

DISCIPLESHIP BIBLE WORKBOOK

By Revd Dr. Ifechukwu U. Ibeme

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

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INTRODUCTION

These series of studies are designed to help Christians of all levels of maturity, learn sound Gospel teachings by finding them out straight from the Bible, and writing the findings down in the workbook for future reminder. These study outlines have been found useful for both personal spiritual growth among committed Christians and group discipleship training in the Church congregation.

Weekly study sessions of 45 to 60 minutes would be enough to go through each of most of the study outlines. The rest of the studies, which are longer or more demanding, will need two consecutive weekly sessions to complete.

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DISCIPLESHIP AND SPIRITUAL GROWTH BIBLE STUDY

THEME: GOD'S PLAN OF REDEMPTION

TOPIC: THE INITIAL STATE OF MANKIND

SERIES: 001

INTRODUCTION:

At creation, humankind in Adam was in a state of innocence without sin and meant for the glory of God. However, humanity fell into sin and disobedience and fell short of the glory of God. God started unfolding His wonderful redemption plan right after the fall of Man.

Our study for discipleship and spiritual growth should rightly begin at this point, taking us from the creation to the fall of man and to the redemption plan initiated by God.

1. Who created the heavens, the earth, and all creatures including Man?

Gene 1:1: _____

2. How was man made?

(a) Gen 1:26 _____

(b) Gen 2:7a _____

(c) Gen 2:7b _____

(d) Gen 1:27 _____

3. What certain spiritual qualities had Man at creation?

(a) Gen 1:26 _____

(b) Gen 1:28 _____

- (c) Gen 1:31 _____
- (d) Gen 2:17 _____

4. What was the initial condition of the works of creation?

- (a) Gen 1:31 _____

5. What was the initial position of man with respect to other creatures?

- (a) Gen 2:5 _____
- (b) Gen 1:27 _____
- (c) Gen 2:15 _____
- (d) Gen 1:28 _____
- (e) Gen 1:29,30 _____
- (f) Gen. 2:20 _____

6. For what purpose were the creatures made?

- (a) Rev. 4:11 _____
- (b) Gen. 2:8 _____
- (c) Gen. 3:9 _____

7. What was the initial relationship between Man and His Creator in the Garden of Eden? _____

8. What do you understand to be God's concern, plan and purpose for Man?

- (a) _____
- (b) _____
- (c) _____

(d) Jer. 29:11 _____

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DISCIPLESHIP AND SPIRITUAL GROWTH BIBLE STUDY

THEME: GOD'S PLAN OF REDEMPTION

TOPIC: THE FALL OF MAN

SERIES: 002

INTRODUCTION:

Despite the initial privileges of glory and fellowship that Man had with God at Creation, Man still chose to disobey God and follow Satan! From then on, humankind lost fellowship with God fell short of God's glory as well as came under God's condemnation.

1. How did Man lose his original position with God?

Gene 3:1-7 _____

2. List some of the consequences of Man's fall

(a) Gen. 3:8 _____
(b) Gen. 3:14-24 _____
(c) _____
(d) Gen. 6:5-7 _____
(e) _____

3. What temporary measures were taken to restore Man to his original positions?

(a) Gen. 6:7-8; 7:23-24 _____
(b) Exd. 20:1-17; 24:12 _____

- (c) Exd. 20:18-21 _____
- (d) Lev. 16:21,34 _____

4. How effective were these measures?

- (a) Gen. 9:20-22 _____
- (b) Gal. 2:16 _____
- (c) Heb. 10:4 _____
- (d) Heb. 9:15-14 _____

5. List and discuss some of the ways Man tries to either cover up or get rid of his sins today.

- (a) Gen. 3:10 _____
- (b) Ps. 51:1 _____
- (c) 1 Sam 15:19-23 _____
- (d) 1 Sam 15:30 _____
- (e) _____
- (f) _____

6. How successful is Man in his attempts to cover up or get rid of his sins today? Discuss.

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DISCIPLESHIP AND SPIRITUAL GROWTH BIBLE STUDY

THEME: GOD'S PLAN OF REDEMPTION

TOPIC: THE RESCUE

SERIES: 003

INTRODUCTION:

After the fall of Man, God set out immediately to rescue man from the danger of alienation from God. This rescue was eventually accomplished in Christ and is available to all humans who are converted to Christ.

1. When and where did God first reveal his rescue plan?
 - (a) Gen. 3:15 _____
 - (b) Gen 3:16 _____

2. Why was it necessary for Christ to come into the world and die?
 - (a) Rom 5:12 _____
 - (b) Rom 6:23 _____
 - (c) Rom 9:23 _____
 - (d) Heb. 9:22 _____
 - (e) Ezek. 18:4 _____
 - (f) Lev. 17:11 _____
 - (g) Isa. 53:5-6 _____
 - (h) Isa 9:2 _____
 - (i) _____

3. How did Christ accomplish God's redemption programme?

- (a) John 19:23 _____
 - (b) John 19:28-30 _____
 - (c) Mark 15:36-38 _____
4. What has God revealed to us through the death of Christ?
- (a) Rom. 5:8 _____
 - (b) 1 John 4:10 _____
5. What new position can we receive through this redemptive work?
- (a) Gal. 3:13 _____
 - (b) Tit 3:7 _____
 - (c) 2 Cor 5:17-21 _____
6. How should we respond to God's love toward us in Christ?
- (a) Acts 3:19 _____
 - (b) Rom. 10:9-10 _____
 - (c) John 3:3 _____
 - (d) John 3:5-6 _____
 - (e) Acts 2:38-39 _____
 - (f) John 1:12 _____
7. After our commitment to God through Christ, what should we always remember?
- (a) Rom 8:1-4 _____
 - (b) Rom. 8:14-16 _____
 - (c) Eph. 2:8-10 _____

NOTE:

God's rescue plan for the world, which was based on God's foreknowledge and sovereign choice (1 Pet. 1:2), was predetermined *in Christ* "before the foundation of the world" (Eph. 1: 3-8; Tit. 1:2), but accomplished in Christ "in the fullness of the TIME" (Gal 4:4) for final fulfilment in the end of times or the fullness of TIMES (Eph. 1: 9-14; 2Tim 3:1; Tit. 1:3).

The full extent of interplay that **God's sovereignty** (in foreknowledge, predestination, and election Rom. 8:28-30) has with **human responsibility** (in repentance and faith John 1:12; 3:16) towards the fulfilment of the eternal saving purpose of God is unsearchable and past finding out (Rom. 11:33; Deut. 29:29).

What we know is that God is fully prepared to ensure that **whosoever** is converted to Christ (through repentance from sin, and faith in Christ's work of propitiation for our sins) shall be saved (Acts 3:19; 16:31).

TO BE SAVED is to be granted the right of inheritance with Christ in God's eternal Kingdom. This inheritance is called Eternal Life. It involves the graces of:

remission of sins,

indwelling of the Holy Spirit and

preservation by the power of God.

All these are possible because of what Jesus has done for us, **if we believe and abide in Him.**

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DISCIPLESHIP AND SPIRITUAL GROWTH BIBLE STUDY

THEME: GOD'S PLAN OF REDEMPTION

TOPIC: THE WAY OF SALVATION

SERIES: 004

INTRODUCTION:

When Adam sinned, humanity was condemned, kept away from God and made unable to find God. But God's Grace in Christ opened the way for humanity to experience Salvation unto Eternal Life, through repentance and faith in Christ. This Salvation or Eternal Life begins to be evident in the life that now is (Tit 2:11-14).

1. What problems has sin brought on humanity?
 - (a) Isa.57: 20-21_____
 - (b) Rom.1: 21-25_____
 - (c) Rev.20: 12-15_____
 - (d) Jer.2: 22_____
 - (e) Prov.16: 25_____
 - (f) Isa.64: 6_____

2. In the face of these problems and helplessness of humanity, what way has God provided for man to be saved unto eternal life?
 - (a) 1John 1:8-10_____
 - (b) Job 9:15_____
 - (c) Acts 16:30-31_____

- (d) Eph. 1:13 _____
- (e) Lk. 13:5 _____
- (f) Rom 3:23-25 _____
- (g) Matt. 10:32-33 _____
- (h) 2 Cor. 5:21 _____

3. All aspects of our Soul (Mind, Heart, Conscience, and Spirit) should experience salvation from sin, condemnation and bondage. Also our body should be offered to God by mortification. What does the Scripture say about this?

- (a) Rom.12: 1-2 _____
- (b) Heb.9: 13-14_____
- (c) Rom.8: 6-10_____
- (d) Gal.2: 20_____
- (e) Col.3: 5-8_____

4. What differences are evident between Christians (i.e. Those who are saved) and Non-Christians (i.e. Those who do not believe in Christ for salvation)?

- (a) 1John 2:3/John14: 21_____
- (b) Rom.8: 14,16/John14: 26_____
- (c) Tit.3; 8/Col.3: 12-14_____
- (d) 1Cor.6: 18/Gal.5: 16, 17, 24, 25_____

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DISCIPLESHIP AND SPIRITUAL GROWTH BIBLE STUDY

THEME: SURE KNOWLEDGE OF SALVATION

TOPIC: THE TESTIMONY OF SALVATION

SERIES: 005

INTRODUCTION:

Those who are SAVED or BORN AGAIN are those who have received ETERNAL LIFE through Christ. Are you saved? Do you have eternal life? Are you Born Again? If truly you have acknowledged your sin to repent in your heart and confess them to God; and if you have accepted God's salvation in Christ to believe in your heart and confess His saving Lordship, then know that you are saved (Rom. 10:9-10). This assurance is based on what God has testified in His Word.

1. Who gives eternal life? 1John 5:11-12 _____

2. Where is eternal life found? 1John 5:11-12 _____
3. Based on the above passage, what makes you confident that you have eternal life? _____
4. Who would you regard as NOT having eternal life? John 3:18; 1John 5:11, 12 _____
5. Why was the Scripture written?

- (a) John 20:31_____
- (b) Rom.15: 4_____
- (c) 1 Cor.10: 11_____
- (d) 2 Tim.3: 16_____
- (e) 2 Tim.3: 17_____
- (f) 1John 1:4_____
- (g) 1 John 5:13_____
- (h) 2Pet.1: 12-14_____
- (i) John 5:39_____

6. Christ is God and was the source of creation and life from the beginning (John 1:1-4). He is the Son of God who gives eternal life (Jn.3: 16) to those who believe IN HIM.

In what way does our knowledge and understanding of the Person of Christ strengthen our faith?

- (a) Tit.1: 2_____
- (b) 2Cor.1: 20_____
- (c) Rom.15: 8-9_____

CONCLUSION:

If according to God's Word, God has begotten you again and given you eternal life, then you have been saved. No one can change that. Be assured of this and diligently live your new life in that confidence (1 John 3:1-3).

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DISCIPLESHIP AND SPIRITUAL GROWTH BIBLE STUDY

THEME: SURE KNOWLEDGE OF SALVATION

TOPIC: THE OUTWORKING OF SALVATION

SERIES: 006

INTRODUCTION:

Those who are saved or who have eternal life in them live it out in certain ways. The presence of this outward evidence in the behaviour of a Christian assures him/her that he/she has received eternal life. ***IF YOU ARE SAVED, YOUR LIFE MUST CHANGE TO SHOW IT.***

1. What happens to our life style (words, thoughts, desires, emotions and actions) when we become Christians?

2 Cor.5: 17 _____

2. List some of the changes that you already notice in your lives as Christians. Compare these changes in your lives with Gal.5: 22-25 and Rom.12: 12-21.

(a) _____

(b) _____

(c) _____

(d) _____

(e) _____

(f) _____

etc. _____

3. For those areas and aspects of our lives that still need the touch of God, what are we told to do to receive the necessary liberation and victory over sin?
- (a) James 4:7 _____
 - (b) Gal.5: 16 _____
 - (c) Col.3: 1-3 _____
 - (d) 1 John 5:4 _____
 - (e) Eph.6: 8-12 _____
 - (f) _____
 - Etc. _____
4. To whom does the glory belong for the changes in our lives?
- (a) Phil.2: 13 _____
 - (b) 2 Cor.5: 5 _____
5. Who should we depend on always for present and future changes in our lives?
- (a) Rom.8: 11 _____
 - (b) 2 Cor.3: 17-18 _____

CONCLUSION:

The outward evidence of eternal life in the Christian does not only assure the Christian that he/she is saved; it also challenges others to turn to Christ and bring glory to God (Matt.5: 16; John 17: 23).

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DISCIPLESHIP AND SPIRITUAL GROWTH BIBLE STUDY

THEME: SURE KNOWLEDGE OF SALVATION

TOPIC: THE BLESSEDNESS OF SALVATION

SERIES: 007

INTRODUCTION

We are saved because Christ has rescued us by His finished work and through our faith in Him. The assurance that we have received this salvation is not only based on the testimony of the Word and the outward evidence of our changed lives, but is also based on the inner witness of peace and blessedness, which we receive from God.

1. What are some blessings we have received through Jesus Christ?
 - (a) Rom.5: 1 _____
 - (b) _____
 - (c) Rom.5: 2 _____
 - (d) _____

2. Compare and contrast these blessings with the consequences of man's fall:
 - (a) Isa.59: 2 _____
 - (b) _____
 - (c) _____
 - (d) Isa.48: 22 _____

3. How does God view our past sin, which we have confessed and forsaken?
- (a) Heb.10: 17 _____
 - (b) 1 Jn.1: 7-10 _____
 - (c) Heb.10: 17 _____
 - (d) Prov.28: 13 _____
4. Who makes us realize that we have become God's children? And how is this done?
- (a) Rom.8: 15,16 _____
 - (b) _____
5. Who introduces guilt feeling and doubts about our forgiven sins?
Rev.12: 9,10 _____
6. What are the consequences of allowing such accusation and doubt to take root in our minds?
- (a) Gal.3: 3-5 _____
 - (b) Col.2: 20-23 _____
7. What does God want you to do continually about any revealed sin in your life?
- (a) Prov.28: 13 _____
 - (b) 1 John 1:7-10 _____
 - (c) Rom.6: 1-2 _____
 - (d) Rom.6: 12-14 _____

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DISCIPLESHIP AND SPIRITUAL GROWTH BIBLE STUDY

THEME: MEANS OF SPIRITUAL GROWTH

TOPIC: PRAYER AND THE WORD OF GOD

SERIES: 008

INTRODUCTION:

Everyone who becomes a true Christian needs to grow in Christ. This growth is possible if such a believer continues in prayer and study of the Word of God (Acts 2: 41-42).

A. PRAYER AS MEANS OF GROWTH:

1. Why must every Christian continue fervently in their prayer lives?

a) Matt.26: 11_____

b) _____

2. How often must we pray?

a) Luke 18: 1_____

3. What are some benefits of prayer?

a) Heb.4: 16_____

b) Jude 20_____

c) Mark 11:24_____

c) _____

B. GROWTH BY THE STUDY OF GOD'S WORD.

1. What role does the Word of God play in our conversion?
Rom.10: 17 _____
2. How important is the Word of God for our growth?
1 Pet.2; 2 _____
3. How does God expect us to relate to His Word?
 - a) 2 Tim.2: 15 _____
 - b) 2 Tim.3: 15 _____
 - d) Josh.1: 8a _____
4. How does the Word of God equip us for God's service?
 - a) 2 Tim.3: 17 _____
 - b) Josh.1: 8b _____
5. What role does the Word of God play in our sanctification and how?
 - a) John 17: 17 _____
 - c) Eph.5: 26,27 _____
6. What else does God's Word do for us in our growth and maturity as Christian?
 - a) Ps.119: 9-11 _____
 - b) Ps.119: 105 _____
 - c) _____

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DISCIPLESHIP AND SPIRITUAL GROWTH BIBLE STUDY

THEME: MEANS OF SPIRITUAL GROWTH

TOPIC: FELLOWSHIP AND WITNESSING

SERIES: 009

INTRODUCTION:

For spiritual growth, one who is born of God in Christ does not only need prayer and God's Word, he/she also needs continuous attendance to fellowship/worship as well as witnessing for Christ (Acts 2:41-42).

A. FELLOWSHIP AS MEANS OF GROWTH

1. Who founded the Church and upon what testimony was it founded?

Mtt.16: 16-18 _____

2. What are we commanded to do about Church attendance?

He.10: 24-25 _____

3. What are some benefits we derive from a good Christian Fellowship?

(a) Eph.4: 11-14 _____

(b) _____

(c) _____

(d) Matt. 18:19-20 _____

(e) _____

4. What wisdom is there in being involved in Church and fellowship programmes from these verses?

- (a) Prov.27: 17 _____
- (b) Eccl.4: 9-12 _____

B. GROWTH THROUGH WITNESSING

1. What are we commanded to do with the Gospel?

Mark 16: 15 _____

2. What assurance and confidence are given to help us for the great commission?

(a) Matt.28: 18-10 _____

(b) _____

(c) Mark 16: 16-18 _____

(d) _____

(e) Acts 1: 8 _____

3. As we witness for Christ in **preaching** and in **power** we grow through experience. What other way are we to bear witness?

(a) Matt.5: 13-16 _____

(b) _____

(c) 1 Pet.2: 11-12 _____

(d) _____

4. Apart from your growth, what other process does witnessing serve for you, for the world and for the Lord?

(a) 1 John 1:1-4 _____

(b) _____

(c) Rom.10: 13-14 _____

(d) Acts 4: 13,20_____

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DISCIPLESHIP AND SPIRITUAL GROWTH BIBLE STUDY

THEME: MEANS OF SPIRITUAL GROWTH

TOPIC: DISCIPLESHIP AND DISCIPLINE

SERIES: 010

INTRODUCTION:

The word “DISCIPLE” means “DILIGENTLY COMMITTED FOLLOWER OF A TEACHER”. A true Christian Disciple is one who has repented from his/her sins and has made an irreversible and undivided commitment to Jesus Christ and His Gospel (Lk. 9: 62). The aim of a true disciple is to follow the Master in such a way as to become like the Master. The life of a Christian Disciple is totally surrendered to Christ.

1. Who is a true Disciple?

Jn.8: 31_____

2. How can a true disciple be identified?

(a) Matt.7: 17_____

(b) Matt.1: 20-2_____

(c) John 15: 8_____

DISCIPLINE:

To be faithful to the call of Discipleship, the Christian being surrounded by contrary circumstances and conventions, situations and standards, soon realizes the importance of discipline, determination and diligence in the daily walk with the Lord.

3. What do you realize from these verses?
- (a) Heb.12: 7-10_____
 - (b) _____
 - (c) Heb.12: 13-15_____
 - (d) _____
4. What is the disciple warned to expect in the world?
- (a) Jn.15: 18-22_____
 - (b) 2 Tim.3: 12_____
 - (c) Acts 14: 22_____

DETERMINATION

For successful discipleship one must be ready to be disciplined or pruned (John 15: 2b). Discipline calls for denial of self, pleasure and comfort as well as determination to bear the shame, pain and discomfort that come with living the life of the Gospel in the world (Lk.9: 23; 14:27,33).

5. Why does the Lord discipline us?
- (a) Jas.1: 2-4_____
 - (b) Heb.12: 10_____
 - (c) Others _____
6. What should be our attitude in times of pain and difficulty?
- (a) John 14: 1_____
 - (b) John 16: 33_____
 - (c) Others _____

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DISCIPLESHIP AND SPIRITUAL GROWTH BIBLE STUDY

THEME: REVIEW OF THE STUDIES 001 TO 010

TOPIC: THE GOSPEL OF SALVATION

SERIES: 011

REVIEW:

Already, we have gone through 10 different study outlines on Christian Gospel of Salvation. Topics studied so far include: -

GOD'S PLAN OF REDEMPTION

1. The Initial State of Man
2. The Fall of Man
3. The Rescue
4. The Way of Salvation

SURE KNOWLEDGE OF SALVATION

5. The Testimony of Salvation
6. The Out-working of Salvation
7. The Blessedness of Salvation

MEANS OF SPIRITUAL GROWTH

8. Prayers and the Word of God
9. Fellowships and Witnessing
10. Discipleship and Discipline

The purpose of these is to help you: -

- a) Become born again of the Spirit by the means of the Word of God (1 Pet.1: 23)
- b) Grow in the faith by feeding on God's Word (1 Pet. 2: 2)

- c) Follow in the steps of Christ by heeding His Word and Spirit.

In this way you shall be a true Disciple of Christ (Jn. 8: 31) and you shall obtain your desires and needs from God (Jn. 15: 7)

1. What are the things you have learned from the studies so far?

- (a) _____
- (b) _____
- (c) _____
- (d) _____
- (e) _____

2. What benefits have you derived from the studies in your life as a Disciple of Christ?

- (a) _____
- (b) _____
- (c) _____
- (d) _____
- (e) _____

3. What questions do you have on the studies so far?

- (a) _____
- (b) _____
- (c) _____
- (d) _____
- (e) _____

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DISCIPLESHIP AND SPIRITUAL GROWTH BIBLE STUDY

THEME: THE HOLY SPIRIT AND THE DISCIPLE

TOPIC: THE PERSON OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

SERIES: 012

INTRODUCTION:

The Holy Spirit is God (Acts 5:3-4). He is the third Person of the Godhead, the blessed Trinity. The three dimensions of the Ministry of the Godhead are essential for the complete salvation of the Disciple. For the Disciple in this period of the Church age, the Holy Spirit's work is of utmost importance.

1. In what ways do the Three Persons of the One Godhead work together to accomplish or salvation?
 - a) 1 Pet. 1:2 _____
 - b) 2 Cor. 13:14 _____
 - c) 1 Cor. 12:4-6 _____
 - d) John 15:26 _____
 - e) Matt. 28:19 _____

2. What qualities in the Scripture show that the Holy Spirit is a Person?
 - a) Acts 28:25 _____
 - b) John 14:26 _____
 - c) Gen. 6:3 _____
 - d) Acts 9:31 _____
 - e) Rom. 8:26 _____

- f) Eph. 4:30_____
- g) Acts 7:51_____
- h) Rom. 8:14_____
- l) Rom 8:16/Heb. 10:15_____
- j) John. 16:13_____
- k) Rev. 2:7, 11,29_____
- l) Gen. 1:2._____

3. How do we know that he Holy Spirit is God?

- a) Acts 5:3-4_____
- b) Matt. 28:19/2 Cor. 13:14_____
- c) Heb. 9:14._____
- d) Lk. 1:35/Rom 15:19 _____
- e) 2 Cor. 2:10-11_____
- f) Ps. 139:7._____
- g) Gen. 1:2/Job 33:4 _____
- h) 1 Cor. 12:6,11_____
- i) Gen. 6:3. _____
- j) Matt. 10:20_____
- k) Isa. 61:1_____
- l) Rom. 8:9_____

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DISCIPLESHIP AND SPIRITUAL GROWTH BIBLE STUDY

THEME: THE HOLY SPIRIT AND THE DISCIPLE

TOPIC: THE FULLNESS AND THE BAPTISM I

SERIES: 013

INTRODUCTION:

From the Old Testament (O.T.) times before the Pentecost, the Holy Spirit has always come on certain servants of God to fill them for certain duration of time. This was to enable them accomplish certain Ministry or have some experiences. This fullness was from outside the recipients and was not preceded by the indwelling of the Spirit through Spirit Baptism.

Since the day of Pentecost however, the Holy Spirit has been poured out on all God's people to indwell them permanently. This is called the Baptism with the Holy Spirit. These N.T. Saints are also filled with the Holy Spirit from time to time (or even the more led all the time by the Spirit) to enable them accomplish certain ministries or have certain experiences. Obviously, this New Testament (N.T.) fullness operates from within the believer (John 7:38-39; 4:14).

*In the OT without Christ, there was BESTOWAL OF the Holy Spirit (by **PUTTING** Hb=נתן *nâthan*, Num 11:25-29) to REST ON for the ANOINTING of only **some** special ministers (Priests, Judges-Kings, Prophets) for BURDEN-BEARING (Num 4:19; 11:17; Mal 1:1) and **thereafter** FILLED/MOVED (i.e. "came-upon" by rushing-on) them with divine **power** as God's anointed SERVANTS.*

*But in the NT with Christ, there is now BAPTISM WITH the Holy Spirit (by **POURING** Hb=שפך *shâphak*, Joel 2:28-29; Act 2:16-18) to DWELL IN (Ezek. 36:25-27; Jer. 31:31-34; 1Cor 12:13) for the SEALING and ANOINTING (2Cor 1:21-22; Eph 1:13; 4:31; 1John 2:20, 27) of **all** believers for BIRTHRIGHT/NEW-BIRTH (Rom 8:9-*

11,14-17) and **thereafter** FILL/MOVE (i.e. "come-upon" by springing-up within John 4:14; 7:37-39) us with divine **power/refreshing** (Act 1:8; 3:20; 4:31; Rom 8:26) as God's adopted SONS and anointed SERVANTS.

1. What experiences did the O.T. saints have when they were filled with the Holy Spirit?
 - a). 2Sam. 23:2/Lk. 1:41, 42, 67. _____
 - b). Ezk. 11:5/2Chron. 15:1-2. _____
 - c). 1Sam.1: 15. _____
 - d). 1Sam. 10:6, 10/19:23,24. _____
 - e). Exd. 35:30, 31. _____
 - f). Lk. 4:1, 2, 14. _____

2. What experiences could we N.T. saints expect when we are filled with the Holy Spirit?
 - a). Eph. 5:18. _____
 - b). Acts 13:32/1Pet. 1:8. _____
 - c). Rom. 8:15/Gal. 4:6. _____
 - d). Rom. 8:26. _____
 - e). Acts 4:8, 31. _____
 - f). Acts 7:55. _____
 - g). Acts 11:24. _____
 - h). Acts 2:4, 11/10:44-46/19:6. _____

3. Since the fullness of the Holy Spirit is common to the O.T. and N.T. Saints: in what special way then did God promise to give the Holy Spirit to the N.T. Saints?

- a). Joel 2:28. _____
- b). Ezk. 36:25-27. _____
- c). Jer. 31:31-34. _____
- d). Lk. 3:16. _____
- e). John 14: 16-18. _____
- f). Lk. 24:29/Acts 1:4-5. _____

4. From when and how was this promised special work of the Holy Spirit fulfilled?

- a). Acts 2:1-4,33. _____
- b). Acts 11:15-17. _____

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DISCIPLESHIP AND SPIRITUAL GROWTH BIBLE STUDY

THEME: THE HOLY SPIRIT AND THE DISCIPLE

TOPIC: THE FULLNESS AND THE BAPTISM II

SERIES: 014

INTRODUCTION:

We have already seen that when the Spirit **rested upon** an OT saint or **indwells/baptizes** an NT saint, it is then possible for either saint to be filled with the Holy Spirit. Thus, the fullness of the Spirit operated from the outside (without the baptism) in the OT, but operates from the inside (i.e. from the indwelling by baptism) in the NT (see series 013).

SO THEN, ONE CAN BE FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT WITHOUT BEING BAPTISED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT. If not so, the OT saints could not have worked with the Holy Spirit.

We also saw that God had planned and accomplished a special working relationship between the Holy Spirit and every New Testament believer. The Prophets and Christ described this as the out-pouring (Joel 2:28), the putting-in (Ezk. 36:27), the baptism (Lk. 3:16), the indwelling/abiding (Jn.14: 16-17), and the Father's promise (Acts 1:4-5). In the NT Church however, following the language of John the Baptist (Jn. 1:33), this special New Testament work of the Holy Spirit is called the "Baptism **with** the Holy Spirit **into** Christ" (I Cor. 12:13) or simply "Spirit Baptism".

This New Testament Baptism was fulfilled from the day of Pentecost (Acts 2:33), but note that this was at the same time accompanied with the

fullness also (Acts 2:3-4), which has always been possible from Old Testament times.

1. What benefits does this “promised baptismal indwelling” of the Holy Spirit afford those who believe in Christ?
 - (a) Rom 8:9 _____
 - (b) I Cor. 12:13 _____
 - (c) Eph. 1:13-14 _____
 - (d) I Cor. 3:6-9/6:19 _____
 - (e) Acts 15:8-9 _____
 - (f) Rom. 8:11 _____
 - (g) Luke 24:49/Acts 1:8 _____
 - (h) John 3:3-8/Tit 3:5 _____
 - (i) 2 Thes. 2:13 / I Pet 1:2 _____

2. Apart from being called the “promise” that endues with heavenly power (Lk. 24:49), the “promise” and the “gift” (Acts 2:38-39), what other symbolic names are given to the Holy Spirit in the Scriptures?
 - (a) 2 Cor. 1:21/I John 2:20, 27 _____
 - (b) Eph. 1:13/4:30 _____
 - (c) 2 Cor. 1:22/Eph. 1:14 _____
 - (d) John 4:14/7:37-39 I Cor. 12:13 _____
 - (e) Etc _____

3. In your own words, how could you summarize your understanding of the meaning of “THE BAPTISM **WITH** THE HOLY SPIRIT” or “SPIRIT

BAPTISM”, according to what you have learned from the Word of God?

- _____
- _____

4. Since the beginning of the 20th century, some brethren especially in the Pentecostal Denominations have developed a doctrine on the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, which to them is same as being filled with the Holy Spirit. They teach that this baptism or fullness:
- (i) is a second work of grace or second blessing, which follows after new birth or conversion,
 - (ii) dips the Christian further from the body of Christ into the realm of the Holy Spirit’s power, and
 - (iii) must be accompanied with the initial evidence of speaking in tongues.

This new line of teaching meant to motivate towards spiritual experiences, seems to make the Spirit Baptism confusing and divisive rather than enlightening and unifying. In the light of the teachings of the Scripture, how is this type of doctrine: -

- a). similar to your understanding? _____
- b). different from your understanding? _____
- c). clear about Baptism and Fullness? _____
- d). consistent with the Scripture? _____
- e). accurate and adequate? _____
- f). helpful and safe? _____

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DISCIPLESHIP AND SPIRITUAL GROWTH BIBLE STUDY

THEME: THE HOLY SPIRIT AND THE DISCIPLE

TOPIC: THE FULLNESS AND THE BAPTISM III

SERIES: 015

INTRODUCTION:

The Holy Spirit indwells us in order to regenerate us into Christ and adopt us as God's children, seal and guarantee us unto eternal life, as well as anoint and empower us as servants of God. What a great privilege! This is why our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ said that the Holy Spirit is the COMFORTER (John 15:26) or PARACLET. This word means: (Counsellor, Helper, Advocate, Intercessor, Strengtheners, Standby) according to *The Amplified Bible*.

1. Do you have the Holy Spirit? When do you think He entered to dwell in you? _____
2. Under what conditions could one receive the indwelling or baptism of the Holy Spirit?
 - (a) Acts 2:38-39 _____
 - (b) Eph. 1:13 _____
 - (c) Acts 11:17 _____
 - (d) Gal. 3:2, 14 _____
3. Have you taken steps to fulfil these most important conditions? How?

4. Those who are filled with the Holy Spirit are also said to be led by the Spirit (Rom 8:14), or to be spiritually minded (Rom 8:5-6), or to walk in/live by the Spirit (Gal. 5:16, 25).

Are you filled with the Holy Spirit? If you think so, could you be described in the above terms? _____

5. By what means could the indwelling Holy Spirit begin to fill us?

- (a) Eph. 5:18-19 _____
- (b) Col. 3:16 _____
- (c) Acts 4:31/Col. 1:9-10 _____
- (d) Acts 4:8 _____
- (e) Acts 6:3,9 _____

6. Have you taken advantage of any of these means in order to be full of the Holy Spirit continuously and increasingly? _____

7. From our studies so far, it is clear that the Scripture teaches that the Baptism of the Spirit is only once for all and same for all who believe (1 Cor. 12:13; Eph. 4:5); but the Fullness of the Holy Spirit is continuously repeated and diversely experienced by different believers at different times (Eph. 5:18-19; Acts 4:8, 31). In short: **“By the BAPTISM the Spirit INDWELLS us and BRINGS us INTO Christ, but through the FULLNESS the Spirit MOVES us and USES us for Christ”.**

What other comparisons could you make of Spirit Baptism and Spirit Fullness? _____

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DISCIPLESHIP AND SPIRITUAL GROWTH BIBLE STUDY

THEME: THE HOLY SPIRIT AND THE DISCIPLE

TOPIC: THE FULLNESS AND THE BAPTISM IV

SERIES: 016

INTRODUCTION:

In Study 013 we looked at some experiences, we expect when we are filled with the Holy Spirit. In Study 014, we saw the benefits we derive from the baptism with the Holy Spirit. In this study, we shall do a summary review by comparing and contrasting the meaning and effect of Spirit Baptism versus Spirit Fullness. It is hoped that such comparison would widen our understanding and enable us take fuller advantage of the grace of God and the Holy Spirit's work.

<p>What we sometimes call 'HOLY SPIRIT BAPTISM' today is what the Scripture always calls 'HOLY SPIRIT FULLNESS'. This should not be contentious because people inadvertently mix these up and use both interchangeably. But carefully following the Scripture which used them distinctly, unlocks greater mysteries and power.</p>	
SPIRIT BAPTISM (1 Cor. 12:13)	SPIRIT FULLNESS (Eph. 5:18)
<i>DRINKING-IN THE PERSON of the Holy Spirit for the indwelling of His presence, power and Gift(s) by receiving Him into our hearts at Newbirth. (John 4:14a; 7:37, 39; 1Cor 12:3, 13)</i>	<i>SPRINGING-UP THE EVIDENCE of the presence of the Holy Spirit by letting Him manifest and operate His power, Gift(s) and Fruit through our lives after Newbirth. (John 4:14b; 7:38-39; 1Cor 12:4-7)</i>
1. Become ONE WITH CHRIST (Rom 8:9)	1. Become MORE LIKE CHRIST (Eph. 3:16-19)
2. JOINED IN UNION with Christ (1Cor 6:17; Eph. 1:13-14)	2. ENJOY COMMUNION in Christ (Eph. 1:15-21)
3. Initiation/Anointing INTO Christ (Gal. 3:27; 1John 2:27) ABIDING	3. Invigoration/Operation IN Christ (Phil. 1:9-11) ABOUNDING

4. Once for all at Conversion or Newbirth (Act 2:3; Eph. 1:13; 4:5)	4. Repeated on and on after conversion (Acts 2:4; 4:8, 31; Acts 9:17-18; 13:9-11; 17:16-17; Eph 5:18)
5. Associated with Regeneration or NEW BIRTH (John 3:3-6)	5. Associated with Sanctification or NEW LIFE (Rom 8:12-14)
6. Receive/Commencement of Relationship with God (Acts 2:2-3)	6. Release/Continuation of experience of God's Power (Acts 2:4)
7. Receive new spiritual STATUS as gift from God (Rom 8:15; Col. 1:13)	7. Being Led to growing spiritual STATURE by working/walking with God (Rom 8:14; Eph. 4:13)
8. Requires faith in Christ as Saviour (Acts 2:38-39; Gal. 3:2)	8. Requires submission to the Spirit as Guide and Helper (John 16:13; Rom. 8:26; 12:1)
9. Equal and same for all Believers at all times (I Cor. 12:13)	9. Different and variable in person and situation (Acts 4:8; 7:55)
10. INDWELLED by the Spirit (Rom. 8:9; I Cor. 3:16; 1John 4:15)	10. PROPELLED by the Spirit (2 Pet. 1:21; Act 2:4)
11. Sealed and Established (ABIDING) unto Eternal life (2Cor 1:21-22; Eph. 1:13; 4:30)	11. Moved and Controlled (ABOUNDING) to lead the New life (Gal. 5:22ff; 2Pet 1:8 & above)
12. Cleansing from sin and demons (Acts 15:8-9)	12. Strengthening above/against sin and demons (Col. 1:9-14)

DISCUSSION

1. In what ways could this study on Baptism and Fullness of the Holy Spirit make you be a better Christian than ever before?
2. How complementary are those two aspects of the work of the Holy Spirit in the life of a believing disciple?
3. Are the Holy Spirit Baptism and Fullness true in your life?
4. Now that you know that when you believed, you were baptised with the Spirit into Christ, how should you ensure that henceforth, you walk in the fullness of the Spirit?

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DISCIPLESHIP AND SPIRITUAL GROWTH BIBLE STUDY

THEME: THE HOLY SPIRIT AND THE DISCIPLE

TOPIC: THE SPIRITUAL GIFTS I

SERIES: 017

INTRODUCTION:

In the Scripture, Spiritual Gifts are described with many Greek words. For example in I Cor. 12 alone, the following words were used by St. Paul:

Verse 1 <i>Pneumatika</i>	=	Spirituals (i.e. supernatural abilities)
Verse 4 & 9 <i>Charismata</i>	=	Grace-gifts (given by the Spirit)
Verse 5 <i>Diakonai</i>	=	Services (rendered to the Lord)
Verse 6 <i>Emergemata</i>	=	Operations (activated by God)
Verse 7 <i>Phanerosis</i>	=	Manifestation (that shows the Spirit)

Of all these words CHARISMATA is most commonly used to refer to Spiritual Gifts. '**CHARISMA(TA)**' also means GRACE-GIFT(S) or LOVE-BONUS(ES) or FREE-GIFT(S). (Literally **CHARIS** means GRACE, and **CHARISMA** means BONUS/GRATUITY OF GRACE.)

In summary Spiritual Gifts should be understood to mean:
“DIVERSITIES OF SPIRITUAL GRACES DISTRIBUTED BY GOD TO EVERY BELIEVER, ENABLING EACH TO VARIOUSLY MANIFEST THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN THE SERVICE OF THE LORD, FOR THE EDIFICATION OF CHRIST’S BODY, THE CHURCH”.

1. Read 1 Cor. 12:4-9 and Eph. 4:11-12 and Rom. 12:3-6 and answer the following:

- (i) Who gives or distributes Spiritual Gifts and makes them work in believers? _____
- (ii) Why are Spiritual Gifts given? _____
- (iii) To whom are Spiritual Gifts given? _____
- (iv) Do the Gifts believers have depend on their Spiritual achievements and merits? _____

- (v) What other lessons do you learn about Spiritual Gifts from these verses? _____

2. Name and list the Spiritual Gifts mentioned in the following portions of the Scripture:

- (i) I Cor. 12:7-31 (Nine) _____
- (ii) I Cor. 12:28-31 (Nine) _____
- (iii) I Cor. 13:1-3 (Seven) _____
- (iv) Rom. 12:6-8 (Seven) _____
- (v) I Cor. 14:6,26 (Six) _____
- (vi) Eph. 4:11 (Five) _____
- (vii) Mark 16:17-18 (Four) _____

3. Realising now that in different portions of the Scripture some Gifts are called different names while some are omitted or included, how many Gifts then, on the whole, could you identify? _____

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DISCIPLESHIP AND SPIRITUAL GROWTH BIBLE STUDY

THEME: THE HOLY SPIRIT AND THE DISCIPLE

TOPIC: THE SPIRITUAL GIFTS II

SERIES: 018

INTRODUCTION:

In the last study we were able to identify in the New Testament Scriptures NOT ONLY NINE Spiritual Gifts as commonly taught among some Pentecostals today but MORE THAN NINETEEN Spiritual Gifts. Below is an attempt to group these Gifts (24 of them) into five for better understanding (see I Cor 12:7-12:28-31; 14:6-26; Rom 12:6-8; Eph. 4:11; Mark 16:17-18) and I Cor 13:1-3).

1. UTTERANCE OR INSPIRATIONAL GIFTS:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------|
| a. Tongues (of men and Angels), | b. Psalms (Songs), |
| c. Interpretation (of Tongues), | d. Wisdom (Counselling), |
| e. Exhortation (Encouragement), | f. Teaching/Knowledge, |
| g. Evangelists (Preaching), and | h. Prophecy. |

2. DECIPHERING OR PERCEPTIONAL GIFTS:

- | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|
| i. Revelation/Mysteries, | j. Discernment (of Spirits). |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|

Some Utterance Gifts like *Interpretation* and *Prophecy* also operate in combination with the Perceptual Gifts.

NOTE: When St. Paul talked about “Knowledge” in I Cor. 12:8, he used the Greek word “**GINOSKO**” which means OBJECTIVE LEARNING for awareness which has to do with studying and reasoning

intellectually. But for “Know” in I Cor. 13:2 he used the Greek work “**OIDA**” which means SUBJECTIVE INTUITION for assurance and has to do with **instinctively** deciphering and fathoming hidden mysteries.

Again WORD OF EXHORTATION in Acts 13:15 and Heb. 13:22 mean the same thing as simply an Exhortation talk/word/discuss (i.e. Motivating speech). In the same way, WORD OF KNOWLEDGE and WORD OF WISDOM simply mean Knowledge talk/word/discuss (i.e. Educating speech) and Wisdom talk/word/discuss (i.e. Counselling speech) respectively.

Q Considering above information, would you liken “word of Knowledge” to “Teaching”, to “Revelation”, or to “Discernment”?

3. POWER OR DEMONSTRATIONAL GIFTS:

- k. Faith (that moves mountains) l. Miracles,
- m. Exorcism (Casting out/’Deliverance’), n. Healings, and
- o. Immunity (to serpents, scorpions and poisons).

4. PASTORAL OR ORGANISATIONAL GIFTS:

- p. Apostle (Missionary/Messenger), q. Pastor (Shepherd),
- r. Leadership (Ruling/Administration), s. Service (Ministry).

5. SACRIFICIAL OR DEPRIVATIONAL GIFTS:

- t. Giving (even till poverty), u. Helps,
- v. Martyrdom (even by burning), w. Mercy, and

x. Contenance (or Celibacy) see I Cor. 7:7.

NOTE: This fifth group is the most costly to the gifted and least appreciated by the Church so they are not very popularly taught or sought after in the Church today.

Question: What does the Church lose by being selective in emphasis on Spiritual Gifts? _____

DISCUSSIONS:

1. Despite this abundant number of charismatic Gifts why is it that only the spectacular few like: Tongues, Prophecy, Miracles, Healings, Exorcism (Deliverance) and Revelation/Mysteries (mistakenly called Word of Knowledge) are the ones popularly sought and taught nowadays?
2. Today some of the Gifts are not regarded as supernatural and fantastic enough to be called Spiritual Gifts. State the reason why, with examples: _____
3. Which Spiritual Gifts are at work in our Church?

4. Why are many of the Gifts absent in the Churches today? (1Thes. 5:19-21, Eph. 4:30-32) _____

CONCLUSION.

Apart from Spiritual Gifts mentioned in the Scripture, there are **acquired SKILLS** (e.g. Education, Technical skills, Music instrumentation) and **innate TALENTS** (e.g. intelligence, eloquence, artistry, hospitality, stamina), which are needed in the Church today.

When a believer, filled with the Holy Spirit uses these skills and talents in accordance with God's will to edify the Church, such skills and talents serve similar purpose as the Spiritual Gifts? (Exd. 35:29-35; Judges 14:6; I Chron. 15:22; Acts 26:24-25; Matt. 13:52).

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DISCIPLESHIP AND SPIRITUAL GROWTH BIBLE STUDY

THEME: THE HOLY SPIRIT AND THE DISCIPLE

TOPIC: THE SPIRITUAL GIFTS III

SERIES: 019

INTRODUCTION:

Christians are SAVED TO SERVE (2 Cor. 5:18-19). Having been made a living part of Christ's Body, every truly regenerate member of the Church should be committed to one form of special work or service (Ministry) within the Body of Christ for the furtherance of God's Kingdom.

Since EVERY believer has his/her function and gift (I Cor. 7:7; I Pet 4:10; I Cor. 12:12-14), Christians should be concerned more with discovering, and excelling in the Gifts they already have, rather than asking for other particular Gifts as is commonly taught today.

SEVEN STEPS TO DISCOVERING YOUR GIFTS

1. EXAMINE yourself to be sure you have been regenerated into Christ's body. This guarantees that you have a gift allocated to you in order to carry out your function as a part of Christ's Body.

Question: **Regeneration into Christ is the renewing work of the Holy Spirit (or the Spirit of Christ - Rom. 8:9-11), whereby the Holy Spirit *quickens* us to believe in Christ and *seals* us to become sons and co-heirs with Christ (Rom. 8:15-17).** How could one obtain this regeneration into Christ? (Eph. 1:13; 14; Acts 2:36-39)

-
2. STUDY to know, about the varieties of Spiritual Gifts, which one could use in the Church for profit unto edification.

Question In what ways could knowledge of the varieties of Spiritual Gifts help one in discovering his/her Gift(s)?

- 3 PRAY and depend on God for guidance and leading of the Spirit. This leading depends on necessity, disposition, satisfaction, demand and one's consecration.

Question I: How important is this step in discovering our Spiritual Gifts and Ministry? (Rom. 12:1-2)_____

Question II: How did Paul and Barnabas benefit from this step? (Acts 13:1-2)_____

4. EXERCISE yourself and experiment to gain experience in God's work by getting involved with: -
Church Programmes (e.g. Worship services, Bible studies, Prayer meetings. Evangelism/Witnessing outreaches, Fellowship meetings, Seminars, Retreats, Workshops, Conventions);
Church Ministries (E.g. Groups or Teams for Missions, Visitation, Counselling, Welfare, Charity, Deliverance, Healing, Intercession, Leadership, Discipleship); and

Church Roles (such as Fund Raising, Publicity, Publishing, Broadcasting, Research, Training, Debate, Apologetics, Projects, Planning and Organisation).

Question: What benefits and opportunities would Christians get by belonging to Churches that have and encourage these varieties of areas of functions? _____

5. OBSERVE your experiences and note areas of ministry, programmes or roles

- (1) where your gifts, talents or skills are extra-ordinarily effective or appreciated/demanded and
- (2) where your participation gives you peace, joy and fulfilment,
- (3) as well as where you feel a sense of burden and zeal.

Question: Could your natural abilities (Talents) and acquired skills be preparatory or enhancing to your Spiritual Gifts? Matt. 13:52 How?

6. ANALYSE feedbacks from brethren about what gifts or ministry they commend you for, appreciate or respect in you, or demand your services, contribution, involvement or ministration for.

Question: How was this helpful to Timothy? (I Tim 4:14; 2 Tim. 4:5 and 1:6)

7. SUBMIT readily to the Holy Spirit by operating fervently and diligently in whatever gift or gifts to which He has led you and convinced you to be your area of occupying and function, in accordance with God's perfect will (Col.4: 17; Acts 20:24; 2 Tim 4:2-4).

Question Why must we not be found wanting in the exercise of our Gifts?
(Acts 20:28-29; Luke 19:12; 13, 16,17, 20-26). _____

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DISCIPLESHIP AND SPIRITUAL GROWTH BIBLE STUDY

THEME: THE HOLY SPIRIT AND THE DISCIPLE

TOPIC: THE SPIRITUAL GIFTS IV

SERIES: 020

INTRODUCTION:

While reminding Timothy about the discovery of the Spiritual Gifts in him, St. Paul also went ahead to urge Timothy (1) not to neglect his Spiritual Gift, (ii) but to fan it into flame (I Tim 4:14; 2 Tim. 1:6; and 4:5). Following the wisdom of the Apostle, let us discuss some steps to develop our gifts and maximize their use till we fulfill our ministry

1. BE READY always to make your Gifts available for meeting the needs of the CHURCH (not your own needs).

Q.a How do Rom. 12:1-2 and I Cor. 12:7 relate to this?

Q.b Does this readiness depend on convenience? (2 Tim 4:1-2)

2. REMEMBER always that your Gifts and Ministry belong to God and that He has given them to you IN TRUST for the benefit of the Church and for His own glory.

Q.a Is this true in the light of 1 Cor. 4:1 and 2 Cor. 4:1?

Q.b What dangers are there if we lose sight of this truth? (2 Pet. 3:1-3)

3. CHALLENGE and help others to labour more for the Lord by your use of your Gifts or ministry, rather than ridicule or discourage others who have different Gifts from yours

Q.a How does Rom 11:13-14 explain this more? _____

Q.b Which is better to say, (i) "You can't do what I do" and (ii) "You don't want to do as I do" or (iii) "You can do better than I do with the help of God"? _____

4. DO NOT DOMINATE others with your Gifts, rather EDIFY AND SERVE them.

Q. Relate Rom 12:3-6a to this. Why is this step necessary? _____

5. GIVE PRIORITY attention with all diligence to your Gifts or Ministry to excel in exercising it, because the Church needs your Gifts in its best form.

Q For what other reasons must we aim to excel in serving with our Gifts?

(i) I Cor. 4:2 _____

(ii) Rom. 14:12 _____

6. COOPERATE with others (not SEPARATE from them) by the use of your Gifts and Ministry in the Church.

Q.a How is this shown in Gal. 2:7-10? _____

Q.b From I Cor. 3:3-9, how proper is it for us to criticize others, cause division, struggle for position and recognition, and break away from our Church because we are gifted, as is commonly done these days?

Q.c How could we balance this step with the following scriptural injunctions to:

(i) Fan our gift to flame (2 Tim 1:6)? _____

(ii) Not neglect our Gift (1 Tim 4:14)? _____

(iii) Magnify our ministry (Rom 11:13-14)? _____

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DISCIPLESHIP AND SPIRITUAL GROWTH BIBLE STUDY

THEME: THE HOLY SPIRIT AND THE DISCIPLE

TOPIC: THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT I

TEXT: GALATIANS 5:16-18, 22-25

SERIES: 021

INTRODUCTION

As we have seen, the Gifts of the Spirit are very important for building up the Church to spiritual maturity (Eph/ 4:11-13). However, there can be no spiritual maturity if the Church does not bear the fruit of the Spirit, of which LOVE is the most excellent and the greatest (Eph. 4:15-16; I Cor. 12:31; 13:1-3; 13:13)

Notice that St. Paul thought of the **Gifts of the Spirit** as Temporary Manifestations/Blossoms which are like the flowers of a fruit plant (I Cor. 12:7), and which may be barren (13:1-3) or fade (13:8-9). On the other hand, lively faith, hope and love are collectively called the **Fruit of the Spirit**, because they are Permanent Derivations/Harvest that never fail and ever remain (I Cor. 13:18a and 13a).

Flowers are admirable and attractive manifestations while Fruit is the ultimate harvest benefit from a tree (John 15:2; Lk. 3:6). The Fruit also gives a tree its real identity (Lk. 7:20) and survival.

The Fruit of the Spirit is the quality of Character, which we harvest from the Spirit when we walk in, live by and are led by the Spirit (Gal. 5:16-18, 25). It is the Harvest Benefit we gain from the indwelling Spirit (Rom 6:22).

1. What St. Paul described as the Fruit of the Spirit in Galatians 5:22-23 are also described in many other alternative ways in the Scripture.
What do you understand by the following alternative descriptions of the Fruit of the Spirit?
 - a) Divine nature (2 Pet. 1:4-7)_____
 - b) Harvest of righteousness (Jas 3:17-18)_____
 - c) Qualification for Kingdom bliss (Matt. 5:2-12)_____
 - d) Nature of Love (I Cor. 13:4-8)_____
 - e) Weapons of righteousness (2 Cor. 6:3-7)_____
 - f) Worthy virtues of life (Eph. 4:1-2)_____
 - g) Fruit of the light (Eph. 5:9)_____
 - h) Clothes for the Holy (Col. 3:12-15) _____

2. In the Scripture the word FRUIT is used to convey several meanings.
What do you understand by the following meanings of fruits/fullness?
 - a) Outcome/Result (Isa. 32:17)_____
 - b) Benefit/Profit (Luke 13:7)_____
 - c) HARVEST/Produce (Gen. 11:11; Jas 5:7; Matt. 21:34)_____
 - _____
 - d) Evidence/Identity-mark (Matt. 12:33) _____
 - e) CHARACTER/Habit (Matt. 7:15-20; Col. 1:10)_____
 - _____

THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT IS THE HARVEST OF DIVINE CHARACTER,
WHICH WE REAP THROUGH LIVING BY THE SPIRIT.

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DISCIPLESHIP AND SPIRITUAL GROWTH BIBLE STUDY

THEME: THE HOLY SPIRIT AND THE DISCIPLE

TOPIC: THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT II

TEXT: GALATIANS 5:16-18, 22-25

SERIES: 022

INTRODUCTION:

In the last study we understood the Fruit of the Spirit as the HARVEST OF DIVINE CHARACTER, which we reap through living by the Spirit. These virtues are severally found in the following passages of the Scripture Gal. 5:22-25; 2 Pet. 1:4-7; Jas/ 3:17-18; Matt. 5:2-12; I Cor. 13:4-8; 2 Cor. 6:3-7; Eph. 4:1-2; 5:9; and Col. 3:12-15 as we have already seen.

1. From these passages, what are the virtues we harvest from the Holy Spirit? Moreover, what do these mean practically?

(a) Virtues for relating to self:

i) Joy _____

ii) Patience: _____

iii) Temperance: _____

(b) Virtues for relating to others:

i) Love: _____

ii) Peace _____

iii) Kindness: _____

iv) Goodness _____

v) Faithfulness: _____

vi) Gentleness: _____

vii) Humility: _____

Viii) Impartiality: _____

C) Virtues for relating to God:

i) Love: _____

ii) Faithfulness: _____

iii) Humility: _____

iv) Purity: _____

v) Patience _____

2. Explain the following MEANS (or ways) through which we LIVE BY the Spirit in order to bear Fruit of the Spirit.

a) John 12:24/Col. 3:3-8. Death/Mortification _____

b) John 15:4. Abiding: _____

c) John 15:2, Pruning: _____

d) Matt. 13:8. Good soil _____

e) Exd. 1:7. Fertility: _____

f) Rom. 15:13. Spirit-fullness: _____

g) Rom. 8:13,14. Spirit leading: _____

3. What do quenching and grieving the Spirit mean and lead to?

a) Eph. 4:30-32 _____

b) Thes. 5:19-20 _____

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DISCIPLESHIP AND SPIRITUAL GROWTH BIBLE STUDY

THEME: THE HOLY SPIRIT AND THE DISCIPLE

TOPIC: REVIEW OF STUDIES 012 TO 022

SERIES: 023

REVIEW

Under our theme above, we have gone through eleven study outlines dealing with the workings of the Holy Spirit in the life of the Disciples as follows: -

- (a) The Person of the Holy Spirit
- (b) The Baptism with the Holy Spirit
- (c) The Fullness of the Holy Spirit
- (d) The Gifts of the Holy Spirit
- (e) The Fruit of the Holy Spirit
- (f) Living by the Holy Spirit

These studies were meant to enlighten you on the workings of the Holy Spirit so that you would:

- (i) Be assured of the transforming fellowship of the Holy Spirit as a believer (BAPTISM) 1 Cor. 12:13; Rom 6:5.
- (ii) Experience the Spirit's empowering influence (FULLNESS) Eph. 5:18.
- (iii) Serve by the Spirit's power to build up the Church (GIFTS) 1Cor. 12:4-7; Eph. 4:11-13.
- (iv) Live according to the Spirit's character (FRUIT) Gal. 5:16-18, 22-25.

In this way, you would please God in every way as a true Disciple of Jesus Christ.

DISCUSSIONS:

1. What have you learned about each of the above aspects of the workings of the Holy Spirit?

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____
- d. _____

2. What changes have come into your life as a Disciple of Christ through these studies?

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____
- d. _____

3. What further benefits do you think or expect that these studies would bring to the Church?

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____

4. What questions do you have on all the above studies on the Holy Spirit?

- a. _____

- b. _____
- c. _____
- d. _____

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DISCIPLESHIP AND SPIRITUAL GROWTH BIBLE STUDY

THEME: THE DISCIPLE IN THE CHURCH

TOPIC: SPIRITUAL FELLOWSHIP I

SERIES: 024

INTRODUCTION

The Church is a family called out from the world. In His family God is the Father and all Disciples or Believers are children of the household (Eph. 2:19).

In another sense the Church is the Body where Christ is the Head and the believers are parts (or members) of the Body (Eph. 4:1-16)

Believers are born again and adopted to become sons in the household of God by the Holy Spirit (Jn. 1:13; 3:5, 6; Gal. 4:4-7; Rom. 8:15).

On the other hand believers are recreated and baptized into the Body of Christ with the Holy Spirit (I Cor. 12:13; Eph. 1:13, 14; 2 Cor. 5:17; Rom. 6:4).

For our spiritual health, relevance and function, every believer needs the fellowship of other believers, because a family shares in harmony and a body functions in unison. Single burning firewood will soon quench and a single broom is easily broken.

DISCUSSIONS:

1. What do these verses teach about the importance of spiritual fellowship?

(a) Heb 10:25: _____

- (b) Prov. 27:17: _____
- (c) Eccl. 4:9-10: _____
- (d) Eccl. 4:11-12 _____

2. What do you learn about Christian Fellowship from the fellowship of the Early Church in Acts 2:41-47?

- (a) Results v. 43, 47 _____
- (b) Membership v. 41, 44 _____
- (c) Necessity v. 45 _____
- (d) Regularity v. 45 _____
- (e) Purpose v. 42 _____

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DISCIPLESHIP AND SPIRITUAL GROWTH BIBLE STUDY

THEME: THE DISCIPLE IN THE CHURCH

TOPIC: SPIRITUAL FELLOWSHIP II

SERIES: 025

INTRODUCTION:

Christians are those who have been called into the fellowship of Christ (1 Cor. 1:9). Fellowship means having a joint and common partnership in sharing, belonging and participating together.

DISCUSSION:

1. Why is Christian Fellowship the most bonded fellowship than any other?
 - (a) John 1:13 _____
 - (b) I Cor. 12:13 _____
 - (c) Matt. 23:8 _____
 - (d) Acts 20:28 _____
 - (e) Gal. 3:26-28 _____
 - (f) Eph. 4:3-6 _____

2. For what purposes is this supernaturally united and sanctified Christian fellowship appointed?
 - (a) Acts 2:41 _____
 - (b) Acts 2:42 _____
 - (c) Acts 2:44 _____
 - (d) Acts 2:47/I Pet. 2:9/I Cor. 11:26. _____

(e) I Cor. 14:26 _____

3. How far do you endeavour in playing your role to see that all these are fulfilled in the Church today? _____

4. How determined should you be in ensuring that the super-natural and sanctified unity of the Church is maintained? Eph. 4:1-3. _____

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DISCIPLESHIP AND SPIRITUAL GROWTH BIBLE STUDY

THEME: THE DISCIPLE IN THE CHURCH

TOPIC: THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

SERIES: 026

INTRODUCTION

The word “CHURCH” means a CALLED-OUT ASSEMBLY. The Church is therefore a gathering called out of the world by God for fellowship with one another (I John 1:7) and with the Trinity of the Godhead (I John 1:3; 2 Cor. 13:14; Matt. 18:20).

Truly, every believer is indwelt by the Holy Spirit (I Cor. 6:19); yet more so, the fellowship gathering of believers, which is the Church, is indwelt by the Holy Spirit (1 Cor. 3:16).

DISCUSSIONS:

1. Apart from being referred to as Household of God (Gal. 6:10; 1 Tim 3:15) and the Body of Christ (Eph. 1:22-23; 4:12; 1 Cor. 12:27), in what other descriptions is the Church referred to in the Scripture?
 - a) Eph. 2:19 _____
 - b) Eph. 2:21; 1 Cor. 3:16 _____
 - c) Eph. 2:22 _____
 - d) 1 Cor. 3:9 _____
 - e) 1 Pet. 2:5; 1 Cor. 3:9 _____
 - f) 1 Tim. 3:15b _____
 - g) Eph. 5:25-27; 32; Rev. 19:7 _____
 - h) John 10:16; 1 Pet. 5:2 _____

2. What light have the above descriptive metaphors thrown on your understanding of how God sees the Church?

3. Having understood the above descriptive similarities what erroneous ideas about the Church do you think need to be corrected?

- a)

- b)

- c)

- d)

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DISCIPLESHIP AND SPIRITUAL GROWTH BIBLE STUDY

THEME: THE DISCIPLE IN THE CHURCH

TOPIC: RELATIONSHIP IN THE CHURCH I

SERIES: 027

INTRODUCTION

The Church is the gathering of the Covenant People of God who are specially called and committed to godliness and good works to the glory of God, in obedience to God's Word, and for God's pleasure (I Pet. 2:9; Tit 2:14).

As members of this Bride and Body of Christ and the building (Temple/House) of God with such a high calling, we must be diligent to relate with one another as is pleasing to God.

DISCUSSION

From the following verses what responsibilities and standards are expected of believers to their fellow saints in the Church?

And how well are we doing these in our Church?

1. Rom. 12:10/Phil. 2:3 _____
2. Eph. 4:32: _____
3. Rom. 12:16 _____
4. Eph. 4:2/Col. 3:13 _____
5. Rom. 12:17, 18,21/I Pet. 3:8,9 _____
6. Rom. 15:7/16:16 _____
7. 1 Cor. 10:24 33/Heb. 10:24 _____
8. Col. 3:16/Heb 3.31 _____

9. Gal. 5:13/1 Thes 4:18 _____
10. Eph. 4:16/1 Cor. 14:12, 26 _____
11. Acts 20:35/Rom. 12:13 _____
12. Jas 5:16 _____

CONCLUSION

The Church is called to relate among themselves as one **COMMUNION in Christ** (i.e. for

Worship,

Discipleship and

Fellowship).

That is not all. The Church is also called to reach out to the world through **MISSION for Christ** (i.e.

Evangelization *by preaching*,

Ministration *by charitable service*,

Christianisation *by social action*, and even

Conservation *by taking charge/care/mastery/stewardship of the creation*).

This is what the Church is all about: Communion and Mission.

This is the full Great COMMISSION of Christ to the Church involving responsibilities not only within but also outside the Church, and we must not fail in any aspect of these.

Do you think the Church has lived up to this expectation?

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DISCIPLESHIP AND SPIRITUAL GROWTH BIBLE STUDY

THEME: THE DISCIPLE IN THE CHURCH

TOPIC: RELATIONSHIP IN THE CHURCH II

SERIES: 028

INTRODUCTION

In our relationship with one another, we need to rise up to our responsibilities. Study 027 points out so much of our failings in this aspect of the practice of our faith.

DISCUSSION

(A). Apart from general relationship and responsibilities earlier discussed as above, what further special responsibilities do we owe our leaders in the Church, who labour day and night for the sake of the saints?

1. 1Tim. 5:17/1Thes. 5:12,13 _____
2. Acts 28:10/Phil 4:16-19 _____
3. Heb. 13:17 _____
4. Col. 4:3 _____

(B). From 1 Cor. 3:10-17, why must a Christian be careful in fulfilling these responsibilities in our relationship with one another?

(C). Comment on each of the points below. What do they mean and what is your role therein?

1. As a House, the Church should be BUILD UP 1I Pet. 2:5; Eph. 2:20-22) _____
2. As a Bride, the Church should be MADE READY (Eph. 5:25-27; Rev. 19:7, 8) _____
3. As a Body, the Church should be NOURISHED TO MATURITY (Eph. 4:11-14) _____
4. As a Family, the Church should be UNITED IN LOVE (Col. 3:12-14; 1 Cor. 1:10; Rom. 15:5, 6) _____
5. As a Flock, the Church should be SHEPHERDED (Acts 20:28-29) _____
6. As a Temple, the Church should be KEPT HOLY (1 Cor. 3:16, 17; 2 Cor. 6:16,17) _____
7. As an Assembly, the Church should be ATTENDED (Heb. 10:25; Acts 2:47) _____

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DISCIPLESHIP AND SPIRITUAL GROWTH BIBLE STUDY

THEME: THE DISCIPLE IN THE CHURCH

TOPIC: THE MARKS OF THE TRUE CHURCH I

SERIES: 029

INTRODUCTION

Over the years, the Church has been described with so many terms. Each of these descriptions is meant to emphasize a particular mark, which should characterize the true Church.

For each description we shall: -

- (I) Explain the meaning
- (II) Discuss whether our Church fits the description
- (III) Suggest ways to make each description more real in our Churches today

1. THE CHURCH IS “ONE”

- (i) This description emphasizes the unity of the Church irrespective of denominations and differences in ways of doing things in the Churches; “**Unity does not mean uniformity**” and “**Diversity does not mean disunity**”. Every Church should understand that it is one with the other Churches (Eph. 4:1-6; 1 Cor. 12:4-6)

- (ii) _____
(ii) (Rom 14:1-8; 15:1-6)

2. THE CHURCH IS “HOLY”

- (i) This means that the Church is set apart unto God: being purified and sanctified in Christ by the Word, the Blood and the Spirit. Being holy implies that we should live holy lives and commonly share in morally pure fellowship (1 Pet. 2:9; 1 Cor. 3:16, 17 Col. 3:12).

(ii) _____

(iii) _____

3. THE CHURCH IS “CATHOLIC” (i.e. UNIVERSAL)

- (i) This implies that the Church is open to all who believe; for “whosoever” (Jn. 3:16), for “as many as” (Jn. 1:12), “of all nations” (Matt. 28:19), “without difference” (Rom. 3:22; 10:12). It was this understanding that led the ancient Church to hold Universal Councils for a united agreement on the Books of the New Testament and on the contents of the Nicene Creed which are still universally accepted by all true Churches.

(ii) _____

(iii) _____

4. THE CHURCH IS “APOSTOLIC”

- (i) This indicates that what the Church accepts and believes as true agrees with the teachings, commands and witnesses of the Apostles as contained in the Scripture (Act 2:42; Eph. 2:20; 2 Pet. 3:2; Jude 3, 17). The Church must ensure the handing-on and maintaining of the apostolic MISSION to the world, MANNER of life and MESSAGE of the Truth, as well as the supreme authority of the apostolic Scriptures (2 Tim. 2:2; Luke 1:1-4).

(ii) _____

(iii) (Acts 17:11) _____

Q (a). How apostolic is the Church today – in mission, message, and model? _____

Q (b). Does a denomination become holy, apostolic, or catholic merely by bearing these words in their official names? _____

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DISCIPLESHIP AND SPIRITUAL GROWTH BIBLE STUDY

THEME: THE DISCIPLE IN THE CHURCH

TOPIC: THE MARKS OF THE TRUE CHURCH II

SERIES: 030

INTRODUCTION

From Study 029, we have learned that the true Church is that which is a part of the One, Holy, Catholic (i.e. FOR ALL) and Apostolic Church. Such a Church must also be **a congregation of BELIEVERS where the PURE WORD of God is preached, and the SACRAMENTS (Baptism and Eucharist) are ministered according to Christ's ordinance.**

Below are further characteristic descriptions of the Church. For each description we shall still:

- (i) Explain the meaning
- (ii) Discuss whether our Church fits the description
- (iii) Suggest ways to make each description more real in our Churches today.

1. THE "ORTHODOX" CHURCH:

- (i) "Ortho" means Correct or True or Right. Today there is a common error of using "Orthodox" to mean "Old-fashioned". There is no basis whatsoever for this error. When the Church is called "Orthodox", the proper meaning is that its beliefs, doctrines, worship and witness have been known to be CORRECT, TRUE, RIGHT and SOUND (2 Tim. 1:13; 1 John 5:20).

- (ii) _____

(iii) (Tit 1:13, 14) _____

2. THE "MISSIONARY" CHURCH:

(i) Mission/Missionary means "Being sent" into the world to continue God's mission among men as Christ did (John 17:18; 20:21). The mission of the Church is to preach and evangelise, but it is also to give loving service to all as well as to take social action to change wicked/crooked systems in the society (Luke 4:18; Matt. 5:13-16).

(ii) _____

(iii) _____

3. THE "EVANGELICAL" CHURCH:

(i) "Evangelical" means, "being in agreement with the Gospel" or being biblical. Evangelical/Evangelicalism is not the same thing as Evangelistic/Evangelism because Evangelism means, "spreading the Gospel". Every true Church must be Evangelical because the Apostles endeavoured to be Evangelical (I Cor, 15:1-4; 11:23-25).

(ii) _____

(iii) _____

4. THE "PENTECOSTAL/CHARISMATIC" CHURCH:

(i) The Pentecost (i.e. Jewish Harvest) Day was the day the Church was born with the coming of the Holy Ghost to indwell (i.e. Baptize) believers and the Church. From then on, the Church has always manifested extraordinary powers through the Spirit of grace (Acts 18:8; 2:1-4). Every true Church should have something to do with the

workings of the Holy Spirit without Whom we could do nothing (Lk. 24:49; Acts 1:4), nor could we claim to be Christians at all (Rom. 8:9).

- (ii) _____
- (iii) (Eph. 5:15-18; Rom. 12:6-8) _____

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DISCIPLESHIP AND SPIRITUAL GROWTH BIBLE STUDY

THEME: THE DISCIPLE IN THE CHURCH

TOPIC: CHURCH LEADERSHIP AND MINISTRY

SERIES: 031

INTRODUCTION

The Church as a fellowship, household, body or assembly needs to be organized. This organising means that leaders are needed (Tit. 1:5; Acts 14:21-23).

1. What type of leaders are needed in the Church?

(i) Acts 6:3 _____

(ii) Acts 6:4 _____

(iii) 2 Tim. 2:15 _____

(iii) 2 Tim. 4:2 _____

(iv) 2 Cor. 4:2 _____

(v) Tit. 1:9 _____

(vi) I Tim. 3:2-4 _____

2. What role should the congregation play in accomplishing the ministry in the Church?

Eph. 4:11-12 _____

3. From Acts 20:18-35, how should leaders lead in the Church?

(i) v.18-19 _____

(ii) v. 20 _____

- (iii) v. 21 _____
- (iv) v. 24 _____
- (v) v. 27 _____
- (vi) v. 28 _____
- (vii) v. 29-30 _____
- (viii) v. 31 _____
- (ix) v. 35 _____

4. Church leaders were given many descriptive titles:

(a) What do these titles mean? and

(b) How do these explain the role of leaders in the Church?

(i) Shepherd or Pastor (Acts 20:28; I Pet. 5:1-3)

(a) _____

(b) _____

ii) Elder or Priest (Tit. 1:5-9)

(a) _____

(b) _____

iii) Overseer or Bishop (Acts 20:28; I Tim 3:2)

(a) _____

(b) _____

(iv) Ambassador or Vicar (2 Cor. 5:20)

(a) _____

(b) _____

(v) Servant or Deacon (I Tim. 3:8; Rom. 16:1-2)

(a) _____

(b) _____

(vi) Steward or Warden (I Cor. 4:1-4)

- (a) _____
- (b) _____

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DISCIPLESHIP AND SPIRITUAL GROWTH BIBLE STUDY

THEME: THE DISCIPLE IN THE CHURCH

TOPIC: WORSHIP-SERVICE FORMS IN THE CHURCH

SERIES: 032

INTRODUCTION

As we go through the New Testament, we could find instances of what the Church did when they gathered together for fellowship and worship-services.

DISCUSSION

1. What are the contents of both our Liturgical and non-Liturgical forms of worship-services and fellowships today?

2. In the following verses, point out some of the items of worship and fellowship services in the ancient Church. Explain what each means and discuss how far each is present in Church gatherings today.

- (i) Acts 2:42-43:

- a) _____
- b) _____
- c) _____
- d) _____
- e) _____
- f) _____

(ii) Acts 20:36; 21:5b; I Cor. 11:4-5; I Tim 2:8.

a) _____

b) _____

iii) I Cor. 14:2-3,6,16,26,27; 16:1

a) _____

b) _____

c) _____

d) _____

e) _____

f) _____

g) _____

h) _____

iv) I Tim 4:13

a) _____

b) _____

c) _____

3. We have seen that **fellowship/worship services in the apostolic times** had the following items as some of its contents: Psalms/Singing/Hymns, Reading of Scriptures, Prophecy/Revelation, Teaching/Knowledge, Exhortation, Tongues, Interpretation, Sharing in common, Breaking of Bread, Thanksgiving, Prayers (with Kneeling down or Lifting of holy hands), Signs and Wonders, and Offering/Collection.

How could we fully experience and express all these forms/items during worship in our Churches today? _____

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DISCIPLESHIP AND SPIRITUAL GROWTH BIBLE STUDY

THEME: THE DISCIPLE IN THE CHURCH

TOPIC: REVIEW OF STUDIES 24 TO 32

SERIES: 033

REVIEW:

The past nine studies have taken us through various aspects of the meaning, the marks, and the nature of the Church, as well as the place of a believer within the context of the Church.

These were examined as follows: -

1. The Church as spiritual fellowship
2. The figures and meanings of the Christian Church.
3. Our responsibilities and relationship to one another as well as to the Church of Christ as a whole.
4. The marks and descriptions of the Church.
5. The nature of leadership and ministry in the Church.
6. Forms and contents of the order of services and fellowship programmes of the Church.

These studies were intended to make us realize: -

- a) The meaning and purpose of the Church and the riches of her assemblies (Acts 2:42)
- b) The importance of the Church to the believer
- c) The importance of the believer to the Church (Eph. 2:19-22)
- d) The role of the Holy Spirit in the Church (I Cor. 12:13)

e) The complementation between Church Leadership and Laity (Eph. 4:11, 12)

1) What are the things you learned from the studies about the Church and your place in it?

a) _____

b) _____

c) _____

d) _____

e) _____

e) _____

2. What effect do you think the studies should have on your Church?

a) _____

b) _____

c) _____

d) _____

f) _____

3. What questions do you have on these studies about being the disciple in the Church?

a) _____

b) _____

c) _____

d) _____

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DISCIPLESHIP AND SPIRITUAL GROWTH BIBLE STUDY

THEME: THE SPIRITUAL LIFE

TOPIC: SPIRITUALITY AND CARNALITY

SERIES: 034

INTRODUCTION

The Spiritual Life is the “Christ-Life”. It is the life in which Christ is dominantly present: the life that has the likeness of Christ, the life that is powered by Christ, the life that is possessed by Christ. True Christian spirituality therefore means permanent awareness of Christ’s presence, walking in the ways of Christ, depending on the ability of Christ and remaining a property of Christ.

But how could we distinguish Christian spirituality from natural carnality? First spirituality is godliness and carnality is worldliness. We do well if we choose to be spiritual, godly and Christly.

In the following pairs of verses, what are the characteristics of, and the differences between (a) Spirituality and (b) Carnality?

1. (a) Gal. 5:22-23 _____

(b) Gal. 5:19-25 _____

2. (a) Phil. 2:5-8 _____

(b) 1 Cor. 3:3 _____

3. (a) Eph. 4:14-15; Heb. 5:14 _____

(b) 1 Cor. 3:1-4 _____

4. (a) John 6:13 _____
(b) John 6:12 _____
5. (a) 1 Cor. 2:15 _____
(b) 1 Cor. 2:14 _____
6. (a) 1 Cor. 1:18b,24 _____
(b) 1 Cor. 1:18a,21,23,27 _____
7. (a) 1 Cor. 2:10,15,16 _____
(b) 1 Cor. 2:9,14 _____
8. (a) 1 Cor. 2:4b _____
(b) 1 Cor. 2:4a _____
9. (a) Rom. 8:10-13; Gal. 5:16-18 _____
(b) Rom. 8:5-9; 7:8-11 _____
10. (a) Rom. 8:14-17; 6:11-14 _____
(b) Eph. 2:1-2 _____

CONCLUSION

God looks on us to do Him proud and do the Devil shame, by abhorring carnality and holding unto spirituality. Will you do God proud or will you disappoint Him?

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DISCIPLESHIP AND SPIRITUAL GROWTH BIBLE STUDY

THEME: THE SPIRITUAL LIFE

TOPIC: WITNESSING AS SPIRITUAL EXERCISE

SERIES: 035

INTRODUCTION:

Bodily physical exercise has a little profit in that it keeps the body fit. Mental exercise matures the sense to be able to discern. In the same way spiritual exercise is eternally profitable spiritually (Heb.5: 14; 1Tim. 4:8). The most important or “**FIRST OF ALL**” spiritual exercise is **witnessing/testifying for Christ** (Mark1 3:10; 1 Cor. 15:3).

Witnessing is making Christ known to others by showing/telling them any or all of the following:

- * ***Who Christ is,***
- * ***How indispensable Christ is for the salvation of all,***
- * ***What Christ has done for you/them hitherto,***
- * ***What He can do for you/them thenceforth,***
- * ***Why/How Christ came,***
- * ***Why/How He will come again and***
- * ***Why/How we must respond to Christ lest we perish.***

1. Comment on these various ways of witnessing;

(a) An exemplary life of moral purity (Phil. 3:17; 1Tim. 4:2). _____

- (b) Relating to others with loving goodness (Eph. 2:10; Rom. 12:17; John 3:16-19). _____
- (c) Inviting others to participate in Church programmes such as worship, fellowship, revival, Bible study, Prayer, etc (1John 1:1-4; John 1:40-47; Acts 2:46,47). _____
- (d) Speaking to others about Jesus by word of mouth (Acts 2:36; Rom. 10:14). _____
- (e) Giving out Christian literature/Tracts for others to read (John 20:30-31). _____
2. 2Cor. 5:20 says we are ambassadorial witnesses of Christ. What could this mean? _____
3. A witnessing Christian could be described as a **Royal Emissary** of Christ's Kingdom. What do these verses say about how God has authorised us, commissioned us, and empowered us, to be His Royal Witnesses?
- (a) Acts 1:8 _____
- (b) Matt. 28:18-20 _____
- (c) Mark 16:15-18 _____
4. What royal message about our King (Jesus) do we bear in our witnessing?
- (a) Rom. 3:23; John 8:34 _____
- (b) Rom. 6:23; 5:8 _____
- (c) 1Cor. 15:3-4, 20-26 _____
- (d) Acts 2:35-38; John 1:1,12 _____

- (e) Acts 16:31; Rom. 6:1-2; 10:9,10,13 _____
- (f) Col. 1:14; John 5:24; 1John 5:12 _____
- _____
- (g) Rev. 3:20 _____

CONCLUSION

For effective witnessing, one needs to have experienced the New Spiritual Birth, live in fellowship with God, be grounded in the Scriptures, and be prayerful both for oneself and for those one is witnessing to. May God help us. Amen.

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DISCIPLESHIP AND SPIRITUAL GROWTH BIBLE STUDY

THEME: THE SPIRITUAL LIFE

TOPIC: THE WORD AS SPIRITUAL NECESSITY I

SERIES: 036

INTRODUCTION:

Without the Word of God, there is no spiritual life (John 6:63). Whoever wants to lead a successful spiritual life must delight and be devoted to God's Word (2Tim. 3:14-17).

The Word of God is made up of: -

God's activities for us to learn from,

God's standards for us to pursue,

God's promises for us to believe,

God's commands for us to obey,

God's claims for us to accept, and

God's nature for us to adore.

1. From Psalm 19:7-11, what purposes could the Word of God serve in our lives?

(a) _____

(b) _____

(c) _____

(d) _____

(e) _____

(f) _____

2. Psalm 119 is dedicated to reflections on the Word of God.

(i) Verses 97-104 talk about some usefulness of the Word of God for us-
what are these?

(a) _____

(b) _____

(c) _____

(d) _____

(ii) Verses 41-48 and 57-64 describe God's Word from various aspects,
using different names or terms. How many of these could you identify
and what do you think these terms mean to, and demand from us?

(a) _____

(b) _____

(c) _____

(d) _____

(e) _____

(f) _____

(g) _____

3 How necessary is the Word of God for our spiritual lives? (1 Pet. 2:2;
Job 23:12; Matt. 4:4)

4 How does James describe the Word of God in these verses?

(a) Jas 1:18a _____

(b) Jas 1:21b _____

- (c) Jas 1:23b _____
- (d) Jas 1:25a _____

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