless of opinion, the Bible makes it plain and simple that it is available today and that it is available to EVERY believer. Do not look down on those who DO NOT believe the way you do but rejoice in the blessing that you have received.

If you have not received a prayer language, ask God right now and He will give it to you.

Basics For Believers

Lesson Seven: The Local Church

I. What is a local church?

1. The local church is a portion of members from the worldwide local body of Christ that meet, fellowship, and worship together in a specific location.

a. Matt. 18:20; Phil. 1:27; 1 Cor. 14:23, 26.

2. The universal church is built by Jesus Christ and is founded upon the revelation of who He is. There is only ONE church. There are not "churches". Nevertheless, there are local assemblies of believers of all different types and denominations who make up the one universal body of Christ. These are called local churches (Matt. 16:16-18).

II. Why join a local church?

1. There is no such thing as lone Christianity. We need one another. All of us together can stand and destroy the strongholds of the enemy.

a. Matt. 16:18

2. We are the body of Christ. The members of a body should not be severed and separated - 1 Cor. 12:12-27

3. No Christian can enjoy any real success without the fellowship of other believers. One cannot claim to be a true Christian and not have the inward desire to fellowship with others in the Body of Christ.

III. Benefits of the local church (Part 1)

1. Bible teaching - 1 Cor. 12:28; Eph. 4:11-16; 1 Pet. 5:2; Acts 20:28; 1 Cor. 3:2; 1 Tim. 3:2.

2. Fellowship - Acts 2:42; 46-47; 1 John 1:7.

3. Encouraging one another - 1 Thess. 5:11; 1 Cor. 14:26.

IV. Benefits of the local church (Part 2)

1. Praying together - Matt. 18:18-20; Acts 1:14; 4:24-32; 5:12; 12:1-11.

2. Evangelism - Acts 5:14; 8:1-4

3. Access to the elders for prayer - James 5:14-15.

CONCLUSION: Hebrews 10:25 tells us *"You should not stay away from the church meetings, AS SOME ARE DOING. But you should meet together and encourage each other. Do this even more as you see the day coming."* (The Everyday Bible).

The church is necessary for our spiritual growth. It is necessary for our ministry to others. Those who do not attend church on a consistent basis are those who do not have much victory in their walk with Christ. The local church is important and attendance is necessary.

Find a church that believes in the above benefits we have mentioned. Do not attend dead churches. Find a local church and commit yourself to it. Support the church financially and with your time. Arrive on time for all services and submit yourself to the godly spiritual leaders of that assembly.

Basics For Believers

Lesson Eight: The Holy Communion

I. What is the Holy Communion?

1. It is an outward recognition of the covenant (binding agreement) that Jesus made with us through His broken body and shed blood.

a. Matt. 26:26-29; 1 Cor. 11:23-26

2. It is a MEMORIAL, a reminder of all of the redemption rights and blessings that belong to us because of the shed blood of Christ.

a. Col. 1:12-14; Gal. 3:13-17.

3. The body and blood sustains life. We see this when Melchizedek presents the bread and wine to Abram after a great war. This was to provide him new energy and remind him of God's covenant protection.

a. Gen. 14:18-15:5

II. The meaning of the BREAD.

1. The bread represents the body of the Lord Jesus Christ

a. John 6:48-58; 1 Cor. 10:16-18

2. Bread represents food. The Word of God is called bread. Jesus is the Word made flesh. He sustains life.

a. Deut. 8:3; John 1:1, 14; Matt. 15:21-28

3. Jesus body was broken for us and the bread reminds us of the healing redemptive power from His broken body.

a. Isa. 53:4-8; 1 Pet. 2:24

b. Healing is the children's bread - Mark 7:27

III. The meaning of the WINE.

1. The wine represents the BLOOD of Jesus.

a. 1 Cor. 10:16-18; John 6:48-58.

2. The blood is life and therefore sustains life.

a. Lev. 17:11, 14.

3. There is much power in the blood of the lamb. It is this blood that washes away our sins, cleanses us from all unrighteousness and brings us complete victory over sin. One cannot have a BLOODLESS gospel. The blood is what Satan is most afraid of and is what drives him away.

a. Rev. 1:5; 1 John 1:7; Rev. 12:11; Heb. 2:14-15; Col. 2:14-16.

IV. Our Attitude during Communion

1. 1 Cor. 11:20-34

a. This is more than a mere ritual or memorial. It is an act of faith that can bring great blessing into our lives when done in faith.

b. We must have the right attitude and be cleansed of sin or we receive not a blessing, but a curse due to our careless attitude towards this sacred event. Let us learn to examine ourselves.

c. Do it as often as you like. It need not be done only once a month. Families and individuals can take communion at home.

CONCLUSION: Everything we find in the Word of God has been written for our profit (1 Tim. 3:16). All that Christ has done was for the benefit of His children. God is self sufficient and is in need of nothing. Nevertheless, He loved us so much that His only Son died upon the cross and His body was broken and His blood was shed on our behalf. All that we have in Christ is the result of this sacrifice. The Holy Communion reminds us of this and therefore the taking of this is a practical way to claim all the benefits of the death of our Lord. Do not take this event lightly. Treat it with the sensitivity and sacredness that you would if you were holding the REAL body and blood of our Lord.

Basics For Believers

Lesson Nine: Understanding The Tri-unity Of The Godhead

I. What is the Godhead - Col. 2:9-10

2. Godhead = theotes (Greek) - Indicates the “divine” essence of Godhood, the personality of God (Vines). The nature of God as existing in three persons - used with the godhood (Webster’s).
 - a. God is complete and understanding this will help us to see our completeness in Christ.
 - b. **Eph. 3:14-21** - This text presents the truth of the whole Godhead in relation to our practical spiritual life. *We bow our knees to God as Father in the name of the Son. We ask Him to strengthen us through the Spirit so that Christ may dwell in our heart. The Son leads to the Father and the Father again reveals the Son in us. Then as the Son dwells in the heart and is rooted and grounded in love, we are led on to be filled with all the fullness of God. Our heart becomes the scene of the interchange of operation of the Holy Three. As our hearts believe this, we give glory through Christ to Him who is able to do more than we can think by His Holy Spirit* - Andrew Murray.
2. The common phrase used to describe the completeness of God is *the Trinity*. According to Webster’s Dictionary, Trinity means *the unity of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit as three persons in one Godhead according to Christian dogma*.
 - a. The Bible specifically states that these are three individuals, yet they are ONE - 1 John 5:7 (compare to John 1:1-2, 14).
 - b. Many other Scriptures show that there are three individuals referred to as God - Matt. 3:13-17; 28:18-20; John 5:17-18; 2 Cor. 1:1-3; Gal. 1:1-3; Phil. 1:2; 1 Thess. 1:1-6; 1 Pet. 1:1-3; Eph. 1:17; 4:4-6.

II. The Old Testament’s Teaching Of The Godhead

1. We find the Godhead in the beginning - Gen. 1:1-2
 - a. God = Elohim (Hebrew). “El” is the singular form of this word. When “im” is added it makes this word plural. So “Elohim is the plural word for “God”.
 - b. We also find that the Spirit of God (The Holy Spirit) was present (v. 2).
 - c. We find the phrase “Let US” used several times in Genesis chapter one. Many New Testament passages reveal that the Father and Son were there as well as the Holy Spirit (John 1:1-4; Col. 1:14-19; John 8:58-59).
2. The children of Israel were to declare that the Lord is ONE God - Deut. 6:4
 - a. The translation from the Hebrew is “*Shema Ysrael Yahweh Elohim **achad** Yahweh.*” *Achad* means ONE.
 - b. The word *achad* indicates a COMPOUND unity, not a singular unity. The same word is used in Gen. 2:24 (Gen. 2:21-25). *Yachad* is used when referring to a singular unity.
 - c. *Achad* used together with *Elohim* suggests the tri-unity of God.
 - d. Num. 6:24 - The name “Yahweh” is used THREE times in this passage as a blessing upon Israel.

III. God gives us further insight into the tri-unity of the Godhead

1. Jesus prays that the church be ONE as He and the Father are ONE - John 17:11, 21-23.
 - a. The church is ONE body but many members - 1 Cor. 12:12, 20
 - b. When we act as ONE, we can accomplish great things - Gen. 11:6 (Matt. 18:18-20).
2. As we have seen earlier, the marriage relationship is to be ONE just as the Godhead is ONE.
 - a. Gen. 2:21-25
 - b. A husband and wife in unity can accomplish great things - 1 Pet. 3:7
3. Just as the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are in perfect agreement and harmony, so should we strive towards this in our marriage relationships and in our relationships with one another.

IV. Other practical insights concerning the Godhead

1. Ephesians points out some wonderful blessings concerning the Godhead
 - a. Eph. 1:12-13 - The Father, in Christ, sealed by the Holy Spirit: covenant protection.
 - b. Eph. 2:18 - Access through Christ, by one Spirit, to the Father: prayers answered.
 - c. Eph. 6:10-18 - Victory in warfare: Strong in the Lord, whole armour of God, sword of the Spirit and prayer in the Spirit.
2. The Trinity and healing
 - a. Acts 10:38

CONCLUSION: The tri-unity of the Godhead is what distinguishes Christianity from every religion from every religion and cult in the world. Most religions will deny the deity of Jesus Christ and the personality of the Holy Spirit. Many of them will also deny the fatherhood of God and make Him to be an unloving deity.

*Any religion which teaches against this Biblical truth concerning God should be considered a cult.

There are some such as the Muslims who believe that Christians teach that there are THREE Gods. The Bible simply teaches THREE PERSONS and ONE GOD. We teach what the Bible teaches. This book has been much more reliable than any Koran's, book of Mormon, or any other extra biblical revelation. We choose to stick with the Bible and if one considers themselves to be a born again Christian, they too must consider the Bible the only written record of God's Word to man.

* The only exception I might ever make in this case is the United Pentecostal Church who teaches what is commonly known as the "Jesus only" doctrine. I base my exception of them on Acts 4:12 and Rom. 10:9-10. Although I do not agree with them, neither would I consider them a cult.

Basics For Believers

Lesson Ten: Importance Of Bible Study

I. What is Bible Study?

1. According to Webster's Collegiate Thesaurus, the English words related to study are: *contemplation, weighing, abstraction, MEDITATION, musing, pondering, rumination.*

2. The Bible is God's Word. It reveals God's will and plan to us. It gives us the knowledge and reveals to us our ability to live the Christian life as well as life in general.

a. 2 Pet. 1:3-4; James 1:21-24; 2 Tim. 3:16.

II. The purpose of Bible Study.

1. To renew the mind.

a. Rom. 12:1-2; Eph. 4:22-23; 1 Cor. 2:14; Rom. 8:5-7; James 1:21; Phil. 4:8

2. To produce faith.

a. Rom. 10:17; Prov. 4:20-22

3. For dealing with the devil.

a. Matt. 4:1-11; Eph. 6:17; 1 John 2:14; 2 Cor. 10:3-5

III. Eight blessings of Bible Study (Part 1)

1. Prosperity - Josh. 1:7-8; Ps. 1:3

2. Success - Josh. 1:8

3. Blessing - Psalm 1:1; James 1:25

4. A firm foundation - Ps. 1:3

IV. Eight blessings of Bible Study (Part 2)

1. Fruit - Ps. 1:3; John 15:1-7

a. Another word for fruit can be "results".

2. No withering - Ps. 1:3

a. You'll never backslide or dry up from as you water yourself with the word.

3. Understanding - Ps. 119:27

4. Wisdom above enemies and teachers - Ps. 119:97-99

CONCLUSION: After studying this lesson you should now see that Bible study is not an area to be neglected. It is essential to your spiritual life and your physical well being. The next lesson will show you HOW to study the Bible. But we feel that before you learn the HOW, you should know the WHY. It is important and will benefit you greatly.

Basics For Believers

Lesson Eleven: How To Study The Bible

I. Buy good study tools.

1. Get yourself a concordance (Strong's recommended), a good Bible dictionary, and a good commentary (F. B. Meyer Bible commentary recommended).
2. Set a scheduled time, keep a notebook, pen, and your study tools handy. Make this a daily habit - Matt. 4:4; Acts 17:11; Ps. 68:19.
3. You can start off by studying a book (John is recommended for the new believer), a chapter, a passage, or use your concordance and study a subject.

II. Secrets of effective Bible Study (Part 1)

1. Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to give you a revelation of His Word.
 - a. Eph. 1:16-18; 6:17-18; John 14:26; 1 John 2:27; 2 Cor. 3:6.
2. Personalize the Scripture
 - a. Read God's Word as though it were a letter written to you personally. Personalize each promise as though God spoke it to you personally. Determine to obey and fulfill every command as though He were standing there ordering you.

III. Secrets of effective Bible Study (Part 2)

1. Choose to believe every word literally
 - a. 1 Thess. 2:13
 - b. God is not a liar (Titus 1:1-2). He does not deceive. He means what He says. The Bible was written for man and in a language in which men are well able to understand it.
2. When studying Bible people such as Abraham, Moses, Peter, etc. then see yourself in them. If they were successful then do what they did. In their failures, find out what caused it and avoid it.
 - a. 1 Cor. 10:11

b. Elijah - an example for us (James 5:14-18).

IV. Secrets of effective Bible Study (Part 3)

1. Interpret all Old Testament Scripture in the light of the New Testament.

a. Many have gone into bondage by not following this simple principle.

b. Some good examples - 2 Sam. 24:1, 10; James 1:13; 1 Chron. 21:1; Matt. 4:1.

2. Attend your church Bible studies. Take notes and study them.

a. Eph. 4:8-13

3. Endeavour to APPLY all that you study to your personal life.

a. Josh. 1:8; Prov. 23:12; James 1:22-25; Luke 6:46-49; 2 Tim. 3:16.

CONCLUSION: There are many different books that teaches one how to study the Bible. There are many different ways and methods of Bible study. We do not claim to give the last word on the subject. However, we have found that many books that teach these methods are detailed and time exhaustive for one who needs to be fed the sincere milk of the Word right away. In this lesson we have endeavored to present you with the simplest secrets for studying the Bible. With you and the Holy Spirit, Bible study can easily become a joy and not a chore.

Basics For Believers

Lesson Twelve: The Necessity Of Prayer

I. God's Word tells us that in order to receive anything from Him, we must ask.

1. James 4:2; Matt. 6:7-9; 7:7

2. God is omniscient (all-knowledgeable), omnipotent (all-powerful), and omnipresent (can be anywhere and everywhere), yet it is necessary for us to pray.

II. Man Gives Away His God Given Dominion.

1. Gen. 1:26-28.

A. After God created the earth, He placed everything into man's hands. Man signed everything over to the devil - Gen. 3:6. Satan became ruler of the world (John 12:30-31; 14:30; 2 Cor. 4:4; Luke 4:5-7).

B. Even though all belongs to God (Psalms 24:1-2), he gave all to man, man in turn gave all to the devil. Because God is fair and just, He will not usurp authority over the devil, therefore He needs someone here on earth to invite or ask Him to do what needs to be done. He needs LEGAL entry.

III. God Can Do His Part When We Do Ours.

1. What we do here on earth determines what will be done in heaven. - Matt. 18:18-20.

A. Moses cooperation with God was the deciding factor for victory - Exod. 17:9-11.

2. Our prayer life can either accomplish or hinder God's purposes on earth. God will reveal His purpose to us, but we must still pray so that it can be accomplished - Ezek. 36:37.

A. Our praying determines what God does on earth. The power of God is at our disposal. God desires that we use it. Much prayer, much power. Little prayer, little power. No prayer, no power.

IV. Prayer: The foundation for success in the early church.

1. Acts 1:14

A. If it were not for the early disciples prayer and supplication, God could not have done what He did on Pentecost (Acts 2:1-4, 42-47)

B. It is God's desire for all to be saved but He will not force His will upon anyone. We must pray for the lost (1 Tim. 2:4; 2 Pet. 3:9).

2. The early church shows us how diligence and commitment to prayer determines how God can work in our lives.

A. Acts 4:31-33; 6:4; 12:1-11; 13:2-4.

CONCLUSION: Some have a problem when you tell them that God cannot do certain things on the earth without someone praying. "God Almighty needs no one, He is God and can do whatever He wishes" is the argument you may encounter. Yet, we know that it is God's will for people to be saved but not everyone is. If God were truly ruling upon the earth, then why is this world in such a mess?

God is powerful enough to take over this world if He so desires. However, what His power attributes gives Him the ABILITY to do, His moral attributes PREVENTS Him from doing so. The Bible tells us that God cannot lie - it's impossible for Him to do so (Titus 1:1-2; Heb. 6:18; Num. 23:19). He has established certain laws that even He cannot violate because it would be against His nature.

Satan's time is short (See Revelation 12) and soon Jesus will rule and reign over the earth. THEN God shall have full control. Until then, you and I are required to pray and allow God to rule and reign upon the earth through US.

Basics For Believers

Lesson Thirteen: Asking Gets Answers - 7 Principles for asking and receiving

I. Asking means to make a petition or request. This is type of praying is done when you desire God to give you something or to do something on your behalf.

1. ASKING is essential to receiving anything from God

A. James 4:2; Matt. 6:8-9.

2. Realize it is your Father's desire to give you what you have asked for.

A. Matthew 7:11

B. God's love for us must become a sure reality to us if we are going to be confident that He will bless us.

C. God loves us affectionately.

II. The Bible tells us ways to ENSURE that we receive that which we ask for.

1. Use God's Word as a basis for asking.

A. 1 Jn 3:14-15; Jn 15:7

B. God's will - His purpose, decree, desire, pleasure. The Word of God reveals the will of God (Ps. 40:8).

2. Live a life pleasing to God

A. 1 John 3:22; Isa. 59:1-2.

B. We can never claim promises without fulfilling the conditions. God is under no obligation to answer the prayers of disobedient children but delights in blessing those who live righteously (Prov. 10:24).

III. Your Authority for approaching God with your requests.

1. Ask, using the name of Jesus.

A. John 14:13-14; 15:16; 16:23-24.

B. The name of Jesus is what gives us access to the throne (Eph. 2:18).

IV. Faith - the essential ingredient for receiving from God

1. Believe that you have received the moment you ask.

A. 1 Jn 5:15; Mark 11:24.

B. Faith is not based on our physical senses but it is based on God's promise to do something. If all the previous steps have been taken then you are assured of a blessing.

C. Faith expresses itself in thanksgiving and praise (Phil. 4:6)

2. No doubting please.

A. James 1:5-7; Matt. 21:21-22.

B. Be ready to use the scriptures that you have based your petitions upon to destroy the thoughts and feelings of doubt that Satan will send your way. Stay away from anything and listen to nothing that will cause you to doubt.

CONCLUSION: God truly wants to bless His people but He requires that we ask. The lazy person can never receive from God. God has designed a system by which He will work through to supply your needs AND give you the desires of your heart. That system is called prayer. Work the system correctly and it will always work for you.

Basics For Believers

Lesson Fourteen: The Prayer Of Intercession

I. Intercession is not only a type of prayer, it is a powerful ministry.

1. Isaiah 59:16
2. What Is Intercession?
 - a. Intercession is standing in the Gap between God and someone else - Ezek. 22:30.
 - b. Websters - *Prayer, petition, or intreaty in favor of another.*
 - c. Children of God are allowed to intercede for those who cannot - Job 9:32-33; Heb. 4:16.

II. We Are Commanded To Intercede.

1. God Desires that all men be saved. That is the purpose of intercession - 1 Tim. 2:1-6.
 - a. We should also intercede for our nation - 2 Chron. 7:14.
 - b. Successful evangelism requires successful praying - Luke 10:2.

III. Preparing To Intercede.

1. Prayer is part of the Christian armor and duty - Eph. 6:18
 - a. Intercessors should possess such qualities as love for ALL men, patience, endurance, and faith.
2. We must use our God given authority while interceding:
 - a. First bind the devil - Matt. 12:29; 18:18.
 - b. Loose his power over those whom you are praying for - Matt. 18:18.

IV. Rely Upon The Holy Spirit.

1. The Holy Spirit is our helper when praying - Rom. 8:26-27.

2. Sometimes we are prompted to pray for something or someone but we don't know what. The Holy Spirit will pray through us.

3. Praying in tongues is speaking to God - 1 Cor. 14:2

CONCLUSION: We have seen in the past several lessons that there is more than one type of prayer, or, there is more than one way to pray and talk with God. In the past, many have been confused because they did not know the difference between petitioning God for themselves and standing in prayer on the behalf of others. We must know the differences in order to become successful prayer warriors.

Basics For Believers

Lesson Fifteen: Fasting

“But the days will come, when the bridegroom shall be taken from them, and they shall fast.” (Matt. 9:15).

I. What does it actually mean to fast (Matt. 4:2; Luke 4:2)

1. From our scriptures, we can see that fasting means NOT EATING

a. Some have tried to say that fasting means self denial or abstaining from things. We can over-spiritualize an important teaching.

2. God is the object of our fast (Zech 7:5; Acts 13:2).

a. As in many things, we may be tempted to fast for selfishness (I.E. losing weight, become healthier, etc.).

b. If we expect God to bless us in our fasting then we must direct our fast towards Him.

II. The importance of fasting.

1. Adam and Eve's disobedience was a result of food. Also Esau sold his birthright for a mess of pottage (Gen. 3:6-7; 25:31-33).

a. The children of Israel tempted God by a lust for food (Ps. 106:14-15).

2. Christians must realize that one must have a PURPOSE for fasting.

a. In other words, don't fast just to be fasting. Have a goal in mind. What are you seeking God for?

b. Examples: Fasting for direction, healing, or dealing with a demonic spirit (Isa. 58:4-12; Acts 13:2; 9:9; Matt. 17:14-21).

3. Fasting MUST be accompanied with prayer.

III. The Importance of fasting (Continued)

1. Fasting helps to overcome the devil in many areas (Luke 4:1-13).

a. Jesus faced the same temptations as Adam and Eve, yet He overcame through fasting.

2. Fasting will give men power over the temptations of the flesh.

c. Daniel overcame the prince of Persian through fasting and prayer (Dan. 10:2-5, 12-14).

IV. The types of fasts and how to break a fast.

1. There are different types of fasts.

a. SUPERNATURAL: Moses on Mount Sinai. was kept by God.

b. TOTAL: Fasting without food but drinking water.

c. NO DELICACIES: The case of Daniel (Dan. 10:3).

d. NON TOTAL: Eating nothing but drinking juice or milk.

2. Christians must realize how to BREAK (or stop) a fast.

a. We must be careful never to GORGE ourselves after a fast, especially a long one. That could be dangerous.

b. The fast must be broken little by little. (Maybe starting with soup and working our way back to a normal diet slowly).

CONCLUSION: We are very critical of people who smoke and drink alcoholic beverages. Practicing these habits are wrong, yet many Christians have a similar problem. Many Christians have no control over their appetites. This is just as much a sin as smoking and drinking. The reason for the lack of power in many churches today is due to a lack of fasting. Christians need to come back to this practice and learn to consecrate themselves unto God.

Basics For Believers

Lesson Sixteen: 7 Reasons Why Faith Is Important

I. God demands faith.

1. God cannot be pleased apart from faith.

a. Heb. 11:6; Rom. 14:23.

b. If you desire to please God then this is the essential element.

2. Lack of faith is what caused the fall of man.

a. Gen. 2:15-17; 3:1-7; 1 Tim. 2:14.

b. Disobedience is a lack of faith in God that can bring terrible consequences.

II. Faith and the Christian life.

3. One cannot be saved apart from faith.

a. Eph. 2:8-9; John 3:16-18; Rom. 10:8-10.

b. Since lack of faith caused the fall then only faith can restore us back to God.

4. The Christian life is lived by faith.

a. 2 Cor. 5:7; Romans 1:17 (Hab. 2:4; Gal. 2:20; 3:11; Heb. 10:38).

b. Once we have been restored to God then we must continue in living by faith.

III. Faith and Prayer.

5. Our prayers cannot be answered apart from faith.

a. Matt. 21:22; James 1:6-7.

b. Faith maintains our Christian life. Prayer activates faith.

IV. Other important aspects of faith.

6. Our enemies cannot be overcome without it.

a. 1 Pet. 5:8-9; Eph. 6:10-12, 16; 1 Tim. 6:12.

b. The devil fights against your faith. You win your spiritual battles through faith.

7. All things in the Christian life are possible through faith.

a. Mark 9:23 (Eph 1:3; 2 Pet. 1:3; 1 Cor. 3:21-22).

b. Nothing is impossible to God. You can appropriate the power of omnipotence through faith.

CONCLUSION: The scriptures are clear as to the importance of faith. If we are going to be victorious in this life, we will not do it apart from faith. It is the **KEY** that unlocks all of the treasures of heaven on our behalf. We must learn to walk in faith.

Basics For Believers

Lesson Seventeen: How To Operate In Faith

I. Know What Faith Is - Heb 11:1-6.

1. Faith is substance and evidence. When God has promised to meet a need, then faith says that need is met even if I don't physically see it.
2. Faith is related to the spiritual realm. It says what God has promised is already mine.
3. There is a difference between faith and hope. Hope is very important (Heb. 6:19), but it is not enough. Faith gives substance to our hope.

II. Know How To Appropriate Faith - Rom. 10:17

1. Many people are constantly praying for faith. God does not impart faith in answer to prayer alone. We meditate in God's Word. (Joshua 1:8).
2. God has given His children many promises in the Bible to cover every need that we could ever have. When a need arises, we must find the promise that applies to it. This will build the faith we need to receive from God.

III. Know How To Use Your Faith (Part 1)

1. James 2:17-26.
 - a. Once we have learned what Faith is and how to appropriate it, we must begin to use it.
2. Some ways to use our faith:
 - a. Use your faith in prayer (James 1:26; Mark 11:24).
 - b. Continue to confess the Word, not the problem (Hebrews 4:15; 10:23).

IV. Know How To Use Your Faith (Part 2)

- a. Take the action that the scripture requires (James 1:22; Matt. 7:24-27).
- b. Begin to act as if it already belongs to you by thanking and praising God (Mark 11:24).

Conclusion: When we learn these basic principles concerning faith, we can begin a life and adventure of faith. It is only by faith that we are able to please God (Heb. 11:6) and appropriate from Him all that we need or desire.

Basics For Believers

Lesson Eighteen: Guidance

I. God has promised to guide and give direction to His people

1. Prov. 3:5-6; Ps. 32:8-9; Isa. 58:11 (As a result of fasting); Ps. 25:8-10; Ps. 37:23; John 10:27

a. When you ask God for guidance you need not worry about getting another voice - Matt. 7:7-11; James 1:5-7.

2. When we need direction from God the first thing we should do is meditate on His promises. As we do we will have confidence that He will do as He says and give us the direction we need.

II. Primary source of guidance: The Word of God

1. Ps. 119:105; 130; Prov. 6:23

a. Expect no other guidance from God until you have first learned to clearly follow that which is written.

2. The Holy Spirit will always lead you in line with God's Word.

a. John 14:23-26

3. People have asked, "Is that God or the devil speaking to me?" Here is an easy test:

a. Does it line up with God's Word?

b. Is it earthly, sensual, devilish, and confusing? Or is it pure, peaceable, gentle, and without hypocrisy - James 3:15-18.

III. The Holy Spirit and the Spirit of man.

1. God promises that the Holy Spirit will lead us and guide us into all truth.

a. John 16:13-15

2. Man is a TRIPART being. He is *spirit, soul, and body*.

a. 1 Thess. 5:23; Heb. 4:12

3. The Holy Spirit usually speaks to our spirits, not our soulish realm or the physical realm.

a. Mark 2:8; Prov. 20:27; Rom. 8:16; 1 Cor. 2:9-15

b. Many of us spend time developing our bodies and our minds, but we spend little to no time at all developing our spirits. Yet, we wonder why we do not hear from God.

c. Develop your spirit by meditating in God's Word and praying in the Spirit (Josh. 1:8; 1 Cor. 14:2-4; Jude 20).

IV. The Holy Spirit and our conscience

1. The conscience is a safe guide for the consecrated born again believer.

a. Rom. 9:1; Acts 23:1; John 8:9; 1 Tim. 3:9

b. The conscience is the voice of our spirit and will lead us to do the right thing.

2. Is your spirit at peace or is it troubled?

a. Isa. 48:17-18; Col. 3:15; John 11:33; 13:21

b. Your conscience acts like a traffic light from God. If you are going in a certain direction and you are at peace then this is the "green light." Keep going. However, if you are going in a certain direction and you are troubled in your spirit then this is a "red light." Stop and seek God for direction.

CONCLUSION: People often want guidance from God through audible voices, visions, angels, prophecies, and other supernatural phenomenon. Although God does do these things today, this is not His normal way of guiding His children. People who seek these things can be very easily deceived by Satan who is the god of this world (2 Cor. 4:4) and who operates in the physical realm. When we follow God's perfect way of receiving guidance, which is through the Holy Spirit speaking to our spirit, then we will be protected from any outside voices.

Note: For further insight into this subject I highly recommend the book *How You Can Be Led By The Spirit Of God* by Rev. Kenneth E. Hagin.

Basics For Believers

Lesson Nineteen: Divine Healing

I. The Bible shows us God's attitude towards healing.

1. Realize that it is God's will to heal today - Mark 1:40-42; 3 Jn 2.

A. Some believe that God does not heal today. There is no Biblical basis for this belief. God never changes (Malachi 3:6; Heb. 13:8; Heb. 8:6).

2. Realize God will heal anyone that comes to Him in faith. (Mark 5:34).

A. Some who may believe that healing is for today will tell you that it is not God's will to heal everyone.

B. We don't claim to know all the reasons why some are healed and some are not but we do know that God shows no favoritism (Acts 10:34; Rom. 2:11; Eph. 6:9).

II. Don't put God in a box.

1. Realize that God uses a variety of methods to provide healing.

A. God's Heals through His Word (Ps. 107:20; Prov. 4:20-22).

B. God heals through faith and prayer (James 5:14-15).

C. God heals through the laying on of hands (Mark 16:18).

D. God heals through the gifts of the Spirit (1 Cor. 12:4, 9).

III. How sickness and disease comes.

1. Realize that Satan is the author of sickness and disease (Acts 10:38).

A. Scripture confirms that Satan is behind sickness, disease and death (Job 2:7; Luke 13:16; Jn. 10:10; Matt. 12:22; Mark 9:17-26).

B. The fall gave Satan rights to man's body (Gen. 2:16-17; Rom. 5:12).

2. Realize that sickness can come through sin and unbelief.

A. The Old Testament shows this (Deut. 28:1-14; Numb. 14:36-37; 21:7-9; Lev. 14:15). Nevertheless healing was always provided upon repentance.

IV. Healing in the atonement.

1. Jesus died for our sicknesses (John 3:14; Num. 21:9).

A. Sickness began with sin. Jesus died for both (Isa. 53:4-5; Matt. 8:16-17; 1 Peter 2:24). Sickness is the work of the devil. Jesus came to destroy his works. (1 John 3:18).

2. God is not glorified by sickness, but by HEALING (Luke 5:17-26; 18:35-43).

A. Some feel that sickness is actually a blessing from God to humble them or make them pious. God's healing power is what draws many to Him (Acts 3:1-10; 4:21-22).

CONCLUSION: We do not teach these lessons to belittle those who are suffering a sickness, are handicapped, etc. Many people who are sick have faith to believe God in many other areas of their Christian life. However, we are teaching God's BEST for every Christian. His best is perfect soundness in spirit, mind, and body. God loves you no matter what state you are in, but He makes His BEST available to you.

Basic For Believers

Lesson Twenty: The Power Of Praising God!

I. It is God's desire that we praise Him with childlike faith.

1. Psalms 8:1-2; Matt. 21:16

a. Praising God in the midst of negative circumstances can turn seeming defeat into total victory.

II. Praise Demonstrates Faith.

1. God has promised to answer prayer upon His established principles

a. Phil. 4:6-7.

2. It is our duty and privilege as kings and priests to offer God praise

a. Heb 13:15.

III. Victorious Living Through Praise.

1. Through Jesus death, burial, and resurrection, victory belongs to the child of God. It is appropriated through praise.

a. 1 Cor. 15:56-57; 2 Cor. 2:14.

2. David shows us how to appropriate God's power.

b. Psalms 9:1-4; 50:14, 15, 23; 56:4-11.

IV. Biblical Examples Of Victory Through Praise.

1. The first thing Jehoshaphat did was seek God. Then he prayed according to the word.

a. 2 Chron. 20:9.

b. The results of praise - 2 Chron. 20:17-22.

2. Jonah put action to his faith by praising God. He offered the sacrifice of thanksgiving.

a. Jonah 2:1-10.

b. Paul and Silas got victory when they praised God in spite of there circumstances - Acts 16:16-31.

CONCLUSION: Praise is an act of FAITH. It is the highest expression of faith because it shows we are trusting God.

Basics For Believers

Lesson Twenty One: Worship

I. God demands that we worship Him - Deut. 26:10-11

1. Christians must realize what worship is.

A. Giving glory to God for WHO HE IS (2 Chron. 16:9; Rom. 12:1-3).

B. R.A. Torrey - *In prayer we are occupied with our needs, in thanksgiving we are occupied with our blessings, in worship we are occupied with HIMSELF.*

2. Christians must realize that it is GOD ONLY whom we worship (Matt. 4:10).

A. Each member of the Godhead, the Father, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit is deserving of our worship.

B. We are not to worship any devil, angel, or man (Acts 10:25-26; Rev. 22:8-9).

II. The PURPOSE for worship.

1. Richard Booker - To exalt God by showing Him honor and respect for His greatness and majesty and moral perfections (2 Kings 17:35-36).

A. Worship is expressed for God in adoration, service, and sacrifice (Psalm 95:6-7; 96:8-9; 100:1-2; 2 Sam. 24:24).

2. Christians must realize that God is WORTHY to be worshipped (Rev. 4:11; 5:12; Ps. 86:8-9).

A. The word "worship" comes from the Anglo Saxon word "*worth-ship*". This is one who is worthy to receive glory, and honor and adoration.

B. Get to know God intimately. Have a personal relationship with Him. Read the scriptures, pray, and listen to the Holy Spirit.

III. WHERE do we worship?

1. Christians must realize that the physical location is not important, but HOW we worship is (John 4:20-24).

A. We must worship in the spirit by the power of the Holy Spirit (Phil. 3:3-4; Romans 8:14-16; Gal. 4:6).

B. We are the temple of God, so therefore we can worship the Lord no matter where we are (1 Cor. 3:16-17; 6:19-20).

IV. Worship related to warfare and blessing

1. Christians must realize that Satan will fight against our worship.

A. Satan has always desired the worship that belongs to God only and will offer you the world for it (Luke 4:5-8; Isa. 14:12-15).

B. Worship God and you will defeat the purposes of the devil in your life (2 Chron. 20:18-22).

2. Christians must realize that worshipping God will bring physical blessings.

A. Worshipping of God will result in answer to prayer faster than any crying and begging we can do (Matt. 15:21-28; 8:2-3; 9:18-26).

B. If we get caught up with God and not our problems then God will take care of the problems.

CONCLUSION: We see that worshipping our God is the most important thing anyone can do. That is what you and I were created for. If we do not do it then we are told in the Bible that the rocks will cry out. God does not desire worship because He is an egotist but because He wants a relationship with His people.

He wants to bless His people and this is a definite avenue to receive all that He has. He wants us to be caught up in Him and not ourselves or the cares of this world. Determine to worship God daily.

Basics For Believers

Lesson Twenty Two: Tithes And Offerings

I. One must have a RIGHT attitude towards giving and tithing.

1. 2 Cor 9:6-8; 1 Tim. 6:10; Matthew 6:24; Acts 20:35.

2. We demonstrate who is first in our life by our TITHING.

A. The tithe is the FIRST TENTH of our income. Not what is left over (Proverbs 3:9-10).

B. Tithing is a demonstration of worship. It shows who is first in our lives (Gen. 14:18-20; 28:20-22; 32:9-10).

II. Responsibility and blessings of tithing

1. The tithe belongs SOLELY TO GOD

A. Lev. 27:30, 32; Heb. 7:4-8; Matt. 23:23.

B. Some say that the New Testament does not teach tithing. That is not true. Jesus lives after the order of Melchizedek. When we set aside our first tenth unto Jesus, we prove His High Priesthood as Abraham. If we are children of Abraham and walk in his steps then we must handle our money the way he did.

2. There are wonderful blessings as a result of tithing (Malachi 3:7-12).

A. Everything we have belongs to God. All that He asks is that we return a tenth of it. This is not for His benefit but for our's.

B. God's plan for the Christian is PROSPERITY. Yet, He has certain guidelines established whereby we can receive this.

C. The Storehouse: The place where one receives his or her spiritual food (Numbers 18:21, 24; Gal. 6:6; 1 Tim. 5:18; 1 Cor. 9:7-14).

III. Responsibilities concerning the offering

1. The OFFERING goes beyond our tithe (Deut 12:6).

A. We do not OFFER tithes to God because it is already His (Lev. 27:30), The tithe is ten percent of your income. Anything beyond that is an offering.

2. Giving is by FAITH and can sometimes be sacrificial (2 Cor. 9:12-13).

A. Some say that they cannot afford to give. Actually you cannot afford NOT to give (Luke 6:38; Mark 12:42-44; 1 Kings 17:13-14).

IV. Giving is not only reaping material blessings on earth but we are investing in the Kingdom of God

1. Matt. 6:19-21; Luke 16:11.

A. Right giving insures that God will provide for us here on earth, but we are also laying up treasures in heaven in proportion to what we give on earth.

B. Many will be highly disappointed when they get before Jesus and see the results of their stinginess on earth (1 Cor. 3:12-15).

CONCLUSION: Tithing is important to both you and God. It is important to God because He wants to bless you and it is important to you because you desire to be blessed. Give God all that He is due and you will receive all that you desire.

Basics For Believers

Lesson Twenty Three: Witnessing

I. Once we have become Christians it is essential that we tell others the good news concerning our conversion. If we are ashamed to confess our master before men then He will deny us before the Father.

1. Matt. 10:32-33.
2. We are commanded to witness - Matt. 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-20.

II. Although there is no standard formula for witnessing effectively, we offer some suggestions to the believer.

1. Develop a love for the lost - John 3:16; Rom. 5:5; 1 Cor. 13
2. Receive the baptism with the Holy Spirit. This will give you power for witnessing - Acts 1:8; Mark 1:8-15.
 - a. If you have not received this yet then restudy Lessons Five and Six.
3. Spend time in prayer. Call up specific names before God of those whom you want to see saved - Matt. 12:30; 1 Tim. 2:1-6.
 - a. Pray in faith believing God for their salvation. Do not pray doubting or you will get no results - Mark 11:22-24.

III. The Word in witnessing

1. Learn the Word of God so that you will have Scripture ready when confronted with questions - Acts 4:4; 2 Tim. 2:15-17; Rom. 10:14-17.
 - a. The Word of God is what converts men and women (1 Cor. 4:15; James 1:18; 1 Pet. 1:23).
 - b. Lessons One through Three may help you in understanding how to present the Gospel to an unsaved person.

IV. Other Important things

1. Learn to be led by the Spirit of God - Acts 8:26-38.

a. Many times we waste much precious time trying to reach people whom God has not layed on our hearts. Though we should proclaim the gospel to as many as we can, let us learn to follow God's leading and direction.

2. Use good tracks that tell the person the Gospel and how to be saved. This may help the person when you are not around.

3. Do follow-up work on the people you have witnessed to. This is probably the most neglected area of witnessing.

CONCLUSION: Your purpose for being on earth is to bring the lost to Jesus. Fulfill your purpose and you will be a happy Christian.

Basics For Believers

Lesson Twenty Four: The Devil

I. The devil is a fallen angel who has rebelled against God and lost.

1. Isa. 14:12-15 (also Ezek 28:11-19).

A. Some have almost made the devil to be God's equal. Angels ARE NOT equal in power with God so Satan cannot be.

2. Because he hates God and man is created in God's image (Gen. 1:26). He therefore hates man. This is especially true of the born again Christian (2 Cor. 5:17; Rom. 8:28-29).

A. This is why he is known as our enemy - Matt. 13:39; 1 Pet. 5:8.

II. The devil's helpers

1. When Satan fell, those who followed him in rebellion fell with him. These are the principalities and powers of the air and those who torment others.

A. Eph. 6:10-18; Ps. 78:49

2. The desire of demons is to possess a human body.

A. Matt. 8:16; 17:18; Luke 4:35-41; 9:38-42

3. They will all be judged with Satan

A. Matt. 25:41

III. Our Authority over the devil and demons.

1. We have been given authority over him.

A. Luke 10:17-20; Mk 16:15-20.

2. Realize your position in Christ and exercise your authority (Eph. 1:18-23, 2:4-6).

A. This is why you have the power to tread on serpents and scorpions, because they are all under your feet.

B. We must by faith claim this position. It belongs to us. We are not subject to Satan, he is subject to us (Rom. 16:20).

IV. Most commonly asked questions concerning the devil.

1. Is there any salvation for the devil?

A. Many Bible scholars believe that there could be thousands of years between Gen. 1:1-2. During this time Satan had ample opportunity to repent. One who willingly hardens their heart towards God's grace have no salvation because they have no ability to repent (1 Tim. 4:2; Matt. 12:31-35; Heb. 6:4-6; 10:26-27).

2. Why did God create the devil?

A. God DID NOT create the devil. He created a beautiful angel and an anointed cherub and named him Lucifer which means "light bearer". Lucifer by his own choice and actions became the devil (accuser) and Satan (adversary).

3. Why doesn't God just destroy the devil and get it over with?

A. We could ask the same thing about humans. Thank God He doesn't just destroy us. As evil as Satan is, God is still fair and just and will not take advantage of him. Satan's day is coming (Matt. 25:41; Rev 20:2-10). In the meantime God will leave him around to prove His love and grace through us. He uses Satan to show all eternal creatures the results of evil.

Basics For Believers

Lesson Twenty Five: Trials and Tribulations

I. Every Trial and Tribulation is an opportunity to prove that God's Word works.

1. Romans 8:31-37

A. In every trial and every tribulation, we must recognize our selves as “more than conquerors.”

2. Faith is the key to victory in trials and tribulations.

A. 1 John 5:4-5

II. Why We Experience Trials.

1. Jesus told us that we would experience them because we were in the world but we are overcomers because of Him.

A. John 16:33; 1 Jn 4:4.

2. Trials can produce positive effects if we fulfill all the conditions outlined in James 1:2-8 (Rom. 5:1-5).

A. It's not the trials that produces patience but what we do in the midst of them.

III. The Source Of Trials.

1. God is NOT the source of our trials

A. James 1:12-13.

2. Satan is the source of all trials and tribulations.

A. 1 Pet. 5:8-10; 1 Thess. 2:17-18; Mark 4:14-20.

B. A thorough study of Job will also reveal this fact.

IV. Victorious Living.

1. God has promised victory in affliction.

A. Psalm 34:19; Isa. 43:2; (Dan. 3:19-25).

2. We can walk in this victory by FAITH.

A. 1 Peter 1:3-7; Dan. 6:19-23.

B. We must PRAY - James 5:13.

3. We must be doers of the Word - Matt. 7:24-27.

CONCLUSION: Trials and tribulations are INEVITABLE. They are guaranteed. All the faith and prayer in the world will not keep them from coming. Nevertheless, faith and prayer will make you an overcomer in the midst of them. Stand on the God's Word and you will always have the victory.

Basics For Believers

Lesson Twenty Six: Overcoming Sin

I. What is sin?

1. 1 Jn 3:4; 5:17; James 4:17
2. Recognize that you have sin - 1 Jn 1:8; Prov. 28:13.
3. Realize that you have been delivered from the power of sin - 1 Pet. 2:24; Col. 1:13; Rom. 6:5-14.

II. The Bible and sin

1. Find scriptures that covers your area of sin and meditate on them - Ps.119:9-11; Jn 8:31-26.
2. Use these scriptures against Satan when he brings temptation your way - James 4:7; Matt. 4:1-11; 2 Cor. 10:4-5.
 - a. Temptation is common to man but we do not have to yield to it if we deal with it with God's Word - 1 Cor. 10:13

III. Prayer and sin

1. Spend time in prayer and fellowship with God - Matt. 26:40-41; Matt. 6:9-13.
2. Rely upon the Holy Spirit by walking in Him - Gal. 5:16-25; Rom. 8:1-4.

IV. Using wisdom

1. Stay away from all places, people, and things that would arouse the desire to sin - Gen. 3:1-7; 2 Sam. 11:1-4; 2 Cor. 6:14.
 - a. On the other hand spend time with strong brothers and sisters in Christ who desire to live for the Lord. There is no such thing as lone Christianity.
2. In the event that you do sin, ask God for forgiveness right away and start from step 1 - 1 John 1:9; Prov. 28:13.
 - a. Do not continue to live in sin. If you fall then get back up. God's mercy is abundant. He will not be mad at you or condemn you. Jesus died to give us forgiveness and victory.

CONCLUSION: No TRUE Christian desires to live a sinful life. Though we all slip, none of us who love the Lord truly desires to CONTINUE in sin. Praise God that He has provided us a way of victory by the precious blood of Jesus. If we will do the practical things that God has shown us in His word then we can always reign victorious over the flesh.

Basics For Believers

Lesson Twenty Seven: God's Forgiveness Towards Us

“To the Lord our God belong mercies and forgivenesses, though we have rebelled against him.” (Daniel 9:9)

I. Basis Of God's Forgiveness.

1. The Blood of Jesus - Lev. 4:16-20; Col. 1:14; Eph. 1:7; Heb 9:22.
2. His Mercy - Micah 7:18; Psalms 145:8-9.
3. Our Faith - Acts 10:43.

II. What God Will Do As A Result Of Forgiveness.

1. Healing of our bodies - James 5:14-16; Mark 2:1-12; Psalms 103:2-3.
2. Healing of our land - 2 Chron. 7:14.
3. A cleansing from all unrighteousness - 1 John 1:7-9.

III. God Wipes Away ALL Record Of Our Sins When He Forgives.

1. Isa. 43:25; 44:22; Jer. 31:34; 50:20; Micah 7:19.
 - a. If there is no record of our sins then Satan will not be able to accuse us before God - Zech. 3:1-5; Rev. 12:9-11; Job 1:6-12.
2. We can have a clear conscience before God and man and will have confidence in God to answer our prayers - Rom. 8:1; 1 John 3:19-22.

IV. How To Appropriate God's Forgiveness.

1. Ask for forgiveness - Psalms 86:5; Matt. 6:12; 7:7.
2. Confess your sins - 1 John 1:9; Prov. 28:13.
3. Forgiving Others - Col. 3:13; Mark 11:25-26; Matt. 6:14-15; 18:21-35; Luke 6:37.

4. Receive your forgiveness by faith - Acts 26:18.

CONCLUSION: There are so many people who believe that God is a bearded old man sitting in the sky with a baseball bat. They believe that He is looking for someone to soon so that He can strike him one. The Bible, however, gives us a totally different picture of God. God does not condone our sin, but He delights in forgiving us. All of our sins were laid on Jesus Christ and this is why no Christian should walk in condemnation. If we sin, right away we should appropriate God's forgiveness.

Basics For Believers

Lesson Twenty Eight: End Time Events (Part One)

I. Jesus tells us The signs that will precede His coming for the church.

1. Matt. 24; 2 Pet. 3:3-6; 2 Tim. 3:1-5; 4:1-4

2. Many of these things are happening right now in our time. We can see the coming of Jesus drawing nearer and nearer. Should we not take time to get our house in order.

II. The pre tribulation rapture of the church.

1. 1 Thess. 4:16-18; 1 Cor. 15:51-58; Rev. 3:10; Phil. 3:20-21; Rev. 6:17; 1 Thess. 1:10; 5:9-11; Rom. 5:9; 2 Thess. 2:1-4; Mark 13:32-37.

a. We have presented you with an abundance of scripture on this subject because there is false teaching that Christians will have to go through either half or all of the tribulation which shall come upon the world. These Scriptures prove beyond a shadow of a doubt that Christians will escape the tribulation.

III. Typology proves a pretribulation rapture.

1. Noah and his family escaped the judgement that came upon the rest of the world.

a. Luke 17:26-27; Gen. 7:1-12; 2 Pet. 2:5

2. Lot, Abraham's nephew escaped the judgement came upon Sodom and Gomorrah.

a. Luke 17:28-30; 1 Pet. 2:6-9; Gen. 19:29

3. It stands to reason that if Noah and Lot were delivered from the judgement of their times, you and I will be delivered from the judgement that will come in our time.

IV. The Judgement Seat Of Christ

1. During this period, Christians will be judged for the deeds done in the body.

a. Rom. 14:10-12; 1 Cor. 3:9-15; 9:27; 4:5; 2 Cor. 5:10.

b. This will be a judgement of service for rewards, not a judgement of condemnation. There will be people who will make in to heaven but may not receive any rewards due to lack of service for the Lord.

CONCLUSION: There is much speculation and false teaching concerning end time events. This is one of many subjects that tend to cause confusion in the body of Christ. Some teachers teach these things in a way that promotes fear rather than faith. It is vital to look to the Scriptures to see what they have to say about end time events rather than what man says. The Scriptures are very clear concerning these things. There is nothing for the born again believer to be afraid of. On the other hand, there is much for us to look forward to.

Basics For Believers

Lesson Twenty Nine: End Time Events (Part Two)

I. The Antichrist and the seven year tribulation.

1. The Bible teaches that after the rapture of the church there will be a seven year tribulation.
 - a. Dan. 9:24-27; 12:1-9; Matt. 24:21; Rev. 6:17; 14:7.
2. There will be a political one world ruler commonly referred to in Christian circles as the Antichrist. He is called antichrist because he opposes God and Jesus. This man will be totally possessed by Satan.
 - a. Rev. 13; Dan. 7:24-25; 2 Thess. 2:3-8; 1 John 2:18.
 - b. He will receive help from the beast and the false prophet - Rev. 13:12-18.
3. He will cause people to take a mark upon their hand or their forehead (666). Without this mark, one will not be able to buy or sell. Those who receive this mark will spend eternity in hell.
 - a. Rev. 14:9-10.
4. There will be people who are saved during the tribulation.
 - a. Rev. 7:9-15; 14:1-7.

II. The second coming of Jesus

1. The marriage supper of the Lamb will take place with the saints in heaven during the tribulation.
 - a. Rev. 19:1-10; Matt. 22:2; 25:10
2. At the end of the seven year tribulation Christ will come back with an army and destroy the antichrist, the false prophet, and their followers.
 - a. Rev. 19:11-21; Jude 14.

III. The One Thousand year (Latin - millenium) reign of Christ upon the earth.

1. Satan will be thrown into the bottomless pit for a thousand years.

a. Rev. 20:1-3

2. Christ will usher in His millennial reign.

a. Zech. 14:9; Rev. 20:4-6

IV. The White Thrown Judgement

1. When the thousand years are finished, Satan will be released from the bottomless pit. He will then try to deceive the nations.

a. 20:7-10.

2. After Satan's last rebellion is put down, God will judge those who have rejected Christ as their saviour.

a. Rev. 20:11-15

b. The judgement seat of Christ is for those who are saved and are being judged for their service for Christ on the earth. Those who have rejected Christ will face the white thrown judgement. Their destiny is settled but at this judgement they will find out why.

CONCLUSION: God reveals the end to His children to show us one thing: in the end-we win! Although Satan may believe that he is controlling things now he will soon meet his doom. With all of the misery in torment that is in this world, knowing the outcome of all of this gives God's people something to look forward to. It brings hope and not despair. It also reveals many things concerning the nature of our God as well as our enemy.

Basics For Believers

Lesson Thirty: Eternal States

I. What happens to the believer at death?

1. They never die, they only sleep.
 - a. John 8:51; 11:25-26; 1 Thess. 4:13-15
2. They depart to be with Christ.
 - a. Phil. 1:23-24; 2 Cor. 5:6-8; John 12:26
3. They receive new bodies at the coming of Christ.
 - a. Phil. 3:20-21; 2 Cor. 5:1-4; 1 Cor. 15:38

II. They will go to heaven where Jesus has prepared a place for them.

1. John 14:2
2. Rev. 7:14-17 and chapters 21 and 22 give us a description of heaven.
 - a. No more tears, death, sorrow, crying, or pain. All things will be new. We shall have God's ever abiding presence. We will have waters of life to satisfy our thirst. It is a large beautiful city made of the most precious stones. There is no need of the sun or moon there because the glory of God will illuminate it. There will be no night. There will be no more defilement, abomination, curse, hunger, thirst, or suffering of any kind. There will be constant service before God's throne. We shall reign with Him forever. There will be no sea.
3. There is some practical teaching concerning heaven.
 - a. God desires that we live a heavenly life NOW (Deut. 11:18-21; Matt. 6:10; Heb. 8:1-6). Many things that are in heaven can be appropriated now on earth.
 - b. We must remain heavenly minded (Col. 3:2). This will free our minds the cares of this world (Phil. 4:7) and the fear of death (Phil. 1:21-24).

III. Terrifying facts about hell - Luke 16:19-31.

1. A place of continuous torment (Rev. 14:9-11; 20:10).
2. A place of unsatisfied desire.
3. A place of regret and remorse.

4. A place of hopelessness (Prov. 11:7).
5. Unquenchable and literal fire (Mark 9:43-49).
6. Eternal and everlasting punishment (Matt. 25:46). No second chances.
7. A place of shame and contempt (Dan. 12:2).

IV. Practical aspects of this teaching:

1. We must continue to witness and warn others of this place, encouraging them to trust in Christ who died to redeem them from such a place.

2. We must live right ourselves. We must not deceive ourselves into thinking that because we made a decision for Christ that we can continue to live in sin and still make it to heaven (1 Cor. 6:8-11; Gal. 5:16-25; Eph. 5:5).

a. All of us slip and are in need of forgiveness (1 Jn 1:7-9). Yet there are those who profess Christ but whose lifestyles do not show it. A sincere Christian may sin and repent. An unsincere Christian may live a life of sin deceive that he is secure no matter how he lives.

3. This is the place where Satan and his demons will finally meet their expected doom (Matt. 25:41; Rev. 20:10). This proves that he is a defeated enemy. Treat him as such.

CONCLUSION: The choice you make in this life will determine where you will spend eternity. There are no second chances outside of this life. If you have not yet accepted Jesus Christ as Lord and savior then you are in danger. As we have seen in this lesson, hell is not a pleasant place to spend eternity. Please consider accepting Him today. All you need to do is pray:

Lord Jesus

I ask you to come into my heart right now. You said in your word that if I confess you with my mouth and believe in my heart that God raised you from the dead then I will be saved (Rom. 10:9). I recognize that I am a sinner and I need your forgiveness and a change in my nature. I repent of all my sin. I know that all that come to you, you will not reject (John 6:37). Thank you for your for dying for me so that I can be born again. Thank you Father for Jesus. Thank you Holy Spirit for coming in to my life. AMEN.

After praying this prayer and if you truly meant it then you have the assurance of spending eternity with Jesus Christ.