

The New Believers Handbook



**“As newborn babes,
desire the pure milk of
the word, that you may
grow thereby, if indeed
you have tasted that
the Lord is gracious.”**

1 Peter 2:2-3

TABLE OF CONTENTS

BIBLE STUDY #1:	SALVATION	PAGE 1
BIBLE STUDY #2:	FAITH AND ASSURANCE	PAGE 5
BIBLE STUDY #3:	POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT	PAGE 9
BIBLE STUDY #4:	TRIALS	PAGE 13
BIBLE STUDY #5:	PRAYER	PAGE 17
BIBLE STUDY #6:	WHO IS JESUS?	PAGE 21
BIBLE STUDY #7:	WHAT GOD EXPECTS	PAGE 25
BIBLE STUDY #8:	VIRTUE (PURITY)	PAGE 29
BIBLE STUDY #9:	KNOWLEDGE	PAGE 32
BIBLE STUDY #10:	SELF-CONTROL	PAGE 35
BIBLE STUDY #11:	PATIENCE (PERSEVERANCE)	PAGE 38
BIBLE STUDY #12:	GODLINESS	PAGE 41
BIBLE STUDY #13:	BROTHERLY KINDNESS	PAGE 44
BIBLE STUDY #14:	LOVE	PAGE 47
APPENDIX:	STUDY NOTES	PAGE 51

Bible Study #1

SALVATION

One of the most important habits to get into that will help you grow as a new Christian is memorizing Bible verses. In **Psalm 119:11**, the Bible says, "Your word I have hidden in my heart that I might not sin against You." Memorizing Bible verses and doing what they say will help you to fight against temptation and instruct you to do what is right. We encourage you to memorize the verse below to give you a better understanding of the topic of salvation.

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life".

John 3:16

When looking up a Bible verse, for example John 3:16: the book of the Bible is John, third chapter, verse 16.

John 3:3,7— "Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God....Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again'".

Our Lord Jesus Christ commanded us, saying: "You must be born again." In this lesson, you should learn:

- A. Why we need to be saved
- B. How God has provided for our salvation
- C. How we can have that salvation personally

Before you start, **PRAY**. Ask God's Holy Spirit to open your heart to receive His Word and to show you how to apply it in your life. Do not copy the scriptures, but answer the questions briefly and in your own words.

SIN is the failure to obey any of God's commandments or laws.

1. How does the Bible describe Sin?

I John 3:4 _____

2. What is the result of sin?

Romans 6:23 _____

James 1:15 _____

To better understand the effects of sin, think of death as **SEPARATION**.

- A. Spiritual Death: Your sins have separated you from God.
- B. Physical Death: It separates spirit and soul from the body.
- C. Eternal Death: If you remain lost in your sins, they will separate you from the mercy of God forever.

(This is the greatest punishment of Hell)

To be **RIGHTEOUS** means "to do right; to be totally innocent before God in regards to obeying His commandments".

3. How many of us are righteous?

Romans 3:10 _____

4. How many of us have sinned?

Romans 3:23 _____

5. What word explains why God would send His only Son to die for us?

John 3:16 _____

6. Does He love us as sinners or do we have to become good enough for God to love us?

Romans 5:8 _____

7. Read each of the verses below and indicate if we are saved by Jesus or if God allows another way for salvation.

I Timothy 2:5 _____

Acts 4:12 _____

John 14:6 _____

God's Word says sin causes death. Jesus took that penalty upon Himself in our place.

8. How did Jesus take the penalty of sin for us?

I Corinthians 15:3 _____

9. What must we do to have Him save us from the penalty of sin?

Romans 10:9 _____

Acts 16:30-31 _____

BELIEVE means to "cling to, trust in and rely on".

CONFESS means "to admit guilt or acknowledge one's sin."

10. The Bible uses several words to show the contrast between "works" and "faith". Next to each of the following scriptures write the words that describe how we are saved.

Ephesians 2:8 _____

Titus 3:5 _____

11. Why does the Bible say we are not saved by our works?

Ephesians 2:9 _____

12. What is the problem with boasting?

James 4:16 _____

JUSTICE is getting what we deserve. If God were only a **JUST** God, we would all perish.

MERCY is not getting what we deserve. It is by His mercy He can forgive us.

GRACE is getting something we don't deserve at all. By God's grace (not our own merit) He sent us His Son.

FAITH is accepting as truth things which cannot be proved by the senses. Faith is trusting God.

13. What should be the result of God's goodness and kindness to us?

Romans 2:4 _____

REPENTANCE means "a change of mind".

REPENTANCE is turning toward God and away from sin. It includes:

- A. A genuine sorrow for our sins
- B. Cleansing from continual sinning
- C. A desire to submit to God

14. When we repent, what happens in Heaven?

Luke 15:10 _____

Have the Angels rejoiced over you? All you have to do is pray this simple prayer and mean it in your heart: "Jesus, I know I am a sinner. Forgive my sins and take control of my life. Amen".

From memory, write out your memory verse from page 1.

Bible Study #2

FAITH AND ASSURANCE

Begin memorizing **1 John 5:12-13**

"He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life".

1 John 5:12-13

Hebrews 6:18-19— *So God has given us both His promise and His oath. These two things are unchangeable because it is impossible for God to lie. Therefore, we who have fled to Him for refuge can take new courage, for we can hold on to His promise with confidence. This confidence is like a strong and trustworthy anchor for our souls. It leads us through the curtain of heaven into God's inner sanctuary."*

(New Living Translation)

It is a comfort to know that God intends for us to be sure of our salvation. He simply wants us to have faith, trust Him and believe He will do everything He said. In this lesson you should learn:

- A. God is faithful and keeps His promises
- B. He promises us eternal life
- C. We obtain His promises by faith
- D. We can know we have the eternal life He promises

Pray before you start! Answer the questions briefly and in your own words.

ASSURANCE means to have the evidence and proof to know for certain that something is true.

FAITHFULNESS refers to the character of someone who has shown he is trustworthy and can be relied upon to keep his word.

1. How is God described regarding His promise?

Hebrews 10:23 _____

2. If we don't believe or have faith, what happens to God's faithfulness?

II Timothy 2:13 _____

3. What does God promise us?

I John 2:25 _____

Titus 1:2 _____

4. How do we obtain or inherit the promises of God for ourselves?

Hebrews 6:12 _____

Faith is the key that opens the treasure of God's promises.

5. What pleases God?

Hebrews 11:5-6 _____

6. Where do we get our faith?

Romans 10:17 _____

Our feelings and emotions change from day to day. On some days we may not "feel" like God loves us. DO NOT be deceived by feelings and emotions. The devil can use them to put doubt (opposite of faith) in our minds to try to destroy our faith. We should not put our trust in feelings that will change.

7. Who or what should we trust in, that never changes?

I Peter 1:24-25 _____

Hebrews 13:8 _____

While our feelings come and go, we can have our faith steady and solid by basing it on what God has said in His Word. Here are a few of the things God has told us.

8. When we come to Jesus, what is one thing He has promised NOT to do?

John 6:37 _____

9. What can separate us from the love God has for us?

Romans 8:38-39 _____

10. When we yield to God's Spirit and let Him lead us, who does the Bible say we are?

Romans 8:14 _____

11. We are told to love one another. What does the Bible say about those who have God's love?

I John 3:14 _____

12. Because God (our Father) disciplines us when we go against His will, what does that tell us about our relationship with Him? **Hebrews 12:5-8** _____

13. How can we be sure that we know God?

I John 2:3 _____

14. If we have Jesus in our hearts and believe in Him, what do we have?

John 3:16 _____

I John 5:12 _____

15. Jesus is called the Good Shepherd. How do we know we are His sheep?

John 10:27 _____

16. Are you one of His sheep? _____

How do you know for sure? _____

For more about Faith, read Hebrews 11:1-40

From memory, write out your memory verse from page 5.

Bible Study #3

POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Begin memorizing **Acts 1:8**

“But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come on you; and you shall be witnesses to Me.”

Acts 1:8

Acts 1:4-5 — *“And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, “which”, He said, “you have heard from Me; for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”*

Jesus did not want His disciples to immediately begin telling others about Him. He told them to wait for the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, because He knew the POWER they were to receive was essential for the task ahead of them. In this lesson you should learn:

- A. Who the Baptism of the Holy Spirit is for
- B. What the Baptism of the Holy Spirit is for
- C. How to receive the Baptism of the Holy Spirit

BAPTISM means to be immersed or dipped into something.

So that you will not become confused, you need to know that there are several terms which refer to “The Baptism of the Holy Spirit”, and they all mean the same thing.

- Acts 2:4 — “Filled with the Holy Spirit”
- Acts 11:15 — “Holy Spirit fell (came) on them”
- Acts 2:33 — “The Promise of the Holy Spirit”
- Luke 24:49 — “The Promise of My Father”
- Acts 2:38 — “The Gift of the Holy Spirit”

1. Who does the Bible say the Baptism of the Holy Spirit is for?

Acts 2:38-39 _____

Has God called you to salvation? _____

Is this promise for you? _____

In **John 14:16-17**, Jesus told His disciples that the Spirit had been WITH them and would soon be IN them. The Spirit came inside them in **John 20:22**. After Jesus had been resurrected, He spoke to them and said “Receive the Holy Spirit”. Before we were saved, the Holy Spirit is WITH us, calling us to Jesus. When we are born again, the Spirit comes INSIDE us to teach and guide us. All true believers have the Holy Spirit living inside them. But Jesus went on to tell His disciples in **Acts 1:8** that the Spirit would also be ON or UPON them.

2. What did Jesus tell His disciples they would receive when the Holy Spirit came down on them?

Acts 1:8 _____

The Greek word for **POWER** is “dunamis”, where we get our words for “dynamite” and “dynamic”. It is also translated strength, ability, authority, and might.

Jesus knows our weaknesses and that we do not have the strength we need to continually follow Him or do things for Him, so He supplies us with the **POWER** (dunamis) we need. We do not have to do it on our own!

3. The Father strengthens us through the power of His Spirit in our inner being for what purpose?

Ephesians 3:16-17 _____

4. After the disciples received this power, what would it give them the ability to be?

Acts 1:8 _____

To be a **WITNESS** means to testify that something is true. The disciples went out testifying that Jesus was the Christ, the Son of God and Savior of the world.

- When Peter and John were released from jail, they gathered together and prayed. What did they pray for the Lord to enable them to do?

Acts 4:29

- The Lord answered Peter and John's prayer almost immediately. What did the Lord do to give them the boldness they asked for?

Acts 4:31

- When Saul (later his name was changed to Paul) was filled with the Holy Spirit, what did he begin doing right away?

Acts 9:17, 20

Another aspect of Baptism of the Holy Spirit is that the Holy Spirit wants to give each of us "spiritual gifts" or supernatural abilities to edify ourselves and other believers.

EDIFY means to build up or strengthen.

The Bible refers to believers as the "body of Christ". Jesus is the head and each of us is given a gift (or gifts) that empower us to function as a part of that body.

- Who decides which spiritual gifts each of us will have in the body of Christ?

I Corinthians 12:18

- What are some of the gifts that the Spirit gives to different parts of the body?

I Corinthians 12:8-10

10. What should we desire to do with our spiritual gifts?

I Corinthians 14:12 _____

11. When all the spiritual gifts are working properly in the body of Christ, what will the body do for itself?

Ephesians 4:16 _____

If you want to know more about the body of Christ, read **Romans 12:4-8** and **I Corinthians 12:1-31**.

12. How can we be filled with the Holy Spirit?

Luke 11:11-13 _____

In **Ephesians 5:18** the Bible commands us to "be filled with the Holy Spirit". It is better translated: "be continually being filled with the Holy Spirit". It is talking about REFILLS. It is not just a one time filling, but we are continually in need of God's power. We get refills in the same way we get the first filling: ASK!

If you have not already been filled with the Holy Spirit or if you need a refill, just pray a simple prayer like this: "Father my power is not enough. Fill me with Your Holy Spirit and give me the power I need. In Jesus' name, Amen.

From memory, write out your memory verse from page 9.

Bible Study #4

TRIALS

Begin memorizing **I Corinthians 10:13**

"No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it."

I Corinthians 10:13

I Peter 4:12-13 — *"Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you; but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ's sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy".*

Soon after we are born again the Lord begins to **TEST** our faith. He often allows the emotional excitement we have experienced as new believers to fade so that we can learn to walk by faith. This does not mean He has deserted you! In this lesson you should learn:

- A. What trials are
- B. How God uses trials
- C. What we should do when we are in the middle of a trial

A **TRIAL** is when God allows temptation, tribulation (hardship or affliction), or our relationships with other people to **TEST OUR FAITH**. It is the process He uses to refine us, make our faith stronger and teach us to trust Him more.

1. Becoming a Christian does not mean we will stop having troubles. How did Jesus describe our lives in this world?

John 16:33 _____

2. What should be our attitude when we are having our faith tested by trials or temptations? Why?

James 1:2-4 _____

3. What are some of the results of trials?

II Corinthians 4:17-18 _____

I Peter 1:6-7 _____

PATIENCE or **PERSEVERANCE** means steadfastly enduring adverse circumstances with joy.

One aspect of trials is enduring hardship and affliction. When the Lord is dealing with us as His children, He will allow tribulations to chasten or discipline us.

CHASTEN or **DISCIPLINE** in Greek means to train, educate, instruct, correct, reprove or admonish. It is a positive, loving method of eliminating evil and encouraging good. It is NOT harsh punishment.

4. When our Father disciplines or chastens us, He is demonstrating our relationship to Him. What is that relationship?

Hebrews 12:5-8 _____

5. Why does God discipline or chasten us?

Hebrews 12:9-10 _____

HOLINESS means morally perfect or free from sin.

6. What are the end results when our Father disciplines us?

Hebrews 12:11 _____

Another way God tests our faith is by allowing Satan to tempt us. Each time the Lord helps us resist another temptation, we learn to trust Him more. He uses it to build our faith in Him.

TEMPTATION is when Satan tries to get us to sin. He may tempt us by something we see. He may tempt us by putting evil thoughts in our minds. He may tempt our flesh or our pride. He has many ways to tempt us. It is NOT a sin to be tempted! It is only a sin when we give in to temptation.

7. Satan's temptations are strong, but what promise do we have that is stronger?

1 John 4:4 _____

8. Read **1 Corinthians 10:13** and answer these questions:

- A. Are your temptations ever new, something no one else has gone through before? _____
- B. Will the Lord allow your temptation to be so strong that you will be unable to resist it? _____
- C. What will the Lord provide when you are tempted? _____

9. When we ask our High Priest, Jesus, for help with our temptations, how can we be sure He understands what we are going through?

Hebrews 4:15 _____

10. In **Matthew 4:1-11** when Jesus was tempted by Satan, what did He use to respond to Satan's temptations?

Matthew 4:4,7,10 _____

11. What results when we give in to temptation?

James 1:13-15 _____

12. If we find that we have sinned, what should we do about it? How will Jesus respond to us?

1 John 1:9 _____

II Corinthians 4:17-18 tells us three things about trials:

- a. They are trivial compared to the sufferings of Christ and the glory we will have in Heaven.
- b. They are temporary compared to eternity Jesus has prepared for us.
- c. They are transforming. They cause us to be conformed to the image of God's Son, Jesus Christ.

13. What encouragement does the Lord give us concerning every event and circumstance that happens to us in the world?

Romans 8:28 _____

14. We see that God uses ALL the events in our lives to shape us and mold us. Whose likeness is He trying to make us into?

Romans 8:29 _____

Jesus told us in **John 14:27** that the peace He gives us is not like the peace the rest of the world has. His peace does not depend on favorable circumstances. His peace comes from knowing that, regardless of how things appear, God is still in control and we can trust Him to see us through the rough times. The hardships we suffer are not a surprise to Him. They are part of His plan. By them He prepares us, not for a temporary life of comfort, but for an eternity of holiness.

If you find yourself in a trial, seek guidance from God's Word and from Him in prayer. You might pray something like this: *"Lord help me to learn from this, help me to become what You want me to be, help me to trust You through everything."*

From memory, write out your memory verse from page 13.

Bible Study #5

PRAYER

Begin memorizing **Philippians 4:6-7**

“Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”

Philippians 4:6-7

Luke 11:1 — “Now it came to pass, as He was praying in a certain place, when He ceased, that one of His disciples said to Him, “Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples”.

Jesus set an example in His prayers. The disciples saw that His prayers were intimate, like talking with a close friend. They wanted to learn how to have the same close relationship with the Father as Jesus did. In this lesson, you should learn:

- A. Reasons why your prayers aren't answered
- B. How to be sure your prayers are answered
- C. The different types of prayer

1. Why would God not give us what we ask Him for? (Give two examples).

James 4:1-3 _____

Psalm 66:18 (NAS) — “If I regard wickedness in my heart the Lord will not hear”.

Isaiah 59:2 (NAS) — “But your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hid His face from you, so that He does not hear”.

2. From the above scriptures, do you think God hears our prayer when we are living in continual disobedience to His Word?

3. If there is sin in our lives, what should we do before bringing our requests to the Father?

I John 1:9 _____

Read about the prayer of the tax collector in **Luke 18:9-14**

4. What is one reason that the Lord wants to give us what we pray for?

John 16:24 _____

5. When we have needs that need to be met, what should our attitude be when we come to God in prayer?

Hebrews 4:16 _____

6. How can we pray so that we will be sure God will answer our prayers?

I John 5:14-15 _____

7. When we don't know what God's will is or how we should pray about something, who will intercede for us?

Romans 8:26-27 _____

8. What three words describe what we need to receive good gifts from our Heavenly Father?

Matthew 7:7-12 _____

Verse 7 in the Greek could be better translated "keep seeking, keep knocking, and keep asking." In other words, be persistent!

Read about the parable about persistence in **Luke 18:1-8**

Sometimes God answers prayer with "WAIT"! If we believe our prayers are in accordance with God's will and He doesn't answer with a definite "yes" or "no", we should be patient and wait for His answer. Keep asking! The Lord not only has the perfect answer, He has the perfect time to give His answer.

9. What happens when we pray for something according to the will of God in the name of Jesus?

John 16:23 _____

10. Why do we pray in the name of Jesus?

I Timothy 2:5 _____

To ask “in the name of Jesus” means to come to the Father based on the righteousness and finished work of Jesus, not our own righteousness or merits.

11. What promise does Jesus give if we will abide or remain in Him?

John 15:7 _____

Read **John 15:1-17** to see what abiding means.

ABIDE means to remain in one place and not change. A good example of abiding is a tree; it does not wander off. To abide in Christ means to continue in His teaching and not wander from it.

12. What two things should we do to be sure the Lord hears us?

Mark 11:24-25 _____

AMEN comes from the Hebrew word for “true” or “faithful”. When we use it in prayer, it is our way of saying we believe the Lord will answer our prayers.

13. Who is glorified when our prayers are answered?

John 14:13 _____

14. What are the different types of prayer?

1 Timothy 2:1 _____

- A. **SUPPLICATION, PETITION or REQUEST** is when we ask God to supply our needs.
- B. **INTERCESSION** is when we pray for others, such as for healing or salvation.

- C. **THANKSGIVING** and **PRAISE** is giving God the glory He deserves for what He has done and for who He is. This is an important part of worship.
- D. **PRAYER** is talking with God, not just to Him.
It is time spent in His presence.

15. According to the Bible, when is a good time to pray?

1 Thessalonians 5:17

For more about prayer, read **Matthew 6:5-15** to see what Jesus has to say about it.

From memory, write out your memory verse below.

Bible Study #6

WHO IS JESUS?

Begin memorizing **John 14:6**

“..Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.”

John 14:6

Matthew 16:13-16 — “When Jesus came into the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, saying, “Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?” So they said, “Some say John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” Simon Peter answered and said, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God”.

It is very important to know who we believe in. If Jesus is ONLY a man or a teacher or a prophet or a philosopher, then our faith is in vain. But He is much more! In this lesson you should learn:

- A. What others said about Jesus
- B. What Jesus said about Himself
- C. The Bible teaches Jesus is God

RABBI means teacher or master.
MESSIAH or **CHRIST** means the Anointed One, the One promised of God as the Great Deliverer.

1. Who did these people say Jesus was?

John (**John 1:29,34**) _____

Andrew (**John 1:40-41**) _____

Nathanael (**John 1:49**) _____

Samaritans (**John 4:42**) _____

Peter (**John 6:68-69**) _____

Thomas (**John 20:28**) _____

2. Who did the Father say Jesus was?

Matthew 3:16-17 _____

Matthew 17:5 _____

3. What terms did Jesus use to describe Himself?

John 4:25-26 _____

John 6:33-35 _____

John 9:5 _____

John 10:7 _____

John 10:11 _____

John 10:36 _____

John 11:25 _____

John 13:13 _____

John 14:6 _____

4. Read **John 10:22-30**. The Jews asked Jesus for a plain answer. How did He answer them in verse 30)?

The Jews knew exactly what He meant by that answer. Who was He claiming to be in verse 33?

In **Exodus 3:13-14** Moses asked God what he should tell the Israelites His name was. God said His name was “I AM”. Jesus also refers to Himself by saying “I AM”! In some translations the word “he” is added in italics after I AM for clarification. The word “he” does not appear in the original Greek text.

5. What happened when Jesus answered "I AM" to the Roman soldiers?

John 18:4-6 _____

6. How did Jesus respond to the Jews' question of how Abraham had seen Him?

John 8:58 _____

Jesus also claimed to be "I AM" in **John 8:24,28**.

7. What characteristics of the Father can be seen in the Son?

Hebrews 1:3 _____

8. What does Jesus say about anyone who has seen Him?

John 14:8-9 _____

The Greek word **LOGOS** translated **WORD** in the book of John means "divine expression". When John refers to Jesus as the **LOGOS** or **WORD**, he means Jesus is the exact image of the invisible God. The Father chose to reveal Himself to us through the Son.

9. Read **John 1:1-5,14,18** and answer these questions.

How long as the WORD been around?

Verse 1 _____

Who does the Bible say the WORD is?

Verse 1 _____

What things were made by the WORD?

Verse 3 _____

What can be found in the WORD?

Verse 4-5 _____

Did the WORD stay in heaven only?

Verse 14 _____

Who has the Son revealed to us?

Verse 18 _____

Read **Colossians 1:15-20** and compare it to the above scriptures.

10. Who do you say Jesus is? _____

From memory, write out your memory verse from page 21.

Bible Study #7

WHAT GOD EXPECTS

Begin memorizing **Matthew 22:37**

“Jesus said to him, ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind’.”

Matthew 22:37

Deuteronomy 10:12 — “*And now, Israel, what does the Lord our God require of you, but to fear the Lord your God, to walk in all His ways and to love Him, to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul.*”

As Christians we should always remember what God expects from us. In this lesson you should learn:

- A. We should fear God
- B. We should love Him and obey Him
- C. We should serve Him from our hearts

FEAR does not mean to be afraid or frightened of God. To fear God means to respect Him, have reverence for His holiness, to be in awe of His majesty and glory.

1. What does God promise for those who fear Him?

Luke 1:50

Acts 10:35

2. When God judges the whole earth, who will He have rewards for?

Revelation 11:18

Proverbs 1:7 — “*The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction.*”

Proverbs 9:10 — “*The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.*”

3. What is produced by fearing the Lord? _____

Proverbs 15:16— “*Better is a little with the fear of the LORD, than great treasure with trouble.*”

The Greek word **AGAPE**, translated **LOVE** (or **CHARITY** in some translations), means the selfless, giving love that comes from God. It is a sacrificing, caring love that seeks what is best for others and not itself. Read **I John 4:7** to **I John 5:5** to get a better understanding of **AGAPE**.

4. Why do we love God?

I John 4:19 _____

5. What did Jesus say the most important commandment was?

Mark 12:29-30 _____

6. What other commandment did He say was also important?

Mark 12:31 _____

7. If we are to love God, what else must we do?

I John 4:20-21 _____

8. What will we do if we truly love the Lord?

John 14:23 _____

I John 5:2-3 _____

To serve God involves putting our faith into action. Our faith demonstrates itself through our good works. Read **James 2:14-26**.

9. James said we should not just be hearers of God’s Word. What else should we do?

James 1:22 _____

10. What does Jesus say about the man who hears His words and them puts them into action?

Matthew 7:24-27 _____

11. When we do good works or deeds for others, who does Jesus say we are really serving?

Matthew 25:31-40 _____

12. What was God's purpose for creating us in Jesus Christ?

Ephesians 2:10 _____

13. If a Christian does lots of good works, but love (agape) is not the reason for doing them, what does the Bible say about that person?

I Corinthians 13:1-3 _____

14. The Bible says we are to do good works. Are we saved by doing them?

Titus 3:5 _____

Proverbs 21:2-3— “*Every way of a man is right in his own eyes, but the Lord weighs the hearts. To do righteousness and justice is more acceptable to the Lord than sacrifice.*”

All works should be from **inside** your heart, not just and **outward** show for others to see. When your works are judged by the Lord, He does not see the **outward** appearance of the work, but the **inward** motive. The outward actions of going to church, witnessing, doing good works, etc. do not make you a Christian. Going to church does not make you a Christian any more than going to McDonald's make you a hamburger! You are a Christian because Jesus has come **inside** your heart. Your outward actions show others what has happened **inside** your heart.

15. When we serve God from a true heart, what will unbelievers do when they see our good works?

Matthew 5:16 _____

I Peter 2:12 _____

From memory, write out your memory verse from page 25.

Congratulations! You have completed the first 7 lessons.

Bible Study #8

VIRTUE (PURITY)

The next set of studies is taken from ***II Peter 1:5-7:***

*"But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith **virtue**, to virtue **knowledge**, to knowledge **self-control**, to self-control **perseverance**, to perseverance **godliness**, to godliness **brotherly kindness**, and to brotherly kindness **love**."*

This passage deals with Christian character, those qualities and attributes the Lord desires and requires of us as Christians. God wants you to live life to the fullest capacity. That is why He is molding and shaping you each day to be more like Jesus. When you add virtue, knowledge, self-control, perseverance, godliness, brotherly kindness and love to your life, you are maturing in your relationship with Jesus Christ, thus becoming more like Him.

For the next seven lessons you will be learning about each of these qualities of Christian character. Keep in mind that there will always be room for growth in your life in each of these areas. There are no plateaus to arrive at where you will have received all that there is to learn. If there were, you could give God a nudge and say, "Move over, there's two of us now".

VIRTUE means moral goodness, modesty and purity. All of us are stained by sin and its hold over our lives. But God desires to share His purity and His perfection, with us through the gift of His Son Jesus Christ.

Begin memorizing **Philippians 4:8**

"Finally brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things."

Philippians 4:8

1. **Isaiah 6:3, I Samuel 2:2, and Revelation 15:4** reveal a most important attribute of God.
What is it? _____

God's Holiness is the "sum of all moral excellency found in Him. He is absolute purity.

2. God is so pure that He cannot do what, according to **Habakkuk 1:13**? _____

3. How does **Psalm 12:6** describe the words of the Lord?

God's Word contains nothing that is useless or worthless. **John 17:17** tells us that God's Word is truth.

4. According to **I Peter 1:22**, how do we purify ourselves?

5. As children of God we want to live a life that is clean and pleasing to the Lord. What do the following verses say about this?

Psalm 51:10 _____

Proverbs 4:14-15 _____

In **Psalm 51:10** (above) create means "to bring into existence" something new. Only God can fashion a heart with purity.

6. What does God promise to those who are pure in heart?
Matthew 5:8 _____

7. According to **I Peter 1:15**, every Christian is called to:

The word "conduct" means "manner for life". It is used here in regard to living a life that is holy.

8. How does God describe those who practice impurity?

Ephesians 4:18-19

9. What are some of the works of the flesh?

Galatians 5:19-21

10. The Christian should value his body as a sacred place where God dwells. What does **I Corinthians 6:19** tell us about our body?

11. What principles do the following verses give for living a life of purity?

II Timothy 2:22

Romans 13:14

12. As we become clothed with the purity of Christ, what are we to do for others?

I Timothy 4:12

As our faith in God increases, our lives will become more pure; and then we will seek more of the knowledge of God's purity and other attributes.

13. Are you living a life that's pure? _____

From memory, write out your memory verse from page 29.

Bible Study #9

KNOWLEDGE

The definition of **KNOWLEDGE** is “the fact or condition of apprehending truth; knowing something with familiarity gained through experience or association”.

For us to grow in our Christian walk, it is vitally necessary that we become knowledgeable in the God who is all knowledgeable.

Begin memorizing **Psalm 147:5**

“Great is our Lord, and mighty in power;
His understanding is infinite.”

Psalm 147:5

The Bible tells us that God is **OMNICIENT**. The word **OMNICIENT** means that “God knows all things and is absolutely perfect in knowledge”.

1. What does **Job 37:6** tell us about God’s knowledge?

2. How does the Bible tells us God speaks to us according to **Isaiah 45:19** _____

3. What does the Bible say about God’s Word?

John 17:17 _____

We see that God’s Word is His knowledge, and that His knowledge is truth.

4. What does God desire of all people?

I Timothy 2:4 _____

5. Once we are saved and come to the knowledge of the truth, what does God desire of us?

II Peter 3:18 _____

If we were to feed our physical bodies only once a week, we would become very malnourished. It would weaken us physically and emotionally. This very same principle applies to our spiritual nourishment. If we feed ourselves spiritual food only once a week, we will become spiritually malnourished and unstable. Instead of growth in our life, we will begin to stagnate. As Christians it is essential that we feed ourselves “daily” on the Word of God and receive His food (knowledge) for our growth.

6. What is the first step in increasing our knowledge of God?

Proverbs 1:7 _____

FEAR means “to have a loving reverence (respect, admiration) for God that includes submission to His Lordship and to the commands of His Word”.

7. What does **II Timothy 2:15** tell us to do?

We need to study God’s Word in context to get the balanced perspective of His knowledge for us. By taking it out of context, God’s knowledge is often perverted. It is important to study the whole counsel of God, from Genesis through Revelation.

8. What do the following scriptures tell us about those who reject God’s divine knowledge?

Isaiah 47:10-11 _____

Hosea 4:6 _____

9. We must always remember that the wisest and most knowledgeable Christian is limited in his knowledge. God is the only one who knows all. We must never allow our knowledge to fill us with false pride. What does **I Corinthians 8:1-3** tell us about how we should use knowledge?

Knowledge without love is worthless. We are to apply God's knowledge to our lives to show our love for Him and others. **See Matthew 22:37-40.**

10. The Bible tells us as we grow in the knowledge of God we can grow in temperance, which means self-control. Self-control is the virtue of one who masters his desires and passions; restraint exercised over one's own impulses, emotions, or desires. Do you have self-control through the knowledge of God?

From memory, write out your memory verse from page 32.

Bible Study #10

SELF-CONTROL

The message of the gospel is one of having trust in someone greater than ourselves. That someone, as we know, is our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We will encounter many trials throughout our Christian walk. In order to overcome them, it will take self-control. **Self-control** is “restraint exercised over one’s own impulses, emotions or desires”.

As Christians we desire to do what is right in the eyes of the Lord, but we are constantly struggling with sin.

1. Read **Romans 7:14-25**. In this passage, Paul tells us of his struggle with sin, but also of his victory in Jesus Christ. How does this passage give you hope for your walk with Christ?

Begin memorizing **Romans 13:14**

“But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts.

Romans 13:14

2. What is the key to conquering sinful desires?

Galatians 5:16 _____

Self-control is just one part of Christian character. It is produced by the Holy Spirit, not by the mere moral discipline of trying to live by the law.

3. List the fruit of the spirit. **Galatians 5:22-23**

Notice the word “fruit” in verse 22 is singular. Self-control is just one portion of the fruit. One of the things that the Spirit promises to do for the child of God is to enable him or her to master self weaknesses, and areas of temptation.

4. **II Peter 1:5-9** speaks of the virtues that will produce a well rounded, fruitful Christian life. According to verse 6, what are we to add to knowledge? _____

According to many false teachers, knowledge made self-control non-essential. But, Peter tells us that knowledge leads to self-control. Review Bible study #9 on knowledge.

5. Read the story of Joseph and Potiphar’s wife in **Genesis 39:1-12**. Joseph showed self-control by doing what?

6. **I Corinthians 6:18** tells us to _____ from sexual immorality.

Self-control is not idleness; it consists of action. It is not something to play with, but rather something to put into practice, through the power of the Holy Spirit.

7. Read **II Samuel 11:1-5**, the story of David and Bathsheba. Did David exercise self-control or did he play with it? (vs. 3)

8. What are the three areas in our life that need to be and must be controlled?

I John 2:16 _____

We will continually be attacked by temptation, but the victory is ours in Jesus Christ. **See James 4:7-8.**

9. Write what Jesus says in **Matthew 26:41.**

As we are filled with the Spirit of God, we are given power to overcome whatever assaults the enemy might make.

Not because we have control of ourselves, but because we yield ourselves to the Spirit of God and allow Him to provide us with His controlling power. We will only have self-control when we let God have full control. **See II Corinthians 3:5.**

10. Being joint heirs with the living God is the secret of being content, and the source of our strength. What do the following scriptures tell us about our strength.

Philippians 4:13 _____

II Peter 1:2-3 _____

11. Self-control teaches us not to surrender to circumstances or succumb under trial. It teaches us patience. Do you have patience through self-control? _____

From memory, write out your memory verse from page 35.

Bible Study #11

PATIENCE (PERSEVERANCE)

How often do we find ourselves, during times of trial, asking God for “**PATIENCE**” — and please hurry!”. The word **PATIENCE** means “long-tempered”. It is the opposite of having what is known as a “short fuse”. **Patience** is the ability to contain one’s self. It indicates perseverance, endurance, steadfastness, and long-suffering. **Patience** is that calm and unruffled temper with which the good man bears the evils of life, whether they proceed from persons or things.

Begin memorizing **James 1:4**

“But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.”

James 1:4

1. Read **Genesis 6:1-22**. How many people were saved in all from the flood? **I Peter 3:20** _____
2. Read **Genesis 12:3-4, 17:2, 18:10**, and **21:5**. When God makes a promise He keeps it. It took 25 years for God’s promise to Abraham to take place. What did Abraham do during this period of time. **Hebrews 6:15** _____
3. According to **2 Peter 3:9**, how patient (long-suffering) is the Lord? _____
4. Patience is bound up in (**I Corinthians 13:4**):

5. Read **Colossians 1:9-11**. As we grow in the knowledge of God, it causes us to be strengthened with all power. For what purpose? **Colossians 1:12** _____
6. As a child of God you are to clothe yourself with what kind of behavior? **Colossians 3:12,13** _____

7. The Scriptures tell us to be patient with how many people?

1 Thessalonians 5:14-15 _____

8. Just how long are we to be patient with everyone?

James 5:7-10 _____

9. How do we come to acquire patience?

Matthew 21:22 _____

Romans 15:5 _____

Galatians 5:22 _____

Patience or long-suffering is part of the fruit that the Holy Spirit gives. We receive the fruit of the Spirit as we walk closely with Jesus, in obedience to Him. God is the author of patience in His servants.

In **II Corinthians 6:3-10** we read of the many hardships that Paul encountered during his ministry. Yet he steadfastly showed himself to be a ministry of God by his character.

10. What are some of the characteristics of Paul? (vs. 6)

11. How are we to be during times of affliction? **Romans 12:12**

12. What is involved in waiting on the Lord?

Psalm 37:7 _____

Psalm 40:1 _____

As we come to grow in faith, purity, knowledge, self-control, and patience, we move toward a genuine reverence of God that will govern our attitude toward every aspect of life.

13 According to **II Peter 1:6**, what is the virtue that follows patience? _____

14. Are you growing in godliness? _____

From memory, write out your memory verse from page 38.

Bible Study #12

GODLINESS

When we read of **GODLINESS** in the Scriptures, it is referring to faithfulness and reverence toward God. Another name for godliness is "holiness". **HOLINESS** indicates sanctity, or separation, from all that is sinful or impure or morally imperfect.

A short and simple definition of **HOLINESS** is "separation to God". As Christians we should all desire to be more Christ-like.

One of the many attributes of God is His **HOLINESS**.

Therefore, we should strive to be holy.

Begin memorizing **I Peter 1:15-16**

“..But as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, because it is written, “Be holy, for I am holy”.

I Peter 1:15-16

1. What do the following Scriptures tell us about God?

Psalm 99:9 _____

I John 1:5 _____

Light represents what is good, true and holy, while darkness represents what is evil and false.

2. In **Psalm 89:30-37** we read of the Lord making a covenant with David that was to be everlasting and unconditional. In verse 35 we see the Lord swear to this covenant by:

God swears by His 'holiness' because it is a full expression of Himself. This attribute of holiness is ascribed to each of the three persons of the trinity.

3. How do the following scriptures refer to the following?

God the Father **Isaiah 40:25/Isaiah 41:14** _____

God the Son **Mark 1:24/Acts 3:14** _____

God the Spirit **Ephesians 4:30** _____

4. According to **Isaiah 5:16**, God will show Himself holy by what? _____

5. How does God feel about sin?

The holiness of God demands that before the sinner can approach and have fellowship with Him, some means of atonement must be provided. Only through the shed blood of His Son Jesus Christ are we able to approach God.

6. Read **II Corinthians 5:20-21**

Who was sinless? _____

Who was made to be sin for us? _____

What do we become in Christ? _____

7. What are God's people referred to in **Romans 8:27** and **Ephesians 1:15,18**? _____

SAINT means "Holy One". The name reflects our standing. In Jesus, we are set apart unto God.

8. We are told in **I Timothy 6:11** to pursue: _____

The most frequent use of the word "holy" in the New Testament is to identify God's Spirit as the Holy Spirit. Only by the power of God's Spirit are we transformed and able to live a holy life.

9. What part do our minds have in living a holy life?

Romans 8:5 _____

10. Read **Colossians 3:1-8** and list the practical steps for holy living.

vs. 1-2 _____

vs. 5 _____

vs. 8 _____

11. We are not to be conformed to this world, but we are to be transformed to be more like Christ. What does God want to do to our minds that will help us achieve this?

Romans 12:2 _____

To be transformed is to have our moral character changed for the better. It is not a single event, but rather a process. The more we draw near to God, the more He draws near to us. Becoming more like Jesus will be the natural outcome.

12. What does **I Timothy 4:8** tell us about godliness?

"All things" is referring to the entire well-being, physical, spiritual, temporal and eternal.

13. How are we to present ourselves to God?

Romans 12:1 _____

14. As God's saints, what are we to do with evil and good?

Romans 12:9 _____

15. What quality are we to add to godliness to further our growth in Christian character?

II Peter 1:7 _____

From memory, write out your memory verse from page 41.

Bible Study #13

BROTHERLY KINDNESS

BROTHERLY KINDNESS is rendered “brotherly love” or “love for the brethren”. In the original Greek, the word used is ‘philadelphos’ — to love one’s fellow countryman.

In the Christian community, it sums up the support of Christians to each other.

Begin memorizing **Romans 12:10**

“Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love.”
Romans 12:10

1. What do we read about God’s kindness? **Nehemiah 9:17**

2. How long will God’s kindness endure? **Isaiah 54:8**

The Lord’s kindness had no beginning and it had no end; it is eternal.

3. According to **Ephesians 2:6-7**, how does God show His kindness to us? Vs. 7 _____

4. Read **Titus 3:4-7** and tell what God’s kindness has done for mankind. Vs. 5 _____

NOTE: Kindness and goodness are synonymous in the Scripture references in this study.

5. According to the following scriptures, are we able to teach ourselves brotherly love?

I Thessalonians 4:9 _____

I John 4:7 _____

6. God’s Word is our spiritual food. Read **I Peter 2:2-3** and write that which we want to taste of Him. Vs. 3

GRACIOUS — good, kind, obliging, courteous. Let us constantly taste of His kindness as we feed upon His Word.

7. What are ways of being kind to others according to the following scriptures?

Ephesians 4:32 _____

Romans 15:1-2

Matthew 25:35-40

vs. 35 _____

vs. 36 _____

8. Read **Acts 14:14-18** and write the different ways that we witness the Lord's kindness. Vs. 17

9. What is the purpose of God's kindness or goodness in **Romans 2:4**?

10. Read **Romans 11:22**. Consider the kindness and stern nature of God. Write out your personal expression of thanks to your Heavenly Father for His kindness toward you.

11. What does **Hebrews 13:1** tell us.

Brotherly kindness is a mutual love that children of the same father share. In the New Testament, it always means love of the fellow believer, because we all have the same Heavenly Father.

As our love for the brethren develops and matures, we will come even closer to God in being like Him. As we become more like Him, we will come to love unconditionally as He does.

12. Is your love a conditional love or an unconditional love?

From memory, write out your memory verse from page 44.

Bible Study #14

LOVE

LOVE is a word that is used quite often in the English language: "I love my wife", "I love my dog", "I love Mexican food". In no way do we love all three equally as much, but as loosely as the word is used, one would start to wonder.

There are three different words in Greek used for love. **EROS** focuses on sexual desires (lust); **PHILEO** focuses on brotherly friendship; and **AGAPE** is used to express a deep, longsuffering and constant love towards an unworthy object. Agape is God's wonderful and unconditional love for us.

Begin memorizing **I John 4:16**

"And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him."

I John 4:16

"God is love". This is not a definition, but rather it is a fact; all that God does is an expression of His love. Love is not just one of His attributes, but it is His very nature.

1. What do the following scriptures tell us about God's love?

Ephesians 2:4 _____

Jeremiah 31:3 _____

Jonah 4:2 _____

Hosea 14:4 _____

Hebrews 12:6 _____

2. We read in the Old Testament that the Israelites were a disobedient people, yet God delivered them from bondage in Egypt. Why?

Deuteronomy 4:37 _____

We see that God's deep affection and love is given as the reason He chooses Israel. The only reason that God loves anyone is found in His sovereign will. Read **II Timothy 1:9**.

3. To whom do the following Scriptures reveal the objects of God's love.

John 3:35 _____

John 16:27 & II Thessalonians 2:16 _____

John 3:16 & Titus 3:4 _____

The love of God is personal and intimate. He doesn't love populations, He loves people.

4. Can anything separate us from the love of God?

Romans 8:35-39 _____

5. According to **James 1:17**, does the love of God ever change?

6. Read **John 3:16**, **15:13**, and **I John 3:16, 4:10**. What is the greatest love of all?

Love is the key to understanding why Jesus was willing to die on the cross for us.

7. How does God demonstrate His love for us?

Romans 5:8 _____

What was there in us that attracted the love of God? Nothing! He died while we were still sinners. Jesus' sacrifice was not made for friends, but for enemies.

8. Why do we love God?

1 John 4:19 _____

Christ did not die in order to make God love us, but because God already loved us.

9. How are we to love God?

Matthew 22:37 _____

Our love is to be total, involving our entire being. Loving God is the key that opens the door to our ability to love one another.

10. What will those who love God receive?

James 1:12 _____

James 2:5 _____

11. What is the distinguishing mark of being a disciple of Christ?

John 13:35 _____

12. Read **John 14:15** and **I John 2:3-5**. Through what do we show our love toward God?

13. Fill in the blanks of **I Corinthians 13:4-8** (NKJV). If you have a different translation, write out these verses on a separate sheet of paper.

"Love _____ and is _____; love does not
_____; love does not _____, is not
_____; does not _____,
does not _____, is not _____,
thinks no _____; does not _____,
but rejoices _____; _____ all
things, _____ all things, _____ all things,
all things. Love _____ .

Prophecies will fail, tongues will cease, knowledge will pass away, but love never fails. Love transforms our desires, our ideas, our values, our relationships, and our very selves.

14. According to **I John 4:18**, how do we overcome fear?

15. How is our love increased toward one another?

I Thessalonians 3:12

On our own, we cannot love the way God loves. It is impossible. No one has the ability to love this way until they really come to Christ. Until the Holy Spirit has control of our lives, we do not have the power to love as God loves. **Read Romans 5:5.**

16. What does the Bible tell us about those who love the things of the world?

I John 2:15

The world of people, or the created world, lies under the sway of the wicked one. **See 1 John 5:19.**

17. Is your love in the world or is your love in the Lord? _____

Memory verse:

Christianity best reflects Christ when Christians grow in love and live out the love that is the one unquestionable mark of Christ's presence among His people.

Remember: the world might hate us, but God will always love us. May God bless you as you continue your walk with Him.

Appendix

STUDY NOTES

