



Disciplemaking 1

Abiding in His Word

"If you abide in My Word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; and you will know the truth and the truth will make you free." John 8:31-32

A Systematic Theology

My name:

My teacher's name:



“Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth.” 2 Timothy 2:15

Disciplemaking 1 - Abiding in His Word

FOREWORD

Disciplemaking 1 - Abiding in His Word, deals exclusively with the contents of the 66 books of the Old and New Testaments. It does not present or promote any man-made traditions, practices, or extra-Biblical experiences. If you disagree with anything in this course, be a Berean. When the Apostle Paul taught the noble-minded Believers in Berea, *“They received the word with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see whether these things were so,”* Acts 17:11. Be daily examining the Bible for truth. Be a Berean!

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Christian theology was defined by Thomas Aquinas (Christian theologian and philosopher, 1225-1274 AD) as the study of that which is taught by God, teaches of God, and leads to God ... specifically the God of the Bible. The term *theology* is derived from the Greek *theologia* which combines the Greek words *theos* [God] and *logia* [word]. Theology is the study of God's Word. *Basic Disciplemaking 1 - Abiding in His Word* is a concise, condensed, and streamlined *systematic theology* ... a specific and focussed type of the study and teaching of God's Word. This course arranges the Bible's main truths and teaching into a coherent, clear, and understandable framework and foundation for further study. It includes an overview of the history, chronology, central people, and main geography of the Old and New Testaments.

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HOW TO STUDY THIS COURSE

Study Options. Pray and then choose your option.

Study by yourself. This course works fine for self study.

Study with a study partner. Choose wisely. Iron sharpens iron, Proverbs 27:17.

Study as a group. Choose faithful learners, 2 Timothy 2:2.

Registration. You do not need to register to study this course. However, we would like to know who you are, where you live (country and city ... not street address), and your email address. Your email will be used exclusively for updates and announcements of other free Bible teaching and evangelism materials, videos, and courses.

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MEET THE AUTHOR

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I have been a true believer in Jesus Christ since I was 10 years old. I have been in full-time ministry since 1974. And I have been married to the wife of my youth for many decades. She, our children, and our grandchildren are all Believers. I am pro-church ... but promote no specific church or denomination. I believe the 66 books of the Bible, as originally written, are the inerrant, infallible, accurate, unfading, complete Word of God. I take the entire Bible to mean what it says it says. It is the ultimate authority in life and doctrine.

My in-person ministry has been in the USA, England, Poland, and Russia. In person, in print and online, it has touched every continent except Antarctica and has included Bible teaching, evangelism, apologetics, and preaching. It's been in churches, colleges, houses, retreat centers, offices, restaurants ... and on a mountain top, on radio, on videos, and extensively online. I believe that a good teacher lives what he teaches ... leading people to ground that he has already occupied. In God's grace and mercy, He has made this ministry fruitful and allowed me to be part of it. To God, and God alone, be the Glory.

Disciplemaking 1 - Abiding in His Word was written in the 1980s. After teaching it numerous times, it has been updated and expanded several times. Changes were made to its content to answer student questions and needs that emerged during teaching. The original process of writing and updating this course was rooted in much prayer and included extensive, but unusual, research. After deciding which subjects to include in this course, I collected *many* books on every subject. But, I didn't read them. I went through every book to find every verse mentioned. Those verses were then arranged in logical order, studied, and organized into the framework of this course. A wide variety of word-for-word Bible translations, Bible dictionaries, Greek and Hebrew lexicons, concordances, respected commentaries, maps, and a variety of other resources were used. *Disciplemaking 1 - Abiding in His Word* is not a paraphrase of the writings of others. As far as good scholarship allows, it is an original work ... one of my life's main works.

Writing this course changed my life and has changed the lives of others who have studied it ... and it can change your life. Jesus said to Believers, "*If you continue in [abide in] My Word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; and you will know the truth and the truth will make you free,*" John 8:31-32. This course can help enable you to abide in His Word. What you learn from the Bible will give you the sure footing in His truth that only His Word can give.

Your brother in Christ,

John D. Morris III

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Disciplemaking 1 - Abiding in His Word

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“Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth.” 2 Timothy 2:15

Disciplemaking 1 - Abiding In His Word

INTRODUCTION

“All authority has been given to Me in Heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Matthew 28:18-20

THE COMMAND TO MAKE DISCIPLES

After Jesus was crucified, He appeared to His disciples multiple times before He ascended into Heaven [from just outside of Jerusalem]. At one of those appearances [several days before His ascension] on a mountain in Galilee, Jesus gave His disciples the Matthew 28:18-20 commandment that is quoted above. That very important commandment is known as the Great Commission. The individual product of obedience to the Great Commission is a disciple. The process of obedience to the Great Commission is a multiplication process.

THE DEFINITION OF A DISCIPLE

A disciple is a student and follower of Jesus Christ ... one who lives by and spreads His teaching. Jesus set high standards for those wanting to be *His* disciples. He said that being His disciple means abiding in [living in] His Word, John 8:31-32. Notice that He spoke to Believers in those two verses. Jesus added that our love for one another demonstrates to the world that we are His disciples, John 13:35. In addition, He explained that we glorify the Father and *prove to be*, meaning *become*, His disciples by bearing much fruit, John 15:8. And Jesus explained that His disciples must put Him above their own lives, relationships, and all, Luke 14:26-33.

THE PROCESS OF DISCIPLEMAKING

Disciplemaking is God’s work combined with our work. The first step is belief in Jesus. A nonbeliever becomes a believer by faith alone in Jesus Christ alone. Salvation is received by faith in Jesus based solely on His work and His sacrifice. However, a new believer is not automatically a disciple of Jesus. A new believer, baptized and taught to obey, grows to become a disciple. Becoming a disciple is based on the believer’s work and sacrifice ... enabled by God. And the process of disciplemaking continues as the disciple becomes a disciplemaker. In the Great Commission, Jesus stated that we are to be *“teaching them to observe all that I commanded you”*. One of the commandments He gave was the Great Commission. Therefore, the process of disciplemaking includes teaching disciples to be disciplemakers.

COMMITMENTS

“And the things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, these entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also,” 2 Timothy 2:2.

Paul instructed Timothy to entrust what he had taught him to faithful men who could teach others. The process was to be multiplied to a fourth generation ... from Paul to Timothy ... from Timothy to faithful men ... and from those faithful men to others also. And then it was to continue from generation to generation. That kind of multiplication is the goal of this course. Each lesson is a building block in the process of becoming a disciple and a disciplemaker. For this process to work, it takes effort on the part of both the teacher and the student.

THE COMMITMENTS TO TAKE THIS COURSE

Be available. Make the time available for these lessons.

Be conscientious. This requires effort ... pray, study, and review.

Be a Berean. Search the Scriptures to see if these things are true.

Be teachable. Be willing to learn, think, grow, and change. Apply what you learn to your own life. Then teach someone. Apply *and* multiply.

THE COMMITMENTS TO TEACH THIS COURSE

Be committed to your student(s). Give your time as a teacher and as a friend to those you teach. Be available to them. Remember, they are to be disciples of Jesus Christ ... not to be disciples of you.

Be an example. Your life is a demonstration of your commitment to God, to His Word, and to the process of disciplemaking. Your thorough knowledge of the materials will show that the lessons can be learned.

Be flexible and firm. Be patient. It takes time to learn and to apply the content of these lessons. Give enough time to your student(s) to learn, to grow, and even to fail. Encourage them and hold them accountable to learn ... to apply what they learn ... and then to teach others also.

Be prepared. Know each lesson thoroughly ... and study the appendix on improving your teaching skills.

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Disciplemaking 1 - Review Questions

Introduction ... pages 6 - 7

Part of learning is review ... storing new knowledge into your long term memory. Print this review test or use separate paper to answer the following questions. Then repeat this test, open book or closed book, until you can accurately and easily answer all the questions. These *review exams* are available with correct answers on VirtualBibleAcademy.org.

1. After Jesus was crucified, He appeared to His disciples several times before He ascended into Heaven. At one of those appearances on a mountain in Galilee, Jesus gave the Great Commission.
 - a. What is the main reference in Matthew for the Great Commission?

 - b. Write out the Great Commission in your own words.

2. Obedience to the Great Commission is a _____ process.
The product is _____.

3. In Luke 14:26-33, Jesus explained that His disciples must put Him first above their own _____, above their _____, and above _____ or they cannot be His _____.

4. In John 8:31, Jesus said to _____ that being His disciples means _____ in His Word.

5. From John 13:35, our _____ for one another as disciples demonstrates to the _____ that we are His _____.

6. We glorify the Father and prove to be His disciples [that is, *become* His disciples] by _____, John 15:8.

7. The Great Commission is more than evangelism. However, in the process of discipling, the first step has to be _____ in Jesus.

8. In the discipling process, according to Matthew 28:18-20, a new believer needs to be _____ and taught to _____ all that Jesus _____ . The goal is for that new believer to become a disciple and a _____ .

9. The multiplication process of discipling is seen in the words of 2 Timothy 2:2 being carried through four generations ... from Paul to _____ to _____ who will be able to then teach _____ also.

10. Thoughtfully and prayerfully, answer “yes” or “no” to the following:

a. Will you do what it takes to learn these lessons?

b. Will you be conscientious and teachable?

c. Will you apply what you learn to your own life?

d. Are you willing to teach someone else if God gives you the opportunity?

Disciplemaking 1 - Answers to Review Questions

Introduction ... questions pages 8 - 9

Do not use these answer sheets to find your answers. Please use them only to check your answers. Go back into the lesson to find the information to correct your answers. Repeat the test until you can accurately and easily answer all the questions. All the lessons, review tests, and answer pages are available on VirtualBibleAcademy.org.

1. After Jesus was crucified, He appeared to His disciples several times before He ascended into Heaven. At one of those appearances on a mountain in Galilee, Jesus gave the Great Commission.

a. What is the main reference in Matthew for the Great Commission?

Matthew 28:18 - 20

b. Write out the Great Commission in your own words.

These should all be included in the answer:

All authority given to Jesus ... therefore go make disciples ... baptizing ... teaching to obey all Jesus commanded ... and Jesus is with you in the process.

2. Obedience to the Great Commission is a multiplication process.
The product is disciples of Jesus.

3. In Luke 14:26-33, Jesus explained that His disciples must put Him first above their own lives, above their relationships, and above everything else - tangible and intangible or they cannot be His disciples.

4. In John 8:31, Jesus said to believers that being His disciples means abiding or living in His Word.

5. From John 13:35, our love for one another as disciples demonstrates to the world that we are His disciples.

6. We glorify the Father and prove to be His disciples [that is, *become* His disciples] by bearing much fruit , John 15:8.

7. The Great Commission is more than evangelism. However, in the process of disciplemaking, the first step has to be believing in Jesus.

8. In the disciplemaking process, according to Matthew 28:18-20, a new believer needs to be baptized and taught to obey all that Jesus commanded . The goal is for that new believer to become a disciple and a disciplemaker .

9. The multiplication process of disciplemaking is seen in the words of 2 Timothy 2:2 being carried through four generations ... from Paul to Timothy to faithful men who will be able to then teach others also.

10. Thoughtfully and prayerfully, answer “yes” or “no” to the following:

a. Will you do what it takes to learn these lessons?

b. Will you be conscientious and teachable?

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d. Are you willing to teach someone else if God gives you the opportunity?



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Disciplemaking 1 - Abiding in His Word

LESSON 1 - SALVATION

"For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." Romans 6:23

AN ETERNAL DECISION

The Bible makes it clear that everyone will live forever ... the only question is where that life will be. The answer to that is based on each person's decision about Jesus Christ ... to *believe in Him* or to reject Him. With eternity in the balance, no other decision is as important as each person's decision about Jesus.

THE PROBLEM

Simply stated, our sin separates us from God. We are guilty by association with the human race, i.e., imputed sin. We are afflicted with a natural tendency to sin, i.e., inherited sin nature. And on our own, we do wrong things [personal sin] that separate us from Him. Without God's intervention, we would face an eternity away from Him.

THE SOLUTION

On our own, we are incapable of solving that problem ... but God is capable of solving it. Based on love, God took the initiative. He sent His Son to die on the cross in our place. When we believe in Jesus as our personal Savior, His substitution pays for our sins [redemption] ... satisfies God [propitiation] ... changes us [reconciliation] ... and takes our sin away and gives us His righteousness [imputation]. Then God declares that we are righteous [justification]. This salvation is through faith alone in Christ alone. Salvation is neither achieved by a voluntary or involuntary declaration of some creed nor achieved by the signing of some document. It is by faith and not by any personal effort or personal work. *"For by grace you have been saved through faith; and this is not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not a result of works, so that no one may boast,"* Ephesians 2:8-9.

THE RESULT

We are born into God's family when we put our personal faith in Jesus. Our good works do not save us ... they do not produce faith. But good works demonstrates real faith. Good works are a consequence of our salvation rather than a prerequisite for our salvation. As Believers, we have the wonderful privilege of knowing that we have eternal life. We are eternally safe because no one can snatch us out of His hand.

SIN ... THE REALITY, THE RESULT, AND THE REMEDY

The Bible makes clear statements about sin. It states that sin is real in our lives. The result of our sin is very serious ... separating us from God ... and on our own to face an eternity away from His presence. However, God provided a remedy. He offers that remedy to us as a free gift.

THE REALITY OF SIN. Sin is anything that does not conform to the goodness of God. It can be a thought, Matthew 5:27-28 ... a deed committed, John 8:34 ... or a deed omitted, James 4:17. The words for sin in the Bible mean missing the mark, transgressing the Law, rebelling, defiance, disobedience, wickedness, evil, and unrighteousness. Sin can be against others or against ourselves, 1 Corinthians 6:18. Ultimately all sins are against God, Genesis 39:9, Psalm 41:4 & 51:4, & Romans 8:7. Three categories of sin are described in the Bible. The first category is imputed sin described in Romans 5:12-21. It is guilt by association with the human race ... in Adam all sinned. The second is our inherited sin nature referred to in Ephesians 2:3 and Psalm 51:5. That is our natural tendency to sin. That natural tendency brings us unavoidably to the third category, personal sin. Personal sins are those that we commit in thought or deed ... in attitude, action, and inaction.

THE RESULT OF SIN. The reality of sin in our lives is unavoidable. *“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,”* Romans 3:23. It is also unavoidable that we must deal with the consequences, or results, of that sin. One result is that we are alienated from God. We are His enemies, Romans 5:10. We are separated from Him. *“But your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God,”* Isaiah 59:2. We stand before God guilty, judged, and condemned. On our own without God’s intervention, we stand condemned to an eternity *“away from the presence of the Lord,”* 2 Thessalonians 1:9 ... and condemned to *“disgrace and everlasting contempt,”* Daniel 12:2.

THE REMEDY FOR SIN. Sin and its consequential condemnation and punishment are humanly unavoidable. However, God has provided the remedy for sin in the death of Jesus Christ on the cross. *“While we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly,”* Romans 5:6. *“He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross,”* 1 Peter 2:24. *“For there is one God, and one mediator also between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself as a ransom for all,”* 1 Timothy 2:5-6. *“Everyone who believes in Him receives forgiveness of sins,”* Acts 10:43. Everyone will deal with the sin problem in one of two ways: (1) by eternal separation from God, or (2) by God’s solution received through faith in Jesus Christ.

SALVATION ... SIX PROVISIONS

In His great love, God provided salvation through the death of Jesus to all those who *believe in* Jesus. Salvation has different facets ... directed toward God, directed toward sin, and directed toward man. An understanding of salvation is rooted in these different aspects of His great gift. They are described below.

SUBSTITUTION ... JESUS TOOK MY PLACE. Jesus died on the cross as our substitute. All of salvation is based on this one fact. It is more than His dying for our benefit. He died in our place.

“For while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.”
Romans 5:6

“For Christ also died for sins once for all, the just for the unjust, in order that He might bring us to God.” 1 Peter 3:18

REDEMPTION ... MY SIN WAS PAID FOR. This is directed toward sin. Redemption is buying or delivering by payment of a price. Redemption is a payment for sin. That payment was made to God. The payment was the blood of Christ. The life, or soul, of the flesh is in the blood, Leviticus 17:11. The payment was His life. Jesus Christ gave His life for our sins ... made the payment for us

“Christ redeemed us from the curse of the Law, having become a curse for us.”
Galatians 3:13

“Knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers, but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ.” 1 Peter 1:18-19

“For You were slaughtered, and You purchased people for God with Your blood from every tribe, language, people, and nation.” Revelation 5:9-10

PROPITIATION ... GOD WAS SATISFIED. This is directed toward God. Propitiation means satisfaction. The Bible states that Christ Himself is the sacrifice that satisfies God ... that appeases or placates God’s wrath. The justice of God had to be satisfied.

“Therefore, He had to be made like His brethren in all things, that He might become a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.” Hebrews 2:17

“And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for those of the whole world.” 1 John 2:2

“In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.” 1 John 4:10

SALVATION ... continued

RECONCILIATION ... I WAS AND CAN BE CHANGED. This is a change directed toward man. It makes man acceptable to God. Reconciliation brings the two back into harmony ... makes them compatible again. God did not change. God does not need to change. Man needs to be changed. At the cross, mankind was changed ... made savable. And we are changed individually when we believe. Then we are given the ministry and word of reconciliation ... to share the Gospel with the lost people of our world.

“For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.”

Romans 5:10

“Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ, and gave us the ministry of reconciliation, namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were entreating through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.” 2 Corinthians 5:18-20

IMPUTATION ... DOUBLE TRANSFER. Upon belief in Christ, all of our sin is transferred to Him ... and all of His righteousness is transferred to us. The sinless Christ became sin on our behalf ... and we, the unrighteous ones, were given His righteousness.

“He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.” 2 Corinthians 5:21

“And He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed.” 1 Peter 2:24

JUSTIFICATION ... GOD DECLARED ME RIGHTEOUS. Justification is a declaration of righteousness. It is God's pronouncement that we are right in our standing before Him. The cross makes us righteous. Justification declares that we are righteous. As a part of our salvation, we are justified by Christ's work on the cross. After we have been saved, our resultant good works justify us ... they declare our salvation, James 2:24.

“Being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus.” Romans 3:24

“Therefore having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.” Romans 5:1

“So then as through one transgression there resulted condemnation to all men, so even through one act of righteousness there resulted justification of life to all men. For as through the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, even so through the obedience of the One the many will be made righteous.”

Romans 5:18-19

A REVIEW OF SIN AND SALVATION

SIN

Sin is real in every person's life ... and it produces a serious problem as a result. Each person's inherited sin nature [innate tendency to sin] unavoidably leads to personal sin. Then that personal sin separates him or her from God. Without God's intervention, we would pay the debt for our sin. That debt is an eternal separation from God. However, Jesus paid for our sin by His death on the cross. We are born again when we receive Jesus as our Savior by believing in Him. His payment on the cross becomes our payment for sin at the moment of our belief in Him.

SALVATION

When Jesus died on the cross, His substitution propitiated [satisfied] God for mankind ... and redeemed [paid for] sin for mankind ... and reconciled [changed by making savable] mankind.

However, no individual was, or is, automatically saved by this. All of the above was accomplished on the cross ... but no universal salvation consequentially saved all mankind. Each person must individually be born again through personal faith in Jesus.

When you put your personal faith in Jesus a double imputation is transacted for you in that your sin is imputed [transferred] to Jesus and His righteousness is imputed [transferred] to you. You must take a step of faith [Ephesians 2:8-9]. Your personal faith is necessary ... there is no universal salvation.

Then, through faith, His substitution on the cross ... propitiates [satisfies] God for you ... and redeems [pays for] your personal sin ... and reconciles [changes] you. And therefore, you are justified [declared righteous] by God.

COMPLETELY SURE? Are you completely sure that you are eternally right with God? You may love God, talk to Him, go to His House, and give your time and resources to Him ... but have never put your faith in Him. Jesus said, "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of Heaven," Matthew 7:21. Jesus went on in Matthew 7 to tell of the man who built his house on the rock. It was the rock, the foundation, that saved the man from the storm. Are you completely sure that your foundation is secure. Jesus is the only rock that will save you for eternity. If you want to settle this for all of eternity, you can do that by saying this simple prayer of belief. If ... if it truly expresses the desire of your heart, I invite you to pray it now.

*Dear God,
I admit my need ... I am a sinner.
I repent ... I turn to You from my sin.
I believe in Jesus ... that being God, He died on the cross for me.
I invite Him to be my Savior. Amen*

If you prayed that prayer just now, please send an email to John, the author of this course, to contact@VirtualBibleAcademy.org so that he can rejoice and pray for you.

If you weren't ready to pray that prayer, please visit www.ReadyForEternity.org for a more thorough explanation and some answers to questions about God and the Bible.

ETERNAL SECURITY

The preponderance of verses. There are many verses in the Bible declaring eternal security. And there are a few verses that, when interpreted incorrectly, seem to contradict eternal security. Remember that all verses are true ... and need to be understood so that none are disregarded. To believe that salvation is non-eternal is to deny the words of Jesus in the verses from John listed immediately below.

The Bible states that salvation is eternal. Salvation is a permanent gift from God. It cannot be lost or given back ... once saved, always saved. Your eternal security is based on God's work, not on your work. You are not holding onto Him in your strength ... He is holding on to you in His strength. No one, not even you, is stronger than God. You are held strongly and securely in His hand for all eternity.

Jesus promised, "*And I give eternal life to them, and they shall **never** perish; and no one shall snatch them out of My hand. My Father ... is greater than all; and **no one** is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand,*" John 10:28-29.

Jesus promised, "*He who hears ... and believes ... **has** eternal life, and **does not** come into judgement but **has passed** out of death into life,*" John 5:24.

Jesus promised, "*All that the Father gives Me shall come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will certainly not cast out,*" John 6:37.

Good works do not save you. No good works can add to His payment for your salvation. "*For by grace you have been saved through faith; and this is not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; **not a result of works**, so that no one may boast,*" Ephesians 2:8-9. The good work of holding on to your salvation does not save you. The good work of not letting go of your salvation does not save you. The precious blood of Jesus paid the full price. "*You were not redeemed with perishable things ... but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ,*" 1 Peter 1:18-19. You were saved by His blood plus nothing you add to it.

Justification is a *declaration* of righteousness. Your changed life declares that you are saved ... but does not save you. "*A man is justified by works, and not by faith alone,*" James 2:24. The world cannot see your faith, but it can see your changed life.

Good works are important. We were "*created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them,*" Ephesians 2:10. And your works will be judged by fire, 1 Corinthians 3:10-15. What remains after the fire, determines rewards. If nothing remains, "*he shall suffer loss; but he himself shall be saved,*" verse 15. Salvation can never be lost ... but rewards can be forfeited.

The three tenses of salvation ... past, present, and future. We *have been* saved from the penalty of sin, Luke 7:50, Ephesians 2:5,8. We *are being* saved from the power of sin, Philippians 2:12, 1 Corinthians 1:18, and 2 Corinthians 2:15. And we *will be* saved from the presence of sin, Romans 5:9-10, 13:11. No believer is lost in these three stages. Actually the opposite is clearly stated ... all who have been saved will ultimately be saved, John 6:39 and Romans 8:30.

God's discipline. Hebrews 12:4-13 describes His discipline of all Believers. However, He does not take back our salvation as part of His discipline. And Hebrews 5:11 - 6:8 explains that the atrophied believer needs to grow in faith rather than be born-again again. Hebrews 6:6 adds that the *stumbler* [the meaning of the Greek translated as *fallen away* in verse 6] does not need saving repentance [having already been saved] because that has been done and would insult the work of Christ as insufficient.

The strong conclusion. Nothing and no-one, "*Shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord,*" Romans 8:35-39.

ILLUSTRATIONS OF “BELIEVING IN”

Marriage. I met a beautiful and wonderful young woman ... and fell in love. I truly loved her, talked to her almost every day, read her letters, went to her house often, gave her gifts, and told other people about her. But ... we were not married. Then one day, as we had planned, we stood in front of Reverend Love [his real name] to say our marriage vows. He asked, “Will you take this woman as your lawfully wedded wife?” At that moment in time, I had to make my final decision ... would I believe *in her* and not just *about her*? I said my “I do” and Reverend Love declared us to be husband and wife. In a similar way many people *believe about* Jesus. They love Him, talk to Him, read the Bible, go to the church, give Him their gifts of time and money, and tell others about Him ... but have never said “I do” to Him. They really do *believe about* Jesus ... but they also need to *believe in* Jesus.

Parachutes. I believe *about* parachutes. Strap one on your back and jump out of an airplane and it will carry you to safety. That is easy for me to say since I have never done it. I’ve seen it work many times ... but I have never had to put my faith in one. Imagine standing in the open doorway of a plane that has lost its power and is headed to a sure crash against the mountainside. Stepping out of the plane is the moment when *believing about* parachutes changes to *believing in* parachutes. Staying on the plane and *believing about* parachutes won’t save you from final destruction. In the same way *believing about* Jesus saves no one. You must *believe in* Him to be saved. Stepping out of the airplane with a faulty parachute won’t save you either. In the same way believing in a false god won’t save you. Stepping out of the plane is a step of faith ... it is not a good work that you do. All the saving work is done by the parachute ... it carries you to safety. Believing in Jesus is a step of faith ... then He carries you on through life to eternal safety.

Old Testament Circumcision. This was a Hebrew rite instituted in the Law of the Old Testament. But that rite saved no one spiritually. What was needed then was a circumcision of the heart. Jeremiah 9:25-26 describes people who would be judged and condemned by God as those who were “*circumcised and yet uncircumcised ... uncircumcised of heart.*” And one of the clearest statements in the Bible for the need of a heart commitment to God is Jeremiah 4:4, “*Circumcise yourselves to the Lord and remove the foreskins of your hearts.*” Believing in Jesus is not about rituals and oaths ... it is a heart belief in Him.

Other illustrations. There are other *believing in* illustrations that you can develop for explaining the Gospel such as:

Airplanes ... boarding a plane for your first flight.

Open heart surgery ... trusting a surgeon to cut open your chest and heart.

Medicine ... swallowing some chemical concoction to save your life.

The Congo River ... boarding a boat to travel through the Livingstone Falls Rapids.

Lowari Top [Pass] ... boarding a truck as a passenger from Dir to Chitral, Pakistan.

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Disciplemaking 1 - Review Questions

Lesson 1 - Salvation ... pages 12 - 18

Part of learning is review ... storing new knowledge into your long term memory. Print this review test or use separate paper to answer the following questions. Then repeat this test, open book or closed book, until you can accurately and easily answer all the questions. These *review exams* are available with correct answers on VirtualBibleAcademy.org.

1. Circle or underline the following things that are or can be sin in your life.

A thought A deed committed A deed omitted An attitude

2. Fill in the blank by number from the 3 numbered choices on the right.

Imputed sin is _____. 1. My natural tendency to sin.

Sin nature is _____. 2. My own sin.

Personal sin is _____. 3. My association with Adam.

3. Before salvation, as a result of sin, you are _____
from God, and _____ from Him, and you individually
stand before God guilty, judged, and _____.

Complete these six statements by filling in the blank by letter from the list on the right.

4. Substitution means _____. a. God declared me righteous.

5. Redemption means _____. b. God was satisfied.

6. Propitiation means _____. c. A double transfer.

7. Reconciliation means _____. d. Jesus took my place.

8. Imputation means _____. e. I was changed.

9. Justification means _____. f. My sin was paid for.

10. According to John 3:16, what do you have as your present possession from the moment when you believed in Jesus Christ? _____ .
11. According to John 5:24, when you believed in Jesus, you have three promises:
- a. You have _____ .
 - b. You do not _____ .
 - c. You have passed out of _____ into _____ .
12. According to John 6:37, _____ % of those that the Father gives to Jesus come to Him, and _____ % are cast out.
13. According to John 10:28-29, _____ can snatch you out of God's hand because God is _____ than all.
14. Therefore, if you believe that you can lose your salvation, you believe that you are _____ enough to snatch yourself out of God's hand.
15. In a few words, explain why James 2:24 does not contradict Ephesians 2:8-9 using 2 Corinthians 13:5 in your answer.

A special and most important question: *Are you totally sure that you have put your trust in Jesus as your Savior? If you are not sure, if you have any doubt at all, you can put your trust in Jesus Christ as your Savior now and settle it once for all of eternity. Please visit www.911God.org where you can watch a video or read an explanation of how you can be sure that you are right with God.*

Disciplemaking 1 - Answers to Review Questions

Lesson 1 - Salvation ... questions pages 19 - 20

Do not use these answer sheets to find your answers. Please use them only to check your answers. Go back into the lesson to find the information to correct your answers. Repeat the test until you can accurately and easily answer all the questions. All the lessons, review tests, and answer pages are available on VirtualBibleAcademy.org.

1. Circle or underline the following things that are or can be sin in your life.

A thought A deed committed A deed omitted An attitude

2. Fill in the blank by number from the 3 numbered choices on the right.

Imputed sin is 3 . 1. My natural tendency to sin.

Sin nature is 1 . 2. My own sin.

Personal sin is 2 . 3. My association with Adam.

3. Before salvation, as a result of sin, you are alienated
from God, and separated from Him, and you individually
stand before God guilty, judged, and condemned .

Complete these six statements by filling in the blank by letter from the list on the right.

4. Substitution means d . a. God declared me righteous.

5. Redemption means f . b. God was satisfied.

6. Propitiation means b . c. A double transfer.

7. Reconciliation means e . d. Jesus took my place.

8. Imputation means c . e. I was changed.

9. Justification means a . f. My sin was paid for.

10. According to John 3:16, what do you have as your present possession from the moment when you believed in Jesus Christ? eternal life.

11. According to John 5:24, when you believed in Jesus, you have three promises:

- a. You have eternal life.
- b. You will not come into judgment.
- c. You have passed out of death into life.

12. According to John 6:37, 100 % of those that the Father gives to Jesus come to Him, and zero % are cast out.

13. According to John 10:28-29, no-one can snatch you out of God's hand because God is stronger than all.

14. Therefore, if you believe that you can lose your salvation, you believe that you are strong enough to snatch yourself out of God's hand.

15. In a few words, explain why James 2:24 does not contradict Ephesians 2:8-9 using 2 Corinthians 13:5 in your answer.

Justified by works (James 2:24) means that you are declared righteous by good works. Good works do not save anyone ... faith alone in Christ alone saves someone. Salvation produces good works (the 2 Corinthians 13:5 test) but good works do not produce salvation.

A special and most important question: Are you totally sure that you have put your trust in Jesus as your Savior? If you are not sure, if you have any doubt at all, you can put your trust in Jesus Christ as your Savior now and settle it once for all of eternity. Please visit www.911God.org where you can watch a video or read an explanation of how you can be sure that you are right with God.



"Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth." 2 Timothy 2:15

Disciplemaking 1 - Abiding in His Word

LESSON 2 - PRAYER

"And it came about that while He was praying in a certain place, after He had finished, one of His disciples said to Him, 'Lord, teach us to pray.'" Luke 11:1

A pattern for prayer is clear in the teaching and examples of the Bible. That pattern includes praise, thanksgiving, confession, and requests. All four of these do not have to be in every prayer ... but they should all be included in our prayer lives.

PRAISE ... because of who He is. Praising God exalts, honors, and glorifies Him, Psalm 34:1-3. It is a very important part of what our prayers should be. We are taught to *"continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God,"* Hebrews 13:15. Helpful Biblical examples of praising God are Psalms 144-150. Many examples of praise can be found in throughout the Psalms and in other books of the Bible.

THANKSGIVING ... because of what He has done. God gives so much to us to be thankful for in our lives ... based on our requests ... and often just because He loves us, *"It is good to give thanks to the Lord,"* Psalm 92:1. *"Devote yourselves to prayer, keeping alert in it with an attitude of thanksgiving,"* Colossians 4:2. *"In everything give thanks,"* 1 Thessalonians 5:18. And lack of thankfulness is a last days sin, 2 Timothy 3:1-5.

CONFESSION ... because of our sin. To confess is to acknowledge our sins to God. When we do that, He has promised to *"forgive us and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness,"* 1 John 1:9. David outlined the great blessings of forgiveness in Psalm 32 ... and gave us a great example of confession in Psalm 51:1-13. Unconfessed sin hinders our fellowship with God.

REQUESTS ... because He loves us. It is God's desire to meet our needs and give us the desires of our hearts, Psalm 37:4. We are instructed to let our *"requests be made known unto God,"* Philippians 4:6. However, sometimes we do not have because we do not ask ... or because we ask with bad motives, James 4:2,3. Spiritual needs are often much more important than physical needs. Examples of both types are found in the Lord's Prayer in Matthew 6:9-13.

THE BIBLICAL EMPHASIS. The Bible is a record of men and women committed to prayer. The Psalms have example after example of man pouring his heart out to God. The rest of the Bible records over 600 prayers and 400 specific answers. Adam and Eve talked openly with God in the Garden of Eden. In the days of their third son, Seth, *“Men began to call upon the name of the Lord,”* Genesis 4:26. Great men and women of the Old and New Testaments were committed to prayer ... Moses, Hannah, Samuel, David, Daniel, and Paul. Even the last few words of the Bible include the prayer, *“Come, Lord Jesus,”* Revelation 22:20.

THE EXAMPLE OF JESUS. Jesus demonstrated and taught that prayer should be a high priority. At the beginning of His ministry, He prayed at His baptism. He also taught His disciples how to pray. He prayed for Himself ... for His disciples ... and for the world. He went out alone early in the morning to talk with His Father. Sometimes He prayed all night. Jesus prayed for the food that He ate and prepared for others. The night before He died, He prayed so fervently in the Garden of Gethsemane that His sweat became like drops of blood. Then as He hung on the cross, He prayed, *“Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing,”* Luke 23:34. As the great intercessor, Jesus is praying for us now, Hebrews 7:25, Romans 8:34. The Holy Spirit also prays for us when we don’t know how we should pray, Romans 8:26.

THE CHALLENGE TO US. With such an emphasis on prayer throughout the Bible, we should commit ourselves to prayer and to learning how to pray more effectively. It is our special privilege and opportunity to talk with the living God. *“The eyes of the Lord are toward the righteous, and His ears are open to their cry,”* Psalm 34:15. *“Therefore, let everyone who is godly pray,”* Psalm 32:6. *“Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing praises,”* James 5:13. The answers to the following five questions help to understand prayer.

1. WHERE SHOULD I PRAY? It is a normal occurrence to think of praying in a religious building. Jesus referred to the temple as a *“house of prayer,”* Matthew 21:13. However, prayers are not limited to religious buildings and public meetings. In talking with the woman at the well in John 4, Jesus made it very clear that true worship was offered *“in spirit and truth”* and was not dependent on the location of the worshippers. He condemned the hypocrites for their public prayers in synagogues and on street corners to be seen of men ... and suggested that proper prayer may better be offered in the privacy of an inner room away from others, Matthew 6:5-6. It is clear that proper prayer does not depend on where it is offered. It depends on the condition of the heart of the one who prays.

2. SHOULD I PRAY ON MY KNEES? Jesus knelt to pray, Luke 22:41. Daniel knelt and prayed three times a day, Daniel 6:10. Paul, on his departure from Ephesus, knelt and prayed, Acts 20:36. Jehoshaphat bowed his head to pray, 2 Chronicles 20:18. Because of the sins of the people, Ezra tore his clothes and fell to his knees with outstretched hands ... but wouldn’t lift his face to God, Ezra 9:5-6. At his martyrdom, Stephen lifted his face and gazed into Heaven as he prayed, Acts 7:55-60. Bowing down before God in prayer and worship, even to the point of having their faces to the ground, was commonplace in the lives of the men of the Bible. Standing while praying is found in Mark 11:25. Hezekiah turned his face to the wall and prayed, 2 Kings 20:2. The position of the body has no intrinsic value for effective prayer. It is important only as it expresses the posture of the heart.

3. WHOM SHOULD I PRAY TO? In all aspects of prayer, we should strive to follow the teaching and examples of Scripture. The Bible makes no mention of prayer addressed to anyone but God Himself. We have no examples or teaching that leads us to pray to angels, saints, or any dead Christians. Prayer *requests* should be made to the Father, John 15:16, 16:23. We should pray in the Spirit, Ephesians 6:18, Jude 20 ... under His leading and direction. We are instructed to pray "*in the name of Jesus,*" John 14:13, 15:16 ... that is, in His will and by His power. This Biblical pattern assures us that the full resources of the triune God are with us as we pray.

4. HOW SHOULD I PRAY? The *how* of prayer is as important as, or more important than, the *what* of prayer. Jesus taught His disciples the Lord's Prayer, Matthew 6 and Luke 11, as a model to follow. Biblical examples include Daniel prayed for the people, Daniel 9 ... David prayed for forgiveness, Psalms 51 ... Jesus prayed, John 17 ... and a Pharisee and a Publican prayed, Luke 18. Biblical prayer is open and honest pouring out of the heart to God. Scriptural guidelines include praying ...

Humbly, 2 Chronicles 7:14, 34:27.
With a thankful heart, 1 Thessalonians 5:18, Philippians 4:6.
With sincerity, not by rote, Isaiah 29:13.
Openly and directly, Isaiah 37:14.
With great devotion, Colossians 4:2.
Without ceasing, 1 Thessalonians 5:17.
Persistently, Luke 11:5-10, 18:1-8.
With great striving, Romans 15:30.
With simplicity, Matthew 6:7.
Without wrath or dissension, 1 Timothy 2:8.
In unity with other Believers, Matthew 18:19-20.
With great faith, James 1:6-7, Hebrews 11:6.
According to His will, John 15:7, 1 John 5:14-15.

5. WHAT SHOULD I PRAY FOR? It is a privilege to ask God for His involvement in our lives. It should be treated seriously. In the Lord's Prayer, Jesus taught His disciples to pray for their daily physical and spiritual needs. In His prayer in John 17, He prayed for Himself, His disciples, and for the world in very specific requests. Jesus promised that the faithful prayer, fitting into His will, offered to the Father, in His name would be answered, John 15:7,16, 16:23, 1 John 5:14-15.

Other Biblical suggestions include praying for...
Wisdom, James 1:5, 2 Chronicles 1:7-12.
Spiritual prosperity, Colossians 1:9-12.
Those who mistreat you, Luke 6:28.
Healing, James 5:14-15, 2 Corinthians 12:7-9.
Each other, Ephesians 6:18, James 5:16.
The government, 1 Timothy 2:1-2.
Our food, Mark 6:41, 8:6.
Those who need Christ, Romans 10:1.
Laborers to proclaim the Gospel, Matthew 9:37-38.
Open doors for the Gospel, Colossians 4:3-4.

DENIALS AND DELAYS

God hears all our prayers and answers all our prayers. His answer may be *yes*, *no*, or *wait* [an answer of keep asking but no answer yet]. Sometimes He goes beyond a yes and gives us more than all that we ask or think, Ephesians 3:20. Other times His answer is *no* or *wait*. Some of reasons for those *no* or *wait* answers are below.

Not asking. The principle of James 4:2 applies indirectly to this issue ... “*You do not have because you do not ask.*” Do not expect God to answer un-prayed prayers.

Wrong motives. “*You ask and do not receive, because you ask with the wrong motives, so that you may spend what you request on your pleasures,*” James 4:3.

How a man treats his wife. The Bible teaches that a husband is to love his wife as Christ loves the church, to cherish her, be understanding of her, and honor her as an equal heir of the grace of life ... as 1 Peter 3:7 states, “*so that your prayers will not be hindered.*”

An unforgiving spirit. Being unforgiving hinders our prayers and our forgiveness of others demonstrates the forgiveness we should expect from God, Mark 11:25, Matthew 5:23-24, 6:12-15. In the Lord’s prayer, we essentially ask God to forgive us in just the same way that we forgive others.

Unrighteousness. We are to be clean before God, and then our prayers accomplish much. “*The prayer of the upright is His delight,*” Proverbs 15:8. If one turns away from His law, “*even his prayer is an abomination,*” Proverbs 28:9.

Protection, preparation, or perfection. Denials and delays can be for our good. Sometimes God protects us because we do not know that what we are asking for will hurt us. God knows us better than we know ourselves ... and sometimes, He says *no* because He knows what is best for us. Sometimes a delay is there to give us time to prepare, or to be prepared, for His answer. And sometimes denials and delays come to perfect our faith.

Final denials. Some denials are final. For Moses, “*The Lord was angry with me on your account, and would not listen to me; instead, the Lord said to me, ‘Enough! Do not speak to Me any more about this matter. Go up to the top of Pisgah and raise your eyes to the west, the north, the south, and the east, and see it with your eyes; for you shall not cross over this Jordan,’*” Deuteronomy 3:26. And Paul requested that his thorn in the flesh be removed. But as he wrote, “*Because of the extraordinary greatness of the revelations, for this reason, to keep me from exalting myself, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me - to keep me from exalting myself! Concerning this I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might leave me. And He has said to me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness.’ Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me,*” 2 Corinthians 12:7-10. Accept God’s no’s with thanksgiving ... God knows what He is doing.

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Disciplemaking 1 - Review Questions

Lesson 2 - Prayer ... pages 23 - 26

Part of learning is review ... storing new knowledge into your long term memory. Print this review test or use separate paper to answer the following questions. Then repeat this test, open book or closed book, until you can accurately and easily answer all the questions. These *review exams* are available with correct answers on VirtualBibleAcademy.org.

1. What are the four primary elements of prayer?
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
 - d.

2. What is the difference between praise and thanksgiving? Give an example of each.

3. Define confession.

4. Why should you make your requests to God?
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
 - d.

5. In the next six days, spend at least 2 & 1/2 prayer minutes each day in each of these: praise, thanksgiving, confession, and requests. Circle each day you have successfully completed this.

Day 1 ... Day 2 ... Day 3 ... Day 4 ... Day 5 ... Day 6

6. What Biblical examples do we have of people who prayed [page 24]?
7. Where should you pray? What new places will you be adding to your prayer life?
8. Which answers to page 25's *How should I pray?* were most meaningful to you?
9. Whom should you pray to ... and whom should you not pray to?
10. What body positions for prayer would be new for you?
11. From "What should I pray for?" [page 25] what will you add to your prayers?
12. Why are some prayers hindered or unanswered?
13. The prayers of the upright are _____ and
the prayers of the disobedient are _____.
14. Why can *denials* to prayer requests be good?
15. Why can *delays* in answers to prayer requests be good?
16. What changes to your prayer life have you made because of this lesson?

Disciplemaking 1 - Answers to Review Questions

Lesson 2 - Prayer ... questions pages 27 - 28

Do not use these answer sheets to find your answers. Please use them only to check your answers. Go back into the lesson to find the information to correct your answers. Repeat the test until you can accurately and easily answer all the questions. All the lessons, review tests, and answer pages are available on VirtualBibleAcademy.org.

1. What are the four primary elements of prayer?

- a. *Praise*
- b. *Thanks*
- c. *Confession*
- d. *Requests*

2. What is the difference between praise and thanksgiving? Give an example of each.

Praise is about who God is.

Thanks is about what God has done or is doing.

My example of praise:

My example of thanks:

3. Define confession.

Confession is my agreement with God about my specific sins being sin.

4. Why should you make your requests to God? *Some reasons are listed here.*

- a. *Because He loves me.*
- b. *Because we often don't have because we don't ask.*
- c. *Because we have spiritual and physical needs.*
- d. *Because God wants to give us the desires of our hearts.*

5. In the next six days, spend at least 2 & 1/2 prayer minutes each day in each of these: praise, thanksgiving, confession, and requests. Circle each day you have successfully completed this.

Day 1 ... Day 2 ... Day 3 ... Day 4 ... Day 5 ... Day 6

6. What Biblical examples do we have of people who prayed [page 24]?

*Adam & Eve, men in the days of Seth, Moses, Hannah, Samuel,
David, Daniel, Paul, and Jesus*

7. Where should you pray? What new places will you be adding to your prayer life?

Everywhere ... and new places such as:

8. Which answers to page 25's *How should I pray?* were most meaningful to you?

9. Whom should you pray to ... and whom should you not pray to?

*Primarily to God the Father ... but also to Jesus and the Holy Spirit.
We should never pray to any idol or to anyone else (alive or dead).*

10. What body positions for prayer would be new for you? *See page 24.*

11. From "What should I pray for?" [page 25] what will you add to your prayers?

12. Why are some prayers hindered or unanswered?

Wrong motives, an unforgiving spirit, sin, a husband mistreating his wife.

13. The prayers of the upright are God's delight and

the prayers of the disobedient are an abomination to God .

14. Why can *denials* to prayer requests be good?

Denials can be God protecting us .

15. Why can *delays* in answers to prayer requests be good?

Delays can perfect us ... and/or ... prepare us for God's answer.

16. What changes to your prayer life have you made because of this lesson?



"Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth." 2 Timothy 2:15

Disciplemaking 1 - Abiding in His Word

Lesson 3 - Bible Study

"It is written, 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God.'" Matthew 4:4 [reference: Deuteronomy 8:3]

THE PREEMINENCE OF THE SCRIPTURES. No other book is like the Bible. No other book has had more copies published. No other book has been translated into so many languages. No other book has been so widely distributed. No other book has so positively changed so many lives. The Bible is the most important book ever written because it is God's message to us. It is more than inspiring. It is inspired. It is God-breathed. The authors of the Bible were carried along by the Holy Spirit as they wrote. Therefore the Bible is true ... it is accurate ... it is pure ... it is eternal ... and it is powerful. The Bible is more than man's message about God ... it is God's message to man. It is a book from God ... not simply about God. It is the superior and preeminent Book. It is the supreme and final authority in what we should believe and in how we should live. The Bible is not just a book. It is *The Book*. It is *The Book* to study.

THE PRIORITY OF STUDY. The verse quoted at the top of this page records the great commitment that Jesus had to God's Word. Those were His words during His temptations in the wilderness. God's Word was more important to Jesus than physical food ... even after 40 days without eating. The Bible is provided for our spiritual nourishment. The availability of His Word gives us the great privilege and serious life-long challenge of Bible study. If we really want to learn and to grow ... then we must invest both time and energy in the process of Bible study. There are no shortcuts. We must commit sufficient regular time to studying God's Word.

THE PROGRESS OF STUDY. Peter used a newborn baby's focused attention on its need for milk to illustrate what our desire for God's Word should be, *"Like newborn babes, long for the pure milk of the word, that by it you may grow in respect to salvation,"* 1 Peter 2:2. Then, as we grow, we need to move on to solid food from deeper study, Hebrews 5:11-14. It is important to set realistic goals for regular study ... starting with the easier sections and books of the Bible ... increasing the quantity and complexity of study as we grow. Throughout this life-long process of study, our continual prayer should be like that of the Psalmist, *"Open my eyes, that I may behold wonderful things from Thy law,"* Psalm 119:18.

THE BOOK TO STUDY. The Bible is the most important book. It is God's message to us, and that makes it different from all other books. It is the most important book to study because...

The Bible is inspired ... God-breathed.

"All Scripture is inspired by God." 2 Timothy 3:16

The Bible is true.

"Sanctify them in the truth, Thy word is truth." John 17:17

The Bible is accurate.

"For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass away from the Law, until all is accomplished."
Matthew 5:18

The Bible is pure.

"The words of the Lord are pure words; as silver tried in a furnace on the earth, refined seven times." Psalm 12:6

"The law of the Lord is perfect, restoring the soul; the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple. The precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes."
Psalm 19:7-8

The Bible is eternal.

"The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God stands forever."
Isaiah 40:8

"Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words shall not pass away."
Matthew 24:35

The Bible is powerful.

"The word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart."
Hebrews 4:12

THE COMMAND TO STUDY.

The Bible is very clear that the man or woman of God is committed to His Word ... to learning it and applying it. There is no option for us ... it is a command.

To be a disciple ... *abide in*, that is *live in* ... not just visit, the Word.

“Jesus therefore was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, ‘If you abide in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine.’” John 8:31

To be approved ... study the Word.

“Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, handling accurately the word of truth.” 2 Timothy 2:15

To be a good parent ... teach the Word to your children.

“You shall therefore impress these words of mine on your heart and on your soul ... and you shall teach them to your sons, talking of them when you sit in your house and when you walk along the road and when you lie down and when you rise up.” Deuteronomy 11:18-19

THE BENEFITS OF STUDY.

The Word is powerful and eternal. God blesses us as we study it. The accumulative benefits are overwhelming.

The Bible equips us.

“All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.” 2 Timothy 3:16-17

The Bible helps us not sin.

“How can a young man keep his way pure? By keeping it according to Thy word ... Thy word I have treasured in my heart, that I may not sin against Thee,” Psalm 119:9-11

The Bible gives us guidance for today and for our future.

“Thy word is a lamp to my feet, and a light to my path.” Psalm 119:105

THE BENEFITS OF STUDY ... continued

The Bible gives us wisdom.

“Thy commandments make me wiser than my enemies, for they are ever mine. I have more insight than all my teachers, for Thy testimonies are my meditation. I understand more than the aged, because I have observed Thy precepts ... The unfolding of Thy words gives light; it gives understanding to the simple.” Psalm 119:98-100, 130

The Bible helps us through difficulty.

“This is my comfort in my affliction, that Thy word has revived me ... It is good for me that I was afflicted, that I may learn Thy statutes.” Psalm 119:50, 71

The Bible provides hope.

“For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.” Romans 15:4

The Bible gives peace.

“Those who love Thy law have great peace, and nothing causes them to stumble.” Psalm 119:165

The Bible gives joy.

“Thy words became for me a joy and the delight of my heart; for I have been called by Thy name.” Jeremiah 15:16

The Bible offers conditional blessings.

“Praise the Lord! How blessed is the man who fears the Lord, who greatly delights in His commandments.” Psalm 112:1

“The one who despises the word will be in debt to it, but the one who fears the commandment will be rewarded.” Proverbs 13:13

“But He said, ‘On the contrary, blessed are those who hear the word of God, and observe it.’” Luke 11:28

THE PROCESS OF STUDY

Pick a regular time and place to study. Develop the habit of study. Pick a primary time for daily Bible study to make it more likely that you will study every day.

Put what you read in context. A phrase or verse seldom contains enough information from which to draw a conclusion. It is necessary to understand what is in the surrounding verses ... and how it is woven into the bigger picture of what God is saying. The answers to the following questions will give more understanding to any verse.

What does the whole sentence say?

What does the paragraph or section teach?

What is the chapter about?

How is that woven into the whole Bible?

Cross references, study Bibles, and commentaries can provide help in understanding the overall context.

Pray for wisdom to understand and apply what you study. Look for the answers to the following questions.

What does it say?

What does it mean?

How do I make this part of my life?

Pick it apart by looking for ...

Main thoughts.

Grammar.

Cause and effect.

Comparisons and contrasts.

Connectors.

Repetition.

Promises and conditions.

Commands - the *do's* and *do not's*.

Illustrations and parables.

People, places, and time.

Put it in usable form. Write notes and thoughts in your Bible and/or a notebook. Memorize especially meaningful verses ... writing them in your mind and heart.

Put it into practice. The goal of Bible study is a full life ... not a full book of notes. Always approach the study of God's Word with a heart open to His working in and through your life.

WHAT STUDY TOOLS DO I NEED?

The most important book for studying the Bible is a good Bible. Begin with the best translation available in your language. Plan to mark it up. A single-column page may give more space for writing your own notes in the margins. Think before you write or underline anything on the pages of your Bible ... be sure that your notes will be meaningful. Remember that commentaries, paraphrases, study Bible notes, books, messages, and teaching recordings can help you understand God's Word ... but only the Bible is God's Word. Invest most of your study time directly in your Bible.

Which Bible should I use? Use the best word-for-word translation available in your language. There are many Bibles available in English. There are three types of Bibles. The best for study is a good word-for-word translation. It is the most accurate and precise because it closely follows the original language word-for-word ... more than paraphrases and dynamic equivalents do. Good English translations include the *New American Standard [NASB]*, the *King James Bible [KJV]*, the *New King James [NKJ]*, and the *English Standard Version [ESV]*. A paraphrase may be a more readable text ... but is not as accurate as a translation. A paraphrase can be more of a book about the Bible than actually being a Bible. Paraphrases are better at conveying the ideas than they are at translating the details. The *New Living Translation [NLT]* and *The Message* are popular English paraphrases. A dynamic equivalent is more of a thought-for-thought than word-for-word translation. The *New International Version [NIV]* is a dynamic equivalent. Dynamic equivalents and paraphrases are not as good as word-for-word translations for study. A great starting point would be a Bible or study Bible in an accurate word-for-word translation.

What books would help? If possible, build a personal study reference library from the following. Most of these are available for free online.

A study Bible containing notes, outlines, cross-references, maps, and an abridged concordance ... such as The Ryrie NASB.

A concordance for use as a word and verse finder ... available in abridged or complete [exhaustive] versions ... be sure it matches your Bible version.

A Bible dictionary for facts and details about the people, places, things, and times referenced in the Bible.

A commentary giving verse-by-verse, section-by-section, and book by book explanations of the Bible.

What online Bible study tools are available? Online Bibles and Apps [in a wide variety of translations] and Bible reference books are available for free or at a nominal cost. An easy way to find some of these resources is by a simple online search. For instance, you might search for *NASB John 3:16* ... or ... *KJV Psalm 119:133* to find a website that has what you need.

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DAILY BIBLE STUDY SHEET ... from www.VirtualBibleAcademy.org

"All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; that the man of God may be adequate, prepared for every good work." 2 Timothy 3:16-17

Name:

Date:

Today's study of _____ has been profitable ...

In *teaching* me these truths, facts, and promises to believe:

For *reproof* in convicting me of these sins of attitude, action, and inaction:

For *correction* in helping me get back on course by:

For *training* me to obey these commands, apply these principles, and follow these examples:

In giving me this main verse or thought for today:

Copy or print this sheet for your daily study ... one for each day. Study daily. Pray and think as you study. Review yesterday's notes as you begin today's study. Read today's chapter or section of the Bible once, then read it again, filling in the appropriate categories above. Recruit a study and accountability partner to encourage one another. Begin studying with shorter books such as Colossians, 1 John, and 2 Timothy. Then go on to books such as Mark, John, Ephesians, and Philippians. Progress to longer ones such as Romans and Hebrews. Study the Old and New Testaments, seeking the full counsel of God's Word.

Disciplemaking 1 - Review Questions

Lesson 3 - Bible Study ... pages 31 - 37

Part of learning is review ... storing new knowledge into your long term memory. Print this review test or use separate paper to answer the following questions. Then repeat this test, open book or closed book, until you can accurately and easily answer all the questions. These *review exams* are available with correct answers on VirtualBibleAcademy.org.

1. What physical characteristics of the Bible make it preeminent?
2. What spiritual characteristics make the Bible preeminent?
3. As in human growth, good progress in Bible study has a diet that progresses on from _____ to _____.
4. In reference to the Bible, explain the difference between *inspiring* and *inspired*.
5. Explain what it means that the Bible is true, accurate, and pure.
6. What does the Bible being eternal mean for you?
7. What does the Bible being powerful mean for you?
8. Put John 8:31 in your own words.

9. Put 2 Timothy 2:15 in your own words.

10. When and how often should a parent talk to his or her children about the Bible?

11. What are some of the benefits of Bible study?

- | | |
|----|----|
| a. | e. |
| b. | f. |
| c. | g. |
| d. | h. |

12. How important is context in Bible study?

13. As you study the Bible, pray and answer what 3 questions?

- a.
- b.
- c.

14. Put 2 Timothy 3:16-17 in your own words.

15. For the next six days, use a copy of page 37 in your study of any part of the Bible ... studying at least 15 minutes a day. Do this in your regular study or begin a new study. Circle each day after successfully completing this.

Day 1 ... Day 2 ... Day 3 ... Day 4 ... Day 5 ... Day 6

16. What is the most important thing you have learned in this lesson on Bible study?

17. What changes have you made, or will you be making, in your daily Bible study?

Disciplemaking 1 - Answers to Review Questions

Lesson 3 - Bible Study ... questions pages 38 - 39

Do not use these answer sheets to find your answers. Please use them only to check your answers. Go back into the lesson to find the information to correct your answers. Repeat the test until you can accurately and easily answer all the questions. All the lessons, review tests, and answer pages are available on VirtualBibleAcademy.org.

1. What physical characteristics of the Bible make it preeminent?

More copies have been made ... it has been translated into more languages ... and it has been more widely distributed than any other book in all of history.

2. What spiritual characteristics make the Bible preeminent? *It has changed more lives than any other book ... is God's message to us ... is God-breathed (inspired and not just inspiring) ... and is the authority in what to believe and how to live.*

3. As in human growth, good progress in Bible study has a diet that progresses on from not just milk to meat (solid food).

4. In reference to the Bible, explain the difference between *inspiring* and *inspired*.
Inspired describes the source ... it is God-breathed.
Inspiring is what it does to us ... encourages and gives us life.

5. Explain what it means that the Bible is true, accurate, and pure.
True means factually correct. Accurate means free from error.
Pure means spotless and clean ... not needing to be filtered.

6. What does the Bible being eternal mean for you?
Not bound or effected by time. It is as relevant today to me as it was to the original readers.

7. What does the Bible being powerful mean for you?
It produces strong change in me.

8. Put John 8:31 in your own words.
Believers need to abide in, live in, the Word to be disciples of Jesus.

9. Put 2 Timothy 2:15 in your own words.

Study hard to be approved by God and unashamed, using the Word accurately.

10. When and how often should a parent talk to his or her children about the Bible?

Morning, noon, and night ... having a continuing dialog about the Word.

11. What are some of the benefits of Bible study?

- a. *Equips me.*
- b. *Is a sin-preventative.*
- c. *Guides me.*
- d. *Gives me wisdom.*
- e. *Helps me through difficulties.*
- f. *Gives hope to me.*
- g. *Gives peace to me.*
- h. *Gives joy to me.*

12. How important is context in Bible study?

Context is extremely important to understand any piece or part of the Bible.

13. As you study the Bible, pray and answer what 3 questions?

- a. *What does it say?*
- b. *What does it mean?*
- c. *How do I make this part of my life?*

14. Put 2 Timothy 3:16-17 in your own words.

Your answer should include: teaching, reproof, correction, and training in righteousness ... so that you are adequate and prepared for good works.

15. For the next six days, use a copy of page 37 in your study of any part of the Bible ... studying at least 15 minutes a day. Do this in your regular study or begin a new study. Circle each day after successfully completing this.

Day 1 ... Day 2 ... Day 3 ... Day 4 ... Day 5 ... Day 6

16. What is the most important thing you have learned in this lesson on Bible study?

17. What changes have you made, or will you be making, in your daily Bible study?



“Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth.” 2 Timothy 2:15

Disciplemaking 1 - Abiding in His Word

LESSON 4 - THE OLD TESTAMENT

“Whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.”

Romans 15:4

Old Testament history starts in Genesis with the beginning of man and the beginning of Israel. The beginning of man is described in four historic events ... the creation, the fall, the flood, and the confusion of language at the Tower of Babel. The beginning of Israel is seen in four heroic men ... Abraham, Isaac, Jacob [renamed Israel], and Joseph. Joseph's older brothers sold him into slavery in Egypt where he rose to second in command. Joseph was reunited with his family when famine drove them to relocate to Egypt. The 12 tribes of Israel [the descendants of Jacob's 12 sons] prospered greatly in Egypt ... but were enslaved for 430 years after Joseph's death. God called Moses to deliver the Israelites out of bondage. He led them across the Red Sea ... and then on to Mt. Sinai where God gave the Law.

The Israelites were numbered. They traveled north from Mt. Sinai to Kadesh-Barnea and sent 12 spies into Canaan. The people believed the ten faithless spies and didn't enter the land. God condemned all those 20 years old and older, except the two good spies, Joshua and Caleb, to wander and die in the wilderness. Forty years later, on the east side of the Jordan on the plains of Moab, they were numbered again. Moses gave his final messages [a restatement of the Law] ... viewed the land from Mt. Nebo ... and died. Joshua led the Israelites into Canaan to conquer, divide, and settle the land. In the time of the Judges, the Israelites went through 17 cycles of failure. They sinned ... God judged them through outside oppressors ... they repented ... God sent a judge to deliver them from their oppressors ... peace and forgetfulness followed ... and then they repeated that cycle of sin.

Then the Israelites wanted a king because everyone else had one. They rejected God's rule [theocracy] and chose man's rule [monarchy]. The undivided Kingdom was ruled by three kings ... Saul, then David, then Solomon. Because of Solomon's sins, the Kingdom was divided into a Northern and a Southern Kingdom. The Northern Kingdom Israel [ten tribes] was led by 19 bad kings before being taken captive into Assyria and dispersed. The Southern Kingdom Judah [the tribes of Judah, Benjamin, and Levi], was led by a queen and 19 kings [some good and some bad]. They were taken into a 70-year captivity in Babylonia through three deportations. The Israelites returned to Jerusalem after Babylonia fell to Persia. Zerubbabel led the first wave back and rebuilt the temple. Ezra led the second wave back and brought spiritual revival. Nehemiah brought the third wave back and rebuilt the walls. Four hundred years of Biblical silence separates Old Testament history and the birth of Jesus.

1. THE BEGINNING OF MAN – FOUR HISTORIC EVENTS [Genesis 1 - 11]

CREATION ... GENESIS 1 - 2. Chapter 1 gives an overview of the creation of the heavens, the earth, and man. God said, *“Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness,”* 1:26. Chapter 2 details the creation of man on the sixth day. God created a man from the dust from the ground and placed him in the Garden of Eden. Then God created a woman from the man’s rib ... created her to be his partner, *“And God saw all that He had made, and behold, it was very good,”* Genesis 1:31.

FALL ... GENESIS 3 - 5. Chapter 3 begins with the serpent tempting Eve to doubt the truth of God’s Word and to disobey His command. She ate the forbidden fruit and then offered it to her husband, who also ate of it. This broke their open fellowship with God. The result was that God cursed the serpent, woman, man, and the earth itself, Genesis 3:14-19. Then God drove them out of the Garden of Eden. Chapter 4 details the birth of Cain and Abel, Cain’s murder of Abel, and the birth of Seth to continue the godly line. Chapter 5 gives the family tree from Adam to Noah and the birth of his three sons Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

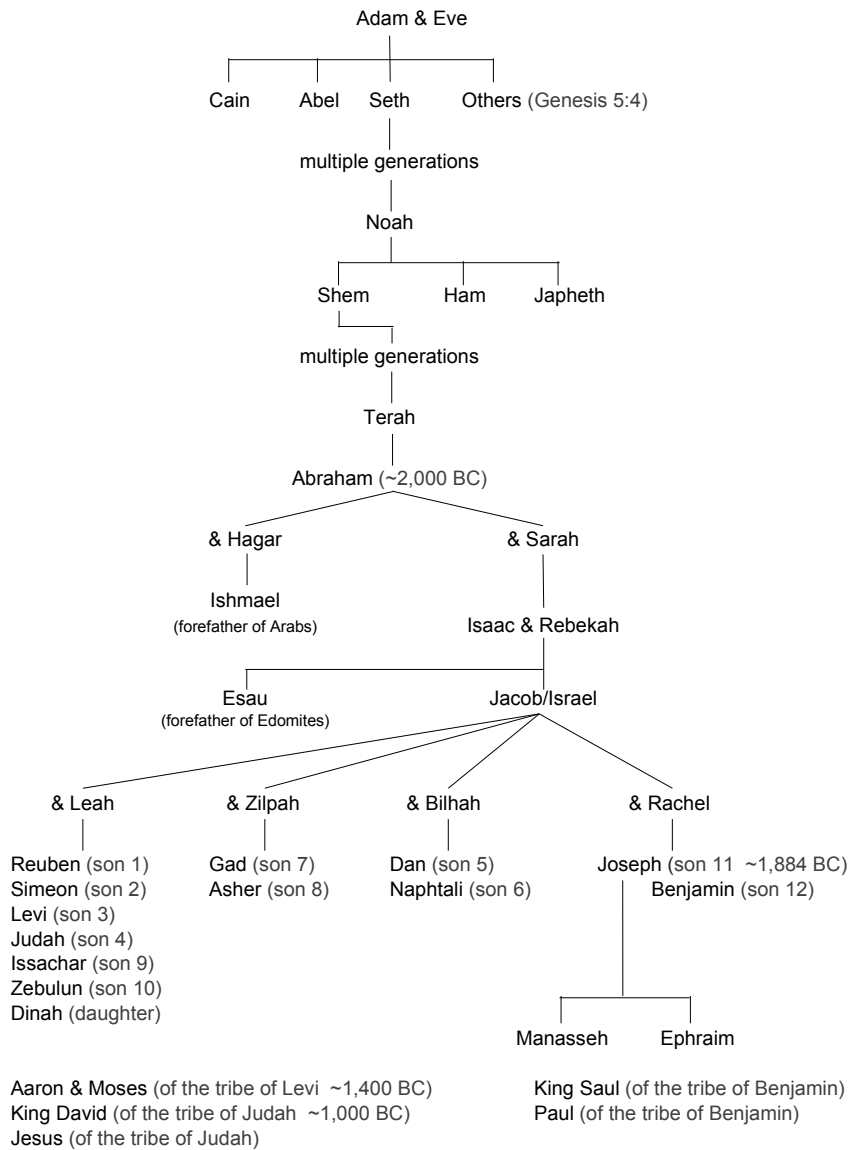
FLOOD ... GENESIS 6 - 9. In the days of Noah, man was very wicked, and God judged the world by a flood. At His instruction, Noah had built an ark to save himself, his wife, their three sons and their three wives, and a representative sample of animals. Genesis chapters 7 and 8 outline the yearlong flood. God promised never again to destroy man by a flood and placed a rainbow in the sky as a sign of His covenant with Noah. The sin of Ham and Noah’s curse of Ham’s son Canaan completes Chapter 9.

CONFUSION OF LANGUAGE ... GENESIS 10 - 11. The generations that followed Noah all spoke the same language. But at Babel man decided to build a city, a tower, and a name for themselves ... to prevent them from being scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth. This was in direct disobedience of God’s command to *“be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth,”* Genesis 9:1. They rebelliously said, *“Come, let us build for ourselves a city, and a tower whose top will reach into heaven, and let us make for ourselves a name, otherwise we will be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth,”* Genesis 11:4. God judged them by confusing their language ... scattering them over the face of the whole earth. Shem’s family line can be traced from Noah’s sons to Abram [Abraham] ... and beyond.

MEMORY HINT: These 4 events can be remembered from their first letters as...

C - F - F - C

THE OLD TESTAMENT FAMILY TREE



2. THE BEGINNING OF ISRAEL – FOUR HEROIC MEN [Genesis 12 - 50]

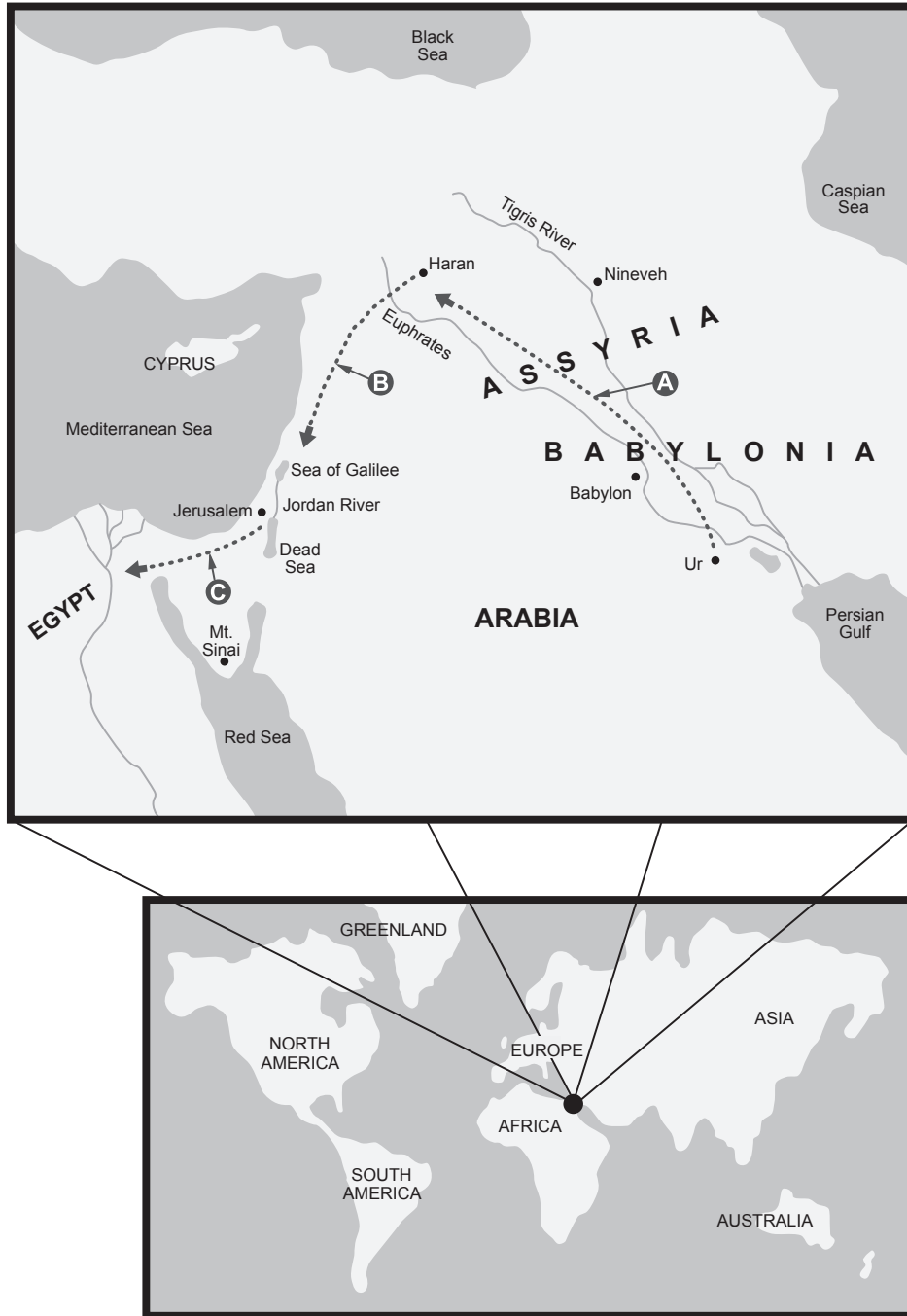
ABRAHAM ... GENESIS 11:27 - 25:11. God called 75-year-old Abraham to become the father of many nations. Abraham traveled from Ur of the Chaldeans, with his wife Sarah and nephew Lot, to Haran where his father Terah died [see **A** on map, page 46]. They traveled on to Canaan [see **B** on map, page 46]. God promised to bless all of the earth through Abraham, Genesis 12:1-3 ... to give the land of Canaan to him, Genesis 12:7, 13:14-15, 15:18 ... to give him many descendants, Genesis 13:16, 15:5 ... and to give an heir to him with Sarah, 15:4. Advanced in age and not trusting God, Sarah gave her handmaid Hagar to 86 year-old Abraham. She bore a son, Ishmael, from whom the Arab nations descended. However, as God promised, Sarah bore their heir Isaac in 2065 BC when Abraham was 100 years old. God tested Abraham by asking him to sacrifice Isaac, Genesis 22:1-19 ... and God provided a ram as a substitute [a picture of Christ's substitution for us].

ISAAC ... GENESIS 21 - 27. Isaac married Rebekah and had twins in 2005 BC ... Jacob [from whom the Jews descended] and Esau [from whom the Edomites descended]. Esau traded his birthright to Jacob for a meal of lentil stew. Later Rebekah helped Jacob [her favorite] trick Isaac so that he would give Jacob the firstborn blessing that was due to Esau. God kept His promise in spite of their sin.

JACOB ... GENESIS 25 - 36. Jacob married Rachel and Leah ... the daughters of Rebekah's brother Laban. Jacob had 12 sons with them and their two handmaidens Bilhah and Zilpah. God renamed Jacob. His new name was Israel, Genesis 35:10. God promised Israel that His covenant with Abraham and Isaac would be fulfilled through Jacob, 35:11-12. Jacob's 12 sons are called the 12 tribes of Israel.

JOSEPH ... GENESIS 37 - 50. Joseph had a dream that his family would bow down to him. Because of this and because he was Jacob's favorite, his ten older brothers sold him to a passing caravan. They took him to Egypt and sold him as a slave to Potiphar [see **C** on map, page 46]. Joseph became second in command in the household but was falsely accused by Potiphar's wife and was put in prison ... where he rose to second in command. After correctly interpreting the cupbearer's and baker's dreams, he interpreted Pharaoh's dreams, predicting seven years of plenty followed by seven years of famine. And then Joseph rose to second in command in all of Egypt in 1884 BC. When the famine spread to Canaan, his family came to Egypt for food, and they were reunited with him. Jacob [Israel] and Joseph both died in Egypt.

THE BEGINNING OF ISRAEL



3. CAPTIVITY IN EGYPT TO THE EDGE OF CANAAN

[Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy]

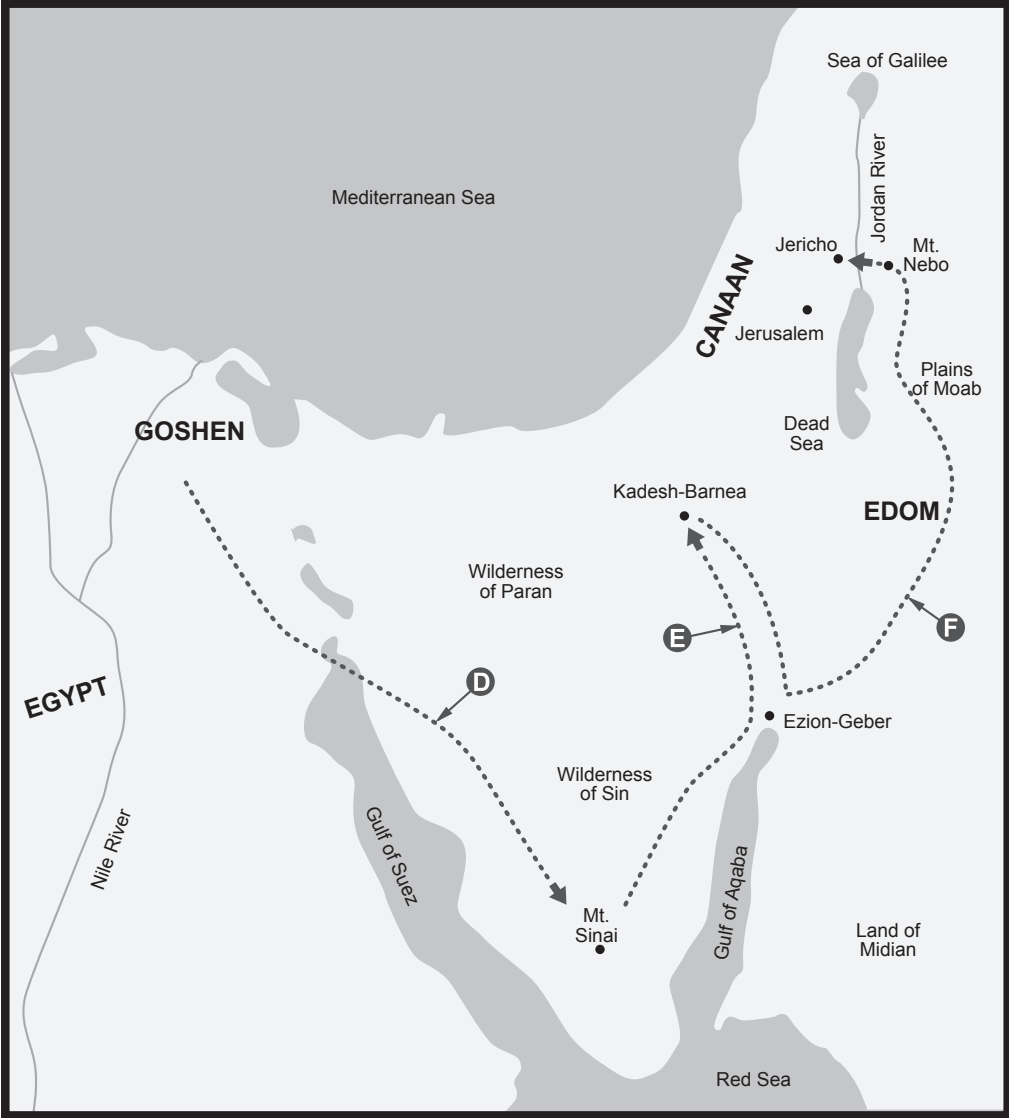
SLAVERY IN EGYPT. The 12 tribes of Israel prospered and multiplied greatly in Egypt. They were enslaved for 430 years after Joseph's death.

MOSES AND THE EXODUS. Moses was born to a Levite woman ... but was raised as the son of the Pharaoh's daughter. *"By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; choosing rather to endure ill-treatment with the people of God, than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin; considering the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures of Egypt,"* Hebrews 11:24-26. At age 40 Moses killed an Egyptian for beating a Hebrew and then fled to Midian where he spent the next 40 years tending sheep. God called Moses through a burning bush, Exodus 3, to lead His people out of bondage. God worked through Moses and his brother Aaron by means of ten plagues to bring freedom to the Israelites in 1445 BC. The Passover was instituted, Exodus 12 to protect the Hebrew people from the last plague. Moses led the people [600000+, Exodus 12:37] across the Red Sea to Mt. Sinai [see D on map, page 48].

MT. SINAI. God instituted the Old Covenant as He gave the law through Moses at Mt. Sinai, Exodus 19 and Leviticus. The Law, given at Mt. Sinai, included the Ten Commandments, Exodus 20.

NUMBERINGS, WANDERING, AND DEATH. In the wilderness of Sinai the people were numbered [census #1]. Then they traveled north to Kadesh-Barnea. They sent 12 spies into Canaan from Kadesh-Barnea [see E on map, page 48]. The people believed the ten faithless spies, grumbled, complained, and yearned for Egypt. They refused to enter the land. Therefore God condemned all who were 20 years old and older [except the two good spies, Joshua and Caleb] to wander and die in the wilderness, Numbers 14:28-30. After 40 years of wandering [see F on map, page 48], the faithless grumblers had died. Then the new generation was brought to the plains of Moab on the east side of the Jordan River. They were numbered again [census #2]. Moses gave his final messages, Deuteronomy. He appointed Joshua as his successor. Then Moses went up Mt. Nebo to view the Promised Land. Moses died and God buried him in a valley in the land of Moab. God did not allow Moses to enter the land because he disobeyed God, Numbers 20:8-12, Deuteronomy 3:27.

CAPTIVITY IN EGYPT TO THE EDGE OF CANAAN



4. SUCCESS AND FAILURE IN CANAAN [Joshua, Judges, and 1 Samuel 1 - 8]

JOSHUA AND SUCCESS IN CANAAN. Joshua led the Israelites into Canaan in 1405 BC to conquer, divide, and settle the land. Jacob [Israel] had blessed Joseph's sons, Ephraim and Manasseh, with a blessing reserved for his own sons, Genesis 48:8-22. Therefore both of their tribes were given a share of the land ... as were the other tribes of Israel. Dan and Manasseh received their land in two pieces. The Levites received no land. God was their inheritance, Joshua 13:33. However, the Levites were given 48 cities, Joshua 21:41. God had instructed the Israelites to make no covenants with the people of the land ... not to serve their gods but to tear down their altars ... and to utterly destroy the inhabitants of the land, Exodus 23:32, 34:12-16, and Deuteronomy 7:1-5,16. The reasons for God's severe judgment against the evil people of Canaan are in Leviticus 18. Joshua and the Israelites did not obey these commands ... and they and their descendants suffered the consequences of coexisting in the land with their enemies and their false gods. In spite of their failures, *"Israel served the Lord all the days of Joshua,"* Joshua 24:31.

THE JUDGES AND FAILURE IN CANAAN. Seventeen cycles of the Israelites' failure over 330 years are recorded in Judges [13 cycles] and 1 Samuel [4 cycles]. The cycle of all these failures is in Judges 2:11-19. The people did evil and angered God. He gave them over to oppressors ... in response to their groaning He sent a deliverer [a Judge] to free them ... then in the time of peace that followed they forgot and turned back to their evil ways ... and the cycle began again. Seven cycles of failure are detailed including those of judges Gideon and Samson. Thirteen of the judges are found in the book of Judges and four are found in 1 Samuel. David's great-grandmother Ruth was an example of a godly woman during the time of the Judges.

AFTER THE JUDGES. After the 17 cycles of failure during the time of the Judges, the Israelites wanted a king [monarchy] like everyone else, 1 Samuel 8:5-20 ... and rejected God's rule [theocracy]. At their demand Samuel, one of the last judges, appointed the first king ... Saul, 1 Samuel 8 - 10.

THE LANDS OF THE 12 TRIBES AND THE FAILURE CYCLE OF JUDGES



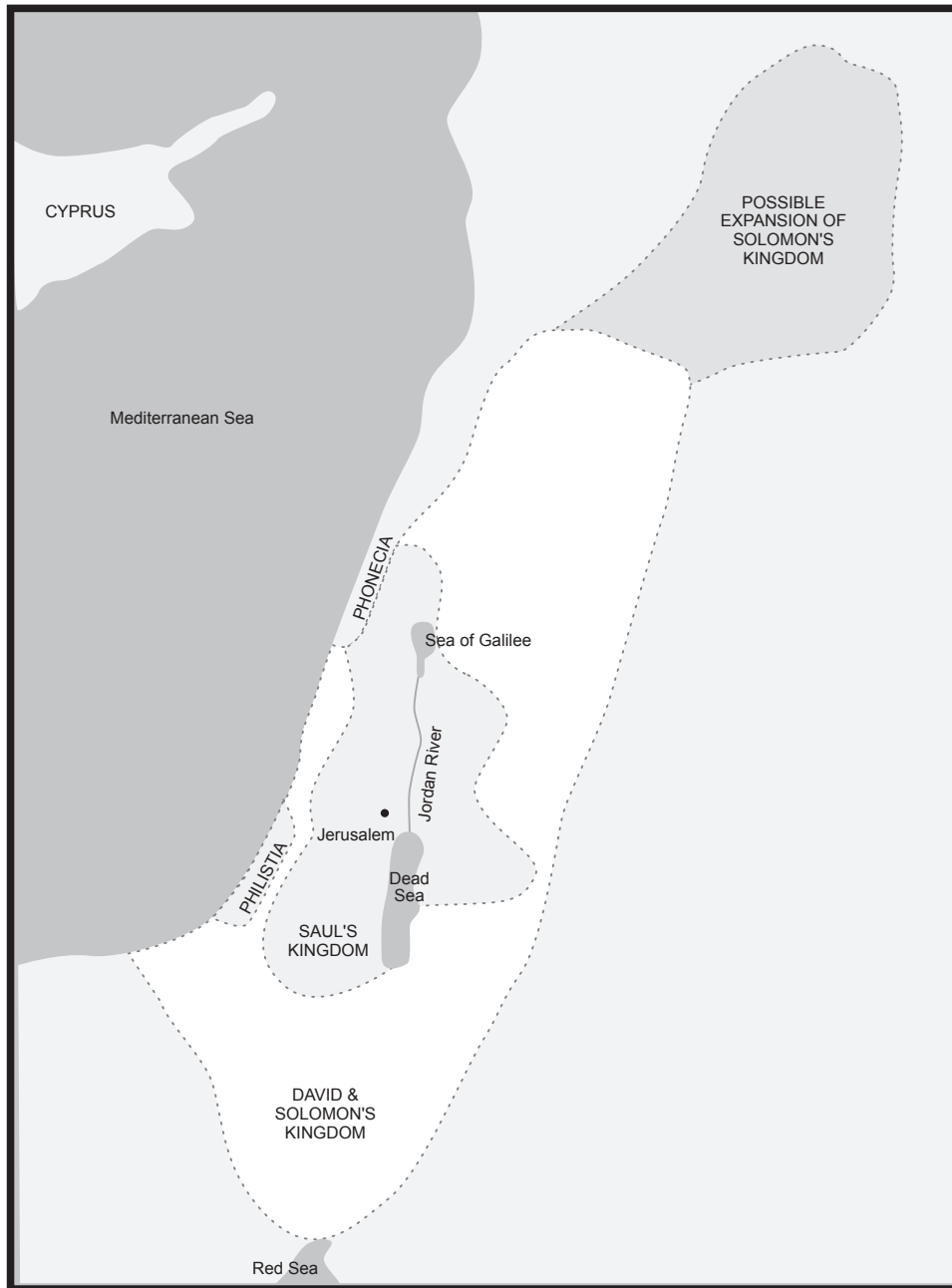
5. ONE KINGDOM AND 3 KINGS [1 Samuel 9-31, 2 Samuel, and 1 Kings 1-11]

SAUL. The people wanted a king, 1 Samuel 8. They rejected God by insisting on having a king, 1 Samuel 8:7. Saul, of the tribe of Benjamin, was chosen to be the king, 1 Samuel 9 - 12. Saul, the first king of Israel, began to reign at age 40. He reigned 32 years. King Saul was inconsistent, rash, sinful, and gave God partial obedience. Therefore, God rejected him as king, 1 Samuel 13:8-14 and 15:9-11, 26. Saul tried to contact the spirit of the deceased Samuel, 1 Samuel 28:7 ... and he died because he did that, 1 Chronicles 10:13-14.

DAVID. Samuel chose David to succeed Saul, passing over Saul's son Jonathan. David was a skillful musician, a mighty man of valor, a warrior, one prudent in speech, and a handsome man, 1 Samuel 16:18. After years of conflict with Saul, he became king in 1011 BC and prospered ... greatly expanding the kingdom during his 40-year reign. David had an adulterous affair with Bathsheba ... and, finding out that she was pregnant, arranged the death of her husband Uriah in battle. They married ... but their first child died. Solomon, their second son, was successor to the throne. The Bible's testimony that David was a man after God's own heart, 1 Samuel 13:14 and Acts 13:22, describes his character before he became king. That testimony was not given to describe David after his sin with Bathsheba. Actually, King David suffered greatly after that adulterous affair, 2 Samuel 12:10-14.

SOLOMON. He became the third king of Israel in 971 BC and was wise with wisdom given from God, 1 Kings 3:7-12. Solomon spoke 3000 proverbs and his songs numbered 1005, 1 Kings 4:32. He was greater than all the kings of the earth in riches and in wisdom. In answer to David's prayer, and by David's instructions, Solomon built the Temple. However, God had instructed the kings not to multiply horses, wives, silver, and gold, Deuteronomy 17:16-17 ... and Solomon did all these things. God instructed the Israelites not to intermarry with foreigners or worship their gods. Solomon did these things, 1 Kings 11:1-11. God was angry with Solomon because of his sins. God condemned the one kingdom to be divided after Solomon's death ... *after* because of God's promise to David, 1 Kings 11:9-13. Solomon ruled Israel for 40 years.

THE UNDIVIDED KINGDOM OF ISRAEL



6. THE DIVIDED KINGDOM, THE EXILES, AND THREE RETURNS

[1 Kings 12 – 22, 2 Kings, Ezra, and Nehemiah]

THE TWO KINGDOMS, A DISPERSEMENT, AND THE 70-YEAR EXILE

Solomon's rule ended and the one undivided Kingdom of Israel was divided into two Kingdoms in 931 BC ... a northern Kingdom and a southern Kingdom. The two Kingdoms were led by separate rulers.

The Northern Kingdom Israel consisted of ten tribes including the tribes of Joseph's sons Manasseh and Ephraim counted as separate tribes. Israel was ruled by 19 bad kings. Eventually Israel was taken into Assyria in 722 BC and dispersed. The prophets **Elijah** and **Elisha** ministered during this time.

The Southern Kingdom Judah consisted of the tribes of Judah, Benjamin, and Levi. Judah was led by good and bad rulers. There were 19 kings and a queen [Athaliah]. Judah was conquered ... and the Jews of Judah were taken into exile in Babylonia through three deportations. Daniel was among those deported in the first deportation in 606 BC. Ezekiel was among those taken in the second deportation in 597 BC, and the rest of the Jews were deported in 586 BC when Jerusalem and the temple were destroyed. Babylonia fell to Persia in 539 BC. After Judah had been in exile for 70 years from 606 BC to 536 BC, they were able to begin returning to Jerusalem. The time from their first deportation to their first return is called **The 70-Year Exile**. The book of Esther records the story of a godly woman among the exiles in Persia. Descendants of the tribes of Judah [Mary, Joseph, and Jesus], Benjamin [the Apostle Paul], and Levi [Barnabas] are so identified in the New Testament.

THE THREE RETURNS OF THE SOUTHERN KINGDOM. Judah was taken into exile in three deportations. After a 70-year exile, they returned in three waves.

Zerubbabel led the first wave, over 40,000, back to Jerusalem in 536 BC to rebuild the temple which was completed in 516 BC.

Ezra led the second wave back in 458 BC. He brought spiritual revival to the people.

Nehemiah brought the third wave back in 445 BC. He rebuilt the walls of Jerusalem.

FOUR HUNDRED YEARS OF SILENCE. Four hundred years of Biblical silence separate the conclusion of Old Testament history and the birth of Christ. No books in the standard canon of Scripture were written in those 400 years. During that time, Alexander the Great and the Greeks ruled that part of the world. Then the Roman Empire was in power before and during the birth and life of Christ.

39 Old Testament Books Organized as 5 - 9 - 3 5 5 - 9 - 3

5 - The Five History Books ... written by Moses

Genesis ... the beginning of man and the beginning of Israel.
Exodus ... the exodus from slavery in Egypt ... and Law at Mt. Sinai.
Leviticus ... the Levites and the Law.
Numbers ... a census, wandering, death, and another census.
Deuteronomy ... the final messages of Moses ... and Moses' death.

9 - Nine History Books ... in Canaan before the exile

Joshua ... successful conquering, dividing, and settling in Canaan.
Judges ... 17 cycles of failure.
Ruth ... a godly woman in the time of the Judges.
1 Samuel ... the last Judges and the first King Saul.
2 Samuel ... King David's success and failure.
1 Kings ... King Solomon and the division of the Kingdom.
2 Kings ... the Kingdoms of Israel and Judah.
1 Chronicles ... similar to 2 Samuel.
2 Chronicles ... similar to 1 and 2 Kings.

3 - Three History Books ... during and after The 70-Year Exile

Ezra ... Zerubbabel rebuilt the temple ... Ezra rebuilt the people.
Nehemiah ... Nehemiah rebuilt the walls of Jerusalem.
Esther ... a godly Jewess among the exiles in Persia.

5 - Five Books of Poetry

Job ... an early story of God's sovereignty in a man's suffering.
Psalms ... the hymnbook of Israel.
Proverbs ... the wisdom of God.
Ecclesiastes ... the futility of man without God.
Song of Solomon ... the beauty of marriage.

5 - Five Major Prophets ... before and during The 70-Year Exile

Isaiah ... predicted condemnation and comfort ... Messianic.
Jeremiah ... the weeping Prophet warns Judah and the nations.
Lamentations ... Jeremiah laments over the destruction of Jerusalem.
Ezekiel ... reminds the Jews of the sins that caused them to be exiled.
Daniel ... prophecy by a godly man exiled in an evil place.

9 - Nine Minor Prophets ... before The 70-Year Exile

Hosea ... God's love for Israel.
Joel ... God's judgment in the Day of the Lord.
Amos ... condemnation of Israel.
Obadiah ... God's condemnation of the nation Edom.
Jonah ... Gentile Nineveh is given a second chance.
Micah ... predictions of judgment and the coming Kingdom.
Nahum ... destruction of Nineveh 150 years after Jonah.
Habakkuk ... God's patience and punishment of Judah.
Zephaniah ... judgment and blessing.

3 - Three Minor Prophets ... after The 70-Year Exile

Haggai ... The Jews urged to rebuild the Temple.
Zechariah ... call to repent ... predictions of the coming Messiah.
Malachi ... apathy criticized ... predictions of John the Baptist and Jesus.

THE ORGANIZATION OF THE 39 OLD TESTAMENT BOOKS

17 HISTORY BOOKS

5 Creation to Canaan

Genesis
Exodus
Leviticus
Numbers
Deuteronomy

9 In Canaan... before The 70-Year Exile

Joshua
Judges
Ruth
1 Samuel
2 Samuel
1 Kings
2 Kings
1 Chronicles
2 Chronicles

3 In Canaan... after The 70-Year Exile

Ezra
Nehemiah
Esther ... in Persia

5 POETRY BOOKS

5 Books of Poetry

Job
Psalms
Proverbs
Ecclesiastes
Song of Solomon

17 PROPHECY BOOKS

5 Major Prophets... before & during 70-Year Exile

Isaiah
Jeremiah
Lamentations
Ezekiel
Daniel

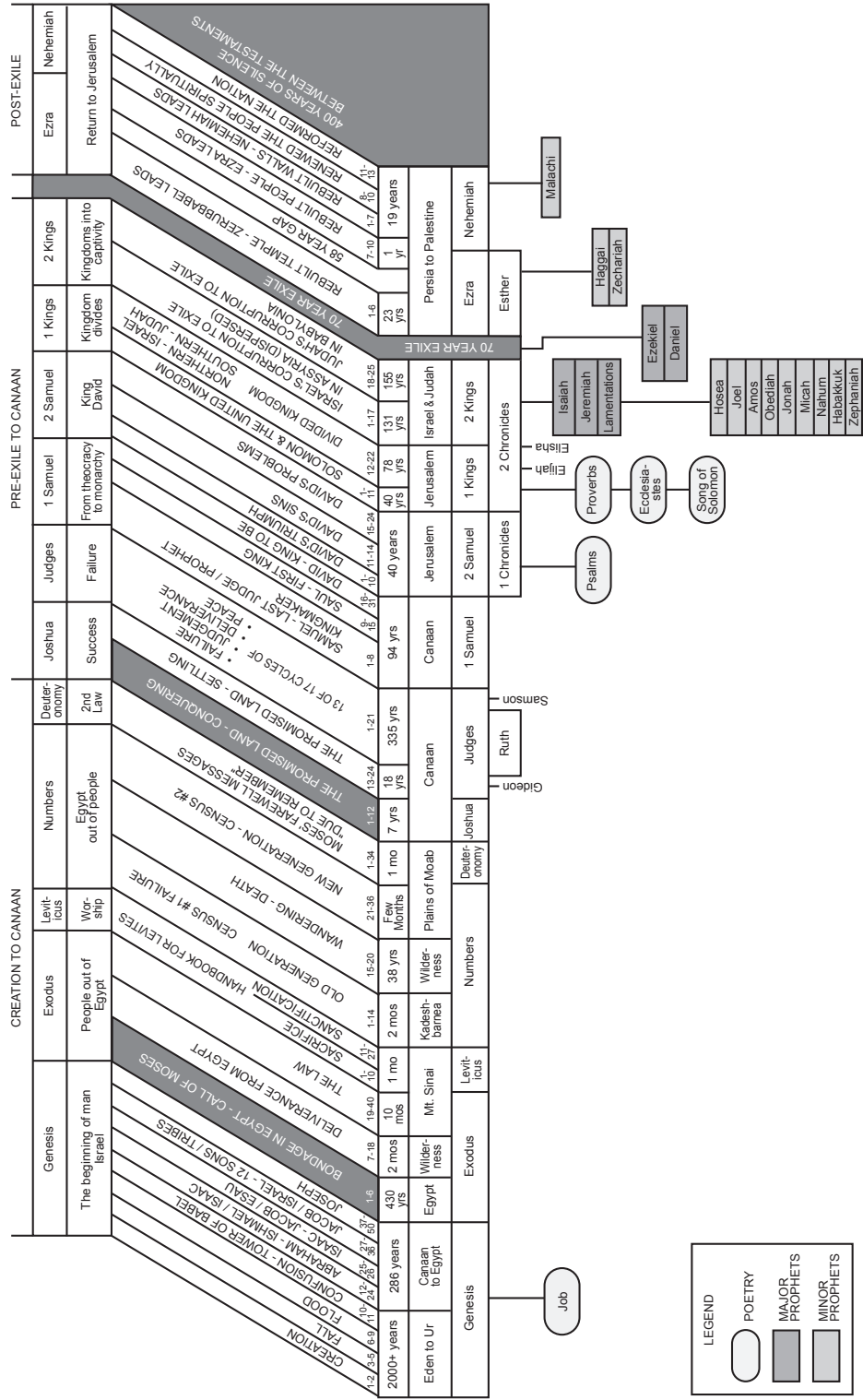
9 Minor Prophets... before The 70-Year Exile

Hosea
Joel
Amos
Obadiah
Jonah
Micah
Nahum
Habakkuk
Zephaniah

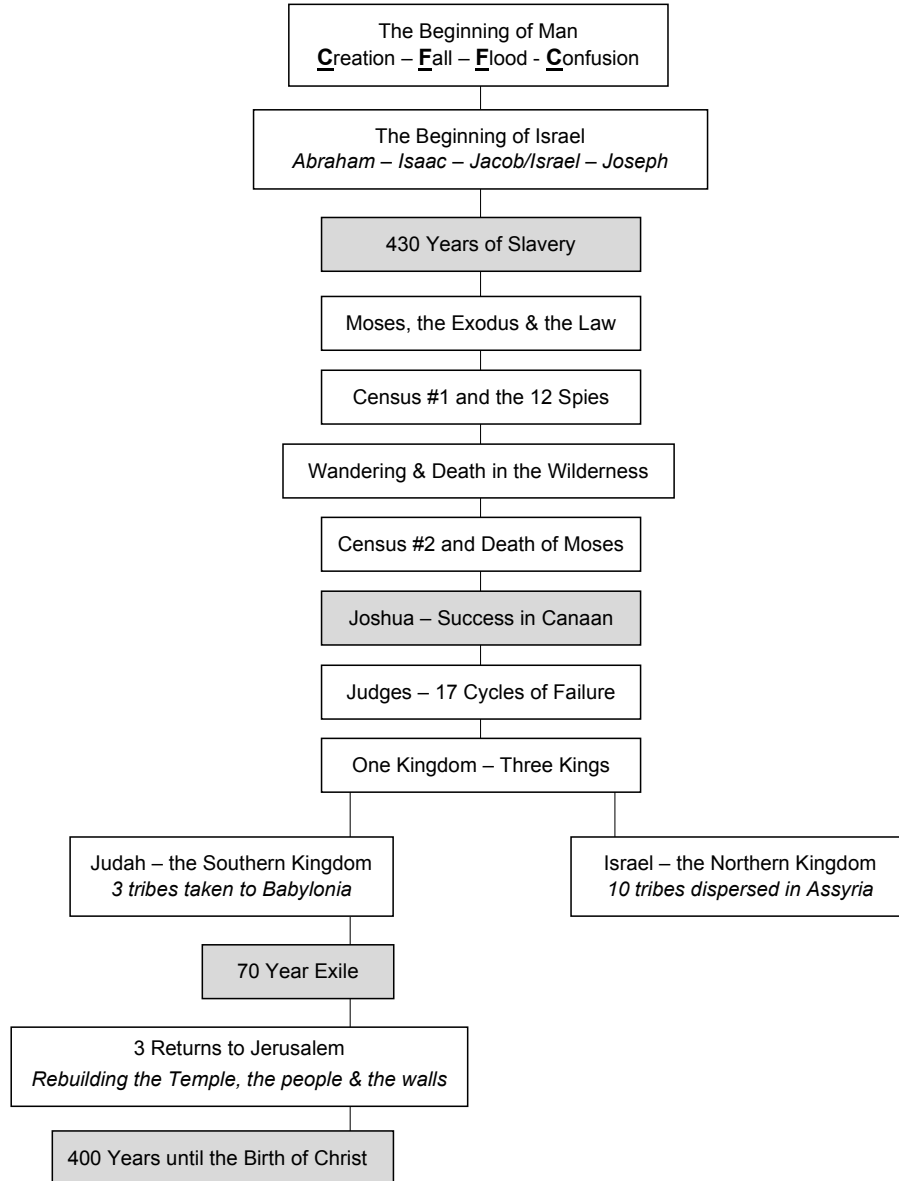
3 Minor Prophets... after The 70-Year Exile

Haggai
Zechariah
Malachi

THE OLD TESTAMENT



OLD TESTAMENT FLOWCHART



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Disciplemaking 1 - Review Questions

Lesson 4 - The Old Testament ... pages 42 - 57

Part of learning is review ... storing new knowledge into your long term memory. Print this review test or use separate paper to answer the following questions. Then repeat this test, open book or closed book, until you can accurately and easily answer all the questions. These *review exams* are available with correct answers on VirtualBibleAcademy.org.

TRUE OR FALSE ... mark each [1 - 15] with a "T" or an "F"

1. The tower of Babel was before the flood but after the Fall.
2. Jacob was renamed Israel.
3. Joseph's grandfather was Isaac.
4. Joseph became ruler in Edom.
5. God gave the Law through Moses at Mt. Sinai.
6. Leviticus records the exodus from Egypt.
7. Joshua records cycles of failure during the time of the Judges.
8. Only one census was taken as recorded in Numbers.
9. Samuel, David, and Solomon were kings of the undivided Kingdom.
10. God divided the Kingdom because of Solomon's sins.
11. The Northern Kingdom of Israel had 19 kings and a queen.
12. The Southern Kingdom was dispersed in Persia.
13. The Southern Kingdom was made up of Judah, Benjamin, and Levi.
14. Zerubbabel, Ezra, and Jeremiah led the people back after the 70-year exile.

MULTIPLE CHOICE ... for 15 through 24 ... answer each with the letter.

- | | | | | |
|-----------|------------|-------------|-----------|-----------|
| A. Isaac | D. David | G. Nehemiah | J. Joseph | M. Moses |
| B. Ezra | E. Esther | H. Solomon | K. Ruth | N. Noah |
| C. Joshua | F. Abraham | I. Seth | L. Samson | O. Samuel |

15. Which woman lived during the time of the Judges? _____
16. Who led the Israelites out of Egypt? _____
17. Who conquered, divided, and settled Canaan? _____
18. Who was the second King of the un-divided Kingdom? _____
19. Who was David's son? _____
20. Besides Adam, who was Noah's ancestor? _____
21. Who rebuilt the walls of Jerusalem? _____
22. Who was David's great grandmother? _____
23. Who was Abraham's son? _____
24. Who was the 11th son of Israel? _____

CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER...CIRCLE OR UNDERLINE WHICH PERSON CAME FIRST

- | | | | |
|-----|--------|-----------------|------------|
| 25. | Moses | Noah | Jacob |
| 26. | Levi | Seth | Ham |
| 27. | Saul | Solomon | Samson |
| 28. | Rachel | Sarah | Dinah |
| 29. | Isaac | Manasseh | Ishmael |
| 30. | Ezra | Ezekiel | Zerubbabel |
| 31. | Ruth | Esther | Zephaniah |
| 32. | Israel | Joseph's father | Jacob |

33. Explain your answer to tricky question #32.

Disciplemaking 1 - Answers to Review Questions

Lesson 4 - The Old Testament ... questions pages 58 - 59

Do not use these answer sheets to find your answers. Please use them only to check your answers. Go back into the lesson to find the information to correct your answers. Repeat the test until you can accurately and easily answer all the questions. All the lessons, review tests, and answer pages are available on VirtualBibleAcademy.org.

TRUE OR FALSE ... mark each [1 - 15] with a "T" or an "F"

1. The tower of Babel was before the flood but after the Fall. **F**
2. Jacob was renamed Israel. **T**
3. Joseph's grandfather was Isaac. **T**
4. Joseph became ruler in Edom. **F**
5. God gave the Law through Moses at Mt. Sinai. **T**
6. Leviticus records the exodus from Egypt. **F**
7. Joshua records cycles of failure during the time of the Judges. **F**
8. Only one census was taken as recorded in Numbers. **F**
9. Samuel, David, and Solomon were kings of the undivided Kingdom. **F**
10. God divided the Kingdom because of Solomon's sins. **T**
11. The Northern Kingdom of Israel had 19 kings and a queen. **F**
12. The Southern Kingdom was dispersed in Persia. **F**
13. The Southern Kingdom was made up of Judah, Benjamin, and Levi. **T**
14. Zerubbabel, Ezra, and Jeremiah led the people back after the 70-year exile. **F**

MULTIPLE CHOICE ... for 15 through 24 ... answer each with the letter.

- | | | | | |
|-----------|------------|-------------|-----------|-----------|
| A. Isaac | D. David | G. Nehemiah | J. Joseph | M. Moses |
| B. Ezra | E. Esther | H. Solomon | K. Ruth | N. Noah |
| C. Joshua | F. Abraham | I. Seth | L. Samson | O. Samuel |

15. Which woman lived during the time of the Judges? K
16. Who led the Israelites out of Egypt? M
17. Who conquered, divided, and settled Canaan? C
18. Who was the second King of the un-divided Kingdom? D
19. Who was David's son? H
20. Besides Adam, who was Noah's ancestor? I
21. Who rebuilt the walls of Jerusalem? G
22. Who was David's great grandmother? K
23. Who was Abraham's son? A
24. Who was the 11th son of Israel? J

CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER...CIRCLE OR UNDERLINE WHICH PERSON CAME FIRST

- | | | | |
|-----|---------------|------------------------|----------------|
| 25. | Moses | <u>Noah</u> | Jacob |
| 26. | Levi | <u>Seth</u> | Ham |
| 27. | Saul | Solomon | <u>Samson</u> |
| 28. | Rachel | <u>Sarah</u> | Dinah |
| 29. | Isaac | Manasseh | <u>Ishmael</u> |
| 30. | Ezra | <u>Ezekiel</u> | Zerubbabel |
| 31. | <u>Ruth</u> | Esther | Zephaniah |
| 32. | <u>Israel</u> | <u>Joseph's father</u> | <u>Jacob</u> |

33. Explain your answer to tricky question #32.

*These three are all the same person. Jacob was Joseph's father.
And Jacob was renamed Israel.*



“Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth.” 2 Timothy 2:15

Disciplemaking 1 - Abiding in His Word

LESSON 5 - THE LIFE OF CHRIST

“Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. And ... He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore also God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those who are in Heaven, and on earth, and under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”
Philippians 2:5-11

The life of Jesus did not begin at His human birth in Bethlehem. Jesus existed from eternity past. He had no beginning. God the Father did not give birth to Jesus. His being the Son of God is not progenitive ... it is positional. There was no time when Jesus did not exist. He was the Creator in Genesis 1 and 2. In Old Testament history, He appeared as the Angel of the Lord. He delivered and defended Israel. He was humanly born in Bethlehem ... lived in Egypt for a short time as a young child ... and then moved to Nazareth in Galilee. He lived there with His family, making annual trips with them to Jerusalem for the Passover.

At about age 30 Jesus began His ministry ... into four geographic areas. John the Baptist baptized Him in the Jordan River. Then the Spirit led Him into the desert to be tempted by Satan for 40 days. In the first months, Jesus ministered in **Judea and Galilee**. There He met His first disciples . . . performed His first miracle . . . and cleansed the temple for the first time. Jesus' popularity increased during His **Galilean** ministry . . . but opposition and hostility also increased. He taught, performed miracles, and healed. He chose and began to minister with His disciples. His ministry expanded into the regions **north and east of Galilee** where He was transfigured on Mt. Hermon. In the last months, Jesus' ministry centered in **Judea and Perea**.

The Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem marked the beginning of the week of the cross and declared that He was King of the Jews. Monday and Tuesday were public days. He cleansed the temple, cursed the barren fig tree, denounced the Scribes and Pharisees, and prophesied about His return. Later that week He spent a day alone with His disciples. He washed their feet before the Last Supper, taught them, and prayed for them. Jesus went to pray in the Garden of Gethsemane. He was arrested there. After three Jewish and three Roman trials, He was condemned to be crucified. They nailed Him to a cross. He died and was buried in a borrowed tomb. He rose from the dead on the third day. For forty days after His resurrection, Jesus appeared ten or more times . . . to the women, to His disciples, and to His followers. He ascended into Heaven where He ministers for us now as we wait for His return.

FULFILLED PROPHECIES

Jesus said, "All things which are written about Me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled," Luke 24:44. Compare the following predictions and fulfillments. And it is amazing to compare the crucifixion as predicted in Psalm 22 and fulfilled in Matthew 27. The Law refers to the first five books of the Bible ... also called the Torah or the Pentateuch.

22 of 300+ Prophecies	Old Testament	New Testament
1. Born of a virgin	Isaiah 7:14	Matthew 1:18-25
2. Seed of Abraham	Genesis 22:18	Matthew 1:1
3. Son of Isaac	Genesis 21:12	Luke 3:34
4. Tribe of Judah	Genesis 49:10	Luke 3:33
5. Line of Jesse	Isaiah 11:1	Luke 3:32
6. House of David	Jeremiah 23:5	Luke 3:31
7. Born in Bethlehem	Micah 5:2	Matthew 2:1
8. Called Immanuel	Isaiah 7:14	Matthew 1:23
9. Preceded by a messenger	Isaiah 40:3	Matthew 3:1-2
10. Perform miracles	Isaiah 35:5-6	Matthew 9:35
11. Teach in parables	Psalms 78:2	Matthew 13:34
12. Triumphant Entry	Zechariah 9:9	Luke 19:35-37
13. Betrayed by friend	Psalms 41:9	Matthew 10:4
14. 30 Pieces of silver	Zechariah 11:12	Matthew 26:15
15. Forsaken by Disciples	Zechariah 13:7	Mark 14:40
16. Silent before accusers	Isaiah 53:7	Matthew 27:12
17. Crucified	Psalms 22:16	Luke 23:33
18. Numbered with transgressors	Isaiah 53:12	Matthew 27:38
19. Garments	Psalms 22:18	John 19:23-24
20. No bones broken	Psalms 34:20	John 19:33
21. In Rich Man's Tomb	Isaiah 53:9	Matthew 27:57-60

FOUR GOSPELS . . . FOUR HISTORICAL RECORDS

The four Gospels give us four accounts of the life of Jesus Christ. Each author, moved by the Spirit of God, gave a partial record and picture of the life of Jesus . . . giving us different insights based on the authors' different backgrounds, personalities, original audience, and emphasis.

The *synoptic* Gospels [the similar accounts of Matthew, Mark, and Luke] cover many of the same events. John wrote more information that is only in his account ... 90% unique. John stressed Christ's deity more than the others ... and in His Gospel he mentioned *believing in* Jesus a total of 98 times. *Luke* is the one Gospel that states it is in chronological order, Luke 1:3.

The four Gospels account for almost half of the New Testament. Within the Gospels themselves, one-third of the text is devoted to the seven weeks from the Triumphal Entry through the Ascension.

Four men . . . the former tax collector Matthew, the young man Mark, the Gentile physician Luke, and the fisherman John . . . gave us God's record of the earthly life and death of Jesus.

	Matthew	Mark	Luke	John
Author	Taxman & Disciple	Young man	Gentile physician	Fisherman & Disciple
Date	60's AD	50's AD	60 AD	85-90 AD
Readers	Jews	Romans	Greeks	All people
Emphasis	Predicted Messiah	Action & Miracles	Historical record	Believe [98 times]
Jesus as	King of the Jews	Servant of God	Son of Man	Son of God
Miracles	20	17	20	8
Parables	19	6	24	0
Chapters	28	16	24	21
Uniqueness*	40%	60%	5%	90%

* Uniqueness means what percentage of the materials is not recorded in the other Gospels.

JESUS FROM ETERNITY PAST TO BETHLEHEM

Jesus always existed. He existed from eternity past.

Micah 5:2

Isaiah 9:6

He existed before all created things.

John 1:1,2

Colossians 1:17

John 8:56-58

John 17:5

He was the Creator in Genesis 1 and 2.

John 1:3

Colossians 1:16

Pre-incarnate Jesus appeared as *the* Angel of the Lord.

To Hagar - Genesis 16:7-13, 21:17-20

To Moses - Exodus 3

To Gideon - Judges 6:11-14

To Samson's Parents - Judges 13:1-22

There were other Old Testament appearances.

To Abraham - Genesis 18:1, 22:11-18

To Jacob - Genesis 31:11-13, 32:24-32

No One Has Seen the Father - John 1:18, 6:46, 14:9

Jesus was the warrior, defender, and deliverer of Israel.

Joshua 5:13 - 6:3

2 Kings 19:35

1 Chronicles 21:14-27

Psalms 34:7

The Trinity is clearly presented in the Old Testament.

Isaiah 48:12-17 [written about 700BC]

Jesus came down from Heaven to earth.

John 3:13,31

John 6:33, 38, 41, 50, 51, 58, & 62

He became the visible image of the invisible God.

Colossians 1:15

John 14:9

He became flesh in Bethlehem and lived among us.

Micah 5:2

John 1:14

THE BIRTH AND CHILDHOOD OF JESUS

His Birth

Jesus was born in the small town of Bethlehem about five miles [8 km] south of Jerusalem between 6 BC and 4 BC. Note: the Gregorian calendar with BC indicating *before Christ, i.e.*, before the birth of Christ, and AD indicating *Anno Domini, i.e.*, in the *year of our Lord* was apparently begun with an inaccurate date for Christ's birth.

His Parents

Mary's genealogy is traced in Luke 3:23-38 back to Nathan and his father King David ... then back to Judah, Shem, Noah, Seth, Adam, and God. Mary conceived of the Holy Spirit [not of Joseph] and remained a virgin until after the birth of Jesus. Joseph, the carpenter, although not the physical father of Jesus, was his legal earthly step-father. Joseph's genealogy is traced in Matthew 1:1-17 back to Solomon and Solomon's father King David, to Judah, and to Abraham.

Born in Bethlehem

Joseph and Mary traveled south about 70 miles [110 km] to Bethlehem from Nazareth in Galilee ... to be counted in a census. While there, Jesus was born. His first bed was a feeding trough [a manger]. His birth was announced by angels to the shepherds. At His dedication at the temple in Jerusalem, at least 40 days after His birth, Simeon and Anna recognized the infant Jesus as God's Messiah.

The Magi and Herod

After Jesus was born, an undisclosed number of magi from the East followed a star to Jerusalem to find the one born King of the Jews. They found Him and Mary in a *house* in Bethlehem and worshipped Him. Herod attempted to destroy Jesus by killing all male children up to two years old in and around Bethlehem.

To Egypt

An angel warned Joseph to take his family and flee to Egypt, and they stayed there until an angel told them it was safe to return.

In Galilee

The family returned to live in Nazareth. Jesus grew up there ... making annual trips at the Passover to Jerusalem [about 65 miles or 100 km south]. And at 12 years of age, Jesus astonished the temple teachers with His understanding and answers. At that time Jesus referred to the temple as "*My Father's house.*" Jesus lived with His brothers James, Joseph, Simon, and Judas and his sisters [more than one] in Nazareth, Matthew 13:55-56.

Public Ministry

At about 30 years of age, Jesus began His public ministry . . . announced by His relative, John the Baptist.

THE PUBLIC MINISTRY OF JESUS

In Galilee and Judea - the beginnings. John the Baptist baptized Jesus in the Jordan River near Bethany. Then the Spirit of God led Jesus into the desert of Judea to be tempted by Satan for 40 days. Afterwards, Jesus met His first disciples ... Andrew, Simon, Philip, and Nathanael. He performed His first miracle at a wedding in Cana ... turning water into wine. Jesus cleansed the Temple for the first time ... driving the merchants out of His Father's house. He proclaimed, *"Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up,"* John 2:19. A ruler of the Jews, the Pharisee Nicodemus, came to Jesus at night in Jerusalem. Jesus told him, *"You must be born again,"* John 3:7. On His way back to Galilee, Jesus traveled through Samaria where He met the woman at Jacob's well near Sychar. She believed and brought many to Him.

In Galilee - popularity and hostility increase. Jesus traveled to Galilee where He was rejected in His hometown of Nazareth. He moved on to Capernaum. After a miraculous catch of fish on the Sea of Galilee, He called the fishermen Andrew, Simon, James, and John to be fishers of men. He also called Levi, the tax collector, to follow Him. Jesus returned to Jerusalem where He healed on the Sabbath ... an offense to the Jewish leaders. After a night of prayer, Jesus chose the 12 disciples. He amazed the multitudes with His authoritative teaching in the Sermon on the Mount. He taught in parables and healed. He sent out the 12 disciples by two's to minister to the lost sheep of Israel . . . to preach and to heal. Jesus miraculously fed the 5,000. Then He taught that He was the bread of life ... driving many followers away.

To the north and east of Galilee. Jesus traveled north toward Tyre and Sidon in Phoenicia where He continued to teach and to heal. He traveled east through Decapolis and Bashan. Jesus took Peter, James, and John up on Mt. Hermon [the probable location] where He shone like light at the Transfiguration. Moses and Elijah appeared and talked with Him. In addition, God declared, *"This Is My beloved Son, with whom I am well-pleased; hear Him!"*, Matthew 17:5. Apparently this was the first time Moses set foot in the Promise Land.

In Judea and Perea - the final months. His teaching, healing, and miracles continued. He claimed to be the Light of the world and equal to God ... therefore the Jews tried to stone Him. After explaining the cost of discipleship, Jesus sent out 70 followers in pairs to minister. Jesus delayed His visit to Bethany where He would 4 days later raise His friend Lazarus from the dead. The chief priests and the Pharisees became determined to kill Him. Jesus traveled to Jerusalem by way of Samaria and Galilee. He continued to teach and to heal. He told His disciples of His death and resurrection. Finally, He went to the home of Lazarus in Bethany to begin His last week before His crucifixion and resurrection.

THE LAND IN THE TIME OF JESUS



THE WEEK OF THE CROSS

Sunday - the Triumphal Entry

Jesus traveled from the home of Lazarus in Bethany to Jerusalem. On the way, Jesus stopped at the Mount of Olives on the east side of Jerusalem. He sent His disciples to bring a donkey and a colt to Him. Jesus rode the colt into Jerusalem, thereby proclaiming to be the King of Israel, Matthew 21, Mark 11, Luke 19, John 12 ... fulfilling the prophecy of Zechariah 9:9. The people spread their garments and branches on the road before Him and worshipped God. In Jerusalem, Jesus saw the condition of the temple ... again filled with merchants. He returned to Bethany.

Monday - another Temple cleansing

On the way back into Jerusalem Jesus cursed a barren fig tree, which withered by the following day, Matthew 21, Mark 11. He proceeded to cleanse the temple a second time by driving out the buyers, sellers, and moneychangers, Matthew 21, Mark 11, Luke 19. This Temple cleansing was near the end of His public ministry. His first Temple cleansing was near the beginning of His public ministry, John 2:13-22.

Tuesday - a public day

The Jewish leaders questioned Jesus about His authority and tried to discredit Him with trick questions on taxes, marriage, and the commandments. Jesus taught the parable of the wicked husbandmen who killed the son of the owner of the vineyard. Jesus strongly denounced the Scribes and the Pharisees. And He prophesied about the destruction of Jerusalem and about His return, Matthew 24-25, Mark 13, Luke 21. It was also on this day that Judas made his deal to betray Jesus.

The day before the cross — a private day

Jesus spent this day with His disciples ... away from the crowds. There is a question whether this was Wednesday or Thursday. They gathered in an upper room for the Passover meal. He washed the disciples' feet. During the meal, Judas left to betray Jesus. In the Upper Room Discourse, John 13-16, He taught the disciples about His leaving and about the coming of the Holy Spirit. Jesus and His Disciples walked to the Garden of Gethsemane. Jesus prayed until His sweat was like blood. His disciples, understanding that He would die soon, slept because of grief, Luke 22:45.

THE WEEK OF THE CROSS ... continued

The night before the cross - His six trials. After midnight, Judas brought the Jewish leaders and soldiers to arrest Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane. They came with swords and clubs to arrest the Prince of Peace. They bound Jesus and took Him to the Jewish leaders for trial.

1. His trial before Annas [Trial 1] was illegal ... being without witnesses. An officer struck Him.
2. He was taken to the high priest Caiaphas for another trial [Trial 2] ... this one included false witnesses. The Jewish leaders asked, "*Are you the Christ, the Son of the Blessed One?*" ... and He answered, "*I am,*" Mark 14:61-62. The High Priest tore his robe as a sign condemning blasphemy. The priests condemned Him to be deserving of death. Guards spit in His face, beat Him with fists, and slapped Him. During this trial, Peter denied Jesus three times ... then Peter went out and wept bitterly.
3. They brought Him to the Sanhedrin for another trial when they convened at sunup [Trial 3]. They asked, "*Are you the Son of God?*" ... and Jesus answered, "*Yes, I am,*" Luke 22:70. They convicted Him and transferred Him to the Romans for execution.
4. He was tried before Pilate [Trial 4].
5. He was taken to Herod for trial [Trial 5].
6. He was then brought back to Pilate [Trial 6]. The crowd rejected His release. Pilate sentenced Him to death. Jesus was beaten, mocked, spit on, severely whipped, and crowned with thorns. Jesus was too weak to carry His cross all the way to Golgotha to be crucified. Simon of Cyrene helped carry it for Him. Golgotha, the place of the skull, was not some beautiful hillside location ... it was an execution site along the road to the dump.

The day of the cross - His supreme sacrifice. Near 9 AM [the third hour in Jewish time], they nailed Jesus to the cross between two thieves. Above His head a sign proclaimed, "*King of the Jews*". Jesus prayed, "*Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.*" Many mocked Him ... including the Jewish leaders, passers-by, soldiers, and even one of the two thieves. The other thief believed. Jesus said to him, "*Today you shall be with Me in Paradise.*" Guards divided His clothing and cast lots for His tunic. At noon, the sky became dark. At about 3PM Jesus said, "*My God, My God why hast Thou forsaken Me?*" ... "*Father, into Thy hands I commit My spirit ... It is finished.*" Jesus bowed His head and He died. An earthquake rumbled through Jerusalem. The veil of the Temple was torn in two. The Centurion guard at the foot of the cross began praising God ... and proclaimed, "*This man was innocent ... this man was the Son of God.*" After Jesus died, a guard speared His side to be sure that He was dead. He was dead. Therefore there was no reason to break His legs. The perfect, sinless God-man had paid for the sins of the world. Jesus was taken down from the cross to be buried in a borrowed tomb. The tomb was sealed and guarded by Roman soldiers because He had prophesied that He would rise from the dead in three days. The account of the crucifixion and the quotations in this paragraph are from Matthew 27, Mark 15, Luke 23, and John 19.

FROM HIS RESURRECTION TO HIS RETURN

The Resurrection

An earthquake occurred in Jerusalem and an angel rolled the stone away from the tomb of Jesus, Matthew 28:2. Jesus had conquered death. He was resurrected ... spiritually and physically alive again, Matthew 28:9, Luke 24:39, and Luke 24:41-43.

The Empty Tomb

The women [Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, Salome, Joanna, and others] came to the tomb with spices to anoint His body. They found the tomb open and empty. Two angels appeared to them and told them, "*He is not here, but He has risen,*" Luke 24:5. Mary Magdalene and the others returned to tell Peter and John who then went to the tomb.

The Appearances - Forty Days of Proof

[Matthew 28, Mark 16, Luke 24, John 20-21, Acts 1, 1 Corinthians 15]

To Mary Magdalene ... at the tomb.

To Mary [the mother of James], Salome, and Joanna ... at the tomb.

To Peter ... at the tomb.

To 2 Men on the road to Emmaus ... outside of Jerusalem.

To 10 Apostles in Upper Room on Resurrection evening.

To 11 Apostles 8 days later ... probably in Galilee.

To 7 Apostles ... by the Sea of Galilee.

To 500 for the Great Commission ... at a mountain in Galilee.

To His half-brother James ... at an undisclosed location.

To the 11 Apostles ... in Jerusalem.

At the Ascension from the Mount of Olives ... east of Jerusalem.

FROM HIS RESURRECTION TO HIS RETURN ... continued

His Two Final Instructions:

1. Go make disciples. On a mountain in Galilee, several days before the Ascension, Jesus gave the Great Commission, *“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations,”* Matthew 28:18-20. They and we were commanded to teach others to be followers of Jesus ... to make disciples. Non-believers need to become Believers. New Believers should be baptized. We should teach them to obey all that Jesus has commanded ... including obeying the Great Commission.

2. Be My witnesses. Several days later, Jesus appeared on the Mount of Olives where He told His disciples, *“You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth,”* Acts 1:8. After that statement, Jesus was lifted up into the sky. A cloud received Him out of their sight. Jesus ascended to the right hand of the Father.

His present ministry includes:

Jesus is the head of the Body, Ephesians 1:22-23, 4:14-16.

He is our High Priest, Hebrews 8:1-2.

He is our advocate praying for us, Hebrews 7:25, 9:24-25.

He is preparing a place for us, John 14:1-3.

He is with us, Matthew 18:20.

His promised return: The New Testament mentions Christ's return over 300 times in its 260 chapters . . . averaging about once every 25 verses.

“And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.” John 14:3

“This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into Heaven, will come in just the same way as you have watched Him go into Heaven.” Acts 1:11

Other references include:

Matthew 24

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

1 Corinthians 15:51-58

Revelation

PARABLES OF JESUS ... in probable order

	Matthew	Mark	Luke	John*
1. House on the rock	7::24-27		6:47-49	
2. Bridegroom, cloth, wine	9:14-17	2:18-22	5:33-39	
3. Marketplace children	11:16-19		7:31-35	
4. Seed and four soils	13:3-9	4:3-9	8:5-8	
5. Seed and the harvest		4:26-29		
6. Wheat and tares	13:24-30			
7. The mustard seed	13:31-32	4:30-32	13:18-19	
8. The leaven	13:33		13:20-21	
9. The hidden treasure	13:44			
10. The pearl of great price	13:45-46			
11. The fishnet	13:47-50			
12. Two debtors			7:41-43	
13. The unmerciful slave	18:23-35			
14. The good Samaritan			10:30-37	
15. The persistent friend			11:5-8	
16. The rich fool			12:16-21	
17. The barren fig tree			13:6-9	
18. The lowest seat			14:7-11	
19. Rejected invitations			14:16-24	
20. The tower and battle			14:25-35	
21. The lost sheep	18:12-14		15:3-7	
22. The lost coin			15:8-10	
23. The prodigal son			15:11-32	
24. The shrewd steward			16:1-9	
25. The unworthy slaves			17:7-10	
26. The persistent widow			18:1-8	
27. Two men praying			18:9-14	
28. Vineyard rewards	20:1-20			
29. The ten slaves			19:11-27	
30. Two sons in the vineyard	21:28-32			
31. Wicked husbandmen	21:33-44	12:1-12	20:9-18	
32. The wedding feast	22:1-14			
33. Two servants	24:45-51		12:42-48	
34. Watchful doorkeeper		13:34-37		
35. Ten virgins with lamps	25:3-13			
36. The three slaves	25:14-30			

Parables are word pictures in story-form illustrating spiritual truth with common illustrations. The Old Testament predicted Jesus teaching in parables, Psalm 78:2. Jesus taught in parables to give understanding to Believers ... and to keep understanding from non-believers, Matthew 13:10-17, Mark 4:10-12. Parables illustrate truth but do not generate truth. They usually illustrate one truth ... not many. Keep interpretation simple and focused on the primary intent and context of the parable. *Note that the Gospel of John contains no parables even though John 10:6 in the KJV translates a Greek word as "parable." However, that Greek word is better translated "figure of speech." And it is a different form of illustration than the typical parable story-form.

MIRACLES OF JESUS ... in probable order

	Matthew	Mark	Luke	John
1. Water into wine				2:1-11
2. The official's son				4:46-54
3. Synagogue demon		1:21-28	4:33-37	
4. Peter's mother-in-law	8:14-15	1:29-31	4:38-39	
5. First catch of fish			5:1-11	
6. Gennesaret leper	8:1-4	1:40-45	5:12-15	
7. Capernaum cripple	9:1-8	2:1-12	5:17-26	
8. Pool healing				5:1-16
9. Withered hand	12:9-13	3:1-5	6:6-11	
10. Centurion servant	8:5-13		7:1-10	
11. Widow's son			7:11-17	
12. Blind demoniac	12:22			
13. Calmed the sea	8:23-27	4:35-41	8:22-25	
14. Demons in pigs	8:28-34	5:1-20	8:26-39	
15. Jairus' daughter	9:18-26	5:22-43	8:41-56	
16. Woman's blood	9:20-22	5:25-34	8:43-48	
17. Two blind men	9:27-31			
18. Dumb demoniac	9:32-33			
19. Fed 5000	14:15-21	6:32-44	9:10-17	6:5-14
20. Walked on water	14:22-33	6:45-52		6:15-21
21. Canaanite girl	15:21-28	7:24-30		
22. Deaf mute healed		7:31-37		
23. Fed 4000	15:32-38	8:1-9		
24. Blind Bethsaidaian		8:22-26		
25. Possessed child	17:14-21	9:14-29	9:37-42	
26. Fish, mouth, & coin	17:24-27			
27. Man born blind				9:1-8
28. Dumb demoniac			11:14	
29. Woman bent over			13:10-17	
30. Man with dropsy			14:1-6	
31. Lazarus raised				11:1-45
32. Ten lepers			17:11-19	
33. Blind Bartimaeus	20:29-34	10:46-52	18:35-43	
34. Cursed fig tree	21:17-22	11:12-24		
35. Malchus' ear			22:49-51	
36. Second catch of fish				21:1-14

Miracles are supernatural acts that are naturally unexplainable. They demonstrate the person, power, and purpose of God. Jesus' miracles bore witness of who He was, John 10:25. His miracles caused people to believe in Him, John 14:11, 20:30-31. To understand miracles, it is necessary to look at several issues . . . who was there, what happened, why was it done, what prerequisites if any were there, what effects were there, and what of God was demonstrated.

THE TWELVE DISCIPLES OF JESUS

The Disciples two calls. The Disciples of Jesus were chosen by Him, “*You did not choose Me but I chose you, and appointed you that you would go and bear fruit,*” John 15:16. They were called in two separate callings, John 1:37-51 and then Matthew 4:18-22 & Mark 1:16-20.

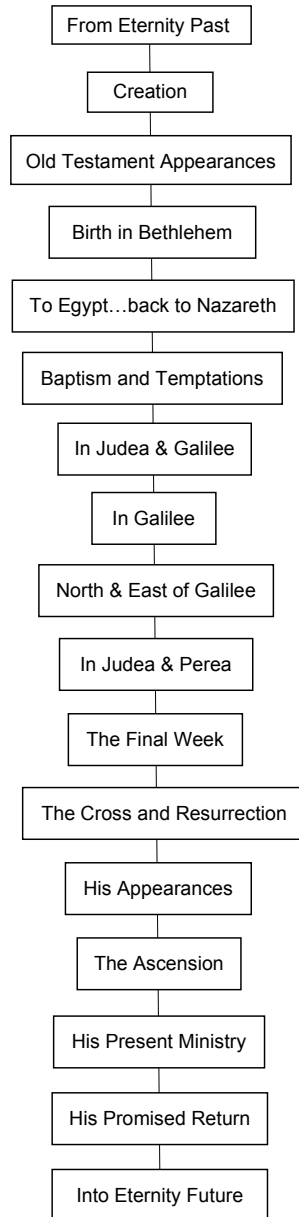
Four lists. The Disciples are listed in four places in the Bible ... Matthew 10:2-4, Mark 3:16-19, Luke 6:14-16, and Acts 1:13. In those lists there seems to be three subsets of 4 Disciples with Peter, Philip, and James the Less occupying the first place in each group in each list ... at positions 1, 5, and 9 as listed below.

1. **Peter** ... wrote *1 & 2 Peter* ... a fisherman ... also called Simon Peter ... and married, Mark 1:30, Luke 4:38.
 2. **John** brother of Peter ... author of the *Gospel of John*, *1st, 2nd, & 3rd John*, and *Revelation*.
 3. **James** ... not the author of *James* ... brother of John ... with John, they were the sons of Zebedee, Sons of Thunder.
 4. **Andrew** ... Peter's brother.
5. **Philip** ... probably not the Philip of Acts 6, 8, and 21.
 6. **Thomas** ... doubted until he saw the resurrected Jesus.
 7. **Nathaniel / Bartholomew** ... John 1:45-49 & 21:2, possibly the given name of the son [Bar] of Tholomais [i.e., Bar Tholomew].
 8. **Matthew** ... the author of the *Gospel of Matthew* ... Levi the tax collector, Luke 5:27-29.
9. **James the Less** ... not the author of *James* ... son of Alphaeus
 10. **Simon the Zealot** ... former liberation fighter.
 11. **Judas / Thaddeus**... possibly the author of *Jude* ... son of a James.
 - 12a. **Judas Iscariot** ... the betrayer ... always listed last in the original 12 ... he was unsaved, John 6:70 & 17:12.
 - 12b. And later, **Matthias** ... Judas Iscariot's replacement, Acts 1:15-26.

The Disciples' deaths. John was the one Disciple who lived to an old age. It is commonly believed that John died in Ephesus after his exile on Patmos. It is believed that all the other Disciples were martyred before John's death.

The Apostle Paul. *Saul* [his Hebrew name] was also called by his Greek name *Paul*. Saul was not renamed by Jesus or by anyone else. In the New Testament, he was called by both names. Paul was chosen by Jesus to be an Apostle ... but he was never referred to as one of the Disciples.

THE LIFE OF CHRIST FLOWCHART



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Disciplemaking 1 - Review Questions

Lesson 5 - The Life of Christ ... pages 62 - 76

Part of learning is review ... storing new knowledge into your long term memory. Print this review test or use separate paper to answer the following questions. Then repeat this test, open book or closed book, until you can accurately and easily answer all the questions. These *review exams* are available with correct answers on VirtualBibleAcademy.org.

MULTIPLE CHOICES FOR QUESTIONS 1 - 10

- | | | |
|-------------------|----------------|--------------------------|
| A. Galilee | F. Perea | K. The Angel of the Lord |
| B. Bethlehem | G. Ur | L. The Judean desert |
| C. Prophet | H. Egypt | M. Creation |
| D. On Mt. Calvary | I. At Golgotha | N. King of the Jews |
| E. Eternity past | J. Samaria | O. Walking on water |

1. The life of Jesus Christ can be traced back to _____ .
2. The first recorded act of Jesus was _____ .
3. Jesus appeared several times in the Old Testament as _____ .
4. After His birth in Bethlehem, Jesus lived a short time in the land of _____ .
5. Immediately after His baptism by John, Jesus went to _____ .
6. The early months of His ministry were spent in Judea and _____ .
7. The middle periods of His ministry were spent north and east of _____ .
8. His later public ministry was spent in Judea and _____ .
9. His triumphal entry into Jerusalem declared Him to be _____ .
10. Jesus was crucified _____ .

FILL IN THE BLANKS FOR QUESTIONS 11 - 20 FROM THIS LIST

1	3	4	6
7	10	25	30
40	50	70	100
200	250	300	500

11. There are more than _____ Old Testament prophecies about Jesus.
12. Jesus began His public ministry at about _____ years old.
13. He was tempted by Satan for _____ days.
14. Jesus went through at least _____ pre-crucifixion trials.
15. The body of Jesus was in the ground _____ days.
16. After His death and resurrection, He appeared at least _____ times.
17. He appeared to a large group of more than _____ people.
18. He appeared over a period of _____ days and nights.
19. The New Testament mentions the return of Christ over _____ times.
20. Christ's return is in the New Testament about once every _____ verses.
21. Name at least 6 of the 12 Disciples besides Peter and John.
 - 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.
 - 4.
 - 5.
 - 6.

Disciplemaking 1 - Answers to Review Questions

Lesson 5 - The Life of Christ ... questions pages 77 - 78

Do not use these answer sheets to find your answers. Please use them only to check your answers. Go back into the lesson to find the information to correct your answers. Repeat the test until you can accurately and easily answer all the questions. All the lessons, review tests, and answer pages are available on VirtualBibleAcademy.org.

MULTIPLE CHOICES FOR QUESTIONS 1 - 10

- | | | |
|-------------------|----------------|--------------------------|
| A. Galilee | F. Perea | K. The Angel of the Lord |
| B. Bethlehem | G. Ur | L. The Judean desert |
| C. Prophet | H. Egypt | M. Creation |
| D. On Mt. Calvary | I. At Golgotha | N. King of the Jews |
| E. Eternity past | J. Samaria | O. Walking on water |

1. The life of Jesus Christ can be traced back to E. Eternity past .
2. The first recorded act of Jesus was M. Creation .
3. Jesus appeared several times in the Old Testament as K. The Angel of the Lord .
4. After His birth in Bethlehem, Jesus lived a short time in the land of H. Egypt .
5. Immediately after His baptism by John, Jesus went to L. The Judean desert .
6. The early months of His ministry were spent in Judea and A. Galilee .
7. The middle periods of His ministry were spent north and east of A. Galilee .
8. His later public ministry was spent in Judea and F. Perea .
9. His triumphal entry into Jerusalem declared Him to be N. King of the Jews .
10. Jesus was crucified I. At Golgotha .

FILL IN THE BLANKS FOR QUESTIONS 11 - 20 FROM THIS LIST

1	3	4	6
7	10	25	30
40	50	70	100
200	250	300	500

11. There are more than 300 Old Testament prophecies about Jesus.
12. Jesus began His public ministry at about 30 years old.
13. He was tempted by Satan for 40 days.
14. Jesus went through at least 6 pre-crucifixion trials.
15. The body of Jesus was in the ground 3 days and nights.
16. After His death and resurrection, He appeared at least 10 times.
17. He appeared to a large group of more than 500 people.
18. He appeared over a period of 40 days.
19. The New Testament mentions the return of Christ over 300 times.
20. Christ's return is in the New Testament about once every 25 verses.
21. Name at least 6 of the 12 Disciples besides Peter and John.

<i>Peter</i>	<i>Philip</i>	<i>James the Less</i>
<i>John</i>	<i>Thomas</i>	<i>Simon the Zealot</i>
<i>James</i>	<i>Nathaniel (Bartholomew)</i>	<i>Judas (Thaddeus) the son of James</i>
<i>Andrew</i>	<i>Matthew (Levi)</i>	<i>Judas Iscariot</i>
		<i>Matthias</i>



"Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth." 2 Timothy 2:15

Disciplemaking 1 - Abiding in His Word

LESSON 6 - THE NEW TESTAMENT... beyond the Gospels

"You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth." Acts 1:8

At the Ascension in Acts 1, Jesus told His disciples that they would receive power when the Holy Spirit came upon them and that they would be witnesses, starting where they were in Jerusalem ... then expanding into the surrounding areas of Judea and Samaria ... and then to the remotest part of the earth. They did receive power at Pentecost in Acts 2 and they became witnesses. The rest of the book of Acts recorded the expansion of their ministry into Jerusalem, into Judea and Samaria, and into the Gentile world and eventually Rome.

Peter and the other Apostles began in Jerusalem. The church grew by large numbers. Intense persecution, beginning at the stoning of Stephen, drove the early church into Judea, Samaria, and Galilee. Paul's conversion on the road to Damascus and Peter's vision opened the door for expansion to the Gentiles ... and eventually into the remotest part of the earth. The apostle James was executed.

The *first missionary journey* took Paul and Barnabas from Antioch through Southeast Asia Minor. After this trip, they and Peter attended the Jerusalem Council that recognized that Gentile new Believers did not have to be circumcised to be saved.

The *second missionary journey* took Paul and Silas from Antioch into Macedonia and Greece accompanied by Luke and Timothy. Because of a disagreement with Paul, Barnabas took John Mark on their own mission trip to the island of Cyprus.

The *third missionary journey* took Paul and his companions from Antioch through western Asia Minor. At the end of that trip, they returned to Jerusalem. Paul was arrested there and imprisoned in Caesarea. That gave Paul the opportunity to give the Gospel to Governors Felix and Festus ... and to King Agrippa.

Appealing his case to Caesar, Paul set sail as a prisoner to Rome on his *fourth missionary journey*. He was shipwrecked along the way ... giving him the opportunity to minister on the Island of Malta.

During his first Roman imprisonment, Paul ministered to many people while under house arrest for two years. He was released and revisited the churches. Paul was arrested a second time and held in a Roman prison. Then he was executed.

After Jerusalem was destroyed in 70 AD, the apostle John moved to Ephesus and then was exiled to Patmos where he wrote Revelation.

THE 27 BOOKS OF THE NEW TESTAMENT ... 5 – 9 – 4 – 9

The New Testament books are arranged in an easily understood order. There are five books of history, the Gospels and Acts ... nine letters from Paul to groups four letters from Paul to individuals ... and finally nine books by other writers. [5 - 9 - 4 - 9]

5 Books of history

The first four New Testament books deal with the life of Jesus Christ. Then Luke's account is continued in the book of Acts. This fifth book of history records what Jesus continued to do through His followers after the Ascension.

9 Letters from Paul to groups

Paul wrote nine letters to new churches to encourage, teach, and correct them. During his missionary trips, he wrote Galatians, 1 and 2 Thessalonians, Romans, and 1 and 2 Corinthians. After these trips, during his first Roman imprisonment, he wrote Ephesians, Colossians, and Philippians. These nine books are titled according to the recipients of the letters.

4 Letters from Paul to individuals

Paul also wrote four letters to individuals. During his first imprisonment in Rome, he wrote to Philemon, a brother in the Colossian church. After Paul's release he wrote to two church leaders . . . to Timothy in Ephesus and then to Titus in Crete. Then during his final Roman imprisonment, just before his death, Paul wrote his last letter . . . to Timothy. These four books are titled according to the recipients of the letters.

9 Books by other writers

James [a half-brother of Jesus] and an unidentified author of Hebrews each wrote a letter to Jewish Believers. The seven remaining books include two by the apostle Peter, three by the apostle John, one by Jude [a half-brother of Jesus], and the apostle John's prophetic Revelation of Jesus Christ.

5 History Books

Matthew
Mark
Luke
John
Acts

9 Paul's Letters to groups

Romans
1 Corinthians
2 Corinthians
Galatians
Ephesians
Philippians
Colossians
1 Thessalonians
2 Thessalonians

4 Paul's Letters to individuals

1 Timothy
2 Timothy
Titus
Philemon

9 Books by others

Hebrews
James
1 Peter
2 Peter
1 John
2 John
3 John
Jude
Revelation

27 Books total

THE BOOK OF ACTS - AN OUTLINE OF NEW TESTAMENT HISTORY

The author. Luke was a Gentile, a Greek, a doctor, historian of the early church, and missionary. He was Paul's companion from as early as the second missionary journey ... and as late as Paul's second Roman imprisonment. Luke wrote more of the New Testament than anyone else did if we assume that Paul did not write Hebrews.

The book of Acts is a continuation of Luke's Gospel ... and a record of the Apostles' obedience to the Great Commission. After Christ's Ascension in Acts 1 and the Holy Spirit's arrival at Pentecost in Acts 2, the Apostles went into action. Acts 2-7 records their ministry in Jerusalem where thousands believed in Jesus.

Persecution, beginning with the stoning of Stephen, forced the early Christians out of Jerusalem into Judea, Samaria, and Galilee. Compare Acts 1:8 to Acts 8:1. The oppressor Saul was converted on the road to Damascus ... and the door began to open to take the Gospel to the remotest part of the earth. Peter's vision opened the Apostles' hearts towards taking the Gospel to the Gentiles. Saul became the great Apostle Paul, the Apostle to the Gentiles. In addition, the Apostle James was killed.

Paul's *first missionary journey* took him and Barnabas through Southeast Asia Minor. A dispute about the Gentile converts arose. Paul and Barnabas attended a council with Peter in Jerusalem to resolve the problem. The truth was recognized that new Gentile Believers did not have to be circumcised to be saved ... and that heresy was avoided. Paul and Silas left Antioch for the *second missionary journey* ... into Macedonia and Greece. Luke and Timothy were with them. Barnabas and John Mark split off from them at the beginning of that trip to take the Gospel to the island of Cyprus. Paul's *third missionary journey* took him and his companions through western Asia Minor. Then they went back to Jerusalem.

Paul was arrested in Jerusalem ... and then confined at Caesarea. Confined there, he told the Gospel to governors Felix and Festus and to King Agrippa. Paul exercised his right as a Roman citizen to appeal his case to Caesar. That set his course for Rome ... which was his *fourth missionary journey*. On his way to Rome he was shipwrecked on the Island of Malta, giving him an opportunity to minister there. Finally in Rome, he was under house arrest in his own rented quarters for two years. Large numbers of people came to him, and he told them of the Kingdom of God and about Jesus. And some believed.

Beyond the book of Acts. Paul was released from prison and ministered for a few years before he was put in a Roman prison. He apparently was executed in the mid-to-late 60's AD. The Apostle John's ministry continued beyond the other Apostles. When Jerusalem's destruction in 70 AD, John moved to Ephesus where he wrote 1st, 2nd, and 3rd John. When exiled to the Island of Patmos, he wrote Revelation.

ACTS ... THE EXPANSION OF THE EARLY CHURCH

"But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all of Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth." Acts 1:8

Acts 1 The Ascension ... Jesus went up to Heaven.

Acts 2 Pentecost ... the Holy Spirit came down.

"But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you..."

Acts 3-6 The Church went out into Jerusalem.

"and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem..."

Acts 7 Stephen gave his message and was martyred.

Acts 8 The Church went out into Judea and Samaria.

"and in all of Judea and Samaria..."

Acts 9-12 Paul was converted, Peter had a vision, James was killed.

Acts 13-14 Paul's first missionary journey ... to SE Asia Minor.

Acts 15 The Jerusalem circumcision council kept the Gospel pure.

Acts 15:36 Paul's second missionary trip ... to Macedonia and Greece.

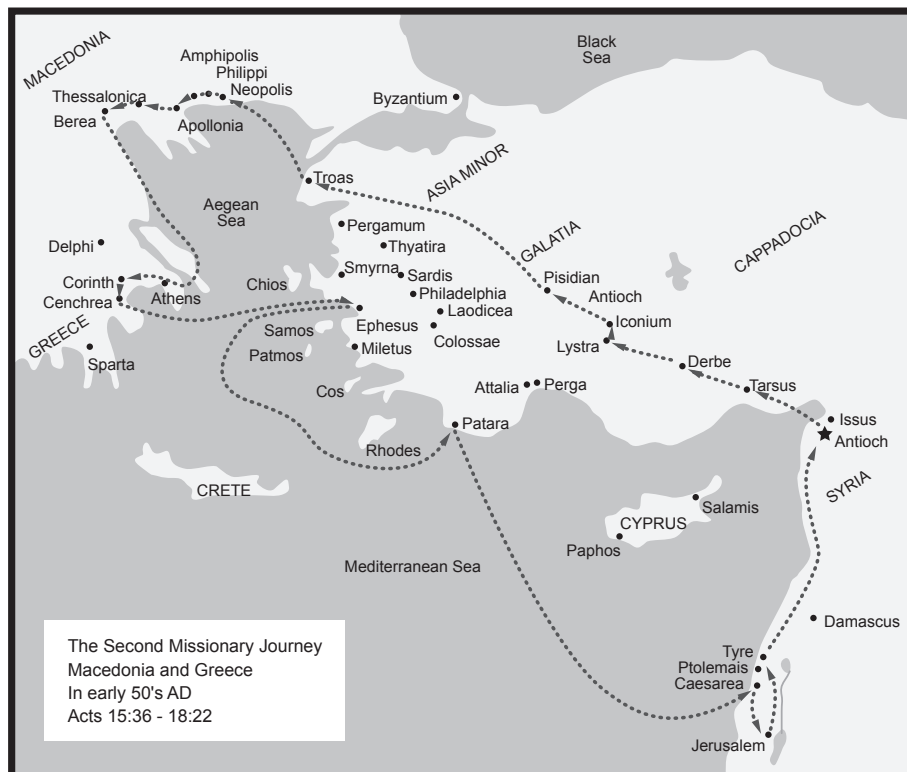
Acts 18:23 Paul's third missionary journey ... to western Asia Minor.

Acts 21:17 Paul was arrested in Jerusalem and confined in Caesarea.

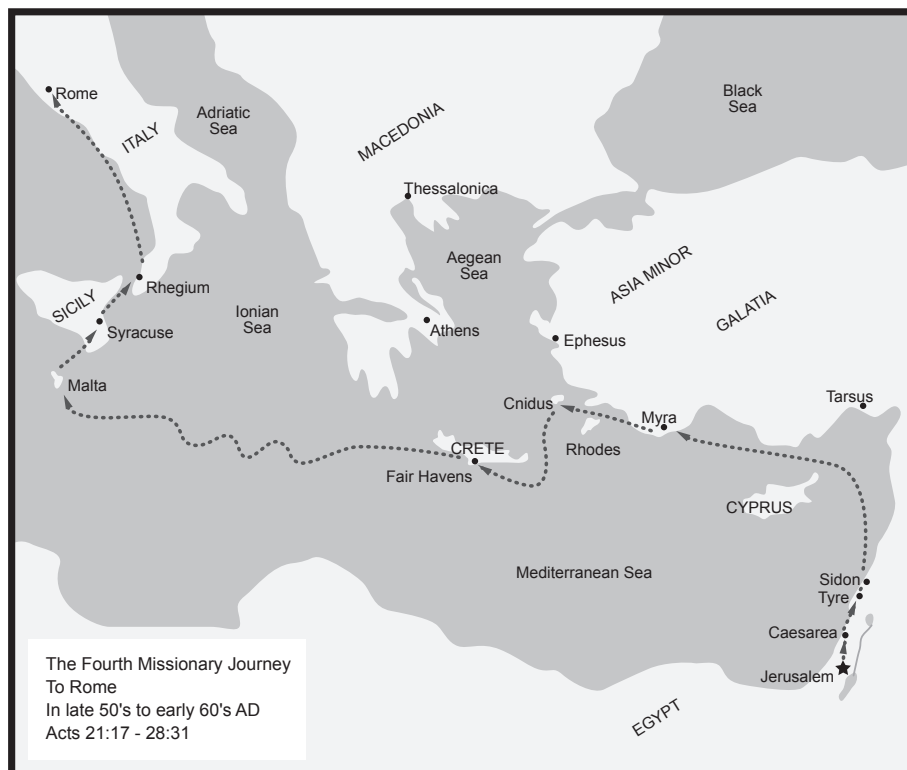
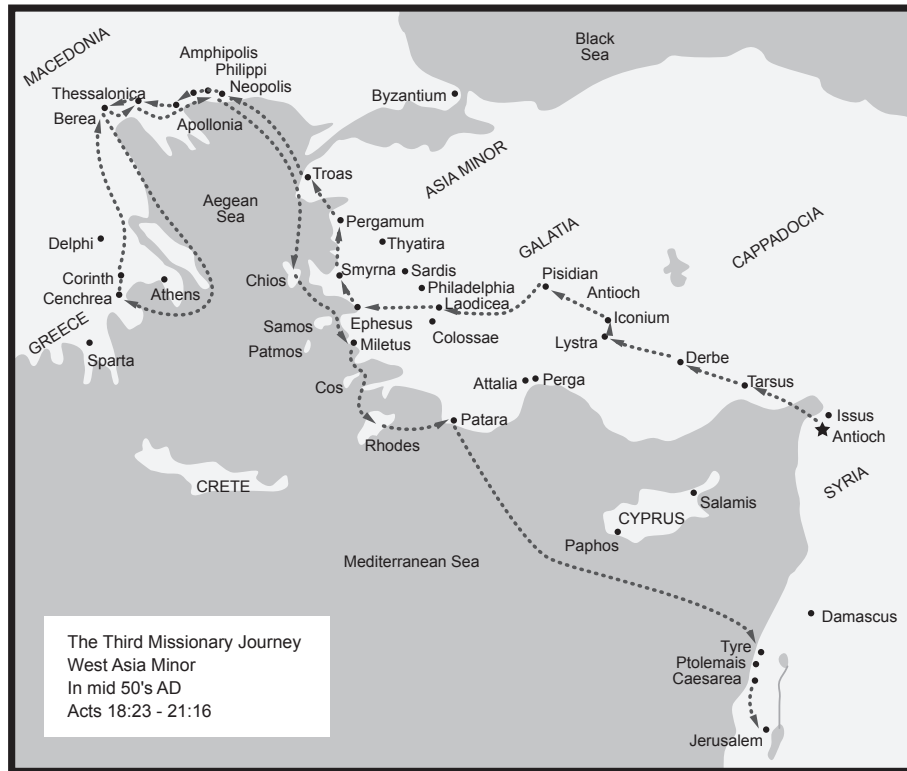
Acts 27-28 Paul's fourth missionary journey ... to Malta and Rome

"... and even to the remotest part of the earth." Acts 1:8

PAUL'S FIRST AND SECOND MISSIONARY JOURNEYS



PAUL'S THIRD AND FOURTH MISSIONARY JOURNEYS



PAUL'S LETTERS TO GROUPS

The author. Saul of Tarsus was a highly educated Jew, a Pharisee, of the tribe of Benjamin. He was a Roman citizen by birth. This persecutor of the early church was converted after his experience on the road to Damascus. Also known as Paul [his Greek name] from Acts 13:9 on, he became a missionary to the Gentiles and author of 13 books of the New Testament.

Romans - Paul wrote this letter *to all who are beloved of God in Rome*. He wrote to them before he had visited their great city. This letter was written from Corinth, near the end of the third missionary journey in the mid-50's AD. The book of Romans is the most doctrinal and formal of Paul's letters. He wrote detailed foundational truth covering the subjects of sin [chapters 1-3] ... salvation [chapters 3-5] ... sanctification [chapters 6-8] ... sovereignty [chapters 9-11] ... and service [chapters 12-16].

1 Corinthians - This letter is written *to the church of God at Corinth*. It was a church founded on Paul's second missionary journey. The church was struggling in the midst of that very immoral port city. Paul wrote to them from Ephesus during his third missionary journey in the mid-50's AD. The worldliness of Corinth had infiltrated their church. Paul wrote about factions, sexual immorality, lawsuits, marriage, food, the Lord's Supper, and the use of spiritual gifts. Chapter 15 provides comprehensive teaching on the importance of the Resurrection of Jesus.

2 Corinthians - Apparently the Believers in Corinth had not responded favorably to Paul's first letter. He made a trip to see them. And he wrote another strong corrective letter to them. That letter is not included in the Bible. Following the repentance of the majority, Paul wrote another letter, 2 Corinthians, during his third missionary journey in the mid-50's AD from somewhere in Macedonia. Paul wrote of his joy that they had repented ... defended his character and his ministry ... taught on giving ... and defended his authority as an Apostle.

Galatians - Paul wrote this letter *to the churches of Galatia* [a region rather than just one city]. He had visited them on his first or second missionary journey. However, the date and location of the writing of this letter are unclear. The Believers in Galatia had been misled to mix the law [good works] into salvation. Paul strongly presented salvation by faith alone. He warned against the dangers of legalism. He also warned against license ... as he explained Christian liberty.

Ephesians - This letter was sent to the *saints who are at Ephesus*. Paul had been there on both his first and third missionary journeys. He wrote this letter to them from his first Roman imprisonment in the early 60's AD. Paul described the Believers' spiritual wealth ... chosen, sealed, saved by grace, and united in one Body of Believers. Then he exhorted them to walk worthy of the heavenly calling and position given to them in the Body. He described how to follow God in life, against sin, in the Spirit, at home, at work, and in the warfare.

Philippians - Paul wrote to *all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi*. He had been to Philippi during his second missionary journey. He wrote to them from his second Roman imprisonment in the mid-60's AD. Paul expressed his thankfulness for their consistent testimony ... and for their support of his ministry. He encouraged them to be at peace ... to be humble like Christ ... to be on guard ... and to rejoice.

Colossians - Paul wrote to *the saints and faithful brethren in Christ who are at Colossae*. Epaphras, a convert during Paul's ministry in Ephesus, brought Christianity to Colossae. Philemon was part of their church. This letter was written during Paul's first Roman imprisonment in the early 60's AD. He stressed the deity and supremacy of Christ to correct the hybridizing effect of false teaching ... which had brought the bad influences of legalism, philosophy, and mysticism into the church. Paul wrote that Christ is supreme [chapters 1-2] and therefore, Believers should seek the things above and live accordingly [chapters 3-4].

1 Thessalonians - Paul wrote to *the church of the Thessalonians which was founded during his second missionary journey*. Persecution had forced Paul to leave them, Acts 17:1-10. He wrote from Corinth in the early 50's AD. Paul's personal comments about their ministry and about his own ministry gave examples of a walk worthy of the God who calls each believer. He exhorted them to withstand sexual temptation ... to lead quiet lives ... to work ... to be at peace about the return of Christ ... and to fulfill their duties toward spiritual leaders, in conduct, and in worship.

2 Thessalonians - Paul wrote this second letter to *the church of the Thessalonians* shortly after his first letter ... from Corinth in the early 50's AD. He encouraged them in growth and in endurance under persecution. Some had misunderstood his teaching on the return of Christ and had ceased their work, thinking the Day of the Lord had come. Paul wrote about the coming events of the last days. He commanded them to work if they expected to eat ... working and waiting as they lived holy lives.

PAUL'S LETTERS TO INDIVIDUALS

Paul and people. Paul's letters followed a basic pattern. First, he presented personal concerns and greetings. Then he taught spiritual truth. Then he taught application of that truth. He concluded with personal comments. Paul's commitment to God's truth was equaled by his concern for people. He would give the truth ... then teach them to live the truth. Even in Romans, his most formal and doctrinal letter, he devoted an entire chapter [16] to personal greetings and concern. Paul was committed to the three things in life that last forever . . . God, God's Word, and people. The four letters described in this section are specifically focussed on his concern for Timothy, Titus, Philemon, and Philemon's runaway slave Onesimus.

1 Timothy - Paul wrote to Timothy as his *true child in the faith*. Timothy was the son of a Greek father and a Jewish mother ... and was associated with Paul from the second missionary journey. Paul left Timothy in Ephesus to oversee the ministry there. This letter was written in the early 60's AD after Paul's first Roman imprisonment. Paul instructed and encouraged Timothy to be a good leader. Many subjects are covered . . . prayer, women in the church, leaders, dangers and defenses, the older men and women, widows, elders, masters and slaves, false teachers, and money. Paul exhorted Timothy to *fight the good fight of faith*.

2 Timothy - Paul wrote this final letter in the mid to late 60's AD from his second imprisonment in Rome. He wrote it shortly before his death. This is an extremely personal letter from Paul to his *beloved son* Timothy. Paul encouraged Timothy to be strong . . . to not be ashamed . . . to minister faithfully . . . to stand true in the coming apostasy ... to do the work of an evangelist . . . and to fulfill his ministry.

TITUS - Paul wrote to Titus, his *true child in a common faith*, in the mid-60's AD after Paul's first Roman imprisonment. He left Titus in Crete to *set in order what remains* and to *appoint elders in every city*. Paul encouraged Titus to carry out that task. Paul taught Titus about elders ... about rebellious, empty talking, deceiving men ... and about older men, older women, younger men, younger women, and slaves. He wrote about subjection to governments, consideration for all men, false teachers, and salvation producing a people zealous for good works.

PHILEMON - Paul wrote this letter in the early 60's AD during his first Roman imprisonment. It is Paul's personal plea to his friend Philemon in Colossae. The slave Onesimus had run away from his master Philemon. Onesimus came to faith in Christ through Paul's ministry while Paul was in prison in Rome. Paul sent the new believer back to his master with this personal plea for forgiveness of the slave who had become a beloved brother. Paul offered to repay anything that Onesimus owed.

PIVOTAL EVENTS IN THE LIFE OF PAUL

	Paul's age	Reference
At Stephen's stoning	mid-30's	Acts 7-8
Persecuted the Early Church		Acts 8
Blinded on road to Damascus		Acts 9
Converted and healed		Acts 9
With Apostles in Jerusalem		Acts 9
Life threatened - sent to Tarsus		Acts 9
<i>... a gap ...</i>		Galatians 1:17 - 2:1
Retrieved by Barnabas	early 40's	Acts 11
Carried money to Jerusalem	mid-40's	Acts 11
Commissioned in Antioch		Acts 12-13
1st missionary journey	late-40's	Acts 13-14
2nd missionary journey	early 50's	Acts 15-18
3rd missionary journey	mid-50's	Acts 18-21
Arrested in Jerusalem	late-50's	Acts 21-23
Confined in Caesarea	~ 60	Acts 23-26
Sailed to Rome & Malta shipwreck	~ 60	Acts 27-28
House arrest in Rome	early-60's	Acts 28
Released to minister	mid-60's	beyond Acts
In Roman prison	late-60's	beyond Acts
Executed by Nero	~ 70?	beyond Acts

9 BOOKS BY 5 OTHER AUTHORS

The Authors. Five men authored the final nine books of the New Testament. The identity of the author of Hebrews is unknown to us. It was probably not Paul because the content is more Jewish than Paul's letters ... and because it uses a different vocabulary and is structurally different from Paul's writings. Hebrews was possibly written by Luke, Barnabas, or Silas. James [not the apostle] and Jude were half-brothers of Jesus ... each wrote one letter. Peter, the fisherman turned disciple, authored two letters. John, the fisherman and *disciple whom Jesus loved*, wrote his three letters and Revelation [the prophetic final book of the Bible].

Hebrews - This letter was written to Jewish Believers probably in the mid-to-late 60's AD. The author, location of writing, and original readers are unknown today. The theme is that the superior Christ gives us a superior life in Christ. Jesus is presented as better than the prophets ... better than the angels ... better than Moses ... better than Joshua ... and better than the Levitical priests. This eternal superior priest made a superior sacrifice. Moreover, He gave us an eternal, superior life with Him.

James - This book was addressed to *the twelve tribes* [Jewish Tribes] *who were scattered abroad*. It is an early New Testament book, written in the late-40's AD. James wrote practical instruction in everyday Christian living. He covered trials and temptations ... being a doer of the Word ... not showing personal favoritism ... and turning faith into works. He also gave instruction on the use of the tongue ... using wisdom from above ... and not being worldly. James concluded his letter, pointing out the power of prayer.

1 Peter and 2 Peter - These two letters, written in the mid-60's AD, deal with the difficulties and dangers facing Christians. External opposition to the Body is explained in 1 Peter and 2 Peter covers opposition from inside the Body.

In 1 Peter, he pointed out that salvation gives new hope in the face of outside persecution. He exhorted his readers to, "*Gird your minds for action, keep sober in spirit, fix your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.*" He continued with instruction in holiness, fear of God, love for one another, growth, submission, suffering, and service.

In 2 Peter, he attacked the problem of *internal* opposition. He stressed the need for continued growth rooted in Jesus Christ and in the Word of God. He wrote against false teachers ... reminding the readers to expect them in the last days before the return of Jesus Christ. Peter exhorted them to look for His promised return and to be diligent to be found holy at His return.

9 BOOKS BY 5 OTHER AUTHORS ... continued

1 John - This book explains that Believers can know that they have eternal life. John wrote that Believers should live in light rather than darkness ... in forgiveness and obedience rather than sin ... in love rather than hate ... and in assurance rather than fear. John's letters were written around 90 AD ... probably from Ephesus.

2 John - This short note to the *chosen lady and her children*, exhorted them to love one another ... obey God's commandments ... and be on guard against false teachers, showing them no hospitality.

3 John - This is a note to John's friend Gaius. John commented on the good report that he had received about Gaius. John also wrote a strong criticism of Diotrephes.

Jude - This was written between the mid-60's and late-70's AD. This short letter was a strong appeal to *contend earnestly for the faith* because of the dangers from false teachers. Jude wrote that they *have crept in unnoticed ... and are hidden reefs ...* grumblers, lustful, arrogant, and flatterers for the sake of gain. Such false teachers should be expected in the last days. Jude exhorted the Believers to walk obediently.

Revelation - John's final book is the concluding book of the New Testament. He wrote it during his exile on the Island of Patmos in the 90's AD. The outline of the book is, "*The things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall take place after these things,*" Revelation 1:19. Chapter 1 contains, "*The things which you have seen*". Then, "*The things which are*" includes the letters to the seven churches in chapters 2 and 3. Then chapters 4-22 record "*The things which shall take place after these things.*" In these later chapters, John wrote about the Throne and the Book in Heaven, the seven seals, the seven trumpets, and the seven bowls of judgment. These chapters describe the return of Christ, the Millennium, the White Throne Judgement, and the New Heaven and New Earth. In the last verses of Revelation the words of Jesus tell us, "*Yes, I am coming quickly.*" And John added his "*Amen*" and the prayer, "*Come, Lord Jesus.*"

OTHER BOOKS ... No other religious books written today or in earlier times are God-breathed as are the 66 books of the Old and New Testaments. No other religious writings, Christian or otherwise, are equal to the Bible or superior to the Bible. And any church or church leader who proclaims anything contrary to the Bible does not speak for God. Such people should take heed of this warning from Jesus, "*Rightly did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written: 'This people honors Me with their lips, but their heart is far away from Me. But in vain do they worship Me, teaching as doctrines the precepts of men.' Neglecting the commandment of God, you hold to the tradition of men,*" Mark 7:6-8.

NEW TESTAMENT FLOWCHART



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Disciplemaking 1 - Review Questions

Lesson 6 - The New Testament ... pages 81 - 93

Part of learning is review ... storing new knowledge into your long term memory. Print this review test or use separate paper to answer the following questions. Then repeat this test, open book or closed book, until you can accurately and easily answer all the questions. These *review exams* are available with correct answers on VirtualBibleAcademy.org.

MULTIPLE CHOICES TO COMPLETE ALL STATEMENTS 1 - 19 BELOW

Antioch	Crete	Patmos
Ascension	Early Church	Persecuted
Baptism	Egypt	Power
Baptized	Galilee	Remotest part of the Earth
Bible	Instructions	Resurrection
Caesarea	Jerusalem	Rome
Circumcision	Judea & Samaria	Southeast Asia Minor
Coliseum	Macedonia & Greece	West Asia Minor
Corinth	Malta	Witnesses

1. The book of Acts begins with the _____ .
2. At that time, Jesus told the disciples that they would receive _____ .
3. At that time, Jesus told the disciples that they would be _____ .
4. Jesus said that they would do that starting in _____
5. ... *and* then into _____
6. ... *and* finally into the _____ .
7. Acts records the expansion of the Gospel starting in _____ .
8. ... *and* then into _____ .
9. ... *and* finally to the _____ .

10. Acts ends with Paul in rented quarters in _____ .
11. Paul's First Missionary Journey went through _____ .
12. Peter and Paul settled an early conflict at the Council in _____ .
13. ... where they discussed salvation and _____ .
14. Paul's Second Missionary Journey went into _____ .
15. Paul was shipwrecked on the Island of _____ .
16. Paul's Third Missionary Journey went into _____ .
17. Paul witnessed to Felix and Festus while under arrest in _____ .
18. Paul was in prison twice in _____ .
19. The Apostle John was exiled on the Island of _____ .
20. The answer to this question is a number.
Which one of the answers 11-19 is out of chronological order? _____ .

Disciplemaking 1 - Answers to Review Questions

Lesson 6 - The New Testament ... questions pages 94 - 95

Do not use these answer sheets to find your answers. Please use them only to check your answers. Go back into the lesson to find the information to correct your answers. Repeat the test until you can accurately and easily answer all the questions. All the lessons, review tests, and answer pages are available on VirtualBibleAcademy.org.

MULTIPLE CHOICES TO COMPLETE ALL STATEMENTS 1 - 19 BELOW

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Corinth	Malta	Witnesses

1. The book of Acts begins with the Ascension.
2. At that time, Jesus told the disciples that they would receive power.
3. At that time, Jesus told the disciples that they would be witnesses.
4. Jesus said that they would do that starting in: Jerusalem
5. ... *and* then into Judea and Samaria
6. ... *and* finally into the remotest part of the Earth.
7. Acts records the expansion of the Gospel starting in Jerusalem.
8. ... *and* then into Judea and Samaria
9. ... *and* finally to the remotest part of the Earth.

10. Acts ends with Paul in rented quarters in Rome.
11. Paul's First Missionary Journey went through Southeast Asia Minor.
12. Peter and Paul settled an early conflict at the Council in Jerusalem.
13. ... where they discussed salvation and Circumcision.
14. Paul's Second Missionary Journey went into Macedonia and Greece.
15. Paul was shipwrecked on the Island of Malta.
16. Paul's Third Missionary Journey went into West Asia Minor.
17. Paul witnessed to Felix and Festus while under arrest in Caesarea.
18. Paul was in prison twice in Rome.
19. The Apostle John was exiled on the Island of Patmos.
20. The answer to this question is a number.
Which one of the answers 11-19 is out of chronological order? 15.



"Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth." 2 Timothy 2:15

Disciplemaking 1 - Abiding in His Word

LESSON 7 - KNOWING GOD

"Let not a wise man boast of his wisdom, and let not the mighty man boast of his might, let not a rich man boast of his riches; but let him who boasts boast of this, that he understands and knows Me, that I am the Lord who exercises loving-kindness, justice, and righteousness on earth; for I delight in these things." Jeremiah 9:23-24

Knowing God is more important and more valuable than human wisdom, might, and riches. However, we must consider the perplexing questions in Job 11:7, *"Can you discover the depths of God? Can you discover the limits of the Almighty?"* The answers are obvious. We cannot understand or comprehend the infinite, unlimited God without His initiative. Our finiteness limits our comprehension of the infinite.

God has taken the initiative to reveal Himself to us. Therefore, we can understand and know Him. God has given us the Holy Spirit to guide us into truth, John 16:13. He has revealed Himself in creation, Romans 1:20, in that we see His invisible attributes, His eternal power, and His divine nature. We see something of God in man. He made man in His image and His likeness, Genesis 1:26-27. The Bible is God's Word to us and for us, Matthew 4:4, 2 Timothy 3:16-17, Hebrews 4:12. In addition, God has revealed Himself to us through Jesus Christ, Hebrews 1:1-12, 1 John 5:20. Jesus said, *"He who has seen Me has seen the Father,"* John 14:9. We can know the true and infinite God. Jesus said, *"This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent,"* John 17:3. God has given us these five means to learn of Him ... the Spirit, creation, man, the Bible, and Jesus.

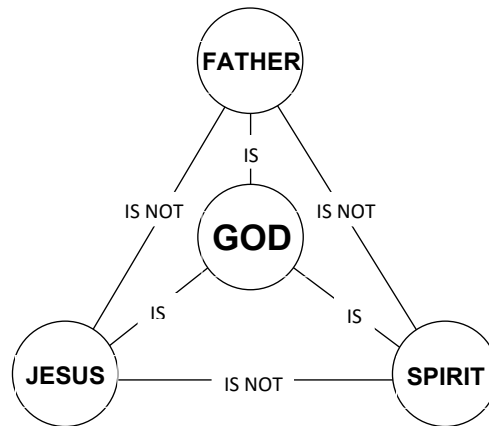
There is so much of God that we can know even within the inadequacies of our limited, finite words. We can know that God is one. We can know that He is three. In addition, we can know that He is three-in-one. However, we cannot know how that can be. The general attributes of God give us understanding about how great, how immense, how immeasurable He is ... but finite understanding falls short of the infinite.

Each of the members of the Trinity is equal to the others. Each is fully and totally God. At the same time, each is uniquely distinct from the others. The Father sent Jesus to us. Jesus returned to the Father. Then Jesus sent the Holy Spirit from the Father to help us ... to indwell us ... to empower us. Our life with the Holy Spirit is of vital importance to our being all that the triune God wants us to be.

THE NATURE OF GOD

God is one. The Bible states that God is one. He is indivisible. There is only one God, "*Hear, O Israel! The Lord is our God, the Lord is one!*", Deuteronomy 6:4. No other Gods exist, "*To you it was shown that you might know that the Lord, He is God; there is no other besides Him,*" Deuteronomy 4:35.

God is three. God is one. God is also three. He referred to Himself in the plural in Genesis 1:26, 3:22, 11:7, and Isaiah 6:8. The Father is God, John 6:27. Jesus is God, Titus 2:13. And the Holy Spirit is God, Acts 5:3-4. Each is distinct from the others, John 14:24-26, 15:26-27, and Isaiah 48:16. The Father is not the Son ... and the Father is not the Holy Spirit. The Son is not the Holy Spirit ... and the Son is not the Father. The Holy Spirit is not the Father ... and the Holy Spirit is not the Son. However, each is fully God. Each member of the Trinity fully expresses all the attributes of God.



God is three-in-one ... a tri-unity ... a trinity. The combination of *God is one* and *God is three* leads to the three-in-one description of God known as the Trinity ... even though the word Trinity does not occur in the Bible. The Trinity is referred to in Matthew 28:18-20 which includes baptizing in the singular name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, "*Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit*". All three are evident at the baptism of Jesus ... Jesus was baptized ... the Holy Spirit descended ... and the Father spoke. "*And after being baptized, Jesus went up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending as a dove, and coming upon Him, and behold, a voice out of the heavens, saying, 'This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased,'*" Matthew 3:16-17. The three members of the Trinity are mentioned in Isaiah which was written about 700 BC. "*Listen to Me, O Jacob, even Israel whom I called; I am He, I am the first, I am also the last. Surely My hand founded the earth, and My right hand spread out the heavens; when I call to them, they stand together ... Come near to Me, listen to this: From the first I have not spoken in secret, from the time it took place, I was there. And now the Lord God has sent Me, and His Spirit,*" Isaiah 48:12-13,16.

THE ATTRIBUTES OF GOD

These characteristics present a partial picture of God. These attributes describe God as one and as three... equally describing each member of the Trinity. *"To whom then will you liken God? Or what likeness will you compare with Him?"*, Isaiah 40:18.

1. God is infinite. God has no limitations. He cannot be contained in any way. He is not bound by space and time. His existence is immense ... immeasurable in all ways.

"Great is the Lord, and highly to be praised; and His greatness is unsearchable."
Psalm 145:3

"But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Behold, heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain Thee, how much less this house which I have built!" 1 Kings 8:27

2. God is eternal. God is infinite in time. He always was. He is. He always will be. God extends endlessly from eternity past into eternity future.

"Before the mountains were born, or Thou didst give birth to the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, Thou art God." Psalm 90:2

"But Thou art the same, and Thy years will not come to an end." Psalm 102:27

3. God is omnipotent. God is infinite in power. He is all-powerful. His strength is without limit. He can do anything that He chooses to do. No one and no thing have, is, or ever will be as strong or stronger than God.

"I know that Thou canst do all things, and that no purpose of Thine can be thwarted."
Job 42:2

"Ah Lord God! Behold, Thou hast made the heavens and the earth by Thy great power and by Thine outstretched arm! Nothing is too difficult for Thee."
Jeremiah 32:17

4. God is sovereign. God is infinite in authority, power, control, and autonomy. He is the highest authority. He is the supreme ruler. He has ultimate, independent, and final control of all things.

"Whatever the Lord pleases, He does, in heaven and in earth, in the seas and in all deeps." Psalm 135:6

"Thine, O Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, indeed everything that is in the heavens and the earth; Thine is the dominion, O Lord, and Thou dost exalt Thyself as head over all." 1 Chronicles 29:11

5. God is immutable. God is infinite in constancy. He has never changed ... is not changing ... will never change. His self-existence is not changing, growing, or developing. This does not mean that what He does [His behavior] is unchanging.

"Every good thing bestowed and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation, or shifting shadow." James 1:17

"For I, the Lord, do not change; therefore you, O sons of Jacob, are not consumed."
Malachi 3:6

6. God is omniscient. God is infinite in knowledge. His knowledge is without limits. God knows all things that have happened ... could have happened ... are happening ... could happen ... and will happen. His knowledge is unlimited, extending infinitely beyond the realm of the created universe ... beyond space ... and beyond time.

"For God is greater than our heart, and knows all things." 1 John 3:20

"No creature hidden from His sight, but all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him with whom we have to do." Hebrews 4:13

7. God is omnipresent. God is infinite in presence and location. He is everywhere. God is present everywhere with His whole being. This does not mean that God is partially or fully made up of the things that He created [that is pantheism]. God is different from the universe ... but He is everywhere present in and beyond the universe.

“Am I a God who is near,’ declares the Lord, ‘and not a God far off? Can a man hide himself in hiding places, so I do not see him?’ declares the Lord. ‘Do I not fill the heavens and the earth?’ declares the Lord.” Jeremiah 23:23-24

“Where can I go from Thy Spirit? Or where can I flee from Thy presence? If I ascend to Heaven, Thou art there; if I make my bed in Sheol, behold, Thou art there. If I take the wings of the dawn, if I dwell in the remotest part of the sea, even there Thy hand will lead me, and Thy right hand will lay hold of me.” Psalm 139:7-10

8. God is holy. God is infinite in purity. He is separated from all that is evil. He is good, pure, and right. He is unaffected by that which is evil, unclean, and common. Holiness is more than the absence of evil. Holiness is the positive existence of purity.

“For I am the Lord your God. Consecrate yourselves therefore, and be holy; for I am holy.” Leviticus 11:44

“For holy is the Lord our God.” Psalm 99:9

9. God is truthful. God infinitely represents Himself in a way consistent with His being. He is totally trustworthy and reliable in any way that He reveals Himself. His words are consistent with His nature.

“In the hope of eternal life, which God, who cannot lie, promised long ages ago.” Titus 1:2

“God is not a man, that He should lie, nor a son of man, that He should repent; has He said, and will He not do it? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?” Numbers 23:19

10. God is just. God is infinitely righteous in Himself and in His treatment of good and evil. He is righteous [just] in His treatment of all that He has created.

“The Rock! His work is perfect, for all His ways are just; a God of faithfulness and without injustice, righteous and upright is He.” Deuteronomy 32:4

“The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever; the judgments of the Lord are true; they are righteous altogether.” Psalm 19:9

11. God is love. God is infinite in the expression of holiness. He accomplishes the best for Himself and for man. God is love. The reverse of that, *love is God*, is not true.

“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life.” John 3:16

“The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love.” 1 John 4:8

THE UNIQUENESS OF EACH MEMBER OF THE TRINITY

Each member of the Trinity is a full expression of God. However, each one is distinguished from the others. Each is equal to the others. One is not less than or more than another. However, each has done, is doing, or will do things that distinguish that member from the others. Two or three members of the Trinity share many actions and activities. The order within each of the following lists is not prioritized ... nor are all possible distinguishing positions and actions mentioned. There are many other things that God has done, is doing, and will do.

THE UNIQUENESS OF THE FATHER. The Father has always been, is, and always will be fully and totally God. However, we see Him uniquely doing particular things that distinguish Him from the Son and the Spirit.

He is the father of all mankind in the creator/creature sense. This refers to the physical fatherhood rather than spiritual fatherhood of God. God's *spiritual* fatherhood is different from this ... and is conditioned on faith, Malachi 2:10, Acts 17:29.

He is the Father of Israel. He is the father of Israel. This does not imply that He is the spiritual father of each person of Israel ... that is based on individual faith. His being the father of Israel is not the same as His being the father of the Church. The Church is the bride of Christ ... Jesus is the bridegroom ... and God the Father is the father of the bridegroom, Exodus 4:22, Isaiah 63:16.

He is the Father of the Lord Jesus Christ. All members of the Trinity are equal ... but God the Father is positionally the Father of Jesus Christ. This does not mean that the Father is greater than the Son, Ephesians 1:3, John 3:16, John 5:37. The Father did not give birth to Jesus. Jesus being the Son of God is positional. Jesus always existed. Jesus had no beginning. Jesus is eternal.

He is the Father, the spiritual Father, of all who *believe in Christ*. We are His children, Psalm 103:13, John 1:12, Galatians 3:26.

He gives authority to world rulers and sets boundaries and times for nations, Acts 17:26, Romans 13:1-7, 1 Peter 2:13-14.

He is the author of salvation. He is the one who chooses ... the one who elects ... the one who calls men to believe, Ephesians 1:3-12, Romans 8:28 - 9:24.

He gives us direction. The Father gives us His will for our days and for our lives, Proverbs 3:5-6, Psalm 32:8, Jeremiah 29:11.

He is our protector. He protects us in our battles against the world, the flesh, and the devil, Psalm 23, Psalm 37, Psalm 56:3-4.

He is our provider. He provides for our physical and spiritual well-being. He is the source of all good gifts, Matthew 6:25-34, James 1:17.

He gives us eternal security. We are safe in God's hands forever ... safe because no one is strong enough to take us out of His hands, John 10:27-29.

He hears our prayers. Christians often pray to Jesus. However, Jesus taught that we should pray to the Father, Matthew 6:8-9, John 16:23.

He disciplines His children. As a loving Father, He disciplines us to be all that we can be. He is the vinedresser who prunes us to bear more fruit, Hebrews 12:4-13, John 15:1-2.

THE UNIQUENESS OF THE SON. The Lord Jesus Christ has always been, is, and always will be fully and totally God. However, we see Him uniquely doing particular things that distinguish Him from the Father and the Spirit.

He is the Creator. Jesus is the Creator and sustainer of all things created, John 1:3, Colossians 1:16-17.

He is the defender and deliverer of Israel, Joshua 5:13 - 6:2, Psalm 34:7.

He became the God-Man. Jesus became a man ... adding humanity to His undiminished deity. He became the *logos*, the physical representation of God on earth, Philippians 2:5-8, John 1:1-2, 14.

He is the Apostle of our faith. He is the founder and forerunner of our faith, Hebrews 3:1.

He is the High Priest of our faith. He is the superior and permanent priest, Hebrews 3:1, 4:14-15, 7:23-24, 9:11-12.

He was a prophet. Jesus was predicted by Moses to be a prophet, Deuteronomy 18:15. Jesus authoritatively declared God's Word in the Sermon on the Mount, Matthew 5-7 ... on the Mount of Olives, Matthew 24-25 ... and in the upper room, John 13-16. He predicted Judas' betrayal, Matthew 26:21. He predicted His death and resurrection, Matthew 16:21, 20:17-19.

He is the Head of His Body, which is the combination of all Believers. He is building His Body, the universal church, Ephesians 1:20-23, 4:15, Matthew 16:18.

He gives equipping gifts to His Body. These four gifts are specialized people. They are apostles, prophets, evangelists, and pastor-teachers. They are given to equip Believers for the work of service. These are different from the empowering gifts [special abilities] given by the Holy Spirit to Believers individually, Ephesians 4:11-13.

He is praying for us. Jesus intercedes for us, Romans 8:34, Hebrews 7:25.

He is preparing a place for us in the presence of God, John 14:1-3.

He is King ... and will rule as King, John 12:14-15, 1 Timothy 6:13-16, and Revelation 19:15-16.

He will return for us, John 14:3, 1 Thessalonians 4:15-18.

He will judge all people. He will judge Believers and non-believers, John 5:22,27, 1 Corinthians 3:11-15, 2 Corinthians 5:10, Revelation 20:11-15.

THE UNIQUENESS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT. God the Spirit has always been, is, and always will be fully and totally God. However, we see Him uniquely doing particular things that distinguish Him from the Son and the Father.

He inspired the men who wrote the Bible. He carried them along to produce the written Word. The Word is God-breathed by the Spirit through the men that wrote the Word. God's Word is the sword of the Spirit, 2 Peter 1:21, Matthew 22:43, Acts 28:25, Ephesians 6:17.

The Spirit was in *and* upon certain people in Old Testament times. These people included Joseph, Genesis 41:38 ... Joshua, Numbers 27:18 ... Daniel, Daniel 4:8 ... Gideon, Judges 6:34 ... Samson, Judges 13:25 ... and Saul, 1 Samuel 10:10.

He convicts the world of sin, righteousness, and judgement. The Holy Spirit convinces and convicts people of the sin of their unbelief. He convinces and convicts people of the righteousness of Christ. He convinces and convicts people of the surety of judgment, John 16:8-12.

He glorifies Christ. He specifically directs people to the Lord Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit glorifies Jesus rather than Himself, John 16:14.

He is the agent of our spiritual birth. The Holy Spirit regenerates us. He gives us new birth. This birth into the Body is described in the Bible as baptism in the Spirit, Titus 3:3-5, John 3:5-6, 1 Corinthians 12:13.

He indwells all Believers. The Holy Spirit permanently, irrevocably, and without variation indwells each and every believer from the moment of salvation. This constant and unconditional indwelling of the Spirit is different from the variable filling of the Spirit, John 14:16-17, 1 Corinthians 6:19.

He fills Believers. This is our voluntarily coming under the influence and control of the Spirit. It is our allowing the Holy Spirit to work in and through us. His filling is conditional ...varying according to our response and our availability. This filling of the Spirit is different from the indwelling of the Spirit, Ephesians 5:18.

He assures us that we are God's children. The Holy Spirit is our God-given pledge and seal that we are safe forever. The Holy Spirit gives us the assurance of our salvation, Romans 8:16, Ephesians 1:13-14, 4:30, 2 Corinthians 5:5.

He gives empowering gifts to the Body. The Holy Spirit gives at least one special empowering ability to each believer. These gifts enable each part of the Body of Christ to do its part to build up the Body in love. These are different from the Ephesians 4 equippers given by Jesus. The gifts given by Jesus are specialized *people*. The gifts given by the Spirit are special *abilities*, Luke 24:49, Acts 1:8, 1 Corinthians 12:11.

He leads Believers. The Holy Spirit gives guidance to Believers ... as He did with Jesus during His earthly life, Luke 4:1, Romans 8:14, Acts 8:29.

He teaches Believers. The Holy Spirit teaches Believers in their own private study ... and teaches them through their teachers. He leads Believers into truth ... giving them an understanding of God's Word, John 14:26, 16:13.

He comforts us. The Holy Spirit is called along side to help us, John 14:16-17.

He prays for us when in our weakness we do not know how to pray. The Holy Spirit prays for us ... prays for us when we do not know how we should pray. This does not imply that He prays *through* us, Romans 8:26.

He bears fruit in our lives. The Holy Spirit's personality and characteristics of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control become visible as we live under His influence, Galatians 5:22-23.

THE BELIEVER AND THE HOLY SPIRIT

Jesus said, “*And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever; that is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not behold Him or know Him, but you know Him because He abides with you, and will be in you,*” John 14:16-17. The Holy Spirit, our helper, is with us and in us. The Spirit gives Believers special abilities to serve the common good. However, there is much more to our life with the Spirit than spiritual gifts. We must respond to Him properly to gain the benefits of His ministry to us and through us.

Be filled with the Spirit. Be under the influence of the Holy Spirit. Give Him freedom in your life. Be available to His filling by emptying yourself of the influences of the world, the flesh, and the devil. Ephesians 5:18

Follow the Spirit. Pray for the Holy Spirit’s leading. Be attentive to the Holy Spirit’s leading. Let Him lead you, Psalm 143:10, Romans 8:14, Galatians 5:18. When the Spirit leads you ... follow Him. Allow Him to guide your steps. Walk by the Spirit, Romans 8:4, Galatians 5:16,25.

Pray in the Spirit. This is praying under the influence, under the guidance, of the Holy Spirit. You should pray under His influence ... just as you should do all things under His influence, Ephesians 6:18, Jude 1:20.

Set your mind on the Spirit. Direct your mind to the Holy Spirit instead of to the flesh. Your life will follow the aim of your mind, Romans 8:6-8.

Sow to the Spirit. You will reap whatever you sow. Invest your life in the things of the Spirit. Sow in the field of the Spirit instead of in the field of the flesh, Galatians 6:7-8.

Quench not and grieve not the Spirit. *Quench not* the Spirit, 1 Thessalonians 5:19. Do not extinguish, dampen, or crush His influence in your life. Unavailability to the Spirit quenches the Spirit. *Grieve not* the Spirit, Ephesians 4:30. Don’t give the Holy Spirit sorrow and distress. Sin grieves the Holy Spirit. Don’t cause Him to grieve ... cause Him to rejoice.

Preserve the unity of the Spirit. Unity in the Body of Christ is *of* the Holy Spirit. We do not create unity. We are called to *preserve* the unity of the Holy Spirit. We are to be one with other Believers ... one in heart, in soul, and in mind. Ephesians 4:3-4

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Disciplemaking 1 - Review Questions

Lesson 7 - Knowing God ... pages 98 - 105

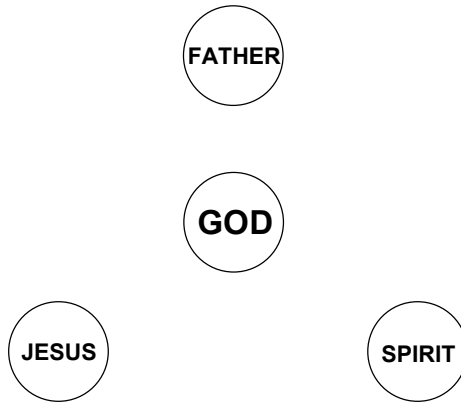
Part of learning is review ... storing new knowledge into your long term memory. Print this review test or use separate paper to answer the following questions. Then repeat this test, open book or closed book, until you can accurately and easily answer all the questions. These *review exams* are available with correct answers on VirtualBibleAcademy.org.

1. Circle or underline the most important one of these four.

Riches ... Wisdom ... Knowledge of God ... Might

Circle or underline "*True*" or "*False*" for statements 2 - 7.

2. God is indivisible. *True ... or ... False*
3. Other less important "gods" exist. *True ... or ... False*
4. There are no Old Testament references to the Trinity. *True ... or ... False*
5. God is *One* and is *Three* at the same time. *True ... or ... False*
6. God's *oneness* is more important than His *three-ness*. *True ... or ... False*
7. All members of the Trinity do exactly the same things. *True ... or ... False*
8. Complete the following with lines, and the words "*IS*" and "*IS NOT*" where needed.



COMPLETE STATEMENTS 9 - 19 FROM THESE CHOICES

all-powerful	never changes	expresses holiness
unlimited in time	righteous	present everywhere
no limitations at all	totally trustworthy	the supreme ruler
all-knowing	partially limited	pure

9. God is infinite means that He has _____ .
10. God is eternal means that He is _____ .
11. God is omnipotent means that He is _____ .
12. God is sovereign means that He is _____ .
13. God is immutable means that He _____ .
14. God is omnipresent means that He is _____ .
15. God is omniscient means that He is _____ .
16. God is holy means that He is _____ .
17. God is just means that He is _____ .
18. God is truth means that He is _____ .
19. God is love means that He _____ .

WRITE *FATHER, SON, OR HOLY SPIRIT* TO ANSWER QUESTIONS 20 - 26

20. Who gives equipping gifts to the Body? _____ .
 21. Who bears fruit in our lives? _____ .
 22. Who primarily hears our prayers? _____ .
 23. Who is the source of all good gifts? _____ .
 24. Who is preparing a place for us? _____ .
 25. Who gives empowering gifts to Believers? _____ .
 26. Who is the Author of salvation? _____ .
27. Explain what it means to sow in the field of the Spirit.

Disciplemaking 1 - Answers to Review Questions

Lesson 7 - Knowing God ... questions pages 106 - 107

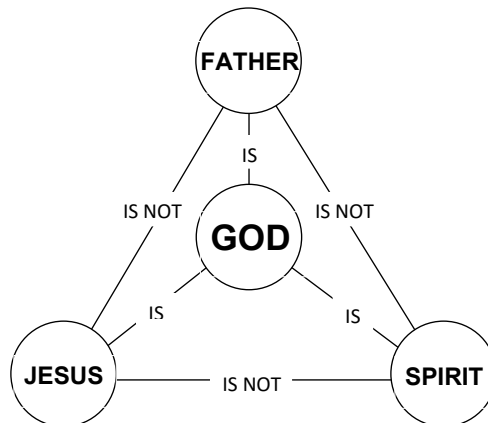
Do not use these answer sheets to find your answers. Please use them only to check your answers. Go back into the lesson to find the information to correct your answers. Repeat the test until you can accurately and easily answer all the questions. All the lessons, review tests, and answer pages are available on VirtualBibleAcademy.org.

1. Circle or underline the most important one of these four.

Riches ... Wisdom ... Knowledge of God ... Might

Circle or underline “True” or “False” for statements 2 - 7.

2. God is indivisible. True ... or ... False
3. Other less important “gods” exist. True ... or ... False
4. There are no Old Testament references to the Trinity. True ... or ... False
5. God is *One* and is *Three* at the same time. True ... or ... False
6. God’s *oneness* is more important than His *three-ness*. True ... or ... False
7. All members of the Trinity do exactly the same things. True ... or ... False
8. Complete the following with lines, and the words “IS” and “IS NOT” where needed.



COMPLETE STATEMENTS 9 - 19 FROM THESE CHOICES

all-powerful	never changes	expresses holiness
unlimited in time	righteous	present everywhere
no limitations at all	totally trustworthy	the supreme ruler
all-knowing	partially limited	pure

9. God is infinite means that He has no limitations at all.
10. God is eternal means that He is unlimited in time.
11. God is omnipotent means that He is all-powerful.
12. God is sovereign means that He is the supreme ruler.
13. God is immutable means that He never changes.
14. God is omnipresent means that He is present everywhere.
15. God is omniscient means that He is all-knowing.
16. God is holy means that He is pure.
17. God is just means that He is righteous.
18. God is truth means that He is totally trustworthy.
19. God is love means that He expresses holiness.

WRITE *FATHER, SON, OR HOLY SPIRIT* TO ANSWER QUESTIONS 20 - 26

20. Who gives equipping gifts to the Body? Son.
21. Who bears fruit in our lives? Holy Spirit.
22. Who primarily hears our prayers? Father.
23. Who is the source of all good gifts? Father.
24. Who is preparing a place for us? Son.
25. Who gives empowering gifts to Believers? Holy Spirit.
26. Who is the Author of salvation? Father.

27. Explain what it means to sow in the field of the Spirit.

We reap what we sow. To sow to the Spirit is to invest our lives in the things of the Spirit.



"Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth." 2 Timothy 2:15

Disciplemaking 1 - Abiding in His Word

LESSON 8 - GOD'S WILL

"Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect." Romans 12:1-2

Knowing God's will is very important to every believer. However, our goal must not be just *knowing* God's will. Our goal must also be *doing* His will. Much of His direction for our lives is of a general nature that applies to all Believers uniformly. He also has an individualized will for each believer. There are no shortcuts, no gimmicks, and no magic formulas in determining God's will. Most often God gradually unfolds His will to us as we grow in our walk with Him. It is a product of routine faithfulness.

The importance of following God's will is seen in the life of Jesus. He said it clearly, *"My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me,"* John 4:34. Jesus also said, *"For I have come down from Heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me,"* John 6:38. Obviously, before we can do God's will we must understand what His will is. Paul stressed the importance of knowing God's will, *"So then do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is,"* Ephesians 5:17.

We can know God's will for our lives. *"I will instruct you and teach you in the way which you should go,"* Psalm 32:8. *"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight,"* Proverbs 3:5-6. The Bible assures us that His will for us is good. *"And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose,"* Romans 8:28. *"The steps of a man are established by the Lord; and He delights in his way. When he falls, he shall not be hurled headlong; because the Lord is the one who holds his hand,"* Psalm 37:23-24. This principle is clearly seen in, *"For I know the plans that I have for you', declares the Lord, 'plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope,'"* Jeremiah 29:11.

We know the general will of God for or all Believers directly from the Bible. His general will is the same for every believer. We know God's individualized will for our individual lives as a product of a faithful life in the general will of God. From that base of obedience, we follow three steps to determine and act on His individualized will ... we ask the Father ... we acquire guidance from His Word, His wisdom, His people, and His peace ... and we act when we know His will.

HIS GENERAL WILL. Most of God's direction for our lives is His general will that applies to all Believers without variation. We understand His general will directly from the Bible. We learn of His general will for us from the commandments, principles, and examples found in His Word.

Commandments. There are general non-negotiable commandments in the Bible given for every believer. *"For this is the will of God ... that you abstain from sexual immorality,"* 1 Thessalonians 4:3. *"Rejoice always; pray without ceasing; in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus,"* 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18. *"Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human institution ... for such is the will of God,"* 1 Peter 2:13-15. Jesus expects us to obey these commands and the others, *"If you love Me, you will keep My commandments,"* John 14:15. Obedience should be more than an hour-by-hour decision. Obedience should be our way of life.

Principles. There are principles in the Bible covering varied situations. There is the principle of good stewardship described at the beginning of Luke 16. The cost of discipleship is at the end of Luke 14. The principle of spending time with lost people is presented in the three parables of Luke 15. We need to understand and apply all the many principles given in the Old and New Testaments. The principles and commandments give us God's general will for our lives.

Examples. The Bible contains good examples to follow ... and bad examples to avoid. The best example is the life of Jesus Christ. Washing the disciples' feet, Jesus said, *"For I gave you an example that you should also do as I did to you,"* John 13:15. We should follow His example of humility, Philippians 2:5. We should walk in His steps, 1 Peter 2:21, 1 John 2:6. And there are other good examples that we should follow such as Daniel's good example of honoring and serving God in a godless place. And Paul gave a good witnessing example in Acts 17. Paul wrote, *"Be imitators of me, just as I also am of Christ,"* 1 Corinthians 11:1. In addition, there are bad examples to avoid such as King Saul giving partial obedience to God ... David's adultery with Bathsheba ... and the 17 cycles of failure during the time of the Judges.

HIS INDIVIDUALIZED WILL. God has an individual will for each believer as seen in Psalm 32:8, Proverbs 3:5-6, Romans 8:28, Psalm 37:23-24, and Jeremiah 29:11. There are many examples in the Bible. David wrote, *"You wove me in my mother's womb ... and in Your book were written all the days that were ordained for me, when as yet there was not one of them,"* Psalm 139:13, 16. God had a specific will for the prophet Jeremiah, *"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I have appointed you as a prophet to the nations, ... because everywhere I send you, you shall go, and all that I command you, you shall speak,"* Jeremiah 1:5,7. God's specific will for Job was determined in two conversations in Heaven, Job 1 & 2. Noah was called to build an ark, Genesis 6. Abraham was called to relocate his family, Genesis 12, and called to sacrifice Isaac, Genesis 22. Rebekah was appointed to be Isaac's wife, Genesis 24:14, 44. Jonah was called to Nineveh, Jonah 1. Jesus chose His Disciples ... they didn't choose Him, John 15:16. Paul was called to be an Apostle, 1 Corinthians 1:1. And the Holy Spirit gives varying spiritual gifts to individual Believers to be used in different ministries as directed by Jesus [see chapter 9 in this course].

DISCOVERING HIS INDIVIDUAL WILL

Three Steps. Follow these three steps to learn and to do His individualized will. First, **ask** God to tell you. Second, **acquire guidance** from His Word, His wisdom, His people, and His peace. And then third, **act** ... do what God has told you to do.

Ask. The starting point of knowing His individualized will is prayer. The Psalmist's prayer should be ours, *"Teach me to do Thy will,"* Psalm 143:10. In the Lord's Prayer, Jesus taught His disciples to pray, *"Thy will be done,"* Matthew 6:10. The Apostle Paul prayed that the Believers at Colossae would *"be filled with the knowledge of His will,"* Colossians 1:9. Epaphras labored earnestly in prayer for them that they would *"stand perfect and fully assured in all the will of God,"* Colossians 4:12. Our earnest prayer for ourselves, and for others, should be to know and do the will of God.

Acquire guidance. God gives us His individualized will through His Word, His wisdom, His people, and His peace. We ask God to reveal His will to us ... and He answers those prayers through the four means described below.

His Word. Knowing God's individualized will is often a product of routine Bible study. Or it can be from a study relating to a specific situation. God's individualized will for each believer becomes clear as we gain wisdom and understanding from God's Word. He will never lead us to do something contrary to His Word.

His Wisdom. God's wisdom comes from an accumulative, obedient spiritual life, 1 Corinthians 2:14 - 3:3. The more obediently we walk with Him, the more we can understand His Word and His will. Paul wrote, *"And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect,"* Romans 12:2. Wisdom is different from knowledge. Ask God for His wisdom, *"But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God ... and it will be given to him,"* James 1:5.

His People. God's people are a resource for understanding God's will. Those who teach His Word through speaking or writing can help, Colossians 1:28. It is good to get counsel from mature Believers. More than one counselor is a good idea, *"Without consultation, plans are frustrated, but with many counselors they succeed,"* Proverbs 15:22. But remember that advice is only advice. The majority vote of a number of counselors may be right ... or may be wrong. Ten of the twelve spies sent into Canaan in Numbers 13 and 14 were wrong. Mature Believers can give us meaningful insight to help us understand God's will.

His Peace. God's peace, when clearly from God, can be the final confirmation of His individualized will, *"And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts,"* Colossians 3:15. *"And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, shall guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus,"* Philippians 4:7. This peace is a God-given deep sense of rightness about a decision. It is not rooted in emotionalism or human desire. It does not stand alone. His peace is the confirmation that follows prayer, study of the Bible, spiritual wisdom, and insights from a number of spiritually mature counselors. Seek and wait for His peace.

Act. It is time to act when we know His will. The answer may be *no* as it was for Paul in 2 Corinthians 12:7-10. It may be *wait* ... then we must continue to seek His will. His answer of *wait* can result in great blessing, Isaiah 40:31. When His answer is *yes*, we must do His will even if it is difficult, uncomfortable, unpopular, or costly. We should delight to do His will ... and do it from our hearts, Psalm 40:8 and Ephesians 6:5-6.

WARNINGS

His Word. God will *never* give individualized guidance that is contrary to His written Word. He will *not* lead contrary to His Word ... no matter what wisdom we think we may have ... no matter what advice we get ... no matter what we may experience ... no matter what our circumstances may be ... and no matter what peace we feel. Trust God's Word over all these things.

Fleeces. Gideon put out a fleece to get physical confirmation of God's will. It can be a dangerous thing to do. Gideon's words revealed his hesitancy, Judges 6:36-40. Gideon feared God's anger as he asked Him twice to confirm His will. Putting out a fleece seems to be more popular among Believers today than it ever was in the Bible. We should put out a fleece very infrequently, if ever, and only after much prayer and careful consideration.

Suffering. Suffering is not necessarily out of the will of God. It is often God's will that a Believer suffer, 1 Peter 3:17, 1 Peter 4:19, 2 Corinthians 4:7-18. Suffering may help you do His will, 1 Peter 4:1-2. An example is seen in the persecution of the early church, Acts 8:1-4, that caused Believers to take the Gospel out of Jerusalem in obedience to Jesus' statement in Acts 1:8. Pure silver is purified in the furnace of suffering, Isaiah 48:10. The easy, comfortable, prosperous life promised by those who preach a health and wealth gospel is not found in the full counsel of the Bible.

Progressive stewardship. God's will for us often involves steady growth as we learn and gain experience in our walk with Him. Moses spent 40 years in preparation, tending obstinate sheep before he was ready to tend God's obstinate people for 40 years in the wilderness. After his conversion, the Apostle Paul spent possibly up to 14 years growing in his walk with God before he went on his first missionary journey. Jesus taught this principle in Luke 16:10-13.

Polarization. Determining God's will requires balance. It is dangerous to focus on one part of knowing God's will [polarizing to an unbalanced extreme] while ignoring the other parts of knowing His will. To focus all our attention on applying wisdom to the exclusion of God's peace is dangerous ... we could be tempted to exclude the leading of the Spirit. To focus all our attention on the inner confirmation of peace is dangerous ... tempting us to ignore the Word and the wisdom God has given us.

Counterfeit answers. Be careful of the counterfeit answers taught in the name of Christianity. There are no shortcuts, no gimmicks, and no magic answers to knowing God's will. No one experience gives all wisdom.

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Disciplemaking 1 - Review Questions

Lesson 8 - God's Will ... pages 110 - 113

Part of learning is review ... storing new knowledge into your long term memory. Print this review test or use separate paper to answer the following questions. Then repeat this test, open book or closed book, until you can accurately and easily answer all the questions. These *review exams* are available with correct answers on VirtualBibleAcademy.org.

WRITE "TRUE" OR "FALSE" NEXT TO STATEMENTS 1 - 9

1. God's *general will* applies to most Believers.
2. God's *individual will* may be different for different Believers.
3. Most often God gradually reveals His will to us as a product of our obedience.
4. Believers can know God's *general will* and *individual will* for them.
5. Most of the time God's will for Believers is good.
6. Principles from the Bible cover many varying situations.
7. All Biblical examples should be followed.
8. God will never lead us to disobey His Word.
9. The first step in finding God's *individual will* is to seek His peace.
10. List three commands that contain the words "*will of God*" in them.
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
11. The three steps to learning God's *individual will* for us are:
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.

12. In finding God's *individual will*, Believers acquire guidance from God's _____, from His _____, from His _____, and from His _____.
13. *True or False*: In seeking advice in finding God's individual will, the majority vote among Believers is always right. _____
14. *True or False*: God's peace is the final confirmation for a Believer in finding God's general will. _____
15. *True or False*: God's peace is the final confirmation for a Believer in finding God's *individual will*. _____
16. In seeking God's *individual will*, these three answers are possible:
- a.
 - b.
 - c.
17. When we know *His individual will*, we must _____.
18. Write Isaiah 40:31 below ... as written in your Bible.

Disciplemaking 1 - Answers to Review Questions

Lesson 8 - God's Will ... questions pages 114 - 115

Do not use these answer sheets to find your answers. Please use them only to check your answers. Go back into the lesson to find the information to correct your answers. Repeat the test until you can accurately and easily answer all the questions. All the lessons, review tests, and answer pages are available on VirtualBibleAcademy.org.

WRITE "TRUE" OR "FALSE" NEXT TO STATEMENTS 1 - 9

1. God's *general will* applies to most Believers. *FALSE*
2. God's *individual will* may be different for different Believers. *TRUE*
3. Most often God gradually reveals His will to us as a product of our obedience. *TRUE*
4. Believers can know God's *general will* and *individual will* for them. *TRUE*
5. Most of the time God's will for Believers is good. *FALSE*
6. Principles from the Bible cover many varying situations. *TRUE*
7. All Biblical examples should be followed. *FALSE*
8. God will never lead us to disobey His Word. *TRUE*
9. The first step in finding God's *individual will* is to seek His peace. *FALSE*
10. List three commands that contain the words "*will of God*" in them.
 - a. *Abstain from sexual immorality.*
 - b. *Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks.*
 - c. *Submit to every human institution.*
11. The three steps to learning God's *individual will* for us are:
 - a. *Ask (pray).*
 - b. *Acquire guidance.*
 - c. *Act.*

12. In finding God's *individual will*, Believers acquire guidance from God's _____ *Word* _____, from His _____ *Wisdom* _____, from His _____ *People* _____, and from His _____ *Peace* _____.
13. *True or False*: In seeking advice in finding God's individual will, the majority vote among Believers is always right. _____ *False* _____
14. *True or False*: God's peace is the final confirmation for a Believer in finding God's general will. _____ *False* _____
15. *True or False*: God's peace is the final confirmation for a Believer in finding God's *individual will*. _____ *True* _____
16. In seeking God's *individual will*, these three answers are possible:
- a. *Yes*
 - b. *No*
 - c. *Wait*
17. When we know *His individual will*, we must _____ *Act (meaning obey)* _____.
18. Write Isaiah 40:31 below ... as written in your Bible.
(*should have been copied word-for-word from your Bible*)



“Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth.” 2 Timothy 2:15

Disciplemaking 1 - Abiding in His Word

LESSON 9 - IN THE BODY

“We are to grow up in all aspects into Him, who is the head, even Christ, from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by that which every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love,” Ephesians 4:15-16

Our spiritual birth delivered us into the family of God ... into the Body of Christ. Tremendous and wonderful things happened when we *believed in* Jesus Christ. Before that we were dead ... and then we became alive. We were enemies of God ... and afterwards we became His friends. We were in darkness ... and then we came into the light. However, our new life has much more significance than just the personal, individual changes. We also became part of His Body. We became equal and important parts in the Body with other Believers.

Our life in the Body with other Believers has particular privileges and responsibilities. The Bible gives us several illustrations to help us understand what it means to be in the Body. We are part of the Body of Christ ... the family of God ... the bride of Christ ... the house of God ... the temple ... the light ... a nation ... the vine ... and a flock. Understanding the implications of these illustrations helps us function properly as members of the Body.

The Bible gives us clear directives on how to function in the Body. In obedience to God’s Word, we should follow our spiritual birth with water baptism as an outward sign of our identification with His death, burial, and resurrection. Moreover, we need to be together ... sharing our resources ... being taught ... worshipping ... praying ... and remembering His death through communion. We are also commanded to love one another, to preserve unity, to be pure, and to put love into action.

God has given us the resources that we need to function properly in the Body. Jesus has given four kinds of *specialized people* to equip us. In addition, the Holy Spirit gives *special abilities*, spiritual gifts, to Believers ... empowering us to do our part in the Body of Christ. Our proper use of these resources, as we fit into our proper place in His Body, causes the whole Body to grow up in all aspects to bring honor to Christ.

NINE ILLUSTRATIONS OF LIFE WITH OTHER BELIEVERS

These illustrations give understanding about our position, privileges, and responsibilities in the Body of Christ. There are implications of each of these illustrations that apply to our relationship with God ... with other Believers ... and with lost people.

1. Body of Christ. Jesus Christ is the Head of the Body, Ephesians 1:22-23 and Colossians 1:18. No other member is the Head ... only Jesus is. Each believer is an important part of the Body, Romans 12:4-5, Ephesians 5:30, 1 Corinthians 12:12-27. There are many different parts of the Body. All parts are not identical. Each part must do its own job. There is no place for individualism or favoritism. Our goal is growth in love until the Body reaches full stature matching the Head, Ephesians 4:11-16.

2. Family of God. God is our father, Matthew 6:9, 23:9, 2 Corinthians 6:18. We are His children, Galatians 3:26, 1 John 3:1-2. Jesus is our first-born brother, Hebrews 1:6, 2:17. First-born is a position of authority in the family ... it does not imply that Jesus did not exist before Bethlehem. He was born there as the God-man. He was born as our first-born brother. However, He always existed. In addition, we are fellow-heirs with Him, Romans 8:14-17, Galatians 4:7. We have fellowship with the Father, Jesus, and each other, 1 John 1:3, 1 Corinthians 1:9, Matthew 23:8. We are part of the wonderful family of God. And in that context, Jesus said, "Do not call anyone on earth your father" for One is your Father, He who is in Heaven," Matthew 23:9.

3. Bride of Christ. Jesus is the bridegroom, John 3:29, Matthew 25:1-13, Luke 5:34. We are the bride, betrothed to Christ, preparing for the wedding, 2 Corinthians 11:2, Ephesians 5:25-33. This illustration is one of anticipation. We are waiting for our Bridegroom's return and the marriage supper of the Lamb, Revelation 19:7-9.

4. House of God. We are being built to be His dwelling place. God is the builder of His house, Hebrews 3:2-6. Christ is the cornerstone ... and the apostles and prophets are the foundation, Ephesians 2:19-22. We are the living stones used to build His house, 1 Peter 2:4-5. The house of God is not made of bricks and sticks. God's house is being built of flesh and blood. "*You also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit,*" Ephesians 2:22. "*But Christ was faithful as a Son over His house, whose house we are,*" Hebrews 3:6.

5. Temple of God. Israel had a temple. However, we are a temple. Jesus is our High Priest, Hebrews 3:1, 4:14-15, 5:5-6, 9:11-12. And we are individual priests representing ourselves directly to God. As priests in His Temple, we should offer *six sacrifices*.

Sacrifice 1 is our bodies as living sacrifices ... holy and acceptable to God, Romans 12:1.

Sacrifice 2 is our praise ... our grateful acknowledgement of God for who He is, Hebrews 13:15.

Sacrifice 3 is *our good works* ... as our response to salvation, Hebrews 13:16.

Sacrifice 4 is *our koinonia* ... a Greek word for believer's participation in shared resources and fellowship, Hebrews 13:16.

Sacrifice 5 is *our broken and contrite hearts* ... lowly, bruised, and crushed, Psalm 51:17.

Sacrifice 6 is our fruit of new Believers ... those that we help come to faith in Christ, Romans 15:16.

NINE ILLUSTRATIONS ... continued

6. Light. God is light and in Him there is no darkness, 1 John 1:5, Revelation 21:23. We are sons of light, 1 Thessalonians 5:5. John stated that Jesus was the true light, John 1:4-5, 9.

Jesus described Himself as the light of the world, John 8:12, 12:46. He said, "*While I am in the world, I am the light of the world,*" John 9:5.

At His ascension, we became the light of the world. Jesus said, "*You are the light of the world,*" Matthew 5:14. We must walk in the light, Ephesians 5:8, 1 John 1:7. We are lights shining to a world living in darkness, Matthew 5:14-16, Philippians 2:15.

7. Nation. Israel is a special nation to God ... the apple of His eye, Zechariah 2:8. The Church is also referred to as a holy nation, 1 Peter 2:9. That does not mean that Israel and the Church are the same ... they are not.

As Believers, our citizenship is in Heaven, Philippians 3:20. We, as Christians, are fellow-citizens with the saints, Ephesians 2:19.

Moreover, we are aliens and strangers in this world. We are in the world ... but not of the world, John 17:14-16. We are on assignment in this foreign land as ambassadors of the King, 2 Corinthians 5:20. As ambassadors, we have both the ministry and message of reconciliation, 2 Corinthians 5:18-19.

8. Vine. Jesus is the vine and we are the branches, John 15:1,5. This illustrates our dependency on Him. It also points to our responsibility to bear fruit, John 15:1-16. We glorify the Father by bearing fruit, John 15:2 ... much fruit, John 15:8 ... and fruit that remains, John 15:16.

Our Father is the vinedresser, John 15:1. He prunes us , sometimes painfully, to bear more fruit, John 15:1-2. And bearing fruit enhances our prayers, John 15:16.

9. Flock. Jesus is the Chief Shepherd, 1 Peter 5:4, Hebrews 13:20. He is the Good Shepherd, John 10:14-16. He is the door of the sheep, John 10:7. We are His sheep ... following His voice, John 10:3-4, 27-28.

The Shepherd leads and protects His sheep. He gave His life to protect us from the eternal danger of sin, John 10:11. God's wonderful care for His sheep is explained in Psalm 23, Ezekiel 34:1-31, and John 10:1-30.

God said, "*As for you, My sheep, the sheep of My pasture, you are men, and I am your God,*" Ezekiel 34:31. God is our shepherd ... that is a great comfort. One day we will become one flock with Israel, John 10:6.

LIFE IN THE BODY OF CHRIST

Birth. Our starting point is spiritual birth. Jesus told Nicodemus, “*You must be born again,*” John 3:7. No one is part of the Body until he or she is personally born again. We are born into the Body of Christ. Paul described this as a spiritual baptism in 1 Corinthians 12:13, “*By one Spirit we were all baptized into one body*”. From that beginning point, each believer needs to grow to become a properly functioning part of the Body ... fitting in ... serving and being served.

Baptism. Water baptism is the outer demonstration of the inner spiritual baptism of our salvation. Jesus was baptized, Matthew 3:13-17. Every believer should be baptized. The Great Commission includes the commandment for “*baptizing them in the [singular] name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit,*” Matthew 28:19. Water baptism is a statement of our identification with Christ in His death, burial, and resurrection, Romans 6:1-7. A simple application of this Biblical commandment is baptism by immersion after spiritual rebirth.

Early Church Examples. The early church gave good examples to us ... examples of what our collective lives should include.

Gathering together, Acts 2:1.

Being taught, Acts 2:42.

Fellowship, Acts 2:42.

Breaking bread [the Lord’s Supper], Acts 2:42 & 46.

Praying together, Acts 2:42.

Sharing their material resources, Acts 2:44-45.

Eating regular meals together, Acts 2:46.

Praising God, Acts 2:47.

Growing in numbers ... the fruit of new Believers, Acts 2:47.

Worship. Worship is an important part of our lives as Believers ... alone or together. The men and women of the Old and New Testaments worshipped God in many different places and situations. Worship can be in spoken word or song. Jesus said, “*God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth,*” John 4:24.

Communion. The example and teaching of Christ at the Last Supper, and Paul’s explanation, established communion as a special time of remembrance for Christians when we gather together. When we eat the bread and drink the cup at communion, we look back at Christ’s sacrifice of His body and at the shedding His blood for us. We commemorate the great price He paid for us. In communion, we also should look inside ourselves in self-examination ... and we should look forward to the day when we will share this meal with Jesus in His kingdom, Matthew 26:26-30, Mark 14:22-26, Luke 22:14-20, and 1 Corinthians 11:23-24.

Four Commandments. Jesus proclaimed that, *“If you love Me, you will keep my commandments,”* John 14:15. These four commandments are very important for the Body to function properly. These commandments are both individual and collective. The Body functions properly if each part individually works properly in coordination with the other parts, Ephesians 4:16. We are commanded to love one another ... to preserve unity ... to be pure ... and to put love into action.

Commandment 1 ... Love one another. Jesus said, *“This is My commandment, that you love one another, just as I have loved you,”* John 15:12. This commandment is the basis of the next three. Love should be our individual and collective attitude. It should be the motivation for all of our actions toward our fellow-Believers. God loved us ... therefore, we should love each other, 1 John 4:11. We should love each other fervently from the heart, 1 Peter 1:22. As Christ laid down His life for us, we should lay down our lives for each other, 1 John 3:16. The world will know that we are His disciples because of our love for one another, John 13:34-35. Loving each other begins with an attitude change. *“With humility of mind let each of you regard one another as more important than himself,”* Philippians 2:3. We are commanded to put that love into action. *“Through love serve one another,”* Galatians 5:13.

Commandment 2 ... Preserve unity. We are not commanded to create unity. Unity comes from the Spirit ... and not from us. Individually and collectively, we must be *“diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace,”* Ephesians 4:3. Jesus prayed that we would be one, John 17:11,21-23. His prayer in verse 23 was literally that we would be perfected into a unit so that the world would believe that He came from the Father. We are to be of one heart and one soul, Acts 4:32, Romans 15:5. We are to be of one mind, 1 Corinthians 1:10. Preserving unity is not easy. Preserving unity takes continuous action.

“Pursue the things which make for peace,” Romans 14:19.

Show *“forbearance to one another in love,”* Ephesians 4:2.

Accept one another, Romans 15:7.

“Let us not judge one another,” Romans 14:13.

Do not put *“a stumbling block in a brother’s way,”* Romans 14:13.

Don’t let liberty be *“a stumbling block to the weak,”* 1 Corinthians 8:9.

“Let no one act as your judge,” Colossians 2:16-17.

Don’t show *“personal favoritism,”* James 2:1-9.

“Do not speak against one another,” James 4:11.

“Do not complain ... against one another,” James 5:9.

Do not *“bite and devour one another,”* Galatians 5:15.

Be *“subject to one another in the fear of Christ,”* Ephesians 5:21.

Commandment 3 ... Be pure. *“Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump of dough?”*, 1 Corinthians 5:6. This rhetorical question stresses the effect of an individual’s sin on the group. Love does not mean overlooking sin and the damage it causes. Unity is not unity if it requires the sacrifice of purity. We must love one another and preserve unity ... in part by dealing effectively with the sin in our midst. Three types of sin must be purged from the Body ... our personal sin ... each other’s sins ... and the sin of a divisive or unrepentant man.

First ... we must confront our personal sin. One person’s sin can devastate the group as it did in Joshua 7 ... where one man’s greed brought defeat to the entire army of Israel. The Body can be hurt by lying to one another ... and by immorality, impurity, greed, filthiness, silly talk and coarse jesting, Colossians 3:9, Ephesians 5:3-4. In addition, the believer who commits sexual immorality transgresses and defrauds his brother, 1 Thessalonians 4:3-6. There is a cure for our personal sin ... God will forgive and cleanse us if we confess our sins, 1 John 1:9.

Second ... we must confront each other’s sins. In doing this we need to *“put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience; bearing with one another, and forgiving each other,”* Colossians 3:12-13. Sometimes someone must be rebuked. *“If your brother sins, rebuke him; and if he repents, forgive him,”* Luke 17:3. There is a three-step Biblical process for rebuking a brother, Matthew 18:15-17. First, confront him individually. If he repents, forgive him ... and it is finished. This is private. It is not to be public in any way. If this attempt fails then go on to step two. Confront the brother again ... but this time with one or two witnesses. These are more than witnesses of the confrontation. They must be witnesses of the sin of the brother. If the brother repents, forgive him ... and it is finished. This is also a private event. Finally, if the problem is still unresolved, *“tell it to the church”*. If the brother repents, forgive him. *“If he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and tax-gatherer”* ... that is as an outsider, Matthew 18:17. The goal of each of these steps, including step 3, is to *“restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness,”* Galatians 6:1. In every step of this process keep verses like Ephesians 4:26,32 and 1 Peter 4:8 in your mind and heart.

Third ... we must confront the sin of a divisive or unrepentant man. An unrepentant, immoral, or a factious man cannot be tolerated. We are instructed to *“reject a factious man after a first and second warning,”* Titus 3:9-11. We are to *“turn away from them,”* Romans 16:17. However, a factious man is not necessarily just someone who disagrees with the pastor or priest. We are instructed to *“keep aloof from every brother who leads an unruly life,”* 2 Thessalonians 3:6. We must *“remove the wicked man from among yourselves,”* 1 Corinthians 5:11-13.

Commandment 4 ... Put love into action. *"Little children, let us not love with word or with tongue, but in deed and in truth,"* 1 John 3:18. Love without action is not love at all. Real love is more than words. Real love results in real action. Jesus was the ultimate expression and example of love. He laid down His life for us, 1 John 3:16. To be like Jesus, we should give our lives away in serving one another. To serve one another in love we need to be with one another. We should gather together with other Believers. Do not try to live the Christian life alone. We must not be *"forsaking our own assembling together,"* Hebrews 10:25. This means much more than attending religious meetings. A believer could have a perfect attendance record at Church meetings but have never truly assembled together in the Body. We should *"pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart,"* 2 Timothy 2:22. Jesus said, *"For where two or three have gathered together in My name, there I am in their midst,"* Matthew 18:20. He is with us when we are gathered together in any place or in any location ... not just when we meet in a religious building. Gather together with other Believers ... and put love into action. The following are some of the ways to put love into action:

Admonish one another, Romans 15:14.

Be hospitable, Romans 12:13.

Build up one another, Romans 14:19.

Comfort one another with words of His return, 1 Thessalonians 4:18.

Do good to each other, Galatians 6:10.

Encourage one another, 1 Thessalonians 5:11.

Meet each other's material needs, Romans 12:13.

Rejoice and weep together, Romans 12:15.

Sing together, Colossians 3:16.

Stimulate one another to love and good deeds, Hebrews 10:24.

Suffer with one another, 1 Corinthians 12:26.

Support teachers and workers, Galatians 6:6, 1 Corinthians 9:11,14.

Support widows, 1 Timothy 5:8-12.

SPIRITUAL GIFTS

God provides two kinds of gifts to His Body. Jesus gives specialized people “for the equipping of the saints for the work of service,” Ephesians 4:12. In addition, the Holy Spirit gives special abilities for service ... varied abilities to each believer. What we know about both categories of gifts we know from the Bible. We cannot allow our experiences or those of others determine what we believe about gifts.

Specialized people ... given by Jesus ... to equip the body. These are specialized people ... the equippers described in Ephesians 4:11-16. Every believer is not one of these four. These are not positions or offices to which people are elected. Only some Believers are these specialized people. They are given by Jesus to equip Believers. They are not professional workers hired to do the ministry for us. They are given to equip us for the work of service. The four types of leaders are apostles, prophets, evangelists, and pastor-teachers. Apostles are those that are sent out to be foundational in beginning ministries. Prophets declare God’s Word to the Body. Evangelists declare His Word to the lost. Pastor-teachers watch over and feed God’s people. To understand a leader’s role in the Body, consider the evangelist. The evangelist should do the work of evangelism ... and he should equip Believers to do evangelism.

Special abilities ... given by the Holy Spirit ... to empower the body. These special abilities, given by the Holy Spirit, empower believers ... enabling them to do the work of service. These gifts are not to be confused with natural or learned abilities and talents. For example ... some Believers may have a God-given talent of singing. They may have learned much about music. They may have trained and exercised their voices. However, those Believers do not have the spiritual gift of singing ... there is no such gift. Certain Biblical facts are true about Spirit-given spiritual gifts. The Bible defines these spiritual gifts. Our beliefs, experiences, and church leaders do not redefine spiritual gifts in any way that contradicts or adds to the Bible.

Every believer is given at least one spiritual gift by the Holy Spirit,
1 Corinthians 12:7, and 1 Peter 4:10.

The gifts are given at the Spirit’s desire rather than our own desire,
1 Corinthians 12:11.

They are for the common good rather than individual benefit, Romans 12:4-5
1 Corinthians 12:7 and 1 Corinthians 12:12-27.

There is a possibility that they may be lost, Matthew 25:14-29.
Note: Romans 11:29 deals with Israel, not the Body

The spiritual gift(s) that you have been given is (are) determined by the Spirit,
1 Corinthians 12:4.

The ministries where you use them are determined by Christ, 1 Corinthians 12:5.

Your gift’s effectiveness is the Father’s work, 1 Corinthians 12:6.

Your responsibility is obedience.

Discovering your spiritual gift(s). Determining which gift(s) you have takes time and experience. You can discover your gift(s) by first learning what the Bible says about those gifts ... by being involved in ministry ... and then by evaluating what God is doing through you. Make an educated spiritual guess as to which gift may be yours ... get involved in that type of ministry ... give it some time ... and then evaluate what God has done. Your gift(s) will become obvious as you minister.

The Bible's definitions. Spiritual gifts are described in the Bible in two major references, Romans 12 and 1 Corinthians 12-14. Knowing our natural tendency for divisiveness, the Holy Spirit put the great chapter on love, 1 Corinthians 13, in the middle of His teaching on gifts. Let the Bible define spiritual gifts. Pray and study the Bible to form your beliefs about spiritual gifts. Don't decide by osmosis ... absorbing your beliefs from your spiritual environment. Let the Bible invade your experience. Don't let your experience invade the Bible. Each believer has been given one or more spiritual gifts. These special abilities are listed below in general alphabetical order ... not in any order of significance. Each believer does not have all of the gifts. However, all Believers have responsibilities in each of these areas.

1. Discerning of Spirits. Some have a special ability to distinguish between good and evil ... between that which is of God or of the world, the flesh, and the devil. All Believers should be discerning, Hebrews 5:14, 1 John 4:1.

2. Exhortation. This is a special ability to incite, urge, or encourage others. In part, it could be called the gift of encouragement. Some have this gift ... but all Believers should encourage one another, Hebrews 3:13, 10:25.

3. Faith. This is an extra ability to trust God steadfastly for the humanly improbable or impossible. It might be seen when someone holds on when others let go ... or lets go when others hold on. This faith is not forming an image of something in your mind that obligates God to give it to you. This faith is not *naming* something that obligates God to give it to you because you have spoken. This faith is whole-hearted trust in Him to do what He chooses. Some have this gift ... but all should have faith, 2 Corinthians 5:7.

4. Giving. This is the special ability to give back to God, through others, what He has given to us. This is a special ability to know what to give ... to whom to give it ... and when to give. It has more to do with the quality of the giving than it does with the quantity of the gift. Sometimes God combines the gift of giving with extra material resources ... an awesome opportunity and responsibility for the person with this spiritual gift. Some have this gift ... but all should give, 2 Corinthians 9:7.

5. Healing. This is the special ability to be used by God in physical, emotional, or spiritual healing. Do not expect all Believers to be physically healed. Paul was not healed, 2 Corinthians 12:7-10. Trophimus was not healed, 2 Timothy 4:20. In addition, we have never seen the great men and women of faith healed of the diseases of old age ... all eventually die. Sometimes God heals some people through those with the gift of healing. All do not have this gift ... but all can seek healing, James 5:14-16.

6. Knowledge. This is a special ability to understand God's Word. If it is some knowledge directly given by God, it would be uncompromisingly consistent with the written Word. If it is inaccurate, or if it contradicts the Bible in any way, then the knowledge is not from God. Paul wrote that this gift would be done away with at some time, 1 Corinthians 13:8-10. Some may have this gift ... but all should pursue greater knowledge of God's Word, 2 Timothy 2:15, Colossians 1:9-10.

7. Leadership. This is the special ability to lead others in accomplishing God's work. Look behind you. Is anyone following? Are you effectively leading others to accomplish God's will? Leadership ability in the world is not the same as the gift of leadership. Being an elected, or appointed leader in the church does not mean that one has the gift of leadership. This gift is given to some Believers ... but all have leadership influence on the people around them, Proverbs 12:26.

8. Mercy. This is a special ability to perform deeds of love. Mercy is active compassion directed to the undeserving ... whether or not they are unlovely, destitute, or humanly distressed. Only some Believers have this gift ... but all Believers should be merciful, Jude 1:2-23.

9. Miracles. This is the special ability, given by the Holy Spirit, to perform humanly impossible acts of power. However, the power to perform miracles can come from other sources, Exodus 7:10-13, Matthew 7:21-23. All Believers don't have this gift ... but we all do have power, John 14:12, Acts 1:8.

10. Prophecy. This is a special ability given to some to declare God's Word. Prophecy may be an authoritative declaration with the force of *thus saith the Lord* ... as it was with the New Testament authors. In addition, prophecy may be the divine prediction of future events. Foretelling the future *in the name of God* is dangerous, Deuteronomy 18:22. It seems to be limited, Revelation 22:18-19. And Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 13:8-10 that this gift would be done away with at some time. Prophecy may simply be the forth-telling, or declaring of God's Word ... similar to preaching or public declaration. All believers should do some of forth-telling, Psalm 145:4-12.

11. Serving. This is a special ability for helping and assisting others. It is not limited to helping those in ministry ... but it is certainly needed in that context. This kind of ministry can be a way to get involved... and from it grow into other areas as other gifts become apparent. Philip did this when he helped serve food to the widows ... and in doing so took a burden off the leaders which gave them time for prayer and the Word, Acts 6:1-6. A short time after that Phillip was an evangelist giving the Gospel to the Ethiopian eunuch ... and then to the people along the coast of the Mediterranean Sea from Azotus to Caesarea. Some have a special gift of serving ... but we should all serve one another, Galatians 5:13.

12. Teaching. This gift is the ability to help others learn and apply God's Word. Biblical teaching is more than the public declaration of facts ... it is making disciples. Mentoring, tutoring, and apprenticing can be part of this process. Teaching can be to large groups, to small groups, or to one person at a time. Numbers and popularity are not the measure of good teaching, 2 Timothy 4:3. The true measure of good teaching is in changed lives. Some have the gift of teaching ... but every believer should teach someone, Matthew 28:18-20.

13. Tongues. The spiritual gift of tongues is the ability to speak in a real language, which is unknown to the speaker. Tongues are not messages from God to man ... but are prayers addressed to God, 1 Corinthians 14:2,14. The gift of tongues is a sign for non-Believers, 1 Corinthians 14:22. It does not edify the Body ... but does benefit the speaker, 1 Corinthians 14:4. Tongues are limited to two or at most three in one meeting ... spoken one at a time ... and spoken only and always with interpretation, 1 Corinthians 14:27-28. Use of the spiritual gift of tongues should not be frenzied or chaotic ... but should be used properly and in an orderly way, 1 Corinthians 14:40. Paul wrote that the gift of tongues would cease at some time, 1 Corinthians 13:8-10. All Believers do not have the spiritual gift of tongues, 1 Corinthians 12:30 ... but all Believers should control their own tongues, James 1:26, 3:5-6.

14. Interpretation. This is the Spirit given ability to translate someone else's gift of tongues into the language of the hearers. It is not clear Biblically if the interpreter knows either or both languages. Tongues should never be used without interpretation, 1 Corinthians 14:27-28. At the time that tongues cease, interpretation would obviously cease as well.

15. Wisdom. This is a special ability to apply knowledge of God's Word to the complexities of life. Some have this gift ... but we all should conduct ourselves with wisdom, Colossians 4:5. If we lack wisdom we should pray for it, James 1:5.

SPIRITUAL GIFTS ... Questions and Answers

Answers to questions about gifts and signs. There is misunderstanding and disagreement among Christians about signs, wonders, and the gifts of the Spirit. God used gifts and signs in the early church to confirm His message, Hebrews 2:2-4. Since then, the church has given them varying emphasis ... from ignoring them to misuse. Use the Bible as the basis for what you believe about these things. Several common questions are answered below. Don't adopt these answers as your beliefs simply because they are written here. Moreover, don't reject any of these answers simply because they contradict your experience or that of your friends. Form your own beliefs through prayer and Bible study. Be a Berean. And don't be involved in any experience that is inconsistent with, or contradicts, Biblical truth. Be very careful about any experiences that are not in the Bible ... certainly do not emphasize them.

1. *If I don't have the gift of evangelism should I witness anyway?* You should witness. You are commanded to witness. Moreover, you do *not* have the gift of evangelism. No one has that gift because there is no gift of evangelism. There are evangelists, given by Jesus to equip Believers, Ephesians 4:11-13. But the Bible never mentions a Spirit-given gift of evangelism. Evangelism is a responsibility ... not a gift.

2. *Are gifts of the Spirit available today?* Some believe that the gifts were given only to the first century church. They use Hebrews 2:2-4 to include signs, wonders, miracles and gifts in the founding of the church. Then they extend their interpretation of those verses to exclude these things from following generations. They point to a pattern of miraculous events concentrated at times of change ... the Exodus, the prophets, the life of Jesus, and the formation of the church. However, there is no convincing Biblical evidence that these things were only for the first generation of the church. Moreover, if we are in the *end times*, then this too is a period of change.

3. *Are all the gifts available today?* Christians disagree about the availability of prophecy, knowledge, tongues, and interpretation ... coming from contradictory interpretations of 1 Corinthians 13:8-13. Those verses state that these gifts would end when the "*perfect*" comes. One opinion is that the *perfect* was the completion of the New Testament, noting Revelation 22:18-19 as the close of prophecy, and therefore these four gifts are no longer available. The other opinion is that the *perfect* is the return of Christ, and therefore these gifts will be available to Believers until He returns. The Bible is not clear on what the "*perfect*" is ... or when it has or will come. Therefore, there is some doubt about the availability of these gifts. It isn't clearly defined. Therefore, it is best to base our obedience and experience on a full application of the Bible's rules and limitations. If a gift is available today, and is from Him, then all His directives for that gift will be met. If they aren't met, the gift isn't from God.

4. *Are all signs, wonders, and miracles of God?* No they are not! Satan's agents can do the miraculous. Pharaoh's magicians duplicated Moses' miracle, Exodus 7:10-12. Simon, an unsaved man, astonished people with his magic arts, Acts 8:9-13. And Satan disguises himself as an angel of light and his servants disguise themselves as servants of righteousness, 1 Corinthians 11:13-15. These and false apostles and deceitful workers can perform signs and wonders, Matthew 7:22-23. Many false religions and cults include signs, wonders, and even speak in tongues as enticements to attract people away from the true God.

5. *What do people mean when they justify their experiences with the phrase ... God is not the author of confusion?* Their experience may or may not be of God. However, their use of that phrase to defend some experience is illogical. It is true that God is never the author of confusion, 1 Corinthians 14:33. However, there are other authors. There are deceitful spirits and doctrines of devils, 1 Timothy 4:1-3. There are

false teachers, 2 Peter 2:1. The Bible should be the basis of experience. Experience, even in the name of Christianity, is not self-authenticating.

6. *Is being slain in the Spirit of God?* Being *slain in the Spirit* refers to someone falling over at the touch of a leader. *Falling down in the Spirit* is a similar experience without a leader's touch. Nonbelievers falling to the ground, John 18:6, and the Spirit snatching Philip away from the Ethiopian eunuch, Acts 8:39, are not examples of being *slain in the Spirit*. There are no Biblical examples of, and no Biblical teaching about, this phenomenon. The phenomenon of what is called being *slain in the Spirit* is extra-Biblical ... something being seen in experience but not found in the Bible.

7. *Shouldn't tongues be as popular today as it was in the book of Acts?* About 30 years of early church history are recorded in the book of Acts. More than 50 geographical locations are mentioned in Acts. And Paul's missionary travels covered more than 7500 miles [12000 km]. In all of that, miraculous tongues are mentioned only three times ... at Pentecost in Jerusalem, Acts 2 ... and when the Gospel came to Gentiles, Acts 10:43-48 ... and in Ephesus when some of John the Baptist's disciples believed in Jesus, Acts 19:1-7. Tongues are *not* common in the book of Acts.

9. *Are tongues a real language or can they be any kind of verbal utterances?* There is nothing in the Bible that indicates that tongues would be anything but a real language. The word *unknown* was used in conjunction with the word tongue several times in the King James translation of 1 Corinthians 14. However, there is no Greek word for *unknown* in those original verses [2,4,13,14,19, & 27]. The language of tongues was unknown to the one speaking ... but probably not unknown in the history of mankind. Some say it might be in the language of angels, 1 Corinthians 13:1 ... but there is no indication that angels speak in some disorganized babbling. Angels in the Bible spoke coherently, Luke 2:8-14, Revelation 5:11-12. The Greek word in the Bible used for tongue(s) means either the physical organ in one's mouth ... or it means language as used in Revelation 5:9, 13:7 and 17:15.

10. *How do I know if a manifestation of the gift of tongues is real?* The source of tongues is important. Real language tongues may come from the Holy Spirit or from Satan. Chaotic, frenzied, babbling-type tongues may be from the emotional side of the flesh or from Satan. Be a Berean, Acts 17:11, search the Bible. Tongues from the Holy Spirit will be consistent with *all* the Bible's rules for tongues.

Tongues are prayers addressed to God, 1 Corinthians 14:2,14.

Tongues are a sign for non-believers, 1 Corinthians 14:22.

There are three tongues maximum per meeting, 1 Corinthians 14:27.

Tongues are spoken one at a time, 1 Corinthians 14:27.

Tongues are spoken only with interpretation, 1 Corinthians 14:27-28.

Tongues should be used properly and in order, 1 Corinthians 14:40.

And tongues from the Spirit will be consistent demonstrations of the fruit of the Spirit, "*Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control,*" Galatians 5:22-23.

11. *Should I seek the gift of tongues?* All Believers are not given the gift of tongues, 1 Corinthians 12:30. And all the spiritual gifts are given at the Holy Spirit's desire rather than at our desire, 1 Corinthians 12:11. Paul listed several gifts ... putting tongues at the end of the list. Paul wrote *"but earnestly desire the greater gifts,"* 1 Corinthians 12:28-31. Paul put love above tongues, 1 Corinthians 13:1. Paul wrote that he preferred prophecy to tongues, 1 Corinthians 14:5. He also wrote that he would prefer to speak five words with his mind than 10,000 words in a tongue. Paul acknowledged the gift of tongues in the lives of others and in his own life. However, he often warned of the misuse of this gift. Paul wrote, *"Do not forbid to speak in tongues,"* 1 Corinthians 14:39. A good attitude toward the gift of tongues is this ... *be very careful, seek not, and forbid not.*

12. *What about private prayer tongues?* Some Christians experience mysterious language when they pray alone. Romans 8:26 teaches that the Holy Spirit prays for us ... not through us. Jude 1:20 teaches that we should pray in the Spirit ... but we should do all things in the Spirit. Justifying private tongues from these verses is an interpretive stretch. Paul wished that all spoke in tongues, 1 Corinthians 14:5. However, all cannot speak in tongues. Tongues are limited to two or at the most three in a meeting ... spoken in turn ... and spoken only if someone interprets, 1 Corinthians 14:27-28. From verse 28, *"If there is no interpreter, let him speak to himself and to God."* That refers to the two or three people with a public tongue who are silenced by the absence of an interpreter. In that situation, those specific people are told to pray privately rather than publicly. This falls significantly short of teaching private prayer tongues as a normal activity for all Believers. Some say that private prayer tongues were so popular in the early church that there was no need to document them in the Bible ... however, that kind of logic is foolishness.

13. *Why is there so much disunity about signs, wonders, and gifts of the Spirit?* Paul put the great verses on love, 1 Corinthians 13:1-8, in the middle of his teaching about gifts. Lack of love *and* lack of knowledge causes much disunity in the Body. Some have gained their opinions on these subjects by osmosis from other Christians rather than from an unprejudiced study of the Word ... promoting disunity from lack of Biblical knowledge. In addition, some Christians have adopted the opinions of their leaders or favorite authors ... rather than forming their own opinions through prayer and study of the Word. Persuasive shepherds can divide the flock ... promoting disunity because of their personal opinions.

14. *Why do the gifts exist?* The Holy Spirit has given us *special abilities* to empower us. And Jesus has given us *specialized people* to equip us. The gifts of the Holy Spirit and the gifts of Jesus make it possible for us to live successfully in the Body of Christ so that we can *"grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ, from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love,"* Ephesians 4:15-16.

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Disciplemaking 1 - Review questions

Lesson 9 - In the Body ... pages 118 - 131

Part of learning is review ... storing new knowledge into your long term memory. Print this review test or use separate paper to answer the following questions. Then repeat this test, open book or closed book, until you can accurately and easily answer all the questions. These *review exams* are available with correct answers on VirtualBibleAcademy.org.

LIST 9 ILLUSTRATIONS OF OUR BODY LIFE AND THE EMPHASIS FOR EACH.

1. Illustration: _____ Emphasis: _____
2. Illustration: _____ Emphasis: _____
3. Illustration: _____ Emphasis: _____
4. Illustration: _____ Emphasis: _____
5. Illustration: _____ Emphasis: _____
6. Illustration: _____ Emphasis: _____
7. Illustration: _____ Emphasis: _____
8. Illustration: _____ Emphasis: _____
9. Illustration: _____ Emphasis: _____

10. List the six sacrifices that we as individual priests should offer to God.

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

11. Who is the *light of the world*? _____

12. Who was and is the *light of the world*? _____

13. What four general commands tell us how to function together as believers?

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

14. The 3 steps in confronting each other's sins described in Matthew 18:15-17 are:

- a. Go _____ to the person.
- b. If still unresolved, go with ____ or ____ _____.
- c. If still unresolved, _____.

15. We learn about God's "gifts" to the Body directly from the _____.

16. Jesus has given _____
to _____ Believers.

17. The Holy Spirit has given _____
to _____ Believers.

18. The four kinds of equippers in Ephesians 4:11-16 are:

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

19. *True or False:* These equippers do the ministry instead of us. _____

20. *True or False:* These equippers are given to train us to do the ministry. _____

21. Determining what gift(s) a believer has takes _____ and
_____.

22. The major Bible references on spiritual gifts are _____,
_____, and _____.

23. *True or False:* 1 Corinthians 13:4-8 is important in Spiritual Gifts. _____

24. *True or False:* Evangelism is a Spiritual Gift given by the Holy Spirit. _____

Disciplemaking 1 - Answers to Review questions

Lesson 9 - In the Body ... questions pages 132 - 133

Do not use these answer sheets to find your answers. Please use them only to check your answers. Go back into the lesson to find the information to correct your answers. Repeat the test until you can accurately and easily answer all the questions. All the lessons, review tests, and answer pages are available on VirtualBibleAcademy.org.

LIST 9 ILLUSTRATIONS OF OUR BODY LIFE AND THE EMPHASIS FOR EACH.

1. Illustration: Body of Christ Emphasis: Unity & growth
2. Illustration: Family of God Emphasis: Fellowship & intimacy
3. Illustration: Bride of Christ Emphasis: Anticipation
4. Illustration: House of God Emphasis: God's dwelling place
5. Illustration: Temple of God Emphasis: Sacrifices & worship
6. Illustration: Light Emphasis: Evangelism
7. Illustration: Nation Emphasis: Citizenship in Heaven
8. Illustration: Vine Emphasis: Fruit
9. Illustration: Flock Emphasis: The Shepherd

10. List the six sacrifices that we as individual priests should offer to God.

- a. Our bodies
- b. Our praise
- c. Good works
- d. Koinonia (true fellowship)
- e. Broken and contrite hearts
- f. New believers

11. Who is the *light of the world*? We are as believers

12. Who was and is the *light of the world*? Jesus

13. What four general commands tell us how to function together as believers?
- Love one another
 - Preserve unity
 - Be pure
 - Put love into action
14. The 3 steps in confronting each other's sins described in Matthew 18:15-17 are:
- Go alone to the person.
 - If still unresolved, go with one or two witnesses of the sin.
 - If still unresolved, take it to the church for resolution.
15. We learn about God's "gifts" to the Body directly from the Bible.
16. Jesus has given specialized people (leaders) to equip Believers.
17. The Holy Spirit has given special abilities to empower Believers.
18. The four kinds of equippers in Ephesians 4:11-16 are:
- Apostles
 - Prophets
 - Evangelists
 - Pastor-teachers
19. *True or False:* These equippers do the ministry instead of us. False
20. *True or False:* These equippers are given to train us to do the ministry. True
21. Determining what gift(s) a believer has takes time and experience.
22. The major Bible references on spiritual gifts are Ephesians 4:11-16, Romans 12, and 1 Corinthians 12 - 14.
23. *True or False:* 1 Corinthians 13:4-8 is important in Spiritual Gifts. True
24. *True or False:* Evangelism is a Spiritual Gift given by the Holy Spirit. False



"Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth." 2 Timothy 2:15

Disciplemaking 1 - Abiding in His Word

LESSON 10 - IN THE WAR

"Be on the alert, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong. Let all that you do be done in love." 1 Corinthians 16:13-14

We are in a war against three enemies. The Christian life can be described accurately with good words such as ... comfort, contentment, forgiveness, gentleness, goodness, hope, joy, kindness, love, mercy, peace, and satisfaction. However, these words present only a partial picture of the reality of living the Christian life. Don't lose sight of the bigger picture ... you are in a war. The Bible states that you are in a war against three fallen foes ... the fallen world, your fallen nature, and the fallen angel. You have been born behind enemy lines ... born into a fallen world. Your fallen nature is a traitor ... your flesh wars against you from inside. In addition, you fight an invisible enemy ... the Devil. These three enemies present obstacles to your living to the glory of God. You must understand your enemies. You must understand your enemies' tactics. You can win your battles if you follow God's battle instructions.

The battle lines of sin and temptation. The war against your three enemies is often fought at the battle lines of sin and temptation. You need to strive against sin. You need to know how to resist temptation. Many sins are easy to identify. However, some things may be right in one situation, wrong in another ... or right for one person, and wrong for another. You need to understand how to identify sin as sin. As Christians, we will be tempted. We will go through trials and tests. The war is dangerous. Our sins are like wounds and injuries that we suffer in battle. We will be wounded and injured. We must tend to our wounds and injuries ... confessing our sins to God. Confession is a prerequisite for forgiveness. Forgiveness is a great blessing from God. Unconfessed sins have serious consequences. Believers are hurt in the battles. We need to tend to our own wounds and injuries ... and to those of other Believers.

We will have final victory. We fight in a war that is already won. Jesus conquered our enemies on the cross. However, we must fight our own battles daily. God is our refuge and strength on the battlefield, *"For Thou hast been a refuge for me, a tower of strength against the enemy,"* Psalm 61:3. Our battles can be won if we fight them according to God's battle instructions. Then when our time on earth is over, we will be able to say what the Apostle Paul said near the end of his life, *"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith,"* 2 Timothy 4:7.

OUR BATTLES AGAINST THE WORLD

“Do not love the world, nor the things in the world. If any one loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world. And the world is passing away, and also its lusts.” 1 John 2:15-17

Understanding the enemy. The world is our enemy. We were born into a fallen world. The world is not easy and it is not perfect ... it has been cursed by God. *“For the anxious longing of the creation waits eagerly for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God,”* Romans 8:19-21. We were born behind enemy lines into a fallen world that is under the control of Satan, 1 John 5:19. Our world is ruled by Satan, John 12:31. Satan is the prince of the power of the air, Ephesians 2:1-3. We are soldiers in a hostile foreign land.

Understanding the enemy’s tactics. The world is difficult. However, it is only temporary. The world can distract us from the things that are important for eternity ... God, His Word, and people. We can be tempted to become so entangled in the temporary things of this world that we do not obey God. For many Believers, the entanglements of the world can be measured by the clock. Life can be so busy and demanding that we can be tempted to have no time for the things of God. Moreover, our devotion can be misdirected from the Creator to the creation. Love of God can be replaced by love for the things of this world ... good or bad things. Many of the world’s temptations are direct and obvious. However, many others are subtle and indirect. We ought to be growing to be more like Jesus ... but we live in a world of so many destructive influences. The people and things of this world can influence us directly and indirectly. We must be very careful to prevent the people and things of the world from squeezing us into their mold.

Defeating the enemy. Winning our battles against the world begins with knowing that final victory is already won. Jesus said, *“These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world,”* John 16:33. We can be victorious in our daily battles against the world. *“For whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that has overcome the world - our faith. Who is the one who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?”*, 1 John 5:4-6. Ultimate victory over the world has been won. Daily victory can be ours if we follow God’s battle instructions for our war against the world.

God's battle instructions

"Do not be surprised, brethren, if the world hates you," 1 John 3:13. Don't think that you should be accepted by the world. Jesus said, *"If the world hates you, you know that it has hated Me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, because of this the world hates you,"* John 15:18-19. His kingdom is not of this world, John 18:36. Our citizenship is in Heaven, Philippians 3:20. We are in the world ... but we are not of the world, John 17:14-18. You are an alien and stranger in this world. Don't expect to feel like you are at home. You are not home yet.

"Suffer hardship with me, as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. No soldier in active service entangles himself in the affairs of everyday life, so that he may please the one who enlisted him as a soldier," 2 Timothy 2:3-4. Do not be entangled in the affairs of everyday life. This does not mean that you should not be involved in life. However, it does mean that you should not allow your activities, possessions, and relationships to prevent you from obeying God. Entanglement in the world causes some Christians to be unfruitful, Mark 4:19. If you are too busy to discover and do God's will ... you are too busy doing the wrong things. Make the most of your time, Ephesians 5:15-16. Entanglement in sin will pull you down. And entanglement in good things can prevent you from doing God's best. How much surgery is needed on your entanglements? Do you need minor or major surgery? Don't be entangled. Be available.

"Do not love the world, nor the things in the world," 1 John 2:15. Our devotion to the temporary things of this world can cause us to ignore the eternal things ... God, His Word, and people. A good test of this is the use of our resources, time, and money. As Jesus said, *"But lay up for yourselves treasures in Heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal; for where your treasure is, there will your heart be also,"* Matthew 6:20-21. Loving the things of the world is very dangerous, *"You adulteresses, do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God,"* James 4:4. Don't love the world. Love God.

"Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind," Romans 12:2. Do not let the world squeeze you into its mold. Don't get caught up in what everyone else is doing or not doing. The world is pursuing the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the boastful pride of life. Be different from the world. Spend time in God's Word. Renew your mind. Set your mind on the things of God. Don't be conformed. Be transformed.

OUR BATTLES AGAINST THE FLESH

“But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh. For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please.”
Galatians 5:16-17

Understanding the Enemy. Our own flesh is an enemy. The flesh is the inner part of each person that opposes God. When someone believes in Jesus Christ, a new nature is born in that person. However, an old nature is still there ... that is the flesh. The deeds of the flesh include *“immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, envyings, drunkenness, carousings,”* Galatians 5:19-21. Deeds of the flesh come from the heart of man. Jesus said, *“For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, slanders,”* Matthew 15:19. He said, *“That which proceeds out of the man, that is what defiles the man. For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed the evil thoughts, fornications, thefts, murders, adulteries, deeds of coveting and wickedness, as well as deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride and foolishness. All these evil things proceed from within and defile the man,”* Mark 7:20-23. All of these things can come from the enemy inside us ... from our flesh.

Understanding the enemy’s tactics. The flesh is our inner enemy. Our flesh is a traitor in our bodies. Our flesh battles against our new nature. The flesh wages *“war against the soul,”* 1 Peter 2:11. It is at war with the Spirit within us, *“For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another,”* Galatians 5:17. Each of our two natures, the old and the new, seeks to dominate our lives from within us, Romans 7:15-25. Our flesh tempts us to sin. Our new nature urges us to live for God.

Defeating the enemy. Our battle against the flesh is a battle that is already won by Christ. *“Our old self was crucified with Him, that our body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin,”* Romans 6:6. That victory in Christ is reinforced by our actions as we love and obey God. Our bodies are dead because of sin, Romans 8:10. In a sense, the battle is between the dead and the living ... our dead flesh against our living spirit. In this battle we must sow to the Spirit ... not to the flesh. We have the promise and the warning that we will reap what we sow. *“Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap. For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life,”* Galatians 6:7-8. We must fight vigorously against this inner enemy. God has given us His battle instructions for daily victory against the flesh.

God's battle instructions

Lay aside the old and put on the new. *"In reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self ... be renewed in the spirit of your mind and put on the new self,"* Ephesians 4:22-24. It is more than demolition. It is demolition *and* renovation. Tear out the old and build in the new, Colossians 3:9-10.

Set your mind on the Spirit and not on the flesh. *"For those who are according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who are according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace, because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able to do so, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God,"* Romans 8:5-8.

You must put no confidence in the flesh ... not in your body, not in your age, not in your strength, not in your heritage, not in your race, not in your ethnicity, and not in your nationality. *"Put no confidence in the flesh,"* Philipians 3:3. Your confidence should be in God, Proverbs 3:26.

Stop yielding to the lust of the flesh. Run away from the lust of the flesh. *"Beloved, I urge you as aliens and strangers to abstain from fleshly lusts which wage war against the soul,"* 1 Peter 2:11. *"Now flee from youthful lusts,"* 2 Timothy 2:22. Put to death the deeds of the flesh, Romans 8:12-13. Crucify the flesh with its passions and desires, Galatians 5:24.

Make no provision for the flesh. Don't lay up supplies for the traitor. Don't feed your old nature. Starve it. Don't provide temptations to your flesh. Don't go to the places that provide opportunity for the flesh. Don't do the things that lead to sins of the flesh. Don't create your own temptations. *"But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh in regard to its lusts,"* Romans 13:14. Stop presenting your body to unrighteousness ... present your body to righteousness, Romans 6:11-20.

Think of yourself as alive from the dead. You were dead before you believed in Jesus. *"You were dead in your trespasses and sins, in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air,"* Ephesians 2:1-2. Our attitude should reflect the great news that once we were dead, but now we are alive. *"Present yourselves to God as those alive from the dead,"* Romans 6:13. You are alive from the dead. You are alive by the Spirit. *"If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit,"* Galatians 5:25.

OUR BATTLES AGAINST THE DEVIL

“Finally, be strong in the Lord, and in the strength of His might. Put on the full armor of God, that you may be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.” Ephesians 6:10-12

Understanding the Enemy. Satan is real. He is not a creation of human imagination. He is not a mythical personification of evil. Satan is referred to as a real being by Jesus, Paul, Peter, John, all New Testament authors, and in seven Old Testament books. Satan is not an equal and opposite of God. Satan is not eternal ... and he is not infinite. He is not all powerful, all present, or all knowing. However, Satan does have power. He is *“the ruler of this world,”* John 12:31. He is *“the prince of the power of the air,”* Ephesians 2:1-2.

Understanding the enemy’s tactics. *“The devil has sinned from the beginning,”* 1 John 3:8. He is a tempter, 1 Thessalonians 3:5 ... a deceiver, 2 Corinthians 11:3 ... and a schemer, 2 Corinthians 2:10-11. *“He was a murderer from the beginning,”* John 8:44. *“The devil ... does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature, for he is a liar and the father of lies,”* John 8:44. Satan and his agents can infiltrate the ranks of the leadership of the church. *“Satan disguises himself as an angel of light”* and *“his servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness,”* 2 Corinthians 11:13-15. He is a source of false teaching, 1 Timothy 4:1-5. Satan battles against the Gospel. He fights to prevent people from believing in Jesus. Satan holds non-believers captive, 2 Timothy 2:24-26 ... he steals the Word from them, Luke 8:12-13 ... and he blinds their eyes to the light of the Gospel, 2 Corinthians 4:3-4. Satan and his demons can possess nonbelievers, taking control of them, Luke 22:3, Luke 8:30. Satan is an adversary of Believers, 1 Peter 5:8. He accuses us before God, Revelation 12:10. He oppresses Believers, Acts 10:38. However, there is no Biblical indication that Satan can possess a believer. We are not under his control. We have been *“rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son,”* Colossians 1:13. From the moment you believe in Jesus, you are no longer under the dominion of Satan, Acts 26:18.

Defeating the enemy. Through His death, Jesus conquered Satan, Hebrews 2:14. God has not left us defenseless in our daily battles against Satan. He has put a limit on Satan. The devil must flee when we resist him, James 4:7. And we have the great promise, *“Greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world,”* 1 John 4:4. Daily victory can be ours if we follow God’s battle instructions for our war against Satan.

God's battle instructions

Resist the devil. Take a stand against him. *"Resist him, firm in your faith,"* 1 Peter 5:9. Stand firm against him, Ephesians 6:11-14.

Pray! The Lord's Prayer includes, *"Deliver us from evil,"* Matthew 6:13. The Greek word for *evil* in that prayer includes Satan. That Greek word is in the nominative case, which often indicates a title. Christ's instruction in full is *deliver us from the evil one*. Similarly, He prayed that God would *"keep them from the evil one,"* John 17:15.

Be alert. Pay attention. Watch for the attacks of the enemy. *"Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls about like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour,"* 1 Peter 5:8.

Give no opportunity to Satan. Give him no open doors. Give Satan no opportunity through unresolved anger, Ephesians 4:26-27. Don't let an unforgiving spirit give him an advantage, 2 Corinthians 2:10-11. And sexual denial in marriage provides Satan with an opportunity to tempt ... do not deprive your spouse, 1 Corinthians 7:5.

Do not be involved in anything of the occult. Totally avoid astrology, black magic, divination, horoscopes, mediums, necromancy, Ouija boards, sorcerers, spiritists, spells, witchcraft, white magic, and anything occult. Paul wrote, *"I do not want you to become sharers in demons. You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons; you cannot partake of the table of the Lord and the table of demons,"* 1 Corinthians 10:20-21.

"Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil," Ephesians 6:11. Before the battle, gird your loins with the truth of Jesus and His Word ... put on the breastplate of faith, love, and righteousness ... and shod your feet with readiness to share the Gospel. In the battle, take up the shield of faith ... wear the helmet of the hope of salvation ... and use your one offensive weapon, the sword of the Spirit, the Bible. Take up the full armor of God, Ephesians 6:13-17 and 1 Thessalonians 5:8.

Tell people about Jesus ... even if it you must give your life for the Gospel. Satan will be defeated by the blood of Jesus and by your obedience to the Great Commission. *"And the great dragon was thrown down, the serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was thrown down ... the accuser of our brethren has been thrown down ... and they overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb and because of the word of their testimony, and they did not love their life even when faced with death,"* Revelation 12:9-11.

STRIVING AGAINST SIN

“Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its lusts, and do not go on presenting the members of your body to sin as instruments of unrighteousness; but present yourselves to God as those alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God. For sin shall not be master over you, for you are not under law but under grace.” Romans 6:12-14

How can someone avoid sinning? We must be doers of the Word and not just hearers, James 1:22-25. God’s Word will help us avoid sin ... but only if we obey it. Evaluate yourself by the instructions listed below. Have you been doing these things? Failure to follow His instructions can result in moral failure, in times of concentrated sins, and in habitual sin. Follow His instructions. You can overcome sin.

Pray. Pray that God will direct your path away from the people, places, and things that tempt you to sin. The Lord’s Prayer includes the petition, *“And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil,”* Matthew 6:13. Pray that God will keep you from the influences of Satan. Pray that He will deliver you from all evil influences.

Know His Word. Meditate on His Word. Study His Word. Memorize His Word. More time in the Bible results in less sin. Less time in the Bible results in more sin. *“Your word I have treasured in my heart, that I may not sin against You,”* Psalm 119:11.

Walk by His Spirit. You cannot avoid sin by living a self-directed life. You must live a God-directed life to avoid sin. *“But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh,”* Galatians 5:16.

Set your mind on things above ... not on the things of the world, the flesh, and the devil. *“Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth,”* Colossians 3:1-2. Your life will follow the focus and direction of your mind. *“Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things,”* Philippians 4:8.

Be careful of overconfidence. Don’t think that you have reached a state of immunity to the dangers of sin and temptation. *“Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed that he does not fall,”* 1 Corinthians 10:12. Don’t be self-confident in your ability to resist sin. *“Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before stumbling,”* Proverbs 16:18.

Take immediate and aggressive action against any sin in your life. *“Let us cleanse ourselves from all defilement of flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God,”* 2 Corinthians 7:1. Put *“aside all filthiness and all that remains of wickedness,”* James 1:21. Don’t get involved in any immoral behavior. Are you involved in some sexual sin? Then stop! *“Abstain from sexual immorality,”* 1 Thessalonians 4:3. Don’t let yourself get involved in any form of evil. *“But examine everything carefully; hold fast to that which is good; abstain from every form of evil,”* 1 Thessalonians 5:21-22.

Abandon the battlefield. Running away from the battlefield is often the best way to win against sexual sin. Run from the people, places, and things that tempt you. *“Now flee from youthful lusts,”* 2 Timothy 2:22. *“Flee immorality,”* 1 Corinthians 6:18. Abandon the battlefield of idolatry. There are many idols in this world ... things that can become false objects of worship. There are the idols of false religion. Riches and possessions can become objects of worship. Even people can become idols. Worship God and God alone. God has commanded, *“You shall have no other gods before Me,”* Exodus 20:3. Abandon the battlefield. *“Flee from idolatry,”* 1 Corinthians 10:14.

Remember that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit. When you are tempted ... imagine the Spirit saying to you, *Hey! This is My temple. Don’t do that in My temple.* Keep His temple clean. *“Flee immorality. Every other sin that a man commits is outside the body, but the immoral man sins against his own body. Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own?”* 1 Corinthians 6:18-19.

Remember that you were bought with a price. Jesus shed His blood for you. *“If you address as Father the One who impartially judges according to each one’s work, conduct yourselves in fear during the time of your stay on earth; knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers, but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ,”* 1 Peter 1:17-19. When you are tempted ... imagine that you are looking up at Jesus from the foot of the cross. Picture His bruised and battered body. See His thorn-crowned head. Imagine the blood dripping from His nail-pierced hands and feet. Imagine Him looking down into your eyes. Hear Him say, *Don’t do that ... I’m shedding My blood for you.* Jesus died for you. Remember the price He paid for you. *“For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body,”* 1 Corinthians 6:20.

IDENTIFYING SIN

Is it sin? *“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,”* Romans 3:23. Sin is any nonconformity to, or transgression of, the character, Word, or will of God. Some things are sin in some situations ... but not in other situations. Some things are sin for some people ... but not for other people. God has instructed us in how to identify sin as sin. The Bible clearly identifies many actions and attitudes as sin ... and contains guidelines for determining if questionable things are or are not sin.

It is sin if ... it grieves rather than glorifies God. *“Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God,”* Ephesians 4:30. *“Do all to the glory of God,”* 1 Corinthians 10:31. Our lives should be consistent with our position as children of God. *“Walk in a manner worthy of the God who calls you into His own kingdom and glory,”* 1 Thessalonians 2:12.

It is sin if ... it violates the written Word of God. *“Keep His commandments,”* Psalm 78:7. *“You have ordained Your precepts, that we should keep them diligently,”* Psalm 119:4. The quality of your relationship with Jesus is connected to your obedience. Jesus said, *“If you love Me, you will keep My commandments,”* John 14:15. *“You are My friends if you do what I command you,”* John 15:14.

It is sin ... if you omit doing the right thing. Sins of omission are also sins. Holiness is more than a sinless vacuum. *“Therefore, to one who knows the right thing to do and does not do it, to him it is sin,”* James 4:17.

It is sin ... even if it is done in ignorance. Not knowing the Bible is no excuse. *“Now if a person sins and does any of the things which the Lord has commanded not to be done, though he was unaware, still he is guilty and shall bear his punishment,”* Leviticus 5:17.

It is sin if ... it damages or denigrates the temple of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit indwells you. *“Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own?”* 1 Corinthians 6:19.

It is sin if ... it leads to slavery. Addictive behavior and substances are wrong. *“All things are lawful for me, but not all things are profitable. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be mastered by anything,”* 1 Corinthians 6:12.

It is sin if ... you are committing it in your mind. It has been said that you cannot stop the birds from flying over your head ... but you can stop them from nesting in your hair. This illustrates the difference between *thought temptations* and *thought sins*. Jesus said, *“I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart,”* Matthew 5:28.

It is sin if ... you think it is a sin. *"I know and am convinced in the Lord Jesus that nothing is unclean in itself; but to him who thinks anything to be unclean, to him it is unclean,"* Romans 14:14. If you do something that you think is a sin, even if it is not intrinsically a sin, you are guilty of rebellion against God. Your doubt makes it a sin. However, the reverse of that is not true ... lack of doubt does not negate the sinfulness of a sin. A seared conscience can cloud your recognition of sin, I Timothy 4:2.

It is a sin if ... it is a negative influence rather than a positive influence. Build up. Don't tear down. Strengthen. Don't weaken. Help. Don't hurt. *"All things are lawful, but not all things are profitable. All things are lawful, but not all things edify,"* 1 Corinthians 10:23. Ask yourself, "Is this profitable?"

It is a sin if ... it offends a nonbeliever. Don't offend non-believers. *"Give no offense either to Jews or to Greeks or to the church of God; just as I also please all men in all things, not seeking my own profit but the profit of the many, so that they may be saved,"* 1 Corinthians 10:32-33. The message of the Gospel may offend a non-believer ... but the messenger should not be the cause of the offense. It is appropriate to be bold with the Gospel, Ephesians 6:19-20 and Proverbs 28:1. However, boldness without sensitivity to the listener is sin. Boldness and sensitivity are not mutually exclusive.

It is a sin if ... it offends or puts an obstacle in a brother's way. At times, we must modify our behavior for the sake of other Believers. *"But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak,"* 1 Corinthians 8:9. *"Determine this - - not to put an obstacle or a stumbling block in a brother's way ... For if because of food your brother is hurt, you are no longer walking according to love. Do not destroy with your food him for whom Christ died ... for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit ... Do not tear down the work of God for the sake of food. All things indeed are clean, but they are evil for the man who eats and gives offense,"* Romans 14:13-21. Use your Christian liberty carefully. Freedom, as a believer, to eat a particular food or to drink a particular beverage is not freedom to eat or drink those in every situation.

It is *not* sin ... to modify your behavior in different situations and with different people. Modifying your behavior, without sinning, to maximize ministry is not hypocrisy. Jesus took on a different form. He became a man. Jesus *"emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men,"* Philippians 2:7. Paul modified his behavior to witness to nonbelievers. *"To the Jews I became as a Jew, so that I might win Jews ... so that I might win those who are under the Law; to those who are without law, as without law ... so that I might win those who are without law. To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak; I have become all things to all men, so that I may by all means save some,"* 1 Corinthians 9:20-22.

It is sin if ... it is obedience to Bible-contradicting rituals, rules, and traditions. Traditions and rituals can be fine ... but they are neither equal to nor greater than the Bible. Jesus said, *"But in vain do they worship Me, teaching as doctrines the precepts of men,"* Matthew 15:9. Some misguided leaders defraud other Believers by teaching man-made doctrines as Bible truth, Colossians 2:18-23, 1 Timothy 4:1-5. Following a false teacher, or following false teaching, does not excuse Believers from their own responsibility and accountability for sin, Colossians 2:8.

Obedience is unacceptable if ... it is not done from the heart. Perfunctory prayers and worship are meaningless. *"And when you are praying, do not use meaningless repetition as the Gentiles do, for they suppose that they will be heard for their many words,"* Matthew 6:7. Jesus said, *"You hypocrites, rightly did Isaiah prophesy of you: 'This people honors Me with their lips, but their heart is far away from Me,'"* Matthew 15:7-8. When you frequently say the Lord's Prayer, do you mean every word? Do you pray it from your heart? There are many great hymns and praise songs. Do you really mean the words that you sing? Do you sing from your heart?

Obedience is unacceptable if ... it is done to impress others. An audience of one or more observers can tempt us to try to impress them. *"Beware of practicing your righteousness before men to be noticed by them; otherwise you have no reward with your Father who is in Heaven,"* Matthew 6:1. Applause may be your only reward, Matthew 6:2, 5, and 16. Do not seek the recognition of others when you give, Matthew 6:2-4. Do not pray to impress the others with whom you pray, Matthew 6:5-6. Fast ... but do not try to impress others by your fasting, Matthew 6:2-6. Practicing your righteousness to be noticed by others is not really practicing your righteousness at all.

Obedience is unacceptable if ... it attempts to cover disobedience. Ananias and Sapphira gave a significant gift ... but it was unacceptable because of their sin, Acts 5:1-11. Disobedience negates the value of religious activity, Isaiah 1:11-16, Amos 5:21-24. The Pharisees covered their more serious sins with an outer veneer of obedience to smaller things, Matthew 23:23-28. Christians often have their lists of sins to avoid ... the nasty nine, the evil eight, or the terrible twelve. Often the things on those lists are sins. But what about some of the more serious sins? What about not witnessing? What about not making disciples? Are those on many of those lists? Jesus criticized the Pharisees by calling them blind guides who strain out the gnat [a tiny unclean insect] while swallowing a camel [a very big unclean animal]. In our obedience, do we strain out the gnats and swallow camels?

TEMPTATIONS, TRIALS, AND TESTS

The Hebrew and Greek words translated in the Bible as various forms of *temptations*, *trials*, and *tests* are used somewhat interchangeably. They have the meanings of testing, proving worth, refining, revealing weakness, stretching thin, enticing to do wrong, seducing, and inducing. However, the English word *tempt* is primarily understood to mean *induce or entice to do evil*. The three sources of the temptations to do evil are the world, 1 John 2:16 ... the flesh, James 1:14-15 ... and the devil, Matthew 4:3, 1 Corinthians 7:5. God does not tempt us to do evil. *“Let no one say when he is tempted, ‘I am being tempted by God’; for God cannot be tempted by evil, and He Himself does not tempt anyone,”* James 1:13. However, He does allow us to be tempted and tested, Exodus 16:4, Deuteronomy 13:1-3, 1 Peter 1:6-7. God refines us by trials, Psalm 66:10, Isaiah 48:10. Temptations, trials, and tests are not sin ... but they can lead to sin if they are not dealt with in God’s way. Jesus was tempted, tested, and tried ... but He did not sin. He is the *“One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin,”* Hebrews 4:14. The various forms of the words *temptations*, *trials*, and *tests* are used interchangeably in the following guidelines.

Pray that you will not enter into temptation. Jesus included that request, *“and do not lead us into temptation”*, in the Lord’s Prayer, Matthew 6:13. In Gethsemane He said to three of His disciples, *“Pray that you may not enter into temptation,”* Luke 22:40.

Know that you are not alone in your struggle. Jesus understands what you are experiencing. He can sympathize with you because He too was tempted. *“Therefore, He had to be made like His brethren in all things ... For since He Himself was tempted in that which He has suffered, He is able to come to the aid of those who are tempted,”* Hebrews 2:17-18. *“For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin. Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need,”* Hebrews 4:15-16. Other Believers have been tempted and tried in similar ways. Know that your temptation is not unique. *“No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man,”* 1 Corinthians 10:13.

Plan on enduring. God will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you can endure. God limits your trials so that you can endure. You do not have to fail. *“God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it,”* 1 Corinthians 10:13. With the temptation, He provides a way of escape. Why? He provides a way of escape so that you can *endure* the temptation. That verse contains no promise of immediate escape ... but it does promise that you can endure.

Look forward to the future benefits. *“In the wilderness He fed you manna which your fathers did not know, that He might humble you and that He might test you, to do good for you in the end,”* Deuteronomy 8:16.

Look forward to being stronger. *“And not only this, but we also exult in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance; and perseverance, proven character; and proven character, hope; and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us,”* Romans 5:3-5.

Look forward to greater endurance. God is conditioning you to run faster, farther, and longer. *“Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing,”* James 1:2-4.

Look forward to being able to help others. *“Simon, Simon, behold, Satan has demanded permission to sift you like wheat; but I have prayed for you, that your faith may not fail; and you, when once you have turned again, strengthen your brothers,”* Luke 22:31-32.

Look forward to being blessed. *“We count those blessed who endured. You have heard of the endurance of Job and have seen the outcome of the Lord’s dealings, that the Lord is full of compassion and is merciful,”* James 5:11.

Look beyond any temporary difficulties to the eternal blessings. *“In this you greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by various trials, so that the proof of your faith, being more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ,”* 1 Peter 1:6-7. *“For momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison, while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal,”* 2 Corinthians 4:17-18

Keep looking to Jesus. We have great examples of faith overcoming trials in Hebrews 11:1-40. Moreover, Jesus is our greatest example. Keep your eyes on Him rather than on your trials. *“Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider Him who has endured such hostility by sinners against Himself, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart,”* Hebrew 12:1-3.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Forgiveness. Forgiveness is given to those who have believed in Jesus. *“Everyone who believes in Him receives forgiveness of sins,”* Acts 10:43. When we believed in Jesus we were freed from the penalty of sin ... but sin is still present in our lives, 1 John 1:8. That sin clouds our relationship with God. Our sins need be confessed to God.

Confession. Confession is more than just asking for forgiveness. It is agreeing with God that your sin is sin. It is admitting to Him that you have committed specific sins. It is more than admitting that you are a sinner ... it is concurring that your particular actions and attitudes are sins. Such confession is a condition for the forgiveness and cleansing mentioned in 1 John 1:9, *“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”*

The blessings of forgiveness. *“How blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered!”*, Psalm 32:1. Forgiven sins are taken away. *“As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us,”* Psalm 103:12. *“You have cast all my sins behind Your back,”* Isaiah 38:17. *“I, even I, am the one who wipes out your transgressions for My own sake, and I will not remember your sins,”* Isaiah 43:25.

The consequences of unconfessed sin. God knows everything about us, Hebrews 4:13. Confession is agreeing with what God already knows ... that our sins are sins. It is futile to try to hide our sins from God. *“He who conceals his transgressions will not prosper, but he who confesses and forsakes them will find compassion,”* Proverbs 28:13. God is compassionate to us when we confess. But, if we do not confess we can be filled with anxiety, Psalm 38:18. If we are silent about our sin then our health can suffer ... we can feel God’s heavy hand upon us ... our vitality can be drained ... and guilt can overwhelm us, Psalm 32:3-5. God’s indignation and our guilt can be a great burden. Unconfessed sin can cause illness and exhaustion, Psalm 38:4.

Forgiving others. We must not be an army that shoots its own wounded soldiers. Tend to the wounds of others ... forgive and restore them, Galatians 6:1-2. God has forgiven you ... therefore forgive others, Ephesians 4:32. Do not withhold forgiveness from someone who repents, Luke 17:3-4. Peter asked, *“Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me and I forgive him? Up to seven times?”* Jesus said to him, *“I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven,”* Matthew 18:21-22. God’s forgiveness of you is tied to your forgiveness of others, Matthew 6:14-15. We pray in the Lord’s Prayer, *“Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors,”* Matthew 6:12.

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Disciplemaking 1 - Review Questions

Lesson 10 - In the War ... pages 136 - 150

Part of learning is review ... storing new knowledge into your long term memory. Print this review test or use separate paper to answer the following questions. Then repeat this test, open book or closed book, until you can accurately and easily answer all the questions. These *review exams* are available with correct answers on VirtualBibleAcademy.org.

1. Our three enemies are the _____, the _____, and the _____.
2. We have been born behind _____ into a fallen _____.
3. We have a _____ in our ranks, our fallen _____.
4. We fight the _____ enemy Satan, the fallen _____.
5. The war is already won because of what Jesus did on the _____.
6. Our God-given defenses in the battle against the world are:
 - a. Do not be entangled in the _____, 2 Timothy 2:3-4.
 - b. Do not _____ the world, nor the _____ of the world, 1 John 2:15.
 - c. Do not be _____ to this world but be _____ by the _____ of your mind, Romans 12:2.
7. In our battle against the flesh, we must:
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
 - d.
 - e.
 - f.

8. In our battle against the devil, we must:

- a.
- b.
- c.
- d.
- e.
- f.
- g.

9. Circle or underline the things in the following list that Satan does:

Murders	Accuses believers	Is a source of false teaching
Lies	Disguises himself	Blinds the eyes of non-believers
Tempts	Seeks to devour	Holds non-believers captive
Schemes	Is generally nice	Steals the Word from non-believers

10. In striving against sin, we must:

- a.
- b.
- c.
- d.
- e.
- f.
- g.
- h.
- i.
- j.

11. *True* or *False*: God is a source of temptation. _____

12. Review the list [pages 148-149] of ways to deal with temptations and trials.

- a. Which of these was most significant in your past victories?

- b. The absence which one was most significant in your past failures?

Disciplemaking 1 - Answers to Review Questions

Lesson 10 - In the War ... pages 151 - 152

Do not use these answer sheets to find your answers. Please use them only to check your answers. Go back into the lesson to find the information to correct your answers. Repeat the test until you can accurately and easily answer all the questions. All the lessons, review tests, and answer pages are available on VirtualBibleAcademy.org.

1. Our three enemies are the world, the flesh, and the devil.
2. We have been born behind enemy lines into a fallen world.
3. We have a traitor in our ranks, our fallen nature.
4. We fight the invisible enemy Satan, the fallen angel.
5. The war is already won because of what Jesus did on the cross.
6. Our God-given defenses in the battle against the world are:
 - a. Do not be entangled in the affairs of everyday life, 2 Timothy 2:3-4.
 - b. Do not love the world, nor the things of the world, 1 John 2:15.
 - c. Do not be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, Romans 12:2.
7. In our battle against the flesh, we must:
 - a. *Lay aside the old self and put on the new self.*
 - b. *Set your mind on the Spirit and not on the flesh.*
 - c. *Put no confidence in the flesh.*
 - d. *Stop yielding to the lust of the flesh.*
 - e. *Make no provision for the flesh.*
 - f. *Think of yourself as alive from the dead.*

8. In our battle against the devil, we must:

- a. *Resist him.*
- b. *Pray.*
- c. *Be alert.*
- d. *Give him no opportunities.*
- e. *Don't be involved in anything occult.*
- f. *Put on the full armor of God.*
- g. *Tell people about Jesus.*

9. Circle or underline the things in the following list that Satan does:

<u>Murders</u>	<u>Accuses believers</u>	<u>Is a source of false teaching</u>
<u>Lies</u>	<u>Disguises himself</u>	<u>Blinds the eyes of non-believers</u>
<u>Tempts</u>	<u>Seeks to devour</u>	<u>Holds non-believers captive</u>
<u>Schemes</u>	<u>Is generally nice</u>	<u>Steals the Word from non-believers</u>

10. In striving against sin, we must:

- a. *Be a doer and not just a hearer of the Word.*
- b. *Pray.*
- c. *Know God's Word.*
- d. *Walk by His Spirit.*
- e. *Set your mind on things above.*
- f. *Be careful of over-confidence.*
- g. *Take aggressive action against the sin in your life.*
- h. *Abandon the battlefield ... run from sin and temptation.*
- i. *Remember that your body is the Holy Spirit's Temple.*
- j. *Remember that you were bought by the blood of Jesus.*

11. *True or False*: God is a source of temptation. False

12. Review the list [pages 148-149] of ways to deal with temptations and trials.

- a. Which of these was most significant in your past victories?

- b. The absence which one was most significant in your past failures?



“Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth.” 2 Timothy 2:15

Disciplemaking 1 - Abiding in His Word

APPENDIX: TEACHING OTHERS

“And the things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, these entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also.” 2 Timothy 2:2

You should be better equipped to be a disciple since you have completed these ten *Disciplemaking 1* lessons. As a disciple of Jesus Christ, you should continue to grow to become a disciplemaker. Two important words in the life of a disciplemaker are *apply* and *multiply*. Apply what you learn to your own life. Then multiply it to others helping them become disciples and disciplemakers. Paul wrote about disciplemaking in the verse above. Paul had taught Timothy. Then he encouraged Timothy to teach the same things to faithful men ... faithful men who could teach those same things to others. The multiplication was from Paul ... to Timothy ... to faithful men ... to others. That is the goal of this *Disciplemaking 1* course.

The things that you have learned from me in this course, entrust these to faithful Believers who will be able to teach others also. That's me to you ... to faithful Believers ... to others also. Become a disciplemaker by teaching some of what you have learned in *Disciplemaking 1*. Teaching the full course is challenging. So you might want to start by teaching just parts of it. Opportunities to teach may be all around you ... in a Bible study, in a Sunday school, or one-on-one with a friend. One-on-one teaching can be an easy place to start. You can teach new Believers, young Believers, or more mature Believers who want to help others. Pray. Ask God for an opportunity. God will give you the right opportunities if you are equipped and willing.

This appendix is designed to help you make the transition from student to teacher ... from disciple to disciplemaker. If you have the right goal and follow some simple guidelines, you can become a better teacher. And you can enjoy the process of teaching. The goal of teaching is changed lives ... increased knowledge resulting in increased obedience. Simply stated, the product of good teaching is full lives, not full notebooks. Paul wrote this about his own teaching, *“And we proclaim Him [Jesus], admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, that we may present every man complete in Christ,”* Colossians 1:28. This appendix gives some simple guidelines for teaching. These are in four areas ... understanding what teaching is ... preparing the teacher ... preparing the lesson plan ... and teaching the lesson. Follow these guidelines and you will be a better teacher. Learn them before you teach. Apply them as you teach. Review them after you teach.

UNDERSTANDING THE PROCESS OF TEACHING

Preaching and teaching are different. Preaching persuades people. Teaching equips people. The goal of preaching is to motivate to immediate action. The goal of teaching is to increase knowledge that leads to immediate and long term action. The preacher's listeners do not necessarily retain much of the content of the sermon ... but are motivated to change their lives. The teacher's students learn and retain knowledge and therefore change their lives. I have *preached Lesson 4 - The Old Testament* and people have been impressed by how much I know about the Old Testament. But I have also *taught* that lesson and people are impressed by how much they learned about the Old Testament. Good preaching and good teaching are important. Both are good. But they are different in goals and different in methodologies.

The definitions. *Preaching* is proclaiming, professing, persuading. *Teaching* is equipping, imparting knowledge, causing to learn, and training in knowledge and application. *Preaching* persuades ... encourages, exhorts, and in today's Westernized church also entertains people to believe, behave, and belong. *Teaching* transfers knowledge to students ... *equipping* them to believe, behave, and belong.

New Testament examples. Two different words are used in the New Testament for preaching and teaching. Those two words are not synonyms. Jesus preached to the multitudes. But He taught His Disciples. Paul preached the Gospel. But he taught Believers to grow in Christ. New Testament preaching was often done with the preacher standing ... and to an audience of non-believers. New Testament teaching was often done with the teacher sitting ... and to an audience of Believers.

The similarities. Good teaching has good Biblical content. Good preaching has good Biblical content ... but good Biblical content does not make it teaching. Preaching without good content is no more than bad preaching. Classic rhetoric needs to be mastered. Good preaching *and* good teaching include the three elements of rhetoric ... logos, ethos, and pathos. Both skills need a logical, content-rich presentation [logos] ... from a credible presenter and credible presentation [ethos] ... with convincing persuasion [pathos]. Good preaching is important. I have preached many times ... and regularly listen to good preaching. And I have taught many times ... sometimes 30 or 40 hours in a single week. I know that the methodologies [skills] are different. And good teaching is as difficult, if not more difficult, than good preaching.

Different methodologies. The skills, the methodologies, are very different.

Preaching doesn't require the listeners to bring much out of their long-term knowledge memories. *Teaching* requires the student to retrieve what they have stored in long-term memory. It is the teacher's responsibly to cause that retrieval.

Preaching seeks acknowledgment and agreement ... neither of which requires significant cognitive integration [mental processing]. It is fine if the preacher's audience cannot retain or re-state the content and logic that persuaded them ... as long as they are persuaded. *Teaching* seeks cognitive integration [mental processing] ... seeks to help the student integrate new knowledge from the teacher into their previously retained knowledge.

Preaching streams content in a continuous stream of words with little time for the listeners' cognitive engagement. *Teaching* pulses information in cognitively processable chunks. "*Listening to you is like drinking from a firehose*" might be a compliment to a preacher ... but it is not a compliment to a teacher.

PREPARING THE TEACHER

Good teaching begins with the preparation of the teacher. To prepare yourself as a teacher you should pray ... study ... review ... and model.

Pray. Pray for yourself. Pray as Moses prayed, *“Let my teaching drop as the rain, my speech distill as the dew, as the droplets on the fresh grass and as the showers on the herb,”* Deuteronomy 32:2. Pray as you prepare each lesson. Pray that you will understand and master each lesson. Pray as you prepare the lesson plan. Pray for teaching clarity, accuracy, enthusiasm, conviction, and for the Holy Spirit’s work. Pray for your students by name. Pray that they will understand and apply the lessons to themselves. Paul’s prayer for the Believers in Colossae is a great example, *“For this reason also, since the day we heard of it, we have not ceased to pray for you and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so that you may walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; strengthened with all power, according to His glorious might, for the attaining of all steadfastness and patience; joyously giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in Light,”* Colossians 1:9-12.

Study. First, know the material thoroughly. Learn the lesson for yourself. Examine each part of it ... think about it ... remember it. Study each section, chart, and map. Read and study the verses that are referenced. Know the lesson as a whole. Know the details. Master all of it. The second part of studying involves preparing the lesson plan. Knowing the lesson for yourself is different from knowing *how* to teach it to someone else. Guidelines for preparing the lesson plan are on the next page of this appendix. Studying is hard work. It takes time. There are no shortcuts. *“Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, handling accurately the word of truth,”* 2 Timothy 2:15.

Review. After you have studied the lesson and prepared the lesson plan, review them many times. Reviewing many times makes the lesson your own ... giving you thorough knowledge. Thorough knowledge gives confidence and comfort in teaching. When you thoroughly know the lesson, you can concentrate on the student getting it right rather than on you getting it right. Review the lesson every time before teaching it. You may be teaching it for the 5th time ... but your students may be hearing it for the first time. A final review just a few minutes before teaching can be a big help.

Model. Be a good example of what you teach. Be an illustration of the lesson. Apply the lesson to yourself before you multiply it to others. Live it before you give it. By doing this you will be a better teacher. You will show that the lesson can be learned and that it can be lived. Your student(s) will believe your teaching because of your good example. Paul wrote, *“Be imitators of me, just as I also am of Christ,”* 1 Corinthians 11:1, and *“In speech, conduct, love, faith and purity, show yourself an example of those who believe,”* 1 Timothy 4:12. Be able to say to your students, *“Come with me to higher ground ... I’ve been there.”* Don’t say, *“Go there ... I’ve only heard it’s nice.”* You cannot teach your students to be more spiritual than you are. Jesus said, *“A pupil is not above his teacher; but everyone, after he has been fully trained, will be like his teacher,”* Luke 6:40.

PREPARING THE LESSON PLAN

The lesson plan is the answer to the question, *How am I going to teach this lesson?* The *how* is not the same as the *what* of teaching. The lesson plan is your instruction to yourself on *how* to teach the material. Write your lesson plan on the lesson pages.

Set the goal. Decide what your goal is for each lesson. Know what you want the students to learn, remember, and apply. Build your lesson plan to achieve that goal.

Pre-test ... teach ... post-test. Pre-testing helps the student bring to mind what they already know about the subject. Simply asking a few questions about the subject can make that happen. If you are teaching a group, ask them to *not* give the answers out loud because as soon as one person answers out loud, everyone else stops thinking. Then teach the lesson or section as described immediately below. And finally, ask some questions [again with silent answers only] to help your student(s) remember the content.

Overview ... detail ... and review. Good teaching includes all three of these. Build them into your lesson plan. The first step is a brief overview of the lesson or the section. This gives the student a framework for the detailed content of the lesson. The next step is the detail of the lesson. This is the printed content *and* your hand-written notes. The final step is a review of each section and of the whole lesson. Tell them what you are going to tell them ... then tell them ... and then tell them what you have told them. Follow this pattern section by section through each lesson.

Add clarity. Good teaching is understood. Teaching needs to be clear and easily understood. Add definitions and illustrations [word pictures]. Good illustrations add clarity ... explaining the unknown in terms of the known. Decide what questions you want to ask your students that will get them to think and understand the lesson.

Prepare your notes. The best place to write your notes is on the pages of the lesson. Write instructions to yourself. Write comments on the content of the lessons. Underline or circle for emphasis. Draw connecting arrows for progression or cause and effect. Put assignments for your students at the end of each lesson. Make your notes brief, simple, clear, thorough, and *very* legible ... remember you will be referring to them as you teach.

TEACHING THE LESSON

Good teaching is a product of the preparation of the teacher and the preparation of a good lesson plan. Consistently good teaching doesn't happen without both of these.

Take time to focus before teaching. In the few minutes just before teaching, take some time to focus your mind and heart on the lesson. Pray for yourself, your students, your teaching, and the Holy Spirit's work. Think about the goal of the lesson. Briefly review the lesson ... especially the beginning of it.

State the purpose. Briefly tell your students the goal of the lesson. Tell them the purpose of your teaching. Their knowing what to expect makes your teaching and their learning easier.

Encourage learning and application. Paul encouraged his students. *“You know how we were exhorting and encouraging and imploring each one of you as a father would his own children, so that you may walk in a manner worthy of the God who calls you into His own kingdom and glory,”* 1 Thessalonians 2:11-12. Be like Paul. And your mastery of the lesson material shows that it can be learned. And honest, non-prideful, personal examples from your own life can be a great encouragement.

Be clear ... be simple ... be brief. Complexity is usually the enemy of understanding. Many words, and many big words, add complexity and confusion to the teaching. A famous speech in the United States, President Abraham Lincoln’s Gettysburg Address in 1863, was an illustration of simplicity adding to the impact of communication. Lincoln spoke for about two minutes. His speech contained only 262 words ... and 202 were one-syllable words. Keep your lessons simple. Stay on subject. Adding a lot of extra detail or extra material takes away from the students’ understanding of the whole lesson ... and it makes the lesson less transferable to others.

Overview ... detail ... and review. Follow your lesson plan ... pre-test ... then overview, detail, and review ... then post-test. Do these things for each section of the lesson. Don’t forget to do some pre-testing and post-testing.

Get them thinking. Good teaching gets the students mentally involved in the lesson. Put them in the role of discoverers. Pre-testing and post-testing help that happen. Encourage them to underline and take notes. Get them thinking ... give them time to think ... and keep them thinking.

Put your students first. Their spiritual growth should be your highest priority in teaching. Their increased knowledge *and* obedience are the goals. Tell your students when you don’t know an answer ... then get the answer for the next time you meet.

Teach only with attention. If people stop listening, stop talking. You cannot teach without attention. Plan ahead to eliminate distractions. Don’t be surprised by distractions. They happen. Stop and wait for the distraction to be over. Start again when you have regained attention. Distractive students destroy learning. A gentle correction usually is enough ... but if not, become more firm and direct. Talk to them alone afterwards to explain why you corrected them. And make a list of off-the-subject questions, and answer them outside of class time. Use question and answer times, class discussion, and breaks to keep attention ... or to regain attention.

Evaluate your teaching. Review this appendix and evaluate your teaching after you have taught each lesson. And teachers can help one another ... evaluate, correct, and encourage one another. *“Iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another,”* Proverbs 27:17. Don’t be defensive when you are corrected, *“Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be still wiser, teach a righteous man, and he will increase his learning,”* Proverbs 9:8-9. Make the necessary adjustments for the next class.

“And the things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, these entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also.” 2 Timothy 2:2

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“Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth.” 2 Timothy 2:15

Final Exhortations

Dear Student or Teacher,

Certain Bible verses have defined my ministry of discipling and evangelism. So I leave you with some of those verses as my final exhortations to you. The first was written in my Bible on the day I received Jesus Christ as my Savior.

“Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not in vain in the Lord.” 1 Corinthians 15:58

“Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.” Romans 12:1-2

“All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.” 2 Timothy 3:16-17

“Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, ‘If you continue in [abide in] My word, then you are truly My disciples; and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.’” John 8:31-32

“Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a worker who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth.” 2 Timothy 2:15

“The things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.” 2 Timothy 2:2

“And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, ‘All authority has been given to Me in Heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.’” Matthew 28:18-20

“You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.” Acts 1:8

Yours in His service,

John D. Morris III

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