

FULL LIFE IN CHRIST

BY

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Teacher's Manual



TEACHER'S MANUAL

“FULL LIFE IN CHRIST”

is a requirement for those desiring to be
church members

at

New Life Christian Fellowship
6235 West North Avenue
Oak Park, IL 60302

Pastor Nick J. Bitakis

has written

“FULL LIFE IN CHRIST”

as a Bible Study

to assist you in getting a good Christian foundation
using the Bible, God's Word.

NOTE: This class (originally titled “SOLID FOUNDATIONS”)

has been taught continuously at

New Life Christian Fellowship since 1989 as well as
previous churches pastored by Rev Bitakis since 1982.

There is always new people eager to attend

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HEAVEN AND HELL

I There are only **two** places people go to after death (Luke 16:19-26).

A. At death, the **soul** of every person departs and goes to either Heaven or Hell.

B. The **saved** go to Heaven, and the **unsaved** go to Hell (Matthew 25:46).

C. When people go to Heaven or Hell, they go there **forever** (Matthew 25:46; Luke 16:26).

II Heaven

A. It is a **reality**, and not just some fable (John 14:2,3). There are many dwelling places in Heaven, and Jesus has prepared a special place for every saved person.

B. It is the **future home** for everyone who is saved (II Peter 3:13; Revelation 21:2-7, 10-27). The saved are all those who have received Christ as their personal savior.

C. It is a **beautiful** place, far more beautiful than any place on this earth (Revelation 21).

D. It is a place where God's **fullest presence** will be enjoyed and experienced (Revelation 21:3). We will see God, and fellowship with God in His presence (Revelation 22:3,4).

E. It is a place of **total perfection**, and no imperfections at all (Revelation 21:4). There will be no sickness, sorrow, pain or death, but complete joy and fulfillment.

F. It will be a place where we will worship and **serve** God (Revelation 22:3,4).

III Hell

A. It is a **reality**, and not just some fable (Luke 16:22-24).

B. The **Devil** and **demons** will be in Hell which was prepared for them (Matthew 25:41).

C. All those who are **unsaved**, those who have never received Christ will end up in Hell (Revelation 20:15; 21:8).

- D. It is a place of **separation** from God's presence (II Thessalonians 1:8,9). They will be shut out from the presence of the Lord.
- E. It is a place of **punishment** (Matthew 25:46).
1. The Bible uses different **images** in describing Hell such as: fire, outer darkness, weeping and gnashing of teeth, where the worm does not die, where there will be no rest day or night, etc.
 2. There will be varying **degrees** of punishment in Hell (Luke 12:47,48). The judgement and punishment will be according to the deeds of the unsaved (Revelation 20:13).
- F. It is a place where there will be **no hope** of salvation (Luke 16:26).
- G. It is a place where the unsaved will spend **eternity** (Matthew 25:46).

SUGGESTED PRAYER FOR SALVATION

Dear Lord Jesus,

I realize that I am a sinner, and I need salvation. Lord Jesus, I believe that You are the Son of God. I believe that You died on the Cross for all my sins, and rose again.

Lord Jesus, I come to You for my salvation. I trust You wholly for my salvation. I accept You, Lord Jesus, right now, as my personal Savior. Thank You, Lord Jesus, for saving me, now!

In Jesus Name,

AMEN!

PROMISE OF SALVATION

“For everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved” (Romans 10:13).

SALVATION

I. The meaning of the word salvation or saved.

The word saved means to be **rescued**. We all need to be spiritually saved from our sins. The good news of the Gospel is that we can be saved (Romans 10:12,13).

II The Lord Jesus Christ paid the full price for our **eternal salvation**.

A. Jesus paid the **full penalty** for our sins when He died on the cross. All our sins were put on Christ, and He was **punished** for our sins (I Peter 2:24).

B. Jesus **arose** from the dead, and He is alive forevermore (Revelation 1:18).

C. Salvation, now, is a **free gift** (Romans 6:23b).

III How do I receive salvation?

A. We do **not** get saved by doing good deeds (Titus 3:5). We can never do enough good to earn our salvation. We all fall short, and keep falling short.

B. We are saved by God's **grace** through **faith** (Ephesians 2:8,9). This is not faith in general, but faith for salvation.

1. Faith in Jesus for salvation means to **turn** to Jesus for our salvation.

2. Faith in Jesus means to **trust** Jesus alone for our salvation. We trust Him and His finished work on the cross.

3. Faith in Jesus means to **receive** Jesus as our personal Savior (John 1:12).

IV What does salvation or being saved mean to us?

A. To be saved means that all of our sins, past, present, and future are **all forgiven**. (Colossians 2:13; I John 1:7).

B. To be saved means that we are no longer going to **Hell**, but we are going to **Heaven** when we die (John 3:3,16).

C. To be saved means that I am **justified**, which means that I stand **totally righteous** before God (Romans 5:1).

- D. To be saved means that we have a **personal relationship** with Christ (Revelation 3:20).
- E. To be saved means that the Living Christ **lives inside** of us by His Spirit. He will never leave us, and He will always stay inside of us (Galatians 2:20).
- F. To be saved means that we have (posses) **Eternal Life**, right now (I John 5:11,12).
- G. To be saved means that I am a brand **new person** in Christ (II Corinthians 5:17).
- H. To be saved means that I am **reconciled** to God (II Corinthians 5:18).

SUGGESTED PRAYER FOR SALVATION

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In Jesus Name,

AMEN!

PROMISE OF SALVATION

“For everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved” (Romans 10:13).

ASSURANCE OF SALVATION

- I What does it mean to have **full assurance** of salvation?
To have full assurance of salvation means that you **know for sure** that you are saved, and are going to Heaven (I John 5:13).
- II There are **many** today that do not have full assurance of salvation.
- A. There are many who do not have full assurance of salvation because they are **unsaved**. They have never been saved, and that is why they do not have assurance.
- B. There are many who have been **saved**, but still lack the full assurance of salvation. They are still going to Heaven even though they doubt their salvation.
- III Why do so many genuine born again Christians lack the full assurance of salvation?
- A. Some Christians lack that assurance of salvation because they base their salvation on their **feelings**, instead of basing their salvation on the **facts** of God's Word (II Corinthians 5:7). Faith is believing the facts of God's Word.
- B. Some Christians lack that assurance of salvation because they do not understand that salvation is totally and completely by **grace**, and not by any good deeds we do (Ephesians 2:8,9). Grace is not earned, but freely given. Salvation is a **free gift!**
- IV It is possible to have full assurance of salvation at all times.
- A. **I John** was written to give Christians assurance of their eternal salvation (I John 5:13). The Lord wants us to have this assurance of salvation.
- B. **Every** born again Christian can be absolutely sure of salvation.
- V To have full assurance of salvation, we must understand that when we receive Christ we receive **eternal** salvation (I John 5:11). Eternal means forever.
- A. When we get saved, we are saved **forever**. We who are saved never become unsaved when we do wrong (Romans 4:5). We are not saved because we are good, nor are we lost because we are bad.

- B. When we get saved, we are **eternally secure** in Christ (John 10:27-30). We are kept saved in the powerful hands of the Son and the Father.
- C. When we get saved, we do **not lose** our salvation when we sin (I John 2:1). Remember, all our sins, past, present, and future have been forgiven through the finished work of Christ on the Cross (Colossians 2:13).
- D. When we get saved, we are **kept saved** by God's power (I Peter 1:5).
- E. When we get saved, we are **sealed** with the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 4:30). This means the Holy Spirit will never leave us, He will always remain in us (Hebrews 13:5).

VI To have full assurance of salvation, we must know the **promises** of salvation.

- A. God's Word has many salvation promises, and **knowing** these promises will give assurance.
- B. Get to know and **memorize** some of the salvation promises: John 3:16; John 3:36; John 5:24; Acts 16:31; Romans 10:13; Revelation 3:20).
- C. Say the promises **out loud**, especially when you have doubts about your salvation (Romans 10:17).
- D. Remember, **God** said I am saved, I **believe** it, and that **settles** it. (whether I feel saved or not).

SPIRITUAL GROWTH

- I The importance of spiritual growth.
 - A. When we get saved, we are spiritually **born** into God's family (John 1:12,13).
 - B. We ought to **grow spiritually**, and not remain a spiritual babe (II Peter 3:18).
 - C. We ought to grow and be spiritually **strong** in the Lord (Ephesians 6:10).

- II We must have a **desire** to grow spiritually.
 - A. We should **hunger** and **thirst** after the things of God (Matthew 5:6).
 - B. This spiritual desire should be **greater** than any other desire in life.

- III We must **read** and **meditate** upon the Bible if we are going to grow.
 - A. The Bible is spiritual **food** to our souls (I Peter 2:2,3). We need to crave it, like a baby craves milk.
 - B. Read the Bible, God's WORD, **every day** (Psalm 1:2).
 - C. Before you read the Bible, ask God to:
 - 1. Give you **spiritual understanding**.
 - 2. Speak to you **personally**.
 - D. Read the Bible in a translation that you **understand** the best. Keep reading even though you don't understand everything. The Word of God is getting inside of you. The **more** you read, the **more** you will understand.
 - E. Start reading in the Gospel of **John**, and the **Epistles** (letters from Romans through Jude) which are in the New Testament.
 - F. When you start in the Old Testament, read the book of **Psalms** and **Proverbs**.

- IV We must **pray** if we are going to grow (I Thessalonians 5:17).
 - A. We must spend time alone with God **every day**.

- B. Prayer is **talking** with God. We should pray **out loud** to God.
 - C. Prayer is **praising** God for who He is, and what He has done (Psalm 105:1,2; 106:1).
 - D. Prayer is **interceding** for others, or praying for others (I Timothy 2:1).
 - 1. We should be praying for the **salvation** of the unsaved (Romans 10:1).
 - 2. We should be praying for **other Christians** and their needs (James 5:16a).
 - E. Prayer is **asking** God for different things that you want (Matthew 7:7).
- V We must go to **church** on a regular and consistent basis, if we are going to grow (Hebrews 10:25).
- A. We need to **attend** all of the various services (Hebrews 10:25).
 - B. We need to **fellowship** with other Christians. For a hot coal to stay hot, it must be with other hot coals.
 - C. We need to hear God's Word **taught** and **preached** (Romans 10:17).
 - D. We need to **pray** and **praise** the Lord with other Christians.
 - E. We need to **serve** the Lord in some way in the Church (I Corinthians 15:58).
- VI We must **tell others** about Christ, if we are going to grow spiritually (Romans 1:16).
- A. We ought to get in the **habit** of telling others about Christ (Psalm 126:6).
 - B. We ought to share our **testimony** with others.
 - C. We ought to give out **gospel literature** to others. God's Word is powerful!
 - D. We ought to memorize a soul-winning **plan** and use it with others.
 - E. We should ask God for **boldness** to tell others about Christ (Acts 4:31).

TOTAL COMMITMENT

- I Every Christian believer should make a total commitment to Jesus Christ.
 - A. Jesus **calls** us to make that total commitment (Luke 9:23).
 - B. We can live a **totally committed** life for the Lord with His help.

- II Living a totally committed life for the Lord does not mean that we become perfect.
 - A. We will always **fall short**, but God still accepts us because of His son, Jesus.
 - B. We will, however, be **growing faster** when we are totally committed to the Lord.

- III What does it mean to be totally committed to the Lord?
 - A. It means you **love** the Lord with your entire being (Matthew 22:37). It means you love the Lord **more** than anyone or anything else.
 - B. It means you are willing to **obey** the Lord, and do whatever He wants (John 14:15).
 - C. It means you are putting God and the things of God **first** in your life (Matthew 6:33). It means your relationship with God and the things of God are top priority in your life.
 - D. It means that you are **removing** out of your life everything that you recognize as sinful or wrong (II Corinthians 7:1).
 - E. It means that you have surrendered your **whole life** to the Lord (Luke 9:24).
 - F. It means that you choose to follow the Lord **all the way**.
 - G. It means that you submit your **will** to His will.
 - H. It means that you live for the Lord Jesus **every day** (Luke 9:23).

IV Why it is so important to make a total commitment to the Lord?

- A. When you make a total commitment to the Lord, you will experience a deep **joy** and fulfillment (John 15:11).
- B. When you make a total commitment to the Lord, you will be **used** more by the Lord (John 15:5).
- C. When you make a total commitment to the Lord, you will become **stronger** in the Lord (Ephesians 6:10,11).
- D. When you make a total commitment to the Lord, you will experience more of God's **blessings** (James 1:25).

SUGGESTED PRAYER OF TOTAL COMMITMENT

Dear Lord Jesus,

Thank You for saving me, and giving Yourself completely for my salvation. Lord Jesus, I make a full surrender to Your lordship and kingship. I make a total commitment to You, Lord Jesus, to follow You with my whole heart. I fully dedicate my whole self to do Your will and work. I will pursue a life style of obedience to Your will and to Your Word. I need the help of the Holy Spirit to live a surrendered and obedient life. Lord Jesus, fill me now with Your Holy Spirit, and keep filling me with Your Holy Spirit.

In Jesus Name,

AMEN!

“For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will save it” (Luke 9:24).

“For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain” (Philippians 1:21)

THE CHRISTIAN AND SIN

I Our relationship to sin as Christians.

- A. We do sin **after** we get saved, even though we don't want to (I John 1:8,10).
- B. We become more **sensitive** to sin when we are saved, and recognize it more (I John 1:9). This is because the Holy Spirit is in us.
- C. When we know we have sinned, we feel **badly** about it. This shows that we are really saved.
- D. We as Christians cannot live a **life style** of sin (I John 3:9). We will sin many times, but will feel badly when we do.

II What happens when we sin after we are saved?

- A. We do **not lose** our salvation. We do not have to get saved over again (Romans 8:1).
- B. We should, however, **acknowledge** and **confess** our sins (I John 1:9). The reason is so that we can deal with our sins and get victory over them.
- C. We need to ask the Lord for His **help** to overcome sin.

III Temptation and Sin

- A. Temptation to sin is a **common** experience of every Christian (I Corinthians 10:13).
- B. Temptation is to be **distinguished** from sin. Sin is when we yield to temptation inwardly or outwardly (James 1:14-15).
- C. Temptation begins and is experienced in the **mind**.
- D. Temptation comes to us through wrong **desires**, through the evil **world**, and the **Devil**.
- E. Temptation can and should be **resisted** (I Corinthians 10:13).

IV The Christian and victory over sin.

- A. We can have victory and overcome sin through Christ and **His strength** (Philippians 4:13).
- B. We need to **rely** upon Christ to give us His power, and not rely upon our own strength (John 15:5).
- C. We need to be continually in the **WORD**, for the WORD will give us inner strength (I John 2:14).
- D. We need to **call** on the Lord for help when we are tempted (Psalm 34:17).
- E. We sometimes need to **humble** ourselves, and ask other Christians to pray for us (I Peter 5:5).
- F. We need to **exercise** our will, and say “No” to sin (James 4:7). The more we say “No” to sin the stronger our resistance to sin will get.

LIVING A HOLY LIFE

- I As Christians we are called to live a holy life (Titus 2:11-12).
- A. A holy life is living a life style of **godliness**, which includes purity, helping others, integrity, love, honesty, kindness, humility, doing right and other good deeds (Ephesians 4, 5 & 6).
 - B. A holy life style is a spiritual **light** in this dark world (Matthew 5:15,16). Our life ought to be drawing others to Christ.
 - C. We don't live a holy and godly life to get saved or stay saved, but **because** we are saved (Ephesians 2:8-10).
- II What does living a holy and godly life include?
- A. We ought to **avoid** every kind of evil. We should totally abstain from what the Bible clearly calls sin (I Thessalonians 5:22), such as fornication, adultery, lying, cursing and filthy language, stealing, drunkenness, cheating, treating others wrongly, idolatry, gossiping, and other sinful acts that the Bible condemns (Galatians 5:19-21). Sin brings consequences in our life.
 - B. We ought to live a life of **doing good** to others (Galatians 6:10). This means being kind, helping others, and doing good things for others (Matthew 7:12).
 - C. We ought to be **practicing** what God's Word tells us to do (James 1:22), even if it is hard and difficult. The Lord will give us strength to obey, and obedience brings God's blessings in our lives.
 - D. We ought to be **seeking** godly and spiritual things (Matthew 6:33). The things of God should be first in our lives.
 - E. We ought to be **faithful** in everything in the Christian life (Matthew 25:21). Faithful in prayer, Bible reading, witnessing, church attendance, serving God, giving, etc.
 - F. We ought to be **servicing** God in some way (I Corinthians 15:58). Every Christian should serve the Lord and do something in the local church.
 - G. We ought to be living a **Christlike** life (Galatians 5:22,23). A life style like Jesus would live on this earth, focusing on loving others like Christ loves us (I Corinthians 13).

H. We ought to **fill** our hearts and minds with godly things (Philippians 4:8). This includes thinking about scripture, reading Christian literature, listening to Christian tapes, etc.

III Living a holy and godly life will bring **rewards** (Proverbs 11:18b).

A. There will be rewards in **this life**.

B. There will be rewards in **Heaven**. Salvation is free, but rewards are **earned**.

LOVE

I We are commanded to love **God**, and to love **people** (Matthew 22:37-40).

A. These are the **greatest** commandments, and if we follow them, we will be doing what God wants.

B. This is not a worldly love, but a **godly** love.

II How are we to love God?

A. We are to love Him **supremely**. This means we love the Lord more than anyone else or anything else.

B. We are to love God by **giving** our whole life to Him (Matthew 10:39).

C. We are to love God by **obeying** the Lord in everything (John 14:15). If we really love the Lord, we will want to obey Him, and do what He wants.

III How are we to love others?

A. We are to love others with a **Christlike** love (John 13:34,35). We are to love others as Christ loves us, and this will show that we are Christ's disciples.

B. We are to **accept** others, just as Christ accepts us with all our flaws (Romans 15:7).

C. We are to genuinely **care** for others, caring for their well being.

D. We are to **reach out** and touch others with God's grace.

E. We are to give **practical help** to others when they are in need (I John 3:16-18). We need God's wisdom to know what kind of help to give.

F. We are to be **warm** and **friendly** to people.

G. We are to be **kind**, and not rude to others (I Corinthians 13:4). This means being kind in our speech and in our actions.

H. We are to **forgive** others of the wrongs they have done against us. To forgive means not dwelling on the wrong, or holding resentment.

IV The challenge to love the way God wants us to love should be **pursued** (I Corinthians 14:1).

- A. God has given us **His love** into our hearts (Romans 5:5). We must allow this love to flow out in our everyday life.
- B. We should **ask** the Lord for **His** help to love others, as He loves.
- C. We should endeavor to put this kind of love into daily practice with our **words** and **actions**.

TRIALS

- I Trials and testings will **always** be a part of our lives, even though we are Christians (John 16:33).
 - A. Trials do not **end**, even though we get closer to God.
 - B. The Christian, however, has Christ to **help** in every trial and test. We need His Divine help because some trials will be very hard and intense.
- II The source of trials.
 - A. Some trials come because of our **wrong** actions, and we are reaping the results of sin (Galatians 6:7,8).
 - B. Some trials come because of a **satanic** attack that God has allowed to happen (Job 1:8-12; 2:3-7).
 - C. Some trials come because we **follow** Christ (II Timothy 3:12). Some people will come against us simply because we are Christians.
 - D. Some trials come because we live in an **imperfect** world (John 16:33).
- III The reason and purpose for trials.
 - A. Trials come to work good Christian **character** in us. They are working spiritual good in and through us (Romans 5:3-4).
 - B. Trials come to **strengthen** our faith (I Peter 1:6,7). It gives us an opportunity to exercise our faith and to trust God completely.
 - C. Trials come so that we will be able to **help** others who will go through similar trials (II Corinthians 1:3,4).
- IV The way to have victory through our trials.
 - A. Know that God is in **control** of the trial (Romans 8:28). God sets the boundaries, and He will not allow you to be tested above what you can handle (I Corinthians 10:13).

- B. **Trust** the Lord completely, and do not lean on your own understanding, in everything look to Him and He will direct you (Proverbs 3:5,6). Trust His promises, power and wisdom.
- C. **Ask** and **seek** the Lord for special grace and help to meet the challenge of that trial (II Corinthians 12:9).
- D. **Focus** on the positive things and truths of God, and not on the negative things of that trial (Philippians 4:8).
- E. **Praise** the Lord with your mouth as you go through the trial (Hebrews 13:15). Praise releases the special presence of the Lord.
- F. **Share** your trial with other believers, and let them pray for and with you (Galatians 6:2).
- G. **Determine** that you will always follow and serve Christ wholeheartedly, no matter how difficult that trial is (Job 13:15).

TITHING AND GIVING

I What is tithing?

- A. It is the giving of a **tenth** or **10%** of all our income and increase to the Lord and His work (Genesis 28:22; Hebrews 7:2).
- B. Everything given beyond the tithe is considered an **offering**. We should also be giving offerings to the Lord.

II Tithing and giving was practiced and taught in the Old and New Testaments.

- A. **Abraham** tithed (Genesis 14:18-20).
- B. **Jacob** tithed (Genesis 28:22).
- C. **Jesus** confirmed the practice of tithing (Matthew 23:23).
- D. **Paul** went beyond tithing, and taught generous giving (II Corinthians 9:6). The more you give to God, the more you will receive from God.

III Why is tithing and giving so important to do as a Christian?

- A. The tithe, or the tenth, is the **Lord's** money. (Leviticus 27:30,32). If we use the tithe on ourselves, we are robbing from God Himself (Malachi 3:8).
- B. When we tithe, we are **obeying** the Lord, since He has commanded us to tithe (Malachi 3:10).
- C. The Lord promises to **pour out** blessings upon our lives if we are faithful in tithing and giving (Malachi 3:10, Luke 6:38).
- D. Tithing is **honoring** and **worshipping** the Lord (Proverbs 3:9). We worship the Lord with our possessions, as well as with our lips.
- E. Tithing keeps us from **loving** money and material things. We cannot love God and love money at the same time (Matthew 6:24).
- F. Tithing helps us to **build** our faith, and trust God for our finances.

G. Tithing and giving is the way the Lord's work and ministry is **supported**.

H. Tithing and giving is laying up **treasures** in heaven (Matthew 6:20).

IV Why don't some Christians tithe?

A. They are **ignorant** of the teaching of God's word.

B. They **love** money, and want to hold on to it. God wants us to love Him, and not love money or material things.

C. They do not **trust** God, that God will provide for them if they honor Him in tithing.

V. The way to become a tithing and giving Christian.

A. **Decide** to give at least a tenth of everything that comes in.

B. Give your tithe **first**, before you pay anything else.

C. Be **faithful** and **consistent** in giving your tithe to the Lord. Develop the habit of tithing and giving.

D. Give your tithe with a right attitude, for the Lord loves a **cheerful giver** (II Corinthians 9:7).

LORD JESUS CHRIST

I Who is the Lord Jesus Christ?

A. Jesus is fully **God** (John 1:1,14; 5:18,23; 10:30; Hebrews 1:8; I John 5:20).
Jesus has all the characteristics and qualities of God. Jesus is all powerful, all knowing, and He is everywhere present. Jesus is perfect like the Father.

1. He is **equal** with God the Father (John 5:18). Jesus is God the Son.
2. He is **Lord** (Philippians 2:11).
Lord means God, ruler and master.

B. Jesus is fully **man** (John 1:14).
Jesus became a man in the fullest sense, but without sin (Hebrews 4:14,15).

C. Jesus is the only **savior** (I Timothy 1:15).

1. He came to **save** us from our sins, and from Hell.
2. He is the **only** one who can take us to Heaven (John 14:6).

II What did the Lord Jesus Christ do for us?

A. Jesus **died** for all of our sins (I Corinthians 15:3).

1. Jesus was **punished** for our sins (Isaiah 53:5).
Jesus paid the full penalty for our sins.
2. He made a perfect and complete **sacrifice** for our sins when He died on the cross (Hebrews 10:14,18).
3. He **put away** our sins once and for all (Hebrews 9:26).
All our sins are gone from God's sight!

B. Jesus **arose** from the grave, and He is alive forevermore (Revelation 1:18).

III What should my response be to the Lord Jesus Christ?

- A. We should **receive** Jesus as our personal Savior (John 1:12).
We do this by an act of our will.
- B. We should **surrender** to His Lordship (Philippians 2:10,11).
This means we submit our whole life to Jesus. We say one big YES to Jesus!
- C. We should **love** and **obey** Jesus (John 14:15).
We should love Him, and express that love by obeying whatever He wants.
- D. We should continually **come** to Jesus for everything (Matthew 11:28).
- E. We should **confess** Jesus, telling others about Him (Matthew 10:32).
- F. We should have a **close fellowship** with the Lord Jesus Christ (John 15:5).

THE HOLY SPIRIT

I Who is the Holy Spirit?

- A. He is an invisible **person** and not just some force (John 14:16,17).
- B. He is **equal** with God the Father, and God the Son. He is God the Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:19).
- C. He is our Divine **Helper** or **Comforter** (John 14:16).

II What does the Holy Spirit do?

- A. The Holy Spirit brings the **presence** of God, or the **presence** of Christ (Romans 8:9).
- B. The Holy Spirit points people to **Christ** (John 16:14).
- C. The Holy Spirit brings **spiritual life** to people (Romans 8:2). He makes us spiritually alive to God. He joins us to the Living Christ, and makes us spiritually alive in Him.
- D. The Holy Spirit lives **inside** of every born again person (John 14:17). The moment we accept Christ, the Spirit comes to live in our spirits forever.
- E. The Holy Spirit **communicates** and speaks to us on the inside (Acts 8:29). He will never tell us to do something against the Bible.
- F. The Holy Spirit will **guide** us in our Christian life (John 16:13).
- G. The Holy Spirit will **teach** us, and give us **spiritual understanding** (I Corinthians 2:12,13). He will help you understand the Bible, and all other matters in the Christian life.
- H. The Holy Spirit will give us inner **strength** to overcome in the Christian life (Ephesians 3:16). He gives us God's strength.
- I. The Holy Spirit wants to **fill** us with His presence and power (Ephesians 5:18). There are many different fillings of the Spirit. We should always seek to be filled with the Holy Spirit.

- J. The Holy Spirit is **changing** Christians to be more like Christ. He is working in us the characteristics of Christ and good spiritual fruit (II Corinthians 3:18; Galatians 5:22,23).

III What should our response be to the Holy Spirit?

- A. We should **cooperate** with the Holy Spirit, and not resist what He is trying to do in us (I Thessalonians 5:19).
- B. We should **rely** upon the Holy Spirit to help us live the Christian life (Galatians 5:16). It is an attitude of trusting and leaning on the Spirit to give us Divine help.

SPEAKING IN TONGUES

- I Speaking in tongues is a **supernatural** blessing for every Christian to enjoy (Acts 2:4).
- A. This gift is for **today**.
 - B. This gift is for **every** Christian.
- II What is speaking in tongues?
- A. It is speaking words in an unlearned language(s) **to God** (I Corinthians 14:2).
 - B. It is speaking in a **Spirit-inspired** or **spiritual** language(s), which was not learned (Acts 2:4).
 - 1. **We** do the speaking, but the Holy Spirit gives us the ability. It is not the Holy Spirit speaking through us.
 - 2. We speak **words** and **phrases** of praise and prayer in this new spiritual language (Acts 10:46). We don't speak in a whole vocabulary.
 - C. It is another way to **pray** to God. Speaking in tongues or spiritual languages is primarily prayer.
 - 1. It is praying to God with **my spirit** (I Corinthians 14:14-15). Praying in my native language is praying with my mind or understanding, but praying in tongues originates in my spirit, and my mind does not understand the meaning (I Corinthians 14:14).
 - 2. It is praising God with **my spirit** (I Corinthians 14:15-16). We can speak or sing praises in tongues. Singing in tongues is a beautiful way to praise and worship the Lord.
- III Why is it so important to speak in tongues?
- A. It is a tangible **sign** of the Spirit's filling in our lives (Acts 10:44-46). There are other fillings & signs, but this is a continual sign of the overflow of the Spirit.
 - B. It is **yielding** the tongue to the Holy Spirit, and the tongue is an important member of the body (James 3:3-5; Proverbs 18:21a). The tongue is a powerful instrument of the body. We should use it to glorify God.

- C. It will **enrich** our prayer life, and help us to pray more frequently (I Thessalonians 5:17). We can pray in tongues at any time without thinking about what to pray for.

IV How can you speak in tongues?

- A. **Desire** the gift of speaking in tongues.
- B. **Humble** yourself, and admit you need this gift in your life.
- C. **Ask** the Lord to give you a new spiritual language.
- D. Be **sensitive** to the way the Holy Spirit is leading you to speak in tongues.
1. The Spirit may give you some foreign or funny sounding **syllables** or **words** in your mind.
 2. The Spirit may give you an inner **desire** or an **urge** to speak out some foreign or funny sounding syllables.
 3. The Spirit may just be leading you to speak out **some sounds**.
- E. **Speak out** those sounds confidently and boldly. To speak in tongues, we must step out in faith and speak some sounds, and the Holy Spirit will shape it into a new language.
- F. **Keep speaking** in tongues for as long as you can the first time.
- G. Speak in tongues **regularly** (I Corinthians 14:15,18).
1. You will get **more words** in your new language, more words of praise and prayer.
 2. You will **develop** your prayer language, if you keep speaking in tongues.
 3. You can **choose** to speak in tongues at any time (I Corinthians 14:15). You have control over your gift.

THE BIBLE

I What is the Bible?

A. The Bible is the **Word of God**.

It was written by men, but they were inspired by the Holy Spirit (II Timothy 3:16).

B. The Bible is spiritual **food** to our souls (I Peter 2:2).

It contains the spiritual nutrients, vitamins and nourishment that we need to have a healthy Christian Life.

C. The Bible is our **guide** in this life (Psalm 119:105).

D. The Bible is a powerful **cleansing** agent (John 17:17). It cleans and changes us on the inside.

E. The Bible is our spiritual **strength** to overcome evil (I John 2:14).

F. The Bible is our **final authority** as far as what is truth and how we should live (II Timothy 3:16).

II The Structure and Divisions of the Bible

A. There is the **Old Testament** (Covenant), which has 39 books (Genesis through Malachi).

B. There is the **New Testament** (Covenant), which has 27 books (Matthew through Revelation).

C. The Old Testament can be divided as follows:

1. The **Law** or Pentateuch (Genesis through Deuteronomy - the first 5 books).

2. The **Historical** Books (Joshua through Esther - 12 books).

These are mainly books of Old Testament history.

3. The **Poetical** Books (Job through Song of Solomon - 5 books).

These are books of poetry.

4. The **Major Prophets** (Isaiah through Daniel - 5 books).

They contain prophecy, and are called major because they are rather long books.

5. The **Minor Prophets** (Hosea through Malachi - 12 books).

These contain prophecy too, but are called Minor because they are much shorter books.

D. The New Testament can be divided as follows:

1. **Gospels** (the first four books of the New Testament, Matthew through John).
These record the life and ministry of Jesus Christ.
2. **Church History** (1 book - Acts).
This is a record of the history of the early Church.
3. **Epistles** or **Letters** (21 books - Romans through Jude).
These are Letters containing truth about Christ, Salvation, Christian Living, etc.
The Apostle Paul wrote most of these books.
4. **Prophecy** (1 book - Revelation, - truth about this church age and end-time events).

III The Writings of the Bible

- A. It was written by men who were **inspired** by the Holy Spirit (II Timothy 3:16).
- B. It was written by about **36** or **40** men from all walks of life, over a span of **1,500** years, from Moses (1440 B.C.) to the Apostle John (96 A.D.).
- C. The Old Testament writings were originally written in **Hebrew** (there are a few sections in Aramaic).
- D. The New Testament writings were originally written in **Greek**.
- E. There are many **translations** and **versions** of the Bible, which basically give the same meaning, except the New World Translation which is especially twisted by Jehovah Witnesses to make it say what they want it to say.

IV How do we understand and apply the Bible?

- A. **Desire** to know its truth, and desire to live by it.
- B. Develop the **daily habit** of reading and meditating upon the Bible.
- C. **Ask** God to give you understanding of its meaning, and ask Him to speak to you as you read.
- D. Whenever you want to know the meaning of a verse, always look at the **context** (complete paragraph or thought).
- E. Remember that the **Holy Spirit** is in all those who are saved, and He will give us spiritual understanding (John 16:13). **TRUST HIM TO DO THAT!**

THE CHURCH

I What is the church?

- A. The church is a **“called out”** people, or a group of people who have been saved. Christians are a group of people who have been called to live for Jesus Christ in this world (Romans 1:6,7).
- B. The church is not a building or an organization, but a group of **saved people** (Hebrews 12:22,23). The true church is not a particular denomination but people who are saved.

II The two ways church is used in the New Testament

- A. The word “church” is used to refer to the **universal** church, which is composed of all who have been saved from all nations. This includes all the saved in heaven and on the earth (Ephesians 1:22,23).
- B. The word “church” is used to refer to **local** churches. A local church is a group of saved people in a certain geographical location who meet together for worship (I Corinthians 1:2; Galatians 1:2).
- C. There are **many** local churches, but **one** universal church.

III The practices of the church

- A. Water Baptism (Matthew 28:19).
 - 1. Baptism is only for those who have already **received** Christ as Savior. Salvation comes first, and then water baptism (Acts 2:38; 10:43-48).
 - 2. Baptism does **not** take away our sins, or save us. Faith in Christ is how we receive forgiveness (Acts 10:43).
 - 3. Baptism in the New Testament was by **immersion** (Acts 8:38,39). Immersion means to be put completely into the water.
 - 4. Baptism is a New Testament command to all Christian believers, and is an act of **obedience** (Acts 10:48).

5. Baptism is a **public declaration** of our faith in Jesus, and we should publicly tell others that we are followers of Christ (Matthew 10:32).
6. Baptism **symbolizes** that our old life in sin is dead and gone, and that now we have new life in Christ (Romans 6:4).

B. Lord's Supper or Communion (I Corinthians 11:23-26).

1. It does **not save** us, or add to our salvation.
2. It is to **remind** us of the Lord Jesus and His death on the cross (I Corinthians 11:24,25).
3. It is a time of spiritual **fellowship** with the Lord Jesus. It is called "Communion" (I Corinthians 10:16), which means fellowship. There is a special presence of the Lord around the Lord's table that we can enjoy.

C. Anointing with oil (James 5:14-16).

1. The **sick** believer should call on the elders to pray for healing.
2. The elders of the church should **pray** and **anoint with oil** in the name of the Lord. The oil is a symbol of the Holy Spirit and His power.

IV The believer and the local church.

- A. Every believer should **join** a local Bible-believing church. We should commit ourselves to a local body of believers (Hebrews 10:24,25).
- B. Every believer should be **faithful** to the local church (Matthew 25:21,23). We should be faithful in our attendance, giving, and in whatever work we do in the church.

THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST

I The Lord Jesus **promised** that He would come back again (John 14:3). It is certain that He will return from Heaven for us.

II The way the Lord Jesus will come back again.

A. He **Himself** will come back (I Thessalonians 4:16a). Jesus will not just send angels to get us, but He will come back for us, Himself.

B. He will come back in a **glorified body** (Acts 1:11). Jesus will come back the way He went up into Heaven after His resurrection, in a resurrected, glorified body.

C. He will be **seen** by everyone (Matthew 24:27). Jesus will not come secretly and invisibly, but everyone will see His coming (Revelation 1:7).

D. He will come back **suddenly**. Many will not be expecting the second coming of Christ (Matthew 24:36-42).

1. There are signs of Christ's coming, but we do not know the **exact** time of His coming (Matthew 24:36; II Timothy 3:1-5).

2. The **unsaved** will be taken totally by surprise (I Thessalonians 5:2,3). Sudden destruction will come upon them, and it will be too late to get saved.

E. He will come back with great **power** (Matthew 24:29,30). There will be great supernatural power that will be experienced and seen.

III The events that will happen at Christ's coming.

A. The **return** of the Lord Jesus, Himself, from Heaven (I Thessalonians 4:16). In a split second, we will see Christ returning from Heaven.

B. The **resurrection** of the bodies of Christians who have died (I Thessalonians 4:16). The souls of the saved who have died are in Heaven now. When Christ returns, the saved souls will be given new glorified bodies.

C. The **rapture** of living believers from off the earth (I Thessalonians 4:17). This means that living Christians will be changed and snatched off the earth to meet the Lord in the air.

D. The **reunion** of all the saved, with the Lord in the air (I Thessalonians 4:17). We will all meet the Lord together in the air.

IV What should our response be to the truth of the second coming of Christ?

- A. We should be **ready** for His coming. This means that we should be living for Christ every day (Matthew 24:44).
- B. We should be **looking forward** to His coming (II Timothy 4:8).
- C. We should be **telling** others about Christ, and **warning** the unsaved about the future punishment they will receive at Christ's coming (II Thessalonians 1:7b-9), if they don't get saved.

BIBLE STUDY HELPS

- **The Amplified Bible**
“A Bible which amplifies and brings out a fuller meaning from the original languages.”
- **The Bible Book by Book** (G. Coleman Luck, Moody Press)
“It gives the author, purpose, theme and an outline of every book of the Bible.”
- **Eerdmans Handbook to the Bible** (Wm Eerdman Publishing Co.)
“It gives good information about the Bible, and about each book of the Bible, with colorful pictures.”
- **Exhaustive Concordance (KJV – Strong’s or Young’s; NKJV; OR NIV)**
“They give the scripture references of the words of scripture (very thorough) and a brief meaning from the Hebrew and Greek.”
- **How to Study The Bible For Yourself** (Tim LaHaye)
“It gives some principles of interpreting and studying the Bible.”
- **Nave’s Topical Bible** (Moody Press) Revised & Enlarged Edition
“It gives the scripture and its references of important topics in the Bible.”
- **The New Bible Dictionary** (Second Edition, Inter Varsity Press)
“It describes the various persons, places, and various items which are in the Bible.”
- **The New Topical Text Book**
“It gives 20,000 topics and subtopics with Bible references.” It is excellent for teaching & preaching. (Sword of the Lord Publishers, P.O. Box 1099, Murfreesboro, TN 35133 1-800-251-4000)
- **Study Bible**
(Study Bibles come in different versions) “It gives a background and outline of each book of the Bible, with helpful notes.”
- **Vines Expository Dictionary of Biblical Words**
“It explains and defines the meanings of the words in the Old and New Testaments from the Hebrew and Greek.”
- **Wilson’s Old Testament Word Studies**
“It gives the meaning of all the words in the Old Testament.”

- **A Critical Lexicon And Concordance To The English & Greek New Testament** (Bullinger) "Giving the definition and meaning of Greek words in English, and in alphabetical order."
- **Gesenius Hebrew – Chaldee Lexicon To the Old Testament** (Baker Book House, Grand Rapids, MI) "A dictionary numerically coded to Strong's Exhaustive Concordance."
- **Know What You Believe** (by Paul Little)
"It gives the meaning and interpretation of the important Christian doctrines."
- **Know Why You Believe** (by Paul Little)
"It gives a good Christian defense of our faith."
- **Living by The Book** (by William & Howard Hendricksen)
"It gives a through presentation on how to study & interpret the Bible."
- **Nelsons Illustrated Encyclopedia Of The Bible** (Thomas Nelson Publishers, Nashville, TN)
- **The Comparative Study Bible** (Zondervan)
"A parallel bible of four translations: King James, New International, New American Standard, and the Amplified."
- **The IVP Bible Background Commentary: New Testament** (Craig S. Keener)
"Gives the historical and cultural background of every section in the New Testament."
- **Tyndale New Testament Commentaries**
"It gives interpretive comments on the entire New Testament."
- **New International Dictionary Of New Testament Theology** (by Colin Brown)
(4 volumes, Zondervan Publishing House, ISBN 332-3890
"It gives an in depth study of the words and teachings in the New Testament."
- **New International Dictionary Of Old Testament Theology & Exegesis)**
(5 volumes, Zondervan Publishing House, ISBN 0-310-21400-9)
"It gives an in depth study of the words & teachings of the Old Testament."
- **The Discovery Bible** (Moody Press)
"A more literal translation of the New Testament, bringing out the Greek Text."
- **The International Standard Encyclopedia** (4 Volumes)
"It is an exhaustive study on all the topics, persons, places, and doctrines in the Bible."
- **The Moody Atlas Of Bible Lands** (Moody Press)

●●● **The New Manners & Customs of Bible Times** (Moody Press)

“It gives a cultural background of geography, manners and customs in the Bible.”

●●● **The NIV or NASB Greek Interlinear of the New Testament**

“It gives the Greek Text with the English underneath the Greek Text.”

●●● **Tyndale Old Testament Commentaries**

“It gives interpretive comments on the entire Old Testament.”

● = Beginning Level Of Study

●● = Advanced Level Of Study

●●● = More Advanced Level Of Study