SALVATION

DEFN: "Salvation" - Saved, rescued, or delivered from one's present dangerous condition and brought to safety.

A savior is one who saves, rescues, or delivers and brings to safety. Salvation begins for an individual when he recognizes his hopeless condition (**Eph 2**), his helplessness to correct it (**Rom 5**), but desires to be delivered from this condition (**Mark 2:17**), and then personally trusts Jesus Christ as his Saviour (the KJV spelling is unique for there is only one Saviour). Salvation has immediate, on-going, and future deliverance. Jesus immediately saves a man from the eternal penalty of sin in hell; continues to save him from the power of sin through his earthly life; and will save him in the future from the "presence" of sin in his mortal body when it is clothed with immortality, this evil world is made anew, and Satan is cast into the lake of fire. As Paul spoke in **2 Cor 1:10**, it is a past, present, and future deliverance.

In addition to being saved "from" these things, the salvation of Jesus Christ includes being saved "to" many things such as heaven, spiritual blessings, wisdom and prudence, and an incorruptible inheritance. (**Eph 1:3-8; 1 Pet 1:3-5**)

The doctrine of salvation is the most important doctrine of the Christian faith. Learn it well, understand it completely, and prove it out in your own life so that you may one day earnestly defend it. (**Phi 2:12; Gal 6:4; Tit 1:9; Jude 1:3**)

I. WHAT IS SALVATION?

A. A BIRTH

- **John 1:12-13** (Memory Verse) - You are born of God.

- **John 3:1-8** - You must be born again to see God's kingdom. **John 3:3** (Memory Verse)

  NOTE: You can be very religious (a master) and still not understand the first principles of God because they are spiritually discerned. (**1 Cor 2:14**)

  NOTE: You must be born again - two births; (1) First, there must be a physical birth, water from womb. The water sack must be broken in order to have a birth. The Jews, like Nicodemus, trusted in the lineage of their fathers for salvation. (2) Second, there must be a spiritual birth, born of the Holy Spirit, which is a miracle of God once the incorruptible seed, the Word of God, has been planted. (**Ecc 11:1-6**)

  NOTE: You can see that salvation is not turning over a new leaf or having a change of mind! It is a miracle of God. God planted a seed on fertile ground and gave it power to grow.

- ❑ **1 Pet 1:23-2:2** - You are born again of incorruptible seed and have become a newborn babe.

- ❑ **1 John 3:9; 4:7; 5:1,4,18** - You are born of God.

- ❑ **1 John 3:1-3** - You are looked upon in a different light by God.

B. <u>A QUICKENING</u>

- ❑ **Eph 2:1-5** - An awakening to God's realm takes place to resist Satan and the world.

  DEFN: "Quickening" - made alive.

  NOTE: You were dead in trespasses and sin. Your life had no purpose or value till you were made alive in Christ.
  1. All your thoughts were vain. (**Psa 39:5-6**)
  2. All your works were worthless. (**Isa 64:6**)
  3. You could not communicate with God. (**John 9:31; Pro 28:9; 1 Tim 2:5**)
  4. You were without strength to save yourself. (**Rom 5:6**)

- ❑ **Rom 6:5-11** - You became dead to sin and alive unto God.

- ❑ **Col 2:11-15 (13)** - A joining to Him in power occurs.

- ❑ **Rom 8:9-11** - An empowering to overcome sin in your life transpires.

C. <u>A NEW CREATURE</u>

- ❑ **2 Cor 5:17** (Memory Verse) - A new creature is created within you and old things are passed away.

- ❑ **1 Cor 6:9-11** (Memory Verse) - You become a new creature. The old things cease in your life.

- ❑ **Gal 6:15** - Christ avails a new creature.

- ❑ **Eph 4:22-24** - God created you in righteousness and true holiness.

- ❑ **Eph 2:10** - You were created in Christ unto good works.

- ❑ **Col 1:5-6** - The true gospel brings forth fruit starting with the day you heard it.

- ❑ **Col 3:5-10** - The new man is created after the image of Christ.

- ❑ **1 Pet 1:14-16** - Your Father commanded you to be holy, as He is holy.

- ❑ **1 Pet 4:2-3** - He directs you to live life to the will of God and not to the lusts of men.

II. WHY IS SALVATION NECESSARY?

A. TO BECOME GOD'S CHILD

- **John 1:12** (Intentionally repeated) - You need authority to be called a son and you need power to live like a son.

  NOTE: The power that created heaven and earth, the power of God's Spirit, dwells within you. He transforms your life as you yield to Him. It took only six days to create heaven and earth, but it will take the Spirit years "until Christ be formed in you." (**Gal 4:19**) One is a physical change, obedient to God's commands, and the other is a spiritual change subject to the free will of man. (**Phi 2:13**)

- **Gal 3:26** - You become children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.

- **1 John 3:1-3** (Intentionally repeated) - If you are now a son, then there is the hope of a new and great heritage in Christ.

  NOTE: You are the child of the KING! Do not forget who you are!

B. TO BE SAVED FROM HELL

- **John 3:36** - The wrath of God abides on the unbeliever.

  NOTE: A lost man, is an enemy of God (**Rom 5:1-6**) and is condemned already (**John 3:18**).

- **Rom 5:5-9** - Christ died when you were without strength to save you from the wrath of God, which is hell.

- **Matt 13:24-30; 36-43** - The good seed will be spared from the furnace of fire.

- **Rev 20:15** - Those that are written in the book of life are spared from hell.

- **Acts 4:12** (Memory Verse) - Salvation is found in no other name among men. A man must be saved from sin in order for him not to go to hell.

- **Rom 1:16** - The gospel is powerless to save someone until he believes it.

C. TO BE SAVED FROM THIS WORLD

- **Eph 2:2** - Christ died to deliver you from the prince of the power of the air and from the course of this world.

- **Gal 1:4** - Christ died to save you from this present evil world.

- **Heb 2:14-15 -** He saved us from the bondage in this life.

D. TO OBTAIN A NEW POSITION

- **Eph 2:5-7** - You are seated in heavenly places.
- **1 Pet 2:9; Rev 1:5-6** - You are a priest and a king to God.
- **2 Cor 5:18-20; Eph 6:19-20** - You are an ambassador to a new country.

  DEFN: "Ambassador" - An official sent to a foreign government by a king to represent the power and dignity of his sovereign.

- **Eph 3:15; 1 Tim 5:1-2** - You are a part of a new family.

III. WHO PROVIDED SALVATION?

- **Matt 1:21 -** His name is Jesus for He shall save. The name, Jesus (Joshua in the Old Testament), means "Saviour".
- **1 John 4:14** - The Father sent His Son to be the Saviour.
- **1 Tim 1:15** - Christ Jesus came to save sinners.
- **Luke 19:10** - Jesus came to seek and to save the lost.
- **John 14:6** (Memory Verse) - No man comes to the Father but by the Son.
- **Acts 4:12 -** There is no other Saviour.
- **Phi 2:9-11 -** The name is important above every other name.
- **Acts 10:43; Acts 13:38-39 -** Only belief through His name takes away sin.
- **1 John 3:5; John 1:29 -** He was manifested to "take away" our sins.

IV. HOW WAS SALVATION ACCOMPLISHED?

- **Rom 5:6-8 -** Christ died for the ungodly.
- **Rom 5:9; Rev 1:5; Rom 3:25** - His blood paid the ransom.

  NOTE: Jesus had to shed His blood to fulfill the Old Testament prophecies and patterns. (**Exo 12:1-51; Lev 17:11; Heb 9:1-14, 22; Heb 10:1-14; John 6:53-69**) Dying any other way such as strangulation or stoning would not have been accepted.

- **Heb 10:5-14; 1 Pet 2:24** - Jesus gave His body for an offering.
- **Isa 53:10-11; John 19:30 -** Jesus completely finished the task. It is a finished work!

V. HOW IS SALVATION ACQUIRED?

- **Acts 17:30; Luke 13:3 -** Repentance is required.

  DEFN: "Repentance" - An admission to God of personal guilt as a sinner, and a personal desire to change the condition. A willingness to make a 180 degree turn from sin.

- **2 Cor 7:10-11** (Memory Verse) - Only a godly sorrow (seeing the sin from God's eyes) works a true repentance in the heart.

- **Mark 1:15; 1 Cor 15:1-4; Rom 10:9; Acts 20:21** - Repentance and belief in the Gospel is required.

- **Eph 2:8-9** (Memory Verse) - It is by grace through faith (**Rom 11:6** - not works). Faith must be present.

- **Luke 18:15-17 -** You must have faith as a little child.

- **Rom 3:28 -** You must have faith in the Saviour's work.

  NOTE: You must believe in "the faith" and not just any faith. You must call in truth (**Psa 145:18-20**) or you could be sincerely wrong. The Jews had a zeal for God but not according to knowledge. (**Rom 10:1-2**)

- **Rom 3:20-28 -** You must believe that "faith in His blood" is all that is necessary. Faith is a complete trust in the finished work done on the cross by the Saviour as a total payment for your salvation.

VI. SALVATION DELIVERS FROM ALL SIN

- **Col 2:13-14** - You are forgiven "all" trespasses - past, present, and future.

  NOTE: All your sins were future at the time of the cross. He imputes His righteousness to you at the point of salvation.

- **1 John 1:7** - You are cleansed from all sin.

- **Tit 2:14** - You are cleansed from all iniquity.

- **Acts 13:38-39 -** You are justified from "all things".

- **Heb 10:15-17; Isa 43:25 -** The Lord will not remember your sins.

- **Isa 44:21-22** - He blotted out your sins like a thick cloud. You are the child of Abraham by faith. (**Rom 4:11-12**)

- **Mic 7:18-19** - He buried your sins in the depths of the sea.

- **Isa 38:17** - He put all your sins behind His back.

VII. EVIDENCES OF SALVATION

- **Rom 8:9-16; 1 John 3:24, 4:13; Gal 4:6 -** The Holy Spirit in you bears witness that you are a child of God.

- **John 16:8 -** You will have conviction of sin.

- **Rom 10:9-11; 1 John 4:14-15 -** You will confess Christ as your Lord and Saviour before others.

- **Heb 12:5-11** - You will be chastened of the Lord. He will deal with you for your own profit so that you will not be allowed to enjoy the pleasures of sin. You are His child!

- **1 John 5:4-5** - You will overcome the world by faith. The world will not have dominion over you.

- **1 John 3:14, 4:7 -** You will experience a love for the brethren. You will desire to be with them in fellowship and gather together with them in church regularly.

- **2 Cor 5:17; 1 Cor 6:9-11** - You will see old things pass away and new things mount up in your life.

- **1 John 2:3-8; Rom 7:22** - You will experience a desire to keep His commandments.

- **1 John 2:29** - You will do righteousness and walk in true paths as you grow in grace.

CONCLUSION:

You have learned that salvation is much deeper than it appears on the surface. God has begun a wonderful and eternal work within you. If in the course of this study you feel you have not grasped the impact of God's great work, then we challenge you first to "Examine yourself, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except you be reprobates?" (**2 Cor 13:5**) If you believe you are genuinely converted, then, "work out your own salvation with fear and trembling." (**Phi 2:12**). And "…give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if you do this you will never fall." (**2 Pet 1:10**) The good work that Christ has begun in you began as a seed. It must grow up in you, and out from you, to bear fruit to the world. As God reveals the areas of needed change, trust Him as He gently but firmly works to perfect them. Do not resist Him in pride, but yield yourself, cleaving to Him in love. Our prayer for you is "…that your love may abound yet more and more in knowledge and in all judgment; that ye may approve things that are excellent; that ye may be sincere and without offense till the day of Christ; Being filled with the fruits of righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ, unto the glory and praise of God." (**Phi 1:9-11**) We are "… confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:" (**Phi 1:6**)

ASSURANCE OF SALVATION

The confidence of your salvation is very essential to your stability in Christ. The complete assurance that a genuine work took place in your life will cause floods of peace to come over your soul. Those who believe you can not know for sure that you are saved, live in constant torment of doubt and fear. Satan continually comes into their lives sowing doubt of their salvation robbing them of great joy. But the Lord, in His Word, gave such forceful words to convince and assure us of this new position in Christ that we would be foolish not to receive this comfort. This is not a study of the security of a believer, but simply one of teaching you that you can "know" you are saved.

I. A "KNOW SO" SALVATION

- **1 John 5:10-13** (Memory Verse) - These things were written that you may "know" that you have eternal life.

  N0TE: It does not say "hope so", "maybe", "might", or "think so" but it states that you can "know so"!

- **1 John 3:14** (Memory Verse) - You know you have passed from death unto life because you have a new love for the brethren.

- **2 Tim 1:12** - Paul knew whom he believed in and so should you and I.

- **1 Pet 1:18-23** - You know that the precious blood of Christ redeemed you.

- **1 John 2:5-6** - You know you are in Him because the love of God is perfected in you.

- **1 John 5:19-21** - As you know the true God (Jesus Christ), you know you are in Him and have eternal life.

II. YOU "HAVE" EVERLASTING LIFE

- **John 3:36** (Memory Verse) - "He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life..."

  NOTE: How long is everlasting life? Does it have an end? When does it start - at physical death or spiritual birth? Compare **John 5:24**. It starts at the time you receive Christ.

- **John 5:24** (Memory Verse) - A believer "is" passed from death unto life (everlasting life) at the point of conversion.

- **John 3:16** (Memory Verse) - Anyone who truly believes, "should not perish but have everlasting life."

III. YOU "SHALL BE" SAVED

- **Rom 10:9-13** (Memory Verse) - If you genuinely called from the heart upon the name of the Lord Jesus, you "shall be" saved. The Lord did not say, "may be", but "shall be"!

  NOTE: Faith is what pleases God, not works. Only works done in the "...faith which worketh by love" will God accept. (**Gal 5:6**) Those who do works to gain merit with God are not only weak in "the faith", but are ignorant of God's righteousness. (**Rom 10:3-5, Rom 14:1-5**)

- **Matt 14:28-32** - Peter was able to walk on water by faith as long as he kept his eyes on Jesus. Likewise, when you turn your eyes from Jesus and on to your circumstances, you will sink.

CONCLUSION:

You can "know" that you are saved while you dwell on this earth based on the authority of God's Word. Armed with this knowledge, you should have confidence in sharing the good news with others that "Jesus saves", because He "has" saved you.

BAPTISM

Baptism is one of the first steps of obedience that a "newly born" Christian should take. The definition of Christian is one who has personally repented of his sin and believes on the Lord Jesus Christ to be his Saviour. One is not a Christian who is born into a Christian family, attends a Christian church, or lives in a Christian nation.

Today, there is much confusion and misunderstanding concerning baptism. Many winds of doctrines are floating around which lead many to be deceived. We must realize that salvation is by grace through an act of faith for "...the just shall live by faith." Any work that we try to add to faith destroys the complete and finished work of Christ through His blood. Once again, by comparing scripture with scripture, we can understand the Lord's intent on this issue.

I. <u>WHAT IS BAPTISM?</u>

DEFN: "Baptize" From the Greek word "baptizo" which means to make whelmed or fully wet; to immerse.

DEFN: "Immerse" To put under water; to plunge; to dip; to sink; to cover wholly with a fluid.

NOTE: There are two kinds of baptism, one in the spirit and one in the flesh. The Spirit baptism takes place at the time of spiritual birth and the believer is immersed into the body of Christ. The water baptism should take place when a believer realizes the transaction that has taken place between God and him.

- **1 Cor 12:13** - The Holy Spirit put us into the body of Christ.

  NOTE: The Holy Spirit initially "baptized" the church of believers in **Acts 2:1-8** and now subsequently baptizes every new believer into the body of Christ when he or she is converted.

- **Col 2:12** -The Spirit performs a powerful operation, circumcision of the heart, when a person believes from the heart in the gospel. The gospel is the death, burial and resurrection unto salvation. (**Rom 1:16**; **1 Cor 15:1-4**)

- **Rom 6:3-4** - The Spirit baptizes us into Jesus Christ.

- **Tit 3:5-7** - The washing of regeneration is the work of the Spirit using the Word of God as the water (**Eph 5:26**).

II. HOW SHOULD WE BE BAPTIZED?

- **Mark 1:9-10** - Jesus was baptized by immersion.

- **Rom 6:3-6** - This portion of scripture shows the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Water baptism by immersion best symbolizes this.

  NOTE: Only baptism by immersion pictures our identifying with Christ in His death, burial, and resurrection. As we are immersed into the water, it reveals to others the death of the "old man". When we are under the water it pictures our life as dead and buried in Christ. As we are raised up by another's power, we go forth to walk in newness of life.

- **Acts 8:38** - The eunuch went down into the water to be baptized.

  NOTE: The Bible in no way teaches the convenient method of baptizing by sprinkling. Sprinkling is a tradition of man brought about to eliminate the need for a man to humble himself (ie. Naaman in **2 Kin 5:9-13**). It makes void the wonderful picture of identifying with Christ.

- **Matt 28:19-20** - Believers should be baptized in "the name" of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost - that name is Jesus Christ. One who is baptized in Jesus' name is declaring to the world that he is Jesus' disciple.

  NOTE: Jesus Christ is the fullness of the godhead bodily (**Col 2:9**) and it is at His name that every knee shall bow and every tongue confess (**Phi 2:10-11**). The name is important!

- **Acts 2:38** – Repent, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.

- **Acts 10:48** - Peter commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord.

- **Acts 19:3-5** - The disciples of John were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus once they understood they had been baptized unto John's baptism.

III. WHO SHOULD BE BAPTIZED?

- **Acts 8:36-38** - They that believe with all their hearts that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.

- **Acts 2:41** - They that gladly receive His Word.

- **Acts 16:14-15** - Those whose heart the Lord opens.

  NOTE: It is a choice of the will of a believer to publicly follow the Lord. He declares to the world that he has trusted Christ.

IV. WHEN SHOULD YOU BE BAPTIZED?

- **Acts 2:41** - When they gladly received His Word, they were baptized the same day.

- **Acts 8:12-13** - When they believed His Word, they were baptized.

  NOTE: The Bible in no way teaches infant baptism. Baptism is for those who receive and believe His Word. An infant has no understanding at that time to be a believer. This is a tradition introduced by man to avoid the necessary public profession of an adult. It is cute to baptize babies, but supposedly inconvenient and embarrassing to baptize adults. We should be willing to follow our Lord wherever He leads.

  NOTE: There is also another teaching that infant baptism washes away original sin. Again, this teaching cannot be found in the scriptures by doctrine or practice.

- **Acts 9:18** - New born believers (like Saul who became Paul - the apostle) should be baptized.

- **Acts 16:31-33** - The Phillipian jailer and his whole house were baptized that night after they believed.

- **Acts 18:8** - Crispus, a chief ruler, and many others were baptized right after they believed.

- **Acts 16:14-15** - Lydia believed and was baptized. Then she immediately began serving.

- **Acts 19:3-5** - Disciples of John were baptized again when they realized they were not believers before and were not baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.

V. WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF BAPTISM?

- **Gal 3:27** - "For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ", as their pattern of life.

  NOTE: Many brothers and sisters have lost their families, their living, and some have even lost their lives, because they took a stand to identify with the Christian faith by being baptized. On the other hand in some nations Christianity has become so commonplace, that the cost and the meaning of baptism has been lessened.

- **Heb 6:1-3** – Water baptism falls under the "doctrine of baptisms", pointing to the one true baptism (**Eph 4:5**).

  NOTE: The Bible teaches multiple baptisms; baptism of John (repentance) in **Matt 3:11; Luke 3:16; Acts 2:38**; **19:2-5**; baptism of Moses in **1 Cor 10:2**; baptism of fire in **Matt 3:11**, **Luke 3:16; Acts 2:3** baptism of water in **Matt 28:19**; **Mark 16:16; 1 Pet 3:20-21**; baptism

of suffering in **Matt 20:22-23**; **Luke 12:50**; and baptism of the Holy Spirit in **John 1:33**; **Rom 6:3-4**; **1 Cor 12:13**; all of which point to one baptism – the baptism of the Spirit into the body of Christ at salvation.

- **1 Pet 3:21** - Baptism is an indication of the willful putting away of the flesh and the answer of a good conscience toward God.

  NOTE: Many teach that this verse is declaring that baptism is essential to a believer's salvation, but if you notice closely, Peter states that it is a figure, a picture. Not a work of putting away the filth of the flesh, because only faith in the blood of the Lamb can do that work. But it is an answer of a good conscience toward God because of the outward demonstration of obedience to God. A person who will not get baptized is probably not saved in the first place. A true believer wants to follow the Lord's example of righteousness (right living). See **Matt 3:11-16**

VI. BAPTISM IS COMMANDED - IT IS NOT AN OPTION

- **Mark 16:15-16** – Christ's followers were commanded to go, preach, and baptize all who believe.

- **Acts 2:38** – "...Repent and be baptized every one of you..."

- **Acts 10:47-48 -** He commanded them to be baptized.

VII. BAPTISM IS NOT PART OF SALVATION

- **Mark 16:15-16** - "...Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned."

  NOTE: From the first glance, this appears to teach that baptism is a part of salvation. But with close examination, one can see that damnation is based on belief - not on baptism. It does not say, "he that believeth not, or is not baptized, is damned."

- **1 Cor 1:13-17** - Paul indicates that baptism was not important to salvation in his mind.

  NOTE: Many scriptures state "believe and thou shalt be saved." (see index) A believer should follow the Lord in baptism, but baptism does not save him. If baptism were a part of salvation, surely the greatest soul winner in the Scriptures, Paul the Apostle, would have made sure that he baptized every believer. He would have taken a greater stand on baptism. "Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel..." **1 Cor 1:17**

- **John 4:2** - Neither did Jesus baptize His followers.

- **Acts 10:42-48** - The household of Cornelius was saved and filled with the Spirit before they were baptized.

- **Acts 22:16** - Calling on the name of the Lord washes away a man's sin, not the baptism. Compare **Rom 10:12-14** and **Rev 1:5.**

- **Col 2:11-12** – The operation of God removes sins from a believer like a circumcision. Then immersion into the death of the body of Christ takes place through the power of the Spirit.

- **Tit 3:5-7** - We are saved "...not by works of righteousness which we have done..." Baptism is a work performed by us. People easily trust it above their faith because it is something tangible to see and hold on. The washing of regeneration is referring to the washing away of our sins by His blood. (**Rev 1:5**).

CONCLUSION:

Baptism is an ordinance to be followed by a believer in order to publicly testify to others what took place in his heart. It is a witness of the transforming power of the gospel and identification with the church of Jesus Christ. Many have a zeal for God but not according to knowledge (**Rom 10:2**). Their zeal often focuses on baptism rather than emphasizing faith in Christ. (**Rom 3:22**).

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I. Fifty-seven (57) times in the Bible we are told to believe to be saved.

Genesis 15:6 - And he believed in the LORD; and he counted it to him for righteousness.
Luke 8:12 - Those by the way side are they that hear; then cometh the devil, and taketh away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved.
John 1:7 - The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through Him might believe.
John 1:12 - But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:
John 3:15 - That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life.
John 3:16 - For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.
John 3:18 - He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.
John 3:36 - He that believed on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life: but the wrath of God abideth on him.
John 5:24 - Verily, verily. I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.
John 6:29 - Jesus answered and said unto them, This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent.

John 6:35 - And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst.

John 6:40 - And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day.

John 6:47 - Verily, verily, I say unto you. He that believeth on me hath everlasting life.

John 7:39 - (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)

John 8:24 – I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins.

John 9:35-38 - Jesus heard that they had cast him out: and when he had found him, he said unto him, Dost thou believe on the Son of God? He answered and said, Who is he, Lord, that I might believe on him? And Jesus said unto him, Thou hast both seen him, and it is he that talketh with thee. And he said, Lord, I believe. And he worshipped him.

John 10:26 - But ye believe not, because ye are not of my sheep, as I said unto you.

John 11:25-26 - Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?

John 12:36 - While ye have light, believe in the light, that ye may be the children of light. These things spake Jesus. and departed, and did hide himself from them,

John 17:20-21 - Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.

John 20:31 - But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.

Acts 8:37 - And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.

Acts 10:43 - To him give all the prophets witness, that through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins.

Acts 11:17 - Forasmuch then an God gave them the like gift as he did unto us, who believed on the Lord Jesus Christ; what was I, that I could withstand God?

Acts 13:39 - And by him all that believe are justified from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses.

Acts 13:48 - And when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad, and glorified the word of the Lord: and as many as were ordained to eternal life believed.

Acts 15:7-8 - And when there had been much disputing, Peter rose up, and said unto them, Men and brethren, ye know how that a good while ago God made choice among us, that the Gentiles by my mouth should hear the word of the gospel, and believe. And God, which knoweth the hearts, bare them witness, giving them the Holy Ghost, even as he did unto us.

Acts 15:11 - But we believe that through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ we shall be saved, even as they.

Acts 16:30-31 - And brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved? And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.

Romans 1:16 - For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

Romans 3:22 - Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference:

Romans 3:26 - To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus.

Romans 4:3 - For what saith the scripture? Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness.

Romans 4:5 - But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness.

Romans 4:11 - And he received the sign of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness of the faith which he had yet being uncircumcised: that he might be the father of all them that believe, though they be not circumcised; that righteousness might be imputed unto them also:

Romans 4:24 - But for us also, to whom it shall be imputed, if we believe on him that raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead;

Romans 10:4 - For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth.

Romans 10:9-10 - That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

Romans 10:13-15 - For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shalt they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!

1 Corinthians 1:21 - For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.

1 Corinthians 15:1-2 - Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain.

Galatians 2:16 - Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.

Galatians 3:6 - Even as Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.

Galatians 3:22 - But the scripture hath concluded all under sin, that the promise by faith of Jesus Christ might be given to them that believe.

Ephesians 1:13 - In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise,

2 Thessalonians 2:12 - That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

1 Timothy 1:16 - Howbeit for this cause I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might show forth all longsuffering, for a pattern to them which should hereafter believe on him to life everlasting.

2 Timothy 1:12 - For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.

Hebrews 3:18-19 - And to whom sware he that they should not enter into his rest, but to them that believed not? So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief.

Hebrews 4:3 - For we which have believed do enter into rest, as he said, As I have sworn in my wrath, if they shall enter into my rest: although the works were finished from the foundation of the world.

Hebrews 10:39 - But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul.

Hebrews 11:6 - But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

1 John 3:23 - And this is his commandment, That we should believe on the name of his Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, as he gave us commandment.

1 John 5:1 - Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God: and every one that loveth him that begat loveth him also that is begotten of him.

1 John 5:5 - Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?

1 John 5:10 - He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself: he that believeth not God hath made him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of his Son.

1 John 5:13 - These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.

II. Nine (9) times we are told to have faith to be saved.

Luke 7:50 - And he said to the woman. Thy faith hath saved thee: go in peace.

Luke 18:42 - And Jesus said unto him, Receive thy sight: thy faith hath saved thee.

Romans 5:1-2 - Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

Romans 9:30 - What shall we say then? That the Gentiles, which followed not after righteousness, have attained to righteousness, even the righteousness which is of faith.

Galatians 2:16 - Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.

Ephesians 2:8-9 - For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works lest any man should boast.

Ephesians 3:12 - In whom we have boldness and access with confidence by the faith of him.

Hebrews 10:38 - Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him.

2 Peter 1:1 – Simon Peter, a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ, to them that have obtained like precious faith with us through the righteousness of God and our Saviour Jesus Christ:

BIBLE INFALLIBILITY

The Word of God is the most important and necessary element to the growth of a believer. It is as important as the sun and the rain are to the growth of a plant, or as food and water are to the nourishment of the body. God's Word is a great source of comfort and also your only offensive weapon against the strategies of the devil. This study will aid you in seeing these principles and hopefully cause you to esteem and apply the Bible in your life. Read it, study it, memorize it, meditate upon it day and night and you will steadily be conformed to the image of God's Son.

Today, Satan has launched a serious attack on God's Word. Liberals and modernists from every side have attempted to destroy the integrity and reliability of the Bible by casting doubt on its accuracy. They say that it only contains the words of God. Consequently, there are, at the time of this publication, over 400 different English versions of the Bible available on the market. This does nothing but cause confusion in the hearts of believers and nonbelievers alike. "God is not the author of confusion." **1 Cor 14:33** Hence, you must study the concept of Biblical infallibility so that you will not be tossed to and fro. Again, this is not a complete study but an overview to present several rational arguments. An intense study of "manuscript evidence" will be dealt with later.

I. THE ONLY SOURCE OF TRUTH

- **John 17:17** (Memory Verse) - "...thy Word is truth."
- **Psa 119:140-142 -** "...thy law is the truth."
- **John 8:32** (Memory Verse) - "...the truth shall make you free."
- **Psa 12:6** (Memory Verse) - The Words of the Lord are (not were) pure.
- **Pro 30:5-6** (Memory Verse) - Every Word of God is (not was) pure.

  DEFN: "Purity" (1) Cleanness, spotless, unsoiled; freedom from foulness. (2) Freedom from foreign admixture or heterogeneous matter (3) Chastity; freedom from contamination (4) Innocence; freedom from the defilement of sin (5) Freedom from any sinister or improper views.

- **Pro 8:8** - Nothing froward or perverse in them

  DEFN: "Froward" - Not willing to yield or comply with what is required; unyielding; ungovernable; disobedient.

  DEFN: "Perverse" - Turned aside; hence, distorted from the right. Obstinate in the wrong; disposed to be contrary; stubborn; intractable.

II. THE BIBLE'S INSPIRATION

A. The source of truth is God, not man.

- **2 Tim 3:16** - "All scripture is given by inspiration of God..."

  DEFN: "Inspiration" - Guidance or control by divine influence: breathed upon or into.

  NOTE: "God breathed" the words of life like God breathed in Adam the breath of life. (**Gen 2:7**)

B. God gave the Word by putting the words in men's mouths.

- **2 Sam 23:2** - Whose Word?
- **Isa 51:16** - Again, whose words in whose mouth?
- **Jer 1:9** – Again, whose words in whose mouth?
- **2 Pet 1:16-19** - God's Word is **more sure** than hearing a voice from Heaven.
- **2 Pet 1:20** – "Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation."
- **2 Pet 1:21** - "...but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost." (**John 3:8** - The Wind/Spirit moves things).

C. God formed the men to speak His words.

- **Jer 1:5-7** - God formed Jeremiah to be His prophet.
- **Isa 49:1-2** - Isaiah was a polished shaft designed and fashioned by God to speak His Word.
- **Isa 50:4** - God gave Isaiah the tongue of the learned.
- **Exo 3:15-4:12** - These men were designed by God for His purpose.

D. God instructed men to write the words down.

- **Exo 24:4** - Moses wrote them.
- **Jer 30:1-2** - Jeremiah was instructed by God to write the words down.
- **Rev 1:19** - John was to write what he saw.
- **Psa 68:11** - God gave it and men published it.
- **Psa 119:89-91** - A perfect copy has been in heaven before the foundation of the world. God is faithful to give His Word to all generations.

III. EVERY WORD IS NEEDED AND IS PROFITABLE

- **Deu 8:3** - Moses says you need every word.

- **Matt 4:4** (Memory Verse) - Jesus verified it.

  NOTE: **"**Every Word" out of the mouth of God is needed just like your body needs every vitamin. "You are what you eat." Don't continually consume the words of man, which is "processed" food. "...their word will eat as doth a canker (cancer)..." (**2 Tim 2:17**) Eat the words of God, which are pure food designed by the Creator.

- **Job 23:12** - Job esteemed God's words more than his food.

- **2 Tim 3:16-17** (Memory Verse) - God's Word is profitable for:

  DEFN: "Profitable" - to your benefit, increase and improvement. (**Rom 15:4-6; 1 Cor 10:6,11**)

  ***(1) <u>Doctrine</u> - The Word defines the path of truth to walk for God*. Tit 2:1-10; Tit 1:9-11; 1 Tim 1:5-6,18-19**)

  DEFN: "Doctrine" - What you believe, practice and teach others as the truth.

  ***(2) <u>Reproof</u> - The Word determines where you got off the path of truth.* (Pro 1:23; Pro 6:23**)

  DEFN: "Reproof" - To charge with a fault, to blame, to point out an error.

  (3) <u>Correction</u> - The Word shows you how to get back on the path of truth. (**Jer 10:23-24**)

  DEFN: "Correction" - To set right, to remove the error in order to bring to the truth, making accurate and free from error.

  (4) <u>Instruction</u> - The Word explains how to stay on the path of truth. (**Psa 119:33-35**)

  DEFN: "Instruction" - To furnish with authoritative information in order to direct or command.

  NOTE: The above is a process of keeping sound doctrine, "...continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee." (**1 Tim 4:16**)

  NOTE: You have been "THOROUGHLY FURNISHED", completely equipped by God with everything that is needed to perform every good work in the earth.

- **Acts 20:32** - The Word is able to build you up in the faith.

- **1 Pet 2:2** - The Word provides milk for a babe to grow.

- **Heb 5:11-14** -The Word becomes strong meat to them that are exercised by it.

- **1 Cor 3:1-2** – The Corinthians were babes because they could not handle the meat of the Word.

- **Psa 19:7-11** (**vs. 10**) - The Word is sweeter than the honeycomb.

IV. THE BIBLE'S IMPORTANCE

- **Psa 138:2** (Memory Verse) - The Lord has magnified His Word above His name.

- **John 6:63** - His words are spirit and life.

- **Psa 119:105** (Memory Verse) - His Word is a lamp.

- **Psa 119:130** (Memory Verse) - His Word gives light.

- **Eph 6:17; Heb 4:12** - The Word is a weapon of war.

- **Psa 119:9; Eph 5:26** - The Word cleanses.

- **Rom 10:17-19** - His Word is a source of faith for the saved or lost.

- **Psa 1:1-3; Josh 1:8** - The Word is the key to your success in life. Meditate on it constantly.

V. UNDERSTANDING THE BIBLE

- **John 14:26** - The Spirit will teach you all things.

- **1 John 2:27** – The anointing is a picture of His Spirit as in being anointed with oil. It is through this anointing that we are taught all things. We are not dependent upon man to be taught because His Spirit will lead and guide us into all truth. (**John 16:13**)

- **1 Cor 2:7-16** - The Spirit searches the "deep" things of God. You can not understand the Bible until you are saved (**vs. 14**)

  NOTE: Only the Spirit of God can teach you the truth of the Word of God. The natural man is spiritually incapable of being able to understand it. The Word is foolishness to the natural man. This is why the more proud men become, the more they move away from the Word of truth. It manifests and discerns the foolishness in their hearts. **(Rom 1:21-22; Heb 4:12**)

- **1 John 4:1-6** - The wrong spirit leads to the wrong interpretation. A spirit that is not after Christ will lead you astray.

- **Psa 119:18; Psa 119:125** - Pray for enlightenment.

- **2 Tim 2:15; Acts 17:11; Pro 2:4-6** - Study to understand the Bible's precepts.

  NOTE: You must make a personal effort of studying His Word before the Lord (not man) in order to be approved of Him. It should be done daily and consistently. No one ever became a strong Christian without studying His Word!

VI. GOD PROMISES TO PRESERVE HIS WORD FOR MAN

- **Psa 12:6-7** - The Lord keeps His words. The Lord preserves His Word to all generations. Notice, God preserves it - NOT man!

  DEFN: "Preservation" - To keep or save from injury or destruction. To defend from evil: to uphold, guard or sustain. To keep in the same state.

- **Pro 22:12** - The eyes of the Lord preserve knowledge.

- **Psa 33:11** - The thoughts of His heart are to all generations.

- **Psa 100:5** - His truth endureth to all generations.

- **Psa 117:2** - The truth of the Lord endureth forever.

- **Psa 119:89-91** - His faithfulness to deliver His Word to us extends to all generations. The longest chapter in the entire Bible is Psalm 119, it is dedicated to exalting His Word.

- **Matt 5:18** - Till heaven and earth pass, one jot (the smallest letter of the Hebrew alphabet - *jot*, the tenth letter) or one tittle (a small hornlike appendage, which transforms one Hebrew letter into another,) shall in no wise pass away. Thus, a stronger statement by Jesus of absolute verbal inspiration and preservation could hardly be imagined!

- **Matt 24:35** - Heaven and earth shall pass away before God's Word shall be lost.

  NOTE: Do you think God would go to all the trouble of forming a man, putting the words in his mouth, instructing him to write them down, and then not take care to preserve it for all generations? Inspiration of the Bible has no value or meaning without preservation of the Bible. There must be a preserved copy of God's Word in the earth today because He promised there would be. If you can believe God created the heavens and the earth, can't you believe that God can keep His Book from error? God is a faithful witness, but confidence in man can be a snare.

VII. WHICH BIBLE?

At this point instead of entering into a lengthy study on "Manuscript Evidence", we will present some logical analogies in hope of pointing you in a direction that has been proven by many saints for centuries. We believe the Authorized King James Bible is the pure, preserved Word of God for the English speaking nations. It has come from the true line of scriptural text that was preserved by the faithful churches, "the pillar and ground of truth", throughout the centuries. God has set it apart for use these past four centuries. The KJV Bible has been used to win millions of sinners to Christ, to send missionaries all over the world, and to alter the course of nations. No other version has such a magnificent testimony. In January of 1604, King James, ruler of one of the greatest nations in the world, authorized the translating of this Bible. **Rom 13:1** states, "...there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God." The Lord used this unsaved man (most likely unsaved, based on his testimony) to initiate this great task for Himself. At the time of its development, the English language was at its peak of expression. Since then the English language has deteriorated and peoples' vocabularies have severely diminished. Thus, general terms and slang have been adopted over the years causing a loss in accuracy of expression. The following is a thought-provoking comparison of Jesus Christ; the Word made flesh, and the Authorized King James Bible, the Word written down, in light of today's criticisms. (The following comparison was borrowed from an unknown, uncopyrighted source and slightly modified.)

A. *Like Jesus Christ, this Bible is not afraid to claim its AUTHORITY in speaking THE VERY WORD OF GOD, PURELY.*

- **John 12:48-50** - It speaks for God, and men will be judged by what it says.
- **John 8:12-24** - It bears witness to itself, and God bears witness to it by using it. Millions have come to Christ over the past centuries through its use.
- **John 8:42-44** -The devil blinds the minds of men through pride so they won't hear Him.
- **John 14:10-11** – It is evident that the Lord is using this Bible because of its impact on the world, just like Christ's impact.

B. *Like Jesus Christ, this Bible is persecuted.*

- **Matt 12:14** - Pharisees held a "council" to destroy Jesus. Just like today, the religious have tried to destroy the Word by replacing it with a copy of their own. Every other version is readily accepted except the King James Bible because it comes from a different line of scripture.
- **Mark 11:18** - Scribes and chief priests "united" together to destroy Jesus because of His doctrine. Just like today, the religious want to destroy the Word which divides because of its doctrine, so that they can all "unite".

- **Luke 20:19** - Those that Jesus exposed and spoke out against by the truth of His words wanted to get rid of Him. The same is only with the Authorized King James Bible.

C. *Like with Jesus Christ, the world looks for contradictions and errors in this Bible.*

- **Mark 12:13** - Pharisees and Herodians sent to catch Jesus in His words.
- **Luke 11:53-54** - Scribes and Pharisees waited to catch Him in His speech.
- **Matt 22:15** - Pharisees tried to entangle Him in His talk.

D. *Like Jesus Christ, this Bible challenges the world to find fault.*

- **John 8:46** - Jesus challenged them to name and prove just one sin.
- **Heb 4:15** - Jesus was tempted on all points but without sin, even so the DEVIL, the WORLD, and the FLESH try the Word. See also **2 Cor 5:21; 1 Pet 2:22** and **1 John 3:5**.

E. *You know the Holy Spirit wrote this Bible because it magnifies Jesus Christ.*

- **John 16:13-14** - The Holy Spirit speaks of Jesus Christ.
- **Col 1:18 -** Jesus is to have the preeminence.
- **Psa 118:8** - This is the middle verse of the Authorized King James Bible. The other Bible versions take out or add words, sentences, verses, or books so this verse would not be the middle. The verse has 14 words, the middle two are the center of the Bible. They are "THE LORD". Now look carefully at what the verse says! Take heed to these words.

F. *Like with Jesus Christ, the world claims this Bible's language is "hard to understand" and that nobody talks like that.*

- **1 Cor 2:14** - Lost men cannot understand the Bible the way it is supposed to be understood. They are of another spirit.
- **Mark 4:11-12** – Jesus speaks that way intentionally so one cannot understand unless the person is converted.
- **John 7:46** - They claimed nobody spoke like Jesus either.

G. ***<u>There is no copyright on this Bible's scriptures.</u>***

NOTE: It is against the law of the land to copy and distribute any copyrighted material without the direct written consent of the copyrighter. The Lord would want us to be able to distribute His Word freely to all men. Only the "...love of money which is the root of <u>all evil</u>" (**1 Tim 6:10**) would cause men to copyright a source of truth so that all men could not freely partake and distribute.

- **Rev 22:17** – "...whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely."

NOTE: It is not that people did not want a savior, they wanted someone to rally under and make them prosper. They just did not want <u>THE SAVIOUR</u>! Just like now, it is not that people do not want a Bible. There is good money in selling Bibles, and it serves as a common religious flag to unite under. They just do not want <u>THE BIBLE</u>!

<u>CONCLUSION:</u>

We are living in perilous times. Satan is using every strategy possible to destroy faith in the earth and the church. Men's hearts are failing because of fear. They have nothing stable on which to cleave. The Lord foreseeing this dilemma provided for you a true testimony many years prior. It is a "...more sure word of prophecy". **2 Pet 1:19**

"Prove all things, hold fast to that which is good." **1 Thes 5:21**

OVERCOMING TEMPTATION

ROOTING SERIES **REVISION 4.0**

Understanding and overcoming temptation in a believer's life is one of the most practical and essential truths that you can learn. Pay close attention to the admonitions in the scriptures and notice the examples of men who overcame or fell. Remember, "Great men are not always wise…"(**Job 32:9**) so prepare yourself with God's defense and you will be able to stand in the evil day.

I. ALL MEN HAVE COMMON TEMPTATIONS

- **1 Cor 10:13** (Memory Verse) - Temptations are common. What are the temptations in **vrs 6-11**? There are five common temptations in this portion.

  DEFN: "Temptation" - A testing designed to strengthen or corrupt; the act of testing; a trial.

- **1 John 2:15-16** - You will be tempted in three areas:
  1) Lust of flesh: 2) Lust of eye: 3) Pride of life

- **Gen 3:1-6** - Eve and Adam were also tempted. Notice the severity of the trial from Satan. They were tempted in all three areas simultaneously!

- **Matt 4:1-11** - Jesus was tempted in all three areas. Initially, you will experience only one area at a time, but as you grow in Christ, eventually you will be challenged in more than one area at the same time.

II. GOD IS NOT TO BE BLAMED

- **Jam 1:13-15** – God is not to be blamed for our temptation. We can only blame ourselves because we are drawn away of our own lusts.

  NOTE: "...when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin:" As in human conception, there are two parts to bringing forth a child, so it is with this thought. The lust in your members lies dormant like an egg ready to be fertilized by a "provision" or opportunity from Satan and when it conceives, it brings forth sin. Then sin keeps increasing in your life like a child growing in the womb. When sin has finished, it will have worked a complete work of bringing forth a child, which is death. The ratio in nature of sperm to egg is many to one and the same will be with the attacks on your lusts. Therefore, follow **Rom 13:14** to make no provision for the flesh. Do not give lust an opportunity to sin.

- **Rom 7:15-25** – Paul, the apostle, had the same battles.

  NOTE: There is a law of sin in your members, like the law of gravity that will have its way unless overcome by a greater force. (**Rom 7:18** - Memory Verse)

- **1 Cor 6:18-20** - You sin against your own body in fornication.

  NOTE: You may have sinned against your own body because you may have created several monstrous, unnatural appetites by giving yourself to much sin before you were saved. It will take time and patience to destroy these "giants" in your life. Take hope; God is able to overcome them by His Spirit (**Phi 1:6: Psa 138:8**).

  NOTE: There are other sins that have inward effects such as envy, bitterness, lying, malice, etc., but fornication is a direct sin against your body, the fruit of which produces all manner of disease and corruption. Regardless of how sin is manifested, it only works to one end, death. God intended the body to be used in righteousness. (**Rom 6:16**) If we use it as an instrument of sin, once again we can only blame ourselves for the results.

III. BEING TEMPTED IS NOT THE SIN

- **Heb 4:14-16; Heb 2:18** - Christ was tempted but without sin.

- **Psa 78:18, 41, 56** - The children of Israel tempted God but He didn't sin.

- **1 Cor 10:13** – God is giving you a way of escape before you sin.

  NOTE: In other words, only when you yield to entertaining the thoughts of your lusts, you have sinned. Then sin begins to run its course to take you down the path to death. You sin in your mind long before you sin in your flesh.

IV. HOW TO OVERCOME TEMPTATION

- **Matt 6:13** - Pray daily, "…lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil…"

- **Luke 22:40; Matt 26:41** – "Pray that ye enter not into temptation" when you see it coming your way.

- **Psa 119: 9-11** - Hide God's Word in your heart so you do not sin against God.

  NOTE: When Jesus was tempted by the Devil, Jesus quoted the Word of God which was hid in His heart to resist him (**Matt 4:1-11**).

- **2 Cor 10:3-6** - Cast down every imagination that exalts itself against the knowledge of God. If you don't deal with every imagination and thought, they will eventually become reality! (**2 Cor 10:5** - Memory Verse)

- **Psa 19:13-14** (Memory Verse) – Pray and deal with your presumptuous (willful, defiant, arrogant, irreverent, and rash) sins in your heart and you will not fall to "the great transgression".

  NOTE: If you constantly deal with your tongue and the meditations of your heart, you will find it much easier to live for God. You must learn to resist sin in the heart, then it will not surface in the flesh. (**Pro 4:23**)

  NOTE: The great transgression is to revolt (morally, religiously, or nationally), to sin, to trespass, to do wickedly, to defect, to fall away from, to rebel against a righteous authority. When we walk in presumptuous sin, we are attempting to overthrow God's authority in our lives.

- **Phi 4:8** (Memory Verse) - Think on good things. Fill your mind with virtuous concepts.

- **Gal 5:16** – A carnal mind will lead you to fulfill the lust of the flesh contrary to the law of God. God would have you to walk in the Spirit, having the mind of Christ. (**Rom 8:6-9; Phil 2:5**) Walk in the Spirit, having God's attitude of love. A wrong attitude, an "I don't care" attitude, leads to fulfilling the lust of the flesh.

- **Rom 13:14** (Memory Verse) - Make no provision to walk into a known temptation.

- **Rom 6:11-23** - Count yourself dead to sin and alive unto God. Don't yield your members as instruments of unrighteousness. Learn to hate sin in your flesh.

- **Jam 4:6-10** - Submit yourself to God and resist the devil. If you don't <u>submit</u>, you can't resist

- **1 Cor 10:12** - Take heed. A haughty spirit comes before a fall. (**Pro 16:18; Ecc 7:8-9; 1 Cor 8:1-2; Rom 12:3**)

- **2 Pet 1:5-10** - Be diligent to always add to your faith, and then you will never fall.

- **2 Sam 11:1 to 12:25** - <u>STAY BUSY</u> for God! - Idleness will provoke your flesh as it did King David. Keep running the race with patience and looking to Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith. (**Heb 12:1-2**)

- **Psa 50:15** - When you get into trouble, pray for God's help.

- **1 Cor 10:13** (Intentionally repeated) - God will make a way of escape. <u>Look for it and take it!</u>

  NOTE: You must learn to <u>hate the sin</u> in order to be able to discern it and overcome it in your life. Remember sin is deceitful and will harden your heart. (**Heb 3:12-15**).

V. WHEN YOU DO SIN

- **1 John 2:1-2** - You have an advocate.

  DEFN: "Advocate" - (1) One who pleads the cause of another before any judicial court. (2) One who defends or vindicates a cause by argument; one who is friendly to the oppressed.

- **1 John 1:9** - If you confess, He is faithful and just to forgive you.

  DEFN: (Webster's 1828) "Confess" – To own, acknowledge, or avow, as a crime, a fault, a charge, a debt, or something that is against ones interest, or reputation.

  NOTE: The key is to acknowledge the sin before the Lord. In other words, you must agree with God that it is sin. If you do your part by confessing, then He will do His part to cleanse.

VI. GOD'S PROMISES OF UPHOLDING YOU

- **2 Pet 2:9** - Live for Him now and be godly, and God will deliver you.

- **Jude 1:24** - He is able to keep you from falling. Look to Him.

- **Psa 37:23-24** – The LORD "upholds" with His hand.

- **Pro 24:16** - A saved man rises again when he falls.

CONCLUSION:

"Yield not to temptation for yielding is sin. Each victory will help you some other to win. Fight manfully onward, dark passions subdue. Look ever to Jesus, He will carry you through." If you fall, don't overly condemn yourself. Everyone falls at some time or another. Keep your eyes on Jesus and get up to walk again. Then go on and strive for perfection. (**Matt 5:48**)

PRAYER

In the Christian walk, you must learn to develop a relationship with Jesus Christ. This walk is not a list of rules, but is one of cultivating a friendship with your Lord and Saviour. You accomplish this through prayer. Prayer is communication with God. God speaks to us through His Word and we speak to God through prayer. Prayer is the most common element exemplified by saints in the Bible. Many brothers and sisters of old spent hours on their knees communing with their heavenly Father. Brothers like David, Daniel, and Paul prayed and fasted for weeks to know the mind of God and accomplish the work of God. Jesus, our perfect example, prayed all night before selecting His twelve disciples (**Luke 6:12-16**). He prayed another time and His countenance was changed (**Luke 9:29**). Nothing worthwhile or lasting is accomplished unless God's hand moves, and nothing moves the hand of God like our sincere, fervent prayer!

A close personal relationship with the Father will only come about through prayer, and learning how to pray will only come through the believer's desire. When the disciples saw Jesus praying they asked Him to teach them to pray, and He did (**Luke 11:1-4**). As you begin to pray and walk with the Lord in the light of His Word, you will learn to do all things together. The bond of love will grow and a true relationship will develop between you and your Father. You will run together, work together, fellowship together, and even cry together through prayer. You will experience blessing after blessing and find a "friend that sticketh closer than a brother" (**Pro 18:24**).

I. PRAYER IS A NECESSITY

- **Phi 4:6** (Memory Verse) - In everything by prayer let your request be known to God.

  NOTE: Prayer is the solution to worry! "Careful" means to be excessively cautious and concerned about matters. Sincere prayer brings the peace of God to our circumstances, and safeguards our hearts and minds through the circumstances.(**Phi 4:7**)

- **Heb 4:15-16** (Memory Verse) - We should come "boldly" to the throne that we may find mercy and grace in time of need.

  NOTE: We should not be shy or timid to come to our Father. We must understand our position in Christ that we are seated in heavenly places (**Eph 2:6**). We have direct access to Him to obtain mercy for our sins and grace for our needs.

- **Eph 6:10-18** - We wrestle not against flesh and blood. We must learn to resist Satan as a good soldier armed for battle. Therefore, armed with these essentials; truth, righteousness, the gospel of peace, faith, salvation, and the Word of God, we can have power in prayer. The armor gives us confidence before God as we pray one for another with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit.

II. NOTHING IS TOO HARD FOR THE LORD

- **Gen 18:14** - The Lord's own statement to Sarah was. "Is any thing too hard for the LORD?"

- **Jer 32:17, 27** - Jeremiah was confident that there was nothing too hard for the Lord.

  NOTE: God created the heavens and the earth, is there anything He can't do?

- **Jer 33:3** - The Lord will show you great and mighty things.

- **Mark 9:23** (Memory Verse) - "… all things are possible to him that believeth."

- **Luke 1:37** - "… with God nothing shall be impossible."

- **Rom 8:32** – If it wasn't too hard for God to give up His Son, then it is not too hard for God to "freely give us all things."

III. YOU MUST CALL IN TRUTH

- **Psa 145:18-19** (Memory Verse) - You must call in truth. Compare **John 4:21-24**.

  NOTE: Many people call on God but not in truth. One who is mistaken in truth may sincerely call and not be heard. A person must be in Christ before his prayers will be regarded, except the prayer of repentance (**John 9:31**). Cornelius' prayers came up before God as a "memorial" (**Acts 10:4**). Normally, a memorial is something done in remembrance of someone dead. Cornelius was spiritually dead then (**Psa 25:14**).

- **Pro 28:9** - He that does not regard God's Law "…even his prayer is an abomination."

- **Jer 29:11-14** - When you seek Him with your whole heart in truth He will respond to your petition.

IV. YOU MUST ASK

- **Jam 4:1-2** - First, you must learn to ask. "You have not because you ask not."

- **Psa 2:8; Jam 5:16-18** - Ask. "The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much."

  DEFN: "Fervent" – Very warm, glowing, passionate, ardent, earnest, excited, animated, vehement.

  NOTE: Jabez fervently asked the Lord for three specific things; an enlarged coast, God's presence, and deliverance from evil. (**1 Chr 4:9-10**) The Lord heard and granted his petition.

- **Matt 7:7-11; Luke 11:9-13** – Ask, Seek, Knock

  NOTE: Asking should always be according to God's will. Seeking involves effort if we are to explore God's opportunities in our lives. Knocking always requires waiting for a response for God to open the right door.

- **Matt 21:21-22** - Ask in faith and you will receive.

- **Mark 11:22-24** - Jesus promises that if you believe, you will receive.

- **John 15:7-11; John 16:23-24** - Ask "that your joy might be full".

- **Job 5:8-9** - Job sought the Lord because he knew that He does great and unsearchable things.

- **Psa 81:10-13** - God invites you to open up your mouth as a bird wanting fed.

  NOTE: The desire to pray is stirred when a need is seen. The greatest reason that the saints do not pray is that they are blind to the needs. Their hearts are cold and insensitive. They do not understand the battle that they are in and thus are indifferent about prayer. When we have a major bill to pay, it only takes a little faith to cause us to drop to our knees. It is not difficult to seek God when we see a need.

- **1 John 5:14-15** - We must ask according to His will, not our selfish will. If we know Him, we will know His will.

  NOTE: A man must mature in Christ to look beyond his own burdens and begin to help lift the burden of others through prayer. Eventually his heart will enlarge to the point where he clearly sees another's burden (people, nations, etc.) and will stand in the gap through prayer, fulfilling the law of Christ. (**Gal 6:2**)

V. HOW TO PRAY

- **Matt 6:5-6 -** Do not pray to be seen of men. Enter into your closet of prayer and shut the door.

  NOTE: In **Matt 6:9-15**, Jesus taught them a "model prayer". You can pattern your prayers after it. Do not repeat it in vain repetition but notice all the essential elements of it.

- **Matt 6:7-8** - Do not use vain repetition, as do the heathen.

  NOTE: Brethren should learn to vary their prayers. They must follow the leading of the Holy Spirit. Those who pray the same old way will not pray fervently. Watch for repetitious use of the same phrases, idioms, or names. It is better to say a few words with meaning than to "think they shall be heard for their much speaking." Often people use God's name as a punctuation mark. Address Him properly and not in vain repetition. Also, avoid the reciting of written prayers. There is not one line of

Scripture that teaches the use of pre-written prayers. Prayers should flow from the heart developed by the Spirit of God within us.

- **Matt 6:9** - Begin by addressing the Lord as your Father.

  NOTE: You are His child by faith (**Gal 3:26**). Literally, you can call Him,

  "Daddy". "Abba" means "Daddy" in Hebrew (**Rom 8:15; Gal 4:6**).

- **John 14:12-14; John 16:23-24** - Pray to the Father in Jesus' name.

  NOTE: This is praying with the kingdom of God in mind understanding by who's authority you are coming to the throne of grace and for who's glory you are asking the petition.

- **Matt 6:10; 1 John 3:1-3; 2 Pet 3:9-13** - Pray with anticipation of His coming. The constant thought of His coming will cause you to purify your life by keeping your mind on eternal things instead of temporal things.

- **Matt 6:10; 2 Pet 1:2-4** - Pray pleading the promises that the Lord has given you.

  NOTE: Learn to mark all the promises in your Bible with a "P" in the margin. As you recall them, it will give confidence when you pray. Faith is believing and trusting what He said!

- **Matt 6:10** - Pray for His will to be done in all matters.

- **Matt 6:11** - Pray for your daily needs.

  NOTE: Most people begin to worry if they don't have a month's worth of food in the cupboards or if they don't have money for a bill that is due in two weeks. Jesus tells us to daily ask for our provisions. Whether the need is gas money, rent, a phone bill, or groceries, nothing is too large or too small to seek His help. The faithful learn to daily ask for their needs and rest in God's promise to provide.

- **Matt 6:12** - Confess your trespasses and ask for forgiveness.

- **Matt 6:13** - Pray daily to be delivered from temptation and evil.

- **Luke 11:5-13** - Pray for the power of the Holy Spirit to fill you so that you can be an effective witness for Jesus Christ.

  NOTE: The man wanted bread for sinners. Jesus taught this parable so we would seek the Lord for the power of the Holy Spirit. In verse 13, the Lord is not dealing with salvation, because the people in the context are already His children. He is dealing with the "filling of His Spirit" that is for boldness and power to witness to others (**Acts 4:31; Phi 1:19-20; Eph 4:18-20; Eph 6:18- 20**).

- **"ACTS"** acrostic pattern of prayer can be used as a memory aid.

A - <u>ADORATION</u> - Praise the Lord for who He is and what He has done. Read these Psalms and learn how to praise.
Psa 8, 66, 86, 98, 103, 105, 106, 107, 116, 138, 139, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, & 150

C - <u>CONFESSION</u> - Confess your sins.

- **1 John 1:9** - If you confess, He is faithful and just to forgive.

NOTE: The key is to acknowledge the sin before the Lord. In other words, you must agree with God that it is sin. If you do your part by confessing then He will do His part to cleanse you from all unrighteousness, because He is faithful.

- **Psa 32:5-6** - A godly man acknowledges his sin.
- **Psa 24:3-4** - No man ascends to the holy hill except "...he that hath clean hands and a pure heart;"
- **1 John 3:18-22** - If our hearts condemn us not, we have confidence with God.

T - <u>THANKSGIVING</u> - Show your thankfulness. Tell Him how much you appreciate what He has done for you.

- **Phi 4:6** - Pray with thanksgiving.
- **Luke 17:12-19 -** One leper returned to give thanks, nine did not return. Which pattern will you follow?
- **1 Cor 15:57 -** Give thanks for the victory given through our Lord Jesus Christ.
- **Eph 5:20 -** Give thanks always for all things.
- **1 Thes 5:18 -** In everything give thanks.
- **1 Thes 1:2** - Give thanks to God for others.
- **Eph 1:16** - Paul ceased not to give thanks for others.
- **Phi 1:3** - Thank God for your family in Christ.
- **Col 4:2 -** Watch in prayer with thanksgiving.
- **Heb 13:15 -** Offer the sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving.

S - <u>SUPPLICATION</u> - Make your requests for others and then yourself.

DEFN: "Supplication" - An earnest, humble request. A petition delivered in sincerity and submission.

- **Eph 6:18** (Intentionally repeated) - Pray with supplication.
- **Phi 4:6** (Intentionally repeated) - Notice the supplication.
- **Psa 116:1; Psa 130:2; Psa 119:169-172** - God heard David's supplication.
- **1 Tim 2:1** - Supplications should be made for all men.
- **Acts 1:14** - Supplications were made in one accord.

VI. WHEN TO PRAY

- **Mark 1:35** - Jesus rose up early in the morning to pray.
- **Psa 5:3** - David sought the Lord early in the morning.
- **Dan 6:10** - Daniel prayed three times a day as it was his custom.
- **Psa 55:17-22** – "Evening, morning, and at noon" cast your burdens upon the Lord.

  NOTE: Those who don't set patterns of prayer in their life usually end up not praying much.

- **Psa 119:18** - Pray before you read your Bible, that He would open your eyes to His truth.
- **1 Tim 4:5-7** - Pray before you eat your meals, thanking your heavenly Father for your daily food (**John 6:11**).
- **1 Thes 5:17** - Pray without ceasing.

  NOTE: Although it is good to have certain times set to pray, the true perspective of faith understands the Lord is always near. Therefore converse with Him as you go. Talk to Him while driving in your car, as you are walking down the hall, or as you are sitting on your sofa. Learn to communicate with Him anytime, anywhere. Make it a continual living relationship.

- **Col 4:2** (Intentionally repeated) - You should continue in prayer all the time.

  NOTE: Jesus was always going off somewhere to pray (**Mark 6:46; Luke 6:12**).

- **Eph 6:18** (Intentionally repeated) – "Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit ...for all saints"
- **Rom 12:12** - Pray to Him at any instant.

  NOTE: When sudden needs arise or sudden fears confront you, pray! When Nehemiah was caught off guard, he prayed (**Neh 2:2-5**).

When Simon Peter was sinking, he prayed (**Matt 14:30**).

- **Psa 50:15** - Pray to Him when you are in trouble and He will deliver. Then you should give Him the glory.

  NOTE: Jehoshaphat, in the midst of battle cried out for help and the Lord heard him (**2 Chr 18:30-32**).

- **Psa 34:1-6** - Call on Him in fearful times and He will deliver.

  NOTE: Jehoshaphat was in a crisis and didn't know what to do. He cried unto the Lord and the Lord took up the battle (**2 Chr 20:3-18**). Asa did the same thing (**2 Chr14:9-12**). Then note the example of Christ (**Heb 5:7**).

VII. FAILURE TO PRAY BRINGS FAILURE

- **Gen 3:1-8** - No prayer at a crucial time brought death to all.

- **Jos 7:1-6** - Joshua and the elders failed to seek God for direction until after the defeat at the city of Ai. Sin was in the camp and they did not see it.

  NOTE: After prayer and dealing with the sin in the camp, the Lord used the defeat to bring victory (**Jos 8:1-29**).

- **Jos 9:1-14** - Joshua and the men asked not counsel at the mouth of the Lord and were deceived by the Gibeonites. The Gibeonites were a thorn in Israel's side all their days. This is the end of compromise and prayerlessness.

- **Luke 22:40-46** - The disciples fell asleep and failed to pray. Then they were seriously tempted and fell.

  NOTE: Jesus warned them before they were tempted to pray that they enter not into temptation. (**Luke 22:40**)

- **Matt 26:31-46** - Peter was bold in the flesh, but without prayer was weak and seriously fell by denying the Lord. (**1 Cor 10:12**)

VIII. MEN SHOULD KEEP PRAYING

- **Luke 18:1-8** - KEEP PRAYING! Jesus gave this parable to teach that you should not faint in praying. Men ought "always" to pray.

  NOTE: Some teach that great faith is demonstrated by praying for something only once and waiting for the answer, but that is not the pattern that the Scriptures teach.

- **Luke 11:5-10** - This parable teaches that a man who demonstrates "importunity" in prayer compels the door of blessing open. In other words, he continues to come even at inopportune times to obtain his request.

  NOTE: God's delays are not necessarily His denials of your requests. He is patient and therefore you must be. God's timetable is not your timetable,

therefore do not try to force Him to follow yours. The Lord does everything in perfect timing. Learn to wait on Him with humble supplications.

- **Matt 15:21-28** - Jesus praises this woman saying that she has "great faith" because she kept asking her request even though she was seriously rejected four times by Jesus.

- **2 Cor 12:7-12** - Paul prayed three times for affliction to be taken away. The Lord finally answered him by revealing that His grace was sufficient for him. He states, "…my strength is made perfect in weakness."

- **Matt 26:39-44** - Jesus prayed three times "…let this cup pass from me". Jesus was persistent in His requests. Read **Heb 5:7**.

- **1 Kin 18:41-44** - Elijah prayed seven times to start the rain again after a three and one half year drought. He prayed earnestly till he saw God move.

- **Exo 17:8-16** - Moses prayed all day with his hands lifted until the battle was won.

- **Gen 18:22-33** - Abraham prayed for Sodom until he arrived at a mutually acceptable solution with God.

- **Gen 32:24-32** - Jacob wrestled all night with God until he received a blessing. (Maybe some would not consider this prayer.)

IX. YOU ARE A PRIEST THAT CAN INTERCEDE

- **1 Pet 2:2-10** - As a newborn babe you have entered into a holy priesthood to offer up spiritual sacrifices through prayer.

  DEFN: "Priest" - one who offers sacrifices unto God as a form of worship.

  NOTE: You are a priest unto God even as a newborn babe. Since Jesus offered Himself on the cross, there are no more blood sacrifices for sin to be offered. The offerings we make now are offerings made without hands, spiritual sacrifices of praise, thanksgiving, and supplication for others through prayer. (**Psa 116:17; Heb 13:15-16**).

- **Rev 1:6** - Christ has made us kings and priests through His blood.

- **Eph 2:12-19** - We have access as priests to God through faith in His blood.

- **Heb 4:14-16** (Intentionally repeated) - Jesus is our high priest and we as believer priests can come boldly to His throne of grace because of the offering of His body once for all.

  NOTE: In **2 Kin 19:1-7** Eliakim, the high priest, was the true deliverer for Israel to bring them victory. Many think that it was Hezekiah's prayer that delivered Israel. But God stated in **Isa 22:20-25** that Eliakim was the champion in delivering the house of David through prayer. See, the

priest, as does the king, has power with God to win battles!

X. LEARN TO PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER

- **Col 4:2-3** - Paul asked the brethren to pray for an open door of utterance.
- **Col 4:12-13** - Epaphras "labored" fervently in prayers for others that they may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God. Prayer can be laborious!
- **Col 1:9-12** - Paul prayed that the Colossians "… might be filled with the knowledge of his (God's) will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding." He prayed that they may be fruitful in every good work and strengthened with all might.
- **Eph 1:15-17** - Paul prayed for the Ephesians that they might gain "the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him:"
- **Eph 6:18-20** (Intentionally repeated) - Pray with all perseverance and supplication for all saints. Pray that they may speak boldly for Christ.
- **Matt 26:41** - Pray that you, including your brethren, enter not into temptation.
- **Luke 22:31-32** - Jesus prayed for Peter that his "...faith fail not".
- **Jam 5:13-16** – Pray one for another that you may be healed, spiritually and physically.
- **1 Tim 2:1-8** - Pray for the government leaders "…lifting up holy hands without wrath and doubting."
- **John 17:9-23** - Jesus prayed that we may all become one in truth.
- **John 17:20-21** - Pray for the souls of the lost to be saved.
- **Job 42:10** – "The Lord turned the captivity of Job, when he prayed for his friends."

XI. HINDRANCES TO PRAYER

- **Isa 59:1-2** - Known sin in your life will hinder your prayers.

  NOTE: You are to be always praying in the Spirit (**Eph 6:18**). Sin hinders your spirit and defiles your conscience. Then your heart condemns you and you have no confidence with God (**1 John 3:18-21**). As a result you lose your sincerity and fervency in prayer and are not heard on high.

- **Psa 66:18** - Regarding iniquity in your heart will block your prayers.

  NOTE: Any defilement of the heart will quench your spirit to communicate with God. Look at **Matt 15:17-20** to see what Jesus says will defile a man.

- **Jam 4:1-2** (Intentionally repeated) - You are not asking fervently because you are too busy trying to produce the answer.

- **Jam 4:3-5** – "… ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts." In other words, you have a selfish motive behind your prayer to fulfill your lusts with the request. The Lord will not answer you because He knows it would hinder your growth.

  NOTE: For this reason many people do not really get saved when they ask because they are not asking with a sincere heart. They have ulterior motives in mind.

- **Jam 4:6-10** - Pride will cause God to resist you in your prayers. You think you know better and you will not submit to God. This is the problem of being self-willed. You will not be able to resist the devil until you submit to God's will, acknowledging that He knows what is best

  NOTE: Saul was not obedient to the Lord's command because he was self-willed. He thought he had a better way, but when he went to worship, he was rejected (**1 Sam 15:22-23**). This was the sad trend of his life. He tried to pray and get hold of God but God would not respond to him! Therefore he turned to a witch for direction and was soon destroyed. (**1 Sam 28:7-8**).

- **Rom 1:21** - A lack of thankfulness can lead you in a path of darkness that will hinder your prayers. Paul says, "...be ye thankful." (**Col 3:15**).

- **1 John 3:17-23** (Intentionally repeated) - Stinginess with your worldly possessions will hinder your prayers.

- **1 Pet 3:7** - A wrong relationship with your mate will hinder your prayers.

- **Matt 5:23-24; 1 Pet 3:8-12** - Prayer is blocked by wrongs unrighted, debts unpaid, offended brothers not reconciled.

- **Mark 11:24-26; Matt 6:12** - Unforgiveness grieves the Lord and hinders your prayers.

  NOTE: A grudge, a root of bitterness, malice, or even hatred are all forms of unforgiveness. **Eph 4:32 -** We are to forgive as Christ forgave us. **Matt 18:21-35 -** This portion reveals the sad end of unforgiveness.

XII. <u>THE IMPORTANCE OF GROUP PRAYER</u>

- **Matt 18:19-20** - Gather together with others to pray. If two agree, there is more power in petitioning.

  NOTE: Get involved and gather with others in prayer. Join with your brethren in group prayer such as Wednesday night prayer meetings, men's prayer

meetings, Saturday prayer breakfasts, and all night prayer meetings

- **Acts 2:1-4** - The first church gathered in one accord to pray for ten days. The Lord moved in great power to save multitudes.

- **Acts 2:42-47** - The first church gathered for prayer often and saw the Lord add to the church daily.

- **Acts 4:23-31** - The first church prayed again in one accord. The prayer is recorded. Afterwards they were filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the Word of God with boldness.

XIII. PRACTICAL TIPS IN PRAYER

- Pray more in private than in public. The person who doesn't speak with the Lord in secret should lay a hand to his mouth and not try to show others how to pray in public. That kind of foolish heart will be praying only to be heard of men.

- When you pray in private, pray aloud or at least move your lips (**1 Sam 1:13**). There is a tendency to let your mind wander or drift off to sleep if you pray non-verbally.

- When asked to publicly lead in prayer, don't pray long prayers. Consider the circumstances and pray accordingly. Lengthy prayers should be saved for your closet.

- When possible, try to gather in group prayer meetings. Attend all night prayer meetings when they are called. Jesus prayed all night (**Luke 6:12**) and Paul was in watchings (late night prayer times) often (**2 Cor 11:27**). The disciples could not watch with Jesus for one hour in prayer on the night of His arrest. This was an opportunity that they most likely regretted. (**Matt 26:40**).

- Fasting can accompany seasons of prayer. Jesus recommended it to His disciples for difficult prayer requests (**Matt 17:20-21; Mark 9:29; Matt 6:16-18**). Throughout the ages, men have brought their bodies under subjection and found the power of God through fasting and prayer.

- Be definite in your praying, ask specifically for things. This demonstrates your faith! Do not be too general or vague in your petitions or you will never see the request answered. Speak out individual names, places, times, monies, needs, etc. Then you will rejoice at the Lord's specific answers.

- Do not dictate to the Lord how He should answer your prayers. The Lord delights in being creative. He can be so unique in bringing the answer to pass. Read **Eph3:20**

- Pray about a matter until the peace comes, then praise Him for the answer. This might not occur in just one session of prayer, but when the Spirit of God gives you a peace indicating that your Father has heard. Respond in praise and thanksgiving. **2 Chr 20:21-22** again, they praised the Lord before they saw the answer.

- Determine to pray on your knees when possible. This is a humble position before your Lord, Elijah prayed with his face between his knees (**1 Kin 18:42**).

- Do not allow yourself to be interrupted by little trifles while you are talking with the KING OF KINGS. If you have children, teach them to respect the time of prayer you have set aside, and not disturb you while you are praying.

- Learn to share all your feelings before the Lord. Pour out your complaints, frustrations, fears, questions, reservations, and bewilderment before Him in love and respect. Reading the Psalms will show you that David often did this. He was honest and emptied his heart before his Friend (**Psa 62:8 & Psa 77**).

- During fellowships with other believers, ask them to tell you of answered prayer in their lives. This will encourage you to continue to pray about certain matters.

- Keep a record of answered prayers in the back of your Bible. Note the date you started praying and when the answer came. This will be very encouraging to you and will increase your faith. Also, it will establish a memorial for your children to appreciate. It proves that the Lord is the same yesterday, today, and forever (**Heb 13:8**).

CONCLUSION:

You should now be ready to take up the responsibility and privilege of prayer. Commune with Him often. Grow in your fellowship with Him day by day. Then pray with the understanding that our Father is the "ALMIGHTY GOD", whose resources are unlimited. Realize that your Father is not only able to perform your greatest request, but when He has done so there is an infinite amount of untapped power remaining. As your faith increases, ask for many things. The Lord delights in BIG prayers. "Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and show thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not."
(**Jer 33:3**)

FAITH

The righteous shall live his whole life by faith. He is saved by faith and he will now live by faith. In the scriptures this declaration "...The just shall live by faith," is found four times. (**Hab 2:4; Rom 1:17; Gal 3:11; Heb 10:38**) Hence you can see this life principle is essential for the saved to understand. A Christian will live either by faith or sight. This world has trained you to live by sight, but our Father wants you to live by faith. The Israelites had a difficult time living for God after they came out of Egypt because they had been trained by the Egyptians! Much of your life will be spent undoing what the world has already sown in you. Things you naturally assume are right must now be carefully examined in the light of the faith and the truth found in God's Holy Word. (**Isa 55:8-9**)

I. WHAT IS FAITH?

DEFN: (God's) "Faith": "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." (**Heb 11:1** – Memory Verse)

DEFN: (Webster's) "Faith": (1) Unquestioning belief in God. (2) Complete trust, confidence or reliance in something or in the integrity of someone. (3) Loyalty; allegiance to some person. (4) A firm belief in something for which there is no visible proof.

- **Heb 11:1-6** - By faith the elders obtained a good report.

II. FAITH IS BASED ON KNOWLEDGE OF GOD'S WORD

- **Rom 10:13-17** – (Memory Verses) The Word is necessary as a basis of salvation. When you come to Christ, you must accept that the claims of God's Word are true.

  NOTE: Faith is not blind as some say, but must be placed in something. For example, when you get on a plane, you have faith that it will fly. So it is with saving faith. Faith is based on promises given by God who "...is not a man that he should lie." (**Num 23:19**) His Word will remain forever. (**Isa 40:8**)

  NOTE: In addition to getting saved, all that you will now do in life must be done by faith in God's Word. (**Col 2:6-7**).

- **Rom 4:16-24** - Abraham believed God against all earthly hope and fathered a child in his old age. He was blessed because he did not stagger at God's promises.

- **Heb 4:1-2** - If the Word is not mixed with faith, it is of no profit.

- **2 Pet 1:1-10** - Faith lays the foundation of Jesus Christ in a life. (**1 Cor 3:11**) Then all other spiritual virtues are built thereon.

NOTE: The Bible teaches that the proper order is: fact, faith, and feeling. The fact, which is God's Word, should lead. Then faith follows keeping its eye on fact. Feeling comes last with its eye on faith. If feeling is switched with faith or fact in position, the whole process becomes shaky and will lead to doubts and fears. Many people, who walk by feeling, want a sign first to gain assurance before they will believe, but this is contrary to God's order. Faith must depend on Christ's faithfulness to His promises alone and not on sight or self. Feeling will come as a result of obedience of faith to the Word. (**John 14:21** – Memory Verse)

III. FAITH IS NECESSARY TO PLEASE GOD

- **Heb 11:5-6** - Enoch pleased God by faith, and so must you.

- **Rom 4:1-5 -** Faith is what pleases God, not works. Those who do works in order to gain merit with God are weak in the faith and do not please Him.

- **Matt 14:28-32** - Peter was able to walk on water, by faith, as long as he kept his eyes on Jesus. Likewise, when you keep your eyes on Jesus and off your circumstances, you won't sink.

IV. FAITH MUST WORK BY LOVE

- **Gal 5:6,13-16** - True faith works by love. Only works done in "...the faith that worketh by love" will God accept. Therefore by love serve one another. "Love worketh no ill to his neighbor: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law." (**Rom 13:10)**

- **1 Cor 13:2** - Mountain-moving faith without charity is profitless.

  NOTE: All you do in life and ministry must be done by faith through the motive of love. Any work, such as soul winning, tithing, preaching, etc., must be by faith in love or it is vain, empty, and worthless. It is a :dead work" and ultimately profitless for you in eternal realms.

- **2 Pet 1:1-10; 1 Tim 1:5** (Intentionally Repeated) – One of the goals of the Lord is to bring a man to walk by faith in true charity. In love you will lay your life down for your brethren. (**John 15:13**) You will not be able to lay down your life in all areas until you can believe the Lord will honor His Word and lift you up. (**1 John 3:16**)

  NOTE: For example, you will not be able to give sacrificially to the poor in charity (**1 John 3:17**) until you have added to your faith, virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, godliness, brotherly kindness, and charity. All this must be added to your faith in order to be fruitful. "But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off…" (**1 Pet 1:9a**)

V. FAITH CAN BE INCREASED

- **Luke 17:5-10** - By prayer, ask God to increase your faith.

- **Gal 5:22** - Faith is a fruit of the Spirit. As you walk in the Spirit and yield to Him, faith increases in you.

- **Rom 10:17** - Faith comes by hearing and reading God's Word.

- **Matt 13:31-32** - The seed of faith needs nourished.

  NOTE: The mustard seed is the smallest of all herb seeds but, when nourished properly, it grows into a large tree and is the greatest among herbs. Your faith may be small but, by feasting on the Word of God, it has the potential to become great.

- **Heb 11:1-40; Heb 13:7** - Faith increases by observing examples of faith in God's Word and in life.

  NOTE: Read biographies of great Christians. Be careful! Men have a tendency to present a one-sided, glorified picture of great men. This results in a lopsided view of their true heart and the reason of God's blessing on their lives. God always gives a balanced view in His Word of man's weaknesses and strengths.

VI. YOUR FAITH WILL BE TRIED

- **Jam 1:2-8** - The trying of your faith works patience.

- **1 Pet 1:5-7** - You are kept by faith and tried by fire to prove your faith. Remember that it is your faith that is being tried by fire and not you. Your faith will be unto His praise and glory in the end.

  NOTE: A believer advances through adversity in this Christian walk. The adversity is a result of God's plan to conform us to the image of Christ. (**Psa 138:7-8)** Christian America is weak because there is little suffering in the lives of Christians. The church of Laodicea was weak because it was materially wealthy and in need of nothing (**Rev 3:14-22**). Christ challenged them to buy from Him gold tried by fire, which is a picture of their faith being perfected through trials. Those who suffer learn to cease from sin in their lives. (**1 Pet 4:1**)

- **Heb 10:32-39** - You might experience the spoiling of your goods like many other brothers. "The just shall live by faith."

- **2 Tim 3:12** - All that live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.

- **Phi 1:29** - As a saint, you are called to suffer.

- **Heb 5:8** - Even Jesus learned obedience through the things that He suffered.

- **Matt 13:18-23** - In the parable of the sower, all the ground received the same sunlight and rain. The ground was being tested to see if the seed could grow effectively. This is a picture of the trying of a believer's faith. In the case of the stony ground, the sun was pictured as a hot, heavy trial because of the Word. The sun comes to test whether genuine faith is present and to perfect that which is lacking in a believer's life. In this case, the sun burned out the seed and no fruit was brought to perfection. In the case of the weedy ground, the the weeds and thorns choked the seed because worldliness, riches, and the cares of this life overcame him that received the Word. But in the case of the "good ground", the seed was forced to drive its roots deeper into the soil for more nourishment, thus making the plant stronger and more stable.

  NOTE: Building faith is like building muscles. In weight lifting, before a muscle is built stronger it must first be torn down. As the muscle experiences too great of a load it slightly tears. This results in a tingling, burning sensation in the muscle called a "burn". The body then repairs and builds the muscle back stronger by adding more fibers. You need your spiritual muscles exercised to the limit to cause a "burn" in your life to become stronger for the Lord (**Heb 5:14**). Remember, the Lord is the one who "loads the bar" slightly past your limit. He designs the trials perfectly for you. He will not tempt you above that which you are able to bear (**1 Cor 10:13**). Trust His handiwork and increase in faith.

VII. THE BENEFITS OF FAITH

A. YOU ARE SAVED THROUGH FAITH.

- **Luke 7:50** - Faith saves you if you truly believe.

- **John 6:47** - True faith believes completely on Jesus.

  NOTE: Faith in any other savior than Christ will not save. (**Acts 4:12**) Likewise, faith in any other gospel, than that which is revealed in the New Testament, will not save. (**Gal 1:8-9**)

- **John 20:29-31** - Faith is believing without seeing.

- **Eph 2:8-9** - Faith saves, not works.

- **Rom 3:27-28** - Faith justifies, not works.

- **Gal 3:26** - You are a child of God by faith in Jesus Christ.

- **Rom 5:1-2** - By faith you are no longer an enemy of God.

- **1 Pet 1:7-9** (Intentionally Repeated) - You will receive, at the end of your faith, the salvation of your soul.

  NOTE: Perseverance is the obvious evidence of grace and true faith. Those who "permanently" fall away demonstrate that their faith was not placed in Christ but in someone else or something else.

B. <u>FAITH BRINGS PEACE, JOY, REST & CONFIDENCE.</u>

- **Isa 26:3** - Trusting brings peace.
- **Phi 4:6-7** - Don't be anxious or worried. In faith, a believer should pray about everything and leave all things in the Lord's hands. This produces a peace and a security that passes the understanding of your circumstances.
- **1 Pet 1:7-8** - Faith brings joy unspeakable and full of glory.
- **Heb 4:1-3,10** – You enter into rest through faith in His Word.
- **Eph 3:12** - You have access by faith with confidence.
- **Heb 4:16** - By faith you can enter into His presence with confidence.
- **Pro 3:5-6** - He will direct your path.
- **Pro 3:26** - He will be your confidence.

C. <u>FAITH GIVES VICTORY OVER THE WORLD.</u>

- **1 John 5:4** - True faith overcomes the world.
- **Eph 6:16** - Faith will quench the fiery darts of the wicked.
- **Acts 26:18** - Faith in Christ brings sanctification, which is the opening of your eyes to the light and the ability to move away from evil.
- **Eph 2:1-10** – Through faith we walk victoriously in the plan that is ordained in Christ Jesus and are delivered from this present evil world (**Gal 1:4**).

D. <u>FAITH MOVES MOUNTAINS.</u>

- **Matt 17:20-21; Mark 11:22-24 -** Faith the size of a mustard seed can move mountains.
- **Luke 17:6** - Faith can move a tree.
- **Matt 21:21** - Faith, without doubt, can accomplish great things.
- **Mark 9:23** - All things are possible to those who believe.

<u>CONCLUSION:</u>

Therefore, "have faith in God" and be not overcome with doubts and fears. Be confident "...that He which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:" (**Phi 1:6)** "...for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day." (**2 Tim 1:12**) When you don't understand His plan, and you can't see His footsteps, then just trust His heart that He's ordering your way aright. (**Psa 37:23-24**). He will never leave you nor forsake you (**Heb 13:5**).

GRACE

Grace, the most powerful, yet most neglected resource available to the New Testament believer. When we speak of grace, we speak of a very broad subject, one that touches and effects every aspect of the believer's life. Unfortunately, grace has traditionally been taught and perceived as effecting our salvation alone. However, the Scriptures are clear about the impact of God's grace in our lives. It not only has an impact on the believer's salvation but on his/her growth, stability, service and afflictions as well.

In the Old Testament grace normally implied favor, either divine or human. We see this time and again in the lives of men such as Noah, Lot, Joseph, Moses, etc. (**Gen 6:8; 19:19; 39:4; Exo 33:12-17**). This favor, of course, was unmerited and displayed God's willingness to work on the behalf of His people. However it's impact does not reach its full realization until the New Testament.

In the New Testament grace not only implies divine favor, but divine influence as well. As believers, we experience its full realization through the new birth by receiving His fullness. (**John 1:14-17**) The Bible says that Jesus is "full of grace and truth". When we received Him, we also received His grace for grace. For the New Testament believer there is greater access to this grace through faith. (**Rom 5:1-2; Heb 4:16**) However, with this access comes a greater accountability. (**Luke 12:48; 1 Pet 4:10**) Since we are to be good stewards of God's grace, it is only wise that we understand exactly for what we are accountable. The importance of this doctrine can not be overstated; it effects every aspect of a believer's life.

I. WHAT IS GRACE?

- **2 Cor 8:9** (Memory Verse) – This is God's definition of grace.

  NOTE: His unmerited favor and influence on our behalf.

  DEFN: (Webster's) Grace: (1) Appropriately, the free unmerited love and favor of God, the spring and source of all the benefits men receive from Him. (2) favorable influence of God; divine influence or the influence of the Spirit, in renewing the heart and restraining from sin.

  DEFN: (Gothard's) Grace: The desire and power God gives to do His will. (**Phi 2:13; 1 Cor 15:10**)

II. THE ROLE OF GRACE IN SALVATION

- **Tit 2:11** (Memory Verse) - Every person has the opportunity of enjoying God's divine favor and influence. His will is to see every person receive salvation. (**2 Pet 3:9**)

- **Acts 15:11** (Memory Verse) - The early Church understood that salvation is a work of God engaged on our behalf by His grace. (**Eph 2:5**)

NOTE: God's grace is His ability and His power to perform the operation of salvation. This ability and power is His gift which can only be activated through the act of faith. (**Eph 2:8-9; Rom 5:1-2**)

1. Grace is God's ability to **forgive**, regardless of how great the sin. (**Rom 5: 20; Eph 1:7; 2:1-7**)
2. Grace is God's ability to **justify**, to wipe away all offenses as though there were none. (**Rom 3:24; Tit 3:5-7**)
3. Grace is God's ability to **establish**, to securely place us in Himself. (**1 Pet 5:10-12; Rom 5:1-7**)

NOTE: Remember God's ability to forgive, justify and establish, stand dormant over a person's sin until faith activates them.

- **Rom 5:17-21** – Grace reigns through righteousness, which the believer receives as a free gift, unto eternal life. By receiving the abundance of grace the believer is empowered to reign in this life.

- **Eph 3:2-8** - This salvation by grace marks a new dispensation in which we would become fellow heirs of the promise. A promise that the Old Testament saints received in truth**,** but could not obtain without grace. (**John 1:17; 1 Pet 3:7**)

III. THE ROLE OF GRACE IN GROWTH

- **Luke 2:40 -** Christ as a child grew in grace.

- **2 Pet 3:18** (Memory Verse) - We are commanded to grow in the grace of God.

NOTE: We are exhorted to have grace added unto us in 18 of the 27 books in the New Testament. It is quite evident that God wants His children to grow and function in grace.

- **Eph 4:7-16; Rom 12:3-8 -** He gives His grace to equip others, who in turn use their gifts and talents to assist in your growth:
  1. By equipping individuals in specific offices. (**1 Cor 3:10**; **Eph 4:11-12**)
  2. By collectively blessing the local Church. (**Acts 4:33; 11:22-23; 13:43**)

NOTE: God, through the Spirit of grace, orchestrates every gift and talent, helping every believer utilize his or her full potential in grace. (**1 Cor 1:3-7; 1 Cor 12:7-11**)

- **Jam 4:6; 1 Pet 5:5** (Memory Verses) - As we grow in His grace, this growth is manifested both inwardly and outwardly: Inwardly through humility, having a submissive and quiet spirit.

- **Heb 13:9; Col 3:16; Eph 5:19** - Inwardly through the heart, having the heart established in thought and music.

- **Eph 4:29; Col 4:6** - Outwardly through our speech, using the tongue as a source of truth for service.

- **1 Pet 4:8-10; 2 Cor 8:1-9** - Outwardly through our giving, using hospitality and our finances to minister to the needs of others; most importantly, the giving of ourselves. (**2 Cor 8:5**)

  NOTE: We are to abound in the grace of giving (**2 Cor 8:7**) and by doing so, God is able to make all grace abound toward us. (**2 Cor 9:8** - Memory Verse)

IV. THE ROLE OF GRACE IN SERVICE

- **2 Tim 1:9** (Memory Verse) - God calls us into His purpose by His grace. This call gives us direction, assurance and vision as to His will for our lives. (**Rom 15:15-16; Gal 1:15-16**; **1 Cor 3:10**)

- **Rom 12:3-8; Eph 4:7-12** - Through grace we are equipped for His calling. The Spirit gives to each person, severally as He wills, the gift, which will best benefit the body of Christ. (**1 Cor 12:4-11** - Intentionally repeated)

  NOTE: Remember, grace is God's ability and influence on your behalf. If we will allow His ability and influence to operate in our gifts, they can be used to their full potential. On the other hand, when we allow the flesh to operate our gifts, it will only produce pride, carnality and selfishness. This was the problem of the Corinthian Church, who came behind in no gift, but they abused their gifts by operating them in the flesh.

- **1 Cor 15:10** (Memory Verse) - Through grace we are fashioned for His purpose and made able to function and labor in that purpose. Notice, Paul said, "...yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me." If we could learn to get ourselves out of the way, God could work His purpose in us. (**Phi 2:13** - Memory Verse)

- **2 Tim 2:1-2** - We are exhorted to be strong in God's grace before endeavoring to labor. This leaves the responsibility to us, to ensure our dependence on Him and not ourselves.

V. THE ROLE OF GRACE IN AFFLICTIONS

- **2 Cor 12:9** (Memory Verse) - Regardless of the affliction, persecution, illness or temptation God's grace is always sufficient.

  NOTE: There are times when God will allow such conditions in our lives, that He may bring us to a point of weakness. In **2 Cor 12:6-9** God used the following in Paul's life:
  1. Infirmities - but grace strengthens
  2. Reproaches - but grace clears the conscience
  3. Necessities - but grace brings contentment
  4. Persecutions - but grace brings separation and virtue
  5. Distress - but grace brings peace

  The purpose was twofold, to produce humility and to perfect God's strength in Paul's weaknesses.

- **Jam 4:6** (Intentionally repeated) - Remember humility brings more grace.

- **Heb 4:14-16** - In weakness and humility we can approach the throne of grace to find mercy for forgiveness of sins and grace to help in time of need. There is no excuse for a believer to fall short in his/her affliction, when we have such great access to the grace of God.

  NOTE: Notice Paul's approach, answer, and attitude in going to the throne of grace in **2 Cor 12:6-9**.

- **2 Cor 6:1-10** – We are not to receive God's grace in vain (emptiness or aimlessness) but are to approve ourselves as the ministers of God. Every believer is a minister or an ambassador for God, according to verse one (see also **2 Cor 5:18-21**). We are workers together with Him. How we utilize or fail to utilize our resource of grace plays an important role in how the world approves or blames the ministry.

  NOTE: It is like a football team, which makes it to the championship, off the arm of its quarterback and the power of its running back. But on the day of the championship the coach decides to replace them and thus loses a game he could have won. God gives us the greatest resource in the world, let us not replace it with inferior works of the flesh!

VI. ABUSE OF THE GRACE OF GOD

- **Gal 2:21** (Memory Verse) – Frustrating the grace of God occurs when we try to accomplish through the law what God has done by grace. For Christ to justify you by grace through faith and then require that you be justified by the law, would make His death a vain effort and Paul a transgressor. (**Gal 2:16-18)**

- **Gal 5:3-4** – Here, falling from grace applies to a believer who has fallen from the doctrine of grace and reverted back to trying to please God in the flesh by focusing on keeping the law. Notice Paul says that Christ is become of "none effect". The believer will have no power with God to change his life. The result of trusting in doing the law of Moses in the flesh to accomplish perfection in one's life, means that you are not allowing the Spirit to change you through faith that worketh by love. All motivation for perfection or service should stem from a heart of love.

- **Heb 12:15** (Memory Verse) – One fails of the grace of God when he fails to utilize what grace is given and available. There is a loss of opportunity, not of salvation. When Esau sold his birthright he did not loose his relationship, he lost his opportunity. The opportunity to father the godly seed line and be a blessing. Thus, his loss brought bitterness, which defiled many in his family lineage, even to this day. Our failure to utilize God's grace can also bring bitterness in our lives.

- **Jude 4** – False prophets turn the grace of God into lasciviousness, which is loose living that's shocking to public decency.

  DEFN: "Lasciviousness" – (1) Looseness; irregular indulgence of animal desires; wantonness; lustfulness. (2) Tendency to excite lusts, and promotes irregular indulgences.

- **Rom 6:1-2** – The abuse of the grace of God is not just limited to unbelieving false prophets who teach a loose life style of lasciviousness, but to believers who use the forgiving power of God's grace to justify continuing in sin.

- **Heb 10:29 –** When we sin willfully we hold the Spirit of grace in spite which will result in God's chastening hand coming upon us.

CONCLUSION:

As a believer, learn to access and rely on the grace of God to give you power to live your Christian life. Then the Lord can use you and get the glory for it. The Apostle Paul relied on God's grace and acknowledged it in **1 Cor 15:10,** "But for the grace of God I am what I am...." What a wonderful saint of God Paul was!

HOLINESS OF GOD

Holiness is the basic characteristic of God. He is seen as many things such as love, light, and a consuming fire, but the basic ingredient of His nature is holiness. Moses declared, "…who is like thee, glorious in holiness." (**Exo 15:11**) We, as Christians, have a holy calling on our lives to follow in His steps. As children, therefore, we must understand our Father's holiness to know what He is really like and be like Him. For He says, "… be ye holy: for I am holy!" (**1 Pet 1:16**)

I. WHAT IS HOLINESS

DEFN: "Holiness" - The state of being separate, pure, clean, distinctly different, unique in contrast from anyone and anything else. One of a kind! That which is separate for one purpose - the service of God.

NOTE: Many things in the scriptures were called "holy" because they were to be used for separate, pure, distinctively different purposes.

A. ***HOLY VESSELS*** - These were vessels that had a peculiar, but unique purpose in the service of God.

- **1 Kin 8:4; 1 Chr 22:19; 2 Chr 5:5** - God called all the vessels used in His service in the tabernacle "the holy vessels".
- **Eze 22:26** - These priests put no difference between the holy and profane.

  DEFN: "Profane" - to pollute; to defile; to treat as base or common; to debase.

- **Eze 44:23; Lev 10:10** - God stated He would teach them the difference between the holy and profane.

  NOTE: Holy vs. profane. - At that time priests were using the holy vessels for common, everyday uses. They were deliberately not separating the vessels for the unique worship of God.

B. ***HOLY ALTER*** - The altar was distinctly different and pure from any other altar on the earth. It was one of a kind It represented Christ on the cross, the only true altar. One altar meant only one way to the Father (**John 14:6**).

- **Exo 29:37; Exo 40:10; Lev 10:12** - The altar was to be an altar most holy, and whosoever touched it must be most holy.

C. ***HOLY SABBATH*** **-** This day was to be separate and peculiar from the other days of the week. There was to be no work done on this day.

- **Exo 16:23; Exo 20:8; Exo 31:14-15; Neh 9:14** – The sabbath day was to be kept holy.

  NOTE: There is no Christian sabbath day. Sunday is not the sabbath day, it is "the Lord's day" (**Rev 1:10**). The saints in the New Testament gathered on the first day not the last day of the week (**Acts 20:7; 1 Cor 16:2**). The sabbath day, usually Saturday, was a day that represented Christ in foreshadowing. We are to rest in Christ and cease from our own labors to be saved. We enter into the Lord's rest who finished the works from the foundation of the world. Review **Heb 4:1-12** and **Col 2:16-23**

- **Exo 35:2** – Six days work should be done, but on the seventh day they were to honor a holy day, a sabbath of rest or be put to death.

  NOTE: Notice the severity of God's statement. One would be put to death if he worked on the sabbath. This is a picture of Christ's rest. It is a sobering picture for anyone who tries to work his way to heaven. That person's end will be the second death, the lake of fire.

D. ***HOLY CALLING*** - This is a unique calling that the world cannot hear.

- **2 Tim 1:9** - You have been made a partaker of a distinctively different calling, a holy calling, that is not after the world but after the purposes of God.

- **Heb 3:1** - You are a part of the holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling. Consider it well!

E. ***HOLY SCRIPTURE*** **-** The Bible is distinctly unlike any other book in the world because it is God's Word.

- **2 Tim 3:15; Rom 1:2** - They are holy in that they are unequaled, and pure from error.

II. THE HOLINESS OF GOD

A. ***HIS HOLY NAME*** - His name is unique in all the universe.

- **Psa 33:21** - We have trusted in His holy name.

- **Psa 99:3; Isa 57:15** - His name is holy.

- **Psa 103:1; Psa 145:21** - Learn to bless His holy name.

- **Psa 105:3** - Glory ye in His holy name.

- **Isa 29:23** - They shalt sanctify His name.

- **Eze 39:25** - He is jealous for His holy name.

- **Luke 1:49** – Mary's proclamation was "… holy is his name."

B. *DO NOT PROFANE HIS HOLY NAME*

- **Lev 20:3; Lev 21:6; Lev 22:2; Lev 22:32** - The Lord commands man not to profane His holy name (**Exo 20:7**).

- **Eze 36:20-21; Eze 39:7; Amos 2:7** - The heathen profaned His holy name because of the testimony of His people. They lived for the world. You will cause the enemies of the Lord to blaspheme God by your inconsistent walk.

C. *GOD DECLARES HIS HOLINESS*

- **Isa 6:1-10** - The purpose of the vision Isaiah had of God on His throne with the seraphim circling above, was to declare to the world that the Lord of hosts is Holy, Holy, Holy!

  NOTE: When men see God's holiness they fall down and realize their own sin and guilt.

- **Rev 4:8-11** - The four beasts cry, "Holy, Holy, Holy!" day and night without any rest.

  NOTE: The Lord designed these heavenly creatures full of eyes to watch Him and verify to the universe that He is holy. If He committed one sin, these creatures would immediately declare, "Unclean!" It is a comfort to know that the Lord does not require any more of you than He does of Himself. (**Pro 15:3; 2 Chr 16:9; Job 34:21; Pro 5:21; Pro 15:11; Jer 16:17; Jer 23:24; Heb 4:13**)

D. *ASSAULT ON GOD'S HOLINESS*

- **2 Kin 19:20-35; 2 Chr 32:14-19** - Sennacherib's assault of God was on His holiness stating that the Lord God was no different from any other god. The ungodly heathen were challenging God's uniqueness and unparalleled character. The Lord responded to prove the difference by destroying all of Sennacherib's mighty men.

- **Isa 14:13-14** - Satan was cast out of heaven due to his assault on God's holiness. Satan said, "I will be like the most High", that was an attack on the holiness of God, His uniqueness and distinctiveness. The Lord stands alone above all of His creation as the "… only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords. Who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; to whom be honor and power everlasting." (**1 Tim 6:15-16**)

III. THE CHALLENGE TO BELIEVERS TO BE HOLY

A. *FASHION YOURSELF DIFFERENTLY*

- **1 Pet 1:13-16** - Don't fashion yourself after the former lusts of your ignorance. Be distinctively different because it is written, "Be ye holy; for I am holy."

- **Rom 12:1-2** - Present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God. Be not conformed to this world. Be unique, transformed, by having your mind renewed in the knowledge of Him. "…prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God."

- **1 Pet 2:9** -You are "…a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a peculiar people." Therefore live like it.

B. *SEPARATE YOURSELF FROM EVIL*

- **1 Pet 4:1-4** - Arm yourself with the mind of Christ and do not waste the rest of your life living to the lusts of men. They will think it is strange that you do not run to the same excess of riot that they do, but they do not understand God's holiness.

- **2 Tim 2:19-26** - "Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity."

- **2 Cor 6:14-7:1 -** Separate from unbelievers and touch not the unclean thing. "Cleanse yourself from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God."

- **Tit 2:11-14** - The grace of God teaches you that you should deny ungodliness and worldly lusts and should live soberly, righteously, and godly in this present world.

- **Eph 5:3-18** - Let evil "… not be once named among you, as becometh saints;" "And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them." The light of holiness that shines from you will expose their sinful deeds. They will either hate the light or come to the light and worship God. (**John 3:20-21**)

  NOTE: Whatsoever exposes is light. If a man wants to hide what he is doing or is afraid of others finding out what he is doing, it is darkness and it is sin! This is a wonderful test to use in your life. If you sense what you are doing has to be hidden from others because you would be ashamed if they found it out, then it is sin. Decide now to lay it aside and follow Christ.

- **John 7:7; John 15:19; 1 Thes 2:14-15; 1 John 3:13** – The world will hate you just like it hated Christ for His holiness. "The disciple is not above his master: but every one that is perfect shalt be as his master." (**Luke 6:40**)

C. ***DESIRE TO PURIFY YOURSELF***

- **1 John 3:1-3** - The hope of seeing Him should cause you to purify yourselves as He is pure.

- **Jam 1:27 -** Pure religion before God is to keep yourself unspotted from the world.

- **1 Thes 4:3-7** – "…this is the will of God, even your sanctification," that you may know how to "possess your vessel" unto honor.

- **Heb 12:14** - If you desire to see and understand Him then you must follow peace and holiness.

- **2 Pet 1:3-11** - His divine power has given you all you need to live godly in this life through the knowledge of Him. He has given precious promises that you might be a partaker of His divine nature and escape the corruption that is in the world through lust.

- **2 Pet 3:14** - Be diligent that you may be found in peace and without spot.

D. ***PUT ON THE NEW MAN***

- **Col 3:5-17** - Mortify the deeds of the flesh by the power of the Spirit and put on the new man in Christ.

- **Eph 4:17-24** - Put on the new man which is created in righteousness and true holiness.

- **Rom 13:10-14** - Put on the armor of light and do not make provision for the flesh to fulfill your lusts.

  NOTE: The armor of light is different from the armor of God (**Eph 6:10-18**). The armor of light has to do with your outward testimony to others. You must put on a holy walk in the Lord Jesus Christ and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill the lusts thereof.

- **2 Cor 4:3-7** - You are to shine with holiness for this lost and dying world. Your earthen vessel must be broken so the light of Christ can be seen. Remember the story of Gideon. (**Jud 7:15-21**)

  NOTE: You have a treasure inside you that is a shining light. As with a light bulb, if the outside is dirty the light cannot be seen as brightly. The source of light has not weakened, only the perception of it by others has been obscured by the dirt.

E. ***LEARN TO HATE EVIL***

- **Psa 119:128** - Believe His Word to be right and learn to "hate every false way".

  NOTE: You must learn to hate sin to be able to discern it and overcome it in your life. The difficult part about overcoming sin in your life is that you must first see it and then acknowledge it before the Lord. The godly learn to do this immediately (**Psa 32:5-8**). Remember, sin is deceitful and will harden your heart (**Heb 3:12-15**).

- **Job 1:1** - Follow the example of Job that teaches us to fear God and eschew evil.

  DEFN: "Eschew" - To flee from; to shun; to avoid.

- **Deu 18:9-13** - Do not learn the heathen's ways. Learn to be perfect, mature and complete, like your Heavenly Father. (**Matt 5:48**)

CONCLUSION:

Does the Spirit cry in you to say, "I want to be just like my Father?" Then be holy, be unique, distinctly different, and pure in your walk for Christ. Do not pattern yourself after the world in order to win them. They will simply justify themselves by you. Walk in a unique fashion so that they can see the difference. Remember, it is not the outward presentation as much as the inward presentation that will challenge the heart of a lost man for Jesus Christ. "… be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, and in purity." (**1 Tim 4:12**) "…renounce the hidden things of dishonesty, not walking in craftiness, nor handling the word of God deceitfully; but by manifestation of the truth commending yourself to every man's conscience in the sight of God." **(2 Cor 4:2)**

WISDOM

As we begin our study of wisdom, you will quickly see the importance it can have in your Christian life. It can best be stated by quoting God's Word, "Happy is the man that findeth wisdom, and the man that getteth understanding. For the merchandise of it is better than the merchandise of silver, and the gain thereof than fine gold. She is more precious than rubies: and all the things thou canst desire are not to be compared unto her. Length of days is in her right hand: and in her left hand riches and honour. Her ways are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace. She is a tree of life to them that lay hold upon her: and happy is every one that retaineth her." (**Pro 3:13-18**)

I. WHAT IS WISDOM?

DEFN: **"**Wisdom" - The right use of knowledge and understanding to follow the best means of accomplishing praiseworthy ends. It is the ability of discerning or judging what is best, most just, most proper, most useful, most efficient, most conducive to prosperity and happiness.

- **Pro 1:7; Pro 9:10-12** (Memory Verse) - The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.

- **Job 28:1-28** - While He was creating the heavens and the earth, the Lord determined that wisdom should begin at the fear of the Lord. You will not stumble onto this path of wisdom in the middle. You must start at the beginning to perceive it.

- **Psa 111:10** (Memory Verse) - Fear of the Lord gives good understanding to those who obey His commandments.

  DEFN: "Fear of the Lord" - Profound reverence, respect, and awe toward God.

- **Pro 4:5-9** - Wisdom is the "principal" thing.

II. WHAT CAN IT ACCOMPLISH?

- **Pro 3:19-20; Jer 51:15-17; Psa 104:24-30** - The Lord created heaven and earth by wisdom, and designed them so that all things should look to and depend on Him.

- **Pro 8:12** - Wisdom finds out the knowledge of witty inventions, especially the Lord's.

  NOTE: The study of history, biology, chemistry, physics, mathematics, etc., will become exciting and meaningful when you see Him in all of it.

III. TWO KINDS OF WISDOM

- **Jam 3:13-18** - Compare earthly wisdom with heavenly wisdom and do not be deceived **Jam 3:14,17** (Memory Verses)

  NOTE: Sooner or later earthly wisdom brings strife, envying, confusion, and every evil work. God's wisdom brings peace, comfort and righteous fruit that remains.

- **1 Cor 1:17-31** - The wisdom of God uses the base things of this world so that no flesh can glory in His presence. **1 Cor 1:18, 21, 24** (Memory Verses)

- **1 Cor 2:1-15** - Your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the hidden wisdom of God that is revealed to you by His Spirit from His Word.

IV. WHERE CAN GOD'S WISDOM BE FOUND?

- **Pro 1:20-33** - Wisdom cries in the streets. Life experiences will teach you wisdom if you are listening. The Lord in His goodness tries to instruct all men to truth.

  NOTE: The difference between the simple, scorner, fool, and the wise man is that the wise man "hears" and receives instruction.

- **Pro 8:1-10** - Wisdom cries in the gates.

  NOTE: The wise men gathered at the gates of the cities to discuss all matters of life. Therefore, go where the wise are found. (**Pro 13:20**)

- **Pro 20:5; Pro 18:4; Pro 10:11; Pro 13:14; Pro 16:22 -** Good counsel is in the heart of a wise man. Draw it out.

  NOTE: Look for good fountains and good fruit from which to partake. There are many who will misguide you. (**Jam 3; Matt 7:16-19; Matt 12:33**).

- **Pro 15:22; Pro 11:14; Pro 20:18** - Wisdom is found in the multitude of counselors.

- **Pro 19:20; Pro 22:17-21** - Hear counsel that you may be wise.

- **Ecc 12:9-11** - Wisdom is declared by the mouth of true preachers walking in the Spirit.

- **Ecc 7:1-10** - Wisdom can be found in the house of mourning. **Ecc 7:2** (Memory Verse)

  NOTE: It is better to hear the rebuke of the wise then the song of fools.

V. THE VALUES OF GAINING GOD'S WISDOM.

- **Pro 3:13-24** - Wisdom gives happiness, length of days, durable riches, honor, peace, safety, stability and sweet sleep.

- **Pro 4:5-10** - Wisdom will preserve, give an ornament of grace, bring honor, and deliver a crown of glory.

  NOTE: Wisdom is the "principal" thing for which a believer should seek. **Pro 4:7** (Memory Verse)

- **1 Sam 18:14,30; Pro 12:9** - David possessed it and was honored.

- **Pro 2:10-22: 5:1-23** - Wisdom delivers from the evil man and the strange woman.

- **Pro 8:11-36** - Wisdom is better than rubies, and brings durable riches and righteousness. Whosoever finds it finds life, and obtains favor of the Lord.

- **Ecc 7:11-29** - Wisdom is a defense, gives life, and makes one strong. **Ecc 7:12** (Memory Verse)

- **Ecc 10:10; Ecc 8:5-6** - Wisdom is profitable to direct. To every purpose there is a right timing and a right judgment. Think before you act or speak. "A fool uttereth all his mind; but a wise man keepeth it till afterwards." (**Pro 29:11**)

  NOTE: If the axe is blunt, you must apply more force to chop down a tree. The same is true with your words. If they are dull and without wisdom, then you must become more fleshly to try to get your point across. Job plainly says, "How forcible are right words!" (**Job 6:25**)

- **Isa 33:6** - Wisdom insures stability in life and increases faith because it gives an understanding of salvation.

- **Ecc 2:1-14** - Wisdom excels folly as far as light excels darkness. Learn to work and not to play around, because folly works death. Do not seek life in pleasure, but in works of love that earn eternal rewards. (**Pro 14:23; Pro 21:17; Matt 6:19-20**).

VI. HOW IS WISDOM ATTAINED?

- **1 Cor 1:30; Eph 1:7-8** - Through Christ we have access to God's wisdom.

- **Pro 18:1** (Memory Verse) - Through desire wisdom is gained.

- **Jam 1:5-8** (Memory Verses) - The Lord gives wisdom when asked, especially during certain trials in your life.

- **1 Kin 3:7-14** - Solomon humbled himself and asked for wisdom.

- **Pro 2:1-11** - Wisdom comes from searching for it.

- **Pro 1:1-6** - Wisdom is gained by reading the book of Proverbs.

- **Pro 9:10-12** (Intentionally repeated) - Wisdom comes by understanding God and His ways.

- **Pro 9:8-9; Ecc 7:5; Pro 12:15** - Wisdom is attained by hearing the rebuke of the wise.

- **Pro 13:20** (Memory Verse) - Wisdom is obtained by walking with wise men.

- **Col 1:9-11** - Wisdom is gained by elder brothers and sisters praying for you to be filled with it.

VI. WISDOM TEACHES MANY TRUTHS

- **Pro 21:20; Pro 15:6; Pro 27:23-27; Pro 18:9** - Wisdom teaches thriftiness.

- **Pro 8:12; Pro 16:21; Pro 18:15** - Wisdom dwells with prudence. The prudent man looks well unto his going. (**Pro 14:15**)

- **Pro 14:16; Pro 22:3; Pro 27:12; Pro 1:17; Psa 34:12-22; Rom 16:19** - Wisdom instructs you to depart from evil. Wisdom forsees the evil coming so that you can avoid it.

- **Pro 11:12: Pro 25:8-10; Pro 27:10; Rom 12:18** - Wisdom admonishes you to dwell at peace with your neighbor.

- **Pro 12:18; Ecc 10:12; Pro 16:23-24; Pro 10:19** - Wisdom grooms you to speak right words.

- **Pro 15:14, 28; Pro 9:9-12** - Wisdom directs you to teach yourself.

- **Pro 15:7; Ecc 12:9-11; Pro 25:12; Pro 18:4** - Wisdom challenges you to teach others.

- **Pro 10:4-5: Pro 13:4: Pro 21:5** - Wisdom commands you to work diligently.

  NOTE: Those who are diligent will plan their work, saving time and money, but those who are hasty in their decisions are slothful and are great wasters.

- **Pro 29:11; Pro 21:22; Job 29:16** - Wisdom leads you to search out matters.

- **Pro 24:23; Pro 28:21; Rom 2:11; Jam 2:1-10** - Wisdom guides you to not have respect of persons.

- **Pro 29:15; Pro 3:11-12; Heb 12:5-8** - Wisdom bids you to not despise the chastening of the Lord.

- **Pro 11:30; Dan 12:3; Ecc 11:1-6; Jam 5:19-20** - Wisdom admonishes you to win souls. "In the morning sow thy seed, and in the evening withhold not thine hand:" Make this a way of life sowing the Word in every place you go.

- **Pro 9:4-7; Pro 24:3-5** - Wisdom builds her house on a sure foundation, carves out seven pillars, sets her table, and then invites others to come to her feast. In **2 Pet 1:5-10**, faith lays the foundation (Jesus Christ – **1 Cor 3:10-17**) and wisdom gives diligence to construct seven life principles to support the house against the storms of life. If you will do this, <u>you will be fruitful</u> and <u>you will never fall</u>.

<u>CONCLUSION</u>:

Wisdom is more valuable then gold and you should seek it with all your heart. Riches corrupt, but wisdom perfects; therefore labor not to be rich. (**Pro 23:4; 1 Tim 6:9**) Learn to handle matters wisely and you shall find good in this life. "...If riches increase, set not your heart upon them." (**Psa 62:10**) Focus on adding learning to your lips and you will walk in peace. (**Pro 3:17: Jam 3:1-6**) Remember, "There is a way that seemeth right unto a man: but the end thereof are the ways of death." (**Pro 16:25**)

Do not strive to be great. Strive to be wise. "Great men are not always wise." Elihu said so, (**Job 32:9**) "Be not righteous over much; neither make thyself over wise: (like Solomon did and fell) Why should thou destroy thyself?" (**Ecc 7:16**) The Lord, who ultimately gets accused for your actions by the adversary, pleads, "My son, be wise, and make my heart glad, that I may answer him that reproacheth me." (**Pro 27:11**) Take heed to God's Word and "Cease to hear the instruction that causeth to err from the words of knowledge." (**Pro 19:27**)

WITNESSING

Leading someone to Christ is a wonderful experience. You will understand the rejoicing that goes on in Heaven (**Luke 15:4-7**) when you have accomplished it. But you must know what you are doing. Remember what happens if the blind lead the blind. Ask the Lord for wisdom and discernment to help lead dear souls to Him. "He that winneth souls is wise." (**Pro 11:30)**

Study the following outline. There are many methods to bring a soul down the path of Life. Although there are different ways, each must have the same essential elements. Memorize the four main points and the associated verses. The method used here is called the "Romans' Road" and is one of the oldest and simplest methods available. It basically stays in the book of Romans to keep it simple. We suggest that you mark it in your Bible. Simply write the next scripture by the previous scripture to develop a path through your Bible. This will aid you in remembering the order.

When you talk to someone about the state of their soul, you must begin somewhere. A good opening question that will cut through a great deal of religious sidestepping is this:

If you were to die today, are you 100% sure you would go to Heaven?

The answer to such a question will reveal much about the condition of the person's soul. If they answer with a "No", or a "Not sure", or an "I think so", then you can proceed with the next question.

May I show you from the Bible how you can know for sure?

If the response is positive, then begin revealing God's plan. The following is presented in a direct form so you can see exactly what could be said to a lost soul.

I. FIRST, YOU MUST REALIZE THAT YOU ARE A SINNER.

A. Rom 3:10 - "As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:"

- "none righteous" means that there is no one good enough to get to Heaven on their own.
- I'm not righteous and you are not righteous because there is "none" righteous.

B. Rom 3:23 - "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God:"

- Why are none righteous? Because all have sinned.
- Do you believe you are a sinner?

NOTE: If they answer "Yes" to this question, then proceed to the next main point of **Rom 6:23**. If they answer "No", then you must take time at this point to convince them that they are a sinner. No one can be saved until they realize that they are a lost sinner.

- ❑ Have you ever read the Ten Commandments in **Exo 20:1-17**?

- ❑ Have you ever lied? Have you ever dishonored your parents? Have you ever used God's name in vain? Have you ever stolen? Have you ever coveted anyone else's things? Then you are guilty of breaking God's Law!

- ❑ **Jam 2:10** – "For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all."

- ❑ If you have broken God's law you are an enemy of God and the cross of Jesus Christ. Men love the world and reject everything God stands for and loves.

- ❑ **Jam 4:4** "Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God."

- ❑ **1 John 2:15-16** - "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world."

- ❑ **Col 1:21** – "And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled."

- ❑ **Phi 3:18-19** – "(For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ: Whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things.)"

- ❑ **Acts 13:10** – "And said, O full of all subtilty and all mischief, thou child of the devil, thou enemy of all righteousness, wilt thou not cease to pervert the right ways of the Lord?"

C. **Rom 5:12** - "Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned."

- ❑ We are all sinners by "nature". In other words, we sin because we have a sinful nature. God is different than us in that He does not have a sinful nature. Your sin is the result of your nature.

  Example: Dog barking - A dog barks because he is a dog. Likewise, you sin because you are a sinner.

- ❑ We inherited a sinful nature. I'm a sinner because my father was a sinner, and his father was a sinner, etc... back to the first father, Adam.

II. YOU MUST REALIZE YOUR SIN WILL TAKE YOU TO HELL.

A. Rom 6:23 - "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord,"

- ❑ The penalty for sin is death.
- ❑ This is not talking about physical death like getting hit with a car.
- ❑ This is spiritual death - the second death – the lake of fire.

B. Rev 21:8 - "But the fearful, and unbelieving, and abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death."

- ❑ Fearful – cowardly, won't confess Christ before their friends.
- ❑ Unbelieving - don't believe the Bible (**1 John 5:10**)
- ❑ Abominable - desperately wicked and vile
- ❑ Whoremongers - women chasers
- ❑ Sorcerers - involved in witchcraft or drugs
- ❑ Liars - perjurers, false accusers
- ❑ **If you died in your sin where would you go?**

NOTE: A person must realize they are lost and going to hell before they can be saved. If they don't acknowledge their state at this point then review the above verses again.

III. YOU MUST REALIZE GOD LOVES YOU AND SENT HIS SON TO DIE FOR YOU.

A. Rom 6:23b – "…but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."

- ❑ God's gift is eternal life. A gift has no strings attached. It is free to all who receive it.

Example: "The Christmas Gift" - Your parents wouldn't give you a gift and then say, "You must clean the house for three weeks for this." Then it would not be a gift. You would have earned it. It is the same with God's gift. You do not work for it. You simply must receive the gift in order for it to be yours.

Example: "Pen Illustration" - Hand a pen to him and say, "You can have this." He must reach out and take it to say it is his own.

- ❑ Eternal life - Your soul is eternal because God made you in His image. Your soul can not be destroyed so you will spend eternity somewhere - either Heaven or Hell.

B. Rom 5:8-9 – "But God commendeth (demonstrated) his love toward us in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him."

- Jesus died for you 2,000 years ago. If you were the only one in all history to believe on Him, He still would have gone to the cross for you! That makes His death personal to you. He did not die for the masses but for you!

- He took your rap. He paid for your crimes!

  Example: "Death row and the Electric Chair" – Let's say you commit a crime worthy of death. They bring you before the judge and you are found guilty. The judge sentences you to die in the electric chair. Then, they put you on death row to wait for your day of execution. You can do nothing. You are condemned already. Then the morning of your execution they unlock your cell and you start down that long hall to the death chamber. You are crying and sorry, but you can do nothing. Then all of a sudden out of a side room Jesus steps out and says, "I'll take your place. I'll die for you!" Now you could do one of two things. You could say, "Get out of here Jesus. I'll pay for my own sin." And you would be a fool. Or you could accept His offer and say "Thank you Jesus. I'll live for You in Your place." That is the similar situation you are in right now!

- **John 3:18** – All sinners are condemned already!

IV. YOU MUST BELIEVE AND CALL ON THE NAME OF THE LORD TO BE SAVED.

A. Rom 10:9 - "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved."

- You must confess your "need" for Christ to God.

- You must believe that God raised Him from the dead to show you that His death was good enough to pay for your sin and give you eternal life.

B. Rom 10:10 - "For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness: and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation."

- Remember, at the start we said there was none righteous? Well, this is how you become righteous, by believing in your heart of your need for Christ and then calling on Him to save you.

C. Rom 10:11 - "For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed."

- If you truly believe then you will not be ashamed to acknowledge your need of Him.

D. Rom 10:12 - "For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him."

- ❑ He is not a respecter of persons but rich unto all.

E. Rom 10:13 - "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."

- ❑ Anybody can call. He says, "whosoever". (Put their name in for whosoever and read the verse again.)
- ❑ The name of the Lord is Jesus (see **verse 9**)
- ❑ The call is a call of deliverance. You must see the predicament of your soul on it's way to hell, and then cry out to God for help.
- ❑ See yourself as a drowning man without any strength going down for the third time and you are calling for God to reach down and save you.
- ❑ If you call, you "shall be" saved, not "maybe", or "hope so" but shall be!
- ❑ If you don't call, you won't be saved. It is a matter that must be settled between you and God.

V. <u>REVIEW THE FOUR POINTS AND THEN PRAY.</u>

A. Do you believe you are a sinner?

B. Do you believe if you die in your sin you will go to hell?

C. Do you believe God loves you and sent His Son to die for you to pay the penalty for your sin?

D. Do you believe that if you call upon Him that He will save you, like He said?

E. Would you like to trust Christ and ask Him to save you? If you mean it, put your hand in mine. Let's bow our heads.

NOTE: At this point, be sure to reach out your hand to him. Personal contact brings reassurance in you as a messenger. It shows you care. It also challenges the person to make a sincere commitment. When he takes your hand, bow your head first and pray to "break the ice" about praying in public.

F. Leader's prayer: "Lord, the best I know how I have shown _____ how to be saved. Please put it into his heart to trust you now."

NOTE: Ask him if he would like you to lead him in a prayer. If so, tell him to repeat the words out loud as you say them. Memorize the following prayer to give you a frame from which to work.

G. Sinners prayer: "Dear God, I realize I am a sinner, and I realize that I have sinned against you. Please forgive me of my sin. The best I know how, I repent and call upon your Son to save me. I believe that Jesus died on the cross to pay for my sin and that He rose again to give me eternal life. I now receive Jesus Christ into my heart as my personal Saviour. Here's my life - use it for your glory. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen."

NOTE: If he responds and prays be sure to rejoice with him in his decision to trust Christ.

VI. GIVE ASSURANCE OF SALVATION BY REVIEWING THESE VERSES.

A. Rom 10:13 - "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."

- What did you just do? (called upon the Lord) What did He say He would do? (save you) Notice He does not say maybe or hope so but shall be!

B. John 1:12 - "But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:"

C. John 10:27-28 - "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them. And they follow me: And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand."

D. John 6:37 - "All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out."

E. John 3:36 - "He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him,"

F. John 5:24 - "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life."

CONCLUSION

When you win someone to Christ, then begin to disciple them to root and ground them in the faith. Remember the promise of reward in **Dan 12:3** for those that turn many to righteousness.

ETERNAL SALVATION

ROOTING SERIES **REVISION 4.0**

Understanding your salvation is very important to your stability as a believer. Not comprehending the great operation of God to deliver you for eternity will lead you to living a defeated Christian life. Jesus, "...the author of eternal salvation" (**Heb 5:9**) has performed a complete work to deliver you from the world, the flesh, and Satan. He has provided a salvation so secure that nothing can separate you from the love of God. In this study we will discuss eight different concepts that assure the security of the believer. We will then deal with verses that, because of misinterpretation obscure the truth.

I. THE USE OF STRONG STATEMENTS BY JESUS

- **John 3:16-20** - You shall "not" perish.
- **John 3:36** - Those that believe "hath" everlasting life.

  NOTE: How long is everlasting life? Does it have an end? Does it start at physical death or spiritual birth? Compare **John 5:24**. It starts at the time you accept Christ.

- **John 6:37** - He will in "no wise" cast you out.
- **John 10:27-31** - You will "never" perish and you will never be plucked out of Christ's or the Father's hands.
- **Heb 13:5-6** – "…for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee."

  DEFN: (Webster's) "Forsake" – To quit or leave entirely; To desert; To abandon; To depart from.

II. THE CONCEPT OF SONSHIP

- **John 1:12-13** - You are born of God, not of the will of the flesh.
- **John 3:3-7** - A miracle birth took place by the power of the Spirit.
- **1 Pet 1:23-2:2** - You are born again of incorruptible seed and are become as a newborn babe.
- **1 John 3:9; 4:7; 5:1,4,18** - You are born of God.
- **Ecc 11:4-9** - A birth in the Spirit happens like a physical birth.

  NOTE: The spiritual birth is very similar to the physical birth. No matter what transactions follow, the fact cannot be erased that a son was born from the loins of his father. He will always be his son!

III. GOD IS ABLE TO KEEP!

- **Rom 8:35-39** – "Who (or what) shall separate us from the love of Christ"? Nothing! Not things present nor things to come!

  NOTE: True Christians need to understand God's love for them. We are begotten by His own will (**John 1:13**) and He has saved us for His own special purpose (**Rom 8:28-29**). Because He loves us, He is "keeping" us so that His purpose can be accomplished in us.

- **Ecc 3:14** (Memory Verse) - Whatsoever God does is forever! Salvation is a miracle that God has performed! It is a birth from God. It is an eternal work.

- **Phi 1:6** (Memory Verse) - God is able to finish the work He has begun.

- **Jude 1** - We are "preserved" in Jesus.

  DEFN: "Preserved" - To save, to keep safe or secure from injury, loss, or destruction: To defend or guard from harm, evil or hurt; To protect.

- **2 Tim 1:12** (Memory Verse) - Paul was persuaded of God's ability to keep.

- **1 Pet 1:5** (Memory Verse) - We are "...kept by the power of God..."

  NOTE: The context here is that Peter is trying to encourage the believers that God's promises are sure and their inheritance is secure; even though they are going through diverse trials and temptations.

- **Heb 7:25** (Memory Verse) – "…he is able also to save them to the uttermost…"

IV. SEALING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

- **Eph 4:30 -** You are "...sealed unto the day of redemption" (the day you get your glorified body).

- **Eph 1:13-14** - When are you sealed? After you believe.

- **2 Cor 1:21-22** - The Spirit is given as an earnest.

  DEFN: "Earnest" - Anything that gives assurance, pledge, promise, or indication of what is to follow. A part of something delivered beforehand, as a security; especially, in law, part of the price of the commodity bargained for, paid by the buyer to prove the validity of the transaction.

- **Gal 4:6-7** - The Spirit of His Son has been placed in our hearts to confirm our Father-son relationship.

- **2 Tim 2:19** - The foundation of God that always stands sure is Jesus Christ (**1 Cor 3:10-15**) and His seal is the Spirit (**Rom 8:16**). Do you sense His Spirit bearing witness with your spirit?

V. THE OPERATION OF GOD

- **Col 2:10-14** - God cut away the body of flesh from the soul of man and sealed it with His Spirit.

  NOTE: In circumcision, the flesh is cut off completely and is a once-and-for-all operation. So it is in the circumcision of the heart, the flesh is cut off permanently from the soul. (**Rom 2:28-29**) It is an operation that is irreversible. **Ecc 3:14**

- **Rom 7:15-21** - It is no more you that sins, but sin that dwells in your flesh.

- **1 John 3:9-10** - The new man cannot sin because the old man has been cut away and the new man is sealed by the Spirit.

- **Eph 4:24** - You are "...created in righteousness and true holiness" in Christ Jesus.

- **2 Cor 5:17** - You are made a new creature in Christ; old things pass away; all things become new. "If" you are in Christ, your life will change.

  NOTE: The question of "if" is whether you are in Christ or not. It is not a question of Christ's ability to change you. (**Phi 2:12-13; 2 Cor 13:5**)

VI. WHOM GOD FOREKNOWS, HE SAVES

- **Rom 8:28-33 -** God, who knows the end from the beginning, knows the heart of man from the beginning, and therefore knows who will be saved. Just because He knows does not make Him responsible for man's free will to choose. If God knows from the beginning, then how can one lose his salvation?

- **1 Pet 1:2** - We are elect according to foreknowledge. Man is not predestined to hell, but God knows the heart. He can declare the end from the beginning. (**Isa 46:9-10**)

- **Eph 1:4-11** - He knew from the beginning.

  NOTE: Our salvation is part of God's eternal process:
  1. Foreknowledge of God sees man's choice
  2. In Christ, the choice of man's will for Christ
  3. Predestined to be conformed
  4. Called by God
  5. Man receives Christ as Saviour
  6. Justified by Christ
  7. Glorified by the Spirit

  (**In Christ**)

  If this is an eternal process that God has established since the foundation of the world, then how could you lose your salvation? No man is predestined to hell. If a man receives Christ as Saviour, he is in this eternal process because God foreknew him.

VII. SALVATION DELIVERS FROM ALL SIN

- **Col 2:13-14** - You are forgiven "all trespasses"; past, present, and future.

  NOTE: All your sins were future at the time of the cross. He imputes (charges to your account) His righteousness to you at the point of salvation. (**2 Cor 5:21; Rom 3:25**)

- **1 John 1:7** - You are cleansed from "all sin".

- **Tit 2:14** - You are cleansed from "all iniquity".

- **Acts 13:38-39** - You are justified from "all things".

- **Heb 10:15-17; Isa 43:25** - The Lord will not remember your sins anymore.

- **Psa 103:12** - Our sins are separated from us as far as east is from west.

- **Isa 44:21-22** - He blotted out your sins like a thick cloud. You are the child of Abraham by faith. (**Gal 3:29**)

- **Mic 7:18-19** - He cast your sins in the depths of the sea.

- **Isa 38:17** - He put all your sins behind His back.

VIII. GOD UPHOLDS THE RIGHTEOUS

- **Psa 37:23-25, 28** - The "good" man here is a "saved" man if you look at the context (**vs 25**).

- **Jude 24** - God promises that He will uphold us.

- **Pro 24:16** - Even if we were to fall seven times, we have God's promise that we will rise again.

- **2 Pet 2:9** - God delivers the godly but not the unjust.

IX. DIFFICULT PORTIONS OF SCRIPTURE

NOTE: After reading all the above verses, could you honestly stand on the other side and disregard them without contradiction in your mind? Always remember to interpret difficult portions of scripture with easy portions - not vise versa!

- **Eze 3:17-21** – In this portion, a righteous man is one that keeps the law. The statement, "the righteousness that he has done", or again "his righteousness", is not God's righteousness that comes by faith. (**Rom 3:23-28; Rom 10:1-4**) Therefore, this portion is not dealing with a man losing his salvation, but is challenging the prophet to warn all men that would sin. Even as Jesus rebuked the Pharisees (very zealous men for the righteousness of the law) to repent.

- **Matt 24:10-13** - This is dealing with saving of life, not the soul. The context is the Tribulation period when tremendous destruction will take place on earth. The elect, which are the Jews, will go through the Great Tribulation and will come out the other side into the Millennium. Compare **Matt 24:22**.

- **John 15:1-8** - The branches are "in me" - meaning in Christ

  (**15:2**) **A.** These branches are believers that bear little or no fruit for the glory of God. This is a sober warning that the Lord may choose to cut off their life prematurely. Even as Paul told the Corinthian church to turn such a one over to Satan for the destruction of the flesh that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus (**1 Cor 5:5**).

  B. Another plausible interpretation is this. In a vineyard, some vine branches grow toward the ground and attach themselves to the earth by growing small roots. These vines do not bear fruit. In a typical procedure of husbandry, the farmer "takes away" the vine branch from the earth and places rocks underneath it to cut it off from the earth and turns it towards the sky where it can obtain sunlight. You can quickly see the spiritual implications of this illustration.

  (15:6) - If a man abides not in Christ, he will dry up and men will cast him into the fire. This is dealing with the judgment of men because of the loss of one's testimony for Christ. Like Paul stated in **1 Cor 9:27** that he keeps under his body and brings it into subjection so when he preaches to others, he would not be a "castaway" (disapproved by God or man).

- **Rom 11:21-22** - This is dealing with nations of unbelief, not the individual. It is sharing God's overall plan for the Jews and Gentiles. The Jews, due to unbelief, were cut off as the fruit-bearing nation to deliver the gospel of the kingdom to the world. The Gentiles in the future will also be cut off as the propagators of the faith and the Jews restored to their original calling. Compare **Rom 11:25-27**.

- **Gal 5:4** - This is referring to falling from the "doctrine" of grace, back to the law. Compare **Gal 5:1-8; 2:16-21**. This is not dealing with salvation, but with pleasing God in service. The Galatians were trying to please God by keeping the law and not by faith serving in love (**Heb 11:6**).

- **Col 1:23** - The "if" is referring to the previous verse of being presented holy, and unblamable, and unreprovable in His sight. It is not referring to salvation.

- **2 Tim 2:12-13** – If we deny Him is referring to an unbeliever like Judas Iscarot who was a devil from the beginning (**John 6:70**). If we as a believer lack in belief, the promise in verse13 reassures us that He will save us anyway for His name sake. Anyone who is truly saved would not in heart deny the Lord because he understands what he has been saved from and saved to. Peter denied the Lord outwardly but not in heart and the Lord Jesus knew this.

- **Heb 3; 6; 10** – These are very difficult portions to grasp. Examine them carefully comparing scripture with scripture. Do not quickly dismiss these interpretations in your mind. Remember the admonition of the Lord in **1 Cor 8:2** that states "...if any man think that he knoweth any thing, he knoweth nothing yet as he ought to know." The following thoughts are only some of several interpretations offered by fundamentalists.

  NOTE: To understand these portions in Hebrews, you must have a good overview of who the author (probably Paul) is exhorting. He is speaking to holy brethren (**Heb 3:1**) who had let things slip in their lives and were neglecting their great salvation (**Heb 2:1-3**). Because of it, they were dull of hearing and had need that one teach them again the first principles of the oracles of God (**Heb 5:11-12**). They were losing confidence in whom they believed and were starting to forsake the assembly of themselves together (**Heb 10:22-25, 32, 35-36**). In heart, they were close to becoming mindful of the country from which they came and might be given opportunity to return (**Heb 11:15**) if they did not show the same diligence to believe the promises (**Heb 6:11-12**). They would fall back as Peter stated in **2 Pet 1:3-10**. Only those who wholly follow the Lord and believe the promises become elders that obtain a good report (**Heb 11:2**). All three difficult portions are dealing with the same set of believers that were not going on to perfection in full assurance. Therefore, they are being compared with the Israelites that would not cross the Jordan at Kadeshbarnea.

- **Heb 3:1-19** - Remember, this is a very difficult portion of scripture. Read these verses in context from **Heb 3:1-4:16**. This portion is dealing with the children of Israel who did not enter into the Promised Land (a picture of the abundant spiritual life in Christ) because of unbelief. They did not keep their confidence in Christ to give them victory and, consequently they would not yield to His Word. Therefore, God in His wrath would not let them enter because of unbelief. They wandered in circles in the desert 40 years with God providing for their carnal needs, but they were miserable. Only those that were of another spirit and wholly followed the Lord (**Num 14:24**) entered into the land because they trusted God's Word completely. You, like them, must run the race with patience and "...lay aside every weight and the sin (of unbelief) which doth so easily beset us." (**Heb 12:1**)

- **Heb 6:1-9 -** Again, this is a difficult portion of scripture. Read these verses in context from **Heb 5:11 - 6:9**. Two interpretations of this portion are offered.

- The first is as follows. Notice he is dealing with saved people who were not going on to perfection. The brethren are being exhorted to get off the milk portions of scripture. They were constantly preaching and teaching repentance from dead works, faith toward God, baptisms, hell fire, etc. They were to go on to perfection if God permitted -- if they hadn't slipped too far. (**Heb 2:1**) In other words, if they were mindful from where they came, they might be given opportunity to return. (**Heb 11:15**) This is a stern warning to the readers of the Hebrew epistle. Paul is reflecting on the similar incident that occurred to the children of Israel when they would not cross the Jordan at Kadeshbarnea. God would not permit them to go on into the Promised Land, a picture of

spiritual maturity and the abundant Christian life -- rest, ceasing from their own labors! He made them wander 40 years until all who were tempted dropped dead because they limited the Holy One of Israel (**Psa 78:41**). The Lord gave them their desire, but sent leanness to their soul (**Num 14:2,28; Psa 106:15**). Therefore, it is impossible to renew them unto repentance (not salvation) because God will not allow it. **2 Tim 2:25-26** hints to this concept that the Lord is in control of repentance rather than man. Thus they brought forth briars and thorns in their lives, which will be burned up at the Judgment Seat of Christ (**1 Cor 3:10-15**). Even Moses as a leader, who smote the rock twice, didn't enter the Promised Land because he (in a picture) "crucified the Son of God afresh" and didn't sanctify the Lord by just speaking to the rock. He attempted to get the people right with God by teaching them to crucify Christ again. (**Num 20:7-12; Deu 32:48-52; Heb 4:16**) A deeper spiritual picture is alluded to here. The Law, as Moses is pictured, would always crucify Christ again and again for our sin. The Law, "who's eye is not dim" nor it's "natural force abated" (**Deu 34:7**), requires sacrifice again and again because of man's failure to be perfect. But Christ sweetly took it to the mount and put it to death so the people could enter into the Promised Land by faith in God's power. By faith you are saved and by faith you are perfected. It is God that perfects that which concerns you as you trust Him to defeat the giants in your life. (**Psa 138:8**)

NOTE: If this were teaching that you could lose your salvation, then it would also teach that you could never be forgiven if you were to fall which is not a truth supported by the Scriptures!

- Another interpretation of this portion of scripture needs to be studied. Read these verses in context from **Heb 5:1-6:9**. Notice he is dealing with saved people who were not going on to perfection. The brethren are being exhorted to get off the milk portions of scripture. They were constantly preaching and teaching repentance from dead works, faith toward God, baptisms, hell fire, etc. **Heb 6:1** – "Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, (in reference to **Heb 5:11-14**) let us go on unto perfection..." Perfection in what, meat, full age with the senses exercised, or the perfection of entering into God's rest? (**Heb 4**) The case for full age is based on the context of **Heb 5:1-10.** Paul is for the first time teaching the deep truths of the Priesthood of Jesus after the order of Melchisedek. Though he refers to Christ as a High Priest in **Heb 2:17; 3:1; 4:14**; it is in **chapter 5** that he links Christ's Priesthood with Melchisedek. Thus bringing us to another context in **5:11**; "...of whom we have many things to say..." The context now is one of Christ's Priesthood and Paul's inability to teach it in full. They could not receive what he was talking about because they were dull of hearing. They should have been teaching these principles, but they had need of milk and not strong meat. Paul presents two courses of action in **verses 13 and 14**; either you can remain a babe, or grow to full age. What then would be the consequences? You remain unskillful in the Word, or you become able to discern. Therefore, Paul in **6:1** is challenging them to leave these principles and to move on to perfection (maturity, full age). Paul suggests two equally important thoughts:

NOTE: In Strong's Exhaustive Concordance, **Leaving:** (#G863) to send forth, in various applications: cry, forgive, forsake, lay aside, leave, let (alone, be, go have), omit put (send) away, remit suffer, yield up.

> **Let us go on:** (G5342) (A primary verb) to bear or carry, bring (forth), carry, be driven, endure, go on, lay, lead, more, reach, rushing, uphold.

Let us take a closer look at each one. **Leaving**: First, what would they be leaving, the first principles and oracles? Yes but in a positive sense, not a negative one. The challenge here is to set the principles and oracles aside because they were becoming preoccupied to the point of being stagnant. (Understand that the semi-colon, which divides this verse, makes both elements equally important.) The first element of this verse stands on it's own merit, however the second element is dependent upon the first. The second element of this verse is related to the suggestion to leave the first principles, not by re-laying the foundation (first principle doctrines). They should have understood the doctrine of Christ in relationship to salvation. They needed to move on.

Let us go on: Secondly, the challenge of "let us go on...", is a suggestion to carry or bear a load or a responsibility. We are constantly exhorted to teach others and to personally press toward a Christian maturity. **Matt 5:48; 1 Cor 13:10-11; Eph 4:12; Phil 3:12-15** "And this will we do, if God permit." **Heb 6:3** Permits us to do what? This is a very important and difficult verse and we need to look at it in every possible application. The key to understanding this verse is to understand the context, which is the need to grow from milk to meat, from babes to full age. "Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ... not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God, Of the doctrine of baptisms and of laying on of hands, and of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment. "**And this will we do if God permit**." They would have continued to re-lay the foundation, if God permitted it. The truth of the matter is, God would not permit us to lay the foundation over again. There is only one foundation that has been laid, (Jesus Christ). (**Matt 7:25; Luke 6:48; 1 Cor 3:10-12; 1 Tim 6:19; 2 Tim 2:19**) In God's eyes it is a waste of time to lay these foundations over again. Because once saved, it is impossible to be renewed unto repentance (salvation), seeing that it would crucify Christ afresh. It would be saying that what Christ did on the cross is not enough to completely save. Is it possible for a believer to crucify Christ afresh (renewed to salvation)? Or to say the work of Christ was not complete? This would bring Christ to an open shame even as Moses, when he smote the rock instead of speaking in belief. Christ died for our sins only once! (**Num 20:7-12**) Moving on to perfection brings growth and blessings from God, to remain immature will only produce briars and thorns, which in the end will be burned. (**1 Cor 3:10-15**)

> **EXAMPLE:** Let's say you have a child who continues in their education, but because they are slothful or negligent, they stay in the same grade from year to year, showing no improvement. If you "permit" them, and don't challenge them, they will remain stagnant. As Paul alluded to in **verse 9**, "…we are persuaded better things of you…" In like manner, God provokes us to move on. Paul therefore is speaking hypothetically in **Heb 6:3**.

Now we can see as we continue reading in **chapters 6 & 7and 8** how the author is continuing on with the context of Christ's Priesthood after the order of Melchisedek (**Heb 5:11**).

- **Heb 10:26-31** - Again, this is a difficult portion of scripture. Read these verses in context from **Heb 10:1-39**. This portion is dealing with a saved man who will be chastened by God if he willfully sins. He will be judged by the law that he despised and, if necessary, be killed physically (**1 John 5:16**). These Hebrews were losing confidence and slipping in their walk for Christ, and Paul is warning them. The verses that indicate that this portion refers to a saved man are: **vs.26** – "received"; **vs.29** - "he was sanctified"; **vs.30** - "his people". The portion of "...there remaineth no more sacrifice for sin" is referring to **verses 10:10-14**. This means that Christ is offered only once for all sin, not time and time again like the Old Testament sacrifices which could never take away sin. Your willful sin then would be mocking your only provision of salvation - an act that God will judge! Compare **1 Pet 4:17**. Then go back and read **Heb 10:38-39** again.

- **2 Pet 2:20-21** – This is dealing with false prophets. Read in context from the beginning of the chapter. They have escaped the corruption in the world through knowledge but don't have victory over their lusts. This is indicated in **verse 22** because he refers to them as "dogs" and "pigs" that return to their old ways. True believers are always referred to as "sheep" in the Bible.

- **Jude 21** – "Keeping yourself in the love of God" refers to your heart being established. The love of God never changes toward His children. It is unconditional love that was established by His foresight before the foundation of the world.

- **Rev 3:5; 22:18-19** - The (Lamb's) Book of Life contains the name of every living man. When a man dies without Christ, his name is then blotted out of the book of life. Compare with several Old Testament portions (**Exo 32:33; Psa 69:28; Deu 9:14**). This wonderful truth demonstrates the grace of God toward mankind in that all could be saved if they only chose to be. There are certain apostates and renegades that are blotted out early or not written at all with no hope of salvation. For example, they that tamper with the Bible or love the Beast. Compare **Rev 13:8; 17:8; 20:11-15; 21:27**.

CONCLUSION:

Eternal salvation is a wonderful truth on which to cleave (**1 Thes 5:21**). It not only gives you hope for your future but establishes confidence to witness to others. You can rest assured that you are presenting a genuine gift of hope for any man. If that man truly calls on the name of the Lord Jesus with a sincere heart and trusts in His blood, he will be delivered for eternity (**Rom 10:9-13; Rom 5:8-9**). What a glorious truth to share with men! It is not one of doubts and fears that would have you saved today if you believe, and lost tomorrow if you sin. But a truth that puts confidence in the blood of Christ, God's righteousness, which never loses its power to save! No doubt, some children of Israel in Egypt were fearful that the blood on the lentil and doorposts would not stop the plague of death. Though they feared inside the house, the blood did not fail. It still turned away the judgment of God (**Exo 12**). Therefore, go forth with great confidence in Jesus' name and tell the world of a Saviour who can save to the uttermost! (**Heb 7:25**)