

# **A SIMPLE BIBLE COURSE**

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## A Simple Bible Course

# Foreword

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My wife and I retired from fulltime work as missionaries in 1989 and moved to Lubbock, Texas. Our son, Dr. Gary Walker, who has spent much time in India, suggested that I write a simple Bible Course for friends in India, who may be looking at Jesus seriously for the first time.

Cross-cultural communication is difficult, of course. For that reason, I have tried to avoid references to things that are peculiar to the culture where I live. I have given considerable thought to the best way to put the message of Jesus in terms that would be understandable anywhere in the world. I hope that I have been able to do that.

Richard Walker  
Lubbock, Texas  
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# 1

## **GOD IS YOUR FATHER**

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This lesson is designed to show why people should worship Jehovah God and why it is harmful to worship idols. This lesson also points to Jesus as the One who can lead people to God. Abraham's family lived in the land of Canaan for three generations.

### ***EXPLANATION OF TERMS USED IN THIS LESSON***

- ACTS: a book in the New Testament that tells what Jesus' Apostles did after Jesus was taken up into heaven.
- APOSTLES: the men who were selected by Jesus and sent out by Him to Tell the world the good news.
- CORINTHIANS: two long letters in the New Testament, which were written by the apostle Paul to the church in the city of Corinth in Greece.
- GENESIS: the first book of the Bible.
- JEREMIAH: a prophet who lived many years before Jesus and who wrote one of the books of the Old Testament.
- JOHN: Jesus' apostle, who wrote several of the books of the New Testament.
- NEW TESTAMENT: the part of the Bible, which tells about Jesus and His church.
- OLD TESTAMENT: the part of the Bible, which tells how God dealt with the Jewish people.
- PAUL: Jesus' apostle, who wrote most of the books of the New

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Testament.

- PETER: Jesus' apostle, who was a leader among the apostles and who wrote two of the books of the New Testament.
- PSALMS: a book of the Old Testament, containing 150 songs.
- RIGHTEOUSNESS: the attribute of doing things that are good and just.
- ROMANS: a letter that the apostle Paul wrote to the church in the city of Rome.

### ***GOD IS YOUR FATHER***

God created you. He also made the land, the ocean, the sky, and everything that exists (Genesis Chapter 1). The first man whom God made was called "Adam." The wife whom God made for Adam (Genesis 2:22) was called "Eve" (Genesis 3:20).

Although Adam knew God and spoke with Him, Adam's descendants soon forgot God. There was no excuse for them to have forgotten God. He had given them many proofs of His presence and of His goodness. In order to see something of His glory, all they had to do was to look up at the moon and the stars in the sky at night (Psalm 19:1). Both the night and the day tell of God (Psalm 19:2).

It is possible for you to know that God exists. You can know this by observing the natural world (Romans 1:20). Yet by observing the natural world only, you might draw false conclusions about the nature of God. You might not know that He is a loving Father. That is why it was necessary for someone to come into the world in order to show you what God is like.

### ***HOW PEOPLE IN ASIA MINOR CAME TO KNOW ABOUT GOD***

When the Apostle Paul went to Lystra, a town in a part of the

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world known today as Turkey, Paul found a cripple man there, who had never walked. When Paul noticed that the cripple was paying close attention to his (Paul's) message about Jesus, Paul said to him, "Stand up on your feet!" The man immediately stood up, and he began to leap and walk with joy. The people of Lystra saw the miracle that Paul did, and they shouted, "The gods have come down to us in the likeness of men" (Acts 14:11)! They thought that Barnabas was the Greek god Zeus and Paul was Hermes. So a priest of Zeus brought oxen and wreaths and started to make sacrifices to Barnabas and Paul; but Barnabas and Paul ran among the people and cried out,

"Men, why are you doing these things?

We also are men with the same nature  
as you, and preach to you that you  
should turn from these vain things to  
the living God."

Acts 14:15

Then Paul told the people of Lystra that God is the one, who had created the heavens, the earth, the sea, and everything in them. Paul also told them that in times past God had allowed all nations to walk in their own ways (Acts 14:16), but that the time had come for them to recognize the true God and obey Him. Paul also told the people of Lystra that God had not left Himself without witness, but that He had done many good things for people. Paul pointed out that God had given them rain from heaven, fruitful seasons, and had filled them with food and gladness (Acts 14:17).

## ***WHAT PAUL TOLD THE PEOPLE OF ATHENS***

After the Apostle Paul had visited several Greek cities to tell them about Jesus, he came to the city of Athens. The people of Athens were always anxious to hear something new. So they took

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Paul to a hill, on which their court met, in order to hear what he had to say. There, Paul made a speech. In his speech, he told the Athenians that he had noticed in their city an altar that bore the inscription: “To an unknown god.” Regarding the unknown god, Paul said,

“Therefore,  
the one whom you worship  
without knowing  
Him I proclaim to you.”

Acts 17:23

Paul then proceeded to speak to them about the God, whom they did not know. He said that this God is Lord of the heavens and the earth and that He had made all things. Paul also said that God does not live in temples made with hands (Acts 17:24). He said that God should not be worshipped with men’s hands as though He needs anything (such as food); for God is Himself the one who gives life to all (Acts 17:25). What God desires, Paul said, is for all people everywhere to seek after Him and to find Him. Paul assured the Athenians that God is not far from any of them, since every person lives and moves in God (Acts 17:27-28). Paul warned the people of Athens not to think of God as if He were an image of gold, of silver, or of stone, which some craftsman had made. Paul said that in times past God had overlooked people’s ignorance but that, now, He commanded all men everywhere to repent. Paul concluded his remarks by saying that God had appointed a day on which He would judge the world in righteousness by a man whom He had raised from the dead, namely Jesus (Acts 17:29-31).

### ***SHOULD IMAGES BE WORSHIPPED?***

The first people, who started making images of God made them, no doubt, to help them think about the various aspects of



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God's nature. As time went by, however, the images turned out to be a hindrance in thinking about God, rather than a help; for many worshippers came to think of the images, not as mere representations of what God is like, but as being gods themselves.

When people started worshipping images, they stopped thinking about God as being the one, who gives them food, money, and children. They began to think that the images gave them these things. This false concept was passed down from one generation to the next. As a consequence, many people do not glorify God and give Him thanks. The reverence that should be shown to Him alone is shown to images. For this reason, the hearts of some people have been darkened (Romans 1:21) so that they think of God as being like an animal (Romans 1:23). This is very harmful, for although animals have some admirable characteristics, they also have many characteristics that should not be imitated by men and women. Therefore, many people have been led into sin by worshipping animals (Romans 1:24-25).

### ***DON'T BE AFRAID OF IDOLS***

Idols are the work of man's hands (Jeremiah 10:3,9). They do not breathe and they cannot speak. Since they cannot walk, they have to be carried about (Jeremiah 10:5). In fact, they can do nothing either good or bad. That is why no one should be afraid of them. Idols can neither bless nor harm a person (Jeremiah 10:5).

### ***DON'T SACRIFICE TO DEMONS***

When people sacrifice to idols, however, they are actually sacrificing to demons (1 Corinthians 10:20). God is a jealous God (1 Corinthians 10:22). We should have nothing to do with demons (1 Corinthians 10:20). No one should have communion with demons and also partake of the Lord's supper (1 Corinthians 10:21).

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### ***HOW CAN PEOPLE BE LED BACK TO GOD?***

Jesus is the only one, who can reconcile us to God (2 Corinthians 5:18). He is the one only one, who shows what God is like. Jesus said, “He who has seen me has seen the Father” (John 14:9).

### ***GOD IS FATHER***

When Jesus was on earth, He continually spoke of God as “Father.” Although it was not entirely new to refer to God as “Father,” the emphasis that Jesus placed on the fatherhood of God was new.

### ***WHAT A GOOD FATHER IS LIKE***

A good father loves his children and looks after them. He is concerned about their safety, health, and welfare. He provides clothing and shelter for them and gives them food. More importantly, he sees to it that his children are properly taught.

All of these things God does for you. Not only does He take care of your physical needs, but He also made provisions for your spiritual welfare. He did this by sending His Son, Jesus, into the world to die for your sins (John 3:16). He has nothing greater to give to you than His Son. Therefore, this is the greatest possible expression of His love. Since God has given His Son for you, you can no longer doubt God’s love for you (Romans 5:8).

## ***WORKSHEETS***

After you have read Lesson Number One and looked up all the references in the Bible, please read the following statements. As you read them, please pay attention to whether or not the statements are true. If you decide that a statement is true, please write a “T” before it. If you find a statement is false, please write an “F” before it.

- \_\_\_ 1. God is the one, who created the world.
- \_\_\_ 2. Both night and day speak of God.
- \_\_\_ 3. One cannot find proofs in the world that God exists.
- \_\_\_ 4. The apostle Paul allowed himself to be worshipped as if he were a god.
- \_\_\_ 5. God lives in temples made with hands.
- \_\_\_ 6. God is not far from anyone.
- \_\_\_ 7. God raised up Jesus from the dead.
- \_\_\_ 8. When people worship idols, they are actually worshipping demons.
- \_\_\_ 9. Jesus showed us what God is like.
- \_\_\_ 10. God loves you.

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Please, read the following passages in your Bible and fill in the missing words. The quotations are from the New King James Bible.

Psalm 19:1

“The heavens declare \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_; and the firmament shows \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_.”

Acts 14:17

“Nevertheless He did not leave Himself without witness, in that He did good, gave us \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_ and fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with \_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_.”

Acts 17: 24-25

“God, who made the world and everything in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_. Nor is He worshiped with men’s hands, as though he needed anything, since He gives to all \_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_. ”

Romans 6:8

“Now if we died with Christ, we \_\_\_\_\_ that we shall also \_\_\_\_ with Him.”

## God is Your Father

Please, answer the following questions by writing a short paragraph about each:

1. Has God treated you in a way you think a father should treat his child? Please state your reasons.
2. Do you think it is permissible to worship God and idols too? Give reasons for your answer.

## 2

# **JESUS IS YOUR ELDER BROTHER**

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The purpose of this lesson is to point out that Jesus is loved and respected by many people. He is loved and respected because of His many virtues. He is like a loving, elder brother who cares for His relatives. It is to Him, therefore, that we turn for guidance and help.

### ***EXPLANATION OF TERMS USED IN THIS LESSON***

- **ACTS:** a book in the New Testament that tells what Jesus' Apostles did after Jesus was taken up into heaven.
- **THE DEVIL:** the same as Satan. He is the spiritual being, who invented evil. He is a liar and a murderer and he tempts people to commit sin.
- **HEBREWS:** a book of the New Testament that was written primarily for Jewish Christians.
- **JOHN THE BAPTIST:** a forerunner of Jesus. He prepared the way for Jesus by telling people to change their way of living and to be baptized in water.
- **JORDAN RIVER:** a river in Palestine, which flows from the Sea of Galilee to the Dead Sea.
- **LAW of Moses:** the law, which God gave to the Jews by their great leader, Moses. The Law of Moses is found in the Old

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Testament.

- LUKE: a believer in Jesus, who was a traveling companion of the apostle Paul. Luke wrote two of the books of the New Testament: the Gospel of Luke and the Book of Acts.
- MARK: the believer in Jesus, who wrote the Gospel of Mark, which is the story of Jesus' deeds.
- MATTHEW: the apostle of Jesus that wrote the Gospel of Matthew, which shows how Jesus fulfilled the prophecies of the Old Testament.
- SATAN: the proper name of the devil.

### ***JESUS IS YOUR OLDER BROTHER***

People have been drawn to Jesus because of His great love for them. While He was on earth, Jesus expressed His love for many people. For example, Jesus had high regards for a young man that came asking what to do in order to inherit eternal life (Mark 10:21). Jesus was deeply attached to a man named Lazarus (John 11:36) and to Lazarus' two sisters, Mary and Martha. In addition, Jesus dearly loved His own disciples (John 13:1), as well as many other people, both men and women.

One of the reasons why Jesus was able to love so widely and so well was because He knew that His Father (God) loved Him (John 15:9).

### ***JESUS' PERSONALITY***

Jesus was a joyful person and He lived a beautiful life. He did not play tricks on people. He never deceived anyone, nor did He ever entice anyone to do evil. His life was completely holy. He loved God with all of His heart and He was dedicated to Him.

Jesus was always interested in doing what God wanted Him to do. Jesus said,

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“I do not seek my own will  
but the will of the Father  
who sent me.

John 5:30

Jesus also had complete trust in God. He relied upon God for everything. There is no record that He asked people for food or that He begged for money. Yet, God supplied all of His needs.

### ***WHY WAS JESUS BAPTIZED?***

If Jesus was so holy, why was He baptized? When Jesus was about thirty years old, He went out to the Jordan River, where John the Baptist was immersing (baptizing) people. Jesus did not need to be baptized to wash away sins, because He had no sins (Hebrews 4:15). In spite of His having no sins, He asked John the Baptist to immerse (baptize) Him, but John did not want to baptize Him. John said, “I have need to be baptized by You, and are You coming to me” (Matthew 3:14)? But Jesus said,

“Permit it to be so for now,  
for thus it is fitting for us  
to fulfill all righteousness.”

Matthew 3:15

Jesus was saying, in effect, that if being baptized was the right thing to do, He wanted to do it. It is well for us that Jesus was baptized, because otherwise we might say, “Jesus wasn’t baptized, so we don’t need to be baptized either.”

As Jesus was coming up out of the water, after His having been baptized by John the Baptist, the heavens were opened, and the Spirit of God descended upon Jesus as a dove. A voice from heaven said,

“This is My beloved Son,



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in whom I am well pleased.”

Matthew 3:17

### ***JESUS WAS TEMPTED BY THE DEVIL***

Immediately following His baptism, Jesus was led by the Spirit of God into the wilderness to be tempted. There, Jesus fasted for forty days and forty nights. When He was nearly at the point of death from starvation, the devil came and tempted Jesus to use miraculous power for Himself. The devil said, “If you are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread” (Matthew 4:3). But Jesus replied,

“It is written,

‘Man shall not live by bread alone,  
But by every word that proceeds  
From the mouth of God.’”

Matthew 4:4

Following that, the devil took Jesus up to a high part of the temple in Jerusalem and said, “If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down. For it is written, ‘He shall give his angels charge concerning you,’ and, ‘in their hands they shall bear you up’” (Matthew 4:6). This time, the devil quoted from the Old Testament, just as Jesus had done. Again, Jesus rejected the temptation by also quoting from the Old Testament. He said,

“It is written again,

‘You shall not tempt the Lord your God.’”

Matthew 4:7

Finally, the devil took Jesus up on a very high mountain and offered to give Him all the riches and the power of the world, if He would fall down and worship him, but Jesus said,

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“Away with you, Satan!  
For it is written,

‘You shall worship the Lord your God,  
and Him only shall you serve.’”

Matthew 4:10

In none of these temptations did Jesus commit sin. Notice that He rejected each temptation by quoting from the Scriptures. This shows that knowledge of the Bible can help in times of temptation.

### ***JESUS BEGAN HIS TEACHING MINISTRY***

After Jesus was tempted by the devil, He began teaching and preaching in the region of Galilee (Matthew 4:13-16). Jesus told the people, just as John the Baptist had done before Him, that they should repent (Matthew 4:17).

Jesus’ message was unique in that He placed strong emphasis on love. Other teachers, prior to Jesus, had taught about love, but no one had emphasized it as strongly as He did. Jesus taught that we should love God with all our heart, with all our soul, and with our entire mind. This, said Jesus, is the first and great commandment (Matthew 22:37-38). The second commandment is similar to the first. Jesus said that we should love our neighbors as ourselves (Matthew 22:39). In addition, Jesus taught that we should even love our enemies (Matthew 5:44).

### ***JESUS AS A TEACHER***

The Bible says that when Jesus finished His “Sermon on the Mount,” people were astonished at His teaching. They were astonished because He taught them with authority, not as the scholars of the Law of Moses did (Matthew 7:28-29).

Later, when officers were sent to arrest Jesus, the officers

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returned empty handed. When asked why they had not brought Jesus, they replied, “No man ever spoke like this man” (John 7:46).

### ***MANY PEOPLE BELIEVED IN JESUS BECAUSE OF HIS MIRACLES***

Jesus healed many people. Indeed, He healed all that were brought to Him (Matthew 4:24). One of the reasons why He healed people was because He had compassion on them (Matthew 9:36). Another reason was that He wanted to establish His identity as the Son of God (John 5:36).

Jesus’ healing of people was not His only miraculous activity. He fed 5,000 men at one time, plus women and children. He fed them with only a few loaves of bread and a few fish (Matthew 14:15-21). He also caused a mighty storm on the Sea of Galilee to stop (Luke 8:22-25). He walked on water (Matthew 14:22-27), and He even raised the dead (John 11:1-44). His miracles were evidence that He had come from God (John 9:31-33). As a result of His miracles, His fame spread, and many people followed Him (Matthew 4:24-25). Although Jesus performed miracles, He was far more than a miracle worker.

### ***JESUS’ AUTHORITY***

When Jesus was on a mountain with three of His disciples (Peter, James, and John), God repeated what He had said at Jesus’ baptism, namely:

“This is My beloved Son,  
in whom I am well pleased.  
Hear Him!”

Matthew 17:5

Still today, God wants us to listen to what Jesus had to say.

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### ***YOUR ADOPTION INTO GOD'S FAMILY***

It is God's plan for you to be adopted into His family (Ephesians 1:5). Once you are adopted, Jesus will not be ashamed to own you as His brother, for you will be a child of the same Father as He (Hebrews 2:11).

The way for you to be adopted into God's family is for you to repent of your sins (Acts 2:38), believe in Jesus Christ (Galatians 3:26), and be immersed (baptized) into Christ (Galatians 3:27) for the forgiveness of your sins (Acts 2:38). When you are immersed into Christ, you are also raised to walk a new life with Christ (Romans 6:4). Jesus becomes your loving, elder brother.

### ***WHAT KIND OF BROTHER IS JESUS?***

Jesus is a brother who is concerned about you and who guides you into the right path. He guides you by His example and by His teaching, which you find in the Bible.

Jesus invites all people to come to Him and to learn from Him (Matthew 11:28-29). So, please, respond to Jesus' loving invitation. Jesus promised that His yoke would be easy for you and His burden light (Matthew 11:30). He warned, however, that if any person hears His teaching and does not respond to it, He (Jesus) would not be the one to judge that person on the last day. The words that Jesus spoke will judge that person (John 12:47-48). The reason why the word will judge a person is because Jesus spoke what His Father (God) commanded Him to speak (John 12:49). So, please, heed what your elder brother has to say to you.

## Jesus is Your Older Brother

### ***WORKSHEETS***

After you have read Lesson Number Two and have looked up and read all the Bible references, please read the following statements. As you read, please pay attention to whether or not each statement is true. If you decide that a statement is true, please write “T” before it. If you find a statement is false, please write “F” before it.

- \_\_\_ 1. Jesus loved His disciples very much.
- \_\_\_ 2. Jesus was not a happy person.
- \_\_\_ 3. Jesus was baptized for the sins He committed.
- \_\_\_ 4. Jesus resisted all of the temptations of the devil.
- \_\_\_ 5. It is not necessary for us to love our neighbors today.
- \_\_\_ 6. It is not necessary for us to listen to what Jesus said.
- \_\_\_ 7. God wants us to be in His family.
- \_\_\_ 8. Jesus is our younger brother.
- \_\_\_ 9. The way we get into Christ is by repenting, by believing in Him, and by being baptized into Him.
- \_\_\_ 10. The words that Jesus spoke will judge us.

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Please, read the following passages in the New King James Bible and write the missing words in the blanks.

John 9:31

“Now we know that God \_\_\_\_\_ sinners; but if anyone is a worshiper of God and \_\_\_\_\_, He hears him.”

Galatians 3:26-27

“For you are all sons of God through \_\_\_\_\_. For as many of you as were \_\_\_\_\_ into Christ have \_\_\_\_\_.”

Hebrews 2:11-12

“For both He who sanctifies and those who are being sanctified are all \_\_\_\_\_, for which reason He is not ashamed to call them \_\_\_\_\_, saying, ‘I will declare Your name to My \_\_\_\_\_.’”

John 12:46

“I have come as \_\_\_\_\_ into the world, that whoever believes in Me should not \_\_\_\_\_.”

Please, answer the following questions by writing a short paragraph about each question.

1. Is there now, or has there ever been, a religious teacher that has taught a higher concept of love than Jesus? Please explain.

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2. Is Jesus worthy of your respect and obedience? If so, tell why.

# 3

## SIN IS THE CAUSE OF ALL YOUR TROUBLES

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This lesson is designed to show how sin entered the world and how widespread sin is. The lesson emphasizes that sin lies at the root of all of our problems.

### *EXPLANATION OF TERMS USED IN THIS LESSON*

- ADAM: the first man.
- EVE: the first woman, Adam's wife.
- EDEN: the beautiful garden in which Adam and Eve first lived.
- EZEKIEL: a book in the Old Testament that was written by the prophet Ezekiel.
- THE FLOOD: the water catastrophe in which God destroyed all the inhabitants of the ancient world except Noah and his family.
- ISAIAH: a book in the Old Testament written by the prophet Isaiah.
- THE JUDGMENT: the day on which God will judge all people.
- 1 JOHN: the first of three letters in the New Testament that were written by the apostle John.
- NOAH: the man that built the ark (giant boat), in which Noah's family was saved during the great flood.



## Sin is the Cause of All Your Problems

- SIN: transgression of God's laws.
- THE SOUL: the person himself.

### ***SIN IS THE CAUSE OF ALL YOUR TROUBLES***

Have you ever asked yourself questions like the following? “Why does nearly everything I do seem to turn out wrong?” “Why do I have so many troubles?”

The search for the cause of our troubles must begin with the first people that lived on the earth. The first man was named “Adam.” Adam lived in a beautiful garden called “Eden,” which God had planted. Adam’s job was to take care of the garden (Genesis 2:15). God told Adam that he could eat fruit from any of the trees in the garden except from “the tree of the knowledge of good and evil” (Genesis 2:16-17). God warned Adam that if he ate from “the tree of the knowledge of good and evil,” he would surely die (Genesis 2:17).

God saw that it was not good for Adam to be alone, so He made a suitable helper for him (Genesis 2:18). The helper whom God made was Eve, the first woman (Genesis 2:21-22). Adam named her “Eve” (Genesis 3:20).

### ***HOW SIN ENTERED THE WORLD***

Adam and Eve were at first guilty of no sin, but Satan came to Eve in the form of a serpent and tempted her to eat the fruit which God had said they should not eat (Genesis 3:1-5). The serpent told Eve that the fruit of that tree would make her wise. So she ate of it, gave some to Adam, and he ate it, too (Genesis 3:6).

After Adam and Eve had eaten of the forbidden fruit, they recognized that they had sinned, and they were ashamed. It was only then that they realized that they were naked (Genesis 3:7).

Afterwards, when they heard God in the garden, they hid

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themselves, but God called to them,

“Where are you?

Genesis 3:9

Adam answered,

“I heard your voice in the garden,  
and I was afraid because I was naked;  
and I hid myself.”

Genesis 3:10

God asked,

“Who told you that you were naked?  
Have you eaten from the tree  
of which I commanded you that you  
should not eat?”

Genesis 3:11

Adam tried to excuse himself by saying,

“The woman whom you gave to be with me,  
she gave me of the tree and I ate.”

Genesis 3:12

Upon hearing that, God asked the woman,

“What is this you have done?”

Genesis 3:13

The woman replied,

“The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”

Genesis 3:13

## Sin is the Cause of All Your Problems

### ***WHO ORIGINATED SIN?***

From this story it becomes clear who originated sin. It was Satan. He is known as a murderer and as the father of lies (John 8:44). He sinned from the very beginning (1 John 3:8), and today he is still causing people to sin (1 Peter 5:8). That means that he is trying to get each of us to join him in his rebellion against God.

### ***WHAT IS SIN?***

We should realize that God has moral and spiritual laws. When anyone disobeys one of God's moral or spiritual laws, it is sin. Therefore, as the apostle John said, "Sin is lawlessness" (1 John 3:4).

When Adam and Eve ate of the forbidden fruit it was a sin, because they violated one of God's laws. What they did may not seem a very bad thing, but it is immaterial whether it was very bad or only slightly bad. The first sin was, at its base, the same as every other sin. They did what God told them not to do. By disobeying God, they transgressed His law, and with that transgression they started on a course that would lead them to all kinds of sorrows.

Sin is an affront to God. When someone sins, he is saying, in effect, "You, God, are not in charge of my life. I am in charge, and I will do as I please." This attitude appeals to man's pride, but it strikes at the very root of God's authority. Such an attitude is an attempt to dethrone God and to place oneself on His throne.

### ***WHAT ARE THE RESULTS OF SIN?***

Sin separates man from God (Isaiah 59:2). Sin caused Adam and Eve to be cast out of the beautiful Garden of Eden (Genesis 3:23-24). There were also additional sad consequences of Adam and Eve's sin. To Eve God said,

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“I will greatly multiply your sorrow  
and your conception;  
in pain you shall bring forth children;  
your desire shall be for your husband  
and he shall rule over you.”

Genesis 3:16

To Adam God said,

“Because you have heeded  
the voice of your wife,  
and have eaten from the tree  
of which I commanded you,  
saying, ‘You shall not eat of it:’  
Cursed is the ground for your sake;  
In toil you shall eat of it  
All the days of your life.”

Genesis 3:17

What a great change took place in the lives of Adam and Eve! Where were they going to find shelter outside of the garden? What were they going to eat? What were they going to wear? Everything had been provided in the garden, but outside of the garden, nothing was immediately available. They had to toil to provide the simplest necessities. Inside the garden they had enjoyed paradise, but outside of it they found only grinding poverty.

### ***WHY WERE ADAM AND EVE PUNISHED?***

Adam and Eve were not punished for some sin that they had done in a previous life. They were punished for what they did in this life, here on earth. Indeed, they had no past life. It was here on earth that God had created Adam from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life (Genesis 2:7). After Adam and Eve died, they did not come back to life again on earth.

## Sin is the Cause of All Your Problems

We know this to be true, because the Bible says that a person dies only once, and after that comes the judgment (Hebrews 9:27).

### ***TRAGEDY IN ADAM'S FAMILY***

After sin was introduced, Adam's family began to deteriorate. Adam's oldest son, Cain, rose up and murdered Adam's younger son, Abel (Genesis 4:1-15). It has always been true that when people start disobeying God, there is no limit to the evil that may come of it.

### ***THE FLOOD***

Sin very quickly increased among Adam's descendants. The Bible says that the thoughts of people's hearts were evil continually (Genesis 6:5). As a result, God regretted that He had made man (Genesis 6:6), and He decided to destroy people from the face of the earth (Genesis 6:7). He sent a great flood which destroyed everyone except Noah and his family (Genesis 7:23).

### ***SIN IS STILL WRECKING HAVOC TODAY***

Sin is responsible for all of the problems that people have. Because of sin, friends become estranged, engagements for marriage are canceled, marriages are dissolved, husbands go philandering and bring home sexual diseases to their wives, wives are disrespectful to their husbands, families are abandoned, children are neglected, and children become disobedient to their parents. Because of sin, people tell lies, they cheat, they steal, they engage in bribery, they are greedy, they are hateful to each other, and they do not pay their debts. Because of sin rich people take advantage of poor people and political leaders are dishonest. All of these evils, and many more, come as a result of sin.

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It is not only other people's sins that cause us trouble. It is often our own sins as well. There is no denying that we have sinned. The Bible says that all have sinned (Romans 3:23). It also says that if we say we have not sinned, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us (1 John 1:8). Still worse, if we say we have not sinned, the Bible says that we make God a liar and we show that His word is not in us (1 John 1:10).

### ***THE WAGES OF SIN***

The person that sins will die (Ezekiel 18:4,20), because the wages of sin is death (Romans 6:23). Death came into the world as a result of Adam's sin (Romans 5:12), and since all have sinned, death has passed to everyone.

## Sin is the Cause of All Your Problems

### ***WORKSHEETS***

After you have studied Lesson Number Three and have looked up all of the references in the Bible, please read the following sentences and pay close attention to whether or not the statements are true. If you find that a statement is true, please write “T” before the sentence. If you find a statement to be false, please write “F” before it.

- \_\_\_ 1. The first man lived in the Garden of Eden.
- \_\_\_ 2. The name of the first man was “Kumar.”
- \_\_\_ 3. Adam’s wife, Eve, tempted Adam to sin.
- \_\_\_ 4. Satan, or the devil, is known as the “father of lies.”
- \_\_\_ 5. Every transgression of God’s spiritual and moral laws is sin.
- \_\_\_ 6. Adam and Eve were forced to leave the beautiful garden because of sins that they had done in a previous life.
- \_\_\_ 7. A person dies only once, and after that comes the judgment.
- \_\_\_ 8. In Noah’s day, God destroyed the world by fire.
- \_\_\_ 9. As a result of Adam’s sin death first came into the world.
- \_\_\_ 10. Every person dies because of his own sins.

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Please, read the following Bible passages in the New King James Version of the Bible and fill in the blanks.

Romans 5:12

“Therefore, just as through \_\_\_\_ sin entered the world, and \_\_\_\_ through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because \_\_\_\_.”

Romans 6:23

“For the wages of sin is \_\_\_\_, but the gift of God is \_\_\_\_ in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

Hebrews 9:27

“And as it is appointed for men \_\_\_\_, but after this \_\_\_\_.”

1 John 1:10

“If we say that we \_\_\_\_, we make \_\_\_\_ a liar, and \_\_\_\_ is not in us.”

THOUGHT QUESTIONS: Please, think about the following questions and write a short paragraph about each.

1. What do you think is the explanation for the fact that Adam and Eve became afraid of God and hid themselves?



## Sin is the Cause of All Your Problems

2. Can you explain how sin causes trouble for people? Please give some examples?

# 4

## JESUS DIED IN YOUR PLACE

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This lesson is designed to show that Jesus died—not for his own sins—but for the sins of others. This is both sad and good. It is sad in that Jesus had to suffer and die, but it is good that God made provisions through Jesus’ death for us to be forgiven of our sins.

### ***EXPLANATION OF TERMS USED IN THIS LESSON***

- **CHRIST:** a Greek translation of the Hebrew word for “Messiah,” which refers to the one who is anointed to be king.
- **CHRISTIANS:** those people who believe in Jesus and who follow Him.
- **COLOSSIANS:** a book of the New Testament that the apostle Paul wrote to the church in the city of Colosse in Asia Minor.
- **KING DAVID:** the second king of the Jews, who wrote many of the psalms of the Old Testament.
- **EPHESIANS:** a letter in the New Testament, which the apostle Paul wrote to the church in the city of Ephesus in Asia Minor.
- **FORGIVENESS:** our sins and offenses are considered as though they had never happened.
- **GALATIANS:** a letter in the New Testament that the apostle Paul wrote to several of the churches in Asia Minor.
- **GOOD NEWS:** the story of the death and resurrection of Jesus,

## Jesus Died in Your Place

which indicates that people can be forgiven of their sins and resurrected from the dead.

- **MESSIAH:** a Hebrew word that refers to Jesus. It means the “anointed one.” It was the Jewish custom to pour a little oil over the head of a person to indicate that he would become king (or priest).
- **RETRIBUTION:** to pay someone back for something he did.
- **1 THESSALONIANS:** the first letter in the New Testament that the apostle Paul wrote to the church in the city of Thessalonika in Greece.
- **2 THESSALONIANS:** the second letter in the New Testament that the apostle Paul wrote to the church in the city of Thessalonika in Greece.

### ***JESUS DIED IN YOUR PLACE***

Jesus was the best person who ever lived. He never did anything wrong; yet in spite of His good life a terrible thing happened to Him. He was put to death on a cross (1 Peter 2:22-24). He deserved far better treatment. He should have been received on earth with honor, since He was the one whom God had chosen to be the Messiah, king of the Jews (Hebrews 1:8-9), but the Jewish leaders put Him to death. It was foretold by the prophet Isaiah that the Messiah would be put to death for the sins of others. Isaiah lived about seven hundred years before Jesus was born (Isaiah 53).

Jesus was aware of the prophecies concerning His death. For that reason He forewarned His disciples that He would be put to death (Matthew 16:21). Even though He knew that He would be killed, He made no effort to avoid it. He could have escaped had He wanted to, but He did not. Why did He not try to escape? Jesus explained,

“Therefore my Father loves Me,  
because I lay down My life

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that I may take it again.  
No man takes it from Me,  
but I lay it down of Myself.  
I have power to lay it down,  
and I have power to take it again.  
This command I have received  
from My Father.”

John 10:17-18

Jesus knew that God had commanded Him to give His life for others. This seems like a harsh command. Why did God give Jesus such a command?

### ***WHY DID GOD SEND HIS SON TO DIE?***

God knew that all people on earth were lost in sin (Romans 3:23). Because of their sins, people were alienated from God (Isaiah 59:2). Therefore, their punishment was certain (Proverbs 11:21), yet God does not want to punish people. He loves mankind. He wants to save everyone from the consequences of their sins, yet He cannot simply close His eyes to sin. Sin has to be punished? So what was God to do? He formed a plan whereby He could uphold what is right and still help people to escape punishment.

God knew that no matter how many good deeds men and women do, they cannot save themselves (Ephesians 2:8). He also knew that no matter how deeply within themselves they search for the assurance of forgiveness, people would never find it. For that reason, forgiveness must come from the outside, not from within a person. A person cannot forgive himself. Ultimately, forgiveness must come from God, since it is against Him that people have sinned.

For these reasons, then, and perhaps for others as well, God decided (Ephesians 1:5) that He must take the initiative if people are to be reconciled to Himself (2 Corinthians 5:18-20). Through

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His great wisdom, He found a way in which justice could be served and people saved. He decided to send His own Son into the world (John 3:16) to take people's punishment upon Himself. This decision on God's part demonstrates so dramatically His love for mankind that no one can deny His love (Romans 5:8).

### ***JESUS DIED FOR YOU AND ME***

Jesus was condemned to die (Luke 23:23-24), but we are the ones that should have been condemned. Jesus was beaten (Matthew 27:26), but we are the ones that deserve to be beaten, not He. The ridicule and the spit which He received (Matthew 27:29-31) should have been aimed at us. Into His hand and feet harsh nails were driven (Luke 24:39-40), which should have been driven into our hands and feet. He hung on the cross where we should have hung. He suffered and died for us (1 Peter 2:21), but we should have been the ones to suffer and die (Ezekiel 18:4,20). Yes, Jesus did it all for you and me (Revelation 1:5)!

When we think of Jesus' hanging on the cross, suffering and bleeding, it opens our eyes to the seriousness of our sins. It makes us sad and ashamed that we have caused His death, yet it also makes us grateful that Jesus loved us enough to die for us (John 15:13).

### ***JESUS MADE REDEMPTION POSSIBLE***

Everyone is a slave to sin, but Jesus made it possible for everyone to be rescued from this slavery. He paid the ransom price to buy everyone out of slavery, who wants to get out. The ransom price that He paid was His own life (1 Timothy 2:6).

After He buys people out of slavery He makes them His willing servants (1 Corinthians 6:19-20) so they can be truly free.

## ***THE FREEDOM THAT PEOPLE HAVE IN JESUS***

There are various aspects to the freedom that people have in Christ Jesus. Here are some of the aspects of freedom:

1. Jesus makes Jewish people free from the Law of Moses (Galatians 4:4-5). The Jews that follow Jesus are not under the Law of Moses, due to the fact that they are led by the Spirit of God (Galatians 5:18). Gentiles, of course, have never been under the law of Moses.
2. Jesus makes people free from being forced to do evil (Romans 6:17-18). He delivers people out of this evil age (Galatians 1:4) and translates them into His kingdom (Colossians 1:13).
3. Jesus makes people free from the guilt of their sins. Put in another way, Jesus makes it possible for people to receive God's forgiveness (Ephesians 1:7; Colossians 1:14) so that their sins will not be held against them.
4. Jesus makes people free from the wrath that one day will come upon the earth (1 Thessalonians 1:10).
5. Jesus makes people free from the fear of dying (Hebrews 2:14-15).
6. Jesus makes people free from the fear of the Judgment (John 5:24).

## ***CAN SINS BE FORGIVEN?***

Yes, sins can be forgiven, in spite of the fact that many people do not think they can. Some people incorrectly assume that the law of retribution works always and without exception. To be sure, the law of retribution does work, unless God intervenes, but the question is, does God actually intervene so that people will not have to be punished for their sins? Yes, under certain conditions,

## Jesus Died in Your Place

He does. A murderer, for example, may have to pay with his life for having killed someone, yet he can be forgiven and not have to suffer for his sins in the life that is to come.

God has a right to intervene in the law of retribution if He chooses to do so, because it is against Him that people sin. If He feels that He has ample justification for overlooking people's sins, He has every right to overlook them. Even in the Old Testament one reads of God's willingness to forgive sins. King David wrote in the Psalms,

“The Lord is merciful and gracious,  
Slow to anger, and abounding in mercy.  
He will not always strive with us,  
Neither will He keep His anger forever.  
He has not dealt with us according to our sins,  
nor punished us according to our iniquities.  
For as the heaven is high above the earth,  
So great is His mercy toward those who fear Him.”

Psalm 103:8-11

God's willingness to forgive sins can be seen even more clearly in the New Testament than it can in the Old Testament.

## ***THE GOOD NEWS***

In the New Testament we read that Jesus and the Father want all people everywhere to learn that sins can be forgiven (Luke 24:47). This is good news and everyone needs to hear about it (Matthew 28:18-20).

If you have already come to believe in Jesus, please go one step farther. Accept Him as your Lord and Master. Turn from your sinful ways and ask someone to baptize (immerse) you in water in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins (Acts 2:38). By doing this you will, in a sense, go through the death of

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Jesus. In baptism you will die to the world (Galatians 6:14) and your sins will be forgiven. As a result, you will arise from the watery grave to live a new life. You will no longer be a servant of the devil. You will serve Jesus, who bought you by dying for you (1 Corinthians 6:20).

After you have become a servant of Jesus, you will no longer live like other people do. You will live to satisfy Him who died for you (2 Corinthians 5:14-15). You will live as Jesus lived, because He will be living in you (Galatians 2:20).



## ***WORKSHEETS***

After you have read this lesson and have looked up all the references in the Bible, please read the following sentences. As you read, please pay attention to whether or not the statements are true. If you decide a statement is true, please write a “T” before it. If you decide a statement is false, please write an “F” before it.

- \_\_\_ 1. Jesus was afraid of what the Jews might do to Him.
- \_\_\_ 2. God the Father loves Jesus because Jesus was willing to lay His life down for us.
- \_\_\_ 3. God does not punish sins at all.
- \_\_\_ 4. A person can find the assurance of forgiveness by searching within himself.
- \_\_\_ 5. Jesus’ death demonstrates God’s love for man.
- \_\_\_ 6. Jesus had to die because He had done something wrong.
- \_\_\_ 7. Christians are under (subject to) the Law of Moses.
- \_\_\_ 8. Jesus made it possible for us to be free from the guilt of our sins.
- \_\_\_ 9. God is willing to forgive us, provided we turn from our sins, believe in Jesus, and allow ourselves to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of our sins.
- \_\_\_ 10. Baptism is somewhat similar to a death.

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Please, read the following passages in the New King James Bible and fill in the blanks.

Matthew 16:21

“From that time Jesus began to show to His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and \_\_\_\_\_ from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and \_\_\_\_\_, and be \_\_\_\_\_ the third day.”

2 Corinthians 5:18-19

“Now all things are of God, who has \_\_\_\_\_ us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry \_\_\_\_\_, that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, \_\_\_\_\_ to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation.”

1 Peter 2:24

“Who Himself \_\_\_\_\_ on the tree, that we, having \_\_\_\_\_, might live for righteousness—by whose stripes you were healed.”

**THOUGHT QUESTIONS:** Please, think about the following questions and write a short paragraph about each.

1. Why do you think Jesus was willing to die for you?

## Jesus Died in Your Place

2. What should your response be to Jesus' sacrifice?

# 5

## JESUS CHRIST IS YOUR KING

---

This lesson is designed to show that Jesus is now reigning as King and that God wants all people to recognize this.

### *EXPLANATION OF TERMS USED IN THIS LESSON*

- **CHURCH:** an assembly of people that meet in a certain place to remember Jesus and to worship God. A second meaning is the whole number of Christ's people everywhere.
- **COLOSSIANS:** a letter in the New Testament that was written by the apostle Paul to the church at Colosse, a city in Asia Minor.
- **CO-REGENT:** a second ruler, who rules side-by-side with a king.
- **CRUCIFY:** to put a person to death by hanging him on a wooden cross.
- **EMMAUS:** a village not far from Jerusalem.
- **GALILEE:** a sea in the northern part of the land of Palestine. It can also mean the land area around the Sea of Galilee.
- **HIGH PRIEST:** the chief priest of the Jews. It can also refer to Jesus Christ.
- **HOLY BIBLE:** the book that contains the Old Testament (which tells the story of the Jewish people) and the New Testament (which contains the story of Jesus and the spread of

## Jesus Christ is Your King

the church).

- **PHILIPPIANS:** a letter in the New Testament that the apostle Paul wrote to the church at Philippi, a city in northern Greece.

### ***JESUS CHRIST IS YOUR KING***

Early in the morning of the third day after Jesus was crucified, some of Jesus' followers came to the tomb where His body had been placed (Matthew 28:1), but they did not find His body. An angel told them that Jesus had arisen from the dead (Matthew 28:5-7).

### ***JESUS APPEARED TO MANY***

Over a period of forty days, Jesus made a number of appearances to His disciples. The reports of His appearances are not due to hallucination on the part of His disciples, for He truly died and truly arose from the dead.

Jesus appeared first to several women (Matthew 28:9 and Mark 16:9). Afterwards He appeared to two men on the road to Emmaus (Luke 24:13-35). He also appeared to Simon Peter (Luke 24:34). On the evening of the day of His resurrection, He appeared to ten of His disciples who were gathered in a room in Jerusalem (John 20:19). He showed them the wounds where nails had pierced His hands and feet at the crucifixion (Luke 24:40). They clearly recognized that it was Jesus.

A week later, Jesus again appeared to eleven of His disciples in a house in Jerusalem (John 20:26). Some time later, He appeared to His disciples, who had gone to Galilee (John 21:1). On another occasion, 500 brethren saw Him at one time (1 Corinthians 15:6). He also appeared to James and the apostles (1 Corinthians 15:7). Last of all, He was seen by Saul of Tarsus, who, after his conversion, became the apostle Paul (1 Corinthians 15:8).

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### ***JESUS ASCENDED TO HEAVEN***

Forty days after His resurrection from the dead, Jesus was taken up into heaven. A number of His followers witnessed His ascension into heaven (Luke 24:50-51). In heaven, He sat down at the right hand of God to become co-regent with God, His Father (Acts 2:33-36). Before He ascended to heaven, Jesus revealed that all power had been given to Him both in heaven and on earth (Matthew 28:18). That made Him King.

### ***JESUS REIGNING AS KING***

Jesus has been carrying out His royal duties ever since He ascended to heaven. People on earth do not always notice His work, however, because it must be seen with the eye of faith. Some people do not have faith and are, consequently, not submissive to their King (Hebrews 2:8). Yet He continues to reign in spite of their insubordination to Him. Some people are violently opposed to His reign, but still He reigns, as King David said, in the midst of His enemies (Psalm 110:2). He will continue to reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet (Psalm 110:1 and Acts 2:32-35). The last enemy that He will conquer will be death (1 Corinthians 15:26). Following that, He will return the kingdom to His Father (1 Corinthians 15:28).

### ***A SPIRITUAL KINGDOM***

Jesus' kingdom is a spiritual kingdom. No one can say, "It is here" or "It is there" (Luke 17:20-21), for Jesus reigns in the hearts and lives of men and women. His kingdom is not restricted to any one nation, race, or tribe (Isaiah 55:4-5).

Jesus' kingdom is not of this world. If His kingdom were of this world, His disciples would have fought to keep Him from having been captured and put to death (John 18:36). It is a blessing

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that His kingdom is not of this world, for this earth is going to pass away (2 Peter 3:10-11). His kingdom, however, will never pass away, for it is an eternal kingdom (Isaiah 9:6-7).

### ***JESUS CHRIST IS THE HEAD OF THE CHURCH***

Jesus is both the King in His kingdom and the Head of His church. See Ephesians 1:20-23 and Colossians 1:18. Christ's kingdom on earth is the same as Christ's church. See Matthew 16:18-19.

It is appropriate for Jesus to be the Head of the church since He founded it and is the owner of it. He said,

“I will build My church.”

Matthew 16:18

The church, then, belongs to Christ and He is actively guiding it. He has not abdicated His position as Head of the church, nor has He appointed anyone to be His substitute on earth.

There is no need for a human head over the church. The church is a spiritual institution and it has, appropriately, a spiritual head. Therefore, no man, or group of men, should presume to make laws for Christ's church. Since the church is governed from heaven, it has no headquarters on earth.

Even though Jesus Christ sits at the right hand of God in heaven, He is also present in spirit with His people. He promised that where two or three of them are gathered together in His name, He would be there with them (Matthew 18:20). He has also promised that when anyone goes out to preach the good news, He would go with them (Matthew 28:19-20).

## ***WHAT DOES CHRIST DO FOR THE CHURCH?***

Jesus is present not only as an observer, but also as a participant in the affairs of the church. As Head of the church, Jesus does many things (Ephesians 1:18-19). Here are some of the things He does:

1. Jesus establishes the hearts of His people and keeps His people from evil (1 Thessalonians 3:13).
2. Jesus directs the hearts of His people to the love of God (2 Thessalonians 3:5)
3. Jesus enables His people to wait patiently for His return (2 Thessalonians 3:5)
4. Jesus provides spiritual nourishment for His body, the church (Colossians 2:18-19). It is from the Head that the church receives its nourishment. The nourishment that it receives is the teaching that Christ gave when He was on earth (John 6:63).
5. Jesus helps the church to grow (Ephesians 4:16) more like Himself (Ephesians 4:15).
6. Jesus holds the church together (Colossians 2:18-19). As long as the members of the church hold to the Him, they are united, but when they stray from Him and hold to human leaders, they become disunited.

## ***JESUS IS ALSO HIGH PRIEST***

There are various aspects to Jesus' authority. He is not only King over the kingdom and Head of the church but He is also a High Priest (Hebrews 4:14). Since He lived on earth in human form, He is a High Priest, who is able to sympathize with His people (Hebrews 4:15). The temptations and sufferings, which he endured on earth enable Him to feel for His people's infirmities. As Priest, He intercedes with God on behalf of His people on earth (Hebrews 7:25). He is thus a mediator between God and man (1



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Timothy 2:5).

### ***JESUS IS STILL RECRUITING PEOPLE***

Jesus promised that if He were lifted up (on the cross), He would draw all people to Himself (John 12:32). Truly, ever since He was nailed to the cross for the sins of others, He has been drawing men and women to Himself. He is still attracting them today because everyone can find help and forgiveness in Him.

Jesus said, “I am the light of the world” (John 8:12). Even after having shone over the past 20 centuries, He still shines brightly today. He shines in music, He shines in poetry, He shines in art, and He shines in the good deeds that men and women do who live under His influence. Life, beauty, and joy have followed the spread of the knowledge of Jesus Christ in the entire world.

In addition, Jesus Christ causes people to live in peace with each other. He teaches them the value of honest work, and this results in their prosperity. He trains decent people to preside equitably over governments, and thus He brings justice and order to society.

Christ is still searching for men and women who will respond to His call. When He finds one, He lays hold on that person (Philippians 3:12), and God puts him or her into Christ’s kingdom (Colossians 1:13). Then Christ sends that person out to teach the good news of the kingdom to others (2 Timothy 2:2). Each of them tries to do as much good as he or she can (Galatians 6:9-10) and to be an “ambassador for Christ,” encouraging others to be reconciled to God (2 Corinthians 5:20).

### ***LET US NOT BE ASHAMED OF THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST***

Jesus said that if we will confess Him before men, He will

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confess us before His Father, who is in heaven (Matthew 10:32). When we confess our faith in Jesus Christ we honor Him, and when we honor Him we also honor His Father who sent Him (John 5:22-23). Jesus said that if we deny Him before men, He will deny us before His Father who is in heaven (Matthew 10:33).

If we confess that we believe that Jesus is God's Son, and if we obey what Jesus taught, God will live in us and we will live in God (1 John 4:15).

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### ***WORKSHEETS***

After you have read this lesson and have looked up all the references in the Bible, please read the following sentences. As you read, please pay attention to whether or not the statements are true. If you decide a statement is true, please write a “T” before it. If you decide a statement is false, please write an “F” before it.

- \_\_\_ 1. No one ever saw Jesus again after His death.
- \_\_\_ 2. Jesus was taken up into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God.
- \_\_\_ 3. Jesus said that all power was given to Him in heaven and on earth.
- \_\_\_ 4. Jesus no longer reigns over His kingdom, the church.
- \_\_\_ 5. Jesus told His disciples to go into all the world and teach all people.
- \_\_\_ 6. Jesus set the pope over the church to be its head on earth.
- \_\_\_ 7. Jesus is still involved in the affairs of the church.
- \_\_\_ 8. We do not have to do what Jesus said.
- \_\_\_ 9. Jesus does not want any new people in His kingdom.
- \_\_\_ 10. Jesus wants us to confess to others that we have faith in Him.

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Please, read the following passages in the New King James Bible and fill in the blanks.

Ephesians 1:22-23

“And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to \_\_\_\_ over all things to the \_\_\_\_, which is His \_\_\_\_, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.”

Colossians 2:18-19

“Let no one defraud you of your reward, taking delight in \_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_, intruding into those things which he has not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind, and not holding fast to the \_\_\_\_, from whom \_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_ by joints and ligaments, \_\_\_\_ with the increase which is from God.”

Hebrews 4:14-16

“Seeing then that we have a \_\_\_\_ who has passed through the heavens, \_\_\_\_ the Son of God, let us \_\_\_\_ our confession. For we do not have a High Priest \_\_\_\_ with our weaknesses, but was in all points \_\_\_\_ as we are, yet \_\_\_\_.”

1 Peter 4:11

“If anyone speaks, let him speak as the \_\_\_\_\_. If anyone ministers, let him do it as with the ability which \_\_\_\_\_, that in all things God may be \_\_\_\_\_ through \_\_\_\_\_, to

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whom belong the \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_ forever and ever.  
Amen.”

**THOUGHT QUESTIONS:** Please, think about the following questions and write a short paragraph about each.

1. Does it appear to you possible that Jesus can guide the church and control it from heaven? Please explain.
2. If a person sets out to obey Jesus, do you think it will make a big difference in his or her life? How will it affect him or her?

# 6

## IN BAPTISM IS YOUR NEW BIRTH

---

This lesson is designed to show that baptism must be preceded by faith in Jesus and by true repentance before it can be effective.

### ***EXPLANATION OF TERMS USED IN THIS LESSON***

- **BAPTISM:** being immersed in water by someone in the name of Jesus Christ, for the forgiveness of sins.
- **ETHIOPIA:** a nation in Africa, to the south and east of Egypt.
- **KINGDOM OF GOD:** the same as the reign of God. In the present age, it is the church.
- **NICODEMUS:** a leader of the Jews, who became a believer in Jesus.
- **PHILIP:** a brother from the church in Jerusalem, who went to Samaria to tell the people about Jesus Christ. He is also referred to as “Philip the evangelist.”
- **SAINT:** a holy person. In the New Testament the word “saint” refers to all true Christians.
- **THE SPIRIT:** the word “spirit” can have several different meanings:
  - It can refer to that part of a person which lives forever.
  - It can refer to the attitude that a person has.
  - It can refer to God (or Christ) when He is present on

## In Baptism is Your New Birth

earth.

### ***IN BAPTISM IS YOUR NEW BIRTH***

Have you ever thought that you would like to start life all over again? It is possible, you know. You can have a new birth in this present life. You do not have to wait until after you have died in order to be born again.

Immediately after you are baptized, as you come up out of the water, you can start rejoicing (Acts 8:39), for when you come up you will have been raised to a new life (Romans 6:4). Your new life will never end. Your body will die, of course, unless you live until Jesus returns, but your spirit (your inner person) will live forever (John 11:36).

### ***THE CHANGE THAT TAKES PLACE AT BAPTISM***

When a person goes down into the water for baptism (immersion), he is a sinner. When he comes out, he is a saint. He may not, at that point, be a perfect saint, yet he has been raised to walk in a new life (Romans 6:4). The change that has come over him is a spiritual rebirth. He has started life all over again. Jesus wants everyone to have the opportunity to start life over again. It is very important that everyone should start life anew, for Jesus said,

“Most assuredly, I say to you,  
unless one is born again,  
he cannot see the kingdom of God.”

John 3:3

Jesus spoke these words to a man named Nicodemus. This man was puzzled when he heard that he must be born again. He wondered how this is possible. He asked, “How can a man be born

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when he is old? Surely he cannot enter a second time into his mother's womb to be born!" To this Jesus replied,

"Most assuredly, I say to you,  
unless one is born of water and the Spirit,  
he cannot enter the kingdom of God."

John 3:5

Jesus was speaking here of baptism, which has spiritual implications but which takes place in water.

### ***WHERE DOES BAPTISM GET ITS POWER?***

Baptism does not get its power from special water of some kind. Baptism is equally effective whether it takes place in a river, a pond, a tank, or wherever. All that is needed is enough water so that a person can be submerged in it. It is not the water that cleanses a person. It is the blood of Jesus, which washes away sins (Ephesians 1:7; Colossians 1:14). The reason why a person should be immersed in water is so that he can come into contact with the death of Jesus (Romans 6:3), for it was in Jesus' death that Jesus shed His blood.

Great changes take place when a person is baptized. In baptism he dies to the sinful world around him (Colossians 3:3). It is as if he were crucified with Jesus (Romans 6:6). In baptism a person is buried with Jesus, and when that person comes up out of the water, he is raised with Jesus (Colossians 2:12). Thus, the death, the burial, and the resurrection of Jesus are all mirrored in baptism (Romans 6:3-4).

From this it can be seen that baptism as portrayed in the New Testament has a certain form to it:

1. There is a going down into water.
2. There is a burial in water.



## In Baptism is Your New Birth

### 3. There is a coming up out of the water.

The original form of baptism would not be reflected if a little water were only sprinkled or poured over someone.

The fact, however, that baptism has a form to it does not mean that it is merely form and ceremony. It is more than that. A person could possibly go through the ceremony of baptism without being spiritually regenerated. This is what happens when children are baptized before they know what they are doing.

## ***BAPTISM DOES NOT WORK WITHOUT FAITH***

Faith is a prerequisite for baptism. Jesus is the one who established the fact that faith should precede baptism. Jesus said,

“Whoever believes and is baptized  
will be saved,  
but whoever does not believe  
will be condemned.”

Marks 16:16

Did Jesus intend to place faith before baptism, or was it just a coincidence? It was not just a coincidence. Jesus knew exactly what He was doing. For faith gives baptism its effectiveness. Notice what the Apostle Paul wrote:

“Buried with Him in baptism,  
in which you also were raised with Him  
through faith in the working of God,  
who raised Him from the dead.”

Colossians 2:12

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### ***WHAT IS TRUE FAITH?***

True faith involves at least three things:

1. Trusting in God (Hebrews 11:6).
2. Holding the conviction that certain facts about Jesus are true (Hebrews 11:1).
3. Obeying God's word (Hebrews 11:8).

All three of these things are essential. It is not enough for a person just to trust in God. He must also hold the basic facts about Jesus to be true. Likewise, holding certain facts about Jesus to be true is not enough. A person must do what God said through Jesus.

### ***HOW DOES A PERSON GET FAITH LIKE THIS?***

The Bible says that faith comes by hearing the word of God (Romans 10:17). The reason why people need to hear the word of God is so they can believe in Jesus. Jesus sent His disciples into all the world because every person needs to hear the gospel. Jesus said,

“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations,  
baptizing them in the name of the Father  
and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,  
teaching them to observe all things  
that I have commanded you;  
and lo, I am with you always,  
even to the end of the age.”

Matthew 28:19-20

Notice the order here. First the apostles were to make disciples. That is, they were to start teaching people. Then, only after the apostles had taught people, were they to baptize them. Today it is also necessary to teach people before baptizing them. After

## In Baptism is Your New Birth

baptizing people, the apostles were instructed by Jesus to teach them further. So the order of procedure in the above verses is: (1) Teach all nations, (2) baptize those who have been taught, (3) then teach them some more.

Notice also from the above verses (Matthew 28:19-20) that the baptizing is to be done in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. It is also to be done for the forgiveness of sins (Acts 2:38).

### ***REPENTANCE ALSO PLAYS A VITAL ROLE***

The apostle Peter preached to the people on the day of Pentecost concerning Jesus, and he accused them of having put Jesus (their Messiah) to death. When the people realized what they had done, they cried out, “Men and brethren, what shall we do?” Peter responded,

“Repent, and let every one of you  
be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ  
for the remission of sins;  
and you shall receive  
the gift of the Holy Spirit.”

Acts 2:38

As Peter pointed out in this passage, no person is ready for baptism until he has repented of his sins. It would be a mistake for a person to get baptized if he had no intention of reforming his life. In view of the fact that both repentance and faith are prerequisites for baptism, no little children should be baptized. They are too young for any sins to be held against them. Also, they do not know enough to grasp the meaning of the death, the burial, and the resurrection of Jesus. So it is better to wait until they are old enough to understand and until they themselves request baptism.

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### ***WHAT BAPTISM ACCOMPLISHES***

Baptism is washing. It washes away sins (Acts 22:16), and as a result the conscience is cleansed (1 Peter 3:21). When a person comes up out of the water in which He is baptized, he is pure. In the eyes of God, he is just as pure as he was the day he was born.

A person dies to sins when he is baptized, and he becomes alive to righteousness (Romans 8:10). Therefore, he is no longer an enemy of God, for he now tries to please God (Romans 8:7-8). He is able to please God due to the Holy Spirit, which has taken up residence in him (Romans 8:9). He is no longer controlled by fleshly desires, but by the Spirit of God (Romans 8:5).

Baptism does not need to be repeated, unless, of course, the original baptism was flawed in some way. If someone, however, after reading the Scriptures, has no confidence in the way he was baptized and in what he understood at the time of his baptism, a second baptism would not be out of place (Acts 19:1-5).

### ***BAPTISM IS A COMMAND***

Baptism is not something, which the apostles originated. Jesus is the one who has commanded it (Matthew 28:19). By accepting baptism a person shows that he recognizes Jesus' authority and that he submits to Jesus' leadership. Baptism is a public declaration of submission to Jesus. Indeed, "submission" is a key word relative to baptism, for when a person accepts baptism, he acknowledges that he cannot save himself. He acknowledges that he needs help. Baptism is one thing, which a person cannot do for himself. He must have someone to baptize him.

## In Baptism is Your New Birth

### ***WORKSHEETS***

After you have read this lesson and have looked up all the references in the Bible, please read the following sentences. As you read, please pay attention to whether or not the statements are true. If you decide a statement is true, please write a “T” before it. If you decide a statement is false, please write an “F” before it.

\_\_\_ 1. It is necessary to be born again before anyone can see the kingdom of God.

\_\_\_ 2. Your new life in Christ begins at baptism.

\_\_\_ 3. When a person comes up out of the water after baptism his sins are forgiven.

\_\_\_ 4. Baptism needs to be repeated every now and then.

\_\_\_ 5. It is important for you to be baptized in some special, sacred water.

\_\_\_ 6. Baptism is a merely a ceremony.

\_\_\_ 7. Repentance involves more than just being sorry for the sins one has committed.

\_\_\_ 8. If you have faith, you do not need to be baptized.

\_\_\_ 9. Faith comes from hearing the word of God.

\_\_\_ 10. Jesus does not care whether you are baptized or not.

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Please, read the following passages in the New King James Bible and fill in the blanks.

John 3:5

“Jesus answered, ‘Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, he cannot \_\_\_\_\_ the kingdom of God.’”

Romans 6:4

“Therefore we were \_\_\_\_\_ with Him through baptism \_\_\_\_\_, that just as Christ was \_\_\_\_\_ from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in \_\_\_\_\_ of life.”

Titus 3:5

“Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His \_\_\_\_\_ He saved us, through the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ of the Holy Spirit.”

**THOUGHT QUESTIONS:** Please, think about the following questions and write a short paragraph about each.

1. Is baptism more than just a ceremonial washing? Please explain.

## In Baptism is Your New Birth

2. When a person submits to baptism, does that mean that he is trying to work his way to heaven? Please explain.

# 7

## THE HOLY SPIRIT IS YOUR CONSTANT COMPANION

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This lesson is designed (1) to point out that the Holy Spirit is very important in the lives of Christ's people and (2) to show what people can do to receive the Holy Spirit.

### *EXPLANATION OF TERMS USED IN THIS LESSON*

- ABBA: an Aramaic word, meaning “father.”
- DAY OF PENTECOST: a Jewish festival, which is celebrated fifty days after the Passover feast.
- EARNEST: a down payment that indicates that the rest will be paid later.
- GENTILES: all the nations that are not Jewish.
- GOSPEL: the good news about Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection. (The gospel message also included instructions about how to obey the gospel.)
- HEAVEN: the dwelling place of God. The word “heaven” can also refer to the sky.
- HELPER: refers to the Holy Spirit, who helps people by comforting and encouraging them. He also aids their prayers. The “Helper” revealed truth to the apostles and prophets.
- INHERITANCE: the multifaceted gift, which God gives to His children. It includes living with God in heaven after this life is



## The Holy Spirit is Your Constant Companion

over.

- **LAYING ON OF HANDS:** a symbolic action of putting one's hands on someone in a ceremonial way to give that person some gift or office.
- **TONGUES:** languages.
- **SPEAKING IN TONGUES:** speaking in languages that one has not learned.

### ***THE HOLY SPIRIT IS YOUR CONSTANT COMPANION***

Before Jesus was crucified, He promised to send a “Helper” to His apostles after He was gone (John 14:16). When Jesus said this, He was referring to the Holy Spirit.

Jesus kept His promise. He poured out the Holy Spirit on His apostles on the day of Pentecost in Jerusalem (Acts 2:1-4). Later, once the Holy Spirit had been poured out, the Holy Spirit became available for everyone who obeyed the gospel (Acts 2:38-39).

### ***TO WHOM DOES GOD GIVE THE HOLY SPIRIT?***

The apostle Peter said that God gives His Holy Spirit to those who obey God (Acts 5:32). If this statement is true, one should not expect to receive the Holy Spirit until he has begun to obey God. There is some confusion among believers on this point. Many think that God sends His Holy Spirit into the hearts of people in order to make them His children. The New Testament teaches, however, that God sends His Holy Spirit into the hearts of people that are already children of God. The apostle Paul wrote,

“And because you are sons,  
God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son

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into your hearts, crying out, “Abba, Father!”

Galatians 4:6

This shows that the Holy Spirit comes to a person in order to confirm that person’s sonship, not to establish it.

### ***HOW DOES A PERSON GET THE HOLY SPIRIT?***

On the day of Pentecost, the apostle Peter showed that the reception of the Holy Spirit is dependent upon, and connected with, a person’s being baptized (immersed in water) in the name of Jesus for the forgiveness of sins. Peter said,

“Repent, and let every one of you  
be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ  
for the remission of sins;  
and you shall receive  
the gift of the Holy Spirit.  
For the promise is to you and to your children,  
and to all who are afar off,  
as many as the Lord our God will call.”

Acts 2:38-39

The expression “gift of the Holy Spirit” means that the Holy Spirit Himself will be given as a gift. God promised in the Old Testament that the Holy Spirit would come upon people. See Joel 2:28-32.

The Holy Spirit comes to a person from outside of himself. The Holy Spirit is not present in a person from the time of his birth. This means that no amount of meditation will enable anyone to discover the Holy Spirit within himself, because the Holy Spirit is not in him until the Holy Spirit has been given to him. So, if the Holy Spirit is living in anyone, it is because the Holy Spirit has

## The Holy Spirit is Your Constant Companion

been given to that person.

### ***THE HOLY SPIRIT HELPS IN PRAYER***

We need the help of the Holy Spirit in prayer because no one understands fully how to pray as he ought (Romans 8:26). The Holy Spirit does not tell people, in so many words, what they ought to say in prayer. Yet, the Holy Spirit does help in prayer. He puts the prayers that we pray into expressions that are fit to be uttered before the holy and majestic throne of God (Romans 8:26).

### ***WHAT ABOUT SPEAKING IN TONGUES?***

No doubt some of the early Christians could speak in tongues, that is, in foreign languages, which they had not previously learned. There are two instances recorded in the New Testament of where the Holy Spirit fell from heaven on people and they began to speak in tongues. The first of these is found in Acts 2:1-13, where the Holy Spirit fell on the apostles in order to equip them for their world-wide mission. The second is found in Acts 10:44-46, where the Holy Spirit fell on a group of Gentiles, who were gathered at Cornelius house at Caesarea. The Holy Spirit fell on them in order to convince Jewish Christians that Gentiles should be baptized.

Others who received miraculous, spiritual gifts received them indirectly, that is, through the laying on of the hands of an apostle (Acts 8:14-19). Not all Christians in the first century, however, received the ability to do miraculous deeds (1 Corinthians 12:29-30). They did not receive such gifts, either because they did not happened to come into contact with an apostle, or because the apostle with whom they came into contact did not choose to lay his hands on them. Therefore, one must conclude that the gift of speaking in tongues (foreign languages) was not essential for salvation, otherwise the apostles would have gone to extreme lengths to see that everyone received this gift.

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The gift of tongues, as well as the other miraculous, spiritual gifts, such as prophesying, healing and so forth, represented a passing phenomenon. That is, they were peculiar to the early church. They were given to confirm the truthfulness of the gospel that the apostles and others were introducing to the world. See Hebrews 2:3-4. Miraculous gifts were never intended for all time.

The apostle Paul implied that these miraculous gifts were “childish” (1 Corinthians 13:11), indicting that they belonged to the infancy of the church. Paul also said that they would “fail,” “cease,” and “vanish away” (1 Corinthians 13:8). No other part of the Christian system ever was depreciated in such fashion, as were miraculous, spiritual gifts. Paul said that love is a “more excellent way” (1 Corinthians 12:31) and that it, in contrast to miraculous gifts, would “never fail” (2 Corinthians 13:8).

It is a matter of history that, after all the apostles had died, and after all of those upon whom the apostles had laid their hands had died, miraculous, spiritual gifts stopped. In our day, however, certain individuals, seeking to experience excitement and desiring to attract attention to themselves, have attempted to revive miraculous gifts. They attempt it often for their own financial gain, but this attempt is artificial and deceptive.

### ***IS THE HOLY SPIRIT PRESENT TODAY?***

Yes, very much so! The Holy Spirit lives in the hearts and lives of all of Christ’s people on earth (Romans 8:9). Christ’s people are temples of the Holy Spirit, who lives in them (1 Corinthians 3:16 and 6:19).

There is a difference, however, between the human temple, in which the Holy Spirit lives and the Holy Spirit Himself. Although both are holy and have much in common, they are not the same. One is human and the other is divine. It is possible, of course, to be like God in many ways (2 Peter 1:4), but that does not mean that a person may become God.

## ***WHAT DOES THE HOLY SPIRIT DO FOR CHRIST'S PEOPLE?***

The main thing the Holy Spirit does in the lives of Christ's people is to have a sanctifying effect upon them (Romans 15:16). The Holy Spirit beautifies their lives by enabling them to bear fruit. Here is a list (Galatians 5:22-23) of some of the wonderful fruit that the Holy Spirit helps people to bear: love, joy, peace, long-suffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. The very nature of this list shows what the interest of the Holy Spirit is. He is interested in helping people act like God's children. If they do not act like God's children, they do not belong to God (1 John 3:10). That is why everyone must be careful not to defile himself with sin (1 Corinthians 3:17).

## ***HOW CAN YOU TELL IF THE HOLY SPIRIT IS IN YOU?***

You may not be aware of the presence of the Holy Spirit within you. You cannot hear, see, feel, smell, or taste Him with your bodily senses. In fact, there may be no physical evidence of His presence except in the fruit that He enables you to bear. Nevertheless, by faith you can know that the Holy Spirit is there.

To be more specific, you can be confident that the Holy Spirit is living in you if your sins have been washed away in baptism (Acts 22:16) and if you are allowing yourself to be led by Him (Romans 8:14). You can be confident of the Holy Spirit's presence within you if you believe what the Bible says and follow it (Romans 8:16).

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### ***THE HOLY SPIRIT IS A DOWN PAYMENT ON YOUR INHERITANCE***

The fact that God is willing to give you His Holy Spirit shows that He loves you and that He has great things in store for you. The Bible calls the Holy Spirit the “earnest” (or guarantee) of your inheritance in heaven (Ephesians 1:14). The Holy Spirit is a down payment on good things to come. Question: If God has given you His Holy Spirit, will He not also give you all the things that He has promised?

## The Holy Spirit is Your Constant Companion

### ***THOUGHT QUESTIONS***

After you have read this lesson and have looked up all the references in the Bible, please read the following sentences. As you read, please pay attention to whether or not the statements are true. If you decide a statement is true, please write a “T” before it. If you decide a statement is false, please write an “F” before it.

- \_\_\_ 1. The Holy Spirit lives in the lives of God’s people.
- \_\_\_ 2. You don’t have to do anything in order to receive the Holy Spirit.
- \_\_\_ 3. God sends His Holy Spirit into a person’s heart in order to make that person a child of God.
- \_\_\_ 4. Reception of the Holy Spirit is not connected to baptism in any way.
- \_\_\_ 5. When God’s children pray, the Holy Spirit makes intercession for them.
- \_\_\_ 6. Speaking in tongues is “childish.”
- \_\_\_ 7. The Holy Spirit and the temple in which He lives (your body) are one and the same.
- \_\_\_ 8. One of the main functions of the Holy Spirit is to bear fruit in the lives of Christians.
- \_\_\_ 9. There is no way for you to know whether or not the Holy Spirit is living in you.
- \_\_\_ 10. Receiving the Holy Spirit is a down payment on good

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things yet to come.

Please, read the following passages in the New King James Bible and fill in the blanks.

Acts 2:38

“Then Peter said to them, ‘Repent, and let every one of you \_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ in the name of Jesus Christ for the \_\_\_\_\_ of sins;  
and you shall receive the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_.’”

Acts 5:32

“And we are His witnesses to these things, and so also is the \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ whom God has given to those who \_\_\_\_\_ Him.”

Galatians 4:6

“And \_\_\_\_\_ you are \_\_\_\_\_, God has sent forth the \_\_\_\_\_ of His  
Son into your hearts, crying out, ‘Abba, \_\_\_\_\_!’”

**THOUGHT QUESTIONS:** Please, think about the following questions and write a short paragraph about each.

1. List some of Paul’s qualifications that made him suited to take the gospel to the Gentiles.



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2. Were the Romans justified in their fear that the preaching about the kingdom of Jesus would put their rule in jeopardy?
3. Give a defense of Paul's positioning of the kingdom so prominently in his preaching.
4. How did the ascension and enthronement of Jesus insure the eventual downfall of God's enemies (Psalm 2:4-6).
5. What is your assessment of how the battle against Jesus' enemies is faring today?
6. How would the world be changed if all people were to believe that Jesus is King?

# 8

## **HOLINESS IS YOUR BEAUTY**

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This lesson is designed to point out that a follower of Jesus should live a holy life. The lesson is also an attempt to describe what holiness is like and to show how beautiful a holy life can be.

### ***EXPLANATION OF TERMS USED IN THIS LESSON***

- FOLLOWER OF JESUS: someone who loves Jesus and who tries to follow His example.
- HOLINESS: the way God is.
- JAMES: a letter in the New Testament that was written by a disciple named James.
- PHARISEES: a religious sect of the Jews.
- SCRIBES: people who studied the Old Testament in the Hebrew language and who wrote copies of the Old Testament by hand.
- SYNAGOGUES: houses in which the Jews read the ancient Hebrew scriptures and prayed.

### ***HOLINESS IS YOUR BEAUTY***

What is a holy person like? He is like Jesus, who was the most holy person that ever lived.

## ***THE HOLINESS OF JESUS***

Jesus' holiness was genuine, not artificial. He wore no special clothing to indicate that He was a holy person. He knew that special clothing does not make a person holy, for He knew that holiness is a matter of the heart. For that reason, Jesus wanted people to be clean on the inside so that everything they said and did would be holy. Jesus had harsh words for the scribes and Pharisees of His day. He said,

“Blind guides, who strain out a gnat  
and swallow a camel!  
Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites!  
For you cleanse the outside of the cup and dish,  
but inside they are full of extortion and  
self-indulgence.  
Blind Pharisee, first cleanse the inside of the cup and  
dish, that the outside of them may be clean also.”

Matthew 23:24-26

Jesus observed people standing on the street corners and praying in public. They appeared to be holy, but Jesus knew that they were praying only so that people would see them and admire them. Perhaps, you have observed people who say prayers in public so that people will think they are holy. Such outward display of piety is not what Jesus desires. Concerning this Jesus said,

“And when you pray,  
you shall not be like the hypocrites.  
For they love to pray standing in the synagogues  
and on the corners of the streets,  
that they may be seen by men.  
Assuredly, I say to you,  
they have their reward.”

Matthew 6:5

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Jesus' holiness was as natural to Him as was His breathing. His holiness did not seem to be a burden to Him. He was not sad, except in those last few hours when He was facing death. He did not disfigure His face or mutilate His body.

Jesus was not a recluse. He did not go away to be by Himself, other than for a few hours at a time. He associated with people, so He could help them and teach them.

### ***WHAT HAPPENS TO A PERSON THAT COMES UNDER JESUS' INFLUENCE?***

Let us look at some of the changes that take place in the life of a person that comes under the influence of Jesus.

#### ***HE DOES NOT WORRY***

God does not want anyone to be worried about what he is going to eat or drink, or about what he is going to wear (Matthew 6:25). Instead of worrying, God wants everyone to pray to Him and to ask for things he needs (Matthew 7:7-8). When a person does this, he shows that he trusts God.

If a person trusts God, he will not feel compelled to lay up a treasure on earth (Matthew 6:26-32). He knows that, come what may, His Father will provide.

#### ***HE SPEAKS DIFFERENTLY***

One of the first things people notice about a person that comes under the influence of Jesus is a change in the way that person speaks. He speaks differently, because his heart has been changed (Matthew 12:34). He does not get angry as easily as he did before. He does not use abusive words like he previously did. No longer does he make harsh judgments against people (Matthew 5:22). His

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speech has become more palatable (Colossians 4:6). He speaks words which build people up rather than words that tear people down (Ephesians 4:29). This change is so dramatic that his friends and family notice it right away.

### ***HE HIGHLY ESTEEMS MARRIAGE***

A true Christian holds marriage to be holy (Hebrews 13:4). When he gets married, it is for life (Matthew 19:6). He knows that God hates divorce (Malachi 2:16). A follower of Christ will choose a marriage partner who is also a believer (1 Corinthians 7:39), because he knows that this will increase the likelihood that his marriage will work well. He also knows that he will be more successful at living the Christian life if his partner is a believer, than if his partner is not (2 Corinthians 6:14).

### ***HE PRACTICES SEXUAL PURITY***

A person that falls under the influence of Jesus will practice sexual purity. The sexual sins that he may have committed before becoming a Christian will stop (Ephesians 5:3). He will try to keep his body holy, because his body is a temple of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 6:19). God wants His people to be holy (1 Thessalonians 4:3-4), because He is holy (1 Peter 1:15-16).

Therefore, a Christians should not live like other people live, who do not know God (1 Thessalonians 4:5); for unless sexual sins are forgiven a person, God will avenge them (1 Thessalonians 4:6).

### ***HE VALUES WORK***

Jesus had the kind of physical health that comes from hard work. Work is both necessary and honorable (1 Thessalonians 4:9-12) and God wants His people to work. Jesus may have been a

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carpenter (Mark 6:3). Trusting in God does not excuse a person from working (2 Thessalonians 3:6-10). Work does not lower a person in God's eyes, laziness does. A holy life is not a life of inactivity. Honest labor is compatible with holiness.

God wants His people to work so that they will not become a burden to other people (Galatians 6:5) and so they will have something to give to needy people (Ephesians 4:28). God expects His people, not only to keep themselves unspotted from the world, but also to look after orphans and widows (James 1:27). How beautiful it is when someone gives to others secretly (Matthew 6:2-4)!

### ***HE DOES ALL THE GOOD HE CAN***

A Christian tries to do good to everyone with whom he comes in contact (Galatians 6:10). He treats others as he would like to be treated himself (Luke 6:31). He even does good things to those that hate him (Luke 6:27 and Romans 12:20).

### ***HE DOES NOT AVENGE HIMSELF***

A Christian agrees with his adversaries quickly (Matthew 5:25). He does not resist people that do bad things to him (Matthew 5:39). He leaves it to God to punish people that do wrong (Romans 12:19). He forgives offenses that are done against him personally (Luke 17:3-4), and he seeks peace (Matthew 5:9).

### ***HE IS HONEST IN BUSINESS***

A true Christian deals honestly with all men (Romans 12:17). He is reliable in business. He does not take advantage of others (Philippians 2:4). He does not cheat, steal (Ephesians 4:28), or take

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bribes. He pays his taxes (Romans 13:6-7) and obeys the laws of the land in which he lives (1 Peter 2:13-14).

### ***HE BECOMES A BETTER MEMBER OF SOCIETY***

Being holy does not take a person out of society. Rather, it makes him a more valuable member of society. A holy person is like salt: His presence adds flavor to society (Matthew 5:13).

### ***HE BECOMES A MORE LOVING PERSON***

One of the most endearing attributes of a Christian is his ability to love. His love is one of the fruits which the Holy Spirit bears in his heart (Galatians 5:22).

A Christian loves his family. He also loves his friends. He even loves his enemies (Matthew 5:44), and he will never stop loving (1 Corinthians 13:8).

The love that a Christian has in his heart helps him to behave properly (1 Corinthians 13:5). He does not seek his own advantage, he is not easily provoked, nor does he think evil of others (1 Corinthians 13:5). He does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth (1 Corinthians 13:6). He conducts himself in this way, because God is a loving God (1 John 4:8). If God did not love, His holiness might seem harsh and unapproachable. As it is, His love is attractive and warming. He loves His people and wants them to love others.

### ***PEOPLE ARE WATCHING***

People are always watching a Christian to see if he is living up to what he professes. People know that Jesus' moral standards are very high. They are also not sure that anyone can live up to them.

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If, however, a Christian shows that it is possible, with God's help, to do what Jesus taught, he makes Jesus' teaching more attractive. Thus, he adorns the doctrine (Titus 2:10).

A follower of Jesus is the light of the world (Matthew 5:16). If he walks as a child of the light (Ephesians 5:8), he will find favor, not only in the eyes of God but also in the eyes of people (Acts 2:47).



## Holiness is Your Beauty

### ***WORKSHEETS***

After you have read this lesson and have looked up all the references in the Bible, please read the following sentences. As you read, please pay attention to whether or not the statements are true. If you decide a statement is true, please write a “T” before it. If you decide a statement is false, please write an “F” before it.

\_\_\_ 1. People could tell that Jesus was a holy person by the clothes He wore.

\_\_\_ 2. Jesus spent most of His time on a mountain by Himself.

\_\_\_ 3. God will avenge sexual sins, if people do not repent of them and leave them.

\_\_\_ 4. God hates divorce.

\_\_\_ 5. God wants you to worry about what you are going to eat, drink, and wear.

\_\_\_ 6. The more holy a person is, the less work he does.

\_\_\_ 7. A Christian should obey the laws of the land in which he lives.

\_\_\_ 8. Jesus taught us to treat others, as we ourselves would prefer to be treated.

\_\_\_ 9. It is permissible to hate our enemies, as long as we love our friends.

\_\_\_ 10. When we live up to Jesus’ teaching about morals, we make His teaching more attractive to others.

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Please, read the following passages in the New King James Bible and fill in the blanks.

Matthew 6:25

“Therefore I say to you, do not \_\_\_\_\_ about your life, what you will \_\_\_\_\_ or what you will \_\_\_\_\_; nor about your body, what you will \_\_\_\_\_ . Is not life more than \_\_\_\_\_ and the body more than \_\_\_\_\_?”

Luke 6:27-29

“But I say to you who hear: Love your \_\_\_\_\_, do good to those who \_\_\_\_\_ you, \_\_\_\_\_ those who curse you, and \_\_\_\_\_ for those who spitefully use you. To him who strikes you on the one cheek, \_\_\_\_\_ the other also. And from him who takes away your cloak, do not \_\_\_\_\_ your \_\_\_\_\_ either.”

Ephesians 4:29

“Let no \_\_\_\_\_ proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary \_\_\_\_\_, that it may impart \_\_\_\_\_ to the \_\_\_\_\_.”

James 1:27

“Pure and undefiled \_\_\_\_\_ before God and the Father is this: to visit \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ in their trouble, and to keep oneself \_\_\_\_\_ from the world.”

## Holiness is Your Beauty

THOUGHT QUESTIONS: Please, think about the following questions and write a short paragraph about each.

1. Why do you think God wants people to live holy lives?
2. What seems to you to be the most beautiful aspect of the Christian life?
3. Would you like to live a holy life? Why?

# 9

## THE CHURCH IS YOUR FAMILY

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This lesson is designed to show the beauty of the church and to emphasize the church's importance.

### *EXPLANATION OF TERMS USED IN THIS LESSON*

- **FOLLOWER OF JESUS:** someone who loves Jesus and who tries to follow His example.
- **CLERGY:** a non-biblical term that refers to the people who have been ordained by their denomination to take the lead.
- **DENOMINATIONS:** various Christian sects, each of which has its own creed, organization, and tradition.
- **ELDERS:** the older men who have been selected to lead to and watch over a congregation of Christians.
- **FIRST DAY OF THE WEEK:** Sunday.
- **FRUIT OF THE VINE:** grape juice or wine.
- **HYMNS:** songs in praise of God.
- **JERUSALEM:** the capitol city of Judea.
- **JUDEA:** some of the territory between the Arabian desert and the Mediterranean Sea.
- **LAITY:** a non-biblical term that refers to those members of a denomination, who have not been ordained to take the lead.
- **LORD'S SUPPER:** the memorial meal that should be eaten

## The Church is Your Family

every Sunday in memory of Jesus.

- PSALMS: songs, mostly from the Old Testament.
- PRIESTS: an Old Testament term for those men who took care of the worship of God in the temple in Jerusalem.
- SAMARIA: the land north of Judea.
- SPIRITUAL SONGS: songs that are sung to edify (build up) the members of the church and to glorify God.

### ***THE CHURCH IS YOUR FAMILY***

The attractiveness of the church can be seen from the remarkable way it has grown. On the very first day of its existence, three thousand people were baptized into it (Acts 2:41). In a very short time, the number of men in the church in Jerusalem grew to five thousand (Acts 4:4).

After persecution broke over the church in Jerusalem the believers were scattered (Acts 8:1). Everywhere they went, they preached the word about Jesus (Acts 8:4). Very soon churches sprang up in Judea and Samaria. The church continued to grow so that today there are churches all over the globe.

### ***THE CHURCH IS STILL GROWING***

The church is still growing numerically and its members are all the time maturing. The church is made up, however, of imperfect people, who are at various stages of their spiritual development. Some of its members are just getting started, and they have a long way to go. Others are well on their way toward spiritual maturity.

God is the one who planned the church and His wisdom is reflected in it (Ephesians 3:10). The church also reflects God's glory (Ephesians 3:21). In spite of the fact that the church may look flawed, when viewed from the outside; from God's point of view, it is beautiful and glorious.

## ***THE CHURCH WAS BUILT BY JESUS***

From the beginning, God's plan has been to call out a people for Himself from the various nations of the world (Acts 15:14). He sent His Son into the world to be a sacrifice for the sins of mankind. He caused the gospel (good news that Jesus is the King) to be preached to all the world. By the gospel, God saves people from sin and damnation. Those whom He saves, He adds to the church (Acts 2:47). Therefore, the church is composed of those who have been saved. That does not mean, however, that it is the church, which saves them. The church is merely the receptacle into which God puts those whom He saves. The way to get into Christ's church is to be saved. There is no other way to get into His church.

## ***THE CHURCH BELONGS TO CHRIST***

Jesus knew that the church would come about as a result of His sacrificial death. He prophesied, "I will build my church" (Matthew 16:18).

Jesus' prophecy about the church shows two things. It shows that the church did not come about accidentally and that Jesus intended to build it. It also shows that the church, which He envisioned would belong to Him, and not to someone else. Since Jesus is both founder and owner of the church, He has the right to say what the church should be like and what it should do.

Some religious organizations have gone their own way, making their own laws and originating their own traditions. The origin of many of the denominations is connected to the history of the nations of Western Europe.

Religious people do not have to go along with denominational laws and traditions. It is possible to be a Christian without belonging to any of the denominations.

Indeed, it would be better if Christ's people were not divided into various parties, sects, and denominations (1 Corinthians 1:10-

## The Church is Your Family

13). Jesus prayed that His disciples would be one (John 17:20-21).

### ***EVERYONE IS WELCOME IN THE CHURCH***

God wants everyone to be in His church. Everyone is loved by Him and He wants everyone to be saved (1 Timothy 2:4 and 2 Peter 3:9). Therefore, the church is also not restricted to one nation, race, gender, or color of skin. The Bible says,

“There is neither Jew nor Greek,  
there is neither slave nor free,  
there is neither male nor female;  
for you are all one in Christ Jesus.”

Galatians 3:28

### ***THERE IS NO CASTE SYSTEM IN THE CHURCH***

Jesus welcomes people into His church from every cast and level of society. Membership in the church is not restricted to upper class people. People at the bottom of society are just as welcome as are high-class people. Outcasts are also welcome.

### ***THERE IS EQUALITY IN THE CHURCH***

Jesus did not plan for a distinction between clergy and laity in His church. According to the Bible every person is a priest (1 Peter 2:5). Even the women are “priests” and have equal value with the men in the church. In the eyes of God, every person in the church is a “son” of His (Galatians 3:26).

Although women are equal with men in the sight of God, they have their own special role to play in the church. For example: Elderly women should teach younger women how they should live

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(Titus 2:3-5).

The older men should serve as “elders,” or “bishops,” of the flock, provided they are married and have faithful children (Titus 1:5-6). In the New Testament, “elders” are the same as “bishops” (Titus 5,7). The men of the congregation are to take the lead in public teaching and worship (1Timothy 2:8-15).

If anyone desires to have a prominent position in the church, he must become the servant of all (Matthew 20:25-28). He must become like Jesus, who took a wash basin, filled it with water, and washed His disciples’ feet (John 13:3-5,14-16).

Every member of the church is the same before God, but that does not lessen anyone’s unique value. No one loses status by becoming a Christian, no matter how high his earthly status may have been, before becoming a Christian. To the contrary, everyone is made nobler by accepting the gospel of Christ. This is because everyone that becomes a Christian becomes at the same time a child of the king and an heir of heaven (Romans 8:16-17).

Equality in the church means that each member of the church should be treated with equal respect, whether he wears expensive clothing or not (James 2:2-5).

### ***THE CHURCH IS A CARING COMMUNITY***

God wants all of His people to be involved in serving (Galatians 5:13). He provides in the church an opportunity for each person to give useful service to others. The apostle Paul said that Christians fulfill the law of Christ by bearing each other’s burdens (Galatians 6:2). When they love each other and serve each other, they live according to the “royal law” (James 2:8). The “royal law” is the law by which kings should live.

The members of the church are taught to care for the sick (James 5:14). They are taught to train their children properly (Ephesians 6:4).

Children have a unique significance in the eyes of Jesus



## **The Church is Your Family**

(Matthew 19:14). Indeed, all weak and lowly members of the church, whether young or old, are to be shown special respect and given special attention (1 Corinthians 12:22-23).

The love that members of the church have for each other gives mutual encouragement and comfort. If any member is overtaken by some temptation and falls into sin, those in the church that are spiritual in mind should restore the one that falls (Galatians 6:1).

## ***THE CHURCH IS A WORSHIPPING FELLOWSHIP***

Every local congregation of Christian people is supposed to come together on the first day of each week (Acts 20:7). The first day of the week is important because that is the day on which Jesus arose from the dead (Matthew 28:1,6-7). At their weekly meeting, Christians offer prayers to God in the name of Jesus. Psalms, hymns and spiritual songs are sung (Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16). Usually, there is a reading of some text from the Bible and an explanation is given. The brethren also exhort one another. In addition, the Lord's supper is served (1 Corinthians 17:34).

## ***THE LORD'S SUPPER***

The Lord's Supper is a simple meal, consisting of bread and "fruit of the vine" (Matthew 26:26-29). The bread that is served represents the body of Christ (1 Corinthians 11:24); and the "fruit of the vine" represents His blood (1 Corinthians 11:25). Ever since Jesus arose from the grave, no first day of the week has passed without Jesus' disciples gathering somewhere to remember Jesus by eating this memorial meal.

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### ***THERE CAN BE GREAT JOY IN THE FAMILY***

One of the outstanding characteristics of the church is the joy that can be found in it. The very first congregation was described in the following fashion:

“So continuing daily with one accord  
in the temple, and breaking bread  
from house to house,  
they ate their food with gladness  
and simplicity of heart.”

Acts 2:46

The joy experienced by the members of the Jerusalem church helped make that church attractive to others. The Bible says that they had “favor with all the people” (Acts 2:47). This same thing will likely be said about any church that closely follows Jesus’ teaching.

### ***THE GLORIOUS FUTURE OF THE CHURCH***

The church also has a glorious future. It is portrayed in the Bible as “the bride of Christ” (Ephesians 5:25-27). She is the one whom Christ saved by His death (Ephesians 5:23). She is the one whom Christ will take home with Him when He returns (1 Thessalonians 4:15-17). Then, the church will be with Christ forever in heaven (1 Thessalonians 4:17). If anyone hopes to be in the church at that time, he or she must be in it now.

## The Church is Your Family

### ***WORKSHEETS***

After you have read this lesson and have looked up all the references in the Bible, please read the following sentences. As you read, please pay attention to whether or not the statements are true. If you decide a statement is true, please write a “T” before it. If you decide a statement is false, please write an “F” before it.

- \_\_\_ 1. Jesus never intended to build the church.
- \_\_\_ 2. God planned the church, and the church shows His glory.
- \_\_\_ 3. The way to get into the church is by being saved.
- \_\_\_ 4. Only men can be “priests” in the church.
- \_\_\_ 5. Elders (bishops) should be married.
- \_\_\_ 6. Rich people are more important than poor people.
- \_\_\_ 7. The members of the church, who are spiritual should try to restore those that have fallen away.
- \_\_\_ 8. The church meets on the first day of the week, because this is the day on which Jesus was resurrected from the dead.
- \_\_\_ 9. The church family can be the source of great joy.
- \_\_\_ 10. The church is the “bride of Christ.”

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Please, read the following passages in the New King James Bible and fill in the blanks.

### 1 Corinthians 11:23-25

“For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took \_\_\_\_\_; and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, ‘Take, eat; this is \_\_\_\_\_ which is broken for you; do this in \_\_\_\_\_ of Me.’ In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, ‘This cup is \_\_\_\_\_ in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in \_\_\_\_\_ of Me.’”

### Galatians 5:13

“For you, brethren, have been called to \_\_\_\_\_; only do not use liberty as an \_\_\_\_\_ for the flesh, but through \_\_\_\_\_ one another.

### Ephesians 5:25-27

“Husbands, \_\_\_\_\_ your wives, just as Christ also loved the \_\_\_\_\_ and gave \_\_\_\_\_ for her, that He might \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ her with the washing of \_\_\_\_\_ by the word, that He might present her to Himself a \_\_\_\_\_ church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be \_\_\_\_\_ and without blemish.”

## The Church is Your Family

THOUGHT QUESTIONS: Please, think about the following questions and write a short paragraph about each.

1. Does a person become a low-cast person by becoming a Christian? Please explain.
2. Describe how the church is the bride of Christ.
3. How often should a person meet with the church and partake of the Lord's Supper? Why?

# 10

## **PRAYER IS YOUR CONNECTION TO THE POWER OF GOD**

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This lesson shows what a great privilege it is to be able to bring requests before the Father. The lesson also tells how to pray in a way that will be pleasing to Him.

### ***EXPLANATION OF TERMS USED IN THIS LESSON***

- **ADAM: JEHOVAH:** the name for God, which God gave to Moses. It means “I am.” The Jews worshipped the God who is, that is to say, the God that exists.
- **ABIDE IN:** to live in.
- **DEBTORS:** the people who are obligated to make something right with a person, to whom they owe something, or against whom they have done something wrong.
- **DEBTS:** the wrongs that a person is obligated to make right.
- **EVIL ONE:** the devil, Satan.
- **GLORIFY:** to give royal honor to someone.
- **MEDIATOR:** someone that speaks on behalf of another. (Jesus is our mediator with God.)
- **THRONE OF GRACE:** the throne of God.

Prayer is Your Connection to the Power of God

## ***PRAYER IS YOUR CONNECTION TO THE POWER OF GOD***

It has been often said that there is power in prayer. This is true; but the power is not in prayer itself. The power is in God, who answers prayers. He is the one that is powerful. In prayer, we appeal to Him to use His power to help us.

## ***JESUS MAKES YOUR ACCESS TO GOD POSSIBLE***

If Jesus Christ had not come, we Gentiles (non-Jewish people) might not know about Jehovah God. We might be still praying to sticks and stones. Not only did Jesus teach us about God, but He also made our access to God possible; for He is our Mediator. He is the only mediator between God and man (1 Timothy 2:5), and He Himself makes intercession for us (Hebrews 7:25).

That is why, when we ask God for anything, we should always ask in Jesus' name (John 16:23-24). When we ask in Jesus' name, it pleases the Father and it glorifies Him (John 14:13).

## ***PRAYERS SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO THE FATHER***

Jesus gave His disciples a sample prayer, which was designed to teach them to pray. Jesus said,

“In this manner, therefore, pray:  
‘Our Father in heaven,  
Hallowed be Your name.’”

Matthew 6:9

Please notice that Jesus said that we should go directly to the Father in prayer. He did not say that we should ask a saint to plead

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for us. We ourselves can speak directly to God. We may come boldly before the throne of grace (Hebrews 4:16). That is an amazing privilege! We do not need to worry about God being too busy to hear our prayers. He is able to listen to our petty petitions and to run the universe at the same time. Further, He is able to do more for us than we can ask or think (Ephesians 3:20).

We do not need to be timid about approaching God in prayer. Jesus indicated that God welcomes a kind of aggressiveness in prayer. See Luke 11:5 and the following verses as well as Luke 18:1 and following verses.

### ***FEEL FREE TO ASK***

One reason why people do not get the things they want is that they do not ask God for them (James 4:2). Jesus said,

“So I say to you, ask,  
and it will be given to you;  
seek, and you will find;  
knock, and it will be opened to you.  
For everyone who asks receives,  
and he who seeks finds,  
and to him who knocks it will be opened.

Luke 11:9-10

### ***GOD IS AN INTELLIGENT BEING***

It should not be necessary to say that God is an intelligent being, because He is the source of all intelligence. Yet some people speak to God, as though He were a dumb idol or some blind force to be manipulated. We should speak to God as to a loving father when we pray. We should speak to Him intelligently (1 Corinthians 14:15). Someone has aptly described prayer as “a quiet talk with God.”



## Prayer is Your Connection to the Power of God

We are taught in the Bible to pray without ceasing (1 Thessalonians 5:17). That does not mean that we should say the same words over and over again. Jesus taught that we should not use vain (useless) repetitions (Matthew 6:7). God is not more likely to grant our requests, just because we use many words. What is important is real heart-to-heart communication with the Father. We should not think that childlike babbling or thoughtless repetition is a higher form of communication (1 Corinthians 14:5).

### ***GOD DESIRES TO HEAR YOUR PRAYERS***

Our prayers are a delight to God (Proverbs 15:8). Since He is our Father, He desires to have communication with us. Even though He knows everything about us (Matthew 6:8), He still wants us to discuss our needs with Him. By doing this, we not only show our respect for Him, but we also remind ourselves of our dependency upon Him.

Jesus taught us to pray about things that concern us. He said to pray like this:

“Give us this day our daily bread.”

Matthew 6:11

This shows that we may feel free to speak to God about ordinary, everyday things, such as food. If we do not have food, our Father who loves us wants us to speak to Him about it, for He is the one who can do something about it. When, on the other hand, we do have food we should express our gratitude to our Father for it.

If our conscience is bothering us because we know that we have sinned, God wants us to confess our sins and to ask Him for forgiveness. Jesus taught us to pray:

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“And forgive us our debts,  
As we forgive our debtors.”

Matthew 6:12

God wants us to discuss all of our problems with Him, even our temptations. Jesus said to pray:

“And do not lead us into temptation,  
But deliver us from the evil one.  
For Yours is the kingdom and the power  
and the glory forever. Amen.”

Matthew 6:13

From these examples we learn that we may pray about anything which concerns us. If it concerns us, it also concerns our Father. There is nothing too great or too small for Him to hear. If we develop this attitude, it will take most of the worry out of our lives.

### ***YOU CAN LIVE A WORRY-FREE LIFE***

The apostle Paul wrote:

“Be anxious for nothing,  
but in everything by prayer and supplication,  
with thanksgiving,  
let your requests be made known to God.”

Philippians 4:6

### ***YOU MUST PRAY WITH FAITH***

Without faith it is impossible to please God (Hebrews 11:6). Anyone who doubts God’s power and willingness to help is an unstable person, and he should not think that he would receive anything from God (James 1:6-7). God wants us to pray in confidence that He will answer. He wants us to expect that we will

## Prayer is Your Connection to the Power of God

receive a positive answer to our requests (Mark 11:24). In fact, we should not ask for anything that we think God would not grant.

### ***ASK ACCORDING TO GOD'S WILL***

We also know that we can accomplish nothing worthwhile on our own (John 15:4). We need God's help. Therefore, we should try to find out what God's will is and pray accordingly. That is the way Jesus prayed. He said to the Father, "Not as I will, but as you will" (Matthew 26:39). If we can learn to ask for things that God would approve of, we will be more likely to get what we ask for.

The apostle John wrote,

"Now this is the confidence  
that we have in Him,  
that if we ask anything  
according to His will,  
He hears us."

1 John 5:14

When we ask for good things and God approves of our requests, it gives us great joy (John 16:24). This is the way in which we can bear much fruit (John 15:8).

### ***YOU MUST HAVE JESUS' WORDS ABIDING IN YOU***

Before we can bear fruit, we have to have Jesus' words abiding in us. Jesus said,

"If you abide in Me,  
and My words abide in you,  
you will ask what you desire,  
and it shall be done for you."

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John 15:7

The way to have Jesus' words abiding in us is to be reading the Bible over and over again. Some people read the Bible all the way through every year. King David spoke about a man who mediates day and night on God's law. David said of such a man,

“But his delight is in the law of the LORD,  
And in His law he meditates day and night.  
He shall be like a tree  
Planted by the rivers of water,  
That brings forth its fruit in its season,  
Whose leaf also shall not wither;  
And whatever he does shall prosper.”

Psalm 1:2-3

The more we read the Bible, the better we understand what God's will is. The better we understand what God's will is, the more able we are to pray what pleases Him. This increases the likelihood that our prayers will find favor in His sight (1 John 5:14).

### ***YOU HAVE TO BE ABIDING IN JESUS***

In John 15:7 we saw that we have to be abiding in Jesus before we can expect to receive what we ask for. What does abiding in Jesus include? It includes being in His body, the church. We must also be living according to Jesus' teaching (1 John 3:22).

Before we can abide in Jesus, however, we have to find the way to get into Him. How does a person get into Jesus? What does the Bible say? The apostle Paul wrote,

“For as many of you  
as were baptized into Christ  
have put on Christ.”

Galatians 3:27

## Prayer is Your Connection to the Power of God

It seems that God has obligated Himself to answer the prayers of His spiritual children. He has not obligated Himself, however, to answer the prayers of those who do not belong to His spiritual family. He may, occasionally, answer the prayers of those who do not belong to His family, if He so desires. However, He always answers the prayers of His children. He may not always answer them in the way that His children desire; but He answers, nonetheless. God's children will be satisfied with the answers they receive when they finally come to understand God's reasons for deciding as He does.

### ***PRAY SPECIFIC PRAYERS***

There is an added benefit in praying for specific blessings. When you see that your request has been granted much in the same way that you asked it, your faith is strengthened. You have tangible evidence that God is working. If it happens only occasionally, that God gives you exactly what you asked for, you might think it happened purely by chance. But if it happens over and over again, you have growing evidence of God's power at work.

When God answers your prayers and you see that He has granted you just what you wanted, your heart is filled with gratitude. Your heart overflows with thanksgiving and with praise.

The more you pray, and the more answers you receive, the more your prayers will be filled with thanksgiving and praise. The book of Psalms draws to a close with these words:

“Let everything that has breath  
praise the LORD.  
Praise the LORD!”

Psalm 150:6

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### ***WORKSHEETS***

After you have read this lesson and have looked up all the references in the Bible, please read the following sentences. As you read, please pay attention to whether or not the statements are true. If you decide a statement is true, please write a “T” before it. If you decide a statement is false, please write an “F” before it.

\_\_\_ 1. Jesus made it possible for us to go directly to God in prayer.

\_\_\_ 2. When we ask God for anything, we should ask in Jesus’ name.

\_\_\_ 3. God is too busy to be bothered with our prayers.

\_\_\_ 4. If we recite phrases over and over again, it will influence God to give us what we want.

\_\_\_ 5. We should not pray about our physical needs, only about our spiritual needs.

\_\_\_ 6. God wants us to confess our sins to Him in prayer and to ask for His forgiveness.

\_\_\_ 7. There is more joy in asking for what we want than in asking for what God wants.

\_\_\_ 8. Baptism has nothing to do with getting our prayers answered.

\_\_\_ 9. If we have Jesus’ words abiding in us, we are more likely to pray in accordance with God’s will.

## Prayer is Your Connection to the Power of God

\_\_\_\_ 10. The way that a person lives his life has no effect on his getting his prayers answered.

Please, read the following passages in the New King James Bible and fill in the blanks.

John 15:7-8

“If you \_\_\_\_\_ in Me, and My \_\_\_\_\_ abide in you, you will ask what you \_\_\_\_\_, and it shall be \_\_\_\_\_ for you. By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much \_\_\_\_\_; so you will be My \_\_\_\_\_.”

1 John 3:22

“And \_\_\_\_\_ we ask we receive from Him, because we \_\_\_\_\_ His \_\_\_\_\_ and do those things that are \_\_\_\_\_ in His sight.”

1 John 5:14-15

“Now this is the \_\_\_\_\_ that we have in Him, that if we ask anything \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_, He hears us. And if we know that He \_\_\_\_\_ us, \_\_\_\_\_ we ask, we know that we have the \_\_\_\_\_ that we have asked of Him.”

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THOUGHT QUESTIONS: Please, think about the following questions and write a short paragraph about each.

1. What kind of fruit would you like to bear in God's vineyard (kingdom)?
2. Do you think God will listen to the prayers of people who will not listen to what He says in His word? Why do you think as you do?
3. What can you do to increase the effectiveness of your praying?



# 11

## THE BIBLE IS YOUR SPIRITUAL FOOD

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This lesson shows why it is important to be reading the Bible. It also encourages everyone to become a daily Bible reader.

### ***EXPLANATION OF TERMS USED IN THIS LESSON***

- **CHILDREN OF ISRAEL:** the descendants of Jacob the son of Isaac, who was the son of Abraham. An angel changed Jacob's name to "Israel" (Genesis 32:28).
- **MESSIAH:** "the anointed one." (Jesus is the Messiah. He was anointed to be King.)
- **NAZARETH:** a village in the area west of the Sea of Galilee.
- **HOLY SCRIPTURES:** the Bible.
- **DEUTERONOMY:** the fifth book of the Old Testament. It contains a repetition of many of the laws in the previous books of the Old Testament.
- **MOSES:** the leader, who lead the children of Israel out of Egypt.
- **JOSHUA:** the leader who replaced Moses after Moses died.
- **PSALMS:** a book containing religious songs, most of which were written by King David.
- **ROMANS:** a letter written by the apostle Paul to the church at Rome.

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- **GALATIANS:** a letter written by the apostle Paul to churches in the area of Galatia in Asia Minor (Turkey).
- **PHILIP THE EVANGELIST:** one of the earliest preachers of the gospel. At one time he was a servant of the church in Jerusalem.
- **ACTS:** a historical record in the New Testament of the work done by the apostles Paul and Peter, and by others.
- **PAUL:** an early convert to Christianity, who became a mighty apostle.
- **SILAS:** one of Paul's traveling companions.
- **COLOSSE:** a city in Asia Minor (Turkey), to which the apostle Paul wrote a letter.
- **TIMOTHY:** a young friend and traveling companion of Paul, to whom Paul wrote two letters.

### ***THE BIBLE IS YOUR SPIRITUAL FOOD***

The Bible has two parts: an Old Testament and a New Testament. The Old Testament tells about the creation of the world, about the selection of the children of Israel to be God's witnesses to mankind, and about their future king, who would be called "the Messiah."

The New Testament identifies Jesus of Nazareth as the Messiah. It contains Jesus' teaching and tells about His death and resurrection. The New Testament tells how belief in Jesus spread around the Mediterranean world. It also gives information about how people should live in the church.

### ***THE BIBLE SHOULD BE READ***

Everyone should be reading the Bible. Moses gave instruction to the future rulers of the children of Israel that they should read the Holy Scriptures all the days of their lives. See Deuteronomy

17:18-20. The reason why rulers need to read the Scriptures is so they will learn to fear God. Reading the Scriptures will help them know how to obey God. They will also live longer if they read and follow the Scriptures. See what Moses said to Joshua in Joshua 1:8.

### ***KING DAVID TOOK MOSES' ADVICE TO HEART***

Only a portion of the Bible had been written in King David's time. Yet, David read the Scriptures that were available to him, and he loved them very much. David wrote,

“Therefore I love Your commandments  
More than gold, yes, than fine gold!”

Psalm 119:127

David himself composed many of the Psalms that are in the Bible. Here is what David thought about a person that reads and follows the Bible:

“Blessed is the man  
who walks not  
in the counsel of the ungodly,  
Nor stands in the path of sinners,  
Nor sits in the seat of the scornful;  
But his delight is in the law of the LORD,  
And in His law he meditates day and night.  
He shall be like a tree  
Planted by the rivers of water,  
That brings forth its fruit in its season,  
Whose leaf also shall not wither;  
And whatever he does shall prosper.”

Psalm 1:1-3

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### ***READING THE OLD TESTAMENT PREPARES PEOPLE TO BELIEVE IN JESUS***

Jesus felt that if people would search the Old Testament with an open mind, they would come to the conclusion that He is truly the Messiah. Jesus Himself said,

“You search the Scriptures,  
for in them you think you have eternal life;  
and these are they which testify of Me.”

John 5:39

### ***SOME GENTILES WERE FAMILIAR WITH THE OLD TESTAMENT***

Many of the Gentile converts to Judaism, who heard the apostle Paul speak at the Jewish synagogue in Antioch in Pisidia paid close attention to Paul's message about Jesus (Acts 13:43). They were able to grasp the gospel message easily (Acts 13:48), partly because they had been listening to the Old Testament while it was being read in the synagogue (Acts 13:15).

### ***SOME BEREANS WERE FAIR-MINDED***

When the apostle Paul and his companion Silas came to the town of Berea in northern Greece, they went into the synagogue, as was their custom. Luke wrote concerning the Bereans,

“These were more fair-minded  
than those in Thessalonica,  
in that they received the word  
with all readiness,  
and searched the Scriptures daily  
to find out whether these things were so.”

Acts 17:11

The Bereans demonstrated fair-mindedness by conducting a search of the Scriptures in order to see if Jesus fulfilled the prophecies of the Old Testament. They found that Jesus did, indeed, fulfill the prophecies concerning the Messiah.

### ***READ BOTH TESTAMENTS***

It is difficult to understand the New Testament without being somewhat familiar with the Old Testament, for the Old Testament describes the background from which Jesus came. Yet it is the New Testament that zeros in on what Jesus wants people to know and what He wants them to do.

Although it is good to read the Old Testament, Christian people are not under the legal code of the Old Testament. When people die (symbolically) with Christ in baptism (Romans 6:1-4), they also die to the Law, which God had given through Moses (Romans 7:6). As a result, they live under a new law, which is “the law of Christ” (Galatians 6:2).

### ***THE NEED FOR SPIRITUAL FOOD***

Jesus recognized the value of food for the inner man. When He was tempted by the devil to turn stones into bread, He quoted a statement from Moses, which said,

“Man shall not live by bread alone,  
but by every word that proceeds from  
the mouth of God.”

Matthew 4:4

Christ knows, of course, that His people need spiritual food (1 Peter 2:2). For that reason, He feeds them through an arrangement, which He has carefully thought out and fully implemented.

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### ***HOW CHRIST FEEDS THE CHURCH***

Spiritual nourishment starts at the Head (Christ) and passes down through the parts of the body (the church) until it reaches each individual member. It is important, therefore, for each member to be connected with the Head, otherwise he will not receive the nourishment that he needs in order to grow. The apostle Paul spoke of some that were, tragically,

“not holding fast to the Head,  
from whom all the body,  
nourished and knit together  
by joints and ligaments,  
grows with the increase that is from God.”

Colossians 2:19

It is the responsibility of the elders (bishops) of each individual local congregation to see to it that Christ's sheep, which are in their charge, are fed. The food which elders are supposed to feed the members of their congregation is the word of God (1 Peter 2:2).

### ***CHURCHES NEED TO HEAR THE BIBLE READ IN THE ASSEMBLY***

The apostle Paul instructed the recipients of his letters to read them aloud to the congregation. To the brethren in Colosse Paul wrote,

“Now when this epistle is read among you,  
see that it is read also  
in the church of the Laodiceans,  
and that you likewise read  
the epistle from Laodicea.”

Colossians 4:16

## ***PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS NEED TO BE READING, TOO***

The apostle Paul wrote to Timothy, a young evangelist,

“Till I come, give attention to reading,  
to exhortation, to doctrine.”

1 Timothy 4:13

As an evangelist, Timothy needed to be familiar with the Bible so that he could be a good worker for the Lord. Paul wrote to him,

“Be diligent to present yourself  
approved to God,  
a worker who does not need to be ashamed,  
rightly dividing the word of truth.”

2 Timothy 2:15

The King James version of the Bible says “Study to show thyself approved unto God.” If a person makes a habit of studying the Bible, he will not have to be ashamed for his lack of Bible knowledge. He will be well equipped to teach the Bible to others (2 Timothy 3:16-17). If, however, he is not a Bible-reading person, he will not be a very effective teacher.

## ***READING THE BIBLE GIVES COMFORT***

It may not be immediately clear how reading the Bible gives comfort, especially in view of the fact that there are so many wars and so much suffering depicted in it. Yet there is much more in the Bible than just wars and suffering. There are many stories of faith and courage. Words that give hope and encouragement are also to be found there. The apostle Paul wrote,

“For whatever things were written before

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were written for our learning,  
that we through the patience  
and comfort of the Scriptures  
might have hope.”

Romans 15:4

### ***READING THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR***

There are 929 chapters in the Old Testament and 260 in the New Testament. If a person reads three or four chapters a day, he should be able to get through the whole Bible in a year.

### ***PRAY ABOUT READING***

Whoever wants to become familiar with the Bible, can ask God to help him, as David did (Psalm 119:18). If anyone has trouble finding the time to read the Bible, he might ask God to help him rearrange his schedule. Or if anyone finds that reading the Bible is boring, he might stay away from television, books, and magazines for a few days in order to see if his interest in God’s word will revive.



***WORKSHEETS***

After you have read this lesson and have looked up all the references in the Bible, please read the following sentences. As you read, please pay attention to whether or not the statements are true. If you decide a statement is true, please write a “T” before it. If you decide a statement is false, please write an “F” before it.

- \_\_\_ 1. The Bible is the main source of information about Jesus.
- \_\_\_ 2. Rulers do not need to read the Bible.
- \_\_\_ 3. King David read the Holy Scriptures.
- \_\_\_ 4. The prophecies of the Old Testament show Jesus to be the Messiah.
- \_\_\_ 5. A Christian does not need to be reading the Old Testament, only the New Testament.
- \_\_\_ 6. Christians have to keep the Old Testament laws.
- \_\_\_ 7. The elders of a congregation are to see to it that the church receives spiritual food.
- \_\_\_ 8. The Bible teaches about God’s love.
- \_\_\_ 9. A person can be a good Christian without paying attention to what the Bible says.
- \_\_\_ 10. Reading the whole Bible in one year is impossible.

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Please, read the following passages in the New King James Bible and fill in the blanks.

Romans 7:6

“But now we have been \_\_\_\_\_ from \_\_\_\_\_, having \_\_\_\_\_ to what we were held by, so that we should serve in the newness of the \_\_\_\_\_ and not in the oldness of the \_\_\_\_\_.”

2 Timothy 3:16-17

“All \_\_\_\_\_ is given by inspiration of God, and is \_\_\_\_\_ for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be \_\_\_\_\_, thoroughly \_\_\_\_\_ for every good work.”

1 Peter 2:2

“As newborn babes, desire the pure \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_, that you may \_\_\_\_\_ thereby.”

**THOUGHT QUESTIONS:** Please, think about the following questions and write a short paragraph about each.

1. Does reading the Bible help a person? If so, how?

2. What are some of the hindrances that keep people from reading the Bible? How can these hindrances be overcome?
3. What parts of the Bible do you like to read the best? Why?

3. What parts of the Bible do you like to read the best? Why?

# 12

## HEAVEN IS YOUR ETERNAL HOME

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This lesson is designed to show the beauty of heaven. It is hoped that everyone will want to go there.

### ***EXPLANATION OF TERMS USED IN THIS LESSON***

- APOSTLE JOHN: one of Jesus' twelve apostles.
- NEW JERUSALEM: the heavenly city, which the apostle John saw in a vision.
- MARRIAGE SUPPER OF THE LAMB: when Christ takes the church to be with Him.
- IDOLATERS: people that revere, or worship, idols.
- LAKE OF FIRE: hell.
- THE LAMB: Jesus.
- SORCERER: one who attempts to use the power of evil to foretell the future or to control future events.

### ***HEAVEN IS YOUR ETERNAL HOME***

Heaven can be called your home since that is where your Father (God) lives (Hebrews 12:22-23). If you have become a Christian, your name is recorded there (Luke 10:20). Heaven, therefore, is your mother city (Galatians 4:26). Your citizenship is there

(Philippians 3:20). You belong there, and you will never feel entirely at home until you are there.

You should not think, however, that you came from heaven, for you did not live in heaven, or anywhere else, before you were born to your parents on earth. Your life started here on earth. Your present life is the only life that you have known. We know this is true because Adam, the first man, did not exist before God created him from the dust of the ground. It was only after God breathed into Adam's nostrils the breath of life that Adam became a "living being" (Genesis 2:7).

Adam did not come down from heaven but was made from dust (1 Corinthians 15:47). Jesus Christ is the only one, who came down from heaven (John 3:13). Adam is the earthly father of us all, and it is from him that we have received our physical life. It is from Jesus, however, that we receive eternal life (John 10:10). That is why Jesus is referred to as "the last Adam" (1 Corinthians 15:45).

The fact that you did not exist before you were born into this world should not make you think that your life is less important. Your present life becomes all the more important when you consider that your future for all eternity depends on how you live now.

## ***YOUR NEW HOME***

Shortly before Jesus returned to heaven, He told His disciples that His Father's house has many living quarters in it (John 14:2). Jesus said that He was going away to prepare a place for His people and that He would come again and take them to be with Him there (John 14:3).

So a home is reserved for you in heaven. It is not in a house made with human hands (2 Corinthians 5:1-2). It is in the city that God has prepared (Hebrews 11:16), which is eternal in the heavens.

In a vision the apostle John saw the new heaven and the new earth, where your eternal home will be located (Revelation 21:1).

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He also saw the holy city, the New Jerusalem (Revelation 21:2). The New Jerusalem will not be on this earth, because this earth will pass away (Revelation 21:1).

The apostle John said that the New Jerusalem is very beautiful. It is as lovely as a bride that is adorned for her husband (Revelation 21:2). The wall around the city is composed of jasper (Revelation 21:18) and its foundations are decorated with precious stones (Revelation 21:19-21). The city itself is of gold that looks like clear glass (Revelation 21:18).

### ***A HOLY PLACE***

In heaven, bad people will not bother you. Sorcerers, the sexually immoral, murderers, and idolaters will be on the outside (Revelation 22:15). No one will get into heaven who is unclean, who practices disgusting things (such as the worship of idols), or who tells lies (Revelation 21:27). There will be no wickedness there, because no wicked people will inherit the kingdom of God (1 Corinthians 6:9-10).

### ***YOUR NEW BODY***

You will not enter that beautiful city in your old, worn out body. You will have a new body, one that will be immortal (1 Corinthians 15:53-54). Your new body will not be an earthly body. It will be a spiritual body (1 Corinthians 15:44). You should not think, however, that a spiritual body is weak and insubstantial. Quite the opposite is true. Your spiritual body will be glorious and powerful (1 Corinthians 15:43). It will be a heavenly body (1 Corinthians 15:48-49). It will be like Jesus' resurrected body (Romans 8:29 and 1 John 3:2) and you will shine like the sun (Matthew 13:43).

When you will have been resurrected, and are in your new body, you will have won the victory over death (1 Corinthians

15:54-55, 57). You will not be subject to death ever again (Hebrews 9:27). Jesus will say to you,

“Well done, good and faithful servant;  
Enter into the joy of your lord.”

Matthew 25:21

## ***YOUR TRIUMPHAL ENTRY***

If you have added Christian virtues to your character in this life (2 Peter 1:5-7), an entrance into God’s everlasting kingdom will be granted to you richly in the life to come (2 Peter 1:11). A crown will be placed upon your head. It will be the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love Him (James 1:12). It will also be a crown of righteousness (2 Timothy 4:8). Further, you will have the privilege of being dressed in white garments and of walking with Jesus (Revelation 3:4). Jesus will invite you to sit down to eat so that He Himself can serve you (Luke 12:37).

## ***THE GREAT FEAST***

A great feast will be prepared for you and for all people that gain the victory over death. It will be a wedding feast. It is called the “marriage supper of the Lamb” (Revelation 19:7-9). The feast will take place when Christ receives His bride, which is the church (Ephesians 5:23).

If you are currently “in Christ,” you are also in His church; and that makes you a part of the bride, who will be married to Christ forever.

## ***YOUR ROYAL INHERITANCE***

If you have become a son of God by faith in Christ, and if you have put Christ on in baptism (Galatians 3:26-27), you are, as a

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result, an heir of God. Being an heir, you are a joint heir with Christ, provided you are willing to suffer with Him (Romans 8:17). Your inheritance with Christ will be glorious (Ephesians 1:18). You will inherit the kingdom that has been prepared for you since the foundation of the world (Matthew 25:34), and which God has promised to those who love Him (James 2:5).

### ***YOU WILL RULE WITH CHRIST***

You will sit with Christ on His throne and you will rule with Him forever (Revelation 22:5). You will be rich beyond all imagination, because all things will be yours (Revelation 21:7); and your treasure will be safe, because no thief will be able to get to it and nothing will be able to destroy it (Luke 12:33).

### ***YOU WILL SEE GOD***

You will be permitted to live where God is (Revelation 21:3) and you will even be able to look on His face (Revelation 22:4).

### ***THERE WILL BE GREAT JOY IN HEAVEN***

When you get to heaven, you will have entered into the “joy of your Lord” (Matthew 25:21,23). In heaven there will be no hunger, thirst, or oppressive heat (Revelation 7:16). There will also be no illness (Revelation 22:2), death, sorrow, crying, or pain there (Revelation 21:4). Heaven will be your permanent home (2 Corinthians 5:1). You will never have to come back to this earth and pass through trials and sorrows again. All of those things will have passed away (Revelation 21:4).



***WE LIVE NOW IN ANTICIPATION***

Since the future looks so bright, if you are in Christ, and since God has promised to do so much for you, you can live in joyful expectation of the good things to come. The apostle Paul put it this way,

“If then you were raised with Christ,  
seek those things which are above,  
where Christ is,  
sitting at the right hand of God.  
Set your mind on things above,  
not on things on the earth.  
For you died, and your life is hidden  
with Christ in God.”

Colossians 3:1-3

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### ***WORKSHEETS***

After you have read this lesson and have looked up all the references in the Bible, please read the following sentences. As you read, please pay attention to whether or not the statements are true. If you decide a statement is true, please write a “T” before it. If you decide a statement is false, please write an “F” before it.

\_\_\_ 1. You lived on another planet before you were born on earth.

\_\_\_ 2. There will be plenty of room in God’s house for all.

\_\_\_ 3. The city that God has prepared for His people will be on this earth.

\_\_\_ 4. Everyone who ever lived will be in heaven.

\_\_\_ 5. Your new body will be weak, like smoke.

\_\_\_ 6. Your entrance into heaven will be very grand.

\_\_\_ 7. You will sit with Christ on His throne.

\_\_\_ 8. You will take part in the marriage supper of the Lamb.

\_\_\_ 9. You will rule with Christ.

\_\_\_ 10. A Christian should live now in joyful expectation of all the good things to come.

Please, read the following passages in the New King James Bible and fill in the blanks.

Romans 8:17

“And if children, then \_\_\_\_\_; heirs of \_\_\_\_\_ and joint heirs with \_\_\_\_\_, if indeed we \_\_\_\_\_ with Him, that we may also be \_\_\_\_\_ together.”

Ephesians 1:18

“The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the \_\_\_\_\_ of His calling, what are the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ of His \_\_\_\_\_ in the saints.”

Revelation 22:5

“There shall be no \_\_\_\_\_ there: They need no lamp nor light of the sun, for the Lord God gives them light. And they shall \_\_\_\_\_ and ever.”

**THOUGHT QUESTIONS:** Please, think about the following questions and write a short paragraph about each.

1. Why do you think God will not let bad people into His heaven?



