



"Discipleship Training Program"

Christianity 101 - Lesson One

The Word of God

Memory Text Scripture

II Timothy 3:16 *"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:"*

Why Should I Study?

- It is the Word of **God** to **man**
 - **Psalms 19:7-9** *"The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple. The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes. The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever: the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether."*
- It is **alive** and **active**
 - **Hebrews 4:12** *"For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart."*
- It effectually **works** in those that **believe**
 - **I Thessalonians 2:13** *"For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe."*
- It is good for **doctrine, reproof, correction, and instruction**
 - **II Timothy 3:16** *"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:"*

Concerning the Old Testament and New Testament, it is well said:

- The New is in the Old contained and the Old is in the New explained. Each is complete, but one cannot be understood without the other. Scripture is its own interpreter.

How Did We Get Our Bible?

The Bible was given by inspiration of the Spirit of God – The **Spirit** produced the **Word**,

- **II Timothy 3:15-17** *"And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: ¹⁷That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works."*
- **II Peter 1:20-21** *"Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. ²¹For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost."*

God brought infallible revelation through fallible men over a period of **1600** years. The Holy Spirit was the divine author, using about 40 human writers.

- **I Chronicles 28: 11-12, 19** *"Then David gave to Solomon his son the pattern of the porch, and of the houses thereof, and of the treasures thereof, and of the upper chambers thereof, and of the inner parlours thereof, and of the place of the mercy seat, ¹²And the pattern of all that he had by the spirit, of the courts of the house of the LORD,*

and of all the chambers round about, of the treasures of the house of God, and of the treasures of the dedicated things: ¹⁹All this, said David, the LORD made me understand in writing by his hand upon me, even all the works of this pattern."

Seven Editions of Divine Law

#1. Written on **nature**

- Psalm 19:1 "The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament showeth his handywork."

#2. Written on **conscience**

- Romans 2:15 "Which show the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and their thoughts the mean while accusing or else excusing one another;)"

#3. Written on Tablets of **stone**

- Exodus 24:12 "And the LORD said unto Moses, Come up to me into the mount, and be there: and I will give thee tables of stone, and a law, and commandments which I have written; that thou mayest teach them."

#4. **Christ** the Living Word

- John 1:14 "And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth."

#5. The Entire **Scriptures**

- Romans 15:4 "For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope."

#6. Written on the **heart**

- Hebrews 8:10 "For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people:"

#7. **Christians** as Living Epistles

- II Corinthians 3:2-3 "Ye are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read of all men: ³Forasmuch as ye are manifestly declared to be the epistle of Christ ministered by us, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God; not in tables of stone, but in fleshy tables of the heart."

Why Is Our Bible Divided Into Two Testaments?

Because:

- God's **revelation** to man is **progressive**

- Isaiah 28:9-13 "Whom shall he teach knowledge? and whom shall he make to understand doctrine? them that are weaned from the milk, and drawn from the breasts. ¹⁰For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little: ¹¹For with stammering lips and another tongue will he speak to this people. ¹²To whom he said, This is the rest wherewith ye may cause the weary to rest; and this is the refreshing: yet they would not hear. ¹³But the word of the LORD was unto them precept upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little; that they might go, and fall backward, and be broken, and snared, and taken."

- The Old Testament was **preparatory** to the New Testament.
- The Old Testament set forth the **type** and **shadow** of the New Testament church.
 - Hebrews 8:5 "Who serve unto the example and shadow of heavenly things, as Moses was admonished of God when he was about to make the tabernacle: for,

See, saith he, that thou make all things according to the pattern showed to thee in the mount."

- **Romans 15:4** "For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope."
- **Hebrews 10:1** "For the law having a shadow of good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually make the comers thereunto perfect."
- **I Corinthians 10:11** "Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come."

Is Doctrine Important?

The word doctrine means: "**teaching**, instruction or to teach the **substance**."

- **Ephesians 4:14-15** "That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; ¹⁵But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ."

The Scriptures speak of:

- The Doctrine of **God**
 - **Deuteronomy 32:2** "My doctrine shall drop as the rain, my speech shall distil as the dew, as the small rain upon the tender herb, and as the showers upon the grass."
 - **Proverbs 4:2** "For I give you good doctrine, forsake ye not my law."
 - **Titus 2:10** "Not purloining, but showing all good fidelity; that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour in all things."
- The Doctrine of **Christ**
 - **John 7:16-17** "Jesus answered them, and said, My doctrine is not mine, but his that sent me. ¹⁷If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself."
 - **II John 9, 10** "Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son. ¹⁰If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed:"
 - **Hebrews 6:1-2** "Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God, ²Of the doctrine of baptisms, and of laying on of hands, and of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment."
- The Doctrine of **devils**
 - **I Timothy 4:1** "Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;"
 - **Revelation 2:14-15; 24** "But I have a few things against thee, because thou hast there them that hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balac to cast a stumblingblock before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication. ¹⁵So hast thou also them that hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitanes, which thing I hate. ²⁴But unto you I say, and unto the rest in Thyatira, as many as have not this doctrine, and which have not known the depths of Satan, as they speak; I will put upon you none other burden."
- The Doctrine of **men**

- **Mark 7:7** "Howbeit in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men."
- **Ephesians 4:14** "That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;"
- **Matthew 16:12** "Then understood they how that he bade them not beware of the leaven of bread, but of the doctrine of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees."
- The Doctrine of **Apostles**
 - **Acts 2:42** "And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers."

It does matter what we study and believe.

- **I Timothy 6:13** "I give thee charge in the sight of God, who quickeneth all things, and before Christ Jesus, who before Pontius Pilate witnessed a good confession;"
- **Titus 2:7-10** "In all things showing thyself a pattern of good works: in doctrine showing uncorruptness, gravity, sincerity, ⁸Sound speech, that cannot be condemned; that he that is of the contrary part may be ashamed, having no evil thing to say of you. ⁹Exhort servants to be obedient unto their own masters, and to please them well in all things; not answering again; ¹⁰Not purloining, but showing all good fidelity; that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour in all things."
- **I Timothy 4:6,13,16** "If thou put the brethren in remembrance of these things, thou shalt be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished up in the words of faith and of good doctrine, whereunto thou hast attained. ¹³Till I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine. ¹⁶Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee."

All religions, true and false, are founded on various teachings and doctrines. These doctrines believed, received, and practiced determine:

- **Character** – what we are
- **Action** – what we do
- **Destiny** – where we go

Hence the necessity for being established in the doctrines of God.

- **Titus 2:10** "Not purloining, but showing all good fidelity; that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour in all things."
- **Job 11:4** "For thou hast said, My doctrine is pure, and I am clean in thine eyes."
- **II Timothy 3:14-17** "But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them; ¹⁵And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: ¹⁷That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works."
- **Titus 1:9** "Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers."

How Should I Study?

- Have a proper **attitude**
- Select a specific **time**
- Choose a special **place**

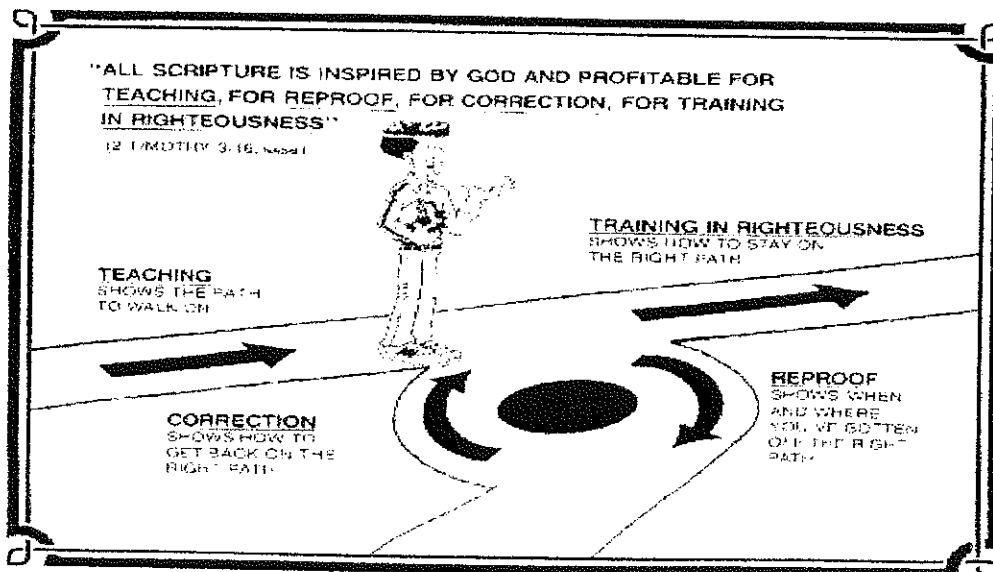
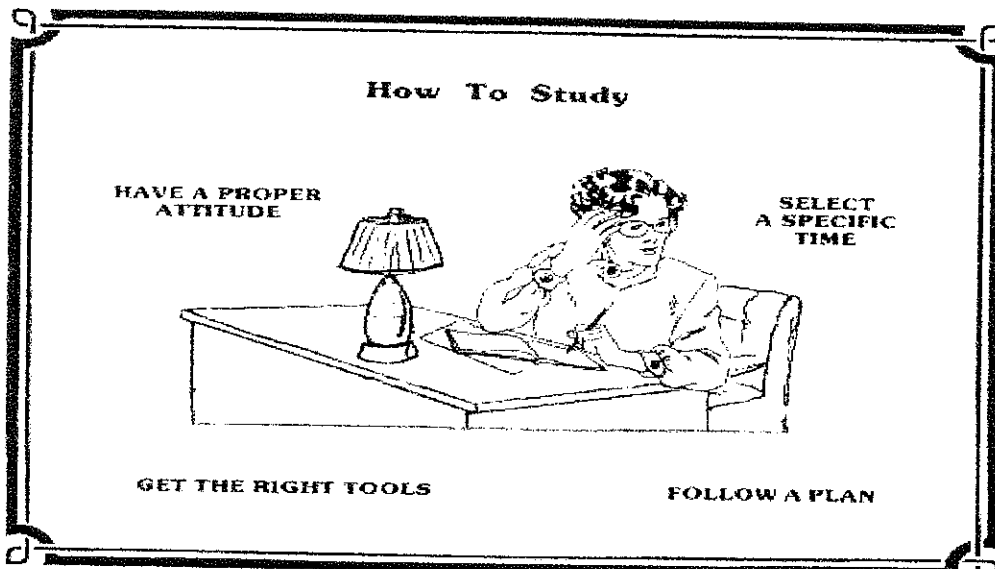
- **Prayer**

- Get the right **tools**

- A good study Bible, A good concordance, A good dictionary, A good Bible handbook, A good word studies

- Follow a **plan**

- Word Study
 - Choose a word, Define the word, Compare versions, Original definition, Root meaning, Bible usage, Application
- Verse Analysis
 - Choose a verse, Paraphrase, Questions and answers, Cross-reference, Insights, Applications
- Chapter Summary
 - Contents, Chief people, Key verse, Key words, Christ seen, Central truth, Application
- Book Survey
 - Read the book, Make notes, Background study, Diagram chart, Tentative outline, Application





"Discipleship Training Program"

Christianity 101 - Lesson Two

Repentance

Memory Text Scripture

II Corinthians 7:10 "For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death."

First Word of the Gospel

The first word of the Gospel is "**repent**." The second word is "**believe**."

- **Mark 1:15** "And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel."
- **John's** first message was repentance.
 - **Matthew 3:1-8** "In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea, ²And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. ³For this is he that was spoken of by the prophet Esaias, saying, The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. ⁴And the same John had his raiment of camel's hair, and a leathern girdle about his loins; and his meat was locusts and wild honey. ⁵Then went out to him Jerusalem, and all Judaea, and all the region round about Jordan, ⁶And were baptized of him in Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁷But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees come to his baptism, he said unto them, O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance."
- **Jesus Christ's** first message was repentance
 - **Matthew 4:17** "From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."
- The twelve **Apostles** preached repentance
 - **Mark 6:7-13** "And he called unto him the twelve, and began to send them forth by two and two; and gave them power over unclean spirits; ⁸And commanded them that they should take nothing for their journey, save a staff only; no scrip, no bread, no money in their purse: ⁹But be shod with sandals; and not put on two coats. ¹⁰And he said unto them, In what place soever ye enter into an house, there abide till ye depart from that place. ¹¹And whosoever shall not receive you, nor hear you, when ye depart thence, shake off the dust under your feet for a testimony against them. Verily I say unto you, It shall be more tolerable for Sodom and Gomorrha in the day of judgment, than for that city. ¹²And they went out, and preached that men should repent. ¹³And they cast out many devils, and anointed with oil many that were sick, and healed them."
- The first message on the day of **Pentecost** was "repent"
 - **Acts 2:38** "Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost."
- **Paul's** first message was repentance
 - **Acts 20:20-21** "And how I kept back nothing that was profitable unto you, but have showed you, and have taught you publicly, and from house to house, ²¹Testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ."

Repentance is the first step in the believer's life; God **commanded** it. If this foundation is not properly laid, the whole structure will be shaky, unable to stand the tests and trials that come.

- **Acts 17:30** *"And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent:"*

Paul speaks of it as the "foundation of repentance from dead works." **Hebrews 6:1,2**

False Concepts Concerning Repentance

- It is not **conviction** of sin
 - **Genesis 6:3** *"And the LORD said, My spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also is flesh: yet his days shall be an hundred and twenty years."*
 - **Acts 24:24-25** *"And after certain days, when Felix came with his wife Drusilla, which was a Jewess, he sent for Paul, and heard him concerning the faith in Christ. ²⁵And as he reasoned of righteousness, temperance, and judgment to come, Felix trembled, and answered, Go thy way for this time; when I have a convenient season, I will call for thee."*¹
 - Conviction **produces** repentance, but not all who are convicted repent.
- It is not **worldly** sorrow
 - **II Corinthians 7:10** *"For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death."*
 - Worldly sorrow is simply being sorry "for getting caught", but not being sorry for the crime committed.
- It is not **reformation**
 - Reformation is turning over a "new leaf", but not genuine repentance.
- It is not **religious**
 - The Pharisees in Christ's day were extremely religious, yet they were hypocrites. They never experienced repentance, but rather crucified Jesus.
 - **Matthew 5:20; 3:7-12** *"For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven. But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees come to his baptism, he said unto them, O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance: ⁹And think not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham to our father: for I say unto you, that God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham. ¹⁰And now also the axe is laid unto the root of the trees: therefore every tree which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. ¹¹I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire: ¹²Whose fan is in his hand, and he will thoroughly purge his floor, and gather his wheat into the garner; but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire."*
- It is not only "**believe**-ism" or mental faith
 - Mental faith is merely a mental acceptance and assent to a set of creeds of doctrines, but without any change in the life. This is dead faith.
 - **James 2:19-20** *"Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble. ²⁰But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?"*

The Proper Root Of Repentance

The Root of Repentance:

- **Matthew 3:8** "Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance:"
- The root meaning of the word repentance is "a change of **mind**, or a change of **heart** and **attitude**", and this in particular, concerning sin and relationship with God. It means a complete about turn; a change of direction.

The Fall brought about in man a mind in **rebellion** against God and His Law; a mind which desires to go its own way.

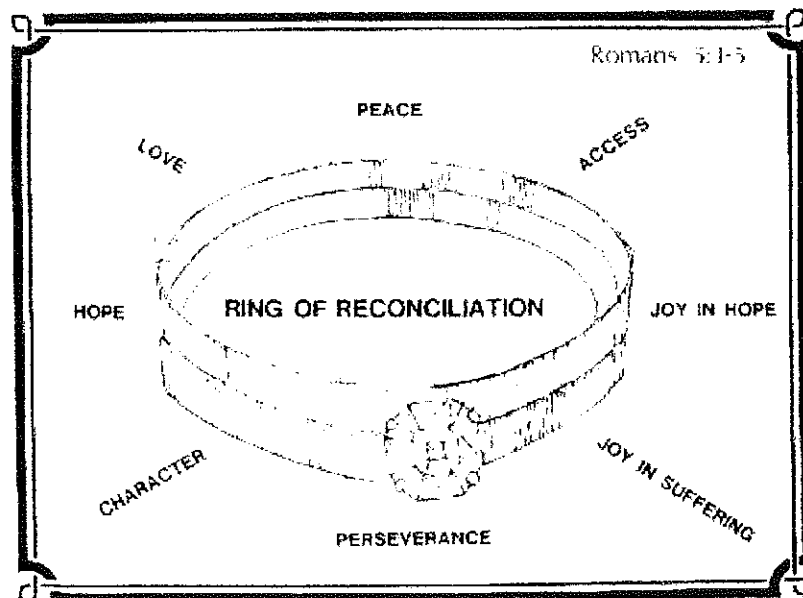
- **Ephesians 2:3** "Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others."
- **Colossians 1:21** "And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled"

Repentance, brought about by the Holy Spirit, is a change of mind; a facing towards God. No man can or will repent of himself, but true repentance is brought about by the **conviction** of the Holy Spirit; God grants and demands repentance. This is the root of repentance.

- **Isaiah 53:6** "All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all."
- **Romans 2:4** "Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?"

Repentance is the informing and changing of the **mind**; the stirring and directing of the **emotions** to urge the required change; and the action of the **will** in turning the whole man away from sin unto God.

Example – Luke 15:11-24



What Are The Fruits Of Repentance?

The Fruit of Repentance

- **Acts 26:20** *"But showed first unto them of Damascus, and at Jerusalem, and throughout all the coasts of Judaea, and then to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, and do works meet for repentance."*
- **Matthew 3:8** *"Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance."*

If there is genuine repentance **inwardly** (the root), this will be evidenced **outwardly** (the fruit).

John the Baptist called for *"fruits meet for repentance"*.

The fruits of repentance are evidenced in:

- **Godly sorrow for sin**
 - **II Corinthians 7:9-11** *"Now I rejoice, not that ye were made sorry, but that ye sorrowed to repentance: for ye were made sorry after a godly manner, that ye might receive damage by us in nothing. ¹⁰For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death. ¹¹For behold this selfsame thing, that ye sorrowed after a godly sort, what carefulness it wrought in you, yea, what clearing of yourselves, yea, what indignation, yea, what fear, yea, what vehement desire, yea, what zeal, yea, what revenge! In all things ye have approved yourselves to be clear in this matter."*
- **Confession of sin**
 - **Psalms 32:1-5** *"Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. ²Blessed is the man unto whom the LORD imputeth not iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no guile. ³When I kept silence, my bones waxed old through my roaring all the day long. ⁴ For day and night thy hand was heavy upon me: my moisture is turned into the drought of summer. Selah ⁵I acknowledged my sin unto thee, and mine iniquity have I not hid. I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the LORD; and thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin. Selah"*
 - **I John 1:9** *"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."*
- **Forsaking of sin**
 - **Proverbs 28:13** *"He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy."*
- **Hatred of Sin**
 - **Ezekiel 36:31-33** *"Then shall ye remember your own evil ways, and your doings that were not good, and shall loathe yourselves in your own sight for your iniquities and for your abominations. ³²Not for your sakes do I this, saith the Lord GOD, be it known unto you: be ashamed and confounded for your own ways, O house of Israel. ³³Thus saith the Lord GOD; In the day that I shall have cleansed you from all your iniquities I will also cause you to dwell in the cities, and the wastes shall be builded."*

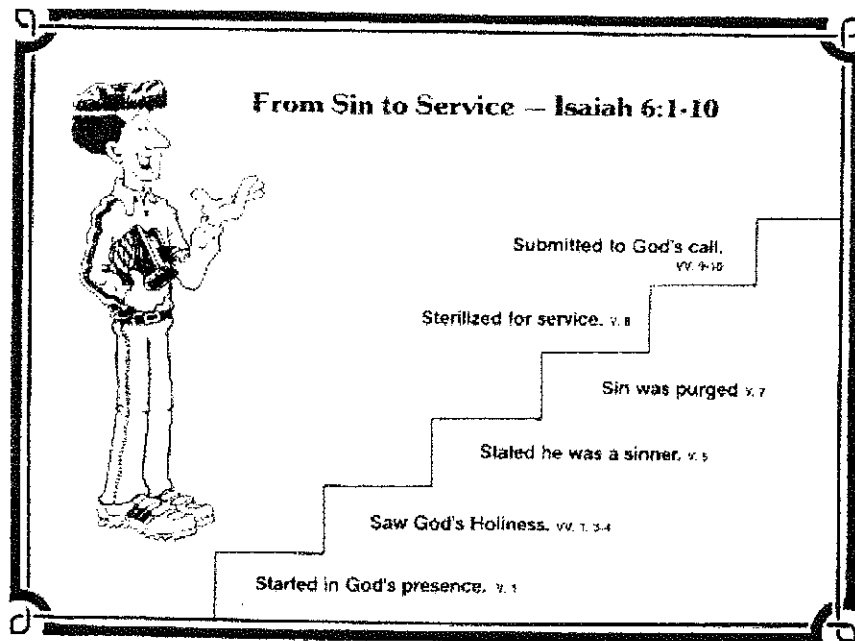
Fruit involves restitution where possible.

- **Leviticus 6:1-7** *"And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, ²If a soul sin, and commit a trespass against the LORD, and lie unto his neighbour in that which was delivered him to keep, or in fellowship, or in a thing taken away by violence,*

or hath deceived his neighbour; ³Or have found that which was lost, and lieth concerning it, and sweareth falsely; in any of all these that a man doeth, sinning therein: ⁴Then it shall be, because he hath sinned, and is guilty, that he shall restore that which he took violently away, or the thing which he hath deceitfully gotten, or that which was delivered him to keep, or the lost thing which he found, ⁵Or all that about which he hath sworn falsely; he shall even restore it in the principal, and shall add the fifth part more thereto, and give it unto him to whom it appertaineth, in the day of his trespass offering. ⁶And he shall bring his trespass offering unto the LORD, a ram without blemish out of the flock, with thy estimation, for a trespass offering, unto the priest: ⁷And the priest shall make an atonement for him before the LORD: and it shall be forgiven him for any thing of all that he hath done in trespassing therein."

- **Luke 19:8** "And Zacchaeus stood, and said unto the Lord; Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have taken any thing from any man by false accusation, I restore him fourfold."

Without these fruits being manifest, there is no genuine Bible repentance!



REAL REPENTANCE FROM PSALM 51

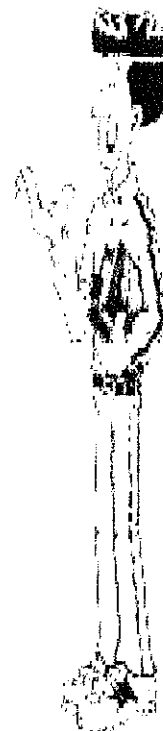
Using a scale of 1 to 10 (1-least and 10-most), rate yourself on each of the real repentance principles found in Psalm 51. Add up your score. Then compare it with the goal of 10 for each question. Ask God to help you recognize where you are weak. Begin by praying that God will make you completely honest about yourself as you take this personal repentance inventory.

MY SCORE

1. I confess that I have sinned
2. I am not trying to cover up anything
3. I make no excuses for myself
4. I realize that it is my nature to disobey God
5. I deeply regret that I have offended God
6. I know that God is willing and able to forgive me
7. I want to be made clean and pure where I am now
unclean
8. I choose to correct any wrongs I have done, wherever
this may be possible

MY TOTAL SCORE

BEST POSSIBLE SCORE 80





"Discipleship Training Program"

Christianity 101 - Lesson Three

Faith

Memory Text Scripture

Hebrews 11:1 *"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."*

What Is The Second Word Of The Gospel?

The second word of the Gospel is "**believe**_____."

- **Jesus**_____ preached repentance and faith
 - **Mark 1:15** *"And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel."*
- **Paul**_____ preached repentance and faith
 - **Acts 20:21** *"Testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ."*
- The second principle of the doctrine of Christ is **faith**_____ toward God.
 - **Hebrews 6:1** *"Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God,"*

How Important Is Faith?

Faith is the **foundation**_____ of the entire Christian life.

- **Hebrews 11:6** *"But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him."*
- **Romans 1:17** *"For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith."*
- **Habakkuk 2:4** *"Behold, his soul which is lifted up is not upright in him: but the just shall live by his faith."*

Nothing can be **known**_____ or **received**_____ of God unless man first believes in His **existence**; and secondly, that god has revealed Himself in His **Word**_____, the Bible.

- **Galatians 3:11** *"But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, The just shall live by faith."*
- **Hebrews 10:38** *"Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him."*

What Is Faith?

- Faith (noun) – faith, **belief**_____, firm persuasion, assurance, firm conviction, honesty, integrity, faithfulness, truthfulness.
- Believe (verb) – to trust in; put faith in, confide in, rely on a person, or thing; have a mental persuasion; to entrust, commit to the charge or power of.
 - **Hebrew 11:1** (Amplified) *"Now faith is the assurance (the confirmation, the title-deed) of the things (we) hope for, being the proof of things (we) do not*

see and the conviction of their reality – faith perceiving as real fact what is not revealed to his senses.”

What Is The Source Of True Faith?

The only source of true Biblical faith is the **Word** of God

- *“Faith cometh by hearing...the Word (the Rhema) of God.” Romans 10:4-16,17*

The Word of God comes in a variety of ways:

- The Word spoken in **creation**
 - *John 1:1-3 “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²The same was in the beginning with God. ³All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.”*
- The **Prophetic** Word
 - *II Peter 1:20,21 “Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. ²¹For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.”*
- The **Written** Word (Logos)
 - *Luke 24:44 “And he said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me.”*
- The **Living** Word (Jesus Christ)
 - *John 1:1-3, 14 “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²The same was in the beginning with God. ³All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. ¹⁴And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.”*

Hebrews 11 is considered the “ **Faith Chapter** ”.

- It's in this chapter that we see many “Faith Heroes” who all received a word from God.
- **Hebrews 11:8-12** *“By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went. ⁹By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise: ¹⁰For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God. ¹¹Through faith also Sarah herself received strength to conceive seed, and was delivered of a child when she was past age, because she judged him faithful who had promised. ¹²Therefore sprang there even of one, and him as good as dead, so many as the stars of the sky in multitude, and as the sand which is by the sea shore innumerable.”*
- **Romans 4:16-22** *“Therefore it is of faith, that it might be by grace; to the end the promise might be sure to all the seed; not to that only which is of the law, but to that also which is of the faith of Abraham; who is the father of us all,¹⁷(As it is written, I have made thee a father of many nations,) before him whom he*

believed, even God, who quickeneth the dead, and calleth those things which be not as though they were. ¹⁸Who against hope believed in hope, that he might become the father of many nations, according to that which was spoken, So shall thy seed be. ¹⁹And being not weak in faith, he considered not his own body now dead, when he was about an hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sarah's womb: ²⁰He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God; ²¹And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform. ²²And therefore it was imputed to him for righteousness."

The manner in which Abraham manifests faith is the manner in which we must manifest faith:

- He **heard** the word
- Hope concerning the **future** was a result of his faith in the **present**
- He refused to accept the evidences of his **senses**
- He did not **waver** in his commitment
- He rejoiced in the word as an accomplished **fact**

Scriptural faith is a condition of the **heart**, not the mind.

- It is in the present, not the future.
- It produces a positive **change** in the behavior and experience.
- It is based solely on God's Word and accepts the testimony of the sense only when it agrees with the text of God's Word.
- It is expressed by **confession** with the mouth.

Are There Different Levels Of Faith?

Yes, the Bible teaches that there are various levels or measures of faith

- **II Thessalonians 3:2** "And that we may be delivered from unreasonable and wicked men: for all men have not faith."

God gives to every believer the **measure** of faith

- **Romans 12:3-6** "For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith. ⁴For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office: ⁵So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another. ⁶Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith;"

Faith is likened to a seed. A seed has the potential to grow.

- **Little** Faith – **Matthew 6:30** "Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith?"

- **Great** Faith – **Matthew 8:10** "When Jesus heard it, he marvelled, and said to them that followed, Verily I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel."
- **Perfect** Faith – **James 2:22** "Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect?"
- **All** Faith – **I Corinthians 13:2** "And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing."

How Do We Appropriate Faith?

Locate the promise in God's Word that fits the need.

- **Philippians 4:19** "But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus."
- **II Corinthians 1:20** "For all the promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us."

Fulfill all the conditions attached to that need.

- **Isaiah 1:19-20** "If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land: ²⁰But if ye refuse and rebel, ye shall be devoured with the sword: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it."
- **Psalms 37:5** "Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass."

With Patience **accept** the trying of your faith and God's testing of your faith in the Word.

- **Hebrews 6:12-15** "That ye be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises. ¹³For when God made promise to Abraham, because he could swear by no greater, he swore by himself, ¹⁴Saying, Surely blessing I will bless thee, and multiplying I will multiply thee. ¹⁵And so, after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise."
- **Psalm 105:19** "Until the time that his word came: the word of the LORD tried him."
- **James 1:3-4** "Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. ⁴But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing."

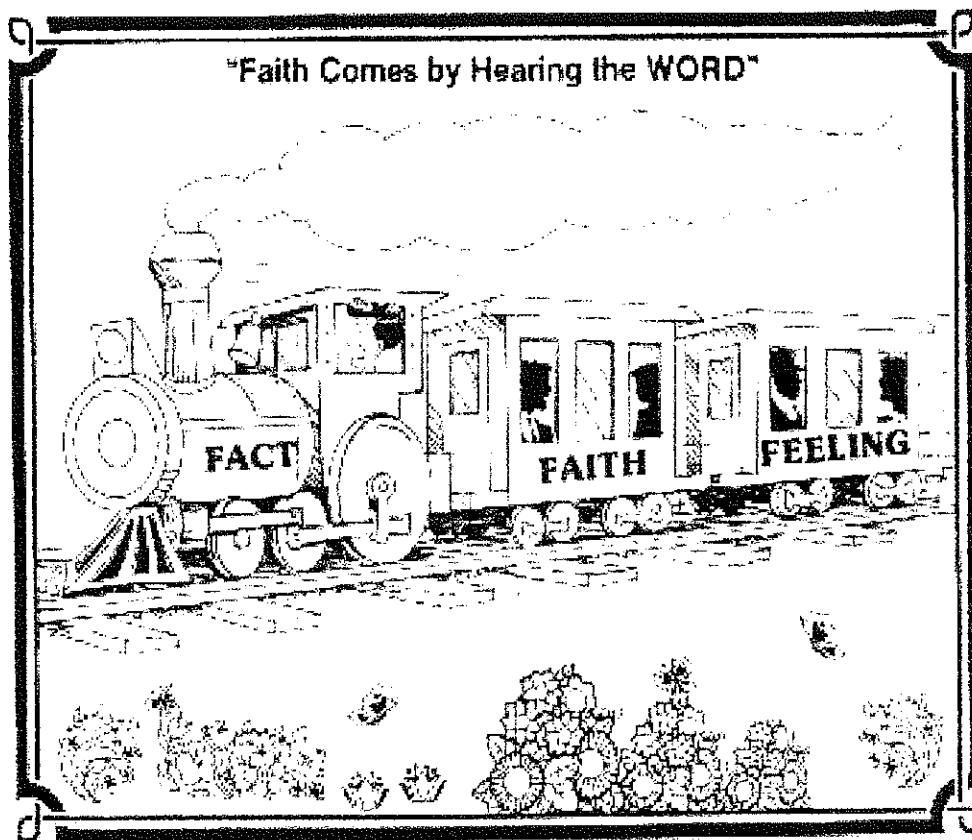
We must firmly and positively **claim** the fulfillment of the promise.

- **II Peter 1:3-4** "According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: ⁴Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust."

Our confession should always be in **harmony** with God's Word.

- **Hebrews 3:1** "Wherefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Christ Jesus;"
- **I John 5:14** "And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us:"

Actively appropriating faith is one of the keys to a victorious Christian life. *"Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith."*





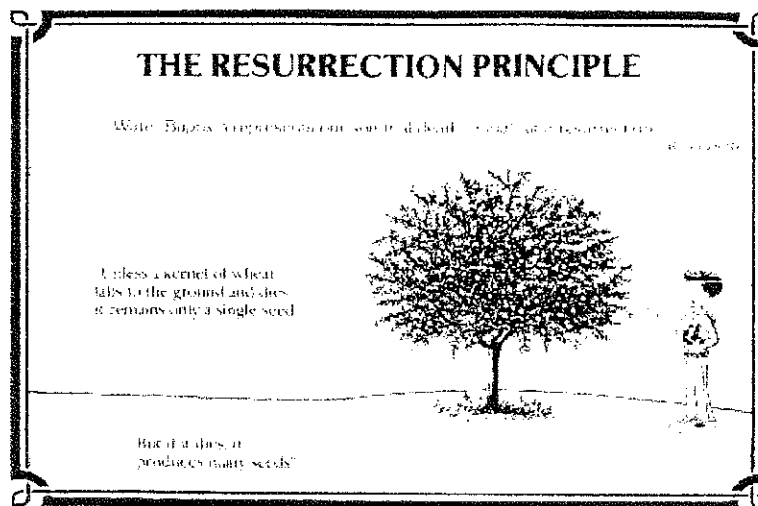
"Discipleship Training Program"

Christianity 101 - Lesson Four

Water Baptism

Memory Text Scripture

Matthew 28:19 "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:"



Water baptism is the next important step in the first principles of the doctrine of Christ. Water baptism is not merely a **form** or a meaningless ceremony, but a definite **experience** in the life of a New Testament Christian, as recorded for us not only in the Gospels, but in the Acts of the Apostles and the Epistles.

- **Hebrews 6:1-2** "Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God, ²**Of the doctrine of baptisms**, and of laying on of hands, and of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment."
- **Acts 2:38-41** "Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and **be baptized every one of you** in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. ³⁹For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call. ⁴⁰And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation. ⁴¹Then **they that gladly received his word were baptized**: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls."

What Is The Meaning Of The Word Baptism?

- Baptism or baptize means "to dip, to plunge, or **immerse**".
- **Mark 1:5** "And there went out unto him all the land of Judaea, and they of Jerusalem, and **were all baptized of him in the river of Jordan**, confessing their sins."
- **John 3:23** "And John also was baptizing in Aenon near to Salim, **because there was much water there**: and they came, and were baptized."
- **Acts 8:36-39** "And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized? ³⁷And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. ³⁸And he commanded the chariot to stand still: **and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him.** ³⁹And when they were come up out

of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip, that the eunuch saw him no more: and he went on his way rejoicing."

By definition and usage, the word means "to put into or under water so as to entirely immerse or submerge."

Why Have The Ordinance Of Baptism?

- **Jesus** commanded it.
 - **Mark 16:16** "*He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.*"
 - **Matthew 28:16-20** "*Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, into a mountain where Jesus had appointed them. ¹⁷And when they saw him, they worshipped him: but some doubted. ¹⁸And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. ¹⁹Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, **baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:** ²⁰Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen."*
- Jesus was **baptized**
 - **Matthew 3:13-17** "*Then cometh Jesus from Galilee to Jordan unto John, to be baptized of him. ¹⁴But John forbad him, saying, I have need to be baptized of thee, and comest thou to me? ¹⁵And Jesus answering said unto him, Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness. Then he suffered him. ¹⁶**And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water:** and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him: ¹⁷And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."*
- The **apostles** commanded it
 - **Acts 2:37-47** "*Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do? ³⁸Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and **be baptized every one of you** in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. ³⁹For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call. ⁴⁰And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation. ⁴¹Then **they that gladly received his word were baptized:** and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls. ⁴²And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers. ⁴³And fear came upon every soul: and many wonders and signs were done by the apostles. ⁴⁴And all that believed were together, and had all things common; ⁴⁵And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men; as every man had need. ⁴⁶And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart, ⁴⁷Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved."*
 - **Acts 10:44-48** "*While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word. ⁴⁵And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost. ⁴⁶For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God. Then answered Peter, **Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we?** ⁴⁸And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then prayed they him to tarry certain days."*
- If we love Him, we will keep His **commandments**
 - **John 14:15** "*If ye love me, keep my commandments.*"
- We validate our **faith** by our obedience
 - **James 2:17-18** "*Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone. ¹⁸Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: **show me thy faith without thy works, and I will show thee my faith by my works.**"*

For Whom Is This Ordinance?

In every Scripture listed below it will be seen that people heard, believed and received the Word, and then were baptized. **Repentance** and **faith** always preceded water baptism. Therefore it is a "believer's baptism".

- "He that believe and is baptized..."
 - **Mark 16:16** *"He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned."*
- The **Samaritans** believed and were baptized.
 - **Acts 8:12-15** *"But when they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women. ¹³Then Simon himself believed also: and when he was baptized, he continued with Philip, and wondered, beholding the miracles and signs which were done. ¹⁴Now when the apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent unto them Peter and John: ¹⁵Who, when they were come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost:"*
- The **eunuch** believed and was baptized.
 - **Acts 8:35-38** *"Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus. ³⁶And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized? ³⁷And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. ³⁸And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him."*
- Peter commanded that the **Gentiles** be baptized.
 - **Acts 10:47-48** *"Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we? ⁴⁸And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then prayed they him to tarry certain days."*
- The **Ephesian** disciples believed and were baptized.
 - **Acts 19:4-5** *"Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus. ⁵When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus."*

More reading: Acts 9:17-18; Acts 16: 30-34; Acts 18:8

Water baptism is not **optional**, but an important part of obedience. To refuse water baptism is to live in disobedience to the revealed will of God and to reject to follow the example of Jesus Christ.

- **Acts 8:36** *"And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized?"*
- **Question: What hinders me from being baptized?**

Water baptism involves a confession of faith in the **Lordship** of Jesus Christ,

- **Acts 8:36-39** *"And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized? ³⁷And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. ³⁸And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him. ³⁹And when they were come up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip, that the eunuch saw him no more: and he went on his way rejoicing."*

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

The prerequisites of baptism are **repentance, faith and confession** (these clearly exclude infant baptism).

What Is The Meaning Of This Ordinance?

Water baptism is a **symbolic** yet real spiritual experience. It is baptism into His:

- **Death**
 - **Romans 6:3-5, 11** *"Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? ⁴Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. ⁵For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection: Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord."*
- **Burial**
 - **Colossians 2:12** *"Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead."*
- **Resurrection**
 - **Colossians 3:1** *"If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God."*
 - **Romans 6:4-5** *"Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: **that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.** ⁵For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also **in the likeness of his resurrection.**"*

Baptism is **identification** with Christ. In salvation we accept Christ's death, burial, and resurrection. In water baptism we are identified with this triune fact.

- By baptism we **stand** as "dead".
- By immersion we **bury** the "dead".
- By raising out of the water, we **rise** to walk in newness of life.

What Is The New Testament Circumcision?

- It is water **baptism**
 - **Colossians 2:11-12** *"In whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ: ¹²**Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead.**"*
 - **Philippians 3:2-3** *"Beware of dogs, beware of evil workers, beware of the concision. ³**For we are the circumcision, which worship God in the spirit, and rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh.**"*
- It is the **fulfillment** of the Old Testament circumcision
 - **Genesis 17:1-14** *"And when Abram was ninety years old and nine, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said unto him, I am the Almighty God; walk before me, and be thou perfect. ²And I will make my covenant between me and thee, and will multiply thee exceedingly. ³And Abram fell on his face: and God talked with him, saying, ⁴**As for me, behold, my covenant is with thee, and thou shalt be a father of many nations.** ⁵**Neither shall thy name any more be called Abram, but thy name shall be Abraham; for a father of***

many nations have I made thee. ⁶And I will make thee exceeding fruitful, and I will make nations of thee, and kings shall come out of thee. ⁷And I will establish my covenant between me and thee and thy seed after thee in their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be a God unto thee, and to thy seed after thee. ⁸And I will give unto thee, and to thy seed after thee, the land wherein thou art a stranger, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession; and I will be their God. ⁹And God said unto Abraham, Thou shalt keep my covenant therefore, thou, and thy seed after thee in their generations. ¹⁰**This is my covenant, which ye shall keep, between me and you and thy seed after thee; Every man child among you shall be circumcised.** ¹¹And ye shall circumcise the flesh of your foreskin; and it shall be a token of the covenant betwixt me and you. ¹²And he that is eight days old shall be circumcised among you, every man child in your generations, he that is born in the house, or bought with money of any stranger, which is not of thy seed. ¹³He that is born in thy house, and he that is bought with thy money, must needs be circumcised: and my covenant shall be in your flesh for an everlasting covenant. ¹⁴And the uncircumcised man child whose flesh of his foreskin is not circumcised, that soul shall be cut off from his people; he hath broken my covenant."

- It is the **seal** of the New Testament Covenant
 - **Galatians 3:26-27** "For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. ²⁷For as many of you **as have been baptized into Christ** have put on Christ."
- It is a sign and seal of covenant **relationship**, both in the Old Testament and in the New Testament.
 - **Joshua 5:1-9** "And it came to pass, when all the kings of the Amorites, which were on the side of Jordan westward, and all the kings of the Canaanites, which were by the sea, heard that the LORD had dried up the waters of Jordan from before the children of Israel, until we were passed over, that their heart melted, neither was there spirit in them any more, because of the children of Israel. ²At that time the LORD said unto Joshua, Make thee sharp knives, and circumcise again the children of Israel the second time. ³And Joshua made him sharp knives, and circumcised the children of Israel at the hill of the foreskins. ⁴And this is the cause why Joshua did circumcise: All the people that came out of Egypt, that were males, even all the men of war, died in the wilderness by the way, after they came out of Egypt. ⁵Now all the people that came out were circumcised: but all the people that were born in the wilderness by the way as they came forth out of Egypt, them they had not circumcised. ⁶For the children of Israel walked forty years in the wilderness, till all the people that were men of war, which came out of Egypt, were consumed, because they obeyed not the voice of the LORD: unto whom the LORD sware that he would not show them the land, which the LORD sware unto their fathers that he would give us, a land that floweth with milk and honey. ⁷**And their children, whom he raised up in their stead, them Joshua circumcised: for they were uncircumcised, because they had not circumcised them by the way.** ⁸And it came to pass, when they had done circumcising all the people, that they abode in their places in the camp, till they were whole. ⁹And the LORD said unto Joshua, **This day have I rolled away the reproach of Egypt from off you. Wherefore the name of the place is called Gilgal unto this day.**"



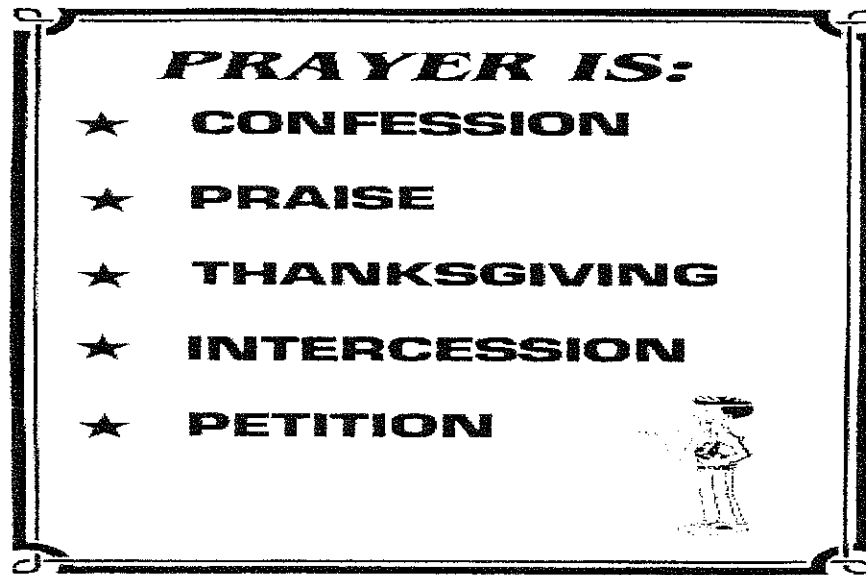
"Discipleship Training Program"

Christianity 101 - Lesson Five

Prayer

Memory Text Scripture

I Timothy 2:1 *"I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men;"*



The Bible shows the **necessity** of prayer.

- **II Chronicles 7:14** *"If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land."*

Why Should Believers Pray?

- Prayer is not an **option**
 - **Isaiah 56:7** *"Even them will I bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer: their burnt offerings and their sacrifices shall be accepted upon mine altar; for mine house shall be called an house of prayer **for all people.**"*
- We are to pray without **ceasing**
 - **I Thessalonians 5:17** *"Pray without ceasing."*
 - **Romans 1:9** *"For God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in the gospel of his Son, that without ceasing I make mention of you always in my prayers;"*
- All men **everywhere** are to pray
 - **I Timothy 2:8** *"I will therefore that men pray every where, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting."*

Who Is The Greatest Example Of Prayer?

The Lord **Jesus**

- **Luke 3:21** *"Now when all the people were baptized, it came to pass, that Jesus also being baptized, **and praying**, the heaven was opened,"*

- **Luke 5:15-16** *"But so much the more went there a fame abroad of him: and great multitudes came together to hear, and to be healed by him of their infirmities. ¹⁶And he withdrew himself into the wilderness, **and prayed.**"*

If Jesus, the Son of God, needed to pray, how much more do we? Jesus was a man of prayer.

- **Mark 1:35** *"And in the morning, rising up a great while before day, he went out, and departed into a solitary place, **and there prayed.**"*

What Is Prayer?

- Prayer is a **discipline**
- It is a **bending** of the will of man before God to admit his need
 - **II Chronicles 7:14** *"If my people, which are called by my name, shall **humble themselves, and pray**, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land."*
 - **Matthew 6:9-10** *"After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. ¹⁰Thy kingdom come. **Thy will** be done in earth, as it is in heaven."*
- Prayer is **rendering** homage to an all-wise and benevolent heavenly Father.
 - **Psalms 108:5** *"Be thou exalted, O God, above the heavens: and thy glory above all the earth;"*
- Prayer is spending time in **conversation** with God. Conversation is a two-way communication.

What Should Be Our Attitude Of Prayer?

- We should pray in **faith**
 - **Hebrews 11:6** *"But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him."*
- We should pray without **wavering**
 - **James 1:6-8** *"But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. ⁷For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord. ⁸A double minded man is unstable in all his ways."*
 - **Mark 11:24** *"Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them."*
- We should pray according to God's **will**
 - **I John 5:14-16** *"And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: ¹⁵And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him. ¹⁶If any man see his brother sin a sin which is not unto death, he shall ask, and he shall give him life for them that sin not unto death. There is a sin unto death: I do not say that he shall pray for it."*
 - **God's Word is His will and His will is His Word**
 - **When we know God's will and add, "if it be Your will," this validates our prayer.**
- We should come to the Father through Jesus Christ, our **Intercessor**
 - **Hebrews 7:25** *"Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them."*

What Are Hindrances To Prayer?

- Asking **amiss**
 - **James 4:1-4** "From whence come wars and fightings among you? come they not hence, even of your lusts that war in your members? ²Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not. ³Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts. ⁴Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God."
- Wrong **motives**
 - **Matthew 6:5-8** "And when thou prayest, thou shalt not be as the hypocrites are: for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward. ⁶But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly. ⁷But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking. ⁸Be not ye therefore like unto them: for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him."
- **Pride**
 - **Psalm 138:6** "Though the LORD be high, yet hath he respect unto the lowly: but the proud he knoweth afar off."
- **Iniquity**
 - **Isaiah 59:1-3** "Behold, the LORD'S hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear. ²But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear. ³For your hands are defiled with blood, and your fingers with iniquity; your lips have spoken lies, your tongue hath muttered perverseness."
 - **Proverbs 28:13** "He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy."
- An **unforgiving** spirit
 - **Matthew 5:23-24** "Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee; ²⁴Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift."
 - **Matthew 18:21-35** "Then came Peter to him, and said, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times? ²²Jesus saith unto him, I say not unto thee, Until seven times: but, Until seventy times seven. ²³Therefore is the kingdom of heaven likened unto a certain king, which would take account of his servants. ²⁴And when he had begun to reckon, one was brought unto him, which owed him ten thousand talents. ²⁵But forasmuch as he had not to pay, his lord commanded him to be sold, and his wife, and children, and all that he had, and payment to be made. ²⁶The servant therefore fell down, and worshipped him, saying, Lord, have patience with me, and I will pay thee all. ²⁷Then the lord of that servant was moved with compassion, and loosed him, and forgave him the debt. ²⁸But the same servant went out, and found one of his fellowservants, which owed him an hundred pence: and he laid hands on him, and took him by the throat, saying, Pay me that thou owest. ²⁹And his fellowservant fell down at his feet, and besought him, saying, Have patience with me, and I will pay thee all. ³⁰And he would not: but went and cast him into prison, till he should pay the debt. ³¹So when his fellowservants saw what was done, they were very sorry, and came and told unto their lord all that was done. ³²Then his lord, after that he had called him, said unto him, O thou wicked servant, I forgave thee all that debt, because thou desiredst me: ³³Shouldest not thou also have had compassion on thy fellowservant, even as I had pity on thee? ³⁴And his lord was wroth, and delivered him to the tormentors, till he should pay all that was due unto him. ³⁵So likewise shall my heavenly Father do also unto you, if ye from your hearts forgive not every one his brother their trespasses."
- **Bitterness**
 - **Hebrews 12:15-17** "Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled; ¹⁶Lest there be any fornicator, or profane person, as Esau, who for one morsel of meat sold his birthright. ¹⁷For ye know how that afterward, when he would have inherited the blessing, he was rejected: for he found no place of repentance, though he sought it carefully with tears."

- **II Peter 2:21-22** "For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them. ²²But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, The dog is turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire."
- **Heart** Idols (Covetousness)
 - **Ezekiel 14:3** "Son of man, these men have set up their idols in their heart, and put the stumblingblock of their iniquity before their face: should I be inquired of at all by them?"
- **Stinginess**
 - **Proverbs 21:13** "Whoso stoppeth his ears at the cry of the poor, he also shall cry himself, but shall not be heard."
- **Doubts**
 - **James 1:5-7** "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. ⁶But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. ⁷For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord."
- Wrong **relationships**
 - **I Peter 3:7** "Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered."

What Are Various Types Of Prayer?

- **Persevering** prayer
 - **Philippians 4:6** "Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God."
 - **Luke 11:5-13** "And he said unto them, Which of you shall have a friend, and shall go unto him at midnight, and say unto him, Friend, lend me three loaves; ⁶For a friend of mine in his journey is come to me, and I have nothing to set before him? ⁷And he from within shall answer and say, Trouble me not: the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot rise and give thee. ⁸I say unto you, Though he will not rise and give him, because he is his friend, yet because of his importunity he will rise and give him as many as he needeth. ⁹And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you. ¹⁰For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened. ¹¹If a son shall ask bread of any of you that is a father, will he give him a stone? or if he ask a fish, will he for a fish give him a serpent? ¹²Or if he shall ask an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? ¹³If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?"
- **Intercessory** prayer
 - **Romans 8:26-27** "Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought; but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. ²⁷And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God."
- In the **Spirit**
 - **I Corinthians 14:14** "For if I pray in an unknown tongue, my spirit prayeth, but my understanding is unfruitful."
 - **Ephesians 6:18** "Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;"
 - **Jude 20** "But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost,"
- **Supplication**

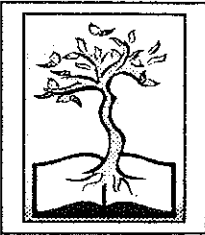
- **I Timothy 2:1-2** "I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; ²For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty."
- Giving **thanks**
 - **I Timothy 2:1-2** "I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; ²For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty."
 - **Philippians 4:6** "Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God."

Who Can Be Involved In Prayer?

- **Individuals**
 - **Matthew 6:5-7** "And when thou prayest, thou shalt not be as the hypocrites are: for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward. ⁶But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly. ⁷But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking."
- Two or **three**
 - **Matthew 18:19-20** "Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven. ²⁰For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them."
- A whole **church**
 - **Acts 2:42** "And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers."
 - **Acts 4:24** "And when they heard that, they lifted up their voice to God with one accord, and said, Lord, thou art God, which hast made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all that in them is:"

When the church comes together, it is scriptural for all to lift up their voice in one **accord** in prayer, praise and thanksgiving.

- **Psalms 64:1** "Hear my voice, O God, in my prayer: preserve my life from fear of the enemy."
- **Psalms 66:19** "But verily God hath heard me; he hath attended to the voice of my prayer."
- **Psalms 18:6** "In my distress I called upon the LORD, and cried unto my God: he heard my voice out of his temple, and my cry came before him, even into his ears."
- **II Chronicles 7:14** "If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land."



Discipleship Training Program

Christianity 101 – Lesson Six

Fasting

Memory Text

Matthew 17:21 *"Howbeit this kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting."*

The Bible clearly shows that **prayer** is definitely linked with **fasting**. True fasting is **intensified prayer**. Things are accomplished through prayer with fasting which cannot be accomplished by prayer alone.

What Are Some Bible Examples Of Fasting?

- A. **Moses** – 40 days
 - a. **Exodus 24:17-18** *"And the sight of the glory of the LORD was like devouring fire on the top of the mount in the eyes of the children of Israel. ¹⁸And Moses went into the midst of the cloud, and gat him up into the mount: and Moses was in the mount forty days and forty nights."*
 - b. **Deuteronomy 9:9** *"When I was gone up into the mount to receive the tables of stone, even the tables of the covenant which the LORD made with you, then I abode in the mount forty days and forty nights, I neither did eat bread nor drink water:"*
- B. **Elijah** – 40 days
 - a. **1 Kings 19:8** *"And he arose, and did eat and drink, and went in the strength of that meat forty days and forty nights unto Horeb the mount of God."*
- C. **Jesus** – 40 days
 - a. **Matthew 4:2** *"And when he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was afterward an hungered."*
 - b. **Luke 4:2** *"Being forty days tempted of the devil. And in those days he did eat nothing: and when they were ended, he afterward hungered."*

Note: This type of fast is called a "**prophets** fast". Moses and Elijah fasted 40 days without food or water. They were supernaturally sustained by the presence of God. These were God-directed fasts. One should not attempt to imitate them unless it is the will of God.

- D. **Daniel** – 21 days
 - a. **Daniel 10:1-3** *"In the third year of Cyrus king of Persia a thing was revealed unto Daniel, whose name was called Belteshazzar; and the thing was true, but the time appointed was long: and he understood the thing, and had understanding of the vision. ²In those days I Daniel was mourning three full weeks. ³I ate no pleasant bread, neither came flesh nor wine in my mouth, neither did I anoint myself at all, till three whole weeks were fulfilled."*
- E. **David** – 7 days
 - a. **II Samuel 12:16-18** *"David therefore besought God for the child; and David fasted, and went in, and lay all night upon the earth. ¹⁷And the*

elders of his house arose, and went to him, to raise him up from the earth: but he would not, neither did he eat bread with them. ¹⁸And it came to pass on the seventh day, that the child died. And the servants of David feared to tell him that the child was dead: for they said, Behold, while the child was yet alive, we spake unto him, and he would not hearken unto our voice: how will he then vex himself, if we tell him that the child is dead?"

What Are Some Other Fasts In The Bible?

- A. Israel had one **day** of fasting, the Day of Atonement.
 - a. **Numbers 29:7** "And ye shall have on the tenth day of this seventh month an holy convocation; and ye shall afflict your souls: ye shall not do any work therein:"
 - b. **Acts 27:9** "Now when much time was spent, and when sailing was now dangerous, because the fast was now already past, Paul admonished them,"
 - i. This was a day of affliction of soul.
- B. Esther fasted three days and three nights without **food** or **water**.
 - a. **Esther 4:16** "Go, gather together all the Jews that are present in Shushan, and fast ye for me, and neither eat nor drink three days, night or day: I also and my maidens will fast likewise; and so will I go in unto the king, which is not according to the law: and if I perish, I perish."
- C. Paul fasted **three** - days.
 - a. **Acts 9:9** "And he was three days without sight, and neither did eat nor drink."
- D. Paul fasted **often**
 - a. **II Corinthians 11:27** "In weariness and painfulness, in watchings often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness."
- E. The church at Antioch fasted (Group Fasting)
 - a. **Acts 13:2** "As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them."

Can We Have The Wrong Motive In Fasting?

Yes! The Bible speaks of those whose motives were wrong – their fasting was **vain**.

- A. The King of Israel, Ahab, fasted with evil motives
 - a. **I Kings 21:4** "And Ahab came into his house heavy and displeased because of the word which Naboth the Jezreelite had spoken to him: for he had said, I will not give thee the inheritance of my fathers. And he laid him down upon his bed, and turned away his face, and would eat no bread."
- B. The Jews fasted to **themselves**, not to the Lord
 - a. **Zechariah 7:1-14** "And it came to pass in the fourth year of king Darius, that the word of the LORD came unto Zechariah in the fourth day of the ninth month, even in Chisleu; ²When they had sent unto the house of God Sherezer and Regemmelech, and their men, to pray before the LORD, ³And to speak unto the priests which were in the house of the LORD of hosts, and to the prophets, saying, Should I weep in the fifth month, separating myself, as I have done these so many years? ⁴Then came the

word of the LORD of hosts unto me, saying, ⁵Speak unto all the people of the land, and to the priests, saying, When ye fasted and mourned in the fifth and seventh month, even those seventy years, did ye at all fast unto me, even to me? ⁶And when ye did eat, and when ye did drink, did not ye eat for yourselves, and drink for yourselves? ⁷Should ye not hear the words which the LORD hath cried by the former prophets, when Jerusalem was inhabited and in prosperity, and the cities thereof round about her, when men inhabited the south and the plain? ⁸And the word of the LORD came unto Zechariah, saying, ⁹Thus speaketh the LORD of hosts, saying, Execute true judgment, and show mercy and compassions every man to his brother: ¹⁰And oppress not the widow, nor the fatherless, the stranger, nor the poor; and let none of you imagine evil against his brother in your heart. ¹¹But they refused to hearken, and pulled away the shoulder, and stopped their ears, that they should not hear. ¹²Yea, they made their hearts as an adamant stone, lest they should hear the law, and the words which the LORD of hosts hath sent in his spirit by the former prophets: therefore came a great wrath from the LORD of hosts. ¹³Therefore it is come to pass, that as he cried, and they would not hear; so they cried, and I would not hear, saith the LORD of hosts: ¹⁴But I scattered them with a whirlwind among all the nations whom they knew not. Thus the land was desolate after them, that no man passed through nor returned: for they laid the pleasant land desolate.

- C. The **Pharisees** fasted twice a week, hypocritically
- Matthew 9:14** "Then came to him the disciples of John, saying, Why do we and the Pharisees fast oft, but thy disciples fast not?"
 - Luke 18:12** "I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess."

What Is The Proper Motive In Fasting?

Isaiah 58 is called "the fasting chapter". It gives us a description of the proper fast before God. Note especially verses 6-7, and the promises of God which follow in verses 8-14. This chapter shows the proper motivation for a fast.

How Are We To Fast?

- Fast unto the **Lord**, not unto **men**; as the Pharisees, disfiguring their faces.
 - Matthew 6:16-18** "Moreover when ye fast, be not, as the hypocrites, of a sad countenance: for they disfigure their faces, that they may appear unto men to fast. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward. ¹⁷But thou, when thou fastest, anoint thine head, and wash thy face; ¹⁸That thou appear not unto men to fast, but unto thy Father which is in secret: and thy Father, which seeth in secret, shall reward thee openly."
- Humble** ourselves with fasting.
 - Psalms 35:13** "But as for me, when they were sick, my clothing was sackcloth: I humbled my soul with fasting; and my prayer returned into mine own bosom."
- Chasten our **souls** in prayer and fasting
 - Psalms 69:10-11** "When I wept, and chastened my soul with fasting, that was to my reproach. ¹¹I made sackcloth also my garment; and I became a proverb to them."

D. Fast with pure **motivation**

- a. **Isaiah 58:6-7** *"Is not this the fast that I have chosen? to loose the bands of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, and to let the oppressed go free, and that ye break every yoke? ⁷Is it not to deal thy bread to the hungry, and that thou bring the poor that are cast out to thy house? when thou seest the naked, that thou cover him; and that thou hide not thyself from thine own flesh?"*

E. Fasting and prayer should not be used as "**works**" to **earn** something from God, but to bring ourselves into line with His Word and will.

Note: If a believer cannot take an extended fast, it is good to fast one or two meals, when possible, and devote this time to prayer. It is also wise to drink plenty of water during fasting for cleansing purposes. It is absolutely important to PRAY in order to receive the full benefit God intended in fasting.

When Should We Fast?

A. When **directed** by the Spirit of God

- a. **Luke 4:1-2** *"And Jesus being full of the Holy Ghost returned from Jordan, and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, ²Being forty days tempted of the devil. And in those days he did eat nothing: and when they were ended, he afterward hungered."*

B. When we know as **individuals** that **we** need to.

- a. **Matthew 6:16-18** *"Moreover when ye fast, be not, as the hypocrites, of a sad countenance: for they disfigure their faces, that they may appear unto men to fast. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward. ¹⁷But thou, when thou fastest, anoint thine head, and wash thy face; ¹⁸That thou appear not unto men to fast, but unto thy Father which is in secret: and thy Father, which seeth in secret, shall reward thee openly."*

C. When the **church** as a **whole** is called to fast for special occasions

- a. **Joel 1:14** *"Sanctify ye a fast, call a solemn assembly, gather the elders and all the inhabitants of the land into the house of the LORD your God, and cry unto the LORD,"*
- b. **Joel 2:15-16** *"Blow the trumpet in Zion, sanctify a fast, call a solemn assembly: ¹⁶Gather the people, sanctify the congregation, assemble the elders, gather the children, and those that suck the breasts: let the bridegroom go forth of his chamber, and the bride out of her closet."*

What Are Some Results To Fasting In Bible Times?

A. A **nation** was delivered from death.

- a. **Esther 4**

B. The city of Nineveh was saved from divine **judgment**.

- a. **Jonah 3:5** *"So the people of Nineveh believed God, and proclaimed a fast, and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them even to the least of them."*

C. **Demon** spirits were cast out.

- a. **Matthew 17:14-21** *"And when they were come to the multitude, there came to him a certain man, kneeling down to him, and saying, ¹⁵Lord, have mercy on my son: for he is lunatic, and sore vexed: for oftentimes he*

falleth into the fire, and oft into the water. ¹⁶And I brought him to thy disciples, and they could not cure him. ¹⁷Then Jesus answered and said, O faithless and perverse generation, how long shall I be with you? how long shall I suffer you? bring him hither to me. ¹⁸And Jesus rebuked the devil; and he departed out of him: and the child was cured from that very hour. ¹⁹Then came the disciples to Jesus apart, and said, Why could not we cast him out? ²⁰And Jesus said unto them, Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you. ²¹Howbeit this kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting."

D. **Elders** were ordained

- a. **Acts 14:23** "And when they had ordained them elders in every church, and had prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord, on whom they believed."

E. The **will** of the Lord was revealed

- a. **Acts 9:9-15** "And he was three days without sight, and neither did eat nor drink. ¹⁰And there was a certain disciple at Damascus, named Ananias; and to him said the Lord in a vision, Ananias. And he said, Behold, I am here, Lord. ¹¹And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the street which is called Straight, and inquire in the house of Judas for one called Saul, of Tarsus: for, behold, he prayeth, ¹²And hath seen in a vision a man named Ananias coming in, and putting his hand on him, that he might receive his sight. ¹³Then Ananias answered, Lord, I have heard by many of this man, how much evil he hath done to thy saints at Jerusalem: ¹⁴And here he hath authority from the chief priests to bind all that call on thy name. ¹⁵But the Lord said unto him, Go thy way: for he is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel:"
- b. **Acts 13:1-4** "Now there were in the church that was at Antioch certain prophets and teachers; as Barnabas, and Simeon that was called Niger, and Lucius of Cyrene, and Manaen, which had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. ²As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them. ³And when they had fasted and prayed, and laid their hands on them, they sent them away. ⁴So they, being sent forth by the Holy Ghost, departed unto Seleucia; and from thence they sailed to Cyprus."

Why We Should Fast

A. In **obedience** to God's Word

- a. **Joel 2:12** "Therefore also now, saith the LORD, turn ye even to me with all your heart, and with fasting, and with weeping, and with mourning:"
- b. **Matthew 6:16** "Moreover when ye fast, be not, as the hypocrites, of a sad countenance: for they disfigure their faces, that they may appear unto men to fast. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward."
- c. **Matthew 9:15** "And Jesus said unto them, Can the children of the bridechamber mourn, as long as the bridegroom is with them? but the days will come, when the bridegroom shall be taken from them, and then shall they fast."

B. To receive God's **grace** and **power**

- a. **Ezra 8:23,31** "So we fasted and besought our God for this: and he was entreated of us. ³¹Then we departed from the river of Ahava on the twelfth day of the first month, to go unto Jerusalem: and the hand of our God was upon us, and he delivered us from the hand of the enemy, and of such as lay in wait by the way."
- b. **II Chronicles 7:14** "If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land."

C. To overcome **temptation**

- a. **Luke 4:1,2,14** "And Jesus being full of the Holy Ghost returned from Jordan, and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, ²Being forty days tempted of the devil. And in those days he did eat nothing: and when they were ended, he afterward hungered. And Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit into Galilee: and there went out a fame of him through all the region round about."
- b. **Matthew 9:15-17** "And Jesus said unto them, Can the children of the bridechamber mourn, as long as the bridegroom is with them? but the days will come, when the bridegroom shall be taken from them, and then shall they fast. ¹⁶No man putteth a piece of new cloth unto an old garment, for that which is put in to fill it up taketh from the garment, and the rent is made worse. ¹⁷Neither do men put new wine into old bottles: else the bottles break, and the wine runneth out, and the bottles perish: but they put new wine into new bottles, and both are preserved."

D. To be cleaned from **sin**

- a. **Jonah 3:5** "So the people of Nineveh believed God, and proclaimed a fast, and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them even to the least of them."
- b. **Daniel 9:3** "And I set my face unto the Lord God, to seek by prayer and supplications, with fasting, and sackcloth, and ashes:"
- c. **I Samuel 7:6** "And they gathered together to Mizpeh, and drew water, and poured it out before the LORD, and fasted on that day, and said there, We have sinned against the LORD. And Samuel judged the children of Israel in Mizpeh."
- d. **Nehemiah 9:1,2** "Now in the twenty and fourth day of this month the children of Israel were assembled with fasting, and with sackclothes, and earth upon them. ²And the seed of Israel separated themselves from all strangers, and stood and confessed their sins, and the iniquities of their fathers."

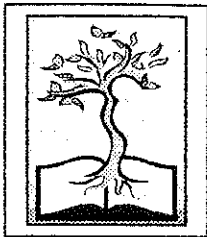
E. To **weaken** the flesh and receive spiritual power

- a. **II Corinthians 12:9,10** "And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. ¹⁰Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong."
- b. **Psalms 109:24** "My knees are weak through fasting; and my flesh faileth of fatness."

F. To accomplish God's **will**

- a. **Acts 13:3** "And when they had fasted and prayed, and laid their hands on them, they sent them away."

- b. **Acts 14:23** *"And when they had ordained them elders in every church, and had prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord, on whom they believed."*
- G. To find **help** in difficult situations
 - a. **II Samuel 12:16** *"David therefore besought God for the child; and David fasted, and went in, and lay all night upon the earth."*
 - b. **Esther 4:16** *"Go, gather together all the Jews that are present in Shushan, and fast ye for me, and neither eat nor drink three days, night or day: I also and my maidens will fast likewise; and so will I go in unto the king, which is not according to the law: and if I perish, I perish."*
- H. To find God's **direction**
 - a. **Ezra 8:21,23** *"Then I proclaimed a fast there, at the river of Ahava, that we might afflict ourselves before our God, to seek of him a right way for us, and for our little ones, and for all our substance. So we fasted and besought our God for this: and he was entreated of us."*
- I. To obtain Divine **revelation**
 - a. **Daniel 1:8-17** *"But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's meat, nor with the wine which he drank: therefore he requested of the prince of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself. ⁹Now God had brought Daniel into favour and tender love with the prince of the eunuchs. ¹⁰And the prince of the eunuchs said unto Daniel, I fear my lord the king, who hath appointed your meat and your drink: for why should he see your faces worse liking than the children which are of your sort? then shall ye make me endanger my head to the king. ¹¹Then said Daniel to Melzar, whom the prince of the eunuchs had set over Daniel, Hananiah, Mishaël, and Azariah, ¹²Prove thy servants, I beseech thee, ten days; and let them give us pulse to eat, and water to drink. ¹³Then let our countenances be looked upon before thee, and the countenance of the children that eat of the portion of the king's meat: and as thou seest, deal with thy servants. ¹⁴So he consented to them in this matter, and proved them ten days. ¹⁵And at the end of ten days their countenances appeared fairer and fatter in flesh than all the children which did eat the portion of the king's meat. ¹⁶Thus Melzar took away the portion of their meat, and the wine that they should drink; and gave them pulse. ¹⁷As for these four children, God gave them knowledge and skill in all learning and wisdom: and Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams."*
 - b. **Daniel 10:7-8** *"And I Daniel alone saw the vision: for the men that were with me saw not the vision; but a great quaking fell upon them, so that they fled to hide themselves. ⁸Therefore I was left alone, and saw this great vision, and there remained no strength in me: for my comeliness was turned in me into corruption, and I retained no strength."*



Discipleship Training Program

Christianity 101 – Lesson Seven

The Lord's Table

Memory Text

I Corinthians 11:26 *"For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do show the Lord's death till he come."*

The purpose of this lesson is to give us a look at the Lord's Table and how it is related to local church life. The more you understand the table of the Lord, the more benefit you will receive from it.

Matthew 26:26-29 *"²⁶And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, Take, eat; this is my body. ²⁷And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it; ²⁸For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins. ²⁹But I say unto you, I will not drink henceforth of this fruit of the vine, until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom."*

What Are Some Titles Of This Ordinance?

- A. The Lord's **Supper**
 - a. **I Corinthians 11:20** *"When ye come together therefore into one place, this is not to eat the Lord's supper."*
- B. The Lord's **Table**
 - a. **I Corinthians 10:21** *"Ye cannot drink the cup of the Lord, and the cup of devils: ye cannot be partakers of the Lord's table, and of the table of devils."*
- C. The **Communion**
 - a. **I Corinthians 10:16** *"The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ?"*
- D. Other designations include "the Eucharist" and "the Sacrament".

Who Instituted The Communion?

- A. The **Lord** instituted this service at the Feast of Passover
 - a. **Matthew 26:17-19** *"¹⁷Now the first day of the feast of unleavened bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying unto him, Where wilt thou that we prepare for thee to eat the passover? ¹⁸And he said, Go into the city to such a man, and say unto him, The Master saith, My time is at hand; I will keep the passover at thy house with my disciples. ¹⁹And the disciples did as Jesus had appointed them; and they made ready the passover."*
 - b. **Mark 14:22-26** *"²²And as they did eat, Jesus took bread, and blessed, and brake it, and gave to them, and said, Take, eat: this is my body. ²³And he took the cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them: and they all drank of it. ²⁴And he said unto them, This is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many. ²⁵Verily I say unto you, I will drink no*

more of the fruit of the vine, until that day that I drink it new in the kingdom of God. ²⁶And when they had sung an hymn, they went out into the mount of Olives."

- c. **Luke 22:15-20** ¹⁵"And he said unto them, With desire I have desired to eat this passover with you before I suffer: ¹⁶For I say unto you, I will not any more eat thereof, until it be fulfilled in the kingdom of God. ¹⁷And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and said, Take this, and divide it among yourselves: ¹⁸For I say unto you, I will not drink of the fruit of the vine, until the kingdom of God shall come. ¹⁹And he took bread, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them, saying, This is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me. ²⁰Likewise also the cup after supper, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you."

B. The Lord Jesus also gave distinctive revelation to **Paul** concerning this ordinance.

- a. **I Corinthians 11:23** "For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, That the Lord Jesus the same night in which he was betrayed took bread:"

What Are The Symbols Used In The Communion?

A. **Table**

- a. **I Corinthians 10:21** "Ye cannot drink the cup of the Lord, and the cup of devils: ye cannot be partakers of the Lord's table, and of the table of devils."
- b. **Luke 22:30** "That ye may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom, and sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel."

B. **Bread**

- a. **I Corinthians 10:16** "The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ?"
- b. **Luke 22:19** "And he took bread, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them, saying, This is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me."

C. **Wine** (the fruit of the vine)

- a. **I Corinthians 10:16** "The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ?"
- b. **Luke 22:17-20** ¹⁷"And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and said, Take this, and divide it among yourselves: ¹⁸For I say unto you, I will not drink of the fruit of the vine, until the kingdom of God shall come. ¹⁹And he took bread, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them, saying, This is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me. ²⁰Likewise also the cup after supper, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you."

What Is The Significance Of The Symbols?

A. Table: is a place of **love** and **fellowship**

- a. **Leviticus 24:5-9** ⁵"And thou shalt take fine flour, and bake twelve cakes thereof: two tenth deals shall be in one cake. ⁶And thou shalt set them in

two rows, six on a row, upon the pure table before the LORD. ⁷And thou shalt put pure frankincense upon each row, that it may be on the bread for a memorial, even an offering made by fire unto the LORD. ⁸Every sabbath he shall set it in order before the LORD continually, being taken from the children of Israel by an everlasting covenant. ⁹And it shall be Aaron's and his sons'; and they shall eat it in the holy place: for it is most holy unto him of the offerings of the LORD made by fire by a perpetual statute."

- b. **Psalms 23:5** "Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over."
- c. **Revelation 3:20** "Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me."

B. Bread:

- a. Representing His **broken** body
 - i. **Matthew 26:26** "And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, Take, eat; this is my body."
- b. Representing the **Church**, the body of Christ
 - i. **I Corinthians 10:16-17** ¹⁶"The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ? ¹⁷For we being many are one bread, and one body: for we are all partakers of that one bread."

C. Wine:

- a. Representing His **blood**, which was significant of the New Covenant
 - i. **Matthew 26:28** "For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins."
 - ii. **I Corinthians 11:25** "After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me."

What Are Some Old Testament Types Of The Communion?

- A. **Abraham** received communion
 - a. **Genesis 14:18** "And Melchizedek king of Salem brought forth bread and wine: and he was the priest of the most high God."
- B. The body and blood of the Passover Lamb **pointed** to the table of the Lord
 - a. **Exodus 12**
 - b. **Mark 14:12** "Then said he also to him that bade him, When thou makest a dinner or a supper, call not thy friends, nor thy brethren, neither thy kinsmen, nor thy rich neighbours; lest they also bid thee again, and a recompense be made thee."
- C. The table of shewbread in the **Tabernacle** of Moses
 - a. **Leviticus 24:5-9** ⁵"And thou shalt take fine flour, and bake twelve cakes thereof: two tenth deals shall be in one cake. ⁶And thou shalt set them in two rows, six on a row, upon the pure table before the LORD. ⁷And thou shalt put pure frankincense upon each row, that it may be on the bread for a memorial, even an offering made by fire unto the LORD. ⁸Every sabbath he shall set it in order before the LORD continually, being taken from the

children of Israel by an everlasting covenant. ⁹And it shall be Aaron's and his sons'; and they shall eat it in the holy place: for it is most holy unto him of the offerings of the LORD made by fire by a perpetual statute."

- b. **Numbers 28:7** "And the drink offering thereof shall be the fourth part of an hin for the one lamb: in the holy place shalt thou cause the strong wine to be poured unto the LORD for a drink offering."
- c. **Exodus 25:23-30** ²³Thou shalt also make a table of shittim wood: two cubits shall be the length thereof, and a cubit the breadth thereof, and a cubit and a half the height thereof. ²⁴And thou shalt overlay it with pure gold, and make thereto a crown of gold round about. ²⁵And thou shalt make unto it a border of an hand breadth round about, and thou shalt make a golden crown to the border thereof round about. ²⁶And thou shalt make for it four rings of gold, and put the rings in the four corners that are on the four feet thereof. ²⁷Over against the border shall the rings be for places of the staves to bear the table. ²⁸And thou shalt make the staves of shittim wood, and overlay them with gold, that the table may be borne with them. ²⁹And thou shalt make the dishes thereof, and spoons thereof, and covers thereof, and bowls thereof, to cover withal: of pure gold shalt thou make them. ³⁰And thou shalt set upon the table showbread before me alway."

How Should We Approach The Lord's Table?

Examining and Eating

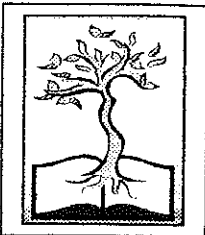
- A. Come to the table with a desire to participate
 - a. **Luke 22:14-15** ¹⁴And when the hour was come, he sat down, and the twelve apostles with him. ¹⁵And he said unto them, With desire I have desired to eat this passover with you before I suffer."
- B. Come in faith believing
 - a. **Hebrews 11:6** "But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him."
 - b. **Romans 14:23** "And he that doubteth is damned if he eat, because he eateth not of faith: for whatsoever is not of faith is sin."
- C. Come remembering (memorial)
 - a. **I Corinthians 11:24-25** ²⁴And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me. ²⁵After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me."
- D. Come with thanksgiving
 - a. **Luke 22:17** "And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and said, Take this, and divide it among yourselves:"
- E. Come as a Body
 - a. **I Corinthians 10:17** "For we being many are one bread, and one body: for we are all partakers of that one bread."
- F. Come partaking together
 - a. **I Corinthians 11:33** "Wherefore, my brethren, when ye come together to eat, tarry one for another."
 - i. "The bread which we break."
 - ii. "The cup which we bless."

1. **I Corinthians 10:16** *"The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ?"*
- iii. Jesus our great high Priest instituted the Table and we as priests partake together.
- iv. Communion is an act of sharing and it is scriptural for believers to break bread and drink the cup with each other.
 1. **Acts 2:46-47** *"⁴⁶And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart, ⁴⁷Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved."*

What Can We Expect To Receive?

- A. For the **worthy**:
 - a. Healing and health
 - b. Life and quickening
 - i. **John 6:54-57** *⁵⁴Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day. ⁵⁵For my flesh is meat indeed, and my blood is drink indeed. ⁵⁶He that eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, dwelleth in me, and I in him. ⁵⁷As the living Father hath sent me, and I live by the Father: so he that eateth me, even he shall live by me."*
- B. For the **unworthy**:
 - a. Guilty of the body and blood of the Lord
 - i. **I Corinthians 11:27** *"Wherefore whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink this cup of the Lord, unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord."*
 - b. Eat and drink judgment
 - i. **I Corinthians 11:29** *"For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body."*
 - c. Weak, sick, and die
 - i. **I Corinthians 11:30** *"For this cause many are weak and sickly among you, and many sleep."*

As we understand this lesson we will be able to properly discern (to have insight into and perceive) the Lord's Table.



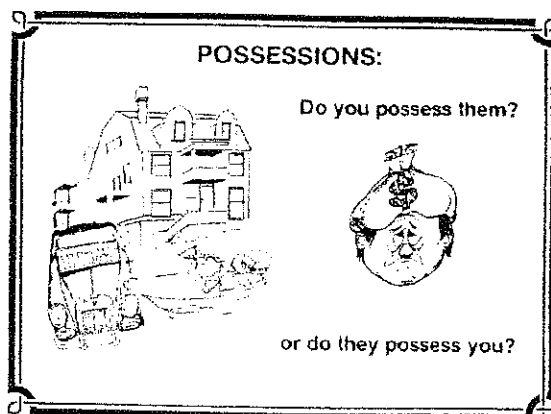
Discipleship Training Program

Christianity 101 – Lesson Eight

Stewardship

Memory Text

1 Corinthians 4:2 *"Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful."*



Stewardship is the practice of systematic and proportionate giving of time, abilities, and material possessions based on the conviction that these are a trust from God to be used in His service for the benefit of His Kingdom. It is a divine-human partnership, with God the senior partner. It is a way of living; the recognition of God's ownership of one's person, one's powers, and one's possessions and the faithful use of these for the advancement of Christ's Kingdom in this world.

What Is The Difference In Ownership & Stewardship

- A. **Ownership** – God is the owner of all things
- Genesis 14:19,22** ¹⁹*"And he blessed him, and said, Blessed be Abram of the most high God, possessor of heaven and earth: ²²And Abram said to the king of Sodom, I have lift up mine hand unto the LORD, the most high God, the possessor of heaven and earth,"*
 - Psalms 24:1**; ¹*"The earth is the LORD'S, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein."*
 - Psalms 50:1-12** ¹*"The mighty God, even the LORD, hath spoken, and called the earth from the rising of the sun unto the going down thereof. ²Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God hath shined. ³Our God shall come, and shall not keep silence: a fire shall devour before him, and it shall be very tempestuous round about him. ⁴He shall call to the heavens from above, and to the earth, that he may judge his people. ⁵Gather my saints together unto me; those that have made a covenant with me by sacrifice. ⁶And the heavens shall declare his righteousness: for God is judge himself. Selah ⁷Hear, O my people, and I will speak; O Israel, and I will testify against thee: I am God, even thy God. ⁸I will not reprove thee for thy sacrifices or thy burnt offerings, to have been continually before me. ⁹I will take no bullock out of thy house, nor he goats out of thy folds.*

¹⁰For every beast of the forest is mine, and the cattle upon a thousand hills. ¹¹I know all the fowls of the mountains: and the wild beasts of the field are mine. ¹²If I were hungry, I would not tell thee: for the world is mine, and the fulness thereof.

d. **Psalms 89:11** "The heavens are thine, the earth also is thine: as for the world and the fulness thereof, thou hast founded them."

e. **Haggai 2:8** "The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, saith the LORD of hosts."

B. **Stewardship** – We are not owners; we are but stewards, responsible and accountable.

a. **Matthew 25:14-30** ¹⁴For the kingdom of heaven is as a man travelling into a far country, who called his own servants, and delivered unto them his goods. ¹⁵And unto one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one; to every man according to his several ability; and straightway took his journey. ¹⁶Then he that had received the five talents went and traded with the same, and made them other five talents. ¹⁷And likewise he that had received two, he also gained other two. ¹⁸But he that had received one went and digged in the earth, and hid his lord's money. ¹⁹After a long time the lord of those servants cometh, and reckoneth with them. ²⁰And so he that had received five talents came and brought other five talents, saying, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me five talents: behold, I have gained beside them five talents more. ²¹His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord. ²²He also that had received two talents came and said, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me two talents: behold, I have gained two other talents beside them. ²³His lord said unto him, Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord. ²⁴Then he which had received the one talent came and said, Lord, I knew thee that thou art an hard man, reaping where thou hast not sown, and gathering where thou hast not strawed: ²⁵And I was afraid, and went and hid thy talent in the earth: lo, there thou hast that is thine. ²⁶His lord answered and said unto him, Thou wicked and slothful servant, thou knewest that I reap where I sowed not, and gather where I have not strawed: ²⁷Thou oughtest therefore to have put my money to the exchangers, and then at my coming I should have received mine own with usury. ²⁸Take therefore the talent from him, and give it unto him which hath ten talents. ²⁹For unto every one that hath shall be given, and he shall have abundance: but from him that hath not shall be taken away even that which he hath. ³⁰And cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

b. **Luke 19:11-26** ¹¹And as they heard these things, he added and spake a parable, because he was nigh to Jerusalem, and because they thought that the kingdom of God should immediately appear. ¹²He said therefore, A certain nobleman went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom, and to return. ¹³And he called his ten servants, and delivered them ten pounds, and said unto them, Occupy till I come. ¹⁴But his citizens hated him, and sent a message after him, saying, We will not have this man to reign over us. ¹⁵And it came to pass, that when he was returned, having received the kingdom, then he commanded these servants to be

called unto him, to whom he had given the money, that he might know how much every man had gained by trading. ¹⁶Then came the first, saying, Lord, thy pound hath gained ten pounds. ¹⁷And he said unto him, Well, thou good servant: because thou hast been faithful in a very little, have thou authority over ten cities. ¹⁸And the second came, saying, Lord, thy pound hath gained five pounds. ¹⁹And he said likewise to him, Be thou also over five cities. ²⁰And another came, saying, Lord, behold, here is thy pound, which I have kept laid up in a napkin: ²¹For I feared thee, because thou art an austere man: thou takest up that thou layedst not down, and reapest that thou didst not sow. ²²And he saith unto him, Out of thine own mouth will I judge thee, thou wicked servant. Thou knewest that I was an austere man, taking up that I laid not down, and reaping that I did not sow: ²³Wherefore then gavest not thou my money into the bank, that at my coming I might have required mine own with usury? ²⁴And he said unto them that stood by, Take from him the pound, and give it to him that hath ten pounds. ²⁵(And they said unto him, Lord, he hath ten pounds.) ²⁶For I say unto you, That unto every one which hath shall be given; and from him that hath not, even that he hath shall be taken away from him.

God	Man
The Giver	The Receiver
Possesser	Steward
The Owner	Responsible
	Accountable
	May Use, Abuse and Lose
The Rewarder	The Rewarded Faithful

What Are Some Owner-Steward Relationships?

- A. **Life** — What you have received
- Genesis 1:27-28** ²⁷So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. ²⁸And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth."
 - Acts 17:25** "Neither is worshipped with men's hands, as though he needed any thing, seeing he giveth to all life, and breath, and all things;"
 - James 1:17** "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning."
- B. **Time** — What you are allotted
- Proverbs 24:30-34** ³⁰I went by the field of the slothful, and by the vineyard of the man void of understanding; ³¹And, lo, it was all grown over with thorns, and nettles had covered the face thereof, and the stone wall thereof was broken down. ³²Then I saw, and considered it well: I looked upon it, and received instruction. ³³Yet a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep: ³⁴So shall thy poverty come as one that travelleth; and thy want as an armed man."

- b. Psalm 90:12 *"So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom."*
- C. **Talents** – What you have been given to use
 - a. Matthew 25:14-30
- D. **Possessions** – What is entrusted to you
 - a. Matthew 6:19-2 *"¹⁹Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: ²⁰But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: ²¹For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."*
 - b. Colossians 3:1-2 *"¹If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. ²Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth."*
- E. **Finances** – What you labor for
 - a. I Corinthians 16:1-2 *"¹Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given order to the churches of Galatia, even so do ye. ²Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come."*

What Are The Requirements Of A Good Steward?

- A. **Faithfulness**
 - a. I Corinthians 4:1-2 *"¹Let a man so account of us, as of the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God. ²Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful."*
- B. **Teachable**
 - a. Psalm 27:11 *"Teach me thy way, O LORD, and lead me in a plain path, because of mine enemies."*
- C. **Desire** To Minister (serve) people
 - a. Romans 12:10-13 *"¹⁰Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another; ¹¹Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord; ¹²Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer; ¹³Distributing to the necessity of saints; given to hospitality."*
- D. Servant's **heart**
 - a. Galatians 5:13 *"For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another."*
- E. Willingness to **give**
 - a. Luke 6:38 *"Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again."*

Are Stewards Accountable?

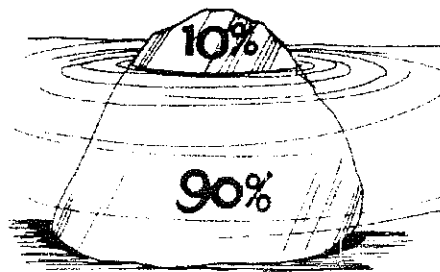
Yes. See the parable of the unjust steward. Luke 16:1-13

- A. What does being a steward mean?
- B. What was the steward accused of in verse 1?
- C. Do we have to give an account of our stewardship? When? Vs 2
- D. Is it possible to forfeit our stewardship? Now or in Eternity? Vs 3

- E. What did the unjust steward do with two of his lord's debtors? Vs 5-6
 F. Why did the lord commend the unjust steward for the wrong action he took? Vs 8
 G. What is (1) the unrighteous mammon? Vs 9, 11, 13; (2) the true riches?
 H. What is the key word (used 4 times) in verses 9-13? Are we such?
 I. How can we make to ourselves "friends of the unrighteous mammon?" Vs 9

Proverbs 15:16 "Better is a little with the fear of the Lord than great treasure with trouble."

GIVE GOD
THE TIP OF
THE ICEBURG!



How Can I Transfer Ownership To God?

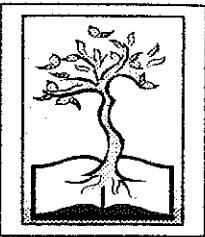
Use the words below to complete each statement.

1. I will base every decision as to how my money will be earned or used on **scriptural principles**
2. I must view myself as a **steward** rather than an owner.
3. God has the right to **take or leave** my possessions as He sees fit.
4. By giving God the ownership of my money, I allow Him to work **supernaturally** through it.
5. God will require me to obey His **commands** once I transfer ownership of my money to Him.
6. One day I must give **an account** as to how I managed all the funds that God entrusted to me.
7. God usually asks first for the object of my most **cherished** affection.
8. Giving God the rightful ownership of my possessions means that I **die emotionally** to them.
9. The actions of **Abraham** in Scripture provide an excellent example to me of how I can transfer ownership of my possessions to God.
10. I have purposed this date to serve **the Lord** rather than money.

A. Commands
B. Supernaturally
C. The Lord
D. Cherished

E. Scriptural principles
F. Abraham
G. Steward

H. An account
I. Take or leave
J. Die emotionally



Discipleship Training Program

Christianity 101 – Lesson Nine

Tithing

Memory Text

Malachi 3:10 *"Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it."*

What Does The New Testament Say About Finances?

- A. The **Gospels** contain more warning against money and its misuse than any other subject.
- B. One in every **four** verses in Matthew, Mark, and Luke deals with money.
- C. One in every **six** verses in the New Testament as a whole deals with or makes reference to money in some way.
- D. Almost half of the **parables** of Jesus have reference to money in one way or another, particularly warnings against covetousness.
- E. The first apostle to fall was **Judas**. It was because of love of money: he sold Christ for money that he never lived to spend!
 - a. **John 12:48** *"He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day."*
 - b. **John 13:27** *"And after the sop Satan entered into him. Then said Jesus unto him, That thou doest, do quickly."*
 - c. **Acts 1:25** *"That he may take part of this ministry and apostleship, from which Judas by transgression fell, that he might go to his own place."*
 - d. **Matthew 26:14-16** *"¹⁴Then one of the twelve, called Judas Iscariot, went unto the chief priests, ¹⁵And said unto them, What will ye give me, and I will deliver him unto you? And they covenanted with him for thirty pieces of silver. ¹⁶And from that time he sought opportunity to betray him."*
 - e. **Matthew 27:3-10** *"³Then Judas, which had betrayed him, when he saw that he was condemned, repented himself, and brought again the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, ⁴Saying, I have sinned in that I have betrayed the innocent blood. And they said, What is that to us? see thou to that. ⁵And he cast down the pieces of silver in the temple, and departed, and went and hanged himself. ⁶And the chief priests took the silver pieces, and said, It is not lawful for to put them into the treasury, because it is the price of blood. ⁷And they took counsel, and bought with them the potter's field, to bury strangers in. ⁸Wherefore that field was called, The field of blood, unto this day. ⁹Then was fulfilled that which was spoken by Jeremy the prophet, saying, And they took the thirty pieces of silver, the price of him that was valued, whom they of the children of Israel did value; ¹⁰And gave them for the potter's field, as the Lord appointed me."*

- F. The first sin in the early **church** concerned the giving of money to the Lord. Note how Satan entered into the scene of the glory of the early church through money, when the spirit of giving was on the people.
- a. **Acts 5:1-10** *"¹But a certain man named Ananias, with Sapphira his wife, sold a possession, ²And kept back part of the price, his wife also being privy to it, and brought a certain part, and laid it at the apostles' feet. ³But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back part of the price of the land? ⁴Whiles it remained, was it not thine own? and after it was sold, was it not in thine own power? why hast thou conceived this thing in thine heart? thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God. ⁵And Ananias hearing these words fell down, and gave up the ghost: and great fear came on all them that heard these things. ⁶And the young men arose, wound him up, and carried him out, and buried him. ⁷And it was about the space of three hours after, when his wife, not knowing what was done, came in. ⁸And Peter answered unto her, Tell me whether ye sold the land for so much? And she said, Yea, for so much. ⁹Then Peter said unto her, How is it that ye have agreed together to tempt the Spirit of the Lord? behold, the feet of them which have buried thy husband are at the door, and shall carry thee out. ¹⁰Then fell she down straightway at his feet, and yielded up the ghost: and the young men came in, and found her dead, and, carrying her forth, buried her by her husband."*
- G. The sin of "Simony" concerns money and seeking to buy the gifts of God with it.
- a. **Acts 8:14-24** *"¹⁴Now when the apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent unto them Peter and John: ¹⁵Who, when they were come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost: ¹⁶(For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.) ¹⁷Then laid they their hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost. ¹⁸And when Simon saw that through laying on of the apostles' hands the Holy Ghost was given, he offered them money, ¹⁹Saying, Give me also this power, that on whomsoever I lay hands, he may receive the Holy Ghost. ²⁰But Peter said unto him, Thy money perish with thee, because thou hast thought that the gift of God may be purchased with money. ²¹Thou hast neither part nor lot in this matter: for thy heart is not right in the sight of God. ²²Repent therefore of this thy wickedness, and pray God, if perhaps the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee. ²³For I perceive that thou art in the gall of bitterness, and in the bond of iniquity. ²⁴Then answered Simon, and said, Pray ye to the Lord for me, that none of these things which ye have spoken come upon me."*
- H. It is worth noting that two of the New Testament works whose Greek numerical value equals 666, the number of the world system, are **wealth** and **tradition**.
- a. **Revelation 13:16-18** (The power to buy or sell is connected with it.) *"¹⁶And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads: ¹⁷And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name. ¹⁸Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number is Six hundred threescore and six."*

What Warning Does The New Testament Give About Money?

I Timothy 6:7-10 *"⁷For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. ⁸And having food and raiment let us be therewith content. ⁹But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. ¹⁰For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows."*

Money is not evil in itself; money is neither moral nor immoral. It is the LOVE of money which is the root of all evil.

What Does The Bible Teach About Tithes & Offerings?

- A. We are to bring our tithes and offerings to God's **storehouse**
- a. **Malachi 3:7-12** *"⁷Even from the days of your fathers ye are gone away from mine ordinances, and have not kept them. Return unto me, and I will return unto you, saith the LORD of hosts. But ye said, Wherein shall we return? ⁸Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings. ⁹Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation. ¹⁰Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it. ¹¹And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, saith the LORD of hosts. ¹²And all nations shall call you blessed: for ye shall be a delightsome land, saith the LORD of hosts."*
- B. The storehouse is that place where the people of God are **fed**.

Is Tithing For Today?

Yes. The Old and New Testaments confirm the truth that believers are to give to tithe (one tenth) of their income.

- A. Tithing **before** the law
- a. Abraham (Covenant man).
- i. **Genesis 14:18-20** *"¹⁸And Melchizedek king of Salem brought forth bread and wine: and he was the priest of the most high God. ¹⁹And he blessed him, and said, Blessed be Abram of the most high God, possessor of heaven and earth: ²⁰And blessed be the most high God, which hath delivered thine enemies into thy hand. And he gave him tithes of all."*
- b. Jacob (Covenant man)
- i. **Genesis 28:22** *"And this stone, which I have set for a pillar, shall be God's house: and of all that thou shalt give me I will surely give the tenth unto thee."*
- B. Tithing **under** the law

a. Israel, Mosaic Covenant

- i. **Leviticus 27:30-33** ³⁰And all the tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land, or of the fruit of the tree, is the LORD'S: it is holy unto the LORD. ³¹And if a man will at all redeem ought of his tithes, he shall add thereto the fifth part thereof. ³²And concerning the tithe of the herd, or of the flock, even of whatsoever passeth under the rod, the tenth shall be holy unto the LORD. ³³He shall not search whether it be good or bad, neither shall he change it: and if he change it at all, then both it and the change thereof shall be holy; it shall not be redeemed."
- ii. **Numbers 18:20-24** ²⁰And the LORD spake unto Aaron, Thou shalt have no inheritance in their land, neither shalt thou have any part among them: I am thy part and thine inheritance among the children of Israel. ²¹And, behold, I have given the children of Levi all the tenth in Israel for an inheritance, for their service which they serve, even the service of the tabernacle of the congregation. ²²Neither must the children of Israel henceforth come nigh the tabernacle of the congregation, lest they bear sin, and die. ²³But the Levites shall do the service of the tabernacle of the congregation, and they shall bear their iniquity: it shall be a statute for ever throughout your generations, that among the children of Israel they have no inheritance. ²⁴But the tithes of the children of Israel, which they offer as an heave offering unto the LORD, I have given to the Levites to inherit: therefore I have said unto them, Among the children of Israel they shall have no inheritance."
- iii. **Numbers 18:25-32** ²⁵And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, ²⁶Thus speak unto the Levites, and say unto them, When ye take of the children of Israel the tithes which I have given you from them for your inheritance, then ye shall offer up an heave offering of it for the LORD, even a tenth part of the tithe. ²⁷And this your heave offering shall be reckoned unto you, as though it were the corn of the threshingfloor, and as the fulness of the winepress. ²⁸Thus ye also shall offer an heave offering unto the LORD of all your tithes, which ye receive of the children of Israel; and ye shall give thereof the LORD'S heave offering to Aaron the priest. ²⁹Out of all your gifts ye shall offer every heave offering of the LORD, of all the best thereof, even the hallowed part thereof out of it. ³⁰Therefore thou shalt say unto them, When ye have heaved the best thereof from it, then it shall be counted unto the Levites as the increase of the threshingfloor, and as the increase of the winepress. ³¹And ye shall eat it in every place, ye and your households: for it is your reward for your service in the tabernacle of the congregation. ³²And ye shall bear no sin by reason of it, when ye have heaved from it the best of it: neither shall ye pollute the holy things of the children of Israel, lest ye die."

C. Tithing under Grace

- a. Jesus confirmed tithing.
- b. Tithing was not of the Law, but BEFORE the law.
 - i. **Matthew 23:23** "Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted

the weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone."

- ii. **Luke 11:42** *"But woe unto you, Pharisees! for ye tithe mint and rue and all manner of herbs, and pass over judgment and the love of God: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone."*
- iii. **Luke 18:12** *"I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess."*
- iv. **Hebrews 7:1-21** *"¹For this Melchisedec, king of Salem, priest of the most high God, who met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings, and blessed him; ²To whom also Abraham gave a tenth part of all; first being by interpretation King of righteousness, and after that also King of Salem, which is, King of peace; ³Without father, without mother, without descent, having neither beginning of days, nor end of life; but made like unto the Son of God; abideth a priest continually. ⁴Now consider how great this man was, unto whom even the patriarch Abraham gave the tenth of the spoils. ⁵And verily they that are of the sons of Levi, who receive the office of the priesthood, have a commandment to take tithes of the people according to the law, that is, of their brethren, though they come out of the loins of Abraham: ⁶But he whose descent is not counted from them received tithes of Abraham, and blessed him that had the promises. ⁷And without all contradiction the less is blessed of the better. ⁸And here men that die receive tithes; but there he receiveth them, of whom it is witnessed that he liveth. ⁹And as I may so say, Levi also, who receiveth tithes, payed tithes in Abraham. ¹⁰For he was yet in the loins of his father, when Melchisedec met him. ¹¹If therefore perfection were by the Levitical priesthood, (for under it the people received the law,) what further need was there that another priest should rise after the order of Melchisedec, and not be called after the order of Aaron? ¹²For the priesthood being changed, there is made of necessity a change also of the law. ¹³For he of whom these things are spoken pertaineth to another tribe, of which no man gave attendance at the altar. ¹⁴For it is evident that our Lord sprang out of Juda; of which tribe Moses spake nothing concerning priesthood. ¹⁵And it is yet far more evident: for that after the similitude of Melchisedec there ariseth another priest, ¹⁶Who is made, not after the law of a carnal commandment, but after the power of an endless life. ¹⁷For he testifieth, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec. ¹⁸For there is verily a disannulling of the commandment going before for the weakness and unprofitableness thereof. ¹⁹For the law made nothing perfect, but the bringing in of a better hope did; by the which we draw nigh unto God. ²⁰And inasmuch as not without an oath he was made priest: ²¹(For those priests were made without an oath; but this with an oath by him that said unto him, The Lord sware and will not repent, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec:)*

- D. If a person does not pay tithes and offerings he is **robbing** God. The tithe is not yours to give; it already belongs to God. If a person pays tithes only and no offerings, he is not giving anything to God. God is saying "prove me now."

- a. **Malachi 3:8-10** ⁸*“Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings. ⁹Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation. ¹⁰Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.”*

What Are Some Principles Of Giving?

- A. Give **ourselves** to the Lord first.
- a. **II Corinthians 8:5** *“And this they did, not as we hoped, but first gave their own selves to the Lord, and unto us by the will of God.”*
- B. Give **willingly**
- a. **II Corinthians 8:3, 12** *“For to their power, I bear record, yea, and beyond their power they were willing of themselves; For if there be first a willing mind, it is accepted according to that a man hath, and not according to that he hath not.”*
- C. Give **cheerfully** (hilariously)
- a. **II Corinthians 9:7** *“Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.”*
- D. Give **generously**, liberally
- a. **II Corinthians 8:2** *“How that in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded unto the riches of their liberality.”*
- b. **II Corinthians 9:13** *“Whiles by the experiment of this ministration they glorify God for your professed subjection unto the gospel of Christ, and for your liberal distribution unto them, and unto all men;”*
- E. Give **proportionately**
- a. **II Corinthians 9:6** *“But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully.”*
- b. **II Corinthians 8:14-15** ¹⁴*“But by an equality, that now at this time your abundance may be a supply for their want, that their abundance also may be a supply for your want: that there may be equality: ¹⁵As it is written, He that had gathered much had nothing over; and he that had gathered little had no lack.”*
- F. Give **regularly**
- a. **I Corinthians 16:1-2** ¹*“Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given order to the churches of Galatia, even so do ye. ²Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come.”*
- G. Give **systematically**
- a. **II Corinthians 9:7** *“Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.”*
- H. Give **lovingly**
- a. **II Corinthians 8:24** *“Wherefore show ye to them, and before the churches, the proof of your love, and of our boasting on your behalf.”*
- I. Give **thankfully**

- a. **II Corinthians 9:11-12** *"¹¹Being enriched in every thing to all bountifulness, which causeth through us thanksgiving to God. ¹²For the administration of this service not only supplieth the want of the saints, but is abundant also by many thanksgivings unto God;"*
- J. Give as a **ministry** to the Lord and His saints
- a. **II Corinthians 9:12-13** *"¹²For the administration of this service not only supplieth the want of the saints, but is abundant also by many thanksgivings unto God; ¹³Whiles by the experiment of this ministration they glorify God for your professed subjection unto the gospel of Christ, and for your liberal distribution unto them, and unto all men;"*

A LEGAL giver gives because he **has** to
 A LOVING give gives because he **loves** to

The Sting Of Interest



A Snake Bite	Usury (Interest)
1. The snake is a hidden danger to the unsuspecting.	1. The final cost of interest is usually not comprehended by the borrower.
2. Getting close to a snake will usually result in being bitten.	2. Those who profit from interest makes it easy for people to borrow money.
3. A snake usually strikes before its victim is aware of its presence.	3. Interest usually brings financial bondage before a borrower realizes what has taken place.
4. The realization of a snake bite results in anxiety and fear.	4. Compounded interest causes the borrower to develop anxiety and fearfulness.
5. The venom of the snake can produce alarming symptoms.	5. The result of interest can produce alarming mental problems in the life of a borrower.
6. The ultimate result of a poisonous snake bite is the physical death of the victim.	6. The ultimate consequence for a borrower is the inability to repay the high interest loan and the loss of his property.

What Do You Know About Tithing?

Personal Evaluation

1. When a person gives a percentage of his income to the Lord, he is tithing. T F	11. If we are given a designated gift, we do not need to tithe on it. T F
2. The practice of tithing is part of the Old Testament law and is not New Testament doctrine. T F	12. We should tithe on our gross income rather than just our net income. T F
3. The primary purpose of the tithe is to support the ministries of the local church. T F	13. If we inherit money that was earned by selling liquor, cigarettes, pornography, illicit drugs, or other harmful items, we should still tithe on it. T F
4. The tithe should be given only to the local church, not to other Christian ministries. T F	14. A person who lives on social security or unemployment compensation does not need to tithe. T F
5. The tithe should be paid weekly, regardless of when you receive your paycheck. T F	15. The tithe can be used to pay your child's tuition if he is attending a church school. T F
6. Tithing only applies to the money that we earn. T F	16. If we fail to tithe, we will simply miss out on the eternal rewards which we could have had. T F
7. If we owe people money we should pay them back first before we tithe. T F	17. An older child should be given money to

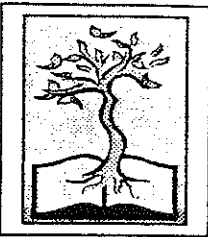
8. A wife should tithe even if her husband does not want her to. T F	put in the offering in order to teach him to tithe. T F
9. A husband should not tithe if his wife is against it.	18. If we increase our tithe to twenty per cent, we can expect god in increase His blessings in proportion.
10. If a person has not tithed for several years, he still owes God the amount that he should have tithed. T F	

Factors Of Financial Freedom

Financial Freedom

- A. **Luke 6:38** ³⁸*Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again."*

1. **Giving**
2. **Receiving**
3. **Managing**



Discipleship Training Program

Christianity 101 – Lesson Ten

New Covenant Relationship

Memory Text

Hebrew 8:6 *"But now hath he obtained a more excellent ministry, by how much also he is the mediator of a better covenant, which was established upon better promises."*

What Are Some Covenants In The Bible?

- A. **Adamic** _____ Covenant. **Genesis 3**
- B. **Noahic** _____ Covenant. **Genesis 9**
- C. **Abrahamic** _____ Covenant.
 - a. **Genesis 12:1-3** *"¹Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will show thee: ²And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: ³And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed."*
 - b. **Genesis 22**
 - c. **Hebrews 6:13, 18** *"¹³For when God made promise to Abraham, because he could swear by no greater, he sware by himself, ¹⁸That by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us:"*
- D. **Mosaic** _____ (Old) Covenant.
 - a. **Exodus 20;**
 - b. **Exodus 24:7** *"And he took the book of the covenant, and read in the audience of the people: and they said, All that the LORD hath said will we do, and be obedient."*
- E. **Davidic** _____ Covenant.
 - a. **II Samuel 7;**
 - b. **Psalm 89:3,4** *"³I have made a covenant with my chosen, I have sworn unto David my servant, ⁴Thy seed will I establish for ever, and build up thy throne to all generations. Selah"*
- F. **New** _____ Covenant.
 - a. **Jeremiah 31:31-34** *"³¹Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah: ³²Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they brake, although I was an husband unto them, saith the LORD: ³³But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the LORD: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith*

the LORD: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more."

- b. **Matthew 26:26-29** ²⁶"And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, Take, eat; this is my body. ²⁷And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it; ²⁸For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins. ²⁹But I say unto you, I will not drink henceforth of this fruit of the vine, until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom."
- c. **Hebrews 8**

What Does The Word Covenant Mean?

The words "covenant" and "testament" are synonymous.

- **Matthew 26:28** *"For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins."*
- **Hebrews 10:15-17** ¹⁵*Whereof the Holy Ghost also is a witness to us: for after that he had said before, ¹⁶This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them; ¹⁷And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more."*
- **Hebrews 12:24** *"And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel."*

The word "covenant" simply means a mutual **agreement** or a contract between or involving two parties.

What Things Constitute A Covenant?

A. **Promises** of the Covenant.

- a. **Hebrews 8:6-13** ⁶*But now hath he obtained a more excellent ministry, by how much also he is the mediator of a better covenant, which was established upon better promises. ⁷For if that first covenant had been faultless, then should no place have been sought for the second. ⁸For finding fault with them, he saith, Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah: ⁹Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt; because they continued not in my covenant, and I regarded them not, saith the Lord. ¹⁰For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people: ¹¹And they shall not teach every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for all shall know me, from the least to the greatest. ¹²For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more. ¹³In that he saith, A new covenant, he hath made the first old. Now that which decayeth and waxeth old is ready to vanish away."*

B. **Blood** of the Covenant.

- a. **Hebrews 9:14-18** ¹⁴*How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your*

conscience from dead works to serve the living God?¹⁵ And for this cause he is the mediator of the new testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first testament, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance. ¹⁶For where a testament is, there must also of necessity be the death of the testator. ¹⁷For a testament is of force after men are dead: otherwise it is of no strength at all while the testator liveth. ¹⁸Whereupon neither the first testament was dedicated without blood."

C. Seal of the Covenant.

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

Under What Covenant Is The Church?

A. The New Covenant.

a. It is called the New Covenant.

- i. **I Corinthians 11:25** "After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me."
- ii. **Jeremiah 31:31-34** ³¹"Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah: ³²Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they brake, although I was an husband unto them, saith the LORD: ³³But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the LORD: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the LORD: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more."
- iii. **Hebrews 8:13** "In that he saith, A new covenant, he hath made the first old. Now that which decayeth and waxeth old is ready to vanish away."

b. It is the everlasting covenant.

- i. **Hebrews 13:20-21** ²⁰"Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, ²¹Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is wellpleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen."

B. All the covenants in the Old Testament are fulfilled in the New Covenant.

- a. **Galatians 3:14-16, 19** ¹⁴"That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith. ¹⁵Brethren, I speak after the manner of men; Though it be but a man's covenant, yet if it be confirmed, no man disannulleth, or

addeth thereto. ¹⁶Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ. ¹⁹Wherefore then serveth the law? It was added because of transgressions, till the seed should come to whom the promise was made; and it was ordained by angels in the hand of a mediator."

- C. There will never be another Covenant which will **supercede** the New Covenant.
- a. **Hebrews 13:20** "Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant,"

What Are Some Fulfillments Of A New Covenant?

Old Testament Type

- A. **Cutting** of the flesh and blood shed.
- a. **Genesis 17:13-14** ¹³"He that is born in thy house, and he that is bought with thy money, must needs be circumcised: and my covenant shall be in your flesh for an everlasting covenant. ¹⁴And the uncircumcised man child whose flesh of his foreskin is not circumcised, that soul shall be cut off from his people; he hath broken my covenant."
- B. The Name **given**
- a. **Genesis 21:3,4** ³"And Abraham called the name of his son that was born unto him, whom Sarah bare to him, Isaac. ⁴And Abraham circumcised his son Isaac being eight days old, as God had commanded him."
- b. **Luke 2:21** "And when eight days were accomplished for the circumcising of the child, his name was called JESUS, which was so named of the angel before he was conceived in the womb."
- C. The Rite – **eighth** day.
- a. **Genesis 17:12** "And he that is eight days old shall be circumcised among you, every man child in your generations, he that is born in the house, or bought with money of any stranger, which is not of thy seed."
- b. **Genesis 21:4** "And Abraham circumcised his son Isaac being eight days old, as God had commanded him."
- c. **Luke 2:21** "And when eight days were accomplished for the circumcising of the child, his name was called JESUS, which was so named of the angel before he was conceived in the womb."

Ten Steps to Covenant making. Genesis 15

1. Decision to enter into covenant.
2. Exchanging of gifts by those entering covenant.
3. Discussion of friendship.
4. Splitting of the sacrifice.
5. Walking through the pieces of sacrifice.
6. Cutting of the writs and the oaths of the covenant.
7. Mingling of your blood together as blood brothers.
8. Marking your cut so it will forever scar.
9. Exchanging of names and giving of titles.
10. Eating a covenant meal.

New Testament Fulfillment

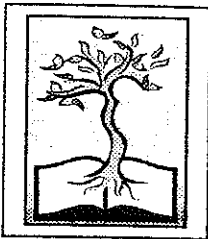
- A. The **body** and **blood** of Jesus – “Cut off at Calvary.”
 - i. **Isaiah 53:8** “He was taken from prison and from judgment: and who shall declare his generation? for he was cut off out of the land of the living: for the transgression of my people was he stricken.”
- B. **Triune** Name – Lord Jesus Christ.
 - i. **Acts 2:36** “Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ.”
- C. **Resurrection** Day.
 - i. **Matthew 28:1** “In the end of the sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week, came Mary Magdalene and the other Mary to see the sepulchre.”



How Do People Come Into Covenant Relationship?

- A. Accept the **blood** of Christ (repentance)
- B. Accept the **promise** of salvation (faith)
- C. Accepting **water** and **Spirit** baptism – the New Covenant Seal.
 - a. **Ephesians 4:30** “And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.”
 - b. **Ephesians 1:13-14** “¹³In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, ¹⁴Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.”

Note: In the cutting away of the flesh, or the crucifixion and burial of the “old man”, the believer is identifying with the work of Calvary. That which happens judicially must be maintained by faith experientially.



Discipleship Training Program

Christianity 101 – Lesson Eleven

Fellowship

Memory Text

Acts 2:42 *"And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers."*

Ephesians 3:9 *"And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ."*

What Is Fellowship?

- A. A Greek word being used much today is "*Koinonia*", from which two words are translated:
 - a. **fellowship** & **communion** = "the act of suing a thing in common."
- B. Meaning of the words:
 - a. **Fellowship**: companionship; mutual sharing; gathering of people having the same interests.
 - b. **Communion**: to have in common; to share by all; participation, partnership.

With Whom Are We To Fellowship?

Fellowship must be two-fold in order to be effective – **Godward** and **manward**:

- A. Fellowship **vertically** – Godward
 - a. Fellowship with the **Father**
 - i. **I John 1:3** *"That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ."*
 - b. Fellowship with the **Son**
 - i. **I Corinthians 1:9** *"God is faithful, by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord."*
 - ii. **I John 1:3** *"That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ."*
 - c. Fellowship with the **Spirit**
 - i. **Philippians 2:1** *"If there be therefore any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any bowels and mercies,"*
 - ii. **II Corinthians 13:14** *"The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with you all. Amen."*

d. This Fellowship is expressed in prayer, praise, worship in the Spirit, and in truth.

- i. **John 4:23-24** ²³*But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him.* ²⁴*God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth."*

B. Fellowship **horizontally** – manward

There must also be a two-way communication with believers:

- Fellowship one with **another**
 - **I John 1:7** *"But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin."*
 - The right **hand** of fellowship
 - **Galatians 2:9** *"And when James, Cephas, and John, who seemed to be pillars, perceived the grace that was given unto me, they gave to me and Barnabas the right hands of fellowship; that we should go unto the heathen, and they unto the circumcision."*
 - The fellowship of the ministering to the **Saints**
 - **II Corinthians 2:4b** *"For out of much affliction and anguish of heart I wrote unto you with many tears; not that ye should be grieved, but that ye might know the love which I have more abundantly unto you."*
1. **Spiritually** – **Acts 2:42** *"And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers."*
- a. Praying together
 - b. Singing, praising and worshipping together.
 - c. Sharing together in testimony, exhortation, encouragement; edifying one another in the Spirit's operations.
 - d. Ministry of the Word: Apostles' doctrine
 - i. **Acts 2:42** *"And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers."*
 - e. Communion; breaking of bread.

In this way believers can be "emptied from vessel to vessel" in fellowship with each other. **Jeremiah 48:11**

2. **Practically** –

- a. **Acts 2:44-46** ⁴⁴*"And all that believed were together, and had all things common; ⁴⁵And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need. ⁴⁶And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart,"*
- b. **I Timothy 5:8** *"But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel."*
 - i. **House** or home fellowship
 - 1. **Acts 2:46** ⁴⁶*"And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart,"*
 - ii. Meeting **needs** (material needs, etc.)
 - 1. **Acts 2:45; 4:35** ⁴⁵*"And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need. - And laid them down at the*

apostles' feet: and distribution was made unto every man according as he had need."

- iii. To **communicate**
 - 1. **Hebrews 13:16** "But to do good and to communicate forget not: for with such sacrifices God is well pleased."
- iv. **Distributing** to the necessity of the saints.
 - 1. **Romans 12:13** "Distributing to the necessity of saints; given to hospitality."
- v. Getting to know and appreciate each other. Visit, etc. Fellowship becomes the way of life. There is joy in real Fellowship, meeting and sharing in spiritual, practical and social needs.

With What Are We Forbidden To Fellowship?

- A. The **World**
 - a. **Ephesians 5:11** "And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them."
 - b. **Psalms 94:20** "Shall the throne of iniquity have fellowship with thee, which frameth mischief by a law?"
- B. **Satanic** Spirits
 - a. **I Corinthians 10:20** "But I say, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to devils, and not to God: and I would not that ye should have fellowship with devils."
- C. **Unrighteousness**
 - a. **II Corinthians 6:14** "Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?"
- D. False **religion**
 - a. **II Peter 2**
 - b. **Jude 4**
- E. False **doctrine**
 - a. **II John 1:9-11** "Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son.⁹ If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed:¹¹ For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds."
 - b. **Galatians 1:7-10** "Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ.⁸ But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed.⁹ As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.¹⁰ For do I now persuade men, or God? or do I seek to please men? for if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ.¹¹ But I certify you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached of me is not after man."

Are We To Break Fellowship Over Doctrine?

Any doctrine which attacks the fundamental steps of the process of redemption should not be fellowshiped. Differences of opinion concerning eschatology, etc., are not sufficient grounds for breaking fellowship.

- We must maintain unity of Spirit until we come to the unity of the faith.
 - **Ephesians 4:3,13** *"³How that by revelation he made known unto me the mystery; (as I wrote afore in few words, ¹³Wherefore I desire that ye faint not at my tribulations for you, which is your glory."*
- Meats, keeping of days, and national distinction (Jew or Gentile) are not grounds for breaking fellowship
 - **Acts 15:24-29** *"²⁴Forasmuch as we have heard, that certain which went out from us have troubled you with words, subverting your souls, saying, Ye must be circumcised, and keep the law: to whom we gave no such commandment: ²⁵It seemed good unto us, being assembled with one accord, to send chosen men unto you with our beloved Barnabas and Paul, ²⁶Men that have hazarded their lives for the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁷We have sent therefore Judas and Silas, who shall also tell you the same things by mouth. ²⁸For it seemed good to the Holy Ghost, and to us, to lay upon you no greater burden than these necessary things; ²⁹That ye abstain from meats offered to idols, and from blood, and from things strangled, and from fornication: from which if ye keep yourselves, ye shall do well. Fare ye well."*
 - **Galatians 2:9** *"⁹And when James, Cephas, and John, who seemed to be pillars, perceived the grace that was given unto me, they gave to me and Barnabas the right hands of fellowship; that we should go unto the heathen, and they unto the circumcision."*
 - **Romans 14**
- Heretic and heresy (opinionative) are grounds for disfellowshipping.
 - **Titus 3:10** *"¹⁰A man that is an heretic after the first and second admonition reject;"*
 - **Romans 16:17** *"Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them."*
 - **I Corinthians 11:19** *"For there must be also heresies among you, that they which are approved may be made manifest among you."*

What Are Other Grounds For Breaking Fellowship?

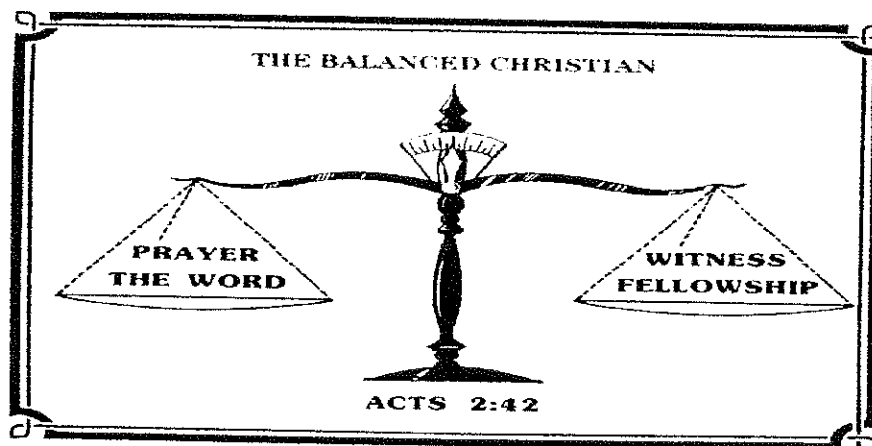
Disorderly conduct

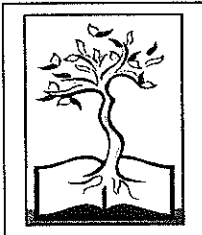
- **Matthew 18:15-17** *"¹⁵Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother. ¹⁶But if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established. ¹⁷And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the church: but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican."*

- I John 1:7 "But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin."
- I John 2:10-11 ¹⁰"He that loveth his brother abideth in the light, and there is none occasion of stumbling in him. ¹¹But he that hateth his brother is in darkness, and walketh in darkness, and knoweth not whither he goeth, because that darkness hath blinded his eyes."
- II Thessalonians 3:6 ⁶"Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye withdraw yourselves from every brother that walketh disorderly, and not after the tradition which he received of us."

- A. **Covetous** – inordinately desirous, greedy.
- B. **Idolater** – inordinately fond of a person or thing.
- C. **Railer** – abusive language, scornful.
- D. **Drunkard** – one who habitually drinks.
- E. **Extortioner** – to obtain from a person by oppression or abuse of authority.
- F. **Fornicator** – illicit sexual relationships.

Do not eat with them...
Do not keep company with them...
Love rules our Liberty!





Discipleship Training Program

Christianity 101 – Lesson Twelve

Discipleship

Memory Text

Mark 3:14 *"And he ordained twelve, that they should be with him, and that he might send them forth to preach,"*

The great commission to the Church is to go and **make**
"**disciples** of all nations."

Matthew 28:16-20 *"Go ye therefore, and **teach** all nations."*

Acts 14:21 *"When they had preached the Gospel to that city and had **taught** many..."*

The Greek word for "teach" (Matheteou) means "to be or make a disciple." The great commission is literally "to **disciple** all nations"!

What is a Disciple?

In order to understand the full implications of Christ's discipleship program it is necessary to define the meaning of the word "disciple."

A. Use of the word in Scripture

- a. Old Testament – The word "disciple" is only used once in the Old Testament, in a prophecy concerning Christ and the Church is **Isaiah 8:16** *"Bind up the testimony, seal the law among my disciples."*
- b. New Testament – *"Whosoever doth not bear his cross and come after me cannot be my disciple."* **Luke 14:27**
 - i. The word "disciple" is used in the New Testament:
 1. In the Gospels – approximately 240 times
 2. In the Acts – 26 times
 3. In the Epistles – not once
 - ii. Question: Why is the word "disciple" used so much in the Gospels, seldom in Acts, and not once in the church Epistles?

B. Meaning of the word disciple.

- a. Bible meaning – Young's & Strong's Concordance:

- i. "A **taught** or **trained** one." (Same in Hebrew & Greek) A learner, pupil, disciple." "To enroll as a scholar, be a disciple, instruct, teach."

- b. Dictionary – Webster & Collins' Dictionary:

- i. "A pupil or follower of any teacher or school."
 1. **Ephesians 5:1-2** *"Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children; ²And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour."*
 2. **I Corinthians 11:1** *"Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ."*

- ii. "One that receives **instruction** from **another**; one that accepts the instruction or **doctrines** of another."
- iii. "A scholar, a pupil, a follower, adherent."
 1. **Mark 4:34** *"But without a parable spake he not unto them: and when they were alone, he expounded all things to his disciples."*
 2. **Luke 10:23-24** ²³*And he turned him unto his disciples, and said privately, Blessed are the eyes which see the things that ye see: ²⁴For I tell you, that many prophets and kings have desired to see those things which ye see, and have not seen them; and to hear those things which ye hear, and have not heard them."*
- iv. "Discipline" –
 1. **Training** that develops self-control, character.
 2. **Submission** to control.
 3. **Orderly** conduct.
 4. **Treatment** that corrects or punishes
- v. "Disciplinarian" –
 1. One who enforces discipline
 2. **Job 36:10** *"He openeth also their ear to discipline, and commandeth that they return from iniquity."*

A DISCIPLE then is a **pupil**, a **follower**, a **scholar**, one in **submission**, one in **training**, one disciplined by Jesus Christ.

- **Luke 6:40** *"The disciple is not above his master: but every one that is perfect shall be as his master."*
- **Matthew 10:24-26** ²⁴*The disciple is not above his master, nor the servant above his lord. ²⁵It is enough for the disciple that he be as his master, and the servant as his lord. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebub, how much more shall they call them of his household? ²⁶Fear them not therefore: for there is nothing covered, that shall not be revealed; and hid, that shall not be known."*

What is the relationship between a Disciple and the Local Church?

The New Testament teaches that every member of the local church is called to be a disciple.

- **Acts 2:41-47** – "added to the Church"
- **Acts 11:26** – "Church...disciples"
- **Acts 14:22-23** – "disciples...elders...Church"
- **Acts 19:1; 20:17** – "disciples...Church"
- **Acts 20:28-32** – "Church...disciples"

Gospels
Church 2
Disciples – approx. 240

Acts
Church 24
Disciples – 26

Epistles
Church 88
Disciples - 0

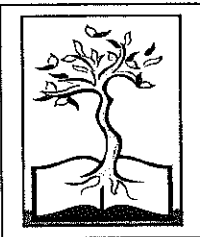
What does it mean to be a true Disciple?

The following things are involved in the acceptance of the initial call of Christ to discipleship:

- A. **Counting** the cost first
- a. **Luke 14:25-33** ²⁵And there went great multitudes with him: and he turned, and said unto them, ²⁶If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple. ²⁷And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple. ²⁸For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it? ²⁹Lest haply, after he hath laid the foundation, and is not able to finish it, all that behold it begin to mock him, ³⁰Saying, This man began to build, and was not able to finish. ³¹Or what king, going to make war against another king, sitteth not down first, and consulteth whether he be able with ten thousand to meet him that cometh against him with twenty thousand? ³²Or else, while the other is yet a great way off, he sendeth an ambassage, and desireth conditions of peace. ³³So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple."
- B. "If any man will come after Me, let him":
- a. **Deny** himself – denial of self is the first indispensable condition of discipleship.
- b. Take up his **cross** - ready to die at any time. Crosses always pointed to the fact that a person would be crucified. Not an ornament!
- c. **Follow** Me – following Christ Jesus. Three followers tested:
- i. **Luke 9:57-62** ⁵⁷And it came to pass, that, as they went in the way, a certain man said unto him, Lord, I will follow thee whithersoever thou goest. ⁵⁸And Jesus said unto him, Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay his head. ⁵⁹And he said unto another, Follow me. But he said, Lord, suffer me first to go and bury my father. ⁶⁰Jesus said unto him, Let the dead bury their dead: but go thou and preach the kingdom of God. ⁶¹And another also said, Lord, I will follow thee; but let me first go bid them farewell, which are at home at my house. ⁶²And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God."
- ii. **Mathew 16:24-25** ²⁴Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. ²⁵For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it."
- iii. **John 8:31** "Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed;"
- iv. **Mark 6:1** "And he went out from thence, and came into his own country; and his disciples follow him."

Many believers are **saved** but they are not **disciples**. Salvation is accepting the work of **HIS Cross** – discipleship is taking up **OUR CROSS**.

His Cross – **Substitution** – Christ died for us – our Cross – **Identification** – we died with Him.



Discipleship Training Program

Christianity 101 – Lesson Thirteen

Church Membership

Memory Text

Acts 2:47 *"Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved."*

Every true believer in Christ in due time must consider the question of church membership. Many times church membership is looked upon negatively for various reasons. Let us consider what the Scriptures have to say concerning this area.

Was There Some Record Of Membership In The Early Church?

The Gospels and the Book of Acts imply that there was some definite evidence of church membership. The disciples of Jesus and the early believers were actually numbered and accounted for.

- A. Jesus chose **12** Apostles, named and numbered
 - a. **Luke 6:12-16** *"¹²And it came to pass in those days, that he went out into a mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God. ¹³And when it was day, he called unto him his disciples: and of them he chose twelve, whom also he named apostles; ¹⁴Simon, (whom he also named Peter,) and Andrew his brother, James and John, Philip and Bartholomew, ¹⁵Matthew and Thomas, James the son of Alphaeus, and Simon called Zelotes, ¹⁶And Judas the brother of James, and Judas Iscariot, which also was the traitor."*
- B. Jesus later chose **70** others as His own
 - a. **Luke 10:1-2** *"After these things the Lord appointed other seventy also, and sent them two and two before his face into every city and place, whither he himself would come. ²Therefore said he unto them, The harvest truly is great, but the labourers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth labourers into his harvest."*
- C. Over **500** brethren saw Jesus in His ascension
 - a. **1 Corinthians 15:3-6** *"³For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; ⁴And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures: ⁵And that he was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve: ⁶After that, he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; of whom the greater part remain unto this present, but some are fallen asleep."*
- D. Before Pentecost **120** disciples gathered in the Upper Room
 - a. **Acts 1:15** *"And in those days Peter stood up in the midst of the disciples, and said, (the number of names together were about an hundred and twenty,)"*
 - b. (The number of the names were about 120)

- E. At and after Pentecost, multitudes were brought to Christ and into the Church which He said He would build
- F. There were added unto them (the 120) about **3000** souls
 - a. **Acts 2:41, 47** *"⁴¹Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls. ⁴⁷Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved."*
- G. About **5000** believed also
 - a. **Acts 4:4** *"Howbeit many of them which heard the word believed; and the number of the men was about five thousand."*
- H. The number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem
 - a. **Acts 6:7** *"And the word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied in Jerusalem greatly; and a great company of the priests were obedient to the faith."*
- I. At least **10,000** believers were numbered in these Scriptures

How Does One Become A Member Of Christ's Church?

There are two aspects to church membership in the book of Acts.

- A. **Spiritual** membership
 - a. One cannot join Christ's church, like joining a club, etc.
 - b. **Acts 5:13** *"And of the rest durst no man join himself to them: but the people magnified them."*
 - i. – In the Early Church, the members were added (Gk. "prostithemi": to put to, to add, or to place beside) to the Lord
 - c. **Acts 5:14** *"And believers were the more added to the Lord, multitudes both of men and women.)"*
 - d. **Acts 11:24** *"For he was a good man, and full of the Holy Ghost and of faith: and much people was added unto the Lord."*
 - e. One must join in the Spirit, by the Spirit, to the Lord to be added to the church, universal and spiritual.
 - f. This is of first and primary importance!
 - i. **1 Corinthians 6:17** *"But he that is joined unto the Lord is one spirit."*
- B. **Practical** Membership
 - a. There must also be a visible and practical expression of church membership as seen in Acts. This is seen in belonging to "the church local".
 - i. **Acts 2:41,47** *"⁴¹Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls. ⁴⁷Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved."*
 - 1. Added to the **Lord**
 - a. **Acts 5:14** *"And believers were the more added to the Lord, multitudes both of men and women.)"*

b. **Acts 11:24** *"For he was a good man, and full of the Holy Ghost and of faith: and much people was added unto the Lord."*

2. Added to **them**

a. **Acts 2:41** *"Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls."*

3. Added to the **Church**

a. **Acts 2:47** *"Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved."*

b. One can have church membership in any local church or denomination, but one must be added to the Lord first, otherwise church membership is not recognized by Christ. However, a practical expression of membership is evidenced in being added to some New Testament local church.

c. **Acts 2:37,38** lays down the standard and evidences for New Testament Church membership.

i. ³⁷*Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do? ³⁸Then Peter said unto them, **Repent**, and be **baptized** every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost."*

d. These have never changed – in God's mind!

e. These evidences were tangible and visible.

Is It Scriptural To Have Some Kind Of Church Roll Or Records?

Yes! Old Testament and New Testament refer to books where the names of God's people were kept for records. It would be impossible to fully take care of God's sheep if no one knew where they were, or if they really belonged to some local church.

A. **Old** Testament

a. The Israelites had their names in the Books of Genealogy of the nation. They were numbered before the Lord. **Numbers 1-2**

b. The Levites were also numbered before the Lord before they could minister in the priestly offices. **Numbers 3**

c. Every one numbered in Israel had to be redeemed with silver.

i. **Exodus 30:11-16** ¹¹*And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, ¹²When thou takest the sum of the children of Israel after their number, then shall they give every man a ransom for his soul unto the LORD, when thou numberest them; that there be no plague among them, when thou numberest them. ¹³This they shall give, every one that passeth among them that are numbered, half a shekel after the shekel of the sanctuary: (a shekel is twenty gerahs:) an half shekel shall be the offering of the LORD. ¹⁴Every one that passeth among them that are numbered, from twenty*

years old and above, shall give an offering unto the LORD. ¹⁵The rich shall not give more, and the poor shall not give less than half a shekel, when they give an offering unto the LORD, to make an atonement for your souls. ¹⁶And thou shalt take the atonement money of the children of Israel, and shalt appoint it for the service of the tabernacle of the congregation; that it may be a memorial unto the children of Israel before the LORD, to make an atonement for your souls."

d. The remnant from Babylon had to be registered in the book in order to minister in the priesthood.

i. **Ezra 2:62-63** ⁶²These sought their register among those that were reckoned by genealogy, but they were not found: therefore were they, as polluted, put from the priesthood. ⁶³And the Tirshatha said unto them, that they should not eat of the most holy things, till there stood up a priest with Urim and with Thummim."

ii. **Nehemiah 7**

B. **New** Testament

a. The Church of the Firstborn have their names written in heaven

i. **Hebrews 12:22-24** ²²But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels, ²³To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect, ²⁴And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel."

b. The redeemed of all ages have their names also written in the Book of Life

i. **Philippians 4:3** "And I entreat thee also, true yokefellow, help those women which laboured with me in the gospel, with Clement also, and with other my fellowlabourers, whose names are in the book of life."

ii. **Revelation 13:8** ⁸And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world."

iii. **Revelation 20:12-15** ¹²And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. ¹³And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. ¹⁴And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. ¹⁵And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire."

iv. **Revelation 21:27** "And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life."

God keeps records! God keeps the names and numbers of the saints in His roll! If God Himself does this, then there should be no problem if finite man does likewise! God knows who is in His book and who is not.

Note: Legal requirements stipulate that proper records of membership be kept in relation to church funds, holding of property, taxes, etc. This cannot be just an invisible, mystical method of record keeping!

Why Do Many People Reject Practical Church Membership?

Various reasons may be mentioned:

- A. **Fear** of being hurt
- B. **Legalism**
- C. Do not believe it is **scriptural**
- D. Not **submissive** in spirit
- E. Desire to be **self**-governing, self-directing, lawless
- F. Do not want to **support** the church financially, tithes and offerings
- G. Do not desire to come under **correction**, discipline or protection
- H. Do not want to be **committed** to anything local or visible

What Are Some Of The Advantages Of Practical Church Membership?

- A. **Security** – The family of God; protection from “wolves”
- B. **Fellowship**; sense of belonging; company
- C. **Spiritual** nourishment of the Word
- D. **Discipline**, correction if necessary
- E. **Ministry** of life, healing and health by members of the Body
- F. **Communion** table; life
- G. **Love**, care and concern in a practical way by the oversight

One cannot expect to receive all the blessings and benefits of the Lord's Church when one is not willing to be committed to the responsibilities of membership! Membership may be transferred to other local church if the person moves.

How May The Local Church Membership Be Confirmed?

- A. By extending the **right hand** of fellowship
 - a. **Galatians 2:8-9** ⁸*(For he that wrought effectually in Peter to the apostleship of the circumcision, the same was mighty in me toward the Gentiles:)* ⁹*And when James, Cephas, and John, who seemed to be pillars, perceived the grace that was given unto me, they gave to me and Barnabas the right hands of fellowship; that we should go unto the heathen, and they unto the circumcision.”*

- B. By a **verbal** commitment or **public** affirmation, whereby the believer enters into covenant relationship and is willing to receive the privileges, assume the responsibilities and accept the discipline of the local church of which he is a member
- a. **Hebrews 6:16,17** *"An oath for confirmation..."*
 - b. **Ecclesiastes 5:4-5** *"When thou vowest a vow, defer not to pay it..."*
 - c. To commit oneself is *"to pledge; to entrust; to put in custody or charge; to bring together."*
 - d. This confirms to the whole congregation that this person is a recognized and responsible member of the church and is to be received as such. It confirms that both leadership and membership are committed to each other.
 - e. Note: Confirmation may be experienced several times in a believer's life.
 - i. Confirmation after confession of faith at water baptism.
 1. **I Corinthians 1:6-10** *"⁶Even as the testimony of Christ was confirmed in you: ⁷So that ye come behind in no gift; waiting for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ: ⁸Who shall also confirm you unto the end, that ye may be blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹God is faithful, by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord. ¹⁰Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment."*
 - ii. Confirmation by being received into church membership.
 - iii. Confirmation by the laying on of hands and presbytery.
 1. **I Timothy 1:18** *"This charge I commit unto thee, son Timothy, according to the prophecies which went before on thee, that thou by them mightest war a good warfare;"*
 2. **I Timothy 4:14** *"Neglect not the gift that is in thee, which was given thee by prophecy, with the laying on of the hands of the presbytery."*
 3. **I Timothy 5:22** *"Lay hands suddenly on no man, neither be partaker of other men's sins: keep thyself pure."*
 4. **II Timothy 1:6** *"Wherefore I put thee in remembrance that thou stir up the gift of God, which is in thee by the putting on of my hands."*
 - iv. Confirmation at time of ordination.
 1. **Acts 6:6** *"Whom they set before the apostles: and when they had prayed, they laid their hands on them."*
 2. **Acts 13:1-4** *"¹Now there were in the church that was at Antioch certain prophets and teachers; as Barnabas, and Simeon that was called Niger, and Lucius of Cyrene, and Manaen, which had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. ²As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them. ³And when they had*

fasted and prayed, and laid their hands on them, they sent them away. ⁴So they, being sent forth by the Holy Ghost, departed unto Seleucia; and from thence they sailed to Cyprus."

- v. Other times as the Holy Spirit directs
- f. Confirmation, then, is a means of grace whereby members of the local church are strengthened, settled and established in the faith of Jesus Christ and committed to the will of God.

