

Church of the Promise
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Infusion

Become

Believe

Belong

Befriend

Teacher's Edition

INFUSING THE LIFE FOUND IN CHRIST
THROUGH FAITH IN GOD'S VITAL PRECEPTS,
MAKING EVERY MEMBER WHOLE
SPIRIT, SOUL & BODY

INFUSION

Become *Establish HOW we have the power to overcome temptations and RULE over personal sin as Christ did because His divine nature is deposited in EVERY born again believer. Three part being, nature of prayer, Bible covenants*

- 1.About the Bible
- 2.A Matter of Birth
- 3.New Creation
- 4.The Body of Christ
- 5.Promise Kept
- 6.Renew Your Mind
- 7.Pray with Understanding
- 8.Free from Hurts
- 9.Pray in a New Way
- 10.Confession and Transparency

Believe *Christ empowerment for Supernatural living through the Holy Spirit*

- 1.Bait of Satan
- 2.Overcoming the Devil and his strategies
- 3.The power of spoken words
- 4.Strengthen and increase your faith
- 5.Receive and Activate Spiritual Gifts
- 6.Healing by the word of faith
- 7.New Future
- 8.The End of Evil
- 9.New Heaven New Earth
- 10.Anointing of the Holy Spirit

Belong *Infusing into the purposes & plans of Christ in and FROM His Church about my Fathers work, pursuit of calling.*

1. Under Cover
- 2.The Law of Brokenness & Service
- 3.Spiritual Warfare
- 4.Entering Into the Vision
- 5.Designed by God –Discover Your Personality
- 6.Designed by God- Discovering Your Motivational Gifts
- 7.What About Trials, Discipline, and Tempering
- 8.Praise And Worship
- 9.The Mystery of Grace
- 10.Experiencing God as Your Provider
- 11.A New Kingdom

Befriend *Leading others to what you have found in Christ “Because they have Love one for another” relationship in the kingdom*

- 1.The Why of Evangelism
- 2.Walk in Love’s Fruit
- 3.Winning the Lost begins in prayer
- 4.The Ways of Evangelism...part 1
- 5.The Ways of Evangelism...part 2
- 6.Honors Reward
- 7.BECOMING A VIRTUOUS PERSON - Need to write -Not what you get but what you give!
- 8.Shepherding a Heart
- 9.The Fear of the Lord
- 10.Generational Bondages
- 11.The Missionary World Changers (do not use...needs to be re-written)

Teacher Training:

Prepare their hearts to receive:

Remind students that they will see God confirm His word each week. As they apply it to their lives and put matters of difference to prayer, God will create circumstances that confirm what they have been taught. Someone may echo the same thoughts they heard in class. Some circumstance will fall perfectly into place. Many times Pastor steps into the pulpit and unknowingly repeats a key precept discussed the same morning. These miraculous assurances, by the Holy Spirit, will also build your own confidence that God is indeed present with you as you teach this course.

Expect God to do Great Things During the Session

The word of God is a sure thing. When you teach it you can be sure He will confirm it. When you teach on the supernatural like the Gifts of the Spirit, Baptism in the Holy Spirit, Healing, Salvation, Deliverance, Forgiveness; you can expect God will move in accordance to the faith of those hearing the Word.

Get Supplied

Take the time to pre-read the material so you have a keen understanding of the lesson. Also, check for lesson materials needed for this class and for the coming week, to be sure you have ample supplies. Make enough to have a few extra for your class.

Prepare Your Own Heart to Receive

Prepare your heart by reading the lesson and thinking of how the material has impacted you personally. Examine growth and measure it against where you want to be. Is there room yet to take what you are about to teach others to a higher level for yourself. Determine to put it into practice.

REPORT Editing Needs

Make notes of any typos, rough editing spots, thoughts & illustrations that could be added in your teachers manual and discuss with Infusion co-ordinator so updates can be made.

Keep Records

Record the attendance of your students. You may ask one of them to help you with this. Also keep up with Students completing and turning in the surveys. These tools help them take the word deeper and also help you know if you are being effective in your teaching methods. Keep attendance & materials in the designated place so it can be located by staff if needed.

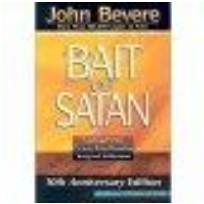
Stay Connected

The students in your class are on a journey to draw closer to God. The pastors are the authority for this local church. Notify them of anything troubling or that creates a safety issue for other people attending. If you are having trouble directing the flow of the class or staying on the authorized material consult Sis. Cindy. She will be able to help you overcome those hindrances. Don't let disruptions continue. Everyone is counting on you to succeed. The Pastors are there to help you.

The Bait of Satan

Session #1

~♦✠♦♦✠~ BELIEVE ~♦✠♦♦✠~



These are the Chapter titles for the book *The Bait of Satan* by John Bevere. The purpose of this class is to encourage you to read the book and attend the Video sessions with a group as soon as it is available. We have selected just a very small portion for this session. It is just a sampling from the material.

Me, Offended
Massive Offense
How could this happen
My father, My FATHER!
How Spiritual Vagabonds are Born
Hiding from Reality
The Sure Foundation
All that can be Shaken Will be Shaken
The Rock of Offense
Lest we Offend Them
Forgiveness: You don't Give, you Don't Receive
Revenge: The Trap
Escaping the Trap
Objective: Reconciliation
Epilogue: Taking Action
Notes
Devotional Supplement

Meanwhile, this class will take snips from a few of the valuable Biblical precepts that will bless you and protect you, as you employ them with your faith.

The book opens with this introduction:

Pg 12 Anyone who has trapped animals knows a trap needs two things to be successful. It must be hidden, in the hope that an animal will stumble upon it, and it must be baited to lure the animal into the trap's deadly jaws

Satan, the enemy of our souls, incorporates both of these strategies as he lays out his most deceptive and deadly traps. They are both hidden and baited.

Satan is cunning and crafty, he's had all of human history to practice . His purpose is to kill steal and destroy. Like any predator deception is his greatest weapon. The Bible says he comes as an angel of Light.

Ch. 1 - Me Offended?

Pg 15. "Selfishness reigns in our society. Men and women today look out for themselves to the neglect and hurt of those around them. This should not surprise us. The Bible is very clear that in the last days men will be lovers of themselves' (2 Tim 3:2) We expect this in unbelievers, but Paul was not referring to those outside the church.

He was talking about those within it. Many are wounded, hurt and bitter. They are offended! But they do not realize that they have fallen into Satan's trap

Is it our fault? Jesus made it very clear that it is impossible to live in this world and not have the opportunity to become offended. Yet most believers are shocked, bewildered, and amazed when it happens. We believe we are the only ones who have been wronged. The response leaves us vulnerable to a root of bitterness. Therefore we must be prepared and armed for offenses, because our response determines our future."

A. Coming to their senses.

Offense left un-dealt with creates resentment. It is evidence of SELF preservation. It is the first tool in the enemy's arsenal to enslave you. Deception has begun to take hold.

2 Tim 2:24-26

24. And the Lord's servant must not quarrel; instead, he must be kind to everyone, able to teach, not resentful.

25. Those who oppose him he must gently instruct, in the hope that God WILL GRANT them REPENTANCE leading them to a knowledge of the TRUTH, 26. and that they will COME TO THEIR SENSES and ESCAPE from the TRAP of the DEVIL who has TAKEN THEM CAPTIVE to do his WILL.

Like the Prodigal they must 'come to their senses' and find repentance by awaking to their true condition. They do not realize they are spewing out bitter waters rather than pure. Deception tells them they are right.

No matter what the cause is there are two types of offended people:

1. those who have truly been treated wrong.
2. those who *believe* they have been treated wrong.

Hebrews 3:13

But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called Today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness.

B. See Your True Condition

You will only repent when you STOP blaming other people.

Revelation 3:18

I counsel you to buy from me gold refined in the fire, so you can become rich; and white clothes to wear, so you can cover your shameful nakedness; and salve to put on your eyes, so you can see.

This passage creates a picture of your own condition. Jesus connects our ability to 'see' as a key to being freed from deception.

When we blame others and defend our own position, we are blind. We struggle to remove the speck from our brother's eye while there is a log in ours. When the Holy Spirit shows us our sin, He brings conviction, not condemnation. Only selfish pride could keep you from the truth and freedom.

III. Ch. 2 - MASSIVE OFFENSE

A. An offended Christian is one who takes in life but because of fear, cannot release it.

- a. Devastation, Overwhelming rejection, abandonment, betrayal create pain that is difficult to absorb and release.
- b. Many believe they have forgiven but experience great discomfort when face to face with the person they feel is responsible.

c. Asking for forgiveness from them for harboring the resentment and pain can heal & free you.

d. God's love grows cold in a lawless atmosphere. Rampant wickedness is a sign of the end times.

Matt 24:12 *Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold,*

The word for "love" here is AGAPEO that is the word used to describe God's selfless love. It shows that people will have this love and then let it loose. This means the passage is speaking of Christians

e. Without God we can only love with a selfish love. One that cannot be given unless it is received & returned. "I give, if I get"

f. Develop faith in the Love of God

i. "Sow to the flesh reap corruption, sow to the Spirit reap everlasting life"

Gal 6:9

Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.

IV. Ch. 8 - All that can be shaken will be shaken

A. Jesus knew that Simon Peter was about to succumb to a huge battle with unforgiveness and respond in betrayal. So he encouraged him with this word.

Luke 22:32

"But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers."

What power! Facing the cross his heart was on the great need of the world. He prayed FOR his friend who would deny and abandon Him.

JOHN 17 you can read what He asked for YOU during His hour of trial.

SUCH LOVE! And it is deposited in your heart if you have received HIM as your LORD and Saviour! Don't be like a dog returning to its own vomit! Don't be caught up again in vengeful hatred and bitterness. FORGIVE as you have been forgiven. PRAY FOR THEM as HE PRAYED FOR YOU. Be a vessel His LOVE lives in.

Jesus didn't pray that Peter escape the 'shaking' but that his faith not fail to bring him through it. He knew the trial would deliver Peter from some bondage. Peter needed to be freed so he could fulfill his destiny and strengthen his brethren.

Satan asked to 'sift' Peter because he wanted to shake him loose from his faith! God being way ahead of the devil allowed the test so it would shake off the things that would hinder Peter. His "SELF" confidence would be replaced with confidence in the grace of God.

Peter's strength before this was in his own personality not in God's humility. The same man who wielding a sword attacked a soldier became intimidated when a little girl asked him to identify with Christ. *This was a major Crisis for Peter because who he thought Jesus was unraveling before him. And he was being*

asked to lay his life down and identify with a condemned man. He could not perceive a risen Savior because in this moment he was a defeated conqueror in Peter's sight. He had great confidence in Christ that's why he struck the soldier because he knew they could not loose. But the weakness of Christ in the face of the trial & impending cross overwhelmed his confidence and caused him to return to fear.

B. The only Crisis we really experience is a LOVE crisis

Many pray the "sinner's prayer" but when they hit difficulty in who they perceive Christ to be, they bail out with excuses that blame anyone but themselves. "God never did anything for me" mentality reveals they never really found repentance but simply tried out Christianity to see if it would help them in some way.

They tried to align themselves with him for their own benefit. They served him for what he could give them. They are easily offended.

Matt 4: 16-17

16. Others, like seed sown on rocky places, hear the word and at once receive it with joy. 17. But since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away.

C. In what are we 'rooted'?

Eph 3:16-18

16. I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, 17. so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, 18. may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, 19. and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

John 15:13

Greater love has no one than this that he lay down his life for his friends.

Matt 5:44

But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;

D. Depending on God's Character

Pg. 81 One way the enemy attempts to draw us away from trusting God is by perverting our perception of God's character. He did this in the garden with Eve when He asked her, "has God indeed said, 'you shall not eat of every tree of the garden? He twisted God's commandment in order to attack and distort His character. God had said, "of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; but of the tree of knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die" ***Gen 2:16-17***

The Serpent was insinuating to the woman that God did not really care for her since he is keeping something back from you that is good. She was deceived into believing a lie about God's character.

The enemy has masterfully distorted the character of the Father by perverting our view of our earthly fathers. God says that, before Jesus returns, the hearts of the fathers will be returned to the children (***Mal 4:6***) His character or nature will be seen in his leaders, and it will be a catalyst for healing.

When you know God would never do anything to harm or destroy you, and whatever He does or does not do in your life is in your best interest, then you will give yourself freely to Him. You will gladly lay down your life for the master.

If you have given yourself totally to Jesus, and are committed to His care, you cannot be offended because you are not your own.

If we walk in selfish love expecting others to meet our expectations for love then we will be offended when they don't respond to us as we desire. I set myself up for offense when I require certain behaviors and attitudes from those whom I love. The more I expect the greater the potential offense.

On a scale of 1 (very little) to 5 (very much, how would you rate each of the following statements in your own life. (Circle your answers)

1 2 3 4 5 I expect much of others

1 2 3 4 5 I am easily disappointed

1 2 3 4 5 I love conditionally

1 2 3 4 5 I bless to be blessed

Add together all the numbers you circles. If you scored over 10, you are positioning yourself for potential offenses in your life.

E. Ask God to replace your expectations with unconditional love for them

2 Cor. 10:4,5

4. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. 5. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ

We must come to the place where we trust God, not our flesh, to protect us.

Check attitudes that indicate walls built

- Selective about relationships
- Less open and vulnerable to others
- Closed to those we fear will hurt us
- Restrained to admit those who owe us something
- Open only to those who we believe are on our side.

The Living Stone and a Chosen People

Being rooted in God's Word and illuminated by His Spirit will enable us to hear truth from God and from others without becoming offended

1 Peter 2:4,5

4As you come to him, the living Stone—rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him— 5you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ

1 Peter 5:5

Be clothed with humility, for God resist the proud, but gives grace to the humble.”.

Love is the bottom line in our relationship with the Lord – not love of principles and teachings, but love for the Person of Jesus Christ.

It's not difficult to obey when you know the character and love of the one to whom you are submitting.

When you live in obedience to the will of God you will not fulfill the desires of men. As a result, you will suffer in the flesh.

THIS WEEK’S BIBLE READING: Proverbs & Palms Chapter a Day

Use the [Epistles Bible Study tool](#) as you read. The next session will come from a portion of this book. Return your completed form for credit. You will get much more from the time if you prepare in advance by reading prayerfully through the assignment:

2. You will find that Satan assumes three basic roles in his attacks and uses three basic weapons with which he hopes to defeat you:

- _ As the tempter he entices with Weaknesses of the flesh.
- _ As the accuser he seeks to bring you under condemnation.
- _ As the destroyer he attacks with disease, theft of resources, & emotional conflict.

I. How to be victorious over temptation

In **Matthew 4:3** and **I Thessalonians 3:5**, the Bible calls the devil the tempter. Satan has no power to make you do anything. He cannot force you to sin or to give up your faith. However, he does have a “bag of tricks” that he uses to get you to act independently of God and to go against His will. The strongest weapon Satan has is temptation.

A. How temptation works

From **James 1:12-15** we learn how temptation works.

James 1: 14,15

14. but each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed.

15. Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.

B. His Devices

1. Draw you into the flesh
2. Draw you to claim your rights
3. Draw you to fight for you rights

Wrath, vengeance, rebellion generating ill-will towards others will emerge. Then as you are engaged in these emotions the actions that result are sin. The very attitudes interrupt your communication through the Holy Spirit. Then once you are isolated the enemy begins to bind you in condemnation, anger and discouragement.

You first line of defense is to BE QUICKLY Restored!!!

Confess the attitudes to God. Put the old man back in the grave and put the new man back on. Renew your mind with the Word so that you take on the mind of Christ.

C. Three areas where believers are tempted (**1 John 2:16**)

1. The lust of the flesh - this area deals with the appetites of the flesh and includes such sin as sexual immorality, gluttony, drunkenness, drug abuse, and laziness. Any desire generated by the physical body that interferes with keeping your walk pure.
2. The lust of the eye - this area has to do with a man's relationship to -money and possessions. It includes such sin as greed, covetousness, stealing and lying especially for gain of property or possessions.

3. The Pride of life - this area involves putting self at the center of all things and relationships. It includes such sins as pride, selfish ambitions, strife, anger, jealousy, idolatry, and murder. Often this is strong desires generated by your wounded emotions that seek to exalt you above others. A victim mentality and un-thankfulness are often at the roots giving nourishment to the pride of life.

The fruit that lust produces is Pride, Rebellion, and Self Righteousness

Pride-emotional, soul centered arrogance. You believe you are right and God is wrong. It comes before the fall.

Rebellion – always motivated by pride, it is our attempt to rise above God by defiance directed against His rule and authority over us. The Bible says it is like witchcraft and an abomination.

Self-Righteousness - Our believing in our own ability and strength to be good or right before God outside of accepting Christ and His righteousness.

D. How to successfully overcome temptation:

1. Use a scriptural approach to spiritual warfare by daily putting on the whole armor of God (*Ephesians 6:10-18*).
2. Build yourself up spiritually through daily prayer and Bible study. The importance of this cannot be overestimated.
3. Stay away from corrupt influences (*I Corinthians 15:33; I Timothy 6:11; II Timothy 2:22; I John 2:15*). This may mean changing friends, entertainment, jobs, or anything else that could pull you back into the world and your old way of life.
4. Use the word of God as a sword against temptation and the devil's lies (*Ephesians 6:17; Matthew 4:1-11*).
5. Get rid of all known sin in your life, especially un-forgiveness, bitterness, rebellion, or occult involvement, as these left alone can allow access to Satan to build strongholds in your life.
6. Be sure to stay in close fellowship with other believers through your local church (*Hebrews 10:25*).
7. Stand on the Word of God that He will not allow Satan to tempt you beyond what you can handle but will give you a way of escape (*I Corinthians 10:13*).
8. After you have submitted yourself to God, resist the devil, and he will flee from you (*James 4:7*).

II. How to overcome the accuser's condemnation

In **Revelation 12:9-11** Satan is referred to as “the accuser of our brothers.” One very effective weapon of the devil is to cause you to believe that you have failed and have lost your salvation. He tries to convince you that you are no longer pure. He keeps you focused on the “Old man” and next thing you know you’re wearing the “old man” that was put to death and buried with Christ. (*Hebrews 4:16*). This serves to divert them from the work of God they are called to do. It is similar to trying to drive with your eyes always fixed on the rear-view mirror instead of the road ahead.

A. Satan wants you to quit.

The devil does all he can through accusations and condemnation to get you to give up and quit spiritually. If he can convince you that you are not changed, that God does not love you, or that you will never get victory, then what usually results is discouragement, depression, and dejection, all of which can lead to spiritual shipwreck.

B. Three areas of protection—Revelation 12:11 tells how the accuser of the brethren was overcome by believers.

1. The blood -- They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb.” When the devil accuses you of past failures, inadequacies, shortcomings, and sins, you are to point him to the blood of Jesus. The Bible says in *I John 1:7*, “*The blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.*” Your sins are gone because Christ took them away; therefore, the devil has no case against you before God. “There is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.”
2. The spoken word “They overcame him by . . . the Word of their testimony.” This simply means that you are to speak (or testify) what the Word says about you, your sins and your victories. When the devil attacks you with condemnation, speak the Word to the thoughts and accusations coming against you.
3. Absolute commitment to the Lord—“They overcame him . . . and they loved not their lives unto the death.” They were so sold out to the Lord that not even the threat of death could make them turn back. When your commitment to God is sure, the devil’s darts of accusation fall harmlessly off without hurting you.

III. How to turn back the enemy’s destruction

Satan is called the “destroyer” in *I Corinthians 5:5* and *I Corinthians 10:10*. From *I Peter 5:8*, we learn the devil is like a “roaring lion, walking about, seeking whom he may devour.” *John 10:10* speaks of the enemy as the one who comes “to steal, to kill, and to destroy.” From these passages and others, you can know that Satan is intent upon bringing devastation and ruin to God’s people.

A. Satan’s major areas of destruction

1. Physical sickness, Mental and emotional attacks
2. Bondage—especially to alcohol, drugs or sexual sins
3. Financial problems
4. Family problems

B. Spiritual ways to resist the devil

5. Stand on God’s promises. Find out what God’s promises are regarding your particular area of need, and claim them for your own life. For example, if the devil is hitting you with sickness, study what the Bible says about healing and believe that for your life.
6. Speak the Word. Speak God’s Word to the need and to Satan when he attacks. This is what Jesus did when He was tempted by the devil in *Matthew 4*.

7. The Name of Jesus. *"Therefore, God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name," (Philippians 2:9) "You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it. (John 14:14)*
8. Obey God. Make sure you are walking in obedience to the known will of God. In the book of Malachi, the people of God were seeing their finances devoured, and they did not understand why. God told them it was because they were not paying their tithes. In *Malachi 3:10-11*, He said that He would rebuke the devourer if they would obey Him.
9. Walk in faith. Without faith it is impossible for you to please God or defeat the devil. Faith is a shield that is able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one (*Ephesians 6:16; I John 5:4*).
10. Stand firm. Finally, stand your ground, and don't give up. *"Stand against the schemes of the devil . . . and having done all . . . stand" (Ephesians 6:11-13)*. There is no room for cowardice in God's army. If you are afraid of the enemy and try to run from him, he will devour you, but if you stand against him using your weapons of spiritual warfare, he will flee from you.
11. Praise the Lord in all situations. No matter what is thrown at you let praise be your battle cry. Don't acknowledge the Devil's attempts. Simply stay steadfast in worship. Don't let him steal your joy.

Exercise:

1. Break into groups of two to four, and share briefly a time when you experienced the greatest victory over the devil. Afterwards, pray for one another.

2. Memorize

Luke 10:18-20

18. He replied, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven.

19. I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you.

20. However, do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven."

ANSWERS:

Pg 1 victory, overcome

Pg 2 weakness, flesh, disease, conflict

Pg 3 flesh, eye, pride, pride, rebellion, self righteousness

Pg 4 prayer & bible, corrupt, word, word

Pg 5 quit, word, blood, commitment

Pg 6 promises, speak, name, obey, faith

Pg 7 stand firm, praise

THIS WEEK'S BIBLE READING: Exodus

Use the [Epistles Bible Study tool](#) as you read. The next session will come from a portion of this book. Return your completed form for credit. You will get much more from the time if you prepare in advance by reading prayerfully through the assignment:

The Power of Spoken Words

Session 3

~♦✠♦✠♦✠~ BELIEVE ~♦✠♦✠♦✠~

Philippians 1:6

being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

God gave people a unique position in the earth above all the other created things. He has made us in His likeness. In this lesson we will study some faith building concepts relating to the power in both His and our own words.

I. Creative power of God's spoken word.

II. Creative Power of our spoken words.

I. Creative power of God's spoken word.

Romans 4:17 As it is written: "I have made you a father of many nations." He is our father in the sight of God, in whom he believed--the God who gives life to the dead and calls things that are not as though they were.

1. God **SAID** then He **SAW** then he **CALLED**!

There are three verbs that are quite revealing to God's way of thinking in the first few verses of Genesis. God imagined it then he spoke it then it existed. That is not what we do. We SEE it in existence then we SAY and or call it.

Genesis 1:3-5

3. And God said, Let there be light: and there was light.

4. God saw the light, that it was good: and God divided the light from the darkness.

5. And God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And the evening and the morning were the first day.

If we are to walk by faith then we are to abandon our natural ways and take up God's. We need to stop believing circumstances and believe God. Circumstances are facts but power of God's word is greater than circumstances because it can only be truth! Example: Facts may say a person has an illness but God's truth confronts that fact with the truth of healing!

2 Corinthians 5:7 We live by faith, not by sight.

2. God's very words have creative power.

Before God spoke let there be light there was nothing! Nothing at all. Not even the elements existed. God created them "EX-NEHILIO" which means "out of nothing." So, all that we know was created in the imagination of God and manifested by his spoken words. His words were not instant they were

expressed in time. The first day God said: the second day God said. He willed it into being and it manifested in a period of time that he created called a day.

3. Therefore God's very words are creative and cannot be changed

Hebrews 11:3 By faith we understand that the worlds have been framed by the word of God, so that what is seen hath not been made out of things which appear.

Isaiah 55:11 so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.

4. That means it is impossible for Him to lie! What He says happens!

*Titus 1:2 in hope of eternal life, which God, who cannot lie, promised before times eternal;
- American Standard*

Hebrews 6:18 that by two immutable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we may have a strong encouragement, who have fled for refuge to lay hold of the hope set before us:

5. We were created in His image and he imparted to us similar ability.

Genesis 1:26 Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground."

Isaiah 51:16 I have put my words in your mouth and covered you with the shadow of my hand-- I who set the heavens in place, who laid the foundations of the earth, and who say to Zion, "You are my people."

Romans 10:8 But what does it say? "The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart," that is, the word of faith we are proclaiming:

II. Creative Power of our spoken words.

1. That creative power is still in effect as we all still exist and he has extended that creative power into the written word. He has also given man authority and that extends the creative power of the spoken word to us.

Our faith keeps pace with our confession

Mark 11:23 "I tell you the truth, if anyone says to this mountain, 'Go, throw yourself into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart but believes that what he says will happen, it will be done for him. 24. Therefore I say unto you, Whatever things you desire, when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them.

YOU ARE what You SAY!

You HAVE what YOU SAY!

JUST SAY it and SEE it!

Matthew 15:11 What goes into a man's mouth does not make him 'unclean,' but what comes out of his mouth, that is what makes him 'unclean.'"

2. Sooner or later we become and get what we confess!

Matthew 12:

34. *You brood of vipers, how can you who are evil say anything good? For out of the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks.*

35. *The good man brings good things out of the good stored up in him, and the evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in him.*

36. *But I tell you that men will have to give account on the Day of Judgment for every careless word they have spoken.*

37. *For by your words you will be acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned."*

3. Not convinced? What if God placed a MP3 recorder on you and recorded your every word through just one day. Would you have spoken life or death into existence in your life? Would you cringe when he played it back to you?

***Luke 6:45** The good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart, and the evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart. For out of the overflow of his heart his mouth speaks.*

***Proverbs 18:21** Death and life are in the power of the tongue; And they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof. Your very salvation is consecrated by the spoken word.*

4. Just reflect on the words you have spoken in the last twenty-four hours and just pretend that every word you spoke will happen just as you have said. Would you change what you said about God, yourself, and others?

Romans 10: 6-10 (cross reference Duet 30:11-15)

6. *But the righteousness that is by faith says: "Do not say in your heart, 'Who will ascend into heaven?' "(that is, to bring Christ down)*

7. *"Or 'Who will descend into the deep?' "(that is, to bring Christ up from the dead).*

8. *But what does it say? "The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart," that is, the word of faith we are proclaiming:*

9. *That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.*

10. *For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.*

Just remember that you must agree with God and his word. He can not contradict himself. The Bible is His revealed will. So, he will never tell you to do or allow you to have something that is not in agreement with His word. Here is something we need to know and agree with.

Exercise:

1. Reflect on things you say without thinking. If they were to happen would you change what you say? What about the fact that God will judge you by the words you have spoken. Are there expressions that you are saying that are defeating you and undermining your prayers?

2. Are you insulting the work Jesus did with your words?

Hebrews 12:2 Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. -- New International

3. Purpose in your heart to replace them with life giving words.

Deuteronomy 30:19 This day I call heaven and earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live

THIS WEEK'S BIBLE READING: Joshua

Use the Epistles Bible Study tool as you read. The next session will come from a portion of this book. Return your completed form for credit. You will get much more from the time if you prepare in advance by reading prayerfully through the assignment:

Answer Key:

Pg. 2 – creative, changed, impossible

Strengthen and Increase Your Faith

Session 4

~♦~♦~♦~♦~♦~♦~ BELIEVE ~♦~♦~♦~♦~♦~♦~

The Bible places great importance upon our faith. It is an essential element to our spiritual growth, like the air we breathe. So then it is very important that we understand what it is in God's view, and then increase it in our lives.

In this lesson, you will:

- Discover what faith is according to the Bible.
- Learn how to increase and release your faith.
- Find out how to keep your faith strong until the answer comes.

This passage is a prayer that Paul wrote for the Ephesians' church. He asks that we be strengthened in our "inner most being" so that we might know the love of Christ.

Ephesians 3:14-21 (You may pray this for yourself, substitute "you" for 'me' or 'I!')

14. For this reason I kneel before the Father,

15. from whom his whole family in heaven and on earth derives its name.

16. I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being,

17. so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love,

18. may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ,

19. and to know this love that surpasses knowledge--that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

20. Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us,

21. to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

I. Love is the foundation of our faith

Since love is a good thing why would you need to get stronger to receive it?

1. Our carnal nature is distorted and doesn't even recognize what true love is. Sometimes we reject God's love because we are too emotionally, mentally, or spiritually weak to receive it. *(we, in our broken state and self-condemnation, cannot see how God could love us...who could love us?)*

2. The Gospel is not only about being loved, it is also about loving. When Christ placed His love toward us it brought Him to:
the **Garden of Gethsemane**
then to **Golgotha**
then to the **Grave**
and then to **Glory**

To develop the love of Christ in our hearts we also will go on a faith journey. As you abide in Him, that will take you through your own Gethsemane, Golgotha, Grave and finally to Glory. You will need to be strengthened in the “inner man” (your spirit) to grow the faith, hope and love you need for the trip.

The foundation of your faith is the knowledge of God’s love toward you. His love saw you, condemned to death, struggling in bondage of sin. He was moved to do something. He was not content to allow you to be destroyed. The only way to rescue you was to humble Himself, and become a man. As that man, who was Jesus Christ, he was humiliated, rejected, mocked, beaten beyond recognition and crucified. As His blood was spilled the penalty of our sin was satisfied. He had earned a righteousness that he could share with us. He gave it to anyone who would take it and walk in it. Not only did He give us His righteousness but he gave us His authority so that we could deny Satan and his demons access to our lives and the lives we have authority over. The whip that struck his back and tore his flesh also tore us free from sickness and infirmities. The work he accomplished in his death struck a settled end to Satan’s rule over your life. **You are free!**

II. What is Faith?

Faith is a substance and an evidence.

The same Greek word translated as “conviction” in **Hebrews 11:1** was also translated “title deed” in some ancient secular documents written during the time of the New Testament. Faith then, is like a title deed to property. It is not the property but the proof of ownership. There are two distinctions of faith, Natural and supernatural but in both cases the scripture sums it up like this:

Hebrews 11:1

*Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. --
King James*

1. Faith is so real it is actually called a “substance.” The Greek word literally means “that which stands under” something else or “provides the basis for” something else. It is the foundation on which you can stand and on which you build your life.
2. Faith is also “the conviction or evidence of things not seen.” Faith deals with things you cannot see. Things which are invisible.” ***By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the Word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things which are visible.” (Hebrews 11:3)*** It gives us the ability to imitate our Father’s actual creative ability.
3. There is a difference shown here between the visible and invisible worlds. Your senses relate to that which is seen, but faith takes you behind the visible to the invisible. This is where faith works. ***“For we walk by faith, not by sight” (II Corinthians 5:7)***

A. The god of this world says, seeing is believing.

B. Faith and sight are opposed to one another. If you walk by sight, (The five senses) you do not need faith. If you walk by faith you do not need sight. This is contrary to our natural way of thinking. The world says, "Seeing is believing." The Bible turns it around and says believing enables you to really see! David wrote the following:

Psalm 27:13

"I would have despaired unless I had believed that I would see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living"

Jesus said, *"Blessed is he who having not seen, yet believes."* The need to see evidence sets you up for a hardened heart in which faith cannot grow. There is no faith needed to witness things that are. Jesus said cursed is the generation that seeks after a sign.

In the scripture, the only people that received miraculous intervention from Jesus were those who exercised some measure of faith in His ability to shatter what was visible and bring forth what could not be seen. It is the basis of the Genesis. God called forth light from nothing. By His spoken Word the world was formed. With a word He set a boundary in eternity that we know as time. He is the Alpha and the Omega; the beginning and the end.

God responded as men and women reached for what they could not see. They could only reach for the vision the Lord placed in their hearts because it did not exist in the natural. Faith is the legal tender of heaven, without it no one can please God.

So is faith the same as to just foolishly believe whatever our imaginations conjure up? No, you grow your faith by believing what the written, inspired word of God says about God, about mankind and about you.

III. How do we get faith?

1. The scripture speaks of everyone receiving a measure of faith. Like priming a pump, He gives us what we need to get started. Supernatural faith is a gift from the Holy Spirit.

Romans 1:5

Through him and for his name's sake, we received grace and apostleship to call people from among all the Gentiles to the obedience that comes from faith.

Romans 12:3

For I say, through the grace that was given me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think as to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to each man a measure of faith.

2. Natural faith is increased as our spiritual hearing grasps the revealed word of God.

Romans 10:17

So then, faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

IV. What does our faith do?

Hebrews chapter 11 is called the *Heroes of faith* chapter. It is a list of everyday, ordinary people like yourself who took hold of many things through the power of their faith in God. The following scriptures just highlight some of the things that strong faith can provide to the believer.

1. Faith fully persuades and is the state of being fully convinced. Faith makes the invisible as fully visible and waits with expectation for it to manifest.

visible

invisible

Romans 4:18

Against all hope, Abraham in hope believed and so became the father of many nations, just as it had been said to him, "So shall your offspring be."

19. Without weakening in his faith, he faced the fact that his body was as good as dead--since he was about a hundred years old--and that Sarah's womb was also dead.

20. Yet he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God,

21. being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised.

2. Faith justifies.

Romans 3:28

For we maintain that a man is justified by faith apart from observing the law.

3. Faith adds righteousness to our account.

James 2:23

And the scripture was fulfilled that says, "Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness," and he was called God's friend.

Romans 1:17

For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: "The righteous will live by faith."

4. Faith is the conduit of our salvation.

Romans 10:6-10

But the righteousness that is by faith says: "Do not say in your heart, 'Who will ascend into heaven?"

"(that is to bring Christ down)" or "Who will descend into the deep?" "(that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). But what does it say? "The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart," that is, the word of faith we are proclaiming: That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.

2 Peter 1:3-10

His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness.

Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.

For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love.

For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

But if anyone does not have them, he is nearsighted and blind, and has forgotten that he has been cleansed from his past sins.

Therefore, my brothers, be all the more eager to make you calling and election sure. For if you do these things, you will never fall,

V. Building upon Faith and reaching Love

Now we are not to stop with faith alone. As the Holy Spirit leads us to increased faith we progress toward God's brand of love. It seems like it should be easy to love. But our un-regenerated flesh nature draws us to gratify ourselves. This is a problem because "Love does not seek its own." **2 Peter 1:5-8** shows us how God teaches us to walk in Christ's love in progressive stages or steps. Just as a tree's trunk keeps growing in size while it produces branches and they both keep growing while it produces leaves, then flowers & fruit, each level is building upon the last and all continuing to dynamically increase God's nature in each of us.

1. The first thing on the list is our faith.
2. Then we add to our increasing faith, goodness.
3. Then we add to increasing goodness, knowledge
4. and to knowledge, self-control,
5. Then to self control we add perseverance, Godliness and brotherly kindness to that
6. until we finally begin to express the most easily recognized attribute of His divine nature, which is love.

This is the growth chart of every Christian. This is Growth that is not measured in inches; but in the height and stature of their Christ like nature.

VI. Faith is an everyday thing.

Faith is something we must increase in and practice daily. Like the manna that was found new everyday by the children of Israel; faith is discovered new every day. As soon as we wake up we should begin our day by saying something like this to the Lord from a sincere heart.

(Good morning Lord, thank you for your hand reaching into my life to lead me into your perfect will. Take my hand now and lead me where you want to go and show me what you want me to do and I will trust and obey. I'm yours and I'm listening In Jesus Name.)

Now mix intentions like these from your own heart with the understanding that God is expecting you to keep that idea throughout your day, because He has set appointments to meet you throughout your day and even into your night through dreams and visions.

You can build a strong mind by gaining knowledge and you can build a strong soul by controlling your emotions, but to bring strength to your spirit you need to increase your faith.

VII. Why should I use my Faith?

Faith is the key that releases the blessings of God into your life. *“Without faith, it is impossible to please God” (Hebrews 11:6)* With faith the impossible becomes possible.

“With God all things are possible” (Matthew 19:26)

“All things are possible to him who believes” (Mark 9:23)

Faith is the channel that makes God’s possibilities available to you. By faith, believers have received financial blessings, been spared from judgment, received strength to endure horrific persecution and hardship, escaped danger, became mighty in battle, received their dead loved ones back to life and obtained approval from God. *(Hebrews 11)*.

VIII. The difference between faith and hope.

Mark 11:24:

“Therefore I say to you, all things for which you pray and ask, believe that you have received them, and they shall be granted you”

Romans 5:1-2:

“Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God.”

1. Faith receives now while hope looks to the future. Faith is the substance, something that is actually there. Hope is an expectation of something to come. Faith counts it done, hope waits. *(Colossians 1:21-23)*

- a. If someone says, “I believe God will heal me: what they really mean is, “I hope He’ll heal me tomorrow.” That is not faith because faith is something that you have now. If you keep directing your expectation toward the future, you are substituting hope for faith. *(Hebrews 11:13)*
- b. When does Jesus tell you to receive what you pray for? Is it at some undetermined point in the future? No but at the very moment that you pray. You “ask” and at the same moment you “receive” even though the manifestation of the answer to your prayer may yet be in the future.

IX. Doubt corrodes your faith and causes it to diminish.

James 1:6-7:

“But when he ask, he must believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. That man should not think he will receive anything from the Lord”

- a. Doubt is like water in a gas tank it does not mix with the gas and it clogs up the carburetor, causing the engine to miss and malfunction. Doubt and faith do not mix together. And doubt works to prevent faith from acting.

b. You must guard your heart from everything that could weaken or undermine your faith. *“Keep thy heart with all diligence, for out of it are the issues of life” (Proverbs 4:23 KJV)* Do not receive a false report that contradicts God or His word.

1. How to release your faith

In *Mark 11:22-25*, Jesus gave eight important elements in building and releasing your faith.

22. "Have faith in God," Jesus answered. 23. "I tell you the truth, if anyone says to this mountain, 'Go, throw yourself into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart but believes that what he says will happen, it will be done for him . 24. Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours 25. And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive him, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins

(**This is mountain moving faith**)

- A. Find the will of God, and pray it in your life.
- B. “Have faith in God” - Make God the center of your faith.
- C. “Whosoever” - God will answer your prayers if you will meet the conditions of faith.
- D. “Shall say” and “shall have whatsoever he saith” - You must speak to your mountain of need before it will move.
- E. “This mountain... be thou removed and be thou cast into the sea.” - You are to be specific in your requests.
- F. “Shall not doubt in his heart” - Give no place for doubt in your heart.
- G. “What things so ever you desire” - Put no limit on God’s ability to answer your request.
- H. “When you pray, believe that you receive them, and you shall have them.” - Believe that you received them and you shall have what you believe.
- I. “When you stand praying, forgive” -Guard against Unforgiveness . (Or any other faith robber)

2. Let’s make the steps clear

I John 5:14-15

14 This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. 15 And if we know that he hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of him.

- A. Believe in your heart.

Romans 10:9,10

9That if you confess with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. 10For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.

B. Keep a good confession regarding your faith.

When the woman whose child died went to the prophet for help, she was asked by the servant how her son was doing. By faith she confessed that it was well with her child.

2 Kings 4:26

“Run now, I pray thee, to meet her, and say unto her, ‘is it well with thee? Is it well with thy husband? Is it well with the child?’ And she answered, ‘it is well’

3. Expect the answer to your prayers.

The widow who needed money was told by the prophet Elijah to get empty pots and pour the oil she had into each vessel. God filled the number of pots to be filled.

II Kings 4:6

*”And it came to pass, when the vessels were full, that she said unto her son, ‘bring me yet a vessel.’ And he said unto her, there is not a vessel more.’ And the oil stayed.”
(KJV)*

Faith cometh! “So then faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the word of God.’ A single word in this verse needs to grip your heart. The word is “cometh.” If you do not have faith, you can get it by planting the Word of God deep within your heart. Your faith will automatically become active and vibrant through you hearing the word.

4. Follow the directions!

When a doctor gives a person medicine, the directions for taking it are on the bottle. The Word of God is like a medicine bottle; we need to carefully read the directions that are included.

Proverbs 4:20-22

“My son, give attention to my words; incline your ear to my sayings. Do not let them depart from your sight; keep them in the midst of your heart. For they are life to those who find them and health (medicine) to all their whole body” (NASB)

5. Bind up the devil and loose your blessing from his grasp in the name of Jesus.

Matthew 16:19

“I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.

6. Keep your faith strong until the answer comes.

A. Keep the promises of God before you as Abraham did.

Romans 4:21

“And being fully persuaded that, What He had promised He was able also to perform.” (KJV)

B. Do not stagger in unbelief, going from side to side but stay focused on what God has said.

Romans 4:20

He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God.” (KJV)

C. Find another believer who will stand with you in prayer.

Matthew 18:19,20

“Again I say unto you, that if two of you shall agree on earth for anything that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven. For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.

D. Be diligent in your confession & prayer, never contradicting or giving up.

Luke 18:1

“And He spoke a parable to them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint.”

E. Be bold at the throne of grace, obtaining mercy and grace in your time of need.

Hebrews 4:16

“Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.”

The faith we have been discussing is generated by the Holy Spirit and increased as we believe and act upon the Word of God. This kind of faith is also known as “Word of Faith”. It is fundamental to your prayer life, fellowship, and walk with the Lord and His people. There is another kind of faith that is by the power of the Holy Spirit as He wills. It is the Gift of Faith which is described in chapter ten.

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THIS WEEK’S BIBLE READING: Judges

Use the Epistles Bible Study tool as you read. The next session will come from a portion of this book. Return your completed form for credit. You will get much more from the time if you prepare in advance by reading prayerfully through the assignment:

Answer Key:

Pg 3- Love

Pg 4 -substance, evidence

Pg 5- seeing is believing, gift

Pg 6 - , increased

Pg 8 - faith, goodness

Pg 9- knowledge, emotions, spirit Pg10- hope, now, future

Pg 11- doubt, will, center

Pg. 12- your, speak, specific, limit, received, unforgiveness, heart

Pg.13- confession, expect, directions

Pg. 14- bind up, promises, unbelief

Pg.15- diligent

Receive and Activate Spiritual Gifts

Session 5

~♦✠♦✠♦✠♦✠♦ ~ BELIEVE ~♦✠♦✠♦✠♦✠♦ ~

There are three sets of different gifts of the Holy Spirit in the Bible. The way these gifts are distributed and function is different for each list.

Ministry Gifts (*Eph 4:11*),

Motivational Gifts (*Romans 12:6-8*)

Manifestation Gifts (*1 Corinthians 12:8-10*)

Book Nook

Gifts of the Holy Spirit By either
Kenneth Hagin or
Rodney Howard Brown

These three and their purposes will be better defined in the Finding My Place Seminar. This lesson will help us begin to understand and identify when & why we are to operate in the manifestation Gifts found in (*1 Corinthians 12:8-10*). These gifts are given by the Lord throughout the entire church among all believers

The Apostle Paul admonishes us to “eagerly desire the best gifts”. And the Scripture also says, “*to each are given gifts*” (*Rom 12:6*) according to the work that needs to be done through us.

1 Corinthians 12:4-7:

There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but the same God works all of them in all men. Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.

The word the apostle Paul used was “charismata”, which is a Greek plural term related to the word for grace. Like grace, charismata are given at no price by the Spirit. But there is one thing expected of those who are given *charismata*: the gift is to be used for building up other people. The charismata are given to benefit others - the brothers and sisters of the faith & everyone else. (whether they are a believer or not. God gives us the charismata so we can express the love of one another which is at the core of the Christian way of life. **The spiritual gifts** enable and empower what is done for others, and the Spirit distributes them among the believers so they can work together to build up the church more effectively.

The Holy Spirit giving these gifts was essential to the early church, and to many remarkable acts, revivals and movements since then. The one of the most recent was the charismatic movement in the '60s and '70s. The revival of Holy Spirit Baptism began in 1906 Azusa St. Revival. The Word of Faith movement the brought massive healing revival began in the 40's and peaked with men such as Oral Roberts, E.W. Kenyon & Kenneth Hagin at the helm.

Manifestation gifts

The gifts are given through us not to us. They are not for our prideful display so that we may look like someone special above others. The gifts are directed by God through a willing, yielded believer for God's own reasons. They are how Christ shows outwardly or “manifests” through a person and accomplishes His will for the Kingdom of God. So they are referred to in the Bible as the Manifestation Gifts. There are nine gifts listed in *1*

Corinthians 12. They can be easily grouped into three groups, sorted by what the Holy Spirit allows us to do, say & know.

The **Manifestation gifts** can be divided into three groups

<i>Do Something</i>	<i>Say Something</i>	<i>Know Something</i>
Power Gifts	Vocal Gifts	Wisdom Gifts
Faith	Tongues	Word of Knowledge
Healing	Interpretation	Word of Wisdom
Miracles	Prophecy	Discerning of Spirits

1 Corinthians 12:7-11

7. Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. To one there is given through the Spirit the message of wisdom, to another the message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues. All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he gives them to each one, just as he determines.

Gifts of Power verse 9, 10

- A. **Faith** - Supernatural trust (passive) in God for the miraculous.
- B. **Working of Miracles** - Supernatural intervention active in the ordinary course of nature.
- C. **Gifts of Healing** - Supernatural power to heal sickness and diseases.

Gifts of Utterance verse 10

- A. **Prophecy** - Supernatural utterance in a known language (tongue).
- B. **Divers Kinds of Tongues** - Supernatural utterance in an unknown tongue.
- C. **Interpretation of Tongues** - Supernatural showing forth of the meaning of an utterance: in other tongues.

Gifts of Knowledge Verse 8 & 10

- A. **Word of wisdom** – Reveals what has not yet happened
- B. **Word of knowledge** – Reveals what is already
- C. **Discerning of spirits** – Super-natural insight into the realm of supernatural spirits. Reveals type and intent.

What a Gift is not

We must understand the distinction between the *Fruit of the Spirit* and the *Gifts of the Spirit*. The fruit of the spirit is the result of the Spirit filled life, as opposed to living in the flesh. When we come to Christ, the Holy Spirit comes to dwell within the believer. When we submit to the Holy Spirit, we receive a life, which bears the fruit of the spirit. This goes for every believer; we should all bear the fruit of the Spirit, all the fruits. The closer our walk, the more like Christ we become.

There are examples of the gifts in use in scripture. Now we will look at each individual gift listed in chapter 12.

Gifts of Power

I. Faith

This gift is not the same as the faith that is generated as we believe the word and stand on its promises. We will call that faith Word of faith. This is the gift of Faith. It is supernatural and often pairs up with healing or miracles. The supernatural gift of faith is inspired by the Holy Spirit and is unshakable. This faith will see that the dead is brought to life. It sees through all circumstances.

Biblical Example:

II. Healing

1 Corinthians 12:9; 28-31

⁹ to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit,

²⁸ And in the church God has appointed first of all apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then workers of miracles, also those having gifts of healing, those able to help others, those with gifts of administration, and those speaking in different kinds of tongues. ²⁹ Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? ³⁰ Do all have gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? ³¹ But eagerly desire the greater gifts.

Definition: The ability to heal all manner of physical illness, infirmity and disease by divine power, without the aid of drugs, surgery, or manipulation of any kind. All healing is not "divine healing." This gift is not the body's ability to heal itself. IT IS NOT: Medical skill, physical manipulation, or a developed knowledge of plants, chemicals, or drugs. The Gift of healing is supernaturally manifested. This gift could be in operation for healing incurable diseases. Divine Healing can be activated by faith saturated prayer as in **James 5:15**. But, the gift of healing is not dependant on personal faith for healing. It is simply a matter of a person yielding to the gift of the Holy Spirit to work through them to the benefit of the person bearing the disease or infirmity.

The purpose:

1. Destroy the works of the devil in the human body. (*ACTS 10:38*)(*1 JOHN 3:8*)
2. To establish the Lord's claims. Proves He forgives sins. (*JOHN 10:36-38*)
3. To authorize the message of God's servants. (*ACTS 4:29-30*);(*5:12; 8:6-7*)
4. Establish the resurrection of Jesus. (*ACTS 3:15-16*)
5. To draw people within the sound of the gospel. (*JOHN 6:2*)
6. To turn people to God. (*ACTS 9:34-35*)

7. To bring glory to God. (**MARK 2:12**) (**LUKE 13:17**)
8. To inspire faith and courage in God's people. (**ACTS 4:29-30**) . Gifts of Healing for one, faith for the other. All sickness is called "oppression of the devil" (**Acts 10:38**)

Miracles

The gift of Miracles is God intervening to suspend or change normal events. It is a supernatural intervention in the ordinary course of nature; a temporary suspension of the accustomed order; an intervention or interruption in the system of nature as we know it. Explain the miracle in natural terms & the miracle vanishes.

Biblical Example: Jesus changed water into wine in the Wedding at Cana, Jesus feeding 5,000 people with a boy's lunch.

I. Cor. 12:10; 28-31

II. PURPOSES:

1. Deliverance from the enemy. (**Exodus 14:16**)
2. To provide for those in need. (**Ex. 17:6**); (**I Kings 17:16**); (**II Kings 4:6**); (**John 2:11**); (**Mark 6:36-37**)
3. To carry out divine judgment and discipline. (**Acts 13:11-12**); (**5:9-10**)
4. To confirm the preached word. (**Mark 16:19-20**); (**Heb. 2:3,4**); (**Acts 5:12**)
5. To deliver in situations of danger. (**Luke 4:28-30**); (**Joshua 5:12**)
6. *Special Miracles.* (**Acts 19:11-12**)
7. Others: Egypt's plagues. By Angels - Bethesda's pool. Zechariah's dumbness. Samson's parents
8. To raise the dead. **Luke (7:14-16)** (**Mark 5:39-42**); (**John 11:43-47**); (**Acts 9:39-42**); (**Acts 20:7-12**)

Gifts that Speak

I. Different kinds of Tongues [*Languages*]"

1 Corinthians 12:10

¹⁰ *to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues.*

The gift of tongues is not the same as the prayer language you were given when you were baptized in the Holy Spirit. It is very similar in that the Holy Spirit will often use that same language. The gift is operating when the Holy Spirit speaks through a person in a language unknown to the speaker. This can be used for interceding prayer or bringing a message to others. When it is used to bring a message it is intended to be paired with Interpretation of Tongues.

Biblical Example: USES:

1. That we may speak to God through the Spirit. (*1 Cor. 14:2*)
2. That believers may magnify God. (*Acts 10:46*) - "Make God great."
3. That we may edify ourselves. (*1 Cor. 14:4*); (*14:18*; *Eph. 5:19*)
4. That our spirits might pray. (*1 Cor. 14:14*); (*Rom. 8:27*); (*Jude 20*)
5. With interpretation, the church may be edified. (*1 Cor. 14:5, 12, 26*)

We can and ought to control the gift of tongues & prophecy. (*1 Cor. 14:27-28, 37*); (*Prov. 14:4*) however, ***“do not forbid speaking with other tongues.”*** (*1 Cor. 14:39*)

Edification is the test. (*1 Cor. 14:26*) All do not continue to speak with tongues after their baptism in the Spirit. However, there is no scriptural reason why they should not. (*1 Cor. 14:5, 23*) (*1 Tim. 4:14*); (*2 Tim. 1:6*), Believers can have gifts that lie dormant and do not work, but they would if they stir up their gift.

Definition: "Supernatural utterance in a language never learned by the intellect." Speaking in tongues is the evidence of the Baptism in the Holy Spirit. (*Acts 2:4*);

- 1 year after Pentecost (*Acts 8: 15-17*)
 - 8 years after Pentecost. (*Acts 10:44-47*)
 - 23 years later. (*Acts 19:6-7*)
 - Paul- (*Acts 9:17*); (*1 Cor. 14:18*)
- GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT

II. Interpretation of Tongues *1 Corinthians 12:7-10*

The gift is operating when the Holy Spirit speaking through one person has given a message in a language unknown to the speaker. The Holy Spirit gives the translation or interpretation to that same person or to another individual. IT IS NOT TRANSLATION of a language the interpreter understands.

Biblical Example: It gives the meaning. (Greek)- "To explain thoroughly." – (*1 Cor. 14:11*)

Joseph interpreted the baker and butler's dreams.
(*Genesis 41:15-16*); (*Daniel 5:10-12; 17*)

III. THOSE WHO SPEAK WITH TONGUES ARE INSTRUCTED TO PRAY FOR THIS GIFT. (*vs. 13*)

They usually possess it more than anyone else

IV. MESSAGE IN TONGUES SHOULD BE INTERPRETED.

(*1 Cor. 14:27*) (Greek) - "Someone" - (no competition)

V. MORE FAITH TO INTERPRET THAN TO SPEAK WITH TONGUES.

VI. THE OBJECT IS THE SAME AS FOR PROPHECY.

(*1 Cor. 14:4-5*) - Edification is the test.

III. Prophecy

1 Corinthians 12: 1 0

The gift of prophecy manifested when the Holy Spirit gives a divine message to others through someone in a language normal to the speaker. A tongue with interpretation is equal to prophecy. Prophecy means "to bubble forth! Spring up to speak for another." This Gift is often confused with prediction of future events. That falls under Word of Wisdom.

Prophecy never takes the place of the Word of God, the Bible. We prophesy according to the proportion of faith. (*Rom. 12:6*)

Biblical Example: In the Old Testament only some were prophets and prophesied. In the New Testament, "all may prophesy." (*1 Cor. 14:24,31,*) (*Psalms 45:1*); (*Nu.21:17*); (*Jer.15:19*)

USES OF THE GIFT:

1. Speaking to men. Tongues for Speaking to God. (*1 Cor. 14:3*)
2. To edify the church. (*1 Cor. 4:4*)
3. Exhort the church ("a calling near") Correction comes through teaching the Word.
4. To comfort the church – (*2 Cor. 1:4*)
5. Believers may learn the mysterious workings of the Spirit.
6. To convict the unbelievers. (*1 Cor. 14:23-25*) Women can prophesy as well as men. (*1 Cor. 11:5*); (*Joel 2:28.*)

MISTAKEN VIEWS OF THE GIFT:

A. Not the office of the prophet.

1. Office cannot be separated from a person. (*Eph. 4: 11*). The gift is an instrument.
2. Revelation of things outside the word of God. (Word of Knowledge - Prophecy - the vehicle to deliver it.
3. (*1 Cor. 14:5*) - Tongues plus interpretation are equal to prophecy, but these gifts , do not place their possessors among the seers.
4. (*Acts 19:6*);(*Acts 28:8-10*). Did not make - them prophets.

B. Gift of Prophecy not ordinarily used for guidance. (*Acts 13:1-3*)

C. Confused with preaching.

D. Confused with just quoting scripture verses. (*John 14:26.*)

Gifts that Know

I. Word of Wisdom

These three gifts know something that could not be immediately known to the recipient. The supernatural revelation by the Spirit of divine purpose. Supernatural declaration of mind and will of God. Concerns things, places, people, individuals, communities, and nations. The word of wisdom pertains to future events.

Biblical Example:

- To warn and guide concerning future judgment or danger.
Hebrews 11:7 Matthew 2:13 Acts 11:27-28 Acts 21:4~10-14
- To reveal God's plan to those He is going to use.
Genesis 41:15-16
- To assure a servant of God of his divine - commission.
Acts 26:16-18
- To reveal the acceptable order and manner of worship. *ISRAEL*
- To show a prejudiced sectarian man God's way- of dealing.
Acts 10:13-15

WHAT ARE ITS USES?

- Reveal the purposes of God. *Romans 11:33*
- Reveal deliverance in the midst of trouble. *Acts 27:20-26 –*
- Give assurance of future blessing. *Genesis 28:15*

II. Word of Knowledge

This gift reveals things that are current or in the past that are unknown to the speaker.

Biblical Example: God is conscious of every person, place, thing, - and event at the same time. It is 100% miraculous. Not necessarily spoken. (Samuel & Eli) - "LOGOS" - word, speech, matter, reason.

WHAT IT IS NOT.

- 1.Not natural knowledge.
- 2.Not Knowledge of God Acquired by Long Experience. -

WHAT IT IS:

- 3.An operation of the Spirit. – *(Revelation - chapters 1-3).*
- 4.A miraculous revelation. *(II Kings 6:9)*
- 5.Comes without natural effort. *(Acts 9:11-12)*
- 6.Depends on our fellowship with God, not a knowledge of the Bible. *(Acts 10:19)*

Example: Eli had no open vision - Samuel did.

What are its uses?

1. To encourage a discouraged servant. (*I Kings 19:14-18*)
2. To expose a hypocrite. *(II Kings 5:20-27)*
3. To convince a sinner of her need. *(John 4:16-19)*
4. To find a man who was hiding. (*I Samuel 10:22*)
5. To reveal a man in need. *(Acts 9:11)*
6. To reveal corruption in the church. - *(Acts 5:3)*
7. To reveal a suitable meeting place. - *(Mark 14:13-15)*

8. To know men's thoughts. (*John 2:24; - I Samuel 9:19*)

9. To reveal sickness.

III. Discerning of Spirits *I Corinthians 12:10*

This gift does one thing. It reveals the presence and identity of supernatural spirits. IT IS NOT analyzing human character or a power to discern faults in others. Training and skill can provide that ability. This is a gift from the Lord and not a learned ability.

There are 3 kinds of spirits: 1. Divine 2. Satanic 3. Human

Biblical Example: In Corinth, there were true and false miraculous workings. One was of Satan, the other of God.

II. USES OF THE GIFT:

1. Delivering the afflicted, oppressed, and tormented. (*Luke 9:38-39*);(*Acts 5:16*.)
2. Blind, dumb and deaf Spirits .(*Matt. 12:22*);(*Mark 9:25*).
3. Spirits of Infirmary, (*Luke 13:11,16*.)
4. Must distinguish between natural causes and demon influences. (*Matt. 4:23-24*).
5. All sickness is called 'oppression of the : Devil'. (*Acts 10: 38*).
6. To discover a servant of the devil.. EL YMAS – (*Acts 13:8-10*).
7. To stop the plans of the devil. (*Acts 16:16-17*)
8. To expose error. (*I Tim. 4:1*);(*II Peter 2:1*)
9. To uncover demon miracle workers. (*II Thess. 2:9*);(*Rev. 16:14*).
10. Demons never confess that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. (*I John 4: 1-6*)
11. Can reveal good spirits as well as evil. (*II Kings 6:16-17*).

These gifts are given but they are not owned by the person they operate through. It is the Holy Spirit operating in each one as He wills.

Why are they important?

Why do I need to let them flow through me?

How do I activate the gifts?

How do I receive from someone else?

Things to keep in mind

The character and natural education of the person will influence the way the gifts of the Holy Spirit are presented. The Spirit refined fishermen into the writers of (*I & II John and I & II Peter*.)

More Reading:

It would do your faith much good to read more from good faith teachers like:

Kenneth Hagin

Rodney Howard Browne

Andrew Murray

E. W. Kenyon

THIS WEEK'S BIBLE READING: Ruth

Use the [Epistles Bible Study tool](#) as you read. The next session will come from a portion of this book. Return your completed form for credit. You will get much more from the time if you prepare in advance by reading prayerfully through the assignment:

HEALING: by The Word of Faith

Session 6

~♦✠♦♦✠~ BELIEVE ~♦✠♦♦✠~

The Gift of healing that we learned about in chapter 10 is different from another form of Divine Healing that comes by Faith in the authority of the written Word. In this lesson we will:

1. Compare how each healing is demonstrated
2. Define healing that comes by the Word of Faith
3. Explain how to activate and receive Healing

The Gift of Healing & Healing by Word of Faith

The previous chapter explained that the Gift of healing operates through one person for the benefit of another. An example of this Peter and the lame man who was healed at the “Gate called Beautiful.” Acts 3:1-10 Peter operated in the Gift of healing and laid hands on the lame man asked him to stand and then helped faith & lifted him to his feet. Their mutual faith healed the man through a Gift that was initiated by the Holy Spirit. Peter and the man both cooperated with the Holy Spirit for this to happen. Healing that comes through the Word of faith does not require laying on of hands or even another person’s presence or cooperation. It is accessed by the Faith of the receiver. It does not need the prompting of the Holy Spirit through and administration of His Gifts. It is administrated by the person who comes into agreement with what God has already authorized in the Bible.

A. Healing by the Word of Faith

Word of Faith healing comes as a person hears the Word of God and comes into agreement with the authority God has placed upon the scripture through His divine nature. Since it is impossible for God to lie, if He said it, then it is certain and we can place our trust in it. Our faith then apprehends the truths of scripture and confession of faith is made that brings healing. This type of divine healing may be instant or may manifest over a period of time. But it always activated by our faith.

B. How to receive & Activate Healing

Faith is the conductor that God’s healing flows through!

James 1:6,7

6. But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed.

7. For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord.

Building a person’s faith requires the Word of God. There are the answers to 3 questions found in the scripture that will build faith.

C. Can God Heal people?

Of course we think God is **able** to heal people. He is God after all. But just to note, The Bible is filled with examples of miraculous healing for a wide array of afflictions, Palsy, the mute, blind, lame, skin conditions, female reproductive issues & even death itself. Some say that these events were only for the initiation & birth of the church. They believe that those types of miraculous events stopped with the Apostles. But, Jesus said that “greater works than these shall you do.” Doubters could not say they stopped with Jesus because they continue throughout the New Testament with Paul & Peter recording events in their writings.

The problem is the Bible does not say that these things will end and if it was Gods intention that they should end; why would there be so many references though out it telling us how to receive it if it were not for us to believe. That would be a contradiction. Since we know that it is impossible for God to lie then it must certainly be something that a person can have. It is also interesting to note that evidence of history stands in mockery of those who would transform the word of God into an empty, powerless writing through their unbelief. The fact is that every revival has had manifestations of instant healings.

1. Reformation 2. Huguenots (*French protestants 1500s-1600s*)
3. Moravians 4. Welsh
5. Wesleyan 6. Finney
7. Moody 8. Pentecostal
9. Charismatic 10. Healing Revival of the 50's

II. Does He Always Heal?

God opened a way for every man woman or child to be healed. The scripture plainly demonstrates that Jesus healed everyone who sought it. He even equated healing with Salvation. Never was anyone denied who asked.

Matthew 4:24 News about him spread all over Syria, and people brought to him all who were ill with various diseases, those suffering severe pain, the demon-possessed, those having seizures, and the paralyzed, and he healed them.

Some asked but did not receive fully. Of the Ten lepers, only one was healed fully.

Matthew 8:16 When evening came, many who were demon-possessed were brought to him, and he drove out the spirits with a word and healed all the sick.

Here is a passage where Jesus is surrendering God's will to the will of man. He asked, "*Do you want to get well?*"

John 5:1-12

1. *Sometime later, Jesus went up to Jerusalem for a feast of the Jews.*
2. *Now there is in Jerusalem near the Sheep Gate a pool, which in Aramaic is called Bethesda and which is surrounded by five covered colonnades.*
3. *Here a great number of disabled people used to lie--the blind, the lame, the paralyzed.*
5. *One who was there had been an invalid for thirty-eight years.*

6. *When Jesus saw him lying there and learned that he had been in this condition for a long time, he asked him, "Do you want to get well?"*
7. *"Sir," the invalid replied, "I have no one to help me into the pool when the water is stirred. While I am trying to get in, someone else goes down ahead of me."*
8. *Then Jesus said to him, "Get up! Pick up your mat and walk."*
9. *At once the man was cured; he picked up his mat and walked. The day on which this took place was a Sabbath,*
10. *and so the Jews said to the man who had been healed, "It is the Sabbath; the law forbids you to carry your mat."*
11. *But he replied, "The man who made me well said to me, 'Pick up your mat and walk.'"*
12. *So they asked him, "Who is this fellow who told you to pick it up and walk?"*
13. *The man who was healed had no idea who it was, for Jesus had slipped away into the crowd that was there.*
14. *Later Jesus found him at the temple and said to him, "See, you are well again. Stop sinning or something worse may happen to you."*
15. *The man went away and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had made him well.*
16. *So, because Jesus was doing these things on the Sabbath, the Jews persecuted him.*
17. *Jesus said to them, "My Father is always at his work to this very day, and I, too, am working."*
18. *For this reason the Jews tried all the harder to kill him; not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but he was even calling God his own Father, making himself equal with God.*

Most often Jesus was sought out & asked if He were willing to heal them in every case the answered Affirmative in word and action. God was willing to deliver us from sin and the full effect of the curse that came with sin. As it says in:

Isaiah 53:1-5

1. *Who has believed our message and to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?*
2. *He grew up before him like a tender shoot, and like a root out of dry ground. He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him.*
3. *He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering. Like one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not.*
4. *Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered him stricken by God, smitten by him, and afflicted.*
5. *But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed.*

This is also quoted in the book of James making it valid for us since it is in the New Testament it is the New covenant.

Anyone who reads even brief passages of scripture will be confronted by the overwhelming testimony of God's will being to heal. Also that the events go for beyond the establishing of the New Testament Church & its apostles.

If first God's will is to heal, second He can heal us and He consistently does; then why are so many still sick? Why do even the faithful saints who have cried out to God asking Him to heal them remain ill & broken? The facts show that there must be some unmet conditions or limits. There simply must be

conditions that are required to receive healing or to administer it. So then we turn in scripture to learn what they are.

A. What are the conditions for healing to occur?

The first thing is WHO? Is healing reserved for a certain class of people? Who can be healed Saint, Sinner or Believer? Jesus did tell a Canaanite woman that it was “The children’s bread” *Matt 15:22* She would be considered to be in the “sinner” category since she was uncovered by the covenant God made with Israel through the law. But then she replied to Him that she would be happy with the crumbs and her daughter received the healing. This woman was not part of the “In” group by culture.

So then, maybe she was just exceptionally good, a ”Saint” per say by conscience, so that Jesus included her even though she was not Jewish. We don’t know so then what about the Man from the Pool of Bethesda who was healed. Jesus points us to his sin.

John 5:14

Later Jesus found him at the temple and said to him, "See, you are well again. Stop sinning or something worse may happen to you."

Now this is a curious account. In this case no one was asking for healing and Jesus selected this man out of the crowd of many who needed healing. No one was asking JESUS for it. There hope was simply be in the place where only the first one to touch the water after it stirred would purportedly be healed. So Jesus selects just one and ask him if he would be whole and with an agreement from the man, heals him and leaves the rest before they have a chance to even know what happened.

So Jesus clearly healed people in & out of His covenant. And sin did not disqualify them for healing. So then what does disqualify anyone for healing if anything. Again it must still be that the requirements are not met. But it is not because of WHO or WHAT we are.

B. What are the requirements?

1. Must Believe to receive or release the anointing for healing. It is the single common factor in all cases recorded in scripture. Simple belief. Belief that honors the Word of God as certain and irrefutable. Whether written or spoken. If God says it then I receive it!

2. So then we say like the Roman Centurion, *Mark 9:24* “Lord I believe, help me overcome my unbelief!” And The Lord does answer this man’s prayer for us all by telling us in His Word how to activate our faith in the book of Romans.

Romans 10:6-10

6. But the righteousness that is by faith says: "Do not say in your heart, 'Who will ascend into heaven?' " (that is, to bring Christ down)

7. "or 'Who will descend into the deep?' " (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead).

8. But what does it say? "The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart," that is, the word of faith we are proclaiming:

9. That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

10. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.

Of course this passage is speaking of righteousness that comes through His Salvation & not healing. But remember we said that Jesus put Salvation & Healing on Equal ground.

Matthew 9:1-8

1. *Jesus stepped into a boat, crossed over and came to his own town.*
2. *Some men brought to him a paralytic, lying on a mat. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Take heart, son; your sins are forgiven."*
3. *At this, some of the teachers of the law said to themselves, "This fellow is blaspheming!"*
4. *Knowing their thoughts, Jesus said, "Why do you entertain evil thoughts in your hearts?"*
5. *Which is easier: to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up and walk'?*
6. *But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins. . . . Then he said to the paralytic, "Get up, take your mat and go home."*
7. *And the man got up and went home.*
8. *When the crowd saw this, they were filled with awe; and they praised God, who had given such authority to men.*

Make a NOTE of that last sentence too!

Believing comes from revelation through the Words of God.

Romans 10:17

So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

This lesson is brief as the Bible offers much more on the subject. The greatest evidence we have it the Cross and Resurrection. His suffering was not for our salvation alone but for our wholeness as well.

C. Mistakes People Make

- Believe it is God's will for them to be ill.
 - God has some unseen purpose in the circumstance
 - God is protecting them with the illness
 - God is providing for them by making them ill.
- Trade off their faith and the validity of the Scripture to explain their circumstances or those of others.
- Try to make the Bible say what their Eyes see. They should make their eyes see what the Bible says.
- Their lack of faith has become their doctrine
- "The Crutch" They would rather keep the issue than face life without it.

D. Can healing be lost?

Three things can cause a person to let go of or lose their healing.

1. Willful Sin
2. Unbelief
3. Refusal to Forgive or be Forgiven

1. Keys to receiving physical healing or material needs.
 - (a) Know God's will
 - (b) Expect the answer

(c) Invest in your faith

✝ *Believe the word*

✝ *Act like you have what you ask*

THIS WEEK'S BIBLE READING: 1 Kings

Use the [Epistles Bible Study tool](#) as you read. The next session will come from a portion of this book. Return your completed form for credit. You will get much more from the time if you prepare in advance by reading prayerfully through the assignment:

ANSWER KEY:

Pg. 1 faith

Pg 2. Word of God

Pg 3 salvation

Pg 4. affirmative

Pg 5. Believe

Pg 6. equal ground

Pg 7. Cross, Resurrection

4. Christians don't have to fear any of this because we have a sure thing in Jesus

B. Lamb's book of Life:

This hope we have has become a sure thing because of what Jesus has accomplished. We have overcome and our names are written in the book of life.

Revelation 3:5 He who overcomes will, like them, be dressed in white. I will never blot out his name from the book of life, but will acknowledge his name before my Father and his angels.

1. The practice of our faith insures that we will overcome. It is by:

- (a) The Blood of the lamb
- (b) The word of our testimony
- (c) Putting God's will before our own even to the death

Revelation 12:11 They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death.

2. We have a new home and a new residential place of dwelling.

The Bible says our citizen ship is not here on earth , so we need not get tangled with things on earth but set our minds on things above. (Col 3:1,2 & 2Tim 2 3,4)

3. Before we were separated from God without mercy, now we have received mercy through Jesus. We are a royal priesthood that belongs to God!

Lam 3:22,24

22. It is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not.

23. They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness.

24. The Lord is my portion, says my soul; therefore will I hope in him.

1 Peter 2:9, 10

9. But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

10. Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

II. The Judgment Seat of Christ

All christians will stand before the judgment seat of Christ to receive the things done in the body. When you stand before the judgment seat of Christ, your works will be tried by fire. If your motives were less than pure, your work will be consumed by fire. If your motives were pure it will be like gold, silver, and precious stones and simply be refined. Anything we do must be done for eternal value. Anything we do that is temporary and earthly will be consumed.

2 Corinthians 5 10. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.

1 Corinthians 3:13. Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is.

14. If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward.

When you stand before Jesus Christ at the Judgment seat of Christ your works will be judged and manifest. So then, what works will receive reward? Christians will be rewarded for work building the kingdom by bringing people into Christ's salvation.

1 Peter 5:2-4

2. Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, serving as overseers--not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not greedy for money, but eager to serve;

3. not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock.

4. And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away.

Revelation 2:10 Do not be afraid of what you are about to suffer. I tell you, the devil will put some of you in prison to test you, and you will suffer persecution for ten days. Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you the crown of life.

Revelation 3:11 I am coming soon. Hold on to what you have, so that no one will take your crown.

A. This could not refer to unsaved people, for the unsaved people have no place in heaven and are separated from God forever. *Matt 25*

1 Corinthians 3 14, 15. If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. 15. If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.

2 Corinthians 5:4 – We are those whose mortality may be swallowed up by life.

B. We are judged by “good or bad” works, this is not referring to righteousness or sin. This is referring to our labor in the kingdom of God, being acceptable or unacceptable in the sight of Christ.

1 Samuel 16:9 – For the Lord does not look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.”

III. When Does Eternity begin?

1. What we are doing now will affect our standing then.

1 Corinthians 6:2,3

2. Do ye not know that the saints shall judge the world? and if the world shall be judged by you, are ye unworthy to judge the smallest matters?

3. Know ye not that we shall judge angels? how much more things that pertain to this life?

Knowing we are to be at the Judgment seat of Christ allows us to understand that we are already eternal beings destined to spend that eternity either in union with God and all that is good or in perpetual torment with Satan & his angels. The current words and actions of our lives are already having an eternal effect. We have begun. Our life on earth runs parallel to eternity. There will come a time when death will allow us to step out of the limits of time into the spiritual realm. However, we will not be starting over but continuing in a new dimension and glorified body with the life we began here.

A.What we do now can have an eternal effect on the destiny of others. We must not cause others to fall. To answer Cain's question, Yes!, we are our brother's keeper. What you do is my business. What I do is your business.

Matthew 18

6. But if anyone causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a large millstone hung around his neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea.

7. "Woe to the world because of the things that cause people to sin! Such things must come, but woe to the man through whom they come!"

B. We have a charge to walk in Christ like maturity and not only be keepers of our own vessel but to be caretakers of others as much as we are able without violating their right to make their own choices.

Jude 22,23

22. Be merciful to those who doubt;

23. snatch others from the fire and save them; to others show mercy, mixed with fear--hating even the clothing stained by corrupted flesh.

James 5:19, 20

19. My brothers, if one of you should wander from the truth and someone should bring him back,

20. remember this: Whoever turns a sinner from the error of his way will save him from death and cover over a multitude of sins.

Exercise

Read 1 Cor. 8:5-13; 1Cor 10:23-33

1. How do these passages relate to you today?

2. What specific areas can you use these precepts in your own walk?

Answer Key:

THIS WEEK'S BIBLE READING: Jonah

Use the [Epistles Bible Study tool](#) as you read. The next session will come from a portion of this book. Return your completed form for credit. You will get much more from the time if you prepare in advance by reading prayerfully through the assignment:

Answers:

Pg.1 death, judgment

Pg.2 consumed, sure, thing

Pg.3 faith

Pg.4 Christians

Pg.5 manifest, work, bringing

The End of Evil

Session 8

~♦✠♦✠♦✠♦✠♦ ~ BELIEVE ~♦✠♦✠♦✠♦✠♦ ~

This chapter will help you understand the three main events. They are like the 1,2 3 countdown to the world that the end of all evil has begun. Those three events are:

The Rapture

The Tribulation

The Anti-Christ

I. The Rapture

1. We also know that everyone must die once in order to be with the Lord.

(No reincarnation for man)

Hebrews 9:27 Just as man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment,

2. However there is a unique generation that will not taste the

Second Death ..

3. The term Rapture is an expression for the Greek word

Harpazo – Caught up or gathered up

A. At the end of this age, Christ will return in the clouds and take with Him to heaven every person both living and dead- who has trusted Christ as Savior.

1 Thessalonians 4:16 For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first.

17. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever.

B. The Rapture will take place in the “ In the “twinkling of an eye “

1 Corinthians 15:51 Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed-- -- New International

:52 in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. - American Standard

C. At this event the dead believers will rise first, then the living Christians.

In this instant we will receive a new glorified body. which will be free from Sickness and death.

Philippians 3:21 who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.

READ *Matthew 24:40-44, 25:1-13*

D. The Rapture will precede the tribulation, because the tribulation will be unprecedented wrath of God. (Rev. 6:16 &17)

1 Thessalonians 5:9 -For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ."

Romans 8:1 There Is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

E. Through the work Jesus did on the cross he has saved us from the wrath of God that is to come.

Revelation 3:10 - Because you have kept My command to persevere. I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world to test those who dwell on the earth.

F. Are the Rapture and the Second Coming the same event? NO.

This event happened before the "Man of Sin is revealed.

2 Thessalonians 2:5-7

5. Don't you remember that when I was with you I used to tell you these things?

6. And now you know what is holding him back, so that he may be revealed at the proper time.

7. For the secret power of lawlessness is already at work; but the one who now holds it back will continue to do so till he is taken out of the way.

8. And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will overthrow with the breath of his mouth and destroy by the splendor of his coming.

The Rapture will take place in the air. (*1 Thessalonians 4:17*) Christ is not coming to the earth in this event, we are meeting with Him and getting a glorified body.

1. Jesus said I will come back.

John 14:3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.

1Thessalonians 4:15-18

15. According to the Lord's own word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left till the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep.

16. For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first.

17. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever.

18. Therefore encourage each other with these words.

II. Tribulation

1. Tribulation is also called "Great day of the Lord"

It will be a time of wrath, judgment, indignation, darkness, destruction, and death. It is a time of God's wrath poured out on un-repentant man. *Zeph. 1: 14-18; Zeph. 3:8; Matt. 24: 21.*

2. The tribulation will last 7 years

The tribulation is the seventieth week prophesied by Daniel. *Dan. 9:27*

3. The rise of false Christ's, wars and rumors of wars, famines, pestilence, and earthquakes will usher in the tribulation. *Matt. 24: 4-12*

4. Lawlessness will abound and the love of many will grow cold.

Matt. 24:12.

II Tim. 3:1-4

Lovers of themselves Lovers of money boastersproudblasphemousunthankful
unholy/wickeddisobedient to parents unlovingunforgivingbrutal without self control traitors
headstronghaughty despisers of goodslanderers Lovers of pleasures rather than lovers of God
Having a form of godliness but denying its power

5. We are now in the Grace period where Jesus has **died for man**. Most of us have never seen persecution, but during the tribulation all men who claim Christ as Lord will be persecuted and put to death. But they will escape eternal death. *Rev. 13:15; Rev. 6; Rev. 9; Rev. 13: 7-9.*

6. Tribulation will be God's wrath but he also gives mercy through it. Man still has a chance to turn to God. God will have the Gospel preached in this time and many will be saved. *Rev. 11:3-7; Matt. 24:14.*

7. God will not leave the earth without a witness. *Rev.14:1-5; Rev. 7:1-14*

Rev. 14:6-7

Then I saw another angel flying in the midst of heaven having the everlasting Gospel to preach to those who dwell on the earth. To every nation, tongue, tribe, and people, saying with a loud voice “fear God and give Glory to Him”. For the hour of His judgment has come. And worship Him who made Heaven and Earth, the Sea, and springs of water.

8. The tribulation will create a void and cause people to be deceived by a false peace through the anti-Christ (*Rev 6:1,2, 2*)(*Thess 2:3-12*)(*1 Thess 5:3*),(*Dan 8:25, 9:27*)

III. The Anti-Christ

A.Just as Jesus is God in the flesh the Anti Christ will be Satan incarnated. (Incarnated literally means to be put into the flesh of man.) Satan’s son, “the son of perdition”, will deceive many. There are signs that the Christian should know to help us identify that time.

1. There will be a great apostasy or “falling away” from the faith.

2 Thessalonians 2:3-4

3. Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;

4. Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.

1 John 2:18

18. Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time.

John 5 43. I am come in my Father's name, and ye receive me not: if another shall come in his own name, him ye will receive.

Revelation 13:3-5, 11-18

3. And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast.

4. And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who is like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him?

5. And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months.

11. And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon.

12. And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed.

13. And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men,

14. And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live.

15. And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed.

16. And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads:

17. And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.

18. Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number is Six hundred threescore and six

- 2. He will demand to be worshiped by all men & nations. (*Dan 11:36-45*);(*II Thess. 2:4*);(*Rev. 13: 4-8*)**
- 3. The anti-Christ will have a 3 point plan for world domination.** He will establish a one world currency, one world religion, one world government (New World Order). He will require everyone to take his mark. (*Rev. 13:16-18*).
- 4. The number of the anti-Christ is 666.** This meaning he is part of a three part demonic trinity consisting of Satan; the false prophet; and the anti-Christ who will work signs and wonders in the anti-Christ name to deceive the nations of the world that the anti-Christ is God.
- 5. There will be a false prophet that will work with the anti-Christ and cause the people to worship him.. (*Rev. 13:11-50*)**
- 6. If anyone takes this mark he will lose his soul eternally. (*Rev. 14:9-11*).**
- 7. At the beginning of the tribulation the Anti-Christ will sign a seven year peace treaty with Israel.** He will confirm a covenant with many for one seven in the middle of the “seven” he will put an end to sacrifice and offerings. On a wing of the temple he will set up an abomination that causes desolation until the end that is decreed and is poured out on him. (*Dan. 9:6-7*)

B. Why Israel ?

1. God chose the Nation of Israel so that he would have a depository of divine truth for generations to come. Through Israel God has given the world the Word of God, the Patriarchs, the prophets, Jesus Christ, and the Apostles. There would be no Christianity without Israel's contribution. God's love for Israel produces Satan's hatred for Israel and the Jewish People

2. The temple will be rebuilt. (*Rev. 11:1-2*)

3. The anti-Christ will come against the Jews but God will protect them for a season.

Rev. 12: 13-14

When the dragon saw that he had been hurled to the earth he pursued the woman who had given birth to the male child. The woman was given the two wings of a great eagle so that she might fly to the place prepared for her in the desert where she will be taken care of for a time times and ½ a time out of the serpents reach.

They will come against Jerusalem why?

Because Jerusalem is a city of God. The Capital city of a Nation God created by His spoken Word, and with which he later made an eternally binding and unconditional Blood Covenant. (*Gen. 12:1-3*); (*Gen 13:14-15*); (*Gen 15:8-18*); (*II Chron. 6:6*); (*II Chron. 7:14*); (*II Chron. 33:7*)

More Reading:

2 Thessalonians 2

Ezek. 38:1-16

Zech. 12:2-3;

Zech 14:12-15

Joel 3:1-15

THIS WEEK'S BIBLE READING: 1 Samuel

Use the Epistles Bible Study tool as you read. The next session will come from a portion of this book. Return your completed form for credit. You will get much more from the time if you prepare in advance by reading prayerfully through the assignment:

New Heaven and New Earth

Session 9

~♦✠♦✠♦✠♦✠♦✠♦ ~ BELIEVE ~♦✠♦✠♦✠♦✠♦✠♦ ~

There will be a new Heaven and Earth where God and man will dwell together forever. *Rev. 21: 1-5* there will be no more pain, death, crying, or sorrow. This is described in more detail in (*Revelation 21: 9-27*);(*Rev. 22:1-22*)

1. The Second Coming of Christ
2. The Marriage Supper of the Lamb
3. The New Millennium
4. The Great White Throne Judgment

Jesus Second Coming

Jesus will return to the earth while putting his feet on the mount of Olives. The army of heaven will be with Him, angels and believers, to destroy the forces that are arrayed against God. And to deliver the Jewish people. (*Daniel 2:45*), (*Revelation 19:11-26*), (*Zechariah 14:1-5*)

Jude 1

14. And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints,

15. To execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard speeches which ungodly sinners have spoken against him.

1. He will come back the same way he left.

Acts 1:11 "Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky?" This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven."

2. What will happen to the lost when Jesus comes again?

2 Thessalonians 1:8-11

9. Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;

3. What will happen to you when Jesus comes again?

1Thessalnians 4:16-17

16. For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first.

17. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever.

4. You will have a Glorified body.

Philippians 3:21

who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.

5. What will happen to the earth when he comes again?

2 Peter 3:10

But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare.

Zephaniah 1 14-18.

Matthew 24:4-26

A. In the Second Coming, Christ is coming back to the earth with the Saints. to rule & reign (Rev. 19:11-16), (Zechariah 14:3, 4)

Matthew 24

27. For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.

28. For wheresoever the carcase is, there will the eagles be gathered together.

29. Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken:

30. And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.

B. In this time the Jew's will realize that Jesus was their messiah.(Zechariah 12:10-14)

Matthew 25

31. When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory:

32. And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats:

33. And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left.

34. Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:

41. Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:

Revelation 19 11. And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war.

12. His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself.

13. And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God.

14. And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean.

15. And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.

16. And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.

- **Jesus will return to the earth putting His feet on the Mount of Olives.** The Army of Heaven will be with Him, angels and believers, to destroy the forces which are arrayed against God, and to deliver the Jewish People. (*Dan. 2:45*)(*Rev. 19:11-26*); (*Zech. 14:1-5*); (*Matt. 24:26-30.*)
- 1. **This event will usher in the millennial reign. Satan will be bound at this time.** (*Rev. 20:1-3*)
- 2. **Any persons that will have taken the mark of the beast and worshipped the anti-christ will have been destroyed at this time.** (*Rev. 19:21*)

II. Marriage Supper of the Lamb

A. Jesus is coming back for His Bride. One without spot, wrinkle or any such blemish.

Ephesians 5 27. That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.

B. You might ask who is the bride? The answer is the church. That means if you are a Christian then you are the promise that Jesus is looking forward to. You are a member of the bride of Christ. He is now through the work of the Holy Spirit cleansing us and preparing us for the great event.

Revelation 19 7. Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready.

8. And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints.

9. And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God. 27.

C. We are His Bride

There are different views on when the marriage supper of the Lamb will take place. But one thing is for sure is that it will take place and we being the bride will be there.
(*Matt. 25:10*)

III. The New Millennium

A. This is when we will know peace, real peace when Jesus rules. There will be true peace and safety. (*Micah 4:1-4*)

Isaiah 2

2. And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it.

3. And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

4. And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

B. Christ will set up His Kingdom a Kingdom that will never be destroyed.

Daniel 2:44

And in the days of these kings, the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed. And the kingdom shall not be left to other people it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms and it shall stand forever.

C. At this time Christ will rule and so will the Saints. (*Rev. 20: 4*) (*Dan. 7:27*)

1. Who are the Saints? We are.

Revelation 20:4-5, 11-15.

4. And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.

5. But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection.

D. These are the Tribulation saints who did not love their lives so much as to even death. (*Rev. 12:11*) They will resurrect and also reign with Christ

Rev. 12:11

11. And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.

E. Even in that time the animal race will change. They will not be harmful to people or each other. They will not be meat eaters.

Isa. 11:6-10

6The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them.

7And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

8And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice' den.

9They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea.

10And in that day there shall be a root of Jesse, which shall stand for an ensign of the people; to it shall the Gentiles seek: and his rest shall be glorious.

F. This will be the thousand year reign of Christ. Satan is released and leads rebellion after a thousand years. (*Rev. 20:7-9*)

G. Satan will be unleashed one last time and will try and come against Christ and the Saints again but he will be destroyed very quickly this period will not last long. (*Rev. 20:10*)

H. After Satan and the false prophet are destroyed, the judgment of the wicked dead will start.

IV. The White Throne Judgment

Who are these living dead?

Those who have not received Christ Salvation. Those who are not Christ are known because their hearts are darkened and that darkness is revealed by their works.

Revelation 20:11-15

11. And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.

12. And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.

13. And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works.

14. And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.

15. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

John 5:29

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

This is where everyone who ever received Christ as their Savior (un-repentant man) will stand before God and be judged. (*Rev. 20:11-15*)

This is not the same judgment as the believers go before this is considered the second death. But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murders, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolatrous, and all liars shall have their part in the lake of fire and brimstone which is the second death. (*Rev. 21:8*);(*Rev. 20:4-6*)

Then Heaven and earth will be made new

Revelation 21

- 1. And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.*
- 2. And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.*
- 3. And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.*
- 4. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.*
- 5. And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful.*
- 6. And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely.*
- 7. He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.*
- 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.*
- 22. And I saw no temple therein: for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it.*

V. Last Days Are Closer Now Than Ever

We are living closer to the end of Evil than any generation before us. God will not strive with man forever.

2 Peter 3:4,9

- 4. And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation.*
- 9 The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.*

Fulfilled Signs of the Last days

1.The Knowledge Explosion

Daniel 12:4 But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased.

Combustion engines, Electricity, Lighting, X-rays, Television, Antibiotics, Vaccines, Automobile, Telephone, Air Travel, Space Travel, , computer, wireless communication. Mankind has made more advances in the last hundred years than all the thousands of years of human history. There has certainly been an explosion of knowledge poured out upon the earth.

2. The Rebirth of Israel

Isaiah 66:8. Who hath heard such a thing? who hath seen such things? Shall the earth be made to bring forth in one day? or shall a nation be born at once? for as soon as Zion travailed, she brought forth her children.

In the *Jeremiah chapter 32*, the prophet is directed to buy a piece of land and have the transaction witnesses and place the title deed in a sealed clay jar so that it will endure for a long time. Then he tells of the Lords dispersing Israel then gathering her again and making an everlasting covenant with them. He prophesies that the Babylonians would possess the land as they have since the time of Christ. In 1948 after Hitler slaughtered millions of Jews, they cried out for the restoration of their land and it was done.

After almost 2,000 years of non- existence, Israel was born again to become a nation on May 15, 1948.

3. Jews Return Home

Jeremiah. 23:7-8

7. Therefore, behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that they shall no more say, The Lord liveth, which brought up the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt;

8. But, The Lord liveth, which brought up and which led the seed of the house of Israel out of the north country, and from all countries whither I had driven them; and they shall dwell in their own land.

The Jewish people have been returning by the thousands ever since. They have worked the barren and desert lands of Israel and reclaimed the land so that the desert does bloom again.

Isaiah 32:11-18

11. Tremble, you complacent women; shudder, you daughters who feel secure! Strip off your clothes, put sackcloth around your waists.

12. Beat your breasts for the pleasant fields, for the fruitful vines

13. and for the land of my people, a land overgrown with thorns and briers-- yes, mourn for all houses of merriment and for this city of revelry.

14. The fortress will be abandoned, the noisy city deserted ;citadel and watchtower will become a wasteland forever, the delight of donkeys, a pasture for flocks.

15. till the Spirit is poured upon us from on high, and the desert becomes a fertile field, and the fertile field seems like a forest.

16. Justice will dwell in the desert and righteousness live in the fertile field.

17. The fruit of righteousness will be peace; the effect of righteousness will be quietness and confidence forever.

18. My people will live in peaceful dwelling places, in secure homes, in undisturbed places of rest.

4. The Coming Apostasy

1 Timothy 4:1 The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons.

The apostasy or falling away from faith will be another sign that the end has come. Those who do not know the word will be easily lead to stray from their faith in the Lord. The deception will be so strong that if we're not for those who are filled with the Spirit all would lose sight. He will keep those that He dwells in.

Matthew 24:24

For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall show great signs and wonders; so as to lead astray, if possible, even the elect.

2 Peter 2:1-3

1. But there were also false prophets among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you. They will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the sovereign Lord who bought them--bringing swift destruction on themselves.

2. Many will follow their shameful ways and will bring the way of truth into disrepute.

3. In their greed these teachers will exploit you with stories they have made up. Their condemnation has long been hanging over them, and their destruction has not been sleeping.

5. The Days of Noah

Man's heart was separately wicked. (*Gen 6:5*)

II Timothy shows how the heart will be constantly on evil just as in the days of Noah.

Matthew 24:35-39

35. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.

36. "No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.

37. As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man.

38. For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark;

39. and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away. That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man.

People ate & drank never knowing that God's judgment was upon them. *Gen 6:5* we find the condition of their hearts in the Days of Noah was totally saturated with evil.

Genesis 6:5.

The LORD saw how great man's wickedness on the earth had become, and that every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil all the time.

Most of the terror on the earth will be self inflicted by their own depraved nature. Murder, rapes, kidnapping, assaults, child abuse, spouse abuse, government corruption, drug addiction, pornography, homosexuality adultery, fornication. Timothy tells us this level of depravity will be a sign that the end is near.

2 Timothy 3:1-7,13

- 1. But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days.*
- 2. People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy,*
- 3. without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good,*
- 4. treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God--*
- 5. having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with them.*
- 6. They are the kind who worm their way into homes and gain control over weak-willed women, who are loaded down with sins and are swayed by all kinds of evil desires,*
- 7. always learning but never able to acknowledge the truth.*

13 while evil men and impostors will go from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived

6. The Gospel will be preached to every tribe tongue and nation, then the End Shall come.

Matthew 24:14 And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.

There are very few areas that the gospel has not reached. The Moslem territories are the largest portions of un-reached people. With radio, satellite and internet technology the Gospel is reaching into the most remote areas of the world.

BE READY

We are taught to diligently keep ourselves in peace. The End of time will take us all by surprise and to be ready.

2 Peter 3:14 Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless.

2 Peter 3:10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.

Read Matthew 24:36-46, 25:1-13

Today many people mock Christians who declare that Jesus is coming back soon.

2 Peter 3:3-7

Note: We could not possibly cover all that the Bible has to say about the end of the age in these short pages. We recommend that you continue your study.

THIS WEEK'S BIBLE READING: 2 Samuel

Use the Epistles Bible Study tool as you read. The next session will come from a portion of this book. Return your completed form for credit. You will get much more from the time if you prepare in advance by reading prayerfully through the assignment:

Answers

Pg 3 Glorified

Pg 4 Saints

The Anointing of the Holy Spirit

Session 10

~♦✠♦✠♦✠♦✠♦✠♦ ~ BELIEVE ~♦✠♦✠♦✠♦✠♦✠♦ ~

Key Verse: “The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed; to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord”
(Luke 4:18–19 NKJV).

Key Scriptures:

- ☐ Acts 4:27; 10:38
- ☐ 1 Corinthians 2:4–5
- ☐ 2 Corinthians 1:21–22
- ☐ Ephesians 3:7
- ☐ 1 Thessalonians 1:5
- ☐ Hebrews 1:9
- ☐ Psalm 18:50; 20:6; 89:20–23.
- ☐ 1 John 2:20
- ☐ 1 Samuel 16:13
- ☐ 1 Kings 19:16

Objective:

The purpose of this lesson is to help the student understand the anointing of the Holy Spirit and how to walk in it.

Introduction: The anointing of the Holy Spirit is absolutely critical to ministry. Without it, we can do nothing; with it, we can do anything as the Lord leads! God’s power and presence come through the anointing, and the Holy Spirit is the member of the Godhead through which this anointing flows. Through the anointing, the Spirit releases His gifts and empowers us to be bold ambassadors of Christ as we represent Him before others. We need the anointing of the Holy Spirit!

I. What is the anointing?

A. Both Old and New Testaments use the word *anointing*.

1. In the Old Testament, two Hebrew words are used for the word *anointing*. The first is the word *balal*, which means “to overflow, especially with oil.” The second is *mashach*, which means “to rub with oil,” “to anoint,” “to consecrate.”

2. In the New Testament, two Greek words are used for the word *anointing*. The first is *chrío*, meaning “to smear or rub with oil,” “to consecrate.” The second is *aleipho*, meaning “to oil with perfume.”

B. You need to understand what the anointing is and what it does.

1. The anointing of the Holy Spirit is the overflow of the divine life of God through you as a consecrated servant of the Lord.
2. The anointing makes you spiritually able to impart the life and fragrance of God’s Word into the lives of others.
3. Through the anointing, God goes beyond your natural abilities as a leader and imparts supernatural ability to minister.

II. Why do I need the anointing?

Jesus Himself needed the anointing

(Luke 4:18–19; Acts 10:38).

1. Jesus needed the anointing to preach.
2. He needed the anointing to heal.
3. He needed the anointing for spiritual warfare.
4. He needed the anointing to set captives free.
5. He needed the anointing to discern and to deliver.

B. The apostles, too, walked in the anointing.

1. Jesus did not want them to attempt to begin their mission until they were walking in the power of the Holy Spirit (***Luke 24:49***).
2. The apostles waited in prayer until they were clothed with the Holy Spirit (***Acts 1:8***).
 - a. In this verse, the Greek word for “power” is *dunamis*. This word means “power in action.” It literally means a powerful force. The English word dynamite originates from this Greek word.
 - b. God, who is supernatural, wants to raise up a supernatural people who can do a supernatural work.

C. The apostle Paul depended upon the anointing of the Holy Spirit.

1. Paul’s entire ministry was based upon the active power of God at work in his life: “I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God’s grace given me through the working of his power” (***Eph. 3:7 NIV***).

2. Paul took no credit for the anointing present in his life, but gave all the credit to the mighty power of the Holy Spirit: “My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit’s power, so that your faith might not rest on men’s wisdom, but on God’s power” (*1 Cor. 2:4–5 NIV*).
3. The truth of Paul’s message was verified by the powerful acts he performed through the anointing of the Holy Spirit: “For when we brought you the Good News, it was not only with words but also with power, for the Holy Spirit gave you full assurance that what we said was true” (*1 Thess. 1:5 NLT*).

D. The anointing changed the course of David’s life.

1. The Scriptures record that from the moment David was anointed by Samuel, the Holy Spirit came upon him with power (*1 Sam. 16:13*). Apparently, the change in Him was so great and the Spirit’s presence so evident, that others took notice (*v. 18*).
2. As psalmist, David spoke of the Holy Spirit’s omnipresence in His life (*Ps. 139:7–10*). He knew Him intimately and extolled His greatness.

E. God will give you the anointing, just like He did for Jesus, Paul, and David.

1. *Second Corinthians 1:21–22 NIV says, “Now it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ. He anointed us, set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.”*
2. Not only does God save you and establish you in the faith, but He also gives you the Holy Spirit as a guarantee of all that is to come. What a glorious inheritance!

III. What are the divine purposes of the anointing in my life?

A. The anointing sanctifies you (*Lev. 8:10–12 KJV*).

1. The holy anointing oil sanctified everything it touched. In a similar fashion, you need the Holy One to make you holy. You cannot sanctify yourself; only the anointing can do that.
2. You need God’s love to make you loving, His strength to make you strong, and His anointing to make you consecrated and holy to Him.

B. The anointing enables you to minister, or serve (*Ex. 28:41*).

1. After being clothed in the priestly garments, Aaron and his sons were anointed to serve as priests. They were set apart for this most holy task.
2. You are anointed to serve. The anointing is not for your own personal pleasure or use, but for serving others and ministering in the name of the Lord.

C. The anointing helps you to see (*Rev. 3:18 KJV*).

1. Among other things, the word *see* means “to perceive,” “to be aware of,” and “to regard.”
2. The anointing helps you to perceive the value of the eternal, to “fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal” (*2 Cor. 4:18 NIV*).

D. The anointing imparts knowledge to you (*1 John 2:20, 27*).

1. The Holy Spirit brings revelation knowledge of God’s truth.
2. Spiritual knowledge is not the result of academic study, but it is the result of fellowship with the Holy Spirit (*1 Cor. 2:12–16*).

E. The anointing enables you to do good works (*Acts 10:38*).

1. You can anoint others for healing (*James 5:14–15*).
2. You are called to do good works, but the only ones that are of value are those done through the power of the Holy Spirit (see *1 Cor. 3:12; Zech. 4:6*).

F. The anointing empowers you to preach (*Luke 4:18–19*).

1. Before He preached, Jesus acknowledged the presence of the anointing upon Him.
2. On the day of Pentecost, Peter preached under the anointing and 3,000 people received Christ (*Acts 2:38–41*).

G. The anointing will give you victory.

(*Isa. 10:27 NKJV*).

1. The anointing of the Holy Spirit makes all the difference in your life. When you walk in the anointing, the Holy Spirit changes you from being a fearful follower to a powerful disciple. He moves you out of your comfort zone and into the challenge zone.
2. The anointing will break every yoke of bondage in your life, if you will avail yourself of it.

IV. How do I walk in the anointing?

A. Walk in holiness.

1. The anointing is always associated with consecration. God anoints only that which is consecrated to Him (*Ex. 28:41; 29:29*).
2. Consecration implies ownership. When you consecrate yourself to the Lord, you are acknowledging His supremacy in your life. This motivates you to live holy.

B. Walk in unity (*Ps. 133:1–3*).

1. When you walk in unity, the anointing flows upon you.
2. The anointing comes upon the one whose heart is in harmony with others and who desires to be a blessing to those around him.

C. Walk in diligence and obedience (*Prov. 13:4 KJV; 28:25 NKJV*).

1. The soul of the diligent shall be fat (“filled with oil”).
2. He who trusts in the Lord shall prosper, literally meaning “to be fat with oil.”

D. Walk in generosity (*Prov. 11:25 KJV*).

1. “The liberal soul shall be made fat,” literally meaning to be “filled with oil.”
2. Generosity on your part releases the anointing into your life.

E. Walk in righteousness (*Ps. 45:7 KJV*).

1. This verse speaks of the anointing of our Lord. Because He loved righteousness and hated iniquity, God gave Him the anointing.
2. God anoints those who are passionate about Him and His purposes. You, too, must also walk in this same kind of passion and zeal.

Summary: Nothing can take the place of the anointing. Books, television programs, teaching tapes, and counsel are all good things, but they cannot replace the anointing in our lives. If we want to be effective leaders, we’ve got to have the anointing. It’s that simple.

Because of the anointing, we can preach, do good works, grow in knowledge, walk in revelation, and minister. The anointing empowers us to do all these things at a supernatural level above our natural level of ability. As we walk in holiness, unity, obedience, generosity, and righteousness, the anointing will flow more and more readily, and we will become *“vessel[s] for honor, sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work” 2 Tim. 2:20*

THIS WEEK’S BIBLE READING: Isaiah

Use the Epistles Bible Study tool as you read. The next session will come from a portion of this book. Return your completed form for credit. You will get much more from the time if you prepare in advance by reading prayerfully through the assignment:

Questions and Discussion Points

1. Give a simple definition of the anointing.
2. Why do Christians need the anointing?
3. Discuss the three purposes of the anointing that you most need to have operating in your life.