

STUDIES FOR CHRISTIAN GROWTH...

# **SOLID FOUNDATIONS**

## **SOLID FOUNDATIONS . . ARE A SERIES OF**

HOME Bible studies on basic scriptural truths, designed to bring a Christian into a pattern of Bible study and to provide a basic understanding of God's Word.

Topics included are:-

- \* Sin
- \* Salvation
- \* Bible Study & Prayer
- \* The nature of the Godhead
- \* Foundation Doctrines
- \* Practical Christian living.

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## STUDIES FOR CHRISTIAN GROWTH

# SOLID FOUNDATIONS

### STUDY 1 THE ORIGIN OF SIN

#### Definition:

Sin is an attitude of rebellion towards God that expresses itself in outward acts of disobedience.

#### Point to Ponder:

If God is good, and God created all things, and all things that God created were good, how did Satan and sin and evil come into being?

To answer this question, we must look at something that happened before God created man.

#### THE FALL OF LUCIFER (Now known as "Satan", "The Devil", etc.)

Lucifer (the name means "light bearer" or "shining one") was an archangel (a ruling angel) created by God. Many Bible teachers think that Lucifer (*Ezekiel 28:14* – "The anointed cherub that covereth") was one of the cherubs that covered the throne of God in heaven. *Hebrews 8:5* tells us that the tabernacle that Moses built was an example and shadow or copy of heavenly things. The mercy seat in Moses' tabernacle probably represents the throne of God in heaven, and it was covered by two cherubim. So God gave Lucifer a very privileged place in heaven.

As is the case with us, Lucifer was not a puppet but was free to choose to do God's will or to disobey God. He became proud of his own wisdom and beauty and put his own will before God's will. Lucifer made up his mind to try to become equal with God and led a third of the angels with him in rebellion against God. (*Revelation 12:3-5*. The rebellious angels are pictured here as the stars which the dragon – Satan – drew down from heaven).

Lucifer did not succeed in his rebellion, but God cast him and his angels out of the heaven of heavens where God dwells.

#### Description of Lucifer before he fell and became Satan – Read *Ezekiel 28:12-15*.

(The 'King of Tyrus' is a name used here to describe Satan).

- What was Lucifer like to look at? (*vv 12,13*) \_\_\_\_\_
- What does the Bible say about Lucifer's intelligence? (*v 12*) \_\_\_\_\_
- In what special places was Lucifer allowed to go? (*vv 13,14*) \_\_\_\_\_

#### Reasons for Lucifer's fall.

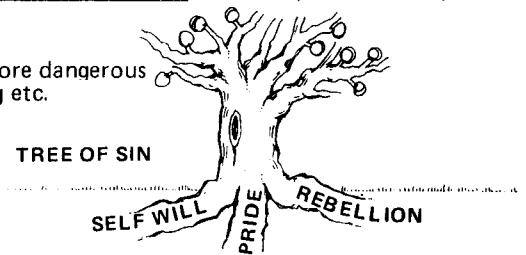
- PRIDE.** Write down the words in *Ezekiel 28:17* that tell us that Lucifer became proud.  
Why did he become proud? \_\_\_\_\_
- SELF-WILL.** Read *Isaiah 14:13-14*. What two words are repeated five times in these two verses? \_\_\_\_\_
- REBELLION.** *Isaiah 14:14b*. What was Lucifer's real aim when he rebelled? \_\_\_\_\_

#### Results of Lucifer's fall

- For Lucifer himself
  - Ezekiel 28:16*. Where is Satan no longer allowed to go? \_\_\_\_\_
  - From being Lucifer and 'perfect in beauty', he has become Satan, the \_\_\_\_\_ (*Revelation 12:4*) and the \_\_\_\_\_ (*Revelation 20:2*)
  - From being full of wisdom, he's become the father of \_\_\_\_\_ (*John 8:44*) and one who \_\_\_\_\_ (*Revelation 12:9*).
  - From being a holy servant of God, he's become a \_\_\_\_\_ (*John 8:44*), the \_\_\_\_\_ (*1 Peter 5:8*) and the \_\_\_\_\_ (*Matthew 12:24*)
  - Satan and his kingdom of fallen angels and demons are totally opposed to God, to God's purposes, and to God's people (us), and work to try to enslave all men through deception and sin and sickness.
- For Man  
Write out *1 Peter 5:8* \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## TWO CONCLUSIONS

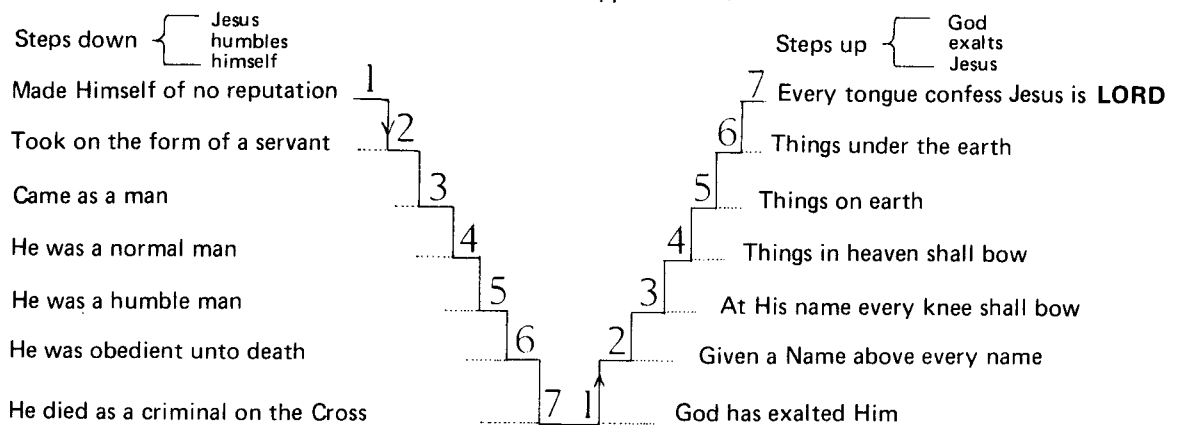
- 1) The answer to the question in the second paragraph is that God did not create Satan, and sin, and evil. God created Lucifer, a beautiful angel, who was perfect until he chose to rebel against God because of pride and self-will. When he rebelled, he became Satan and the author of all sin and evil.
- 2) The three roots of all sin are the same as the three reasons for Lucifer's fall – PRIDE, SELF-WILL, REBELLION.  
Because they are roots they are hidden and we often do not realise that they are there, but they can be a lot more dangerous to Christians than the more obvious sins of lying, stealing etc.



## JESUS, our example, compared with Satan

Satan, through pride, decided to grab a higher place, with the result that he has been cast down by God. Jesus humbled Himself and God has exalted Him above all.

## THE SEVEN STEPS THAT JESUS TOOK Read Philipians 2 vs 5-11



## To think about

Did pride, self-will and rebellion hold you back for a while from coming to God? How?

How (in the situation you are in at the moment) could they hinder you from going on further in God?

The opposites to pride, self-will and rebellion – Humility, choosing God's will first (the way of the Cross) and submission.

## Verse to learn:

Proverbs 29:23 A man's pride shall bring him low, but honour shall uphold the humble in spirit.

## °Recommended listening:

Derek Prince tapes – "Spiritual Conflict" series

## STUDIES FOR CHRISTIAN GROWTH

# SOLID FOUNDATIONS

### STUDY 2 THE ORIGIN OF SIN. – THE FALL OF MAN

The Bible tells us that God created the heavens, the earth, plant and animal life and man and that "God saw everything that He had made and behold it was very good". *Genesis 1:31*

Take one minute and make a list of the things you can think of in the world today that are not 'very good' as God made them in the beginning (e.g. natural disasters, problems between countries, problems in society, problems in individuals' lives).

The reason for the difference between the world as God created it and the world as it is today – THE FALL OF MAN (MAN'S SIN).

Read *Genesis chapters 1, 2 and 3.*

#### MAN BEFORE THE FALL – IN THE STATE OF INNOCENCE

God created man to have fellowship with God. There was no flaw in Adam and Eve when God made them. They had a close friendship with God, were at peace with each other and within themselves, were intelligent and had perfect health. They lived in a perfect and beautiful environment.

- 1) Who was man made to be like? \_\_\_\_\_  
(*Genesis 1:26*. The same Hebrew word translated here as 'image' is used in modern Hebrew to mean 'photograph'. So 'image' refers to man's outward appearance while 'likeness' refers to man's inner nature).
- 2) What did Adam and Eve rule over? \_\_\_\_\_  
(*Genesis 1:26*).
- 3) What did God provide for man's food? \_\_\_\_\_  
(*Genesis 1:29*).
- 4) What is man made of? \_\_\_\_\_  
(*Genesis 2:7*. God is shown here as the Potter who moulds man with His hands)
- 5) How did life enter man? \_\_\_\_\_  
(*Genesis 2:7*. The Hebrew words mean "the breath of lives" and refer to both the soul life and the spirit life of man).
- 6) Write down the things the Bible tells us about the place God gave Adam and Eve to live in that shows us that it was a wonderful place. \_\_\_\_\_  
(*Genesis 2:8-14*).
- 7) What work did God give Adam to do? \_\_\_\_\_  
(*Genesis 2:15*). \_\_\_\_\_  
How was this work different from the same sort of work today?  
(*Genesis 3: 17-19*). \_\_\_\_\_
- 8) God gave Adam a 'rhema' (or personal word) in *Genesis 2:16-17*.  
List the three aspects.  
a) Permission – "You may \_\_\_\_\_"  
b) Prohibition – "You shall not \_\_\_\_\_"  
c) Warning – "You shall surely \_\_\_\_\_"
- 9) In what practical way did God show that He loved Adam and would provide for Adam's needs?  
(*Genesis 2:18*). \_\_\_\_\_
- 10) On what task did God and Adam work together?  
(*Genesis 2:19-20*). \_\_\_\_\_
- 11) What did God use to do that shows us that He was Adam and Eve's friend?  
(*Genesis 3:8*). \_\_\_\_\_

#### THE FALL

God gave Adam and Eve a free will. So that they could use their freedom to choose, God allowed Satan to test them. God Himself was not present with Adam and Eve all the time, but He had given them His word (*Genesis 2:16-17*) which they had with them always. God's purpose in allowing Satan to tempt Adam and Eve was that Adam and Eve should freely choose to obey Him and so become mature.

- 1) Who is the serpent of *Genesis 3:1*? (*Rev. 12:9 and Rev. 20:2*). \_\_\_\_\_  
Compare God's command (*Genesis 2:16*) and Satan's question (*Genesis 3:1*).

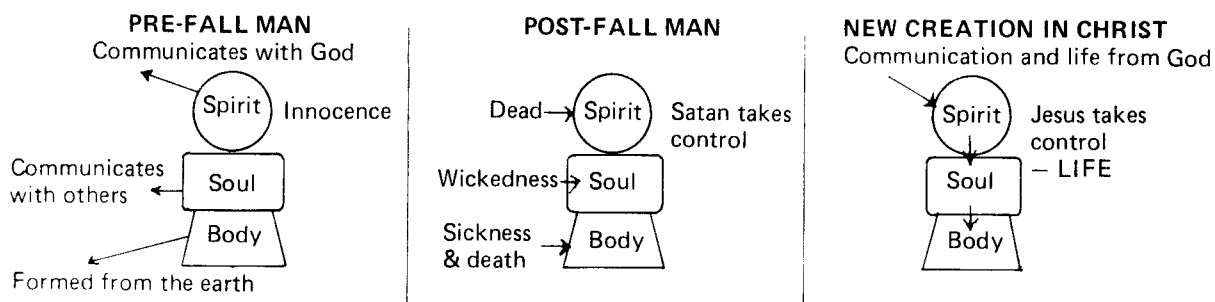
- a) Write down the first four words that Satan uses to encourage Eve to doubt God's word.
- b) Write down the word that Satan adds to God's command to make it seem that God is not a good God. \_\_\_\_\_
- c) Eve's reply (Compare *Genesis 2:16 & 17* with *Genesis 3:2-3*).  
What words does Eve add to what God has said that show that she does not really know God's word? \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) Temptation to disbelieve God's word.  
Compare God's word (*Genesis 2:17*) with what Satan says (*Genesis 3:4*).  
What was the warning God gave, and what lie did Satan tell?  
(Satan is really saying, "You can sin and get away with it"). \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) Temptation to disobey God's word.  
Write down the two things Satan said would happen as the result of disobeying God.  
(*Genesis 3:5*). \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) Compare *Genesis 3:6* with *1 John 2:16*.  
Write down the words that show that Satan appealed to
  - a) the lust of the flesh \_\_\_\_\_
  - b) the lust of the eyes \_\_\_\_\_
  - c) the pride of life \_\_\_\_\_
- 6) Read *1 Tim 2:14*. Why did Eve fall into sin? \_\_\_\_\_  
(Adam was not deceived. He fell because he put Eve before God. He didn't want to be separated from her because she'd sinned, so he sinned too. Eve was like an idol to him).

THE FALL — Adam and Eve disobeyed God and sin entered their lives.

### CONSEQUENCES OF THE FALL

When Adam and Eve went against God's word and sin came into their lives, they became the servants of sin and therefore Satan's servants too. Because Adam and Eve had children only after the fall, the whole of mankind has inherited Adam's fallen nature. Adam's sin had an effect not only on man's spirit, soul and body, but also on the world which God had given Adam dominion over and which Adam had now handed over to Satan.

- 1) Consequence for mankind.
  - a) Spiritual death.  
What two things show us that Adam's fellowship with God was broken?  
(*Genesis 3:8* and *3:23,24*). \_\_\_\_\_
  - VERSE TO LEARN: *Rom. 5:12*.
  - b) Soul — fallen nature.
    - Intelligence: What are we told about this world's (i.e. the natural man's) wisdom?  
(*1 Cor. 3:19; 1 Cor. 2:4; 1 Cor. 1:19-21*). \_\_\_\_\_
    - Heart: What is man's heart like? (*Jer. 17:9*). \_\_\_\_\_  
What evil things naturally come forth from man's heart? (*Mark 7:21-23*). \_\_\_\_\_
    - Will: Man is biased towards evil like a bowling ball that cannot go straight. Thought —  
"You never have to teach a child to be naughty".  
Whose way does man naturally follow? (*Is 53:6*). \_\_\_\_\_  
How many naturally do good? (*Ps 53:3*). \_\_\_\_\_
  - c) Body — Sickness is part of the curse.
    - Death took 930 years to work fully in Adam (*Genesis 5:5*). It works in men today in approximately 70 years.
- 2) Consequences for the world.  
Satan, the god of this world, kills, steals, and destroys, with wars, natural disasters, famine, disease, pollution.



### TO THINK ABOUT

Count your blessings: What problems, difficulties, sickness, etc., that you experienced in your life before you were saved, as the result of man's fall, are now in the past tense (fully dealt with) because of your salvation in Christ?

### FOR FURTHER STUDY:

- Derek Prince — "Spiritual Conflict Series" (Tapes)  
Paul Little — "Know What You Believe".

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### WHAT IS SIN ?

N.B. All sin is against God.

e.g. *Ps. 51:4* David has committed adultery and murder and he says,

"Against Thee and Thee only have I sinned".

e.g. *Rom. 8:7* "The carnal mind is enmity against God"

e.g. *1 John 3:4* "Sin is the transgression of the law". (The law is God's rules that show us how to act and think so that we can live in harmony with a perfect God).

### SOME DEFINITIONS OF SIN

- Sin is
- mutiny against God
  - revolt against the Highest
  - rebellion of the individual will of the creature (you and me) against that of the Creator (God)
  - self enthroned; God dethroned (Jesus said, "Let a man deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me")
  - self-will; self-will is sin
  - to be weighed in God's balances and found wanting

### TO THINK ABOUT:

See if you can find from your own experience and/or from the Bible examples to fit each of the definitions of sin given above.

### PICTURES OF SIN IN THE BIBLE

- 1) *Is 1:18*
- 2) *Rom 2:19*
- 3) *Ps 51:9*
- 4) *Ps 52:2*
- 5) *Prov 5:22*
- 6) *Rom 6:17*
- 7) *Heb 12:1*
- 8) *Matt 13:25*
- 9) *Luke 12:1*
- 10) *Matt 6:12*

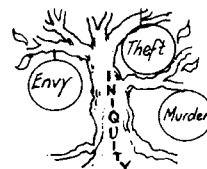
### THREE ASPECTS OF SIN

Read *Ps 32:1-2*; *Ex 34:6-7*; *Ps 51:1-2*.

What three words does each of these passages use to describe sin?

I. Iniquity. This refers to the fallen nature which man has inherited from Adam which makes it natural for us to sin. It is the root principle within man from which sin and transgression naturally spring.

- a) Where do evil thoughts and actions come from? (*Mark 7:20-23*). \_\_\_\_\_
- b) What are we like, even before birth? (*Ps 51:5*) \_\_\_\_\_



- c) How do we know that everyone has a fallen nature? \_\_\_\_\_  
Write down the words in the following verses that tell us this.  
— *1 Kings 8:46*  
*Ps 53:3*  
*Is 53:6*  
*Is 64:6*  
*1 John 1:8*

II Sin. The word 'sin' is often used to refer to the fact that, no matter how hard we may try, without Christ we are hopeless and cannot live up to God's standards. In other words, we fall short of what we should be and do, or we miss the mark or target.

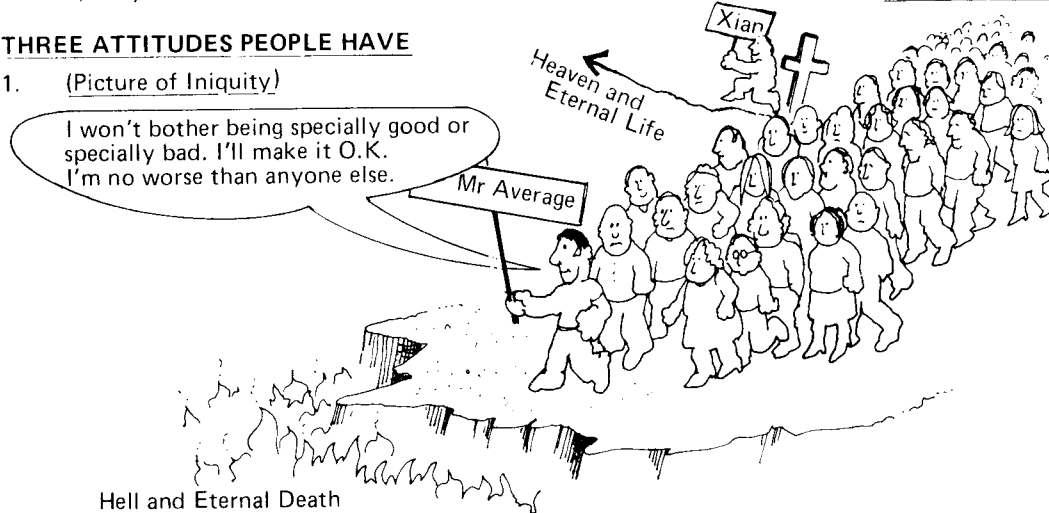
- a) Write out *Rom 3:23*, putting it into your own words.
- b) Why does man fall short? \_\_\_\_\_
- c) What is man said to be like in this verse? (*Matt 7:18*). \_\_\_\_\_
- c) What does James say that sin is? (*James 4:17*). \_\_\_\_\_

III Transgression (or trespasses). This means that man breaks God's laws or that man goes beyond (trespasses) the boundaries God has set for him (See *1 John 3:4*).

- a) Some people do not have Bibles and so cannot read God's law. But what does everyone have that tells us what God's standards are? (*Rom 2:12-15*).
- b) Why does it matter if a man breaks only one of God's laws? (*James 2:10*).

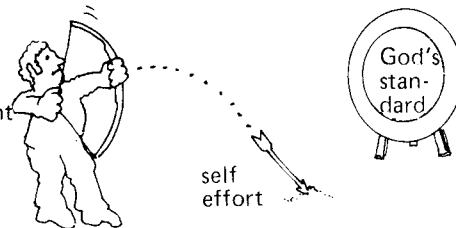
### THREE ATTITUDES PEOPLE HAVE

#### 1. (Picture of Iniquity)



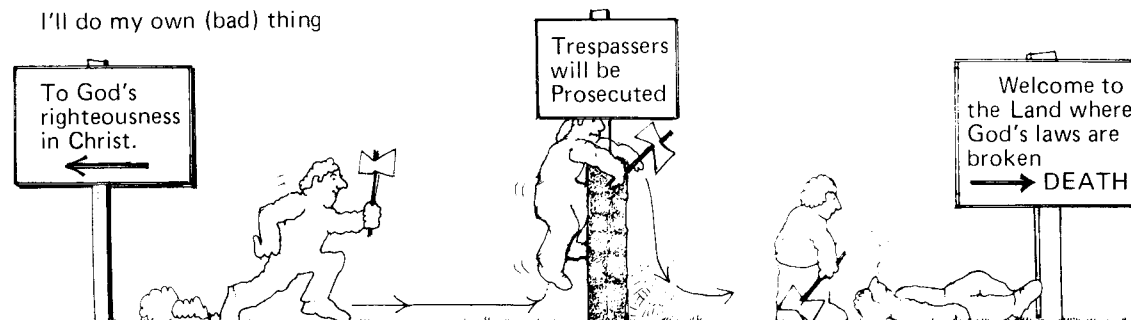
#### 2. (Picture of Sin)

I'll work hard and be good and I'll be all right



#### 3. (Picture of Transgression)

I'll do my own (bad) thing



### TO MEDITATE ON

- Read slowly through
- a) The Ten Commandments (*Ex 20:1-17*).
  - b) The Beatitudes (*Matt 5:1-12*).
  - c) The Two Commandments (*Mark 12:29-31*).

and let God speak to your heart about what He requires of you.

**VERSE TO LEARN:** *Isaiah 53:6*.

**FURTHER READING:** "Know What You Believe" — Paul Little  
 "In Understanding Be Men" — T.C. Hammond  
 I.V.F. Bible Dictionary — Section on "Sin".



## STUDIES FOR CHRISTIAN GROWTH

# SOLID FOUNDATIONS

### STUDY 4 HOW SIN WORKS

"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature; old things have passed away; behold all things are become new" (*II Cor 5:17*). This is God's word and therefore it is absolutely true. But why then do we, as Christians, find ourselves sinning at times — doing and thinking things that are wrong in God's sight?

When we are saved, we are justified (God sees us as righteous because we are in Christ) and sanctified (Jesus' perfect life and nature is within us). But in our own experience we find that the old sinful nature inherited from Adam is still present with us. As we saw in a previous study, the Adamic nature means that man without Christ naturally does evil, can't please God and can't know God. The sins that we may commit as Christians are the natural result or fruit of the old sinful nature.

What happens is that Satan who, (as we saw in the first study on sin) is in total rebellion against God, comes and prods or provokes the old sinful nature to try to get us to sin. But we don't have to sin. We as Christians have Jesus' nature within us and are designed to show forth Jesus' life. Jesus was completely victorious over Satan's temptations, and we can experience this victory too. Jesus' blood is the remedy that washes us clean from our sins. So, too, when we understand what Jesus' death on the Cross as our substitute really means, we experience deliverance from our old sinful nature.

#### OUR POSITION IN CHRIST WHEN WE ARE SAVED

- 1) We are righteous before God with Jesus' righteousness. *Rom 5:17*. How do we receive Jesus' righteousness? \_\_\_\_\_  
Can we earn it? \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) We are sanctified (We have Jesus' life within us and can therefore live in a way that pleases God). *I Cor 1:30-31*. Who is our sanctification? \_\_\_\_\_  
To whom, then, should we give glory? \_\_\_\_\_

#### OUR EXPERIENCE

Read *Rom 7:14-25*.

- 1) Write in your own words what Paul's experience was. (*v15*). \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) Why did Paul do what was wrong, even though he didn't want to do it? (*v17*). \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) What is the old nature (the flesh) like? (*v18*). \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) Did Paul want to do good? (*v18*). \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) What did he do instead? (*v19*). \_\_\_\_\_
- 6) Why did he do this? (*v20*). \_\_\_\_\_
- 7) What was the attitude of Paul's inward man? (*v22*). \_\_\_\_\_
- 8) What caused Paul to sin, then? (*v23*). \_\_\_\_\_
- 9) Where does the answer to victory lie? (*v24-5*). \_\_\_\_\_

#### THE OLD (NATURAL) MAN (FLESHLY, ADAMIC NATURE)

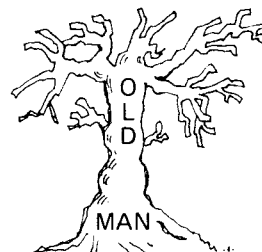
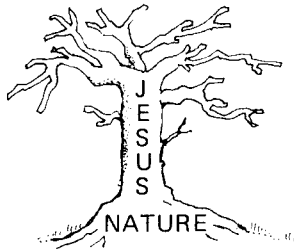
- 1) What is the old man like? (*Eph. 4:22*).
- 2) How is the old nature described here, and what does it cause us to do? (*Rom 6:6*).
- 3) What is the natural man's mind and conscience like? (*Titus 1:15*).
- 4) What is the natural man's heart like? (*Jer 17:9*).
- 5) What is the natural man's mind like towards God? (*Rom 8:7*).

N.B. Some non Christians seem very good. When we look at them it is hard to believe sometimes that they are corrupt even though God says all men are corrupt. Dr Derek Prince uses the illustration of a peach. A freshly picked peach may look beautiful, but it is still corrupt. Leave it a week . . . or two weeks . . . and you will see! It will be bad (Corruption will have run its course).

#### MAN'S SINFUL NATURE PRODUCES THE FRUIT OF SINS.

Jesus uses the illustration of various types of trees. Read *Matt 7:16-20* and *Matt 12:33*.

- 1) What does a good tree produce? \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) What does a corrupt tree produce? \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) Therefore, what does the old Adamic sinful nature produce in us? \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) What does the life of Christ produce in us? \_\_\_\_\_



Read *Galatians 5:19-23*. Draw in and label the fruit that grows on these two trees.

### SATAN WORKS ON THE OLD NATURE

Read *James 1:13-15*.

- 1) What two things are we told about God and temptation? (*v13*). \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) When Satan puts temptation in man's way, what is it in man that responds? (*v14*). \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) If we give in to temptation, what does this lead to? (*v15*). \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) How do we know that we can't sin and get away with it? (*v15*). \_\_\_\_\_

### SOME EXAMPLES OF TEMPTATION AND SIN IN ACTION

- 1) Eve in the Garden of Eden.
  - a) What object did Satan draw Eve's attention to? (*Gen 3:1-3*). \_\_\_\_\_
  - b) What desires in Eve responded to Satan's prodding? (*Gen 3:6*). \_\_\_\_\_
  - c) What was the result of Eve's giving in to temptation? (*Gen 3:16-19*). \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) Gehazi. Read *II Kings 5:15-27*.
  - a) What objects did Satan draw Gehazi's attention to? \_\_\_\_\_
  - b) What wrong desire in Gehazi responded? \_\_\_\_\_
  - c) What was the result for Gehazi? \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) Michal (David's wife) Read *II Sam 6:16,20,23*.
  - a) What did Satan draw Michal's attention to? \_\_\_\_\_
  - b) What wrong emotion responded? \_\_\_\_\_
  - c) What was the result? \_\_\_\_\_

### JESUS – AND SATAN'S TEMPTATION

Jesus was tempted by Satan on the same three areas that Eve was tempted on: –

- a) the lust of the flesh \_\_\_\_\_
- b) the lust of the eyes \_\_\_\_\_
- c) the pride of life. \_\_\_\_\_

Read *Matt 4:1-11*. Write alongside a, b & c (above) the temptation that corresponds to each one.

### REMEDIES

- 1) For SINS  
Jesus' blood. What three things does Jesus' blood do?
  - a) *I John 1:7* \_\_\_\_\_
  - b) *Heb 9:14* \_\_\_\_\_
  - c) *Rom 5:9* \_\_\_\_\_

If we sin and confess our sin, Jesus washes us clean with His Blood. (*I John 1:9*). But it is not God's will for us to keep on sinning, so He made provision for the source of our sins (our sinful nature) to be dealt with.

- 2) For SIN (our sinful nature).  
The Cross of Christ. Read *Romans 6:1-11*.
  - a) Our old man cannot ever please God and always tends to sin. So what has God done to it? (*v6*).  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 (When we are baptised [*v4*] it is a picture of what God has already done – our old man is dead and we have Christ's new life in us).
  - b) What is our part? (*v11*). \_\_\_\_\_

**VERSE TO LEARN:** *Matt 7:17*.

**RECOMMENDED READING:** Watchman Nee – "The Normal Christian Life."

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### STUDY 5 TEMPTATION

Definition: Temptation means "putting someone to the test"; our "making trial of someone".

**VERSE TO LEARN:** *James 1:12.*

#### THE PURPOSE OF TEMPTATION – FROM GOD'S POINT OF VIEW

God allows us to be tempted because He loves us. If we react the right way to temptation it works for our good.

- 1) God puts us in situations which show Him and us and others what is in our hearts.  
e.g. Abraham. Read *Gen 22:1-18*.
  - a) What was the test (temptation) that God put Abraham through? \_\_\_\_\_
  - b) What was God's reason for doing it? (*v12*). \_\_\_\_\_
  - c) What was the wonderful result for Abraham? (*v16-18*). \_\_\_\_\_  
e.g. Children of Israel.
  - d) What simple test did God put the Children of Israel through? (*Ex 16:4*). \_\_\_\_\_
  - e) Why did God do it? (*Ex 16:4*). \_\_\_\_\_
  - f) Why did God prove (test) His people for forty years in the wilderness? (*Deut 8:2*). \_\_\_\_\_
  - g) Why does God allow false prophets and false doctrines? (*Deut 13:1-3*). \_\_\_\_\_
  - h) Why did God eventually allow some heathen nations to stay in the Promised Land?  
(*Judges 2:20-22*). \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) By putting us to the test, God purifies us just as silver or gold is purified in a refiner's crucible.
  - a) *Ps 66:10* What is temptation (proving) likened to here? \_\_\_\_\_
  - b) Where does God refine us? (*Is 48:10*). \_\_\_\_\_
  - c) When we come through the test, what does God do? (*Is 48:10*). \_\_\_\_\_
  - d) Why may God put us through many temptations? (*1 Peter 1:6-7*). \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) Through temptation, God strengthens our patience and makes us mature.
  - a) How are we to react when we face temptations? (*James 1:2-3*). \_\_\_\_\_
  - b) Why are we to react this way? \_\_\_\_\_
  - c) What is the reward for those who endure temptation? (*James 1:12*) \_\_\_\_\_



















## 5. GOD'S PROVISION FOR OUR DELIVERANCE FROM THE POWER OF THE FLESH

The blood can wash away our sins, but it cannot wash away our "old nature" or the "law of sin" working within our members. It requires the "power of the cross" to destroy its power. (The blood deals with the sins, and the cross deals with the sinner).

God's provision for the Christian to overcome the power of the flesh is the death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ.

*Rm. 6:3* "Know ye not, that so many of us as we were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized INTO HIS DEATH?"

*Rm. 6:4* "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."

*Rm. 6:8* "Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him."

These references show that as definitely as Christ died by an act and was raised by an act, so **every believer died in this act of Christ** to sin; not experientially but legally.

This once-for-all-death was not something we could accomplish. It was accomplished for us at Calvary.

Christ not only died for **our sins**, but also to **DESTROY** the power of the **law of sin** working within our lives. We who in Adam were dead **IN sin**, are now **IN Christ** dead **TO** sin (the power of sin).

## 6. APPROPRIATING GOD'S PROVISION

*Romans 6* lays the foundation for the Christian's deliverance from the power of the flesh. The three key words here are KNOWING, RECKON, YIELD.

1. "**KNOWING** this, that our old man is crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin." *Rm. 6:6*.

The first step is to **KNOW** this truth. You may not feel it, you may not fully understand it, but you acknowledge it and accept it as a truth laid down in God's word.

2. "**RECKON** ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God." *Rm. 6:11*.

Once you have acknowledged it as a truth in the Word, you are then to **RECKON** it as true for yourself personally. Your confession should be the same as Paul's in the following verses:

"I AM CRUCIFIED WITH CHRIST: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me." *Gal. 2:20*.

"I AM DEAD UNTO SIN and alive unto God". *Rm. 6:11*.

3. "**YIELD** yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God." *Rm. 6:13*.

Thirdly, we are to **surrender** ourselves to God realising that we are not our own but have been bought with a great price so that we may **reflect Him** in our lives.

Because of the simplicity of the above three steps, many Christians fail to embrace them but rather go through all kinds of spiritual gymnastics in trying to attain this end. However, this is God's provision for the Christian, and **when** we apply these principles, then the experience of the "crucified life" will become experientially ours. Watchman Nee in his book, "The Spiritual Man", makes the following comments:

"You say you still sin, but God says you have been crucified on the cross. You say your temper persists, but God's answer is that you have been crucified. You say your lusts remain very patent, but again God replies that your flesh has been crucified on the cross. For the moment will you please not look at your experience, but just hearken to what God says to you. If you do not listen to His word and instead look daily upon your situation, you will never enter into the reality of your flesh having been crucified on the cross. Disregard your feelings and experience. God pronounces your flesh crucified; it therefore has been crucified. **Simply respond to God's Word and you shall have the experience.**"

### EXERCISE

1. What is the flesh? \_\_\_\_\_
2. What is the difference between the soul and the flesh? \_\_\_\_\_
3. What does it mean that we have been "crucified with Christ"? \_\_\_\_\_
4. What is the nature of the flesh? \_\_\_\_\_
5. How do we experience deliverance from the power of the flesh? (Explain fully). \_\_\_\_\_

### FOOTNOTE:

"It is a great error to consider the **flesh** eradicated from us and to conclude that the **nature of sin** is completely annihilated. Such false teaching leads people astray. Regenerated life does not alter the flesh; crucifixion does not extinguish the **flesh**; the indwelling Holy Spirit does not render it impossible to walk by the flesh. The flesh with its fleshly nature abides perpetually in the believer. Whenever opportunity is provided for its operation, it at once will spring into action."

Watchman Nee.

## STUDIES FOR CHRISTIAN GROWTH

# SOLID FOUNDATIONS

## DIVINE HEALING - SALVATION FROM SICKNESS

### 1. SALVATION INCLUDES HEALING

The word 'salvation' means deliverance from sin & sin's penalty. A prominent part of this penalty is sickness. (*Dt. 28:15-61*).

The word 'saved' as used in *Mk. 16:16; Acts 21:21; Rm. 10:9* and in many other places is the Greek word 'SOZO' which, when properly translated, carries the meaning of physical and spiritual healing.

It is the same word that Jesus used when He said to the leper, "Thy faith hath made thee whole". *Lk. 17:19*.

It's also the same word used in *Lk. 8:36*. "He that was possessed of the devils was HEALED".

The word 'salvation' is an all-inclusive word with gathers unto itself the meaning of FULL DELIVERANCE, COMPLETE SAFETY, PRESERVATION & SOUNDNESS.

### 2. IT IS GOD'S WILL TO HEAL

a) It is revealed in the Nature of God *Ex. 15:26; Ps. 103:1-3; Ps. 105:37*.

God is a God of wholeness and harmony.

When the children of Israel (a type of the Church) came through the wilderness, God gave His children a healing covenant. *Ex. 15:26*.

"...if thou wilt diligently hearken to the voice of the Lord thy God, and wilt do that which is right in His sight, and wilt give ear to His commandments, and keep all His statutes, I WILL PUT (ALLOW) NONE OF THESE DISEASES UPON THEE WHICH I HAVE BROUGHT UPON THE EGYPTIANS: FOR I AM THE LORD THAT HEALETH THEE".

In these words God was saying, "I am Physician by nature."

In *Ps. 105:37* we read, "There was not one feeble person among their tribes"; not one among 3 million of them (at least).

b) It is revealed in the ministry of Jesus Christ

There is not one incident in the whole of the N.T. where an individual came to Jesus in physical need and was not healed. *Acts 10:38; Lk. 4:18*.

Jesus was God manifested in the flesh (*1 Tim. 3:16*) and therefore expressed the will and nature of God. JESUS WAS THE WILL OF GOD IN ACTION.

c) It is sealed by Christ's atonement on the cross

*Gal 3:13* "Christ hath REDEEMED us from the CURSE of the law, being made a curse FOR US."

What was that curse? In *Deut. 28* we are told that the following diseases came upon the people because of disobedience to God's law: pestilence, consumption or tuberculosis, fever, inflammation, extreme burning, botch, emerods, scab, itch, blindness, smiting in the knee and in the leg, and failing of the eyes, and further - "ALL THE DISEASES of Egypt, and also EVERY SICKNESS AND EVERY PLAGUE which is not written in the book of this law".

However, the good news of the N.T. is that Christ has REDEEMED us from this curse of the law, being made a CURSE for us. The curse of the law includes all diseases, every sickness, and every plague known throughout the history of the world. (*Deut. 28:60, 61*).

*Isa. 53:4, 5* "Surely He hath borne our griefs (sickness and diseases) and carried our sorrows (pains) . . .

But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement of our peace was upon him and WITH HIS STRIPES WE ARE HEALED."  
(Also *Mthw. 8:17; 1 Pet. 2:24*).

Jesus not only died for our sins, but ALSO in His death He bore our infirmities, our diseases, and our sicknesses, AND WHAT HE BORE, WE DO NOT NEED TO BEAR. What He took upon Himself, we do not need to suffer.

SATAN CANNOT, LEGALLY, LAY ON US WHAT GOD HAS ALREADY LAID ON JESUS.

Jesus became sick with OUR diseases that WE might be healed.

### 3. WHY ARE CHRISTIANS SICK?

a) Ignorance Through a lack of knowledge of what Jesus accomplished at Calvary.  
(Jesus died not only for our sins, but also for our sicknesses.)

b) Disobedience - sin - rebellion God's healing covenant to His children was conditional (*Ex. 15:26*).

"IF THOU WILT 1) diligently hearken to the voice of the Lord thy God  
2) and wilt do that which is right in his sight  
3) and wilt give ear to his commandments  
4) and keep all his statutes

THEN "I will put none of these diseases upon thee, which I have brought upon the Egyptians: I AM THE LORD THAT HEALETH THEE."

c) **Neglect of the Physical body**

One of the commandments that the Israelites were required to obey to experience continued physical health was to rest on the 7th day. God in His wisdom instructed a day of rest for our own PROTECTION.

Also God gave instructions on hygiene and the manner of foods to be eaten although we are not under the Law today, it is **significant** that these laws on hygiene, food and rest required the same respect by the Children of Israel, as the rest of the Law, in order for them to experience HIS BLESSING in the area of physical health.

d) **Wrong attitudes**

Wrong attitudes give rise to damaging emotions that are destructive to the physical body. (e.g. resentment, fear, anger, anxiety, hate, envy, etc.)

In the book, "None of these Diseases", the writer shares how medical science is increasingly discovering the relationship between "Upset mind – Sick Body".

e) **A continuous wrong confession**

Negativeness gives the powers of darkness a legal right to oppress you.

*Prov. 6:2* "Thou art SNARED with the words of thy mouth, thou art TAKEN with the words of thy mouth."

*Prov. 23:7* "For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he."

f) **Not discerning the Lord's Body 1 Cor. 11:28-30.**

"But let a man **examine himself**, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup. For he that eateth and drinketh **unworthily**, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body.

FOR THIS CAUSE MANY ARE WEAK AND SICKLY AMONG YOU, and many sleep."

**4. IF SICK – THE STEPS TO TAKE**

1. Prayerfully consider the above possible reasons why Christians could be sick to ensure that your heart is right to **ask** and **expect** the Lord to heal you.

2. **Ask the Lord for His healing**

Faith is the key to all answered prayers.

*Rm. 10:17* "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word (rhema – quickened word) of God."

As one begins to meditate in His word, faith is quickened within you. It is this faith that opens the door for God to move in response to your prayer for healing.

If you live in a Christian household, ask one of them to pray for you with the laying on of hands.

*Mk. 16:17,18*

"And these signs shall follow them that believe; in my name shall they cast out devils, they shall speak with new tongues . . . they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover."

*James 5:16* "Confess your faults one to another, and **PRAY ONE FOR ANOTHER THAT YE MAY BE HEALED**. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much."

If sickness continues –

3. **Call for the elders of your church**

*James 5:14* "Is any sick among you? **Let him call for the elders of the church** and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up."

**EXERCISE**

1. How do we know that healing is God's will? (Give 3 reasons). \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Give 5 possible reasons as to why a Christian could be sick? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. In *Gal. 3:13* we read "Jesus has redeemed us from the curse of the law being made a curse for us". With respect to healing, what was that curse? (*Duet. 28*). \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. At what stage would you call for the elders of the church? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. What is man's part in maintaining good physical health? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## STUDIES FOR CHRISTIAN GROWTH

# SOLID FOUNDATIONS

### DELIVERANCE—SALVATION FROM THE POWER OF SATAN

#### 1. IS DEMON ACTIVITY REAL?

We have read many accounts of demon activity in heathen countries but perhaps have not realised that Satan and his demons are equally real whether in heathen lands or in so-called enlightened civilizations.

- a) Jesus made it clear in His ministry that demons were spirit beings to be reckoned with. The Bible speaks of a foul spirit, spirit of fear, lying spirit, spirit of bondage, unclean spirit, dumb spirit and others. There are many scriptures which indicate that a major part of the ministry of Jesus was to set the captives free from these forces. e.g. *Mk. 5:1-9; Mthw 9:32-33; Mk. 9:17-29 etc.*

Not only did Jesus cast out demonic spirits, but also He gave authority both to His disciples and to the seventy He sent out to cast out devils. These men returned and testified that even demons had been subject to them in the name of Jesus.

- b) Today, untold millions are discovering and experiencing the reality of the power of Satan through experimenting with occult practices such as fortunetelling, seances, witchcraft, transcendental meditation, clairvoyancy etc.

#### 2. OCCULT INVOLVEMENT IS DISOBEDIENCE TO GOD'S WORD

In *Deut. 18:9-12* God warns:

"Thou shall not learn to do after the abominations of those nations.  
There shall not be found among you anyone. . ."

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. "that useth divination"                | (fortunetelling)                           |
| 2. "or an observer of times"              | (soothsayer)                               |
| 3. "or an enchanter"                      | (magician)                                 |
| 4. "or a witch"                           | (sorceress)                                |
| 5. "or a charmer"                         | (hypnotist)                                |
| 6. "or a consulter with familiar spirits" | (mediums possessed with a spirit or guide) |
| 7. "or a wizard"                          | (clairvoyant or psychic)                   |
| 8. "or a necromancer"                     | (medium who consults the dead)             |

**"FOR ALL that do these things ARE AN ABOMINATION UNTO THE LORD"**

God not only forbade participation in ALL forms of occultism but further concludes that

- a) contact with the occult is SPIRITUALLY DEFILING *Lev. 19:31*.  
b) and sufficient grounds for rejection of the soul by God. *Lev. 20:6*.

#### 3. CAN A CHRISTIAN BE OPPRESSED OR POSSESSED BY SATAN?

Not only was it necessary for Christ to deliver us from sin's bondage, but also from Satan's power and authority. We are not necessarily free from Satan's power because the sin question has been settled.

1. Satan can attack us apart from sin, and can gain influence over us in that attack if we **"are ignorant of his devices"** *2 Cor. 2:11*.  
In *2 Cor. 11:3* we read that Satan "beguiled Eve through his subtilty." (*See Eph. 6:11, 12*).

2. Secondly, we are told to **"neither give place to the devil"** (*Eph. 4:27*) because "to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey" (*Rm. 6:16*).

In scripture we see numerous examples of people who walked with God opening themselves up to and eventually being taken over and controlled by Satan. In each case it was the result of **continuing** wrong attitudes, thoughts, and motives that provided the door for Satan to enter.

- |  |   |                        |
|--|---|------------------------|
| 1. Judas (one of the 12 apostles)  | "Then Satan entered into Judas"                               | <i>Lk. 22:3</i>        |
| 2. Ananias & Sapphira  | "Why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost?" | <i>Acts 5:3</i>        |
| 3. Saul (the Lord's anointed) was full of hatred and jealousy of David and then became obsessed and driven with the desire to murder him.<br>(David had previously ministered to Saul when Saul was troubled by an evil spirit.) |   | <i>1 Sam. 16:14-23</i> |

3. In the majority of cases, a Christian's requiring deliverance would be a direct result of pre-salvation days because of:

- Involvement with the occult
- Heredity Factors
- Background experiences

The possibility of a Christian requiring deliverance can be understood when we realise that man is a trinity of body, soul and spirit. The new birth deals with the spirit of man. His spirit which was dead in trespasses and sins is now made alive unto God. The Spirit of God is operating in him within in his human spirit, and no evil spirit can enter this realm.

However, demons can inhabit the realm of the soul which includes our personality, mind, drives, emotions, will etc. Although demon activity in the realm of the soul may not affect our salvation, it will certainly cause us to be a defeated Christian in some area of our life.

#### 4. CHRIST'S DEFEAT OF SATAN

There can be no permanent victory in the lives of Christians until they **SEE** and **APPROPRIATE** the fact that Satan was defeated at Calvary.

*1 Jn. 3:8* For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that HE might **destroy** the works of the devil.

*Col. 2:15* And having spoiled principalities and powers, He made a shew over them openly, triumphing over them in it.

In these scriptures alone we see:

1. Jesus has destroyed the works of the devil
2. Spoiled his power
3. Triumphed over him.

The Greek meaning of the word "destroy" is "**to render powerless or put out of action**". The cross therefore has put the devil out of action potentially. Jesus Christ has potentially delivered every soul from Satan's power. (*Lk. 10:19; Jn. 12:31*).

Since Calvary, Satan has been an usurper. He has no rights whatsoever. And because he is an usurper, he can be resisted wherever his power is felt and commanded to depart. (*Eph. 4:27; James 4:7; 1 Pet. 5:8, 9*)

#### 5. OUR POSITION IN CHRIST

In the above paragraph we saw that Satan was totally defeated by Jesus Christ at Calvary. However, for us individually to experience Christ's victory, we need to know our position in Christ.

##### Christ's position

*Eph. 1:20-23* "Which He wrought in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead and set Him at His own right hand in the heavenly places, **FAR ABOVE ALL PRINCIPALITY, AND POWER, AND MIGHT, AND DOMINION**, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come: and **HATH PUT ALL THINGS UNDER HIS FEET** and given Him to be head over all things."

##### Our position in Christ

*Eph. 2:5-6* "Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us **TOGETHER** with Christ . . . and hath **RAISED US UP TOGETHER**, and made us **SIT TOGETHER IN HEAVENLY PLACES IN CHRIST JESUS**."

Where?

"**FAR ABOVE** all principality and power, and might, and dominion."

#### 6. DISTINGUISHING THE WORKS OF THE FLESH FROM DEMON ACTIVITY

*Gal. 5:19-21* "Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like . . . they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God."

None of these things in its **initial uprising** is a demon. It is the work of the flesh. At this stage, it is in your control as to whether you are going to yield to or refuse its outworking in your life.

If you **continue to yield** in that area, e.g. fornication, a spirit will enter. It is then that the work of the flesh becomes **driven** by an evil spirit. (e.g. Saul; Judas).

(In scripture, the horse is a type of the flesh. e.g. The Egyptians rode upon horses after the Israelites. The flesh will have for its rider an evil spirit).

#### 7. STEPS TO DELIVERANCE

1. **Isolate the problem.** This means to determine and pinpoint what the actual problem is.
2. **Confession of sins if necessary.** It is important for the person to be totally honest and to call sin, sin and then to ask for the Lord's forgiveness and cleansing (*1 Jn. 1:9*).
3. **Renounce Satan**, resist him, and command him to depart (*James 4:7*).
4. **Cut off the things that feed the problem.** This could involve:
  - a) Destroying all occult objects and occult literature (*Acts 19:18-19*).
  - b) Putting an end to certain relationships, interests, etc.

*Mk 9:47* "And if your eye causes you to stumble and sin, pluck it out: It is more profitable and wholesome for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye, than with two eyes to be thrown into hell."  
(Amplified Bible).



**5. Apply the principles of the crucified life**

(See Study 3, Salvation from the flesh — Knowing, Reckoning and Yielding)

Satan is a defeated foe but there is only one place where that fact can be a permanent reality in our life and that place is IN CHRIST.

As we abide IN CHRIST, we abide in a position where Satan cannot touch us.

By applying the principles of knowing, reckoning, and yielding, we put "our flesh" to death, thus destroying any basis for Satan to touch us.

**6. Exorcism — the prayer of deliverance**

Many believers by going through the above 5 steps will be able to bring themselves into a place of complete freedom. However, if, after having gone through these four steps, the problem still persists, it is **then** that you should seek the further assistance of an experienced counsellor in the deliverance realm.

**8. HOW TO KEEP YOUR DELIVERANCE****1. Renewal of the mind Eph. 4:23 "And be renewed in the spirit of your mind".**

In their bondages, many people adopt certain negative thought patterns which need to be broken after they have gone through the steps of deliverance. By an act of their will they must begin to bring their thoughts into line with God's thoughts as revealed in His word.

e.g. If you have been delivered from a spirit of fear, your confession should become, "God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind". *2 Tim 1:7*.

**2. Continually exposing your life to God**

a) By prayer. *Eph 6:18; Jude 20*

b) Reading His word. *Jn. 15:3* reveals that the word is a cleansing agent. Therefore as we continue to feed upon His Word, a work of inner cleansing is continually taking place within us.

**3. Continually abiding IN Christ**

a) **Know and proclaim** your position in Christ. *Eph. 1:18-23; 2:5*.

b) **Apply** the principles of the crucified life (knowing, reckoning & yielding).

**4. Resistance against Satan**

Submit to God, resist the devil, and he will flee from you. *James 4:7; Eph. 6:11-18*.

God has equipped us with sufficient armour to combat Satan. *Eph. 6:12-18*.

**5. Fellowship with other Christians Heb. 10:25.**

Other Christians can give comfort, encouragement, and their prayer support, and also the assurance that we are not standing alone.

**EXERCISE**

1. Give 5 scriptures that reveal that deliverance was part of Jesus' ministry. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Satan can gain access into the lives of Christians. How? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. What is the difference between the works of the flesh and the work of demons? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4. What are the six steps to deliverance? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

5. What are the necessary precautions to be taken by Christians to maintain their deliverance? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## STUDIES FOR CHRISTIAN GROWTH

# SOLID FOUNDATIONS

### STUDY 6 PROSPERITY

#### SALVATION FROM POVERTY

"... I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth."  
3 Jn. v2.

**DEFINITION:** prosper:- succeed, thrive, make successful  
prosperous:- flourishing, successful  
prosperity:- prospering, wealth

#### 1. PROSPERITY IS THE SCRIPTURAL WILL OF GOD

To many, "prosperity" is thought of in terms of only finance; however, the biblical concept of prosperity is so much wider in scope as to encompass God's goodness in every area of your life and being as it is so powerfully and beautifully described in *Deut 28*. Prosperity is the blessing of God, and God does desire to bless us.

In *Deut. 28:15-68* we learn that because of man's disobedience to God, he experiences the curse of God which affects him not only financially, but materially, physically, agriculturally and spiritually (individually and nationally), etc.

However, the glorious truth of the N.T. is that "Christ hath REDEEMED us from the curse of the law BEING MADE A CURSE FOR US... that the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ..." *Gal. 3:13, 14*.

In *Gen 24:1* we see the full extent of the blessing of Abraham that is available to us.  
"... the Lord had BLESSED Abraham in ALL THINGS."

Just as Adam was born into God's supply through a physical birth, so we are born again into God's provision by a spiritual birth. "For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet FOR YOUR SAKES He became poor, THAT YE THROUGH HIS POVERTY MIGHT BE RICH." *2 Cor. 8:9*.

#### 2. THE PURPOSES OF PROSPERITY

##### For a Witness

God wants the world to know that He is our Father and that He gives abundantly to His children. We are to be living witnesses of His faithfulness.

*Deut. 28:10* "And all people of the earth shall see that thou art called by the name of the Lord; and they shall be afraid of thee."

*Ps. 126:2* "... then said they among the heathen, The Lord hath done great things for them."

##### To give to others

*2 Cor. 9:8* "God is able to make all grace ABOUND toward you that ye always having ALL SUFFICIENCY in ALL THINGS may abound to every good work."

*2 Cor. 8:14* "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."

*2 Cor. 9:11* "Being enriched in everything to all bountifulness (liberality)..."

#### 3. THE AREAS OF OUR LIFE AND EXISTENCE THAT GOD WANTS TO BLESS IN ORDER TO DEMONSTRATE HIS GOODNESS IN A PRACTICAL WAY (*Deut. 28*)

|            |                  |  |
|------------|------------------|--|
| Career     | <i>Ps. 1:3</i>   | "Whatsoever he doeth shall prosper".   |
|            | <i>Dt. 28:8</i>  | "The Lord shall command the blessing upon thee... in all that thou settest thine hand unto".   |
| Homes      | <i>Dt. 28:3</i>  | "Blessed shall thou be in the city and blessed shalt thou be in the field". ( <i>Ps. 91:10, 11</i> ).  |
| Gardens    | <i>Dt. 28:4</i>  | "Blessed shall be... the fruit of thy ground". (This applies to crops, pastures, vegetable gardens, etc.)  |
| Children   | <i>Dt. 28:4</i>  | "Blessed shall be the fruit of thy body".  |
| Animals    | <i>Dt. 28:4</i>  | "Blessed... shall be the fruit of thy cattle, the increase of thy kine, and the flocks of thy sheep".  |
| Cooking    | <i>Dt. 28:5</i>  | "Blessed shall be thy basket and thy store (kneading-trough or dough in K. James margin rendering). An interesting one for the women.  |
| Materially | <i>Dt. 28:11</i> | "And the Lord shall make thee PLENTEOUS IN GOODS".<br>Material prosperity is as much the will of God as physical and spiritual prosperity and is further illustrated in <i>Joshua 1:5-9</i> ; <i>1 Sam. 2:7-8</i> ; <i>3 Jn. v 2</i> . |

**You will be blessed in all that you undertake**

*Dt. 28:6* Blessed shalt thou be when thou comest in, and blessed shalt thou be when thou goest out."

**On a National scale**

a) **economically** *Deut. 28:12* "And thou shalt lend unto many nations, and thou shalt not borrow".

b) **voice of authority and national strength**

*Dt. 28 v 13* "And the Lord shall make thee the head and not the tail, and thou shalt be above only, and thou shalt not be beneath."

*Dt. 28 v 10* "And all people of the earth shall see that thou art called by the name of the Lord, AND THEY SHALL BE AFRAID OF THEE."

**4. CONDITIONS TO EXPERIENCING HIS PROSPERITY**

1. **SEEK THE LORD** *Mthw 6:33* "Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and all these things shall be added unto you."

2. **OBEDIENCE TO HIS VOICE AND HIS WRITTEN WORD**

*Deut. 28:1,2* "If thou shalt **hearken diligently** unto the voice of the Lord thy God to observe and to do all his commandments which I command thee this day, that the Lord thy God will set thee on high above all nations of the earth. AND ALL THESE BLESSINGS SHALL COME ON THEE, AND OVERTAKE THEE, if thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the Lord thy God."

3. **GIVING** *Mal. 3:10-12* "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."  
(see *Prov. 10:4; Prov. 3:9, 10; Prov. 11:24, 25*).

**5. TEMPTATIONS OF PROSPERITY** *Deut. 3:10-12*

1. **To forget God**

2. **To become proud and self exalted**

"Lest when thou hast eaten and art full, and hast built goodly houses, and dwelt therein; and when thy herds and thy flocks multiply, and thy silver and thy gold is multiplied, and all that thou hast is multiplied; **THEN THINE HEART BE LIFTED UP, AND THOU FORGET THE LORD THY GOD . . .**"

**EXERCISE**

1. What are two of God's purposes in prospering His children?

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2. Because of sin, man experiences the curse of God. From *Deut. 28* list all the areas in which the curse has affected man and his environment.

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3. In *Gal. 3:13, 14* we read that Jesus "has redeemed us from the curse of the law" that we might experience "the blessing of Abraham". Write a paragraph on how you would expect to see this truth outworked in your own life.

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4. What are the two temptations of prosperity?

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5. What are three conditions to experiencing God's prosperity/blessing?

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# SOLID FOUNDATIONS

## REVIEW

1. What is the meaning of the word "salvation"? \_\_\_\_\_

2. What does "full salvation" include? \_\_\_\_\_

3. What does it mean that Jesus died as “our substitute”?

4. In *Galatians 3: 13, 14*, we are told that Jesus has redeemed us from the curse of the law being made a curse for us. From *Deuteronomy 28* give a list of all the resulting effects of that curse upon man.

5. Because Jesus has redeemed us from the curse of the law we can experience the blessing of God upon every area of our life. With reference to *Deuteronomy 28* write a paragraph on how you would expect this to effect your life.

## STUDIES FOR CHRISTIAN GROWTH

# SOLID FOUNDATIONS

### STUDY 1 : THE BIBLE – GOD’S WORD; GOD IN HIS WORD.

#### INTRODUCTION:

The Bible is composed of the Old Testament containing 39 books, and the New Testament containing 27 books. It's central person from beginning to end is Jesus Christ. As Dr W. Graham Scroggie said, "Behind the Book is a person. In the Old Testament He was predicted; in the Gospels He was presented; in the Acts He was proclaimed; in the Epistles He was possessed; and in Revelation He is predominant."

#### NATURE OF THE WORD OF GOD

**A. The Bible is written by God. It is God's word for man's world.**

1. What does the Apostle Paul say in 2 *Tim 3:16* about the Word of God? \_\_\_\_\_

God used many different men to write the Bible. They were tools in His hands, but He was the fountain, the source of their thoughts, speech, and writings.

2. What does a) *Exod 4:10-12*, and b) *Jer 1:9* say about God speaking through men?

a) \_\_\_\_\_

b) \_\_\_\_\_

3. What does a) *Acts 3:20-21* and b) *Exod 4:14-16* say about the source of the Word?

a) \_\_\_\_\_

b) \_\_\_\_\_

God told the prophets what to say and then they spoke and wrote it down in their own language.

4. What did Peter say in 2 *Peter 1:21* which shows us this clearly? \_\_\_\_\_

5. What is the third fact, that is shown in *Matt 24:35*? \_\_\_\_\_

**B. In contrast to the impotence of man's words, God's Word is Powerful. *Heb 4:12*.**

6. What do the following passages say that God's word can do?

a) *Heb 4:12* \_\_\_\_\_

b) *Ezek 37:1-10* \_\_\_\_\_

c) *Matt 10:34-35* \_\_\_\_\_ (See *Heb 4:12*).

d) *1 Cor 14:23-25* \_\_\_\_\_

e) *Isaiah 55:10-11* \_\_\_\_\_

Besides being powerful, the Word shows God's authority.

7) What did Jesus say about the scripture which shows its authority? \_\_\_\_\_

C.

8. What does *John 6:63* say about the **ESSENCE** of the Word of God? \_\_\_\_\_

9. Because of this, what quality does it show forth? *Jer 23:28-32*. \_\_\_\_\_

a) v29 \_\_\_\_\_

b) v29 \_\_\_\_\_

c) v28 \_\_\_\_\_

10. Job realised these qualities and made a very interesting statement about the Word of God in *Job 23:12*. Read this statement and write down the attitude we should have, and then back it up with a statement which Jesus made.

\_\_\_\_\_ (John 6:57-58).

**D. The Word of God is Truth** as *John 17:17* says "Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is the truth." Because of this, certain facts are clear about the Word of God.

11. What is one fact that is shown in *Num 23:19* \_\_\_\_\_
12. What is a second fact that is shown in *Rev 22:18-19*? \_\_\_\_\_
13. Because it is truth and because of D. a) and b) it does what for us? \_\_\_\_\_
  - a) *Ps 119:105*. \_\_\_\_\_
  - b) *Jer 9:23-24*. \_\_\_\_\_

### SUMMARY

The Bible is not an ordinary book, but the men who wrote it were inspired and moved by God's Holy Spirit to write exactly the truth as God gave it to them. Every word is truth, filled with God's own power and authority. We should therefore read the Bible as if it were God Himself speaking to us directly and personally.

### THE BIBLE IS TRUE

ALL THE Bible is true and is in reality the Word of God.  
We believe every word of the Bible because:-

#### 1. JESUS CHRIST DECLARED THAT THE SCRIPTURE WAS INSPIRED.

The Lord Jesus quoted from at least 24 Old Testament books. He referred to *Daniel* 22 times; *Isaiah* 40 times; the *Pentateuch* 60 times; as well as the *Psalms*. He never implied that the events or people recorded in the Old Testament were mere fables or folk-lore.

14. What did Christ claim in *Luke 24:25-27*? \_\_\_\_\_  
Time and time again, Jesus repeated that all things in the scriptures must be fulfilled. (Read *Matt 13:14*; *Luke 21:22*; *John 13:18*; *John 17:12*).
15. What does Jesus say about the law of Moses in *Luke 16:17*. \_\_\_\_\_

By saying this, Jesus authenticated the Law of Moses.

16. Finally, what did Jesus say about His own Word in:-
  - i) *Mark 13:31* \_\_\_\_\_  
This could only happen if the words were inspired
  - ii) *John 8:42-47* \_\_\_\_\_  
(Note that v47 has to say about receiving the word.)
  - iii) *John 6:63* \_\_\_\_\_
  - iv) *John 12:46-50* \_\_\_\_\_  
(Compare this with *2 Peter 1:21*).

#### 2. FULFILLED PROPHECIES SHOW THAT THE BIBLE IS TRUE.

We will look at this in 2 sections:

##### 2A. Old Testament – prophecy concerning Christ – fulfilled in the New Testament.

All of the more than 300 Old Testament prophecies about the first coming of the Messiah were fulfilled in the life of Christ.

Here are a few of them, with record of their fulfillment:

17. PROPHECY: He would be born in what city? *Micah 5:2* \_\_\_\_\_  
Fulfillment: *Matt 2:1-6*.
18. PROPHECY: How would Christ be born? *Is 7:14* \_\_\_\_\_  
Fulfillment: *Matt 1:18-25*.
19. PROPHECY: Was Christ to suffer and make atonement for our sins? *Is 53:4-6* \_\_\_\_\_

FULFILLMENT: *1 Peter 2:24-25*

20. PROPHECY: What would happen to Christ's body? *Psalms 16:9-10* \_\_\_\_\_

FULFILLMENT: *Luke 24:1-47*.

Find 4 more prophecies in Scripture and state where they are, and where they are fulfilled.

21. \_\_\_\_\_
22. \_\_\_\_\_
23. \_\_\_\_\_
24. \_\_\_\_\_

## 2B. HISTORICAL PROPHECIES.

We will look at one example here.

Tyre, the great maritime city, perished as the Scripture foretold.

Read *Ezek 26:3-5, 12-14*.

Tyre was a great city which was extremely well fortified and occupied a strategic position on the Mediterranean sea. She was wicked and Ezekiel pronounced this judgment against her because of her wickedness and sins. The day came when Nebuchadnezzar, King of Babylon, captured Tyre and destroyed her walled towers. The people transported everything portable to an island, half a mile out to sea. Two centuries later, Alexander the Great built a road from the mainland to this island by gathering up the stones, timber, and dust of the old city of Tyre and casting them into the sea. (332-331 B.C.) The city fell. Today, where Tyre once stood, fishermen spread their nets to dry and repair them — as the prophecy said.

There are many other examples of fulfilled historical prophecies which you can study.

Here are a few:-

- a) The return of the Jews to Israel after the fulfilment of *Deut 28:63-65* and the woes of Jesus over Jerusalem.
- b) Jesus' foretelling of the temple's destruction — fulfilled in 70 A.D.
- c) Jeremiah foretold exactly the length of the captivity of the Jews in Babylon.
- d) Isaiah's prophecy that the mighty invader, Sennacherib, would not be able to conquer Jerusalem.

In the spaces below, say where the prophecies predicting the above historical events are found in the Bible. (Use a Concordance or Bible Dictionary to help).

25. \_\_\_\_\_
26. \_\_\_\_\_
27. \_\_\_\_\_
28. \_\_\_\_\_

## 3. HISTORY CONFIRMS THAT THE BIBLE IS TRUE.

The more men learn of ancient history, the more they discover the truth of what the Bible says. The Bible contains wonderfully accurate history. It gives many details that can be checked by archaeologists. Here are a few examples:-

- a) Critics once claimed the Bible account of the invasion of Canaan by the Israelites was wrong. They said that the tribes just wandered into the Land with no actual conquests. But archaeologists discovered cities mentioned in the book of Joshua and these cities were covered with a layer of ashes, showing the results of destruction by invasion. Artifacts unearthed below the layer of ashes were Canaanite, and everything above it was Israelite.
- b) The Bible speaks of Ur of the Chaldees as being the boyhood home of Abraham, who was the father of the Jews and the Arabs. (*Gen 11:31*). At one time no such place was known. Today excavators have uncovered a large part of this old city. Critics of the Bible have attacked the authenticity of the Books of Moses, because they said that alphabetical writing was not known in his day. Discoveries in the Ur of the Chaldees show that alphabetical writing was done even before the days of Abraham.

Remember, however, that the Bible is a history of more than just the nations of the world. The Bible is a historical account of God's revelation of Himself to man. It is God's own revelation.

## 4. SCIENCE CONFIRMS THAT THE BIBLE IS TRUE.

Before Columbus sailed around the world, Scripture stated that the world is spherical in shape, *Is 40:21-22*; and it also states that the earth is floating free in space. *Job 26:7*.

All food on the earth for animals and plants, can be traced back to *green* plants, which manufacture their own food, by a process called Photosynthesis. Green plants are therefore the first step to all food chains. A green pigment called chlorophyll (which gives plants their green colour) is necessary for this process. In 1900, Melvin Calvin carried out experiments that showed that chlorophyll converted carbon dioxide and water into food. Yet more than 3,000 years earlier, the Bible made a simple statement, "I have given every *green* plant for food." *Gen 1:30 and Gen 9:2-3*. Green plants make food for all other organisms.

An important by-product of Photosynthesis is oxygen. Joseph Priestly discovered in 1775 that oxygen is necessary for life. Green plants and trees are the source of oxygen on earth and they are therefore necessary for life on earth to continue. In *Deut 20:19*, written about 3,000 years ago, God warned men not to destroy trees as life depended on them. This is a scientifically correct statement, proven only relatively recently.

In the 1800s the mortality rate in hospitals was high. Doctors and students would handle dead bodies and then, without cleaning their hands, they would touch other patients. A young doctor, Ignaz Semmelweis, observed that the patients who were examined by doctors, after they had examined the dead, also died. He decided that hands must be washed in running water after each case. The results were dramatic. However, many centuries before Semmelweis, God had given Moses detailed instructions on handling dead and diseased people. See *Lev 15:13*.

The above are a few of the many examples where science has discovered something that the Bible had recorded many centuries before.

## CONCLUSION:

The Bible is no ordinary book. It is God's word to man, it is truth (*John 17:17*), it is life (*Matt 4:4*), and it is eternal (*Matt 24:35*).

## STUDIES FOR CHRISTIAN GROWTH

# SOLID FOUNDATIONS

### STUDY 2, THE IMPORTANCE OF GOD'S WORD.

#### INTRODUCTION:

We have fellowship with God in His Word. The Bible is God speaking to us personally and intimately, as though we were the only one to whom He was speaking. The Bible will impart light, understanding and spiritual food. It will cleanse, guide, sanctify, build-up etc. These aspects of God's Word should become clearer as you do this study.

#### KEY VERSE: MEMORY VERSE 2 TIM 3:16-17.

Write down the 4 things that 2 Tim 3:16-17 says about why the Bible is profitable to a christian.

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_ 2) \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_ 4) \_\_\_\_\_

#### WHAT DOES THE WORD OF GOD DO?

A) The first thing God's Word does is found in *John 6:63*.

5. Read it and write down your answer. \_\_\_\_\_

6. What does *Phil 2 v 16* say about the Word? \_\_\_\_\_

Because the Word of God does this, another dimension of God can be fulfilled in our life.

7. Read *1 John 2:5* and say what this is. \_\_\_\_\_

8. Because the Bible is life-giving, what should our attitude be? *1 Peter 2:2. (Also Ps 19:7-10).* \_\_\_\_\_

This enables us to 9) \_\_\_\_\_

B) The Word of God is often referred to as a mirror and because of this it does what?

10. *Heb 4:12* \_\_\_\_\_

11. *John 15:3; Psalm 119:9* \_\_\_\_\_

12. *Ep 5:26; John 17:17* \_\_\_\_\_

Therefore, as we behold the Lord in His Word, what happens?

13. *2 Cor 3:18* \_\_\_\_\_

C) Because the word of God is truth it INSTRUCTS us and it also

14. *Acts 20:32*  
It is a foundation upon which rests the whole of the Christian faith and practice. Read *Luke 6:47-49* and *Math 7:24-27*.

15. What is the key to a solid foundation? \_\_\_\_\_

As the Bible instructs us it is the standard by which all doctrine can be evaluated.

16. What did Jesus say in *Mat 22:29* which shows this to be so? \_\_\_\_\_

17. To instruct us it must act as a *Ps 119 v 105* \_\_\_\_\_  
and this gives

18. *Ps 119:130* \_\_\_\_\_  
In this role the Word has 3 functions. It exposes our NEED; our DEEDS; and it REVEALS God to us.

D) *Ep 6:17* calls the Word what?

19. \_\_\_\_\_



The Greek for Word here is Rhema which means a "quickened word" i.e. a word brought alive to you personally by the Spirit of God. Read *Luke 4:1-14*. Show from this how Jesus used the Word to deal with the 3 temptations.

20. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

21) *Rev 12:11* names 3 ways we can overcome the Devil. What are they?

- i) \_\_\_\_\_  
ii) \_\_\_\_\_  
iii) \_\_\_\_\_

Therefore we can testify what the Word says that the blood has done for us and overcome the accuser. e.g. *Rm 5:9* says we are 'Justified by the Blood of Jesus'. "Justified" = "Made Righteous" or "Just as if I'd never sinned". *2 Cor 5:21* says the same thing. Therefore my testimony would be: "Through the Blood of Jesus I am Justified, made Righteous, Just as if I'd never sinned".

E) The fifth thing that the Word produces is very important to the whole of our Christian walk.

22. What does *Rm 10:17* say the Word produces? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Again this is the Rhema – the quickened word. Because of this what does *John 15:7* say will happen?

23. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Also this scripture brings out a very important fact which shows what we should be doing with God's Word. What is it?

24. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

(Try putting it into your own words).

F) Finally the Word gives us

25. *Ps 119:130, James 3:17* \_\_\_\_\_

26. *Ps 119:165* \_\_\_\_\_ How? \_\_\_\_\_

#### CONCLUSION:

*1 Peter 1:23* says "Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible by the Word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever. . ." Because the Word causes us to be born of God we have the promise of *1 John 5:4*. "For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith."

Praise God! We are able to live the victorious life God desires for us by abiding in His Word and allowing this Word to root out the Adamic nature within us which is corrupt, and replace it with God's own nature.

Let us believe and obey.

## STUDIES FOR CHRISTIAN GROWTH

# SOLID FOUNDATIONS

### STUDY 3. A TIME WITH THE LORD. - 'QUIET TIME.'

Derek Prince said, "Your attitude towards God's word is your attitude toward God Himself. You do not love God more than you love His word. You do not obey God more than you obey His word. You do not honour God more than you honour His word. You do not have more room in your heart and life for God than you have for His word." (*Foundations of Faith*, Vol. 7, page 20).

#### INTRODUCTION:

1. What does *John 1:14* say of Jesus? \_\_\_\_\_

Because of this as we study and meditate in the word we have fellowship with Jesus. There are 2 sources of knowledge. i) The Tree of Life ii) The Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil (see *Genesis Ch.2*). We must draw from the Tree of Life which is Jesus Christ. When we look at the word we must draw from our Lord Jesus Christ by the Holy Spirit. Remember the Bible was written by inspiration of the Holy Spirit and so we therefore need the Holy Spirit to interpret it for us. There are 3 ways of looking at the word:

- 1) Devotional Reading
- 2) Bible Study
- 3) Instruction by Ministries

In this unit and the next one we will be looking at 1) and 2).

#### DEVOTIONAL READING

#### MEMORY VERSES *PSALM 1 v 1-3*.

The order in these verses is important. First: not walking in the counsel of the ungodly etc., but delighting in the law (word) of God and meditating in it. Then second: v3 Bearing fruit like a strong tree and there is no withering or want.

The greatest need of Christians, whether they are young or old in the Lord, is to spend a certain amount of time everyday reading, meditating and praying.

David was called a man after God's own heart.

2. What was his daily practice as recorded in *Ps 5:3*? \_\_\_\_\_

3. Name 3 characteristics of the devotional life of Jesus. *Mark 1:35*.

- a) \_\_\_\_\_
- b) \_\_\_\_\_
- c) \_\_\_\_\_

The following are a few guide lines for a quiet time.

- A. Decide on a definite place. Avoid distractions by finding a quiet private place of worship. If privacy is impossible, learn to concentrate.
- B. Devotional times should be unhurried and an air of expectancy should pervade them. Anticipate meeting God. A brief time of attention and receptiveness in devotions is better than a long time with your mind on other things.
- C. The goal of a devotional time is to have fellowship with God and see how our own spiritual needs can be met. So therefore come with openness of heart and respond willingly to the leading of the Spirit.

4. What does beholding God in His word do for us? *2 Cor 3:18* \_\_\_\_\_

#### CONTENT OF DEVOTIONAL TIME:

- A Firstly spend time in worship before the Lord.

5. What 2 things do we need to enter God's presence with? *Psalms 100:4*

- a) \_\_\_\_\_ b) \_\_\_\_\_

6. What kind of person is God seeking? *John 4:23-24*.

\_\_\_\_\_

7. How do we worship God? *1 Cor 14:14-15* \_\_\_\_\_
8. How do you pray and worship in the Spirit? *1 Cor 14:14*. \_\_\_\_\_
9. What should we do daily? *Ep 5:18*. \_\_\_\_\_
10. How does the word of God tell us to do this? *Ep 5:19-20*. \_\_\_\_\_
11. What is God's response to the praise of His people? *Ps 22:3*. \_\_\_\_\_

From these few Scriptures we can see that the right approach to God is through PRAISE, WORSHIP and THANKSGIVING, unto Him for what He is and what He has done.

B. Secondly begin to read the word of God and meditate on it and receive it into your spirit as food.

12. What does the Psalmist encourage us to do that will produce spiritual strength and prosperity?  
*Psalm 1:2*

- a) \_\_\_\_\_
- b) \_\_\_\_\_

13. What does *Luke 4:4, Matt 4:4* say about living?

14. Read *Deut 8:3*. What did God do to the Children of Israel in the wilderness to show them what they needed in order to live?

- a) \_\_\_\_\_
- b) \_\_\_\_\_

*Mat 5:6* says that if you exhibit 2 qualities towards righteousness – which is really towards God and/or His word – something would happen.

15. What are the 2 qualities? a) \_\_\_\_\_ b) \_\_\_\_\_

16. What will happen? \_\_\_\_\_

Moses tells Joshua to obey the Law of God by doing three things. *Joshua 1:7-9*.

17. \_\_\_\_\_

18. \_\_\_\_\_

19. \_\_\_\_\_

20. What does God promise will be the result of doing this? *Joshua 1:7-8*.

- a) \_\_\_\_\_ b) \_\_\_\_\_

From these verses so far it is clear that God wants us to think and act on His word for it is LIFE to us. The key word is "Meditation". In the Hebrew the word meditate means to "muse or mutter aloud". Thus when we read the word of God we should meditate upon it by thinking about it, talking about it with the Lord, and reading it over a few times until God by the Holy Spirit begins to illuminate our understanding of it.

We need to have a responsive heart – a heart that is willing not just to listen but to OBEY when God speaks. Allow the Holy Spirit to write His laws on our hearts.

C. Thirdly. Spend the remaining time in prayer. Take the words you have just read and use them as the basis of a prayer of your own unto God.

Commit your day unto Him and pray for your needs or the needs of others whom you know about. Be specific in your prayers.

21. What does *Matt 21:22* say about our action and attitude in prayer?

- a) \_\_\_\_\_
- b) \_\_\_\_\_

22. What does *James 3:2* say is relationship to prayer?

23. If we ask in Jesus' name and according to God's will, what will happen? *John 14:13*.

24. Why is this? \_\_\_\_\_

It is also a good time to pray for others.

25. Whom does *1 Tim 2:1-2* say we should pray for? \_\_\_\_\_

Pray for those involved in the work of the Lord, – Pastors, Group Leaders, Counsellors etc. Read *1 Th 5:12-13*.

NOTE: Supplementary content for quietness may include reading from a devotional book or memorizing scripture.

#### CONCLUSION:

The need for a time with the Lord in His word cannot be over-emphasised. For those just starting, *John's gospel* is a very good book to read. Take a chapter a day and expect God to speak to you and minister to you from it. As you mature in the Lord you can study other books and also you should expect the Holy Spirit to lead you at times to passages which God wants to speak to you about. In all of this be sensitive to God's moving by His Spirit and respond to all that He says and asks and shows you.

# STUDIES FOR CHRISTIAN GROWTH

# SOLID FOUNDATIONS

## STUDY 4. BIBLE STUDY.

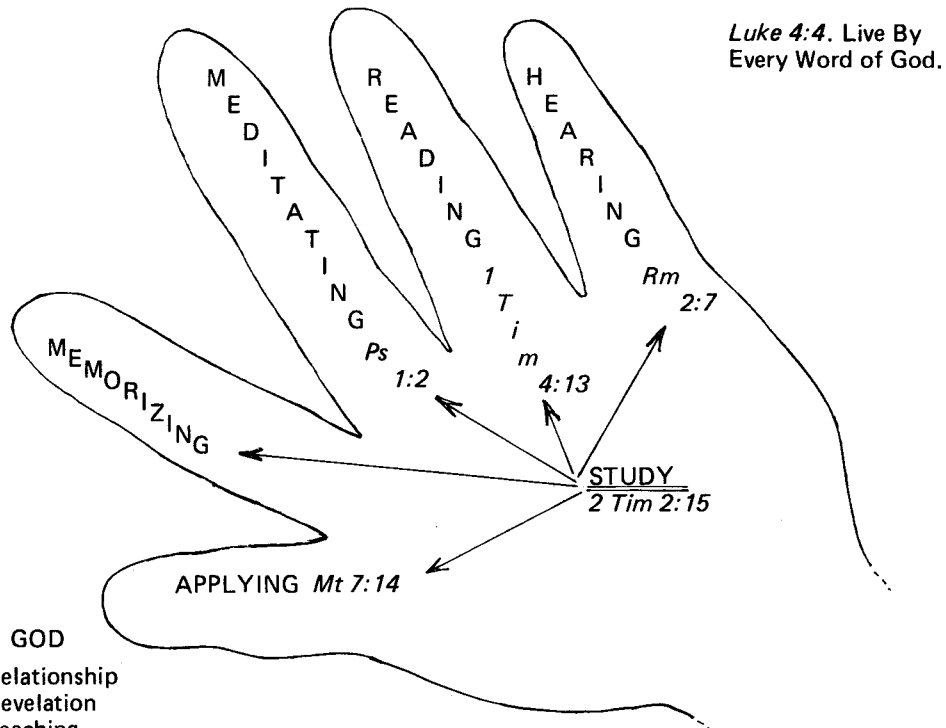
NOTE: Most of this study will be information with an assignment at the end. This assignment will be on *Ps 119*.

### INTRODUCTION:

D.L. Moody said, "I never saw a useful Christian who was not a student of the Bible. If a man neglects his Bible, he may pray and ask God to use him, but there is not much for the Holy Spirit to work with. We must have the Word itself, which is sharper than any 2-edged sword."

### MEMORY VERSE 2 TIM 2:15.

We study the Bible to get an appreciation of the whole of scripture so that we know what it says and we can talk about it unashamedly. The word "study" in 2 Tim 2:15 means to apply oneself to rightly divide or cut up the Word of God. What does it say? What does it mean? How does it apply? What principles are here? etc.



SOURCE: GOD

- BY: 1) Relationship  
2) Revelation  
3) Teaching  
4) Holy Spirit

### PREREQUISITES FOR ACQUIRING SCRIPTURAL KNOWLEDGE

What does each of the following scriptures give as a prerequisite for Bible Study:-

- 1) 2 Thes 2 v 10-11. \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) 1 Peter 2:1-2 \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) John 5:44 \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) Matt 11:25 \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) John 7:16-17 \_\_\_\_\_
- 6) Acts 17:11-12 \_\_\_\_\_

Finally a TEACHABLE SPIRIT is required. All of these also are safeguards against deception.

We have a warning in 2 Peter 3:18 to grow in grace first — this is when the heart attitudes and motives have been dealt with and then we grow in the knowledge of God. We must always remember that the scriptures were given by the Holy Spirit and therefore the Holy Spirit is the only One who can illuminate the scripture for us. Hence it is necessary to be filled with the Spirit continually.

1. How is this done according to Ep 5:18-20? \_\_\_\_\_

As *Ep 1 v 17-18* says we should pray that God will give us the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him that the eyes of our understanding might be opened to behold wondrous things in His Word.

Primarily Bible Study is being led by the Spirit over a long period of time in an "in-depth study" of the Word. Therefore it is necessary to begin as you would begin your quiet time. (See study 3).

## TYPES OF BIBLE STUDY

There are many different methods of doing study and the information given with each method is only a guide and doesn't have to be rigidly adhered to.

- A) BOOK BY BOOK STUDY:** The Bible contains many books and it is very helpful to study a book in its completeness at only a few sittings. It could be tackled the following way: 1) Find the author, 2) Find the definitions of its title, 3) Discover the main themes, 4) For what purpose was the book written? 5) List the truths 6) Record the meaning of proper names, types, places etc, 7) Divide it into a helpful outline e.g. The book of Isaiah, i) Introduction *Chp 1:1-2*. ii) Section of Denunciations *Chp 1:3 - Chp 3:9:8*. It deals with a) Judgement of Judah and Jerusalem b) Judgement of other nations. iii) Section of History *Chp 36-36*. iv) Section of Consolations *Chp 40-66* — Restoration, Redemption and Future Glory of God's People.
- B) THEMATIC STUDY: Study of Themes.**  
Take subjects such as Grace, Truth, the Love of God, Redemption, Faith, Prayer, Justification, Peace, Assurance, The Holy Spirit etc., and using a topical or reference Bible and a concordance, study the scope of the topic throughout the Bible. You will find it necessary to divide each topic into sub-topics, e.g.  
a) The Holy Spirit in life of the believer — i) gifts ii) fruits, b) The Holy Spirit in the world, c) The Holy Spirit in the O.T., d) The Holy Spirit's actions etc. Meditate in God's Word until you get a theme. Then make the sub-headings and study around these.
- C) CHAPTER STUDY:** This is similar to A) but you do an in-depth study of only one chapter e.g. *Ps 1; Is 53; Ps 57 / 81*; or the 3 great warning chapters *Jer 23; Ez 33; Mat 23*. This allows for longer meditation and out of it can develop Thematic Studies. Always look for the Key verse and try to memorize it. Look up the chapter in different translations and in general just allow God to speak to you (See Note 1).
- D) BIOGRAPHICAL STUDY — The Lives of People.**  
These are character studies. There are 2,930 people mentioned in the Bible. The lives of many of these make extremely interesting studies. You may ask, "why study the life of a person?". Basically I believe the reason is that what happened to them is an example to us. Read *1 Cor 10:1-12*. We can see how men and women did many things in God. Here is an example of how to do a Character Study. E.g. Abraham. You could look at 1) Early life and preparation, 2) His call — obeying the call (*Gen 12:1* 3) The Covenant (*Gen 12:2-3; 17:1-21*), 4) Testings (*Gen 22:1-19*), 5) Faith and Obedience (*Gen 22:1-19*), 6) His benevolence (*Gen 14:20*), 7) His mistakes (*Gen 16:3*) 8) His intercession (*Gen 18:22-32*). Abraham is not only referred to in Genesis but also in *2 Chr 20:7; Ne 9:7; Ps 105:6; Rm 4:3; Gal 3:6; Heb 11:8-10; Jas 2:21-23*. It is very valuable to look at Bible characters' prayer lives and experiences with God.
- E) OTHERS:**  
Study can be done on the basic doctrines as recorded in the *Heb 6 v 1-2*. This is an excellent place to start, as it gives a foundation to build on. There are Bible Correspondence courses for Bible study and, of course, there are tapes.

## HELPS FOR BIBLE STUDY:

A cross-reference Bible is a must e.g. Thompson Chain Reference Bible, Daikes Bible. The next most important help is a Concordance. A Young's or Strong's Concordance would be advisable.

Other helps are a) Commentaries — Mathew Henry, Crudens,  
b) Bible Dictionaries — Zondervan Press Bible Dictionary is excellent,  
c) A Bible Handbook — e.g. Halley's Bible Handbook,  
d) A Dictionary of Types.

Most of this depends on personal preference and those named here are just examples of those used by the writer of these notes.

## MARKING YOUR BIBLE AND TAKING NOTES:

You should always make adequate neat notes on your studies which can be filed for future use. Notes can be done verse by verse, subject by subject, etc.

Marking of the Bible preserves the result of study. It keeps the outstanding truths fresh before you — this is equally true of note taking. Also during "dry periods" marked sections can be a real source of blessing and encouragement in God. What should you mark? This depends upon personal taste and training. Be open to the Holy Spirit. There are 2 main systems of marking:

a) Underscoring or encircling with pencils and pens. e.g. Using ballpoint pens, you could have green for underlining verses relating to topics; red and blue for underlining the quickened scriptures from Church and quiet times and black for underlining important scriptures from study times.

b) The Colour Scheme — using coloured pencils to emphasize themes, either by colouring in or underlining. This makes scriptures easy to find. There are many systems and you should develop one of your own. Here is an example:

Light Blue = Praise, Worship, Thanksgiving; Green = References to the Word; Brown = Demonology and related areas; Yellow = Holy Spirit — especially aspects of His Work; Orange = Key verses in Books, Chapters and Doctrinal themes; Pink = Salvation and Redemption; Red = Verses dealing with the Blood; Purple = Personally quickened verses — important for guidance etc.; Blue = Future Hope.

#### STUDY 4 : BIBLE STUDY

- c) A third system is using symbols e.g. aspects of the work of the Holy Spirit are represented by a drawing of a dove with the first letter of the Spirit's work inside it, e.g.



= Holy Spirit  
doing work of C, i.e. conviction.

#### TIME:

The amount of time spent in study varies. It requires discipline to make time available for Bible study. Most of you will find that once you start you wish you had more time to spend in the Word. It is important to spend the time in a place where you won't be distracted.

In closing we will look at the question, "What role does the intellect play?" Truth isn't revealed by the intellect but it is revealed by the Spirit for teaching, explaining and fitting Scriptures together. The intellect does come into play, but even then it must still be guided and under the control of the Holy Spirit. We should always remember the warning in *2 Peter 3:16-18*. Do not wrest (i.e. distort, pervert, use to fit your own understanding) the Word of God, for destruction will result. But grow in grace and then in the knowledge of God.

(Song). "Break Thou the bread of Life,  
Dear Lord, to me  
As thou didst break the loaves  
Beside the sea.  
Beyond the sacred page  
I seek thee, Lord;  
My spirit pants for thee,  
O Living Word."

#### NOTE:

**Text Division** — Originally the books were not separated into chapters and verses, which are sometimes quite faulty in their division. e.g. *John 7:53* continues straight on to *8:1*. This must be watched in chapter study.

**Italics** — Italics (words in slanted letters) are used to indicate words not found in the manuscripts. They are inserted to make the meaning of the text clear e.g. *Titus 1:4*.

**Punctuation** — At first, words were written without spaces and punctuation. These were introduced later, which means that they may sometimes be misleading. e.g. *Psalms 121:1-2* should read. "I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills. From whence cometh my help? My help cometh from the Lord which made heaven and earth."

## STUDIES FOR CHRISTIAN GROWTH

# SOLID FOUNDATIONS

### STUDY 1 : GENERAL AND PRACTICAL ASPECTS OF PRAYER

There is no set formula, or ritual, which you must carry out when you come to pray, but the scriptures do give guidelines about some of the things an individual should do.

A) One of the things you should do when you come to pray is *Matthew 6:5-6*.

1) \_\_\_\_\_

We need to seek seclusion:

- a) Because it eliminates distractions. Unless you deliberately shut yourself off, and set aside a definite time to pray, there are always many things you can think of to do, and these can distract your thoughts during your prayer time.
- b) Another reason is that when you are in seclusion and you turn your thoughts continually toward the Lord, and worship Him, then your spirit becomes quiet.

2) What do you do, when you are still before God? *Ps 4:4, Ps 46:10*. \_\_\_\_\_

3) What does the Bible say about being still and hearing God's voice? *Num 9:8*. \_\_\_\_\_

B) Another requirement before beginning to pray is to make sure you have what? *Ps 24:3-4*. \_\_\_\_\_

5) Why is it necessary to have these? *Ps 66:18*. \_\_\_\_\_

Confess any conscious sin you have committed, that has not already been confessed and forgiven. Do not, however, come under condemnation. Remember what *1 John 1:9* says.

6. What does it say? \_\_\_\_\_

C)

7) Now what do we do? *Ps 100:4*. \_\_\_\_\_

8) What is **one** of the reasons why praise is necessary? *Ps 22:3*. \_\_\_\_\_

Praise not only brings the presence of God, but it also quietens your spirit, so that you are receptive to God's voice.

D) Wait for the presence of God to come. Continue to worship God, and meditate on Him until direction in prayer comes, and then begin to pray along in that direction.

9) If the direction you are to pray in is not clear, you can either \_\_\_\_\_

*Rm 8:26-27., 1 Cor 14:15.*

**OR** Pray generally in the understanding, until there is a quickening in your spirit about the theme or subject you are praying about at that moment — this is the burden of the Spirit.

E) Once you know the burden of the Holy Spirit pray and continue praying — with your understanding and with tongues — until the burden, or concern lifts. Frequently you will experience the tremendous peace of God when the burden lifts.

F) The whole of the Godhead is involved when we pray.

10) Who do we pray to? \_\_\_\_\_ *John 16:23.*

11) In whose name do we ask? \_\_\_\_\_ *John 16:23-24.*

12) Who reveals God's will to you for you to pray it (if it is not already stated in the Word) \_\_\_\_\_ *John 16:13.*

To be effective when we pray we must understand the highest purpose of God. The Father's intention is to receive a vast family of sons conformed to the image of who?

13) *2 Cor 3:18*. \_\_\_\_\_

This family is to bring Him honour, glory and satisfaction eternally. The Son receives what the Father has purposed for Him.

- 14) What is this? *Col 1:18–19. Ep 5:23.* \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

The Holy Spirit receives a glorious temple of living stones for His eternal abode.

- 15) His abode at present is what? *1 Cor 6:19.* \_\_\_\_\_

- 16) As well as this the Holy Spirit enables the Lord to fill what? *Jer 23:24.* \_\_\_\_\_

G)

- 17) What does *1 John 5:14–15* have to say about prayer? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

The tag "if it be thy will" at the end of a prayer shows a lack of knowledge and faith.

- 18) *Heb 11:6* says what about Faith? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Faith involves confidence in God.

- H) Have regular times set aside for prayer – if you don't have specific times set aside, it is easy to have such a busy life that your prayer life is neglected. Discipline is necessary.

- 19) What does Jesus say in *Matt 6 v 5* about praying?

"And \_\_\_\_\_ you prayest \_\_\_\_\_"

- 20) What is the difference between this word \_\_\_\_\_ and the word "if"? \_\_\_\_\_

- I) One practical thing that you can do is to eliminate those things which dispel God's presence in your home.

- 21) What are two things mentioned in *Num 33:52* which dispel God's presence?

(a) \_\_\_\_\_

(b) \_\_\_\_\_

- 22) What things that vied with God's presence were burned in *Acts 19:19*? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Books on the Occult, Astrology, Hypnotism etc., and artefacts, pictures, and images with spiritual significance all dispel God's presence in our homes, so get rid of them.

Remember too, that some types of music e.g. Rock, and Blues music dispel God's presence also – and so it should not be played in homes. On the positive side, of course, by playing Christian music that glorifies God, we can increase God's presence in our homes.

## CONCLUSION:

This study has briefly described how to come into God's presence to pray – and what the highest purpose of God is. Of course, having an intellectual knowledge about how to pray is good, but the best way to learn to pray is to ask God to teach you – and then pray! Only by experience do you learn to pray and to be sensitive to the leading of the Holy Spirit in prayer, and, also you learn how to flow in prayer with God, and to pray through on issues. (You can learn by praying individually and also by participating in group prayer meetings) – but remember, PRAY!



## STUDIES FOR CHRISTIAN GROWTH

# SOLID FOUNDATIONS

### STUDY 2 CONDITIONS FOR ANSWERED PRAYER

MEMORY VERSES: *John 16:24. John 15:7.*

#### INTRODUCTION:

Firstly, we must understand God's willingness to answer prayer. *Prov 15:8* says "The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination unto the Lord : but the prayer of the upright is His **delight**." This means then that our prayers can bring pleasure to the Father and because of this it is not very hard to understand why God answers us.

- 1) What does *Math 7:7-8* say about God's willingness to answer prayer? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ These verses are further amplified in *Math 21:22* which says

- 2) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ A cross reference to this verse is *Mark 11:24* (read).

- 3) *John 15:7* says that if we abide in Him and He in us, then what will happen? \_\_\_\_\_

- 4) Because God answers our prayers what will be the result in our lives? *John 16:24*. \_\_\_\_\_

Compare this with *Rm 14:17*.

- 5) What does it say? \_\_\_\_\_

#### BASIC CONDITIONS:

As you have seen in some of the above readings, there are conditions for answered prayer.

A)

- 6) Read *John 14:13-14* and say what the first condition is \_\_\_\_\_

- 7) What has God given to us in and through the name of Jesus? *Rm 8:32*. \_\_\_\_\_

- 8) What is the source of supply? *Phil. 4:19*. \_\_\_\_\_

Read *2 Cor 1:20*. When we use the name of Jesus we acknowledge that only through Jesus do we have the right of access to the Father. The channel from God is also Jesus.

B) The second condition is that we pray with PRAISE AND THANKS.

- 9) Read *Ps 100:4*. (i) The gates into God's presence are? \_\_\_\_\_

Also *Is 60:18*.

(ii) The court of access is? \_\_\_\_\_

- 10) *Phil 4:6* says "Be careful for nothing" (i.e. don't worry) why? \_\_\_\_\_

Remember, Praise is based on fact, not on feelings.

C) Read *1 John 3:20-21* and *Psalms 66:18*.

- 11) What is the next condition for answered prayer? \_\_\_\_\_

- 12) How is our heart cleansed? *Heb 10:19*. \_\_\_\_\_

- 13) This produces what effect? *Heb 10:19*. \_\_\_\_\_

- 14) When this effect is produced, what do we come before in prayer? *Heb 4:16*. \_\_\_\_\_

- 15) At this point we obtain what? (Put it in your own words). \_\_\_\_\_

D) *James 4:2-3* tells us why prayers are frequently unanswered. This reason is directly related to our next condition for answered prayer.

- 16) What is the reason? i) (v2) \_\_\_\_\_  
ii) (v3) \_\_\_\_\_

- 17) God only answers prayer where the answer brings what to God? *John 14:13-14*. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

This is the 4th condition for answered prayer.

- 18) As well as a condition for answered prayer it is also a condition for something else. What is this? *2 Cor 1:20*.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

At this point write down a statement which summarizes the conditions for answered prayer dealt with so far.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

E) The next condition may be found by reading *Rm 8:14. 26-27*.

- 19) Who must lead us in prayer? \_\_\_\_\_

- 20) What is our infirmity as recorded in *Rm 8:26*? \_\_\_\_\_

God's will is revealed to us by the Holy Spirit and therefore we can pray according to His will if we are sensitive to the Spirit.

- 21) In *Ep 3:20* we have a tremendous promise of what praying in the power of the Spirit will result in. What is it?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

F) The 6th condition is that we must have a right relationship with those we live with, work with, etc. This is the key, often, to why many prayers are not answered.

- 22) What does *Mark 11:25-26* say to do when you come to pray? \_\_\_\_\_

*Math 6:12* says "Forgive us . . . . . as we forgive . . . . .". To the same degree that you forgive others, God will forgive you. Forgiveness is not an emotion. It is a decision.

- 23) This condition is especially true in a husband and wife relationship. What does *1 Peter 3:7* say concerning forgiveness? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

G) The last condition is to pray according to God's word.

- 24) What does *John 15:7* say about this condition? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

In *1 Chron 17:23-24* David prays " . . . . . Do as thou hast said, let it be established . . . . . "

In other words, David realized that God's word was important and He could do no better than to pray that God would do according to His word. So it is with us.

The great issue in prayer is God's will — this will be covered more fully in the next study — and God has revealed His will and Promises in His word.

#### SUMMARY:

- 25) List the 7 basic conditions for answered prayer:

- |            |            |
|------------|------------|
| i) _____   | vi) _____  |
| ii) _____  | vii) _____ |
| iii) _____ | _____      |
| iv) _____  | _____      |

Effective prayer is uniting the **Word** and the **Spirit** of God. It is praying to the Father in Jesus' name and it is praying with praise, thanksgiving and a right motive.

#### CONCLUSION:

Prayer can be looked upon as a symphony; the conductor is the Holy Spirit. The score is God's will revealed in God's word.

- 26) Read *Math 18:14-20* in conclusion. What does it say? \_\_\_\_\_

# SOLID FOUNDATIONS

## INTRODUCTION:

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- 
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It is important, therefore, that we know the Will of God when we come to pray.

A) There are certain things revealed in the Bible that we can pray for always, knowing it is God's will. Some examples of what we can pray for, knowing that they are always in the will of God are:-

- Remember: whenever you are praying in tongues you are always praying in the will of God.

If you don't know God's will for a person and you want to pray for them, then pray in tongues.

(i) In your prayer time wait for the presence of God. Meditate on Him and worship Him until direction in prayer comes.

- 
- 
- 
- 

God may sometimes quicken a personal word to you about a specific situation you are praying about, when you are meditating in His Word.

- 10) When you have a quickened word on a situation what else do you receive? *Rm 10:17*.

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- 11) This is for what purpose? \_\_\_\_\_

Once you have the direction of the Spirit, pray with the understanding and also in tongues, until the burden lifts.

- (ii) If, after meditating on God and worshipping Him, the direction of prayer is still not clear, then you can proceed in one of two directions. Either (a) Pray generally with what understanding you have until something is quickened.

or (b) Pray in the Spirit *Rm 8:26; 1 Cor 14:2, 14, 15*.

### CONCLUSION:

If we have God's word on a situation or we have God's will for a situation, we don't have to say, "If it is His will" because we know His Word is His will. If we know then that it is according to His will, or according to His word we know that He hears us. This agrees with what Jesus Himself said in *John 15:7*. Jesus said "If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you". (Look this up in other translations). So then "This is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to his will he heareth us" — why? — because it is according to His word which we are abiding in "and if we know that he hears us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of Him." We know that we have it even before it ever materializes, or comes to pass because we know it is according to His Will.

## STUDIES FOR CHRISTIAN GROWTH

# SOLID FOUNDATIONS

### STUDY 4 TYPES OF PRAYER

#### INTRODUCTION:

It is important to realize right at the outset of this study that we need to be open to the Holy Spirit. *Rm 8:26* in the Amplified Version says :

"so too, the Holy Spirit comes to our aid and bears us up in our weakness; for we do not know what prayer to offer, nor how to pray worthily as we ought, but the Spirit Himself goes to meet our supplication and pleads in our behalf with unspeakable yearnings and groanings too deep for utterance."

Remember, the Holy Spirit helps us in our weakness. Our major weakness is we don't know how to pray.

#### TYPES:

(Note that although the first three areas overlap they are at three different levels unto the Lord).

A) Adoration and Praise: the Logos study notes define praise accordingly: "Praise terminates in God and is given on account of His Perfection, His works, and benefits towards all men."

We express in prayer, praise for God's many acts.

Look up the following Scriptures and write down why we should praise God.

- 1) *Ps 147:1* \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) *Ps 33:1* \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) *Jer 32:17* \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) *1 John 4:10* \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) *Ps 50:23* \_\_\_\_\_
- 6) The Bible teaches in *Ps 22:26* that praise is an essential part of what? \_\_\_\_\_

Therefore in praying never forget to praise. Remember God's benefits to all mankind.

B) The second type of prayer is found in *1 Thes 5:17-18*.

- 7) What is it? \_\_\_\_\_  
Note that v16 refers to the first condition.
- 8) What is the best way for you to show your gratitude, faith, and trust in God in all circumstances?  
*Phil 4:6*. \_\_\_\_\_
- 9) This condition applies in what areas? *Ep 5:20*. \_\_\_\_\_

We show this condition forth in prayer when we continue to acknowledge gratefully all of God's mercy toward us.

C) The third type of prayer is Worship. This is counting God worthy of love and adoration.

- 10) What is God ultimately seeking? *John 4:23*. \_\_\_\_\_

Look at the following Scriptures: *Gen 24:48; Neh 8:6; 2 Chr 20:18*.

- 11) What do these passages show us about worship? \_\_\_\_\_
- 12) What is expressed to God by these actions? \_\_\_\_\_  
(See Also *Rev 4:10-11*)
- 13) Read *John 9:31*. A worshipper of God must do what? \_\_\_\_\_
- 14) What does this result in? \_\_\_\_\_

In the prayer of worship we are giving God the honour, the glory and dominion due to His name, *Rev 4:10-11*. It means also that our prayer will be heard and we are changed into the likeness of the object we worship. *2 Cor 3:18*. (Notice in *Rev 4:10-11* that worship is "saying" with words).

D) The Prayer of Confession. This is the type of prayer prayed when God is dealing with areas in our life. It is a prayer for maintaining fellowship, or, more generally, our Walk with God. The best example of this type of prayer in the scriptures is found in *Ps 51 v1-8* is confession

David made some interesting conclusions in this prayer.

- 15) What are they?(i) *v6* \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 (ii) *v16* \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 (iii) *v17* \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

These are important factors to remember in a prayer of confession.

- 16) What should you do when and if you find your fellowship with God is broken?  
*1 John 1:9* \_\_\_\_\_ (*Also Pr 28:13*)
- 17) Confession brings cleansing and fellowship by what? *1 John 1:7*. \_\_\_\_\_
- 18) This only operates as long as we walk where? (i) \_\_\_\_\_ put  
 this into your own words now (ii) \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

E) The fifth type is petitioning as "making our requests known before Almighty God.

- 19) What do *James 4:2-3* and *Phil 4:6* say about the Prayer of Petition? (a) \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 (b) \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

At this point revise the 7th condition for answered prayer in study 2.

- 20) What part does belief have in our prayers? *Mark 11:24*. \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
- 21) Besides faith and belief what else is necessary according to *1 John 5:14-15*?  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Finally read *Ps 84:11* and notice the tremendous promise here.

F) The sixth type of prayer is Intercession. The Holy Spirit needs us in order to fulfil His ministry of Intercession.

- 22) What do the following scriptures tell us about the forms of Intercession?  
 (i) *Luke 19:11* and *John 11:35* \_\_\_\_\_  
 (ii) *John 11:33, 38* \_\_\_\_\_  
 (iii) *Mark 7:34*. \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

According to *Rm 8:26* these are sometimes too deep to be uttered.

Intercession in the scriptures is often likened to the travail that a mother undergoes for the birth of a child. In Intercession we travail with the burden which the Holy Spirit places on us and by this we can cause something to come to birth, or come to pass. We should persist in prayer until we sense the release of the burden.

- 23) What does *Ep 6:12* say about the Fight in Intercession (Look up different versions to get a complete understanding of this verse).  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

#### CONCLUSION:

In prayer there is no rigid boundary between the types of prayer. They can lead one into the other and at any one time of prayer all types may be entered into.

Remember also that God may require you to prevail in prayer. In *Daniel 10 v 12-13* we see how Daniel's prevailing prayer of 21 days helps the angel released on behalf of His initial prayer to "come through".

**FOOTNOTE: PRAYER AND FASTING:** Useful Reading: "God's Chosen Fast" by Arthur Wallis. Victory Press. There are 3 types of fast:

- 1) The Absolute Fast. *Act 9:9*. This is a complete abstention from food and liquid and it is very rare. It is only entered upon when clearly directed by God.
- 2) The Normal Fast. *Math 4:2*. Abstaining from food but drinking water.
- 3) Partial Fast. *Dan 10:3*. Emphasis here is upon restriction of diet rather than complete abstention.

If you read *Math 6 "v" 2, 5, 16* you will notice there is no "if," here it says "when". "When you give alms . . . . . when you pray . . . when you fast." Fasting and praying go together very often - especially in prevailing times of prayer.

*Ezra 8:23* says fasting enables you to be heard on High and in *Is 58:6* it says that the captives will be freed. *Dan 9:2, 13, 21, 22*, shows that Revelation may be received while fasting.

Read carefully *Is 58:1-7*. Fasting must be done unto God, even before the eye of the father who sees in secret. We must not act out of selfish motives, for the gratification of personal desires and ambitions, and without the basic motive being the Glory of God. Fasting, like prayer, must be God-initiated and God-ordained if it is to be effective.

## STUDIES FOR CHRISTIAN GROWTH

# SOLID FOUNDATIONS

### THE PERSONALITY OF THE GODHEAD

#### STUDY ONE – GOD

We shall begin by mentioning that there is a considerable difference between knowing about God and knowing God. Job said in *Job 42 v 5*: "I have heard of Thee by the hearing of mine ear, but now mine eye seeth Thee". Even though these studies are essentially concerned with "knowing about", let us not neglect our higher calling which is to know Him. Our knowledge about God, who He is and what He is like, is nevertheless important. It reflects in our praise and worship, our attitudes and our approach to Him.

#### THE EXISTENCE OF GOD.

Much human argument has been waged concerning the existence of God. While there is a proper place for the presenting of evidence that should convince men of God's existence (the Bible does this at quite a few points – e.g. *Rom 1:18, 19* and *Isa. 40:26*), mere intellectual and academic argument can neither establish the existence of God nor create faith in God, (*Job 11:7*). If 'faith' rests simply on intellectual argument all it takes is an apparently better argument to upset that 'faith'. Yet without fail it is reasonable to say every race and creed, in their primitive state at least, believe in some kind of supreme being. Religious practices of some kind are universal.

The Bible indicates three specific areas where God reveals Himself **other than** in the Bible itself.

1. **In Creation.** *Romans 1:20. Psalm 19:1–4.*  
The very pattern, order and existence of nature indicates a personal God who possesses intelligence. This revelation is universal and is sufficient to render all men without excuse. *Romans 1:20.*
2. **The conscience of every man.**  
Indicates the existence of God (Provided the conscience is not too seared). *John 1:9.* Every man has to some degree been illumined.
3. **The Person of Jesus Christ.** *Hebrew 1:2. John 14:7. John 1:18. 2 Corinthians 4:6.*  
This is God's highest revelation of Himself.

#### THREE STATEMENTS

There is, it may be argued, a place then for the evidence of God's existence but fundamentally every man needs to believe three statements, which are statements of faith rather than proof. They are:

- (a) **GOD IS.** *Hebrews 11:6.* He is whether men realize it or not. He is the final explanation of all else and the One to whom everything and everybody is responsible. Generally speaking the Bible is not concerned with trying to prove there is a God but it begins with the premise that **God is**. We too must begin by believing that God is. *Genesis 1:1. Nehemiah 9:6. Job 11:7–10. Acts 17:16–31.*
- (b) **GOD IS AS HE IS!** This is part of the meaning of the Divine name given to Moses in *Exodus 3:14*. The existence of God, His nature, will and purposes are in no way dependent upon any but Himself. Our own ideas and concepts of God do not change the way He actually is.  
Therefore it seems reasonable that if we do not become related to Him and His purposes then our lives are irrelevant.
- (c) **GOD REVEALS.**  
God has spoken and speaks to men. *Hebrews 1:1.*
  - (i) He reveals through His word.
  - (ii) He can speak directly to our Spirit. *1 Sam 9:15.*
  - (iii) He can use agencies such as people and circumstances.
  - (iv) He reveals, as we have said, in nature. *Romans 1:20.*
  - (v) His self revelation is climaxed in Jesus Christ the word (Logos) of God. *John 1:14. 2 Corin 4:6.*

#### THE TRINITY AND UNITY OF GOD

The concept of the trinity has always in the last analysis been a mystery and what else should the finite mind expect when it is seeking to describe the inner life of the infinite God? Many different illustrations have been used to describe the trinity: For example, water being one distinct chemical compound (H<sub>2</sub>O) yet being present in three different phases, solid, liquid and gas each with different appearance. Although most of these kinds of illustrations offer some insight, in the end they are all inadequate if only because they endeavour to represent a spiritual phenomenon in a physical way.

Certain basic facts about the trinity seem evident from scripture.

- 1) The idea of the **unity of God** is prominent.  
*Deut 6:4* "Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is one Lord". Also *Isaiah 44:6, 8. 1 Cor 8:4, and many others.*

- 2) **This unity is a compound unity.**  
 There are two Hebrew words for 'one'.  
 'Yachid' means one in the absolute sense and is never used to express the unity of God. Examples of its use are *Gen 22:2. Prov 4:3.*  
 'Echad'. When divine unity is being expressed it is always used. It frequently refers elsewhere to compound unity. *Gen 2:24. Exodus 8:31. Judges 20:1.*

3) **God is one being but there are three persons in the Godhead.**

In the Old Testament plural pronouns (e.g. us) are used of the Deity. *Gen 1:26. Gen 11:7. Isa 6:8.*  
 Each member of the Godhead is mentioned in the Old Testament

|                 |                          |
|-----------------|--------------------------|
| The Father      | e.g. <i>Isa 63:16.</i>   |
| The Son         | e.g. <i>Psa 45:6, 7.</i> |
| The Holy Spirit | e.g. <i>Gen 1:2.</i>     |

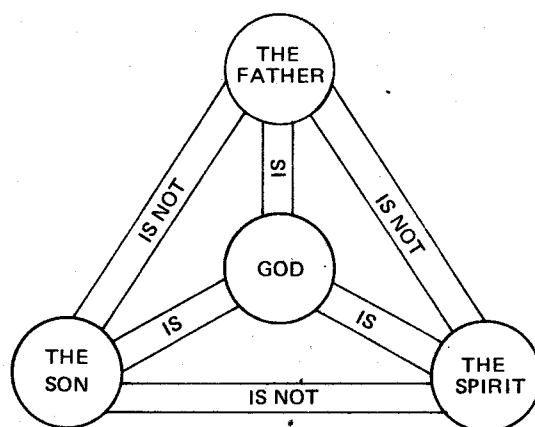
The trinity is also clearly taught in the New Testament. Some Examples.

- (a) Baptism of Christ. The Father speaks from Heaven.  
 The Holy Spirit descends like a dove. *Matt 3:16,17.*
- (b) Baptismal Formula. *Matt 28:19.*
- (c) Apostolic Benediction. *2 Corin 13:14.*
- (d) All of *John 14* brings out thoughts about the members of the trinity and their relationships.

**The New Testament sets forth:**

The Father who is God *Rom 1:7.*  
 The Son who is God *Heb 1:8.*  
 The Holy Spirit who is God *Acts 5: 3, 4.*

The following diagram, coming from a very early Christian source, is an interesting way of representing basic Biblical statements. It is not to be taken as a kind of geometrical illustration of God's nature, but a concise diagrammatic statement.



It is very easy to get caught up on the semantics (meaning of words) of this area. A topic however such as the trinity and unity of God should cause us to see just how vast and infinite our God is. How "unsearchable and mysterious" are His ways.

**ASSIGNMENT**

Answer any number of questions you like or do **at least one** short answer question and one long answer question!

The answers to these questions will not necessarily be self evident from this study. They may require a small amount of further research.

1. (Short). What is the best foundation for our approach to God as a Christian. *Hebrews 11:6* (may help!).
2. (Short). Is God revealed in Nature? Give relevant scriptures.
3. (Short). In what way is the trinity clearly seen in *Matt 3:16, 17*?
4. (Long). Tozer said "What we believe about God is the most important thing about us".
  - (i) Do you agree? Disagree? Why?
  - (ii) Would you like to change the statement at all?
  - (iii) Is "How much we know God is the most important thing about us" a different statement? How?
5. (Long). Someone asks you, "Do you think God has a personal interest in the universe and the creatures he put in it?" How would you reply? What scripture would you refer to?



## STUDIES FOR CHRISTIAN GROWTH

# SOLID FOUNDATIONS

### STUDY 2 – THE NATURE OF GOD

#### INTRODUCTION

#### WHAT IS GOD LIKE?

By setting forth the attributes of God in a systematic way, we are able to answer this question. The attributes of God are His characteristics, qualities and properties revealed primarily in the Word of God, but also in Creation.

The attributes of God can be divided into two categories. Firstly, the "natural" attributes of God, where God is revealed to be everlastingly different from us. Secondly, we talk about the "moral" attributes of God; attributes which God is seeking to transfer to men and women by the Holy Spirit so that we might become a reflection of who He is to this world.

#### A) THE NATURAL ATTRIBUTES OF GOD

1) **God is a Spirit.** Invisible yet very real.

*John 4:24 1 Timothy 1:17 Col 1:15.*

Jesus indicates the nature of a Spirit in *Luke 24:39*. "A Spirit hath not flesh and bones."\*

By Spirit we do not mean some vague influence but a real person. Hundreds of Bible passages indicate the personality of God.

For Example: *Psalms 103: 6-14.*

Because God is a Spirit he must therefore be worshipped in Spirit and in truth. *John 4:24.*

\*Footnote: Sometimes the Bible speaks of God as though in fact He did have a human form: e.g. His 'feet' (*Ex 24:10*), His 'hands' and 'ears' (*Isa 59:1; 65:2*). But these anthropomorphisms, as they are sometimes called, are simply beautiful and vivid ways of portraying, by a kind of metaphor, God's essential capacity to be and do in perfection all that in faint comparison, His creatures can do.

2) **Transcendence.** God is above and beyond this creation – independent of the natural laws he created. He is exalted, sovereign, self existing, eternal and judge. Part of the name "Holy" means "set apart". *Isaiah 55:8. Isaiah 40:12-17.*

3) **Immanence.** The presence and power of God pervades the entire creation. He does not stand apart from creation. *Ps 139. Acts 17: 27, 28.*

In *Isaiah 57:15*. The two thoughts of transcendence and immanence are expressed.

4) **Omnipotence.** God is all powerful. Nothing is too hard for Him. *Jeremiah 32:17. Luke 1:37. Exodus 6:3*. It does not mean that God can do anything, but rather that God can do anything He wants to do. This is limited in a sense by His own moral character. For example God cannot lie. *Hebrews 6:18.*

It is interesting to realise that the name Almighty (El Shaddai) reveals God as the carer, nourisher, and sustainer. *Psalms 91:1.*

5) **Omnipresence.** God is everywhere always. *Psalms 139. Jeremiah 23: 23, 24.*

We must draw a distinction between the presence of God and the 'manifest' presence of God. The latter being occasions when God makes His presence known in a very real way. Example: *2 Chronicles 5: 13, 14 and 7: 1, 2, 3.*

6) **Omniscience.** God knows everything past present and future. This includes our thoughts.

*Psalms 139:2. Acts 15: 8, 18. 1 Corin. 2: 10, 11. 1 John 3:20. Ps 139:1-6. Romans 8:29. Isaiah 29:15, 16. Hebrews 4:13.*

Much controversy has surrounded the topic of the foreknowledge of God. There are some who would say that God limits His foreknowledge because if he does not, then man cannot truly exercise a free will.

Scripture however does not give credence to this theory. *Isaiah 42:9. Isaiah 46:10. Daniel 2:28-29.*

It is a theory that is the result of men's philosophical excursions into the infinity of God rather than the result of divine illumination. *Colossians 2:8.*

7) **Immutability.** God is unchangeable. He does not change. *James 1:17.* This is an important attribute to understand in a world where we humans are very fickle and often-times wavering. God's love is always steadfast and constant. *Psalms 102:27. Malachi 3:6. Hebrews 1:12.*

8) **Eternity of God.** By this we mean God has no beginning and will have no end. *Deut 32:40. Rev. 22:13.*

9) **Infinity of God.** God has no limit. He is not bounded by the size of the universe (which interestingly is said to be finite in some mathematic systems). The concept of infinity of course always poses problems to the finite mind. It is important also to think of infinity in terms of quality as well as quantity.

## B) THE MORAL ATTRIBUTES OF GOD

### 1) God is Holy. *Isaiah 6:3. Isaiah 57:15.*

Holiness could be said to be the fundamental attribute of God.

"Since holiness embraces every distinctive attribute of the Godhead, it may be defined as 'the outshining of all that God is'. As the sun's rays combining all the colours of the spectrum come together in the sun's shining and blend into light, so in His self-manifestation all the attributes of God come together and blend into holiness.....which lends unity to all the attributes of God"<sup>1</sup>

Instead of **unity** we could write "wholeness". That God wants to transfer this attribute to us is very clear. "Be ye holy, for I am holy" *Leviticus 11:44. 1 Peter 1:16. 1 Thess. 4:7. Heb. 12:14.*

1. I.V.F. New Bible Dictionary Page 530.

### 2) God is Love. Love is a part of the essential essence of God. *1 John 4:8.* The Agapae love of God could be defined as:—

"That love that has its motivation in it's own nature", not in the object of the love. God loves us irrespective of whether we are loveable or not. *Jeremiah 31:3.* That this is also a transferable attribute is very clear from passages like *1 John 4:7-21* and *Romans 5:5.*

It is also worthy of note that we can only really love according to the depth of our understanding and experiencing of the love of God. An accurate translation of *1 John 4:19* is:

"We love because He first loved us" *R.S.V. and N.A.S.B.*

### 3) God is Good. Perhaps the best insight into the goodness of God is found in *Exodus 33: 19, 22.* We see here that the **Goodness** of God is equated with the **Glory** of God. Everything God does is Good. *Psalms 72:18.* God should not be defined in terms of Good but rather good should be defined in terms of God. In a very certain sense only God is good. *Matthew 19:17.* The word good is from the Old English word for God. The fact that goodness is a fruit of the Spirit in *Galatians 5* is indicative of the fact that God wants to convey this attribute to his people.

### 4) God is Merciful. God's mercy is boundless and everlasting. *PS 103:17. Ps 108:4. Lam 3:22.* It is a transferable attribute. *Matthew 5:7. Luke 6:36. Micah 6:8.*

It denotes God's devotion to His covenant of love. *Psalms 89:28.* In the new testament, whereas Grace is concerned with man as guilty, mercy is concerned with man as he is miserable. (Compassion to the one in need or in helpless distress.)

### 5) God is Righteous. God is a righteous Judge. *Psalms 67:4. Dan 9:7.* He is upright in all that He does. *Psalms 145:17.*

He demands righteousness from his people. *Psalms 11:7. Matt 5:20.* Righteousness is a gift of God to the Christian; a result of faith. Abraham being our example. *Romans 4:3. Romans 5:1. 1 Corin. 1:30. Phil. 3:9. 1 Corin 1:*

### 6) Wisdom. God does not make mistakes. He is the source of all wisdom. *Psalms 104:24. Eph. 3:10. Dan 2:20-21. Isaiah 40:13-16.* It is a transferable attribute. *1 Corin 1:30. Dan 2:21. Col 1:9.*

### 7) God is Faithful. God is faithful to His word and His promises. *Heb 10:23., Heb 11:11, 1 Corin 1:9, Heb. 6:18, 1 Thess 5:24, Lamentations 3:23.* "... great is thy Faithfulness."

God wants faithfulness to be exhibited in His people. We read in *Galatians 5:22* that faithfulness is a fruit of the Spirit.

## STUDIES FOR CHRISTIAN GROWTH

# SOLID FOUNDATIONS

### STUDY 3 – THE NAME OF GOD

*Psalm 91:14* "... I will set him on High because he hath known my name."

A discussion on the name of God is much more than a discussion of a "label". God is who His name is. When you come to know Him you come to know His name. The names of God reveal the nature of God to us.

**Elohim** This Hebrew word is the plural of the word **El** which basically means a god in any true or false sense. The plurality of Elohim fits in well with the New Testament teaching on the trinity and the plural declaration in *Genesis 1:26*: "And God said let us make men in our image. . .".

It is a name that reveals God as the creator and thus it gives special attention to the power of God.

**Elyon** "The most high God". Although the book of Daniel was written in Aramaic the equivalent of Elyon is found in *Daniel 4:17*.

"... the most high ruleth in the kingdom of men and giveth it to whomsoever He will . . ."

Some other names of God that begin with the prefix **El**:

- (a) **El Olam** The everlasting God.
- (b) **El—Elohe—Israel** God is the God of Israel.
- (c) **El-Shaddai** This title is translated "the almighty God" in *Genesis 17:1*. The Hebrew word that the word shaddai comes from may possibly mean 'breast'. El-Shaddai certainly speaks of God as all-sufficient, and who therefore is a sustainer, nourisher and carer; the supplier of all of our needs. A thought very evident in the opening verse of *Psalm 91*.

"He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty".

#### The Name Jehovah *Ps. 83:18 (KJV)*

This name is found about seven times in the Authorised (King James) version of the Bible, but the Hebrew word it represents occurs several hundred times in the Old Testament, mostly rendered 'the LORD' in our English Bibles.

To understand why we read 'the LORD' and what this wonderful Name means, some explanation is necessary (even if technical): There are 2 Hebrew words translated into English as 'the Lord': one **adonay** means 'sovereign, ruler, master'. The other (Hebrew **YHWH**) is the 'name form of 'I AM' and 'I AM THAT I AM' (*Ex 3:14*) and means simply 'HE WHO IS'. The Jews came to hold this Name as so sacred that they would never say it — instead, in speaking, and when reading the Bible, they said the other word **Adonay**. So they said this twice: for **Adonay** itself and also for **YHWH**. When they translated the Old Testament into Greek they used the same Greek word (= 'the Lord') for both; and the New Testament does exactly the same when quoting the Old Testament. Most English translations follow the same device, though, to distinguish, render **YHWH** as 'the LORD' and **Adonay** as 'the Lord'.

No one really knows how **YHWH** was first pronounced (certainly not 'Jehovah', nor probably the modern 'Yahweh'), but it is the meaning that is important.

**YHWH, Jehovah, the LORD:** means the One who is, the ever-living God, the Source of all living, who is, who is as He is (see the first of the studies) and who, therefore, is the absolute and sovereign Lord, upon whom all else is totally dependent and to whom all are responsible and answerable. He is therefore also, as He showed Moses, the One who, being as He is (ever-living, faithful, holy) can establish and fulfil the covenant He chooses in mercy to enter into with His children.

It is of the utmost importance to realize that when the New Testament says 'Jesus is Lord' (and we must acknowledge He is. *Rom. 10:9*) it has the full meaning of both Old Testament words. He is God, the LORD, the sovereign Lord (see, e.g., *Heb 1:8-10*, addressed clearly to the Son of God).

Linked with the name Jehovah are the ten redemptive names of God that become to us a revelation of God's ability in every circumstance.

Briefly they are:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1. Jehovah Jireh <i>Genesis 22:14</i><br>"the Lord who sees and seeing will provide".    | 6. Jehovah — Raah <i>Ps. 23:1</i><br>"The Lord is my Shepherd".                  |
| 2. Jehovah — nissi <i>Exodus 17:15</i><br>"the Lord our banner".                         | 7. Jehovah — Rapha <i>Ex 15:26</i><br>"the Lord that Healeth thee".              |
| 3. Jehovah — Shalom <i>Judges 6:24</i><br>"The Lord our peace"                           | 8. Jehovah — Mkadish-Kem <i>Ex 31:13</i><br>"the Lord which doth sanctify you".  |
| 4. Jehovah — tsidkenu <i>Jeremiah 23: 5-6, 33:15-16</i><br>"the Lord our righteousness". | 9. Jehovah — Yasha-Gaal <i>Is. 49:26</i><br>"The Lord our saviour and redeemer". |
| 5. Jehovah Shammah <i>Exekiel 48:35</i><br>"the Lord is there".                          | 10. Jehovah — Zeboath <i>Isaiah 1:9</i><br>"The Lord of Hosts".                  |

## STUDIES FOR CHRISTIAN GROWTH

# SOLID FOUNDATIONS

### STUDY 4 — JESUS CHRIST

#### His Deity

The most fundamental doctrine of the Christian faith is the deity of Jesus Christ. What we believe about it will either place us within the confines of acceptable conservative Christian theology, or brand us as a cult of the most radical nature.

The fact that Jesus Christ is God is the strong foundation for our salvation. Any salvation for those who refuse to believe that Jesus Christ is God must be held in doubt.

#### PROOF OF THE DEITY OF CHRIST

##### (A) The natural attributes of God are Given to Jesus Christ.

1. He is Omnipotent *Heb. 1:3, Col. 1:17.*
2. He is Omnipresent *Eph 1:23, Matt 18:20, Heb. 13:5.*
3. He is Omniscient *John 16:30, Col 2:3.*
4. He is the Creator *Col 1:16, John 1:3.*
5. He is Eternal *Rev 22:13, John 8:57,58.*
6. He is self existent and has life giving power *John 5:26, John 1:4.*
7. He is Immutable (unchanging) *Hebrews 13:8.*

##### (B) THE CLAIMS OF SCRIPTURE

- (i) God was manifest in the flesh *1 Timothy 3:16.*
- (ii) The first chapter of Hebrews sets forth the deity of Jesus Christ.  
Jesus Christ is the brightness of God's glory (the outshining of the divine). The very image of God's nature, — and is shown to be directly addressed as 'God'.
- (iii) *John 1:1* — The Word Jesus Christ was God.
- (iv) *John 20:28* — The declaration of Thomas "My Lord and My God".

##### (C) He is given divine names

1. God. *John 1:1. John 20:28. Hebrews 1:8. 1 John 5:20.*
2. Son of God. This title is used many times throughout the New Testament scripture.
  - (i) A notable occasion is *Matt 16:15-18.*  
The confession of Peter was the rock upon which Jesus Christ would build His Church.
  - (ii) In *1 John 1:3* — We read that our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ.
  - (iii) He was accused of blasphemy when He claimed this title in *Matt 26:61-66*; the passage shows clearly that Jesus claimed deity.
  - (iv) The Gospel of John sets forth Jesus Christ as the Son of God.
  - (v) The Jews sought to kill Him because He claimed this title.
3. Lord. It is true the word for Lord in the New Testament could mean "sir" and was used of men. However the title Lord used before a name conveyed the idea of Deity, and also is the word by which the Hebrew YHWH was rendered in the Greek Old Testament.  
"The Ptolemies and the Roman Emperors would allow the name to be applied to them only when they permitted themselves to be deified" — Wood.  
Jesus Christ is called the Lord of Lords. *Rev 19:16.*
4. The "I AM's" of Jesus.  
Jesus Christ uses freely this name which was the name God gave to Moses in *Exodus 3:14,15.*  
Before Abraham was I am. *John 8:58.*  
In *John 18:4* the declaration "I am" is given and the soldiers fall back. The word "he" is only in italics.  
In verse 8 Jesus Christ completes the eternal statement . . . . . "that I am".

- (D) Jesus Christ is to be given divine worship.  
The Bible teaches that God alone should be worshipped. *Matt 4:10*.  
Jesus Christ did not stop people worshipping Him. *John 20:28*.  
In *Hebrews 1:6* the Angels are commanded by God to worship Jesus Christ.

### THE HUMANITY OF JESUS CHRIST

The incarnation means that God the son became man.

He called himself the son of man at least 80 times in the gospels. He identified with men in their weakness, human infirmity, temptation and capacity to die. *Hebrews 4:15, Hebrews 5:2*.

Under the Jewish law if a man became a slave as a result of poverty or loss of inheritance or property the only way he could be redeemed was if a kinsman of the family paid the just demand in full. *Lev 25:48-49*. In order to be our kinsman redeemer Jesus had to become a man.

The humanity of Jesus Christ is a fundamental doctrine of the Christian faith. In order to be our sin substitute Jesus Christ had to be fully human. It was necessary for him if he was to be a mediator between God and man.

Proof of the Humanity of Jesus Christ.

1. He had a normal human birth. *Luke 2:7*.
2. He partook of flesh and blood. *John 1:14, Heb 2:14*.
3. His appearance was that of a man. *John 4:9, John 20:14*.
4. He was subject to the laws of natural human development body and soul. *Luke 2:40,52*.
5. He had a body. *Heb 2:14, John 1:14*.  
He had a soul. *Matt 26:38*.  
He had a Spirit. *Luke 23:46*.
6. He was subject to sinless human infirmities.
  - (a) He hungered. *Matt 4:2*.
  - (b) He thirsted. *John 4:7*.
  - (c) He had sorrow. *Luke 19:41, Isaiah 53:3*.
  - (d) Weariness. *John 4:6*.
  - (e) He needed sleep. *Matt 8:24*.
  - (f) He suffered temptation. *Hebrew 4:15*.
  - (g) He was subject to wounding. *John 19:34, Luke 23:33*.
  - (h) He needed comfort. *Luke 22:43*.
  - (i) He was subject to death. *Philippians 2:8*.
7. He was given human names.
  - (a) Son of Man. Jesus used this title at least 80 times.
  - (b) Jesus. *Matt 1:21*.
  - (c) Jesus of Nazareth. *Acts 2:22*.
  - (d) The man Christ Jesus. *1 Timothy 2:5*.
8. He utilized the promises of God that were made to man, for himself. *Luke 4:4*.
9. He was circumcised. *Luke 2:21*.
10. He had a human genealogy. *Matt 1:1*.
11. His humanity is denied by the AntiChrist. *1 John 4:2, 3*.

### THE TWO NATURES RECONCILED.

The question of the two natures of Jesus Christ and how they are related is obviously a very complex one. The orthodox doctrine tells us "in the one person Jesus Christ there are two natures, a human nature and a divine nature, each in its completeness and integrity and that these two natures are organically and indissolubly united, yet so that no third nature is formed thereby."

Some would say that because Christ was God it was easy for Him to do the things He did and live the life he lived during His ministry. It is important to realize that throughout His earthly sojourn and during His ministry Christ did not operate by virtue of His deity but rather chose to be completely dependent on the will of God the Father and on the power of the Holy Spirit anointing him to do the will of the Father.

This is the correct interpretation of the passage. *Philippians 2:5-8*.

We must be clear that Jesus Christ did not empty Himself of Godhood.

## STUDIES FOR CHRISTIAN GROWTH

# SOLID FOUNDATIONS

## STUDY 5 – THE HOLY SPIRIT

The power and work of the Holy Spirit is greatly emphasised in the Church today. Our understanding then of the Holy Spirit, of this person and work is vital in these days.

## 1. THE HOLY SPIRIT IS GOD.

He has the natural attributes of God.

- (a) Omnipresent. *Psalms 139:7–13.*
- (b) Omniscient. *1 Corin 2:10.*
- (c) Omnipotent. *Luke 1:35, Rom 15:19.*
- (d) Eternal. *Hebrews 9:14.*
- (e) Creator. *Genesis 1:2, 26, 27. Job 33:4.*

He is spoken of as God. *Acts 5:3,4.*

He receives honour due only to God. *1 Cor 3:16.*

## 2. THE HOLY SPIRIT IS A PERSON.

The personality of the Holy Spirit is attacked by a few major cults. It seems very clear however from scripture that the Holy Spirit is a person with all of the characteristics of personality. Many of the titles he is given convey very richly His personality. We must be very careful therefore in our own references to the Holy Spirit that we remember that He is a person with a mind and with feelings and not just some type of "life force".

## His personality demonstrated

- (a) He is called a counsellor. *John 14:16.* The word here is Parakletos. (One who comes along side). It conveys the picture of a lawyer upon whom we call for help. (The same word as is used of Jesus in *1 John 2:1*).
- (b) The Holy Spirit can be grieved. *Ephesians 4:30.*
- (c) Jesus used a masculine personal pronoun for the Holy Spirit in the passage. *John 16:7–15.* Even though the Greek translation for Spirit is the same as the word for breathe Jesus himself deliberately chooses this masculine pronoun.
- (d) It is possible to blaspheme the Holy Spirit. It is ridiculous to think of being able to blaspheme an impersonal force. It is interesting to realize that blaspheming the Holy Spirit is considered the worst blasphemy possible. Those who deny the personality of Holy Spirit are indeed on very shaky ground. *Matt 12:31.*
- (e) The behaviour of the Holy Spirit is characteristic of personality.
  - (i) He speaks. *Acts 8:29.*
  - (ii) He strives. *Genesis 6:3.*
  - (iii) He reveals, searches and knows. *1 Corin 2:10–11.*
  - (iv) He gives gifts. *1 Cor 12:11.*
  - (v) The Holy Spirit approves. *Acts 15:28.*
  - (vi) The Holy Spirit has a house (a temple). *1 Corin 3:16.*
  - (vii) The Holy Spirit bears witness. *Romans 8:16. 1 John 5:8.*
  - (viii) The Holy Spirit teaches. *1 Corin 2:13. 1 John 2:27.*

## THE SYMBOLS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.

- 1. Oil. In the scripture oil was used for anointing and thus it is a symbol for the anointing of the Holy Spirit. *1 Samuel 16:13. Zechariah 4:3–6.* (Amplified).
- 2. Dove. This symbol of the Holy Spirit teaches us that He is gentle and never forceful. The Holy Spirit looks for our co-operation. We are never forced to do anything which involves our wills being overruled. There is also the thought of purity and Holiness and the fact that it is the Holy Spirit who is sent to convict men and women of sin. *Matt 3:16. John 16:8.*
- 3. Wind. Symbolic of the invisible work of the Holy Spirit among men. *John 3:8, Acts 2:2, 4.* The thought here is one of God breathing. In Creation. *Psalms 33:6.* In the inspiration of scripture *2 Tim 3:16* (Amplified). It also typifies a sovereign move of the Holy Spirit.

4. Fire. *Matthew 3:11. Acts 2:3, 4.*  
Fire is symbolic of the purging and purifying work of the Holy Spirit.
  - (a) The Church is purged by fire. *Isaiah 4:4.*
  - (b) Our works and our worship. *Malachi 3:2. 1 Corin 3:13.*
  - (c) Our faith. *1 Peter 1:7.*
  - (d) Fire also speaks of protection because it was a pillar of fire that guided Israel through the wilderness assuring them of God's presence. *Exodus 13:21, 22.*
5. Water. *John 7:38, 39.*  
Water is symbolic of a number of different aspects of the Holy Spirit.
  - (a) Water cleanses, refreshes, satisfies, makes fruitful and speaks to us of the resources of the Holy Spirit that are in our lives. In *Isaiah 12: 3* we read of the wells of salvation.
  - (b) Water in the form of rain is symbolic of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. *Joel 2:23, 28. Acts 2:17. Jeremiah 5:24.*
6. Seal. The Holy Spirit is pictured in the Bible as a seal. *Ephesians 1:13, 14. Ephesian 4:30. 2 Corin 5:5.* The Seal speaks of ownership; the fact that we are God's redeemed property and that He will complete the work He has started, is a strong consolation. *Phil 1:6.*

### THE MINISTRY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

The Holy Spirit has been called the executive of the God-head for He is the one who executes the will of God in the earth and by this anointing it comes to pass.

As far back as *Genesis 1:2* we see this principle. God speaks and the Holy Spirit moves. He is the one who quickens and brings life. *Romans 8:11. John 6:63.*

We want to examine briefly His ministry in the life of the believer.

- (a) He convicts and convinces of sin. *John 16:7, 8. Acts 2:37, 38.*
- (b) He is responsible for regeneration and the bringing of new life. *John 3:1-8. Titus 3:5. Romans 8:11. 2 Corin 3:6.*
- (c) He gives power to live the Christian life. *Act 1:8. Luke 24:49.* Power to be witnesses.
- (d) He is a counsellor and guide. *John 14:26. John 16:13. Romans 8:14.*
- (e) He brings truth. *John 14:17. 1 John 2:27. John 16:13.*
- (f) He equips for service.  
We see this in the life of Jesus in *Luke 4:18. Acts 10:38.* There is an equipping for tasks that are not specifically spiritual. *Judges 14:6.*  
David was anointed in order to be the king of Israel. *1 Samuel 16:13.*
- (g) He assists our prayer life. *Romans 8:26. Jude 20. Ephesians 6:18.*
- (h) He changes us into the likeness of Jesus. *2 Corin 3:18.*
- (i) The fundamental ministry of the Holy Spirit is to make Jesus real to us. *John 16:14.*  
The Holy Spirit is sent to glorify Jesus. *John 16:14.*  
Any group that glorifies the Holy Spirit more than Jesus has missed the point, because the very purpose of the Holy Spirit is to glorify Jesus Christ.

## STUDIES FOR CHRISTIAN GROWTH

# SOLID FOUNDATIONS

### STUDY NO. 1 Building on the Right Foundation

The Foundation of any building must be strong before the structure can be erected. Any crack or fault in this could lead to the eventual collapse of the building.

In many different places scripture compares the life of the believer to the construction of a building.

1 Cor 3: 9 (b) \_\_\_\_\_

Who is the chief cornerstone or foundation of this building? \_\_\_\_\_

Eph 2:20 \_\_\_\_\_

1 Cor 3:11 \_\_\_\_\_

Acts 4:11 \_\_\_\_\_

Col 2:7 (NASB) says \_\_\_\_\_

Having received Christ as our personal Saviour and Lord we have laid the first part of the foundation only – the chief cornerstone.

Heb 6:1-2 tells us about other aspects of this foundation which must be laid.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_

Notice that these are also called the elementary teaching or doctrines or the first principles of Christ. With these truths the basic understanding or foundation of the Christian faith is laid.

Read through *Hebrews 5:12 – 6:3*. What was the problem these Hebrew Christians had?

\_\_\_\_\_

Once this foundation has been laid the goal is to go on to perfection or **maturity** v1. What warning does God give concerning this v3?

**GOD DOES NOT PERMIT YOU TO GO ON UNLESS THIS IS FIRMLY LAID IN YOUR LIFE!**

Read *Mt 7:24-27*. In the light of the rest of this study, say in your own words what caused the foolish man's house to fall.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Memory Verse Acts 4:12.** Christ is the very foundation of our salvation.

**Assignment:** Read through the book of Acts noting in each case the foundation the Apostles laid in the life of the believers in the early Church. In this connection notice Paul's words in *1 Cor 3:10*. Paul was a **wise** masterbuilder – **ARE YOU?**



## STUDIES FOR CHRISTIAN GROWTH

# SOLID FOUNDATIONS

### STUDY NO. 2 Repentance from Dead Works

This is the first doctrine listed in *Heb 6:1*.

#### Definition of Repentance

In both the Old and New Testaments there are two words translated "repent".

|      |             |   |   |
|------|-------------|---|---|
| O.T. | Nacham      | — | to lament or grieve (not true repentance)   |
|      | Shub        | — | a radical change in ones attitude to sin and God. (Refers to genuine repentance.) |
| N.T. | Netamelomai | — | to have feeling, regret, care or concern (not true repentance)                    |
|      | Metanoeo    | — | to have another mind (refers to genuine repentance).                              |

What causes men to come to a place of true Repentance?

- a) *Rom 2:4* \_\_\_\_\_
- b) *Acts 2:37* \_\_\_\_\_
- c) *2 Cor 7:9-10* \_\_\_\_\_
- d) *Mt 12:41* \_\_\_\_\_
- e) *Luke 17:3* \_\_\_\_\_

Who alone can grant repentance?

- a) *2 Tim 2:25 cp Acts 11:18* \_\_\_\_\_
- b) *Acts 5:31* \_\_\_\_\_

True repentance also involves a **change of mind**, a **decision of the will** and the corresponding **outward action** to demonstrate the inward change.

Read the story of the prodigal son *Luke 15:11-32* and complete the following outline by putting in the relevant sections of the story under the right headings.

- a) **The Change of Mind** \_\_\_\_\_
- b) **The Decision of the Will** \_\_\_\_\_
- c) **The Performance of the Will** \_\_\_\_\_

#### SUMMARY:

"Thus we can see that 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 yielding the will in turning the whole man away from sin unto God".

#### How important is Repentance?

True repentance must always go before true faith; without true repentance there can never be true faith. Write out what we are told re. faith in these verses:

- Acts 17:30* \_\_\_\_\_
- Luke 5:32* \_\_\_\_\_
- Luke 13:3,5* \_\_\_\_\_
- Acts 11:18* \_\_\_\_\_
- 2 Peter 3:9* \_\_\_\_\_
- Heb 6:1* \_\_\_\_\_
- Mt 3:2* \_\_\_\_\_
- Mt 4:17* \_\_\_\_\_
- Mk 6:12* \_\_\_\_\_
- Acts 20:21* \_\_\_\_\_
- Luke 24:47* \_\_\_\_\_

**Repentance from what?**

Heb 6:1 "repentance from \_\_\_\_\_"

Acts 20:21 "repentance toward \_\_\_\_\_"

"\_\_\_\_\_ " are the deeds and actions of a life that is lived apart from God.

Isa 64:6 "all our righteousnesses \_\_\_\_\_"

From now on our deeds and actions of life should come from a life of faith and trust in God.

**What is associated with Repentance?**

- a) Acts 20:21      Mk 1:15 \_\_\_\_\_
- b) Acts 2:38 \_\_\_\_\_
- c) Acts 3:19 \_\_\_\_\_
- d) Acts 26:20 \_\_\_\_\_
- e) Acts 26:20      Rev 2:5 \_\_\_\_\_
- f) Mt 3:8 \_\_\_\_\_

**Christians and Repentance**

Whenever there is sin in a Christian's life there must be repentance.

- a) The Corinthians      2 Cor 7:9      2 Cor 12:21
- b) The Ephesians      Rev. 2:5
- c) In Pergamos      Rev. 2:16
- d) In Sardis      Rev. 3:3
- e) In laodicea      Rev. 3:19

As Christians living in these last days we must be careful to maintain an attitude of repentance, ever turning from our own deeds and ways toward God, ready to hear and do what He says.

Read *Isaiah 55:6-13*.

**Homework Assignment**

What are some of the evidences you would expect to find in the life of one who had truly repented?

**Memory Verse**      *Acts 17:30*

## STUDIES FOR CHRISTIAN GROWTH

# SOLID FOUNDATIONS

### STUDY NO. 3 Faith toward God

#### Introduction

"Faith" and "Repentance" are inseparable in effecting genuine conversion. Paul sums up his ministry to the lost as:

"testifying both to Jews and also the Greeks REPENTANCE toward God and FAITH toward our Lord Jesus Christ". (Acts 20:21) The result of such preaching is recorded concerning the Thessalonians who "Turned to God (Faith) from idols (Repentance)". 1 Thess. 1:9.

Throughout the whole Bible great emphasis is laid on faith.

#### What is the meaning of the word?

The root words from which we get "faith" (noun) and "believe" (verb) and its derivatives are found in the N.T. 619 times.

- a) FAITH (Pistis) means "Faith, belief, firm persuasion, assurance, firm conviction, honesty, integrity, faithfulness, truthfulness".
- b) BELIEVE (Pisteuo) "To trust in, put faith in, confide in, rely on a person or thing, have a mental persuasion, to intrust, commit to the charge or power of".

**How does the Bible define faith?** Write down a few different definitions for comparison, e.g.

Heb 11:1 (AV) \_\_\_\_\_

RSV or NASB \_\_\_\_\_

Living Bible \_\_\_\_\_

J.B. Phillips or other version \_\_\_\_\_

#### Important Facts about Faith from this Definition

1. There is a distinction made between faith and hope.
  - a) Hope is directed toward the future; faith is established in the present (something within us that we possess here and now).
  - b) Hope is primarily in the realm of the mind ; faith is primarily in the realm of the heart or spirit.

Rom 10:10 (a) \_\_\_\_\_

2 Cor 4:13 (a) \_\_\_\_\_

1 Thess 5:8 \_\_\_\_\_
2. Faith deals with "things not seen". Faith is not based upon the evidence of our five natural senses but on the eternal invisible realities revealed by God's word.
 

2 Cor 5:7 \_\_\_\_\_

#### How important is it?

- a) Heb 11:6 \_\_\_\_\_
- b) Heb 2:4 (b) \_\_\_\_\_ Rom 1:17 \_\_\_\_\_ Gal 3:11 \_\_\_\_\_ The \_\_\_\_\_ shall live by \_\_\_\_\_
- c) Eph 2:8 (a) \_\_\_\_\_
- d) Rom 14:23 (b) \_\_\_\_\_

#### Where does Faith come from?

Eph 2:8 \_\_\_\_\_

Phil 3:9 (AV) \_\_\_\_\_

Heb 12:2 \_\_\_\_\_

In Mk 11:22 we are told to have "the faith of God" (marginal rendering) and this can only come from God Himself. Our attitude must be one of dependence upon God for faith.

### How can you receive Faith?

As has been established, all faith must first come from God. God imparts faith in a number of ways.

1. *Rom 10:17* \_\_\_\_\_

This is a personally quickened word from God (Rhema). (See later for amplification.)

2. *1 Cor 12:9* \_\_\_\_\_

Faith received in this way is one of the nine gifts of the Holy Spirit. This is for ministry and is usually associated with the five ministries in *Eph 4:11*.

e.g. An evangelist would receive faith as a gift — an impartation from God — to pray for the sick. It would usually accompany the gifts of healing the working of miracles (etc).

3. *Gal 5:22* \_\_\_\_\_

This develops naturally in our lives. There is no struggle for it but it grows out of fellowship in His presence. It is for daily living to keep us free from sickness etc.

(Tape No. 2660 from Life Giving Ministries amplifies aspect No. 3)

### FAITH'S FOUNDATION

God speaks to us from this written word (logos) by quickening it (making it alive and real) to us.

*Mt 4:4* \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ (rhema)

The quickened word (rhema) is the generator of faith (*Rom 10:17*) and life. *John 6:63*

\_\_\_\_\_ (rhema)

When God speaks personally to us from His word faith is born in our heart. This means it is the Holy Spirit acting on/through the written word of God that produces faith. We don't have to struggle for faith. It either comes from God or it doesn't come.

Notice the response of Mary to the "rhema" (v38) *Luke 1:26-38*

### How to receive a quickened word "rhema" from God.

1. Trust in the written word of God.
2. Pray in the spirit — wait on God. *1 Cor 14:14*.
3. Meditate in the word of God *Joshua 1:7-8*.
4. Allow the Holy Spirit to quicken the word of God to you.
5. Meditate over and over on that which God quickens to you.

### FAITH'S FUNCTION

*Eph 5:26* \_\_\_\_\_

*Jn 6:63* \_\_\_\_\_

Like prophecy the quickened word is for our personal edification, exhortation and comfort, *1 Cor 14:3*. Any word involving "direction" in our lives should be submitted to the Body of Christ especially those over us in the Lord.

### FAITH or FANATICISM (PRESUMPTION)

Faith is action based on the **quickened word** (Rhema) while **fanaticism** is action based on the **written word** (logos).

**Assignment** Read **Romans Chapter 4** and discover how Abraham "the father of all them that believe" manifested faith toward God.

**Memory Verses** *Romans 10:17* and *Hebrews 11:1*

## STUDIES FOR CHRISTIAN GROWTH

# SOLID FOUNDATIONS

### STUDY NO. 4 Water Baptism

#### Introduction

We now come to the third of the "first principles" which constitute the Christian's "foundation". *Heb 6:2* calls it the doctrine of Baptism. However the New Testament makes reference to at least four baptisms:

1. The baptism of John (*Matt 3:11, 21:25*).
2. Our Lord's baptism of Suffering (*Luke 12:50*).
3. Christian baptism (*Acts 2:38*).
4. Baptism with or in the Holy Spirit (*Acts 1:5, 2:4*).

In this present study we will be confining ourselves to a study of Christian baptism in water.

#### What is the meaning of the word "BAPTIZE"?

Baptize is the Anglicized form of the Greek word "Baptizo" and means "to dip, immerse, submerge". By definition and usage the word means "to put into or under water (or other penetrable substance) so as entirely to immerse or submerge".

#### Why should we be baptised?

1. Because we are commanded to follow the example of Jesus in this matter. *Mt 3:13-17, 1 Peter 2:21-22*.
2. In being baptised we are laying an essential foundation of our Christian lives. *Acts 2:37-40*.

What three steps are outlined here?

- a) \_\_\_\_\_ b) \_\_\_\_\_  
c) \_\_\_\_\_

#### Conditions for baptism

1. Being taught *Mt 28:19-20*
2. Repentance *Acts 2:37-38*
3. Believing *Mk 16:15-16*.
4. A good conscience toward God *1 Peter 3:21*.  
You are baptised because your heart is right with God.

From these four conditions what sort of person would you conclude has an obligation and a right to be baptised in water?

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In the N.T. newly converted Christians were baptised normally within a few hours or at the most a few days after being saved. Read these scriptures to gather your own conclusion:-  
*Acts 2:41; 8:12; 8:36-39; 9:17-18; 10:48; 16:14-18; 16:33.*

#### The spiritual Significance of Baptism

Read through *Rom 6:1-19* carefully.

| CHRIST'S ATONEMENT |  | BAPTISM |                              |
|--------------------|--|---------|------------------------------|
| a)                 | Death unto sin v2  | a)      | Burial of the dead body v3-4 |
|                    | Old Man crucified v6   |         |                              |
|                    | Body of sin destroyed v6                                       |         |                              |
| b)                 | A new life lived unto God and righteousness v4, v10,11, 13,19. | b)      | resurrection v4-5            |

When Christ died on the cross our old nature died or was crucified with Him, and we, through the new birth, are given a new life and nature. God therefore buries the old nature as we go through the waters of baptism and we come out of the waters with a new power in our spirit to live a life of righteousness unto God.

The baptism is an outward expression of what has already taken place in your life. Nevertheless the moment of baptism is very meaningful and the Holy Spirit desires to make this act a reality in our lives in daily living.

**Entering into the reality of the "Crucified Life" in daily living**

**Step 1 Know** by **revelation** that our old nature is crucified with Christ *Rom 6:6*.

**Step 2 Reckon** or **rely upon** the fact that your old nature is already dead, and that you are now alive unto God with a new nature. *Rom 6:11*.

**Step 3 Yield** by an act of your will, your body and its individual members to God. *Rom 6:13*.

*Rom 12:1* says

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**Step 4 Rely** on God by the power of the Holy Spirit to make your freedom from the old nature real in every situation.

What spiritual law now operates in your life? *Rom 8:2*. \_\_\_\_\_

Thus in each situation that you face as you yield to this new law within, relying on the Holy Spirit power, you will discover a new and total freedom from the "law of sin and death".

**Memory verse.** *Col 2:12*.

**Assignment.** During this week spend a considerable amount of time meditating in *Romans 6, 7 and 8*. Underline these key verses in your Bible. *Rom 6:6, 11, 13, 8:1 and 2* and any other verses quickened to you.

Write down on paper any experiences you had during the week in which these principles could be applied.

## STUDIES FOR CHRISTIAN GROWTH

# SOLID FOUNDATIONS

### STUDY NO. 5 Baptism in the Holy Spirit

#### Who is the Holy Spirit?

He is a PERSON, the third person of the triune Godhead. His work and ministry throughout both the Old and New Testaments are of vital importance. (See study on the Godhead for fuller details.)

Under the O.T. dispensation the Holy Spirit was only poured out upon a selected few to enable them to carry out the task God called them to do.

*Judges 6:34* \_\_\_\_\_

*Judges 11:29 (a)* \_\_\_\_\_

In the N.T. dispensation the Holy Spirit is made available to **all** believers in the Baptism of the Holy Spirit

*Acts 2:39*

1. **It is a foundational Doctrine in the New Testament.** *Heb 6:2*  
The Baptism of the Holy Spirit is one of the doctrines included in this statement.
2. **It is foreshadowed in a number of Old Testament Types.** (A Type is an "example" or "figure" or picture of some truth clearly taught in the New Testament — read *1 Cor 10:1-11* note vs 6 and 11 especially).

Feast of Passover      *Exodus 12: 23:15*

Type of Salvation.

Feast of Pentecost      *Exodus 23:16*

Type of Baptism in the Holy Spirit.

This feast was fulfilled on the day of Pentecost. *Acts 2:1-4*.

3. **Foretold by Old Testament Scriptures.**

*Joel 2:28* \_\_\_\_\_

Quoted by Peter on the day of Pentecost *Acts 2:14-18* to establish that what had just taken place *2:1-4* was the fulfilment of *Joel 2*.

Other scriptures and their N.T. counter-part:-

*Isaiah 28:11-12* \_\_\_\_\_ *1 Cor 14:21*

*Isaiah 44:3* \_\_\_\_\_ *Joel 2:28*      *Acts 2:18*      *Jn 7:37*.

*Isaiah 32:15* \_\_\_\_\_ "pour out of my spirit" ref. to baptism.

4. **Foretold by John the Baptist.**

*Mt 3:11* "He shall \_\_\_\_\_

see also *Mk 1:8, Luke 3:16, Jn 1:33*.

5. **Promised by the Father and the Son.**

*Luke 24:49*

*Acts 1:4* "but wait \_\_\_\_\_

6. **Purchased by Jesus through His Atoning Death on Calvary.**

*Acts 2:33*

see also *Gal 3:13-14*.

What was the blessing of Abraham that the Gentiles were to receive through Christ?

**What is the Baptism in the Holy Spirit?**

It is distinct from salvation. In salvation we receive Jesus Christ as saviour and Lord — God's gift to the sinner.  
*Jn 3:16* \_\_\_\_\_

In the Baptism of the Holy Spirit we receive the person of the Holy Spirit, God's gift to the Christian.

Who cannot receive the Spirit of Truth? *Jn 14:17* \_\_\_\_\_

Who can receive the Spirit? *Jn 7:39* \_\_\_\_\_

As a result of receiving the Holy Spirit what does your body then become? *1 Cor 6:19* \_\_\_\_\_

What important change should this bring in our lives? *v20* \_\_\_\_\_

Listed below are examples making distinction between these two experiences.

**Born of the Spirit**

*Jn 3:1-5*

(Impartation of Divine life and nature)

- a) Jesus *Lk 1:35 Mt 1:20*
- b) Disciples *Jn 20:20-23*
- c) Samaritans *Acts 8:5-14*
- d) Paul *Acts 9:1-6, 1 Cor 12:3*
- e) Ephesians *Acts 19:1-5*
- f) Cornelius' household *Acts 10:34-43; 11:14-18*

**Baptised in the Spirit**

*Jn 1:30-33*

(Impartation of Divine ability and power.)

- Luke 3:21-23*
- Luke 24:49; Acts 1:5,8; 2:1-4*
- Acts 8:15-19*
- Acts 9:17-18, 1 Cor 14:18*
- Acts 19: 6-7cp, Eph 1:13*
- Acts 10:44-48*

**What is the evidence of the Baptism in the Holy Spirit?**

(Re-read the scriptures under the heading "Baptised in the Spirit" above).

All through the N.T. the Baptism in the Holy Spirit is attested by the supernatural evidence of "speaking in other tongues"

1. This is the evidence which the Apostles themselves received in their own experience. *Acts 2:1-4, Acts 11:15.*
2. This was the evidence which the Apostles themselves accepted in the experience of others. *Acts 10:45-46, Acts 19:6.*
3. The Apostles never asked for any other alternative evidence.

**What happens when a person is Baptised in the Holy Spirit?**

1. The Holy Spirit comes upon that person in an outward manifestation of His presence. *Acts 2:17, 8:16, 10:44, 19:6.*
2. Inwardly in the likeness of one drinking, receiving the presence and power of the Holy Spirit within, until there comes a point at which the Holy Spirit in turn wells up within the believer and flows forth like a river from within the innermost part of his being. *Jn 7:38-39. Isaiah 12:3.*

The result *Acts 2:4* "And **YOU BEGIN** to speak \_\_\_\_\_"

**On what basis do you receive the Holy Spirit?**

1. He is a free grace gift given by Jesus to you. Not based on personal holiness.
2. Already given and available to all so ask *Luke 11:13* and receive *Acts 19:2.*
3. He is promised to all believers *Acts 2:39.*
4. You personally speak, the Holy Spirit will give you the language *Acts 2:4.*
5. Expect a clear language to flow. Be ready to exalt and glorify Christ in the language of the Holy Spirit.

**Memory Verse.** *Luke 3:16.*

**Homework Assignment.**

Using these and any other scriptures you know, write a paragraph on the importance of exercising the gift of tongues in your devotional life.

*1 Cor 14:4*

*Eph 6:18*

*Eph 5:18-19*

*1 Cor 14:14-15*

*Jude V20.*

*1 Cor 14:2.*



# STUDIES FOR CHRISTIAN GROWTH

# SOLID

# FOUNDATIONS

## STUDY 6. THE PURPOSE OF THE BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT.

### Introduction

The baptism in the Holy Spirit is not the final goal to be attained in the Christian experience, it is the opening of a gateway leading into a new realm of Christian living.

### Only part of God's Total Provision

Only when joined together with all the other parts of God's provisions for Christian living, will the baptism be beneficial, e.g.

- Daily fellowship with the Lord and Bible study.
- Involvement in a local church.
- Living a disciplined Christian life.
- Embracing the dealings of God to develop the fruits of the Spirit in your life.

### A new Realm of Spiritual Conflict

As a logical consequence of the baptism, increased power and blessing from God always brings with it increased opposition from Satan.

In the life of Jesus, it is significant that He never faced a direct attack of the enemy, Satan, until after his baptism in Jordan. Read *Luke 3:21-22 then 4:1-21*.

### Results in the Individual Believer

1. **Power to witness and BE a witness.**

*Luke 24:49* \_\_\_\_\_

*Acts 1:8* \_\_\_\_\_

It is not a question of the words we speak but the power to make those words effective. Character is also involved, we must "be" what we are witnessing about.

2. **To glorify Christ and to make the things of Christ real to us** *Jn 16:14-15*. (Underline in your Bible.)
3. **The baptism gives us a foretaste of the world or age to come** *Heb 6:4-5, Eph 1:13-14*. (Underline in your Bible.)

4. **A supernatural help in prayer.**

There are two different realms of prayer in the Spirit

a) *Eph 6:18* \_\_\_\_\_

cp with *1 Cor 14:14a* \_\_\_\_\_

b) *Roman 8:26* \_\_\_\_\_

5. **The Holy Spirit becomes a guide and teacher in relation to the Scriptures**

*Jn 14:26* \_\_\_\_\_

This does not do away with the ministry of teachers *Eph 4:11*

6. **Daily guidance in the Christian life**

*Rom 8:14* \_\_\_\_\_

*Gal. 5:16a* \_\_\_\_\_

7. **Life and health for the physical body**

*Rom 8:11* \_\_\_\_\_

**8. The outpouring of Divine love into the believer's heart**

*Romans 5:5b*

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For other aspects of the ministry of the Holy Spirit

— The Holy Spirit in the Congregation

— The Holy Spirit in the Preacher

see Derek Prince's book the "Purposes of Pentecost".

**Homework Assignment**

**Either** Read *Luke 4:1-13*. Write a paragraph or two on how you can overcome the temptations you will face in the Spirit-filled life, using the Lord's life as an example.

Other Scriptures which may be helpful — *1 Peter 5:8-9, Eph 6:17, Rev 12:10-11*.

**or** Take one aspect of the results of the baptism in the believer's life and write a paragraph explaining it more fully.

**Memory Verse.** *Acts 2:4*.

## STUDIES FOR CHRISTIAN GROWTH

# SOLID FOUNDATIONS

### STUDY 7. THE LAYING ON OF HANDS.

#### Old Testament

Laying on of hands was an accepted doctrine from the days of the patriarchs. It was an important act associated with imparting blessing and authority. *Genesis 48:14*.

It was revered and not entered into lightly.

#### New Testament

In the New Testament there are five distinct purposes.

1. **Healing of the unsaved**

*Mk 16:18 (c)* \_\_\_\_\_

“they shall recover” — this is not necessarily instantaneous. Read *Acts 14:3; 19:11-12. Mk 6:5*.

2. **To impart the gift of the Holy Spirit**

Five times in the book of Acts we see references to people being baptised in the Holy Spirit.

- |                                 |                     |
|---------------------------------|---------------------|
| a) In the upper room.           | <i>Acts 2:4</i>     |
| b) The new converts of Samaria. | <i>Acts 8:14-17</i> |
| c) Saul of Tarsus in Damascus.  | <i>Acts 9:17</i>    |
| d) The household of Cornelius.  | <i>Acts 10:44</i>   |
| e) The disciples at Ephesus.    | <i>Acts 19:1-6</i>  |

If you study these events you will find that three out of five received the experience through the laying on of hands.

Which ones were they?

- (i) \_\_\_\_\_
- (ii) \_\_\_\_\_
- (iii) \_\_\_\_\_

3. **Imparting of Spiritual Gifts and Ministries**

Read *1 Tim 4:14; 2 Tim 1:6; 1 Tim 1:18*.

This was done by Paul and the elders in the presence of the congregation. Timothy seems to have received a ministry. (I believe it was that of an apostle) accompanied by prophecy.

4. **Commissioning to the work of the Lord**

Read *Acts 13:1-4* Sent forth by the Holy Spirit with the laying on of hands.

The results — read *Acts 14:26-27*

5. **Ordination of Deacons and Elders**

*Acts 6:3-6; Acts 14:23*.

#### Word of Warning

*1 Timothy 5:22* \_\_\_\_\_

Indiscriminate laying on of hands could be dangerous.

#### Summary

1. It must never be exercised lightly.
2. The direction of the Holy Spirit should be sought for whom, when and how to pray.
3. The one praying must be empowered with the Holy Spirit. Remember all power flows under pressure.

**Memory Verse.** *1 Timothy 5:22*.

#### Homework Assignment

Using a concordance jot down half a dozen Scriptures from the Old Testament on this subject.

## STUDIES FOR CHRISTIAN GROWTH

# SOLID FOUNDATIONS

### STUDY 8. THE RESURRECTION. The fifth doctrine of *Hebrews 6*.

#### Introduction

In this world of insecurity, where nothing is beyond the reach of decay and destruction, a Christian needs a very real hope, an anchor for the soul, this hope is the resurrection of the dead. *1 Corinthians 15:19*.

#### OLD TESTAMENT

The resurrection was the hope and belief of the Old Testament saints. Jacob had his bones carried out of Egypt for this purpose. Job said in *Job 19:25*, "though worms destroy my body yet in my flesh shall I see God". David said in *Psalms 49:15*

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read also *Daniel 12:2; Isaiah 26:19*.

What happened to the Old Testament saint at death?

Read *Genesis 37:35; Job 17:16*.

What happened to the unrighteous at death?

Read *Psalms 9:17; Psalm 49; Ezekiel 32:18-30*.

#### NEW TESTAMENT

Lazarus and the rich man.

Read *Luke 16*. What can we tell from this story about (a) the state of consciousness of man's spirit after death?

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(b) the two separate places under the earth?

#### CHRIST'S DEATH AND RESURRECTION

What effect did this have on Old Testament saints who had died?

Read (*Matthew 27:50-53*)

#### CHRIST IS OUR PATTERN AND PROOF

*Revelation 1:5 (Amplified)*

*1 Corinthians 15:12-22*.

*2 Corinthians 4:14*.

What is our guarantee of resurrection?

*Romans 8:11* \_\_\_\_\_

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From reading *Romans 4:24,25* and *Romans 10:9* explain why this doctrine is so important.

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#### FULL ATONEMENT MADE BY CHRIST

Christ's death and descension into hell paid full price for our access into the presence of God. Christians now pass into the presence of God at death.e.g. Stephen's death. *Acts 7:55-59, 2 Corinthians 5:8*.

**RESURRECTION** is the reuniting of the spirit and body.

When will this occur?

For Christians: at His Coming  
*1 Corinthians 15:23-24*.

For unbelievers: at the end (after the Millennium)  
*1 Corinthians 15:23-24 and Revelation 20:5-13*.

All will eventually be raised from the dead *John 5:28-29*.

## THE SAME BODY BUT CHANGED

**Resurrection** means — a rising up. If it was a new body it would not be resurrection. *Luke 21:16-18, Luke 24:36-40.*

List some changes found in the body of Jesus after His resurrection \_\_\_\_\_

*Luke 24:31, 36 and 51.*

*Luke 24:39*

Jesus ate, drank and spoke. *Luke 24:43.*

In what ways can we expect our bodies to be changed?

Read *1 Corinthians 15:42-54* and write down some changes. \_\_\_\_\_

What effects will believing and remembering we will be resurrected have in our lives?

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. Comfort                                 | <i>1 Thessalonians 4:18</i><br><i>1 Corinthians 15:19</i>   |
| 2. Hope                                    | <i>1 Thessalonians 4:13</i>   |
| 3. A pressing on                           | <i>Philippians 3:10-21</i>  |
| 4. An ability to keep going under pressure | <i>1 Corinthians 15:58;</i><br><i>2 Corinthians 4:16;</i><br><i>1 Corinthians 15:32;</i><br><i>Hebrews 11:35.</i> |

### Varying degrees of Glory

In the resurrection we will have varying degrees of glory according to the life we have lived. This can help us to press toward the mark too. Read *Hebrews 11:35; 1 Corinthians 15:41-42; Daniel 12:3; 2 Corinthians 4:17.*

**Memory Verse.** *1 Corinthians 15:53.*

### Homework assignment

Write a paragraph headed 'How the hope of resurrection helps my life'. . . .

## STUDIES FOR CHRISTIAN GROWTH

# SOLID FOUNDATIONS

### STUDY 9. ETERNAL JUDGEMENT.

This is the sixth doctrine of *Hebrews 6*.

#### Introduction

God is righteous.

God is our judge.

*Genesis 18:25* says "shall not the judge of all the earth do right?" *Psalms 119:160* "and everyone of thy righteous judgments endureth for ever."

Read also *Hebrews 12:22-24*; *Judges 11:27*.

God is understanding. *John 5:26,27*.

Who has God committed judgement to? \_\_\_\_\_ To what has Jesus committed judgement to?

#### Four main principles of God's judgement.

Read *John 12:47-48*.

1. **According to truth.**  
Nothing can be hid. There is a record kept in heaven. *Romans 2:1-2*; *Ecclesiastes 5:3-6*; *Matthew 12:36*.
2. **According to deeds.** *Romans 2:6*. These deeds include the intents of the heart. *Romans 2:16*; *1 Corinthians 4:5*.  
"Who will render to every man according to his deeds". *1 Peter 1:17*. *Revelation 20:12*.
3. **No respect of persons with God.** *Romans 2:11*.  
God does not judge by race, religions, profession, physical appearance, social position, wealth, education, etc, as we tend to. *1 Samuel 16:7*

4. **According to Light.**  
What about those who have never heard the gospel? **Remember, God is righteous and full of mercy.**  
Nature reveals God. *Romans 1:20*. God's foreknowledge. He knows if we will accept the gospel or not and is able to keep the gospel from those who will *refuse* it, to lessen their judgement. *Romans 8:29*.  
Another example of judgement according to light is *Matthew 11:20-24* and *Luke 12:47*."

#### God's judgements in time or history

Can you write down some examples? \_\_\_\_\_

*2 Peter 2:6*; *Ezekiel 16:49*; *Acts 5:1-10*; *Leviticus 26:27-33*; and *Genesis 7*.

Some reasons for judgement in time include:-

- a) as an example
- b) hereditary influence — *Exodus 20:5*
- c) polluting the earth — venereal disease — fornication , *Jeremiah 3:2*.

**Full and final judgement upon men's actions** is not administered in time. *1 Timothy 5:24,25*.

"some men's sins are open beforehand, going before to judgement; and some men they follow after . . ."

Read also *Ecclesiastes 8:11*.

#### JUDGEMENT IN ETERNITY

No more time. *Revelation 10*.

- The three judgements —
1. the judgement seat of Christ
  2. the throne of Christ's glory
  3. the great white throne.

## 1. The judgement seat of Christ

Christians will be judged first  
NOT FOR SIN

*Romans 14:10,11,12.*

We need have no fear of final condemnation as our righteousness is not judged. We have the righteousness of Christ.

*John 5:24*

*John 3:18.*

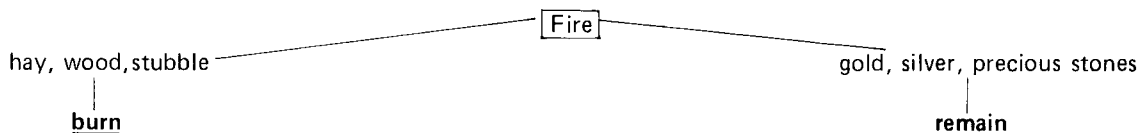
*Romans 8:1*

*1 John 1:9.*

*1 John 2:1-2.*

**This judgement is for rewards**

It is not a judgement of our soul but of our works. (Deeds) *Romans 2:6.* Our work is tried or judged by fire — *1 Corinthians 3:11-15.*



It is therefore quality not \_\_\_\_\_

How may I serve Christ in this life so that my works will stand the test of fire?

**Three points to consider**

(i) motives — to glorify Christ and to do His will

(ii) obedience — principles in His Word.

(iii) power the flesh

or

the Spirit

↓  
our own enthusiasm  
our own strength.

↓  
His grace.  
His strength.

We are to strive according to His working. *Colossians 1:29.*

This requires faith. Faithfulness is also important — *Matthew 25:21,23.*

## 2. The throne of Christ's Glory

This is the judgement of the Gentile nations at the close of the great tribulation — the word 'brethren' here (*Matthew 25:31-46*) refers to the Jews as a nation. Nations who show compassion on the Jews during the tribulation enter into the blessings of the millenium.

## 3. Great White Throne

*Revelation 20:11-15.*

This is the close of the millenium and includes all the remaining dead "and whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire".

### God's purpose — Reconciliation

At the close of this final judgement all those who have accepted by faith the propitiatory blood of Christ's cross will be eternally reconciled to God. And all those who have not been reconciled in this way will be eternally rejected. *Colossians 1:19-20.*

**Memory Verse** "It is appointed unto man, once to die and after death the judgement".

### Assignment

In your life what effects can knowing this truth have, both negatively and positively?  
Write a paragraph.

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## STUDIES FOR CHRISTIAN GROWTH

# SOLID FOUNDATIONS

### STUDY 1 - THE NATURE OF MAN.

#### 1. CREATED IN GOD'S IMAGE

*Gen. 1:26, 27* - "And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion ....."

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created He him;

God determined to make man in His (God's) own image; that is, having the qualities or attributes of God. This distinguishes man from the lower animals which God also created.

What are some of the qualities of God's image in Man?

- |                              |   |
|------------------------------|---|
| i) <b>Moral Character</b>    | The nature and character of God is felt by humans. Animals may feel 'wrong', but not 'sin'.   |
| ii) <b>Reason</b>            | Animals are <b>guided by their instincts</b> , but man possesses intelligence and reason. By these <b>he guides his instincts</b> . |
| iii) <b>Capacity for God</b> | Man is created with a desire and an ability to know, love and serve, God. Animals have no such capacity.                            |
| iv) <b>Immortality</b>       | Through Jesus Christ, man has immortality and eternity as his possession. The Bible makes no such promises to animals.              |

Look up these scripture references pertaining to the above 4 statements.

*1 Sam. 13:14, Matt. 16:8, Psalm 42:1,2, 1 John 2:24, 25.*

We know that God created man with the ability to reproduce himself. So we can assume then, that it was God's purpose that man multiply and in so doing, multiply the image and likeness of God in the earth. Read *Gen. 1:28*. Of course this intention of God was interrupted when man bowed the knee to God's enemy Satan, and instead multiplied the nature and attributes of the devil in the earth. (**Note:** The Studies on 'SIN' and 'SALVATION' deal at length with this subject and relate how that through Jesus the original intention of God for man is restored, for those who receive Him.)

Write out *John 1:12* \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

#### Original Man Created

In *Gen. 2:7* it says that God formed man of \_\_\_\_\_

Thus man's body was made, while his spiritual qualities came when God "breathed \_\_\_\_\_"  
 \_\_\_\_\_

#### 2. MAN IS TRIUNE

Man is a trinity, i.e. he consists of three parts, possessing **body, soul and spirit**.

This is consistent with man being created in the image of God, He being "**Father**", "**Son**" and "**Holy Spirit**".

Write out *1 Thess. 5:23* \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Man is a complete being and it is difficult to speak of his composition in terms of 'parts' as though one were describing a motor car. However, for the sake of simplicity in this study we will endeavour to define the various aspects and functions of the immaterial and material parts of man.

#### The Soul

The Hebrew word is "Nephesh". In *Gen. 1:20* it is translated 'life' and in *Gen. 12:5* it is translated 'soul'. It is often used to include the whole man. The Greek word is "Psuche", which according to Young means 'animal life', 'breath'. It is translated 'soul' in *Matt. 10:28; 16:26*.

So, often the translators of the Bible have rendered both "Nephesh" and "Psuche" as 'LIFE'. When the scriptures speak of the soul departing at death, the meaning is that the 'life' departs.

There are three aspects of man's constitution which comprise the soul, viz. MIND, WILL, EMOTIONS. (See 'THE HEART OF MAN').

#### The Spirit

The 'spirit' of man is sometimes difficult for the natural mind to comprehend. It can be likened to the third person of the Holy Trinity, the Holy Spirit. Man's spirit is more than just a glib cliché used to describe his determination or grit. It is a very real part of man, put there by God and intended by Him to be the administration centre of his being. It is God's intention that we be motivated, directed, and controlled from our SPIRIT, rather than from our intellect or emotions.



Our spirit has 3 functions:

- i) Conscience (see 'THE HEART OF MAN').
- ii) Communion with God — the place where God dwells within us.
- iii) Intuition (inward tuition) means — 'teaching from within'.  
(see 'WALKING IN THE SPIRIT')

What happens to our spirit at Salvation?

*1 Cor. 6:17* \_\_\_\_\_

*Psalms 18:28* \_\_\_\_\_

*Prov. 20:27* \_\_\_\_\_

Our spirit has feeling. This feeling is motivated by the Holy Spirit. When we sense God's presence and feel His nearness, it is our spirit desiring to commune with Him. God is Spirit and therefore our fellowship with Him is in spirit. Read *John 4:23*.

### The Body

Like the soul and spirit, the body has three aspects or drives. viz. SELF-PRESERVATION, HUNGER, SEX. Five senses: touching; smelling; hearing; seeing; tasting.

### 3. THE HEART OF MAN

The HEART, as referred to in scripture, is our soul plus our conscience (part of our spirit), and is the gateway to our spirit. Whatever comes **into** or **out of** our life, does so through our heart.

Write *Matt. 15:19* \_\_\_\_\_

- |                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| a) <b>The Mind</b>       | Thoughts originate in the heart. Read: <i>Matt. 9:4. Mark 2:6-8. Gen. 6:5. Heb. 4:12.</i> |
| b) <b>The Will</b>       | Read: <i>Acts 11:23, Mark 3:5.</i>  |
| c) <b>The Emotions</b>   | <i>John 16:6</i>  |
|                          | <i>John 16:22</i>   |
| d) <b>The Conscience</b> | Write out <i>Acts 2:37</i> _____  |

Our heart is — cleansed at salvation, and purification is a process that continues after salvation.

### 4. WALKING IN THE SPIRIT

*Gal. 5:16* — "walk in the Spirit and ye shall not fulfil the lusts of the flesh".

The natural man lives his life, being led and guided by his reason or intellect and is motivated by his **natural** desires.

However, it is God's intention that the Christian learns to exercise the spirit within and to submit to the voice from within.

This brings us into conflict with the soulish mind which has been trained to analyse and logically collate. The mind needs to be "renewed" (see *Rom. 12:2*) to think as God thinks and reason as God reasons.

#### a) **Intuition**

Intuition is the recognition of the moving of the spirit within. A feeling or sensation bringing a 'witness' deep within one's being. This is a faculty to be learned. Just as we have learned through experience to recognise sensations of the body such as pain, hunger, pleasure, heat etc., so we must learn to recognise the sensations in our spirit, such as joy, grief, danger.

God often uses natural things to teach us how to recognise the same sensation from a spiritual source.

This is where our memory helps. Read what *Heb. 5:14* says about this.

Learning to walk in the SPIRIT is learning to walk by INTUITION. We can only do this with the help of the Holy Spirit.

## STUDIES FOR CHRISTIAN GROWTH

# SOLID FOUNDATIONS

### STUDY 2 - THE LORD'S SUPPER.

The Lord's Supper is that outward rite in which an assembly of believers eats bread that is broken and drinks wine that is poured forth, in token of their constant dependence on the once crucified but now risen Christ, as the source of their spiritual life.

#### 1. AN ORDINANCE INSTITUTED BY CHRIST

"Ordinance": A rite, or ceremony.

Jesus instituted only two ordinances while here on earth.

1. Water Baptism. Matt. 28:19; Mark 16:16.

2. Breaking of bread, communion, the Lord's supper. Read Luke 22:19-20. and 1 Cor. 11:23-25.

Jesus appointed this rite to be observed by His followers in remembrance of His death. Only after His death could it completely fulfil its purpose as a feast of commemoration.

#### 2. THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE COMMUNION

God instructed Israel to observe a series of feasts throughout the year to commemorate events or truths. The first feast was called PASSOVER and this feast was a **yearly** reminder to Israel that it was God who delivered *them from* the bondage of Egypt, through the sacrifice and shed blood of the lamb. Read *Exodus chapter 12*.

What was this day to be to them? (v14) \_\_\_\_\_

Jesus used the natural observance of this feast to reveal and explain its real meaning.

What did John the Baptist proclaim when he saw Jesus? (*John 1:29*). \_\_\_\_\_

On the eve of the Passover when Jesus Himself was about to be slain as the true Passover Lamb, then it was that the Lord gathered His disciples together and gave them the ordinance of the Lord's Supper or the Communion. He finished the **old ceremony** that He might establish the **new covenant**.

Write out *Heb. 10:9* \_\_\_\_\_

Read 1 Cor. 15:46.

#### 3. THE SYMBOLISM OF THE COMMUNION

We eat natural food to sustain our bodies. **The Lord's Supper** sets forth the death of Christ as the **sustaining power** of the life of a believer. 1 Cor. 11:26 - "For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink the cup, ye proclaim the Lord's death till He come;"

What does Jesus say His blood represents? (*Mark 14:24*) \_\_\_\_\_

The word "COVENANT" means, a contract or agreement.

The Lord's Supper reminds us of the covenant which ensures our salvation. It also symbolizes our need to personally partake of the benefits of that death. Write out 1 Cor. 11:24 from "Take eat: \_\_\_\_\_"

It symbolizes the union of Christians with Christ their head.

Write out 1 Cor. 10:17 \_\_\_\_\_

#### 4. THE ELEMENTS

The elements are **Bread and Wine**.

The bread that Jesus used at Passover was undoubtedly unleavened bread. However, there is nothing in scripture to suggest that **only** unleavened bread may be used when celebrating the Lord's Supper. And although the wine that Jesus poured out was probably fermented juice of the grape, there is nothing in the ordinance which forbids the use of unfermented grape juice. Obedience to the command of the Lord requires only that we use the "fruit of the vine" - *Matt. 26:29*.

Both the bread and the wine should be taken at communion, the bread first then the wine, although the order is not essential.

Of the bread, Jesus said simply - "take eat;" and of the wine - "drink ye all of it."

**THE BREAD:-** Speaks of the broken body of Christ.

Jesus said— "I am the bread of life.. — *John 6:35*.

In Exodus 12 God said that they were to **eat** the lamb that was slain. The partaking of the lamb was to make them whole. Read *Psalms 105* which speaks of Israel's deliverance from Egypt. V37 says that there was not one feeble person among them.

Christ's body was broken for our healing and deliverance from sickness.

What does Paul say will happen if we don't discern this properly at the remembrance of the Lord's Supper?

*1 Cor. 11:30*. \_\_\_\_\_

**THE WINE:-** Speaks of the shed blood of Christ.

Jesus said, "This is my blood of the new testament which is shed for many for the remission of sins."

*Matt. 26:28*.

Again read in Exodus 12 where God said that when He saw the blood sprinkled upon the doorposts, He would pass over.

#### 5. **WHO CAN PARTAKE OF COMMUNION?**

The Lord's Supper is definitely **not** for the unsaved.

Christ celebrated this supper not with the world at large, but with His disciples.

What is the key word in *1 Cor. 11:28*? \_\_\_\_\_

There needs to be a searching of one's heart before participation in the Lord's Supper.

The communion service helps us to frequently examine our personal relationship with the Lord and in so doing, helps maintain a continuing spiritual growth.

**CHILDREN:** Until a child has come to a proper understanding of the purpose of the communion, and until they have personally received Christ as their Saviour, they should not partake of communion.

Read *1 Cor. 11:27-32* where Paul speaks of the consequences of eating and drinking "unworthily".

Unsaved children can receive the benefits of the communion through their believing family. At Passover the lamb was taken for the 'household', *Ex. 12:3*, they were covered by the blood through the faith of the parents.

#### 6. **A FEAST OF LIFE**

The communion is not just an ordinance of ceremony. Many can testify to receiving healing when taking communion, and others to receiving revelation of Jesus Himself.

What happened to the disciples when they broke bread in *Luke 24:35*? \_\_\_\_\_

In *John 6:52-63* Jesus clearly taught that we must eat His flesh and drink His blood, not as a material feeding but rather as a 'spiritual participation'.

#### 7. **WHERE, WHEN AND HOW OFTEN SHOULD WE PARTAKE IN COMMUNION?**

*Acts 20:7* — "And upon the **first day of the week** when the disciples **came together** to break bread — "

The place of assembling does not appear important from scripture. (Read *Acts 2:46*), as long as it is an assembly of believers.

Paul assumes that this would take place in church in *1 Cor. 11:18*.

The Lord's Supper is to be often repeated, symbolizing Christ's constant nourishment of the soul. In the New Testament there are instances of it being held every day. Obviously discretion needs to be exercised.

#### 8. **THE CONSEQUENCES OF PARTAKING IN COMMUNION**

**For the Worthy:**

"Ye do proclaim the Lord's death till He come." *1 Cor. 11:26*.

"In remembrance of Me." *1 Cor. 11:24-25*.

"Hath eternal life" and "He shall live by Me." *John 6:54*.

**For The Unworthy:**

"Eateth and drinketh damnation to himself." *1 Cor. 11:29*.

"Guilty of the body and the blood of the Lord." *1 Cor. 11:27*.

"For this cause many are weak and sickly among you and many are dead." *1 Cor. 11:30*.

"Ye have no life in you." *John 6:53*.

**Exercise:**

Write in not more than 100 words what you believe to be the purpose of the communion and its significance in your life.

Reading:— "The Lord's Supper" — Arthur Wallis.

## STUDIES FOR CHRISTIAN GROWTH

# SOLID FOUNDATIONS

### STUDY 3 – TITHING.

#### 1. A. What is a Tithe?

A tithe is simply the first tenth part of our income, systematically set apart for God. In one sense, if we have given our lives to Christ, all that we own is His, but in a more specific sense God has laid claim to that first tenth of our income.

Who owns the tithe? *Lev. 27:30.* \_\_\_\_\_

##### i) Tithing before the Law

Abraham, a man greatly blessed of God in both a material and spiritual sense, gave tithes of **ALL** to Melchizedek the **High Priest** of God.

What did Jacob promise God in *Gen. 28:22*? \_\_\_\_\_

This was **VOLUNTARY** tithing.

##### ii) Tithing under the Law

Tithing was later incorporated into the laws of Moses and the people of Israel were commanded to tithe. *Read Lev. 27:30-32.*

This was **COMPULSORY** tithing.

##### iii) Tithing under Grace in the New Covenant

Jesus taught tithing. *Matt. 23:23* speaking of tithing He says, "*this ye ought to have done*".

What did Jesus say in *Luke 6:38*? "*Give* \_\_\_\_\_

This is tithing **WILLINGLY**.

#### B. Why does God regard Tithing as Important?

i) Tithing is God's way of financing His work and the ministry of the Church.

ii) Tithing is God's way of providing His people with financial and material security.

What does *Prov. 11:25* say will happen to they that give? \_\_\_\_\_

God's principles and approach to living are diametrically opposed to the outlook of those in the world. The world says "get what you can and hang on to it." God says, "*Give and you shall receive more.*" *Read Malachi 3:7-10.*

How can man rob God? \_\_\_\_\_

What happens if we rob God? \_\_\_\_\_

What will God do if we tithe? \_\_\_\_\_

From these scriptures we can see how that our financial dealings with God can influence our lives in a very real way.

#### C. Where do we give Tithes?

Where does it say to bring the tithes in *Malachi 3:10*? \_\_\_\_\_

A storehouse is used to store the seed that we sow and the food that we eat. Usually the place that meets these requirements is the local church assembly where you fellowship. It is here then that we bring all of our tithes, the tenth part.

#### 2. GIVING

"Giving in an offering is an amount over and above that which we pay in tithes."

God has taught us much about giving.

What did God give in *John 3:16*? \_\_\_\_\_

What motivated God to give this? \_\_\_\_\_

God **gave** His Son and **reaped** a vast harvest of sons.

This principle of **SOWING** and **REAPING** is very evident in scripture and has to do with our giving.

What did the Apostle John wish in *3 John 2*? \_\_\_\_\_

Read *2 Cor. 8:9*.

In *2 Cor. 9:6-7* Paul is speaking of "giving to the Lord's work."

What determines the measure by which we reap? \_\_\_\_\_

Write out *Gal. 6:7* \_\_\_\_\_

Read what Jesus said in *Matt. 14:19-21*.

God desires to take that which we give and multiply it back.

#### A. Alms-Giving

"Giving to the poor and needy."

The giving of alms is the responsibility of every believer.

What is the key word in *Matt. 6:2* (first line)? \_\_\_\_\_

Jesus was giving instructions about HOW to do alms, taking for granted that it was already being done.

Is alms-giving a secret? \_\_\_\_\_

What did Jesus say in *Matt. 6:3*? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you think alms can produce something in our lives? \_\_\_\_\_

(See *Luke 11:41*). If so, what? \_\_\_\_\_

How did God reward Cornelius for alms-giving? *Acts 10*.

#### B. Wisdom in Giving

Although the Bible teaches us to sow liberally, that does not mean we can give unwisely.

A farmer does not sow seed at random. He first chooses the best soil, then after preparing it he selects the best quality seed that will give the maximum yield. We as Christians must seek God's direction where to give and how much. Choosing "soil" that will bring forth a rich harvest.

#### EXERCISE

Read through *2 Cor. 9* and *Psalms 112*.

What 3 things do you see as a result of God's people giving?

Read *Mark 12:41-44*. What do you think this says concerning our attitude to giving?

Do you think giving can be a ministry? Say why.

Memorise this verse: "Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver." *2 Cor. 9:7*.

## STUDIES FOR CHRISTIAN GROWTH

# SOLID FOUNDATIONS

### STUDY 4 – WORSHIP.

Paul said that we are temples of God, *1 Cor. 3:17*, and we as such must believe that within the walls of these temples there will be continual worship, the offering up of spiritual sacrifices and the resounding of praise, even high praises to God.

#### 1. EVERY CHRISTIAN'S THREE-FOLD MINISTRY

*1 Peter 2:5* says we are a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices. If we are all priests then we are all ministers, because the function of a priest is not unto himself, but to minister to others and to God. EVERY CHRISTIAN is a priest and EVERY CHRISTIAN is called to a balanced three-fold ministry.

viz:

- i) Ministry to God in worship.
- ii) Ministry to one another in Christ *1 Peter 4:10*.
- iii) Ministry to non-believers *Mark 16:15*.

The first, to God in worship, is one of the most important subjects in the scriptures with the theme of worship going from *Genesis* to *Revelation*.

#### 2. IS WORSHIP IMPORTANT?

Yes. Satan knew the value of worship and recognised its importance when he offered Jesus the world if Jesus would only worship him (Satan). What did Jesus say to Satan regarding worship (*Matt. 4:10*)?

\_\_\_\_\_

*Deut. 5:9* is God's commandment to worship Him only.

#### 3. WHY SHOULD WE WORSHIP?

- (a) *Psalms 50:23* \_\_\_\_\_
- (b) *Psalms 102:13-18; Isa. 12:4* \_\_\_\_\_
- (c) *Psalms 115:8; 2 Cor. 3:18* \_\_\_\_\_
- (d) *Proverbs 27:21; Mal. 3:2* \_\_\_\_\_
- (e) *Psalms 22:3* \_\_\_\_\_
- (f) *Isa. 60:18; Psalms 100:4* \_\_\_\_\_

#### 4. HOW ARE WE TO WORSHIP?

Jesus tells us how to worship.

- (a) *John 4:24*      Worship in \_\_\_\_\_
- (b) *John 4:24*      Worship in \_\_\_\_\_
- (c) *Psalms 111:1*    Worship with \_\_\_\_\_
- (d) *Mark 7:7-9*      Not \_\_\_\_\_

#### 5. WHO SHOULD WORSHIP?

*Psalms 134:1* says who should worship God. \_\_\_\_\_

#### 6. WHAT IS WORSHIP?

Worship is the prostration of our spirit before God, an acknowledgement of and submission to His Lordship, a bowing of our hearts to Almighty God.

Write out *Psalms 95:6* \_\_\_\_\_

#### 7. WHEN DO WE WORSHIP?

- Heb. 13:15* \_\_\_\_\_
- Psalms 146:1-2* \_\_\_\_\_
- Psalms 34:1* \_\_\_\_\_
- Psalms 35:27* \_\_\_\_\_
- Psalms 145:2* \_\_\_\_\_

**8. WHERE ARE WE TO WORSHIP?**

- (a) In privacy (at home). Write out *Psalm 149:5* \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(b) At Church. Write out *Psalm 22:22* \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(c) Before men. Read *2 Cor. 3:2; Psalm 40:3; Psalm 126:2*.

**9. IN WHAT WAYS CAN WE WORSHIP GOD?**

- (a) *"I beseech you therefore brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service."* *ROM. 12:1*.  
Our very lives must represent an attitude of worship unto God. The words we speak, the things we do, the places we go, the thoughts we think, should all express our worship.
- (b) There need to be specific times in our daily routine when we draw aside to worship God in "Quietness", allowing our spirit to express our adoration of Him while we wait in His presence with our minds centered upon Jesus.
- (c) PRAISE. Praise is an 'expression' of our thanks and adoration for the goodness of God. King David has left us with a pattern of praise and a wealth of information on why and how to praise our heavenly Lord.  
Was praise just for the Jews in David's time? Paul answers in *Rom. 15:9-11*.  
Praise involves our whole being, and in the Psalms David outlines nine ways to praise God. See if you can list them.
- i) *Psalm 34:1; 40:16* \_\_\_\_\_
  - ii) *Psalm 32:11; 5:11* \_\_\_\_\_
  - iii) *Psalm 68:4; 104:33* \_\_\_\_\_
  - iv) *Psalm 150:3-5* \_\_\_\_\_
  - v) *Psalm 119:48; 63:4* \_\_\_\_\_
  - vi) *Psalm 98:8; 47:1* \_\_\_\_\_
  - vii) *Psalm 149:3; 150:4* \_\_\_\_\_
  - viii) *Psalm 95:6* \_\_\_\_\_
  - ix) *Psalm 134:1-2* \_\_\_\_\_

It can be clearly seen from these that praise is not passive, but rather active.

What does JUDAH mean? (*Gen. 29:35*) \_\_\_\_\_

What tribe always led Israel into battle? (*Judges 1:1-2*) \_\_\_\_\_

What does this signify? \_\_\_\_\_

What did praise do for Israel in *2 Chron. 20*? \_\_\_\_\_

PRAISE AND WORSHIP BEGINS IN THE SPIRIT OF MAN, IS GOVERNED BY THE SOUL OR WILL, AND IS EXPRESSED IN THE WHOLE MAN.

Further reading material: "Let us Praise"  
— E. Judson Cornwall.

## STUDIES FOR CHRISTIAN GROWTH

# SOLID FOUNDATIONS

### STUDY 5 – FELLOWSHIP.

One of Satan's most frequent ways in getting the Christian to slip away, is to make him feel that he is on his own, that no one cares for him and that the problems that he has are peculiar to himself alone. He will also try to tell us that we needn't worry about other people. "As long as you have God who needs other people?" However, the Christian that falls for that lie forgets that God has said that we are lively stones being built **together** into a spiritual house. *1 Peter 2:5; Eph. 2:20-22.*

*Fellowship (GK) KOINONIA* — describes our relationship as a community of mutual sharers, together with the love that God gives us (AGAPE). *John 13:34; 1 John 3:23.*

Fellowship was found in heaven before time began, (*John 17:24*) and creation was the outcome (*Genesis 1:1*). The fellowship of the Godhead resulted in birth. If there is no fellowship there is no spiritual birth. In desiring fellowship with Jesus spiritual birth results.

What preceded Pentecost? *Acts 1:14.* \_\_\_\_\_

This brought about the birth of the church.

What overcomes the world? *1 John 5:4.* \_\_\_\_\_

Because of this Satan fears the fellowship that brings forth something that he cannot stop. Revivals are born from true unity and fellowship. Thus we can see how important for the Christian true fellowship really is.

#### FELLOWSHIP DEMANDS:

#### 1. COMMITMENT — to God and to each other.

Jesus has commanded us to love one another and if we are to be truly committed to Him we must obey Him. What does *1 John 4:20-21* say about this? \_\_\_\_\_

To be committed we have to relinquish certain rights. Commitment costs us something.

Why commitment? Because we have certain things in our lives that hinder fellowship.

##### (a) Fear (shyness)

Read *Hebrews 13:5b-6* and *1 John 4:18*. Many people fear to open themselves or approach others. How can these verses help to overcome this fear? \_\_\_\_\_

##### (b) Striving

This also can be a hindrance to fellowship and often springs from the same source as does fear. What does *Galatians 5:22-26* say concerning this? \_\_\_\_\_

#### 2. SUBMISSION

*John 13:1* Jesus shows how commitment leads to submission.

Study *Eph. 5:18-21*. What does vs. 18 talk about? \_\_\_\_\_

*Verses 19-21* lead us in progression to do what? \_\_\_\_\_

Paul tells us in *Philippians 2:1-4* that we should do certain things.

What are they?

1:2 \_\_\_\_\_

2:3 \_\_\_\_\_

3:4 \_\_\_\_\_

4:4 (a) \_\_\_\_\_

(b) \_\_\_\_\_

#### 3. A PLACE

Look up *Acts 2:46-47* and write down where the early church fellowshiped:

(a) \_\_\_\_\_

(b) \_\_\_\_\_



A. **The Church**

Every Christian needs to belong to a fellowship of believers because:

- The concept of the Body of Christ is a truth that has been restored to God's people.
- We need a local church for discipline and protection.
- God has a place for us in which we will feel needed. *Deut. 12:5-14.*

Therefore we need to seek out our spiritual home and be faithful to it. *Hebrews 10:25.*

B. **The Home**

Hospitality is a requirement for all Christians. *Hebrews 13:1-2.*

What happens when we are given to hospitality? *Matthew 25:31,40.* \_\_\_\_\_

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**CONCLUSION**

It is important to realise that we will not reach the same level of fellowship with everyone. Even Jesus had those who were especially close to Him. They were:

1. *John 20:2* \_\_\_\_\_
2. *Mark 5:37* \_\_\_\_\_
3. *Luke 9:1* \_\_\_\_\_
4. *Luke 10:1* \_\_\_\_\_
5. *Acts 1:15* \_\_\_\_\_

To have a really close relationship with someone costs us something. For you "have to give to receive" and in giving, the protective facade that we all have has to come down. However, although it would seem that by being open with a friend we make ourselves vulnerable, the truth is that fellowship will only reach its zenith and be truly fulfilling if we expose ourselves. We must remember that we need to develop this relationship with members of our own sex. To do so with the opposite sex apart from husbands, wives or fiances can cause real problems.

Finally, if you are lonely ask yourself, "Am I prepared to be a friend? Am I prepared to open myself up?" Then begin to put your situation before the Lord, ask Him to help you develop the type of friendship that He speaks of in *John 13:34-35.*

God bless you as you learn to love others in this way.

Listening Material:

"Accepted in the Beloved" — David Rees-Thomas  
Living Word Tape Library No. 33.

## STUDIES FOR CHRISTIAN GROWTH

# SOLID FOUNDATIONS

### STUDY 6 – SUBMISSION.

Submission means to “Accept Authority”; to be obedient not only in conduct but in spirit.

In the New Testament there are two Greek words which involve the thought of submission. These are:—

- i) HUPOTASSO – SUBJECTION – this word is primarily a military term meaning to rank under. (HUPO – under; TASSO – arrange).
- ii) HUPEIKO – SUBMIT – to retire or withdraw (EIKO – to yield).

There is in man an inbuilt principle to go his own way, to “do his own thing”. Satan’s nature of pride and rebellion was imparted to Adam when he disobeyed God in the garden and has subsequently been passed on to all mankind. Submission is in total opposition to the natural man and to the spirit of this world.

It is important to realise that submission is not merely outward obedience but is a quality of the heart. It involves learning what the will of God is and then obeying it with gladness.

It is not an attitude of resignation to something that on occasions we don’t like, but a positive attitude of faith that God will honour our obedience.

Closely related to submission are the authorities that God has said we are to submit to. The dictionary defines authority as “the right to enforce obedience”. Write down what *James 4:6-7* says about submission:—

Give the promise of these verses \_\_\_\_\_

Accepting Jesus as Saviour is the beginning of a continual walk of submission to His Lordship. If we submit to His discipline there is resulting growth. Memory verse: *Hebrews 12:6*.

#### SUBMISSION TO CHURCH AUTHORITIES

1. *Colossians 1:12-18* includes a passage on headship and authority.

Briefly summarise it:

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Compare this with *Ephesians 5:23*.

2. There are men that God has equipped with a ministry gift for special purposes within the church. Read *Ephesians 4:11* and write down what these ministries are:

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What is their purpose? *Ephesians 4:12*

What should our attitude be to these men?

(a) *1 Thess. 5:12-13* \_\_\_\_\_

(b) *Hebrews 13:17* \_\_\_\_\_

*Hebrews 13:17* also tells of the solemn responsibilities these men have for us. What are they?

(a) \_\_\_\_\_

(b) \_\_\_\_\_

3. *Ephesians 5:21* talks about submission. What does it say? \_\_\_\_\_

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What does *Romans 12:9-10* say about loving one another? \_\_\_\_\_

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We are to be considerate of one another and have a genuine concern for each other’s needs. There is an essential quality with regard to submission, laid down in *1 Peter 5:5*. What is it?

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### SUBMISSION IN THE FAMILY

1. God has laid down a pattern of authority and submission in the family unit for the strength, peace and security of each family member. Write down, in order of authority, the people who are involved in this pattern.

- (a) *1 Cor. 11:3a* \_\_\_\_\_
- (b) *Ephesians 5:23* \_\_\_\_\_
- (c) *Colossians 3:18* \_\_\_\_\_
- (d) *Ephesians 6:1; Colossians 3:20* \_\_\_\_\_

2. Because of his position in the home the man is responsible for:—

- (a) *1 Tim. 5:8* (There is a two-fold aspect here for the man — spiritual and material).
- (b) *1 Peter 3:7* \_\_\_\_\_ *Ephesians 5:25-28* \_\_\_\_\_
- (c) *Proverbs 22:6; 1 Tim. 3:4-5* \_\_\_\_\_
- (d) *Colossians 3:21* \_\_\_\_\_

3. The woman's responsibility is to:—

- (a) *Colossians 3:18* \_\_\_\_\_
- (b) *Titus 2:4-5* \_\_\_\_\_

4. The childrens' responsibility is to:—

- (a) *Ephesians 6:1* \_\_\_\_\_
- (b) *Ephesians 6:2* \_\_\_\_\_
- (c) *Proverbs 23:22* \_\_\_\_\_

### SUBMISSION IN THE WORLD

God has also set authorities in the world to whom we should submit.

Who are they?

- (a) *Colossians 3:22; 1 Tim. 6:1-2* \_\_\_\_\_
- (b) *Romans 13:1; Titus 3:1* \_\_\_\_\_

Read *1 Peter 2:13-17* and summarise \_\_\_\_\_

Who else do we resist if we resist those in secular authority?

*Romans 13:2*

### CONCLUSION

For the Christian, Jesus is our example. Paul says in *Phil. 2:5* "Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus."

Read *Phil. 2:5-9* and *John 5:17, 19-21*. What is Jesus saying? \_\_\_\_\_

Satan will tell you that you will lose your freedom if you follow the path of submission. However, in *John 12:24-25* we see that the opposite takes place. Remember, true freedom is an inward thing so that regardless of what restrictions are placed on us, if we are in submission we are walking the path of freedom.

## STUDIES FOR CHRISTIAN GROWTH

# SOLID FOUNDATIONS

### STUDY 7 – WITNESSING.

Right from the time of Adam we read in the Bible how God has gone out to sinful mankind. Endeavouring to bring again the fellowship that was broken in the Garden of Eden He finally sent Jesus, who for us is the bridge back to the Father. On returning to heaven Jesus gave those who are His followers the continuing task of sharing the good news with those who know nothing of His love and sacrifice for us.

The early church had an understanding of soulwinning and freedom in "gossiping" the gospel which the church today needs to rediscover. (See *Acts 2:46-47*).

What did Jesus tell His disciples prior to His returning to heaven?

*Mark 16:15* \_\_\_\_\_

The commission that Jesus gave the disciples is as valid today for us, as it was 2000 years ago. Our motivation to witness must be born from a revelation from Him to our spirit or our witnessing will be mechanical and lack the love and concern that our Father shows. This is the vision that we all need to motivate us.

What condition is the world in? *1 John 5:19* \_\_\_\_\_

What is man's state? *Romans 3:23* \_\_\_\_\_

What did Jesus say to Nicodemus? *John 3:3* \_\_\_\_\_

We know that sin separates us from God but how does He view those who do not know Him? *John 3:16* \_\_\_\_\_

God has set a tremendous value on man. The price of His Son Jesus. Read *Mark 12:1-9*. What is Jesus saying in this parable?

God has paid the price of our sin and now **we** have the responsibility.

What is it? *2 Cor. 5:18-20* \_\_\_\_\_

Once we realise that we have responsibility we must pay attention to the words of Jesus when He says in

*John 4:35-38* \_\_\_\_\_

What does *Proverbs 11:30* say about soul-winners? \_\_\_\_\_

Remember that Jesus is our prime example. The gospel account of His ministry places far greater emphasis on His personal contact with people than on His public ministry. He said in *Acts 1:8* that His disciples would be witnesses in \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ and in \_\_\_\_\_

and unto the \_\_\_\_\_

Notice that He begins with the disciples' home area – the place where they were living.

In *John 4* Jesus talks with the woman at the well. Study this passage.

*John 4:1-42:* vs. 6-7

Jesus was in the place where the woman was to come. The right place.

vs. 7b

Jesus makes a request. In doing this He was placing Himself in debt to the woman which would help to overcome the fact that she was a woman and also the prejudice of race and nationality. (See. vs. 27). Too often, our approach is that **we** have something to give. Jesus moved with humility.

vs. 10-12

Jesus arouses curiosity – He didn't tell her too much.

vs. 13-15

He allows her desire to develop – let people realise their sense of need.

vs. 16-18

Conviction comes – a word of knowledge (a gift of the Holy Spirit) – the Holy Spirit will bring conviction.

vs. 20-24

The woman evades the point. Jesus brings her back to the real issues.

vs. 25

The woman tries to put off the decision. Jesus says "*I am the Messiah.*" You need to be sensitive to determine whether the person is procrastinating or they are genuinely not ready.

vs. 39-42

Note the outcome of this encounter with Jesus. The woman witnessed and then led them to Jesus. Then they believed not only because of her testimony but because they met Jesus.

### CONCLUSION

In the same way that God loves us, so our motivation for those outside the Christian family must be love. Witnessing must not be done out of compulsion. Jesus had a compassion for the lost and this is to be our motivating force.

What does *Matthew 5:13-16* say we are? \_\_\_\_\_