

— OUTLINE —

- I. When God's Word first comes to you, Satan immediately tries to steal it (Matt. 13:19).
 - A. However, he can only do so if you don't have understanding.
 - B. That's why you need to comprehend what takes place the moment you accept the Lord.
 - C. Understanding prevents the devil from talking you out of your salvation benefits.

- II. God's Word promises **“that if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation”** (Rom. 10:9-10).
 - A. **“For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved”** (Rom. 10:13).
 - B. Have you done this?
 - C. If your answer is yes, then you've been saved!
 - D. You were saved the very moment you sincerely committed your life to Jesus Christ.
 - E. The truth of His Word instantly came to pass as you believed in your heart and confessed with your mouth.

- III. You're in good hands now!
 - A. John 10:28-29 says,

I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand.
 - B. Since you've committed your life to Him, He'll keep you.

For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.

2 TIMOTHY 1:12
 - C. God will be faithful even when you aren't!

It is a faithful saying: For if we be dead with him, we shall also live with him: If we suffer, we shall also reign with him: if we deny him, he also will deny us: If we believe not, yet he abideth faithful: he cannot deny himself.

2 TIMOTHY 2:11-13

- D. When you make mistakes or feel discouraged, just remember—God can't deny Himself, because He always keeps His Word!
- IV. Knowledge from God's Word helps you comprehend what took place in your life at salvation.
- A. Knowing and following Him will bring you unspeakable joy.
 - B. Salvation isn't just going to heaven when you die; God wants you to start experiencing your salvation benefits immediately.
 - C. This requires knowledge from His Word.
 - D. As you understand and act on that knowledge, you'll experience the benefits of your salvation.
- V. God has given you everything you need for life and godliness through the knowledge of Him.

Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord, According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

2 PETER 1:2-4

- A. The knowledge of God gives you access to His promises.
 - B. By believing and acting on them, you'll partake of His divine nature.
 - C. This means you'll experience all of God's love, joy, peace, health, deliverance, prosperity, etc., that's already in your spirit now by Christ Jesus!
 - D. As your thinking changes to line up with your born-again spirit, your life will change too.
 - E. Just because you were born again doesn't mean that all of your negative attitudes and thought patterns have changed yet.
 - F. As the Word changes the way you believe, speak, and expect things to be, you'll start experiencing your salvation benefits!
- VI. Your whole outlook will change as you grow in the knowledge of God and His promises.
- A. This is called "renewing your mind."

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

ROMANS 12:1-2

- B. The way you think must match your born-again spirit.
 - C. Your born-again spirit is always in agreement with God.
 - D. The Word will renew your mind to what's already happened in your spirit.
 - E. By submitting yourself to His Word, your life will change like a caterpillar transforming into a beautiful butterfly.
 - F. Be transformed by the knowledge of God, and your life will increasingly reflect Christ Jesus.
- VII. Some people don't understand the spiritual nature of the radical change that occurred when they committed their lives to Christ.
- A. They don't feel any different, and their circumstances certainly haven't changed.
 - B. Discouraged by this lack of immediate outward transformation, they incorrectly conclude that nothing really happened at salvation.
 - C. Because of this, many never go on to renew their minds and enjoy the benefits of salvation.
 - D. Your body and soul (mind, will, and emotions) didn't change at salvation the way your spirit did.
 - E. Your mind isn't instantly changed; it's your spirit that's been made new!
 - F. Since you can't see or touch your spirit, God's Word is the only way you can know what has happened within: **"It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing; the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life"** (John 6:63).
 - G. Faith is simply trusting what the Word says happened in your spirit more than what you see in the natural.
- VIII. Feelings change, but the truth doesn't!
- A. If you genuinely committed your life to the Lord, the truth is He will always honor that commitment.
 - B. Your relationship with God is secure.
 - C. Whether you felt anything or not, radical change took place in your spirit, and you're now a brand-new person—trust that God's Word to you is true!
 - D. You'll experience your salvation more as you renew your mind.
 - E. When you think according to the flesh (i.e., what your five senses tell you) and give in to negative external influences, you won't be able to enjoy God's benefits.

- F. However, as you trust the truth of God's Word by keeping your mind on the Lord and thinking in line with your born-again spirit, you'll experience God's love, peace, joy, etc. (Gal. 5:22-23).
- G. The choice is yours—begin renewing your mind today!

DISCIPLESHIP — QUESTIONS —

1. According to Matthew 13:19, what does Satan immediately try to do when God's Word first comes to you?

2. Understanding the Word prevents what?

3. God's Word promises in Romans 10:9 **“that if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead,”** you will be what?

4. **“For _____ shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved”**
(Rom. 10:13).
5. True or false: You weren't saved until at least an hour after you sincerely committed your life to Jesus Christ.
6. Since you've committed your life to Him, what will God do for you?

7. God will be _____ even when you aren't!
8. How do you start experiencing the salvation benefits God has provided for you?

9. According to 2 Peter 1:2-4, what has God given you through the knowledge of Him?

10. As your thinking changes to line up with your born-again spirit, what will happen to your life?

11. True or false: As the Word changes the way you believe, speak, and expect things to be, you'll start experiencing salvation benefits.

12. Your whole outlook will change as you grow in the knowledge of God and His promises—Romans 12:2 tells you this is called _____.

13. What must match your born-again spirit?

- A. Your furniture
- B. Your way of life
- C. Your thinking
- D. All of the above
- E. None of the above

14. Your life will increasingly reflect Jesus when you are what?

15. When people are discouraged by the lack of immediate outward transformation and conclude that nothing really happened at salvation, what do many never do?

16. Did your body and soul (mind, will, and emotions) change at salvation the same way your spirit did?

17. Since you can't see or touch your spirit, what is the only way you can know what has happened within?

18. _____ is simply trusting what the Word says happened in your spirit more than what you see in the _____.

19. If you genuinely committed your life to the Lord, will He always honor that commitment?

20. True or false: Your relationship with God is unstable.

21. When you think according to the flesh (i.e., according to what your five senses tell you) and give in to negative external influences, what will you not be able to enjoy?

22. How will you experience God's love, peace, joy, and all the other things listed in Galatians 5:22-23?

23. Is the choice yours to make?

— SCRIPTURES —

MATTHEW 13:19

When any one heareth the word of the kingdom, and understandeth it not, then cometh the wicked one, and catcheth away that which was sown in his heart. This is he which received seed by the way side.

ROMANS 10:9-10

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

ROMANS 10:13

For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

JOHN 10:28-29

And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. [29] My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand.

2 TIMOTHY 1:12

For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.

2 TIMOTHY 2:11-13

It is a faithful saying: For if we be dead with him, we shall also live with him: [12] If we suffer, we shall also reign with him: if we deny him, he also will deny us: [13] If we believe not, yet he abideth faithful: he cannot deny himself.

2 PETER 1:2-4

Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord, [3] According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: [4] Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

ROMANS 12:1-2

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. [2] And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

2 CORINTHIANS 5:17

Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

JOHN 6:63

It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.

MATTHEW 10:32

Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven.

HEBREWS 13:5

Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.

GALATIANS 5:22-23

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, [23] Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

— OUTLINE —

- I. Salvation is God's gift to you through faith in Jesus Christ.
 - A. **“For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord”** (Rom. 6:23).
 - B. Salvation can't be earned by any amount of good works, because God doesn't give eternal life based on anything you do.
 - C. Jesus Christ did everything that needed to be done through His death, burial, and resurrection.
 - D. No one deserves to be saved because of their good works—**“For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God”** (Rom. 3:23).
 - E. Either you are completely righteous in His sight or you're not.
 - F. The Lord explicitly stated that He's not just a way to the Father but the way—**“Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me”** (John 14:6).
 - G. Either you come to God the Father through faith in His Son Jesus Christ, or you don't come at all!
- II. Jesus Christ was God in the flesh.
 - A. He wasn't just a good man who gave us a tremendous example of humility and love—He was literally God incarnate!

And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.

1 TIMOTHY 3:16
 - B. Either Jesus was a deceiver, or He is who He said He was.
 - C. Every cult and religion on earth acknowledges Jesus' existence, but they stop short of calling Him God.
 - D. They'll grant Him the status of a prophet or an inspired teacher sent from God but not Deity Himself.
 - E. Everything hinges on Jesus' divinity.
 - F. If Jesus wasn't God, then His life wasn't worth more than any other man's life, and He couldn't have atoned for the whole human race.

- G. However, since He was God in the flesh, His life was worth more than all mankind—making His sacrifice eternally sufficient for all!

III. Christianity is the only faith with a Savior.

- A. All other faiths depend on good works to achieve various degrees of “holiness.”
- B. In essence, you become your own savior because “salvation” is based on your own performance.
- C. God knew you couldn’t live a perfect life.
- D. Instead of demanding that you do everything right, He came and took your sin into His own body at the cross (1 Pet. 2:24).
- E. He suffered the punishment you deserved, to give you salvation as a gift.
- F. **“For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him”** (2 Cor. 5:21).
- G. When this exchange takes place, your spirit is immediately recreated with the righteousness of Jesus Christ.
- H. You are then able to fellowship with God spirit to Spirit—**“God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth”** (John 4:24).
- I. Even when you sin, your born-again spirit cannot be contaminated, because of the impenetrable seal of Christ’s own Spirit:

In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise.

EPHESIANS 1:13

- J. Since the new nature of your spirit is always holy, you can approach God at any time and in any condition.

IV. The Christian life is both born in faith and sustained by faith.

- A. You’ll just end up condemning yourself if you try to live it by your own works.
- B. As long as you’re in your physical body, there’ll be times when you fall short.
- C. God’s love doesn’t change when you make mistakes.
- D. If He went to the cross for you as a sinner, how much more does He love you now that you’re a Christian!

But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him. For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.

ROMANS 5:8-10

- E. He loves you more now as a Christian—even when you sin—than He did when you were lost.
 - F. Don't ever let your failures separate you from God's unfailing love!
- V. God gave the Law to show man he couldn't save himself.
- A. Jesus used several of these commandments in an attempt to show the rich young ruler we read about in Mark 10 that he would never be holy enough for eternal life on his own.
 - B. This young man genuinely thought he could do something to earn eternal life.
 - C. Doing and receiving by faith are very different from each other indeed!
 - D. The Law is like a plate glass window—whether you break it with a BB or a boulder, it's broken!
 - E. **“For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all”** (James 2:10).
 - F. Either you live holy and receive eternal life because you earned it (which is not possible), or you receive it by faith as a gift.
 - G. Who or what do you trust in as your “god”/God?
- VI. If you believe Jesus Christ was only a good person and that you can get to God through many different ways, you haven't truly made Him Lord of your life.
- A. Jesus is either Lord of all, or He isn't Lord at all!
 - B. Either Jesus Christ is your Savior ***and*** Lord, or He's not—it's that simple!

DISCIPLESHIP — QUESTIONS —

1. Romans 6:23 says, “**For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is**
_____ **through Jesus Christ our Lord.**”

2. Why can't salvation be earned by any amount of good works?

3. True or false: Jesus Christ did most of what needs to be done through His death, burial, and resurrection.

4. According to John 14:6, can you come to God through some way other than Jesus?

5. According to 1 Timothy 3:16, Jesus was literally...

- A. God incarnate
- B. A wise prophet
- C. A good man
- D. All of the above
- E. None of the above

6. How could Jesus atone for the whole human race?

7. Christianity is the only faith with a _____.

8. In all other faiths, why do you, in essence, become your own savior?

9. True or false: You can live a perfect life.

10. **“For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the”**
 what, according to 2 Corinthians 5:21?

11. Which scripture tells you that **“ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise”**?

12. Since the new nature of your spirit is always holy, can you approach God at any time and in any condition?

13. Since the Christian life is both born in faith and sustained by faith, what will happen if you try to live it by your own works?

14. As long as you're in your physical body, there'll be times when you what?

- A. Do the hokey pokey
- B. Make mistakes
- C. Get everything perfectly and consistently right
- D. All of the above
- E. None of the above

15. God's _____ doesn't _____ when you make mistakes.

16. What does Romans 5:8-10 tell you happened while you were yet a sinner?

17. True or false: You should let your failures separate you from God's love.

18. Why did God give the Law?

19. Are doing and receiving by faith the same thing?

20. James 2:10 says, “**For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is _____ of all.**”

21. If you believe that Jesus Christ was only a good person and that you can get to God through many different ways, what haven't you done?

— SCRIPTURES —

ROMANS 6:23

For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

ROMANS 3:23

For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.

JOHN 14:6

Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

ACTS 4:12

Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

MARK 10:17-22

And when he was gone forth into the way, there came one running, and kneeled to him, and asked him, Good Master, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life? [18] And Jesus said unto him, Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God. [19] Thou knowest the commandments, Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Defraud not, Honour thy father and mother. [20] And he answered and said unto him, Master, all these have I observed from my youth. [21] Then Jesus beholding him loved him, and said unto him, One thing thou lackest: go thy way, sell whatsoever thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, take up the cross, and follow me. [22] And he was sad at that saying, and went away grieved: for he had great possessions.

1 TIMOTHY 3:16

And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.

JOHN 5:23

That all men should honour the Son, even as they honour the Father. He that honoureth not the Son honoureth not the Father which hath sent him.

1 PETER 2:24

Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.

2 CORINTHIANS 5:21

For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

JOHN 4:24

God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.

EPHESIANS 1:13

In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise.

ROMANS 5:8-10

But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. [9] Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him. [10] For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.

JAMES 2:10

For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all.

EXODUS 20:3

Thou shalt have no other gods before me.

LUKE 19:1-9

And Jesus entered and passed through Jericho. [2] And, behold, there was a man named Zacchaeus, which was the chief among the publicans, and he was rich. [3] And he sought to see Jesus who he was; and could not for the press, because he was little of stature. [4] And he ran before, and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see him: for he was to pass that way. [5] And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up, and saw him, and said unto him, Zacchaeus, make haste, and come down; for to day I must abide at thy house. [6] And he made haste, and came down, and received him joyfully. [7] And when they saw it, they all murmured, saying, That he was gone to be guest with a man that is a sinner. [8] And Zacchaeus stood, and said unto the Lord; Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have taken any thing from any man by false accusation, I restore him fourfold. [9] And Jesus said unto him, This day is salvation come to this house, forsomuch as he also is a son of Abraham.

— OUTLINE —

- I. All people are born into this world separated from God (Ps. 51:5).
 - A. Adam and Eve died spiritually when they sinned.
 - B. Even though they didn't die physically right away, their spirits were separated from God and fell under the control of Satan (Gen. 3).
 - C. Every person born into the earth since then has had this inherent sin nature.
 - D. **“Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned”** (Rom. 5:12).
 - E. A natural birth brought you into this world, but a spiritual birth is required to enter God's kingdom.

Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born? Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

JOHN 3:3-5

- F. When you're born again, you pass from death to life—**“Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life”** (John 5:24).
 - G. You're no longer a sinner but righteous in Christ!
- II. God's standard of goodness is His own glory.
 - A. You might have looked good compared to other sinners, but no one is holy compared to Jesus.
 - B. According to Romans 3:23, **“all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.”**
 - C. God declared everyone a sinner, but He loved you and wanted to redeem you.
 - D. Regardless of how bad you were, you instantly became righteous through receiving Christ.
 - E. All of your sins were forgiven—past, present, and future—the moment you received the Lord.
 - F. You are now eternally redeemed and have an eternal inheritance (Heb. 9-10).

G. In your spirit, you became sanctified and perfected in God's sight forever—**“To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect”** (Heb. 12:23).

H. Sin will never be imputed to you (credited to your account) again!

III. Even though you're completely forgiven, it matters how you live!

A. You have an Enemy who is committed to your destruction.

The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.

JOHN 10:10

B. The choices you make determine whether you experience life or death.

C. **“Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?”** (Rom. 6:16).

D. Yield to sin and you're yielding to the one whose revealed purpose is to steal, kill, and destroy you.

E. If you sin, simply repent.

F. God has already forgiven you, so don't fall for the deception that He doesn't love you or that you'll lose your salvation.

G. God the Father already rejected and judged Jesus so you wouldn't have to be rejected and judged.

H. Change your mind and turn from the sin—declare, “Satan, I rebuke you. The blood of Jesus has set me free. Even though I didn't do what was right, you cannot destroy me. God loves me and I choose to follow Him!”

I. This prevents Satan from gaining entrance into your life.

J. Don't let the devil take advantage of you by you ignoring the way God shows you to live.

K. The abundant life Jesus provided is yours to enjoy!

DISCIPLESHIP QUESTIONS

1. How are all people born into this world?
 - A. Perfect
 - B. Ready for anything
 - C. Separated from God
 - D. All of the above
 - E. None of the above
2. Romans 5:12 says, “**Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon _____ men, for that _____ have sinned.**”
3. What is required to enter God’s kingdom?

4. According to John 5:24, what happens to you when you’re born again?

5. True or false: God’s standard of goodness is His own glory.
6. What does Romans 3:23 tell you?

7. Did God want to redeem you?

8. In your spirit, you became _____ and _____ in God’s sight forever.

9. Will sin ever be imputed to you (credited to your account) again?

10. True or false: You have an Enemy who is committed to your destruction.

11. **“Know ye not, that to whom ye _____ yourselves servants to _____, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?”** (Rom. 6:16).

- A. Give / sing
- B. Make / stand
- C. Submit / listen
- D. All of the above
- E. None of the above

12. If you yield to sin, what are you doing?

13. What did God the Father do so that you wouldn't have to be rejected and judged?

14. Can the devil take advantage of you if you ignore the way God shows you to live?

— SCRIPTURES —

PSALM 51:5

Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me.

ROMANS 5:12

Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned.

ROMANS 7:9

For I was alive without the law once: but when the commandment came, sin revived, and I died.

JOHN 3:3-5

Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. [4] Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born? [5] Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

JOHN 5:24

Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.

ROMANS 3:23

For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.

HEBREWS 12:23

To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect.

JOHN 10:10

The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.

ROMANS 6:16

Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?

— OUTLINE —

I. Every born-again believer should be baptized in water.

- A. This isn't in order to be saved but rather because they've been saved.

Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

ROMANS 6:3-4

- B. Water baptism is an act of obedience to God's Word, symbolizing your baptism into the body of Christ.

- C. **“There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; One Lord, one faith, one baptism, One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all”** (Eph. 4:4-6).

- D. You became a part of every believer who has ever believed on the Lord Jesus Christ.

- E. God's Word commands you to be baptized in water.

And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.

MARK 16:15-16

Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.

MATTHEW 28:19

- F. Numerous examples from the book of Acts show how the early church spread the Gospel and obeyed this command.

- G. The Bible makes it very clear that faith in Jesus is a prerequisite to water baptism (Acts 8:36-37)—you must believe first and then be baptized.

II. Although water baptism is an important first step in the Christian life, it's not required for salvation.

- A. Those who teach that water baptism is necessary to obtain your salvation are basing this on a misinterpretation of Acts 2:38, which says, **“Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.”**

- B. Some say this “proves” you must repent and be baptized for the remission of sins.

- C. The key to understanding this verse is the word “**for**”: *For* often means “in order to obtain” but can also be “as a result of; because of; since.”
 - D. This verse says to repent, which means to put your faith in the Lord, and then to prove your faith in Him—as a result of being born again, because you’ve been born again, since you’ve been born again—by being water baptized.
 - E. Those who believe that water baptism is required for salvation also teach that you must live in a system of religious works whereby you earn salvation by personal holiness, and this is contrary to what the Word of God teaches.
 - F. Water baptism symbolized the salvation they had already received.
- III. Once you are born again and water baptized, your very next step should be to receive the power of the Holy Spirit.
- A. God doesn’t intend for you to live for Him on your own; He wants to live through you by the supernatural power of the Holy Spirit!
 - B. Jesus was baptized in the Holy Spirit.

Now when all the people were baptized, it came to pass, that Jesus also being baptized, and praying, the heaven was opened, And the Holy Ghost descended in a bodily shape like a dove upon him, and a voice came from heaven, which said, Thou art my beloved Son; in thee I am well pleased.

LUKE 3:21-22

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, To preach the acceptable year of the Lord.

LUKE 4:18-19

- C. If the Son of God Himself needed the Holy Spirit, how much more do you?
 - D. The gift of the Holy Spirit comes to all who ask in faith:

For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened. If a son shall ask bread of any of you that is a father, will he give him a stone? or if he ask a fish, will he for a fish give him a serpent? Or if he shall ask an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?
- LUKE 11:10-13
- E. Both the Holy Spirit and water baptisms are clearly commanded in the Scriptures.
 - F. The Lord will lead you into these two acts of faith and obedience as soon as you are born again.
 - G. Both actions release tremendous benefits into your spiritual life!

DISCIPLESHIP QUESTIONS

1. Every born-again Christian should be baptized...
 - A. In water
 - B. In soy sauce
 - C. Into the church
 - D. All of the above
 - E. None of the above

2. Are you baptized in order to be saved?

3. What are two passages of Scripture that command you to be baptized in water?

4. True or false: Faith in Jesus is a prerequisite to water baptism.

5. Is water baptism required for salvation?

6. The teaching that water baptism is necessary to obtain salvation is based on what?

7. What is the next step after being born again and baptized in water?

8. True or false: God intended for you to live for Him completely on your own.

9. The Lord will lead you into these two acts of _____ and _____ as soon as you are born again.

10. What will these actions do for you?

— SCRIPTURES —

ROMANS 6:3-4

Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? [4] Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

EPHESIANS 4:4-6

There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; [5] One Lord, one faith, one baptism, [6] One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.

MARK 16:15-16

And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. [16] He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.

MATTHEW 28:19

Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.

ACTS 2:41

Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.

ACTS 8:36-37

And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized? [37] And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.

ACTS 2:38

Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

ACTS 10:44-48

While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word. [45] And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost. [46] For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God. Then answered Peter, [47] Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we? [48] And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then prayed they him to tarry certain days.

JOHN 20:22

And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost.

LUKE 3:21-22

Now when all the people were baptized, it came to pass, that Jesus also being baptized, and praying, the heaven was opened, [22] And the Holy Ghost descended in a bodily shape like a dove upon him, and a voice came from heaven, which said, Thou art my beloved Son; in thee I am well pleased.

LUKE 4:18-19

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, [19] To preach the acceptable year of the Lord.

LUKE 11:10-13

For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened. [11] If a son shall ask bread of any of you that is a father, will he give him a stone? or if he ask a fish, will he for a fish give him a serpent? [12] Or if he shall ask an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? [13] If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?

— OUTLINE —

- I. The Bible is God’s Word—He’ll give you wisdom and guidance through it.
 - A. **“As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby”** (1 Pet. 2:2).
 - B. You’ll grow as you feed often on God’s Word!
 - C. God’s Word is God-breathed: **“All scripture is given by inspiration of God”** (2 Tim. 3:16).
 - D. Through His Word, you’ll get to know this awesome, loving God who has saved you.
 - E. You’ll grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ and become **“thoroughly furnished unto all good works”** (2 Tim. 3:17).
 - F. God will speak directly to you through the Bible.

For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.
HEBREWS 4:12
 - G. Don’t just use your head to read this book; come to the Word with an open heart ready to receive from God!
 - H. Choose a version of the Bible that’s easy to understand—God doesn’t want language style to hinder you from getting to know Him.
 - I. Any version you use is superior to not reading the Bible at all.
 - J. The Holy Spirit can lead you to other translations later on, but laying a solid foundation of God’s Word in your heart is what’s most important right now.
- II. A basic understanding of the Bible is very helpful.
 - A. But you can never exhaust the depths of God’s Word.
 - B. Everything you need for life and godliness can be found in it.
 - C. Most Christians see the Bible as one unit, all saying the same thing.
 - D. They don’t realize how everything changed between God and man once Jesus Christ came to earth.
 - E. You and I are in the New Covenant in Christ Jesus!

- F. Guidance from mature believers can save you time and painful mistakes, but always check it against God's Word for yourself.
- G. Let go of what doesn't line up, and hold on to what does.
- H. God's Word must be the highest authority in your life.
- I. The Word is actually a book by God speaking to you through man.
- J. All the books in the Bible are supernaturally inspired and have been protected and preserved error free.
- K. Your job is to interpret and believe God's Word as it was written.
- L. If you do, God Himself will fellowship with you—and that's awesome!

DISCIPLESHIP — QUESTIONS —

1. How does God give you wisdom and guidance?

2. First Peter 2:2 says, “As newborn babes, _____ the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby.”

3. True or false: God’s Word is God-breathed.

4. How are you to approach the Word when you read it?

5. Any version you use is _____ to _____ reading the Bible at all.

6. True or false: You can exhaust the depths of God’s Word.

7. Most Christians see the Bible as one unit, all saying the same thing—what is it that they don’t realize?

8. Guidance from mature believers can save you time and painful mistakes, but what should you always do?

9. Must God’s Word be the highest authority in your life?

10. What is the Word?

- A. A good paperweight
- B. A book written by man about God
- C. A book by God speaking to you through man
- D. All of the above
- E. None of the above

11. What is your job now?

— SCRIPTURES —

1 PETER 2:2

As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby.

2 TIMOTHY 3:16-17

All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: [17] That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

HEBREWS 4:12

For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

— OUTLINE —

I. Every step I've mentioned so far—being water baptized, receiving the baptism in the Holy Spirit, building a sure foundation in the Word of God—can be made much easier if you get involved in a good local church.

- A. The Lord created the church, which is simply a group of His people who meet together regularly for the purpose of loving each other, praying for each other, and building each other up.
- B. Many people love the Lord but don't like His people.
- C. That's because some Christians don't reflect God like they should.
- D. They hurt others with their mean-spiritedness and hypocrisy.
- E. Because of this, you may want to commit your life to Christ and enjoy a relationship with Him but have nothing to do with a church.
- F. I can relate to what you're feeling, but that's a wrong attitude to keep.

II. You grow spiritually by participating in a good church.

- A. As a believer, you're like a hot coal in a burning fire—you'll stay red hot and glowing as long as you're involved with other believers in a local church body.
- B. Separate and isolate yourself from the other coals, and it won't be long before you grow cold.
- C. Although there are plenty of bad churches out there, it's worth your effort to find the good ones—every believer needs to be involved in a local church.
- D. You can learn a lot from Christians who have walked in God's Word and have been through some things.

And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ.

EPHESIANS 4:11-12

- E. Many new believers want to bypass people and receive everything they need straight from God.
- F. However, the Lord prefers to work through mature Christians to build up and strengthen newer ones.
- G. God uses apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers to equip and mature believers for the work of the ministry.

- H. He gave these people to build up the body of Christ until **“we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ”** (Eph. 4:13).
- I. Since the church hasn’t fully attained that yet, God is still using these five different types of ministry gifts to accomplish His goals.
- J. You are disobeying God if you don’t get involved with other believers.
- K. God will still love you and you won’t lose your salvation, but you’ll be a cold, isolated coal when you run into hurts and difficult situations.
- L. Instead of having a strong support system of other believers who love you and know your situation, you’ll be on your own in the ocean.
- III. What you hear while you’re young in the Lord will greatly impact your spiritual development.
- A. As a new believer, you’re like a little plant that needs to be in a protected environment until your roots grow deep.
- B. Since you are forming your spiritual root structures, it’s crucial that you hear correct teaching now.
- C. Although what you hear as a new believer is important, a church will supply you with more than just teaching.
- D. Your participation in a local body can provide you with needed fellowship and relationships with other Christians.
- E. Media ministries can feed you God’s Word through audio messages, books, websites, radio, and television programs, but nothing helps the Word become flesh in your life better than regular interaction with other on-fire believers.
- F. God demonstrates His love through His people.
- By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.*
- JOHN 13:35
- If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?*
- 1 JOHN 4:20
- G. No one who refuses to relate to God’s people can say they truly have a relationship with God.
- IV. A local church will provide you with the opportunity to put Christ’s teachings into practice.

- A. It's one thing to hear the Word say to do unto others as you would have them do unto you (Matt. 7:12), but it's quite another to actually live it.
- B. Your rate of maturity will slow down if all you ever do is shut yourself up with a Bible for weeks and months.
- C. Some things you'll never really learn until you have to deal with other people.
- D. Your local church leadership can provide ministry to you and your loved ones in practical ways that a media/traveling ministry cannot.
- E. You'll also find like-minded believers with whom you can establish close friendships.
- F. This doesn't mean you reject people who aren't believers, but from now on, your strongest friendships should be with other Christians (2 Cor. 6:14-18).
- G. If you remain unequally yoked with an unbeliever, sooner or later, that person will negatively affect you—**"He that walketh with wise men shall be wise: but a companion of fools shall be destroyed"** (Prov. 13:20).
- H. You always rise or sink to the level of your closest friends.
- I. Regularly meeting together with other believers protects and promotes your spiritual health.

Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;) And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

HEBREWS 10:23-25

- V. Don't let minor doctrinal issues prevent you from settling into a good church.
 - A. Even if it's not a strong faith-teaching church, it's better to participate in some local church than not to participate at all.
 - B. A good church preaches everything God offers in His Word—salvation, baptism in the Holy Spirit, the gifts of the Spirit, healing, deliverance, and prosperity.
 - C. Don't stay somewhere that's against the baptism in the Holy Spirit, the gifts of the Holy Spirit, healing, and so on.
 - D. Many groups teach that all you need to do to initially receive is believe but that after you're saved, everything is based on your performance—that's wrong!
 - E. You don't have to earn God's favor, earn answers to prayer, earn God's love, earn your healing, or earn anything else.
 - F. The atmosphere ought to encourage healthy relationships.

- G. Whether big or small, your experience in a church will normally come down to the quality of your relationships there.
- H. Trust the Lord to lead you to a good local church.
- I. Pray—then take some steps of faith.
- J. It's His good pleasure to guide you to your place in His body!

DISCIPLESHIP — QUESTIONS —

1. How can steps in your Christian walk—such as being water baptized, receiving the baptism in the Holy Spirit, and building a sure foundation in the Word of God—be made easier?
 - A. By joining a local church
 - B. By wishing and hoping
 - C. By paying someone
 - D. All of the above
 - E. None of the above
2. According to the lesson, what is the church?

3. True or false: Wanting to commit your life to Christ and enjoy a relationship with Him but having nothing to do with a church is a proper attitude to have.
4. You _____ by participating in a good church.
5. Separate and isolate yourself from other coals—other believers in a local church body—and it won't be long before what?
 - A. You grow cold
 - B. You grow stronger
 - C. Nothing happens
 - D. All of the above
 - E. None of the above
6. **“And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the _____ of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ” (Eph. 4:11-12).**
7. Are you disobeying God if you don't get involved with other believers?

8. What you hear while you're young in the Lord will greatly impact your spiritual development—why?

9. God demonstrates His _____ through His people—**“By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have _____ one to another”** (John 13:35).

10. True or false: Those who refuse to relate to God's people can say they truly have a relationship with God.

11. If all you ever do is shut yourself up with a Bible for weeks and months, what will happen to your rate of maturity?

- A. It will slow down
- B. It will speed up
- C. It will stay the same
- D. All of the above
- E. None of the above

12. Once you are born again, whom should your strongest friendships be with and why?

13. You always _____ or _____ to the level of your closest friends.

14. True or false: You shouldn't let minor doctrinal issues prevent you from settling into a good church.

15. Is it better or worse to participate in a local church, even if it's not a strong faith-teaching one, than not to participate at all?

16. Should you stay at a church that doesn't preach everything God offers in His Word?

17. What should the atmosphere of your church do?

— SCRIPTURES —

EPHESIANS 4:11-13

And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; [12] For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: [13] Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ.

ACTS 9:1-5

And Saul, yet breathing out threatenings and slaughter against the disciples of the Lord, went unto the high priest, [2] And desired of him letters to Damascus to the synagogues, that if he found any of this way, whether they were men or women, he might bring them bound unto Jerusalem. [3] And as he journeyed, he came near Damascus: and suddenly there shined round about him a light from heaven: [4] And he fell to the earth, and heard a voice saying unto him, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me? [5] And he said, Who art thou, Lord? And the Lord said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest: it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks.

JOHN 13:35

By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.

1 JOHN 4:20

If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?

MATTHEW 7:12

Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets.

JAMES 5:14

Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord.

2 CORINTHIANS 6:14-18

Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? [15] And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? [16] And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. [17] Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, [18] And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.

PROVERBS 13:20

He that walketh with wise men shall be wise: but a companion of fools shall be destroyed.

HEBREWS 10:23-25

Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;) [24] And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: [25] Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

— OUTLINE —

- I. God saved you for the purpose of enjoying an intimate relationship with Him from now on.

*For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that
whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.*

JOHN 3:16

*And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and
Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.*

JOHN 17:3

- A. The idea that salvation is merely “fire insurance” came from the church putting a period where the Bible only has a comma.
- B. It’s not **“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish”**—period.
- C. So many preachers stop here and emphasize salvation’s byproduct of missing hell, and totally ignore God’s primary purpose—**“but have everlasting life.”**
- D. Jesus didn’t come as a dutiful Creator under some sense of obligation to rescue His wayward creation—Christ’s motivation was pure love, and anyone who loves has a need to be loved in return.
- E. God’s compassion for you in your lost condition and His passion to restore you to fellowship with Him were combined into a sacrificial love that endured the cross.
- F. With the barrier of sin forever removed, you’ve been freed to receive His love and to love Him in return.
- G. **“Who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father”** (Gal. 1:4).
- H. Jesus didn’t just save you from a future evil world (hell); He also delivered you from this present evil world, according to the Father’s will.
- I. You are now able to walk and talk with Him—get to know God!

*Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy
right hand there are pleasures for evermore.*

PSALM 16:11

*Jesus Christ: Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see
him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory.*

1 PETER 1:7B-8

- J. True joy and happiness in this life come from your intimacy with God.

II. Become a disciple of the Lord Jesus Christ!

- A. A “disciple” is a learner, someone who follows another—**“If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free”** (John 8:31-32).
- B. As you step out in faith to follow Jesus, the freedom in your life will increase more and more.
- C. Your heart attitude should be, *Lord, I know You love me, and I love You too. Show me what to do and I’ll do it! I follow You!*
 - i. Lay everything out before Him and make no reservations.
 - ii. Recognize that He is God and you’re not.
 - iii. Hold nothing back from Him, because He’s already given you everything—He laid down His very life for you!
- D. **“Thy word is truth”** (John 17:17)—It’s only the Word you know and follow that makes you free.
- E. You can carry your Bible under your arm and set it beside your bed, but until you put His Word in your heart, it won’t do you any good.
- F. Meditate (chew on) His Word until it becomes a part of you.
- G. Once you believe it to the point of taking action, you’ll know the Word intimately.
- H. When this knowledge comes, it’ll set you free!

III. Welcome to God’s family!

- A. If you take to heart what I’ve shared with you and do it, you’ll be well on your way to maturity.
- B. Choosing to make the Lord Jesus Christ the center of your life is the greatest decision you’ll ever make!
- C. I congratulate you for choosing wisely.
- D. As your brother in Christ, I wish to leave you with this word from God our Father:

But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.

2 PETER 3:18

DISCIPLESHIP — QUESTIONS —

1. For what purpose did God save you?

2. John 3:16 says, **“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but _____.”**

3. According to John 17:3, what is eternal life?

4. True or false: Jesus came to earth out of a sense of obligation to rescue His wayward creation.

5. With the barrier of sin forever removed, what has happened to you?

6. **“Who gave himself for our sins, that he might _____ us from this present _____ world, according to the will of God and our Father”** (Gal. 1:4).

- A. Take / stagnant
- B. Deliver / evil
- C. Buy / average
- D. All of the above
- E. None of the above

7. What is a disciple?

8. **“If ye _____ in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the _____, and the truth shall make you _____”** (John 8:31-32).

9. What happens when you step out in faith to follow Jesus?

10. John 17:17 says, “_____.”

11. True or false: You can carry your Bible under your arm and set it beside your bed, but until you put His Word in your heart, it won't do you any good.

12. Is choosing to make the Lord Jesus Christ the center of your life the greatest decision you'll ever make?

13. Which verse says, “**But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen**”?

— SCRIPTURES —

JOHN 3:16

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

JOHN 17:3

And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.

GALATIANS 1:4

Who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father.

PSALM 16:11

Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore.

1 PETER 1:7-8

That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ: [8] Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory.

JOHN 8:31-32

Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; [32] And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

JOHN 17:17

Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.

2 PETER 3:18

But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.

— OUTLINE —

- I. Jesus Himself did not manifest the power of God until He had been baptized in the Holy Spirit.
 - A. Angels pronounced Him Lord at His birth, but nothing that typified Christ's ministry—preaching, healing, casting out demons—occurred before the Holy Spirit descended upon Him like a dove.

And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him: And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

MATTHEW 3:16-17
 - B. Jesus immediately began His ministry after being anointed with the Holy Spirit.
 - C. Many times, the Lord admitted His total dependence upon the Father and the Spirit.
 - D. He did His Father's will as the power of the Holy Spirit flowed in and through Him—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit always worked together in complete cooperation.
 - E. God never does anything independently of His Spirit.
 - F. Therefore, welcoming the Holy Spirit into your life is absolutely essential for you to experience the victory and abundance God has provided.
- II. The disciples were spineless wimps before receiving the baptism in the Holy Spirit.
 - A. These men had followed Jesus for three-and-a-half years, observing His miracles, hearing His teaching, and experiencing everyday life with Him.
 - B. They exhibited weakness, immaturity, carnal-mindedness, and strife.
 - C. Then the disciples were baptized in the Holy Spirit—**“And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind...And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost”** (Acts 2:1-2 and 4a).
 - D. They instantly transformed into powerful witnesses and testified of Jesus with great boldness.
 - E. Shortly thereafter, Peter and John healed a lame man in front of the temple and caused such a ruckus preaching the Gospel that the religious leaders threw them in jail (Acts 3:1-4:3).
 - F. Thousands more believed their message, so the leaders interrogated Peter and John to find out what was going on.

And it came to pass on the morrow, that their rulers, and elders, and scribes, And Annas the high priest, and Caiaphas, and John, and Alexander, and as many as were of the kindred of the high priest, were gathered together at Jerusalem. And when they had set them in the midst, they asked, By what power, or by what name, have ye done this?

ACTS 4:5-7

G. Peter boldly confronted the same men who had crucified Jesus!

Then Peter, filled with the Holy Ghost, said unto them, Ye rulers of the people, and elders of Israel, If we this day be examined of the good deed done to the impotent man, by what means he is made whole; Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, even by him doth this man stand here before you whole. This is the stone which was set at nought of you builders, which is become the head of the corner. Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

ACTS 4:8-12

H. Peter left them no avenue of escape: Either accept Jesus or reject Him!

I. The same men from whom the disciples once fled were now backing down in the face of the disciples' inspired boldness:

Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marvelled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus. And beholding the man which was healed standing with them, they could say nothing against it.

ACTS 4:13-14

J. The miracle worked by the disciples completely silenced the religious leaders' opposition.

K. What a difference the baptism in the Holy Spirit makes!

III. Our Lord's last words to His followers before ascending were clear instructions regarding the Holy Spirit.

A. Jesus commanded His disciples not to do anything until they had been baptized in the Holy Spirit.

And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me. For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence...But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth. And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight.

ACTS 1:4-5 AND 8-9

- B. Think about how difficult this must have been for the disciples.
- C. These disciples had incredibly good news—news worth shouting from the rooftops—but Jesus commanded them to sit on it temporarily.
- D. Why? They needed the baptism in the Holy Spirit!
- E. It's absolutely wonderful to be born again and forgiven of your sins, but you won't be an effective witness until you have the fullness of the Holy Spirit.
- F. The Holy Spirit enables you to more fully experience your salvation and to effectively share with others the awesome things God has done for you.
- G. Many Christians sincerely love God, but they serve Him in their own power because they haven't been baptized in His Spirit—this results in deadness.
- H. **“Who also hath made us able ministers of the new testament; not of the letter, but of the spirit: for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life”** (2 Cor. 3:6).
- I. When believers try to minister out of their own carnal knowledge and ability—even when they say and do the right thing—it just doesn't carry any spiritual weight.
- J. Jesus Christ Himself testifies and ministers His life through witnesses empowered by the Holy Spirit.
- K. Your Spirit-energized words and deeds will carry weight to positively impact other people's lives for the kingdom of God.
- L. If both Jesus and the early believers needed to be baptized in the Holy Spirit in order to live powerful Christian lives, so do you and I today!

DISCIPLESHIP

QUESTIONS

1. True or false: Jesus Himself did not manifest the power of God until He had been baptized in the Holy Spirit.

2. Matthew 3:16-17 says, “**And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the** _____ **descending like a dove, and lighting upon him: And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.**”

3. When did Jesus begin His ministry?

4. God never does anything how?

- A. Wisely
- B. Independently of His Spirit
- C. Without money
- D. All of the above
- E. None of the above

5. Is welcoming the Holy Spirit into your life absolutely essential for you to experience the victory and abundance God has provided?

6. What happened after the disciples were baptized in the Holy Spirit?

7. True or false: After healing the lame man in front of the temple, Peter ran away from the religious leaders (Acts 4:5-14).

8. What choice did Peter give them?

9. What did the miracle that the disciples worked do (Acts 4:13-14)?

10. At His ascension (Acts 1:4-5 and 8-9), what command did Jesus give His disciples?

- A. To preach the Gospel in King James English
- B. To immediately go and preach
- C. Not to do anything until they had been baptized in the Holy Spirit
- D. All of the above
- E. None of the above

11. What will make you an effective witness?

12. Many Christians sincerely love God, but they serve Him in their own _____ because they haven't been baptized in His Spirit—this results in _____.

13. When believers try to minister out of their own carnal knowledge and ability—even when they say and do the right thing—does it carry any spiritual weight?

14. What will your Spirit-energized words and deeds do?

15. True or false: If both Jesus and the early believers needed to be baptized in the Holy Spirit in order to live powerful Christian lives, so do you and I today!

— SCRIPTURES —

MATTHEW 3:16-17

And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him: [17] And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

LUKE 4:1-13

And Jesus being full of the Holy Ghost returned from Jordan, and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, [2] Being forty days tempted of the devil. And in those days he did eat nothing: and when they were ended, he afterward hungered. [3] And the devil said unto him, If thou be the Son of God, command this stone that it be made bread. [4] And Jesus answered him, saying, It is written, That man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God. [5] And the devil, taking him up into an high mountain, shewed unto him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. [6] And the devil said unto him, All this power will I give thee, and the glory of them: for that is delivered unto me; and to whomsoever I will I give it. [7] If thou therefore wilt worship me, all shall be thine. [8] And Jesus answered and said unto him, Get thee behind me, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve. [9] And he brought him to Jerusalem, and set him on a pinnacle of the temple, and said unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down from hence: [10] For it is written, He shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee: [11] And in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone. [12] And Jesus answering said unto him, It is said, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God. [13] And when the devil had ended all the temptation, he departed from him for a season.

LUKE 4:18-19

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, [19] To preach the acceptable year of the Lord.

MATTHEW 26:69-75

Now Peter sat without in the palace: and a damsel came unto him, saying, Thou also wast with Jesus of Galilee. [70] But he denied before them all, saying, I know not what thou sayest. [71] And when he was gone out into the porch, another maid saw him, and said unto them that were there, This fellow was also with Jesus of Nazareth. [72] And again he denied with an oath, I do not know the man. [73] And after a while came unto him they that stood by, and said to Peter, Surely thou also art one of them; for thy speech bewrayeth thee. [74] Then began he to curse and to swear, saying, I know not the man. And immediately the cock crew. [75] And Peter remembered the word of Jesus, which said unto him, Before the cock crew, thou shalt deny me thrice. And he went out, and wept bitterly.

ACTS 2:1-2

And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. [2] And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting.

ACTS 2:4

And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

ACTS 2:41

Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.

ACTS 3:1-4:3

Now Peter and John went up together into the temple at the hour of prayer, being the ninth hour. [2] And a certain man lame from his mother's womb was carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful, to ask alms of them that entered into the temple; [3] Who seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple asked an alms. [4] And Peter, fastening his eyes upon him with John, said, Look on us. [5] And he gave heed unto them, expecting to receive something of them. [6] Then Peter said, Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk. [7] And he took him by the right hand, and lifted him up: and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength. [8] And he leaping up stood, and walked, and entered with them into the temple, walking, and leaping, and praising God. [9] And all the people saw him walking and praising God: [10] And they knew that it was he which sat for alms at the Beautiful gate of the temple: and they were filled with wonder and amazement at that which had happened unto him. [11] And as the lame man which was healed held Peter and John, all the people ran together unto them in the porch that is called Solomon's, greatly wondering. [12] And when Peter saw it, he answered unto the people, Ye men of Israel, why marvel ye at this? or why look ye so earnestly on us, as though by our own power or holiness we had made this man to walk? [13] The God of Abraham, and of Isaac, and of Jacob, the God of our fathers, hath glorified his Son Jesus; whom ye delivered up, and denied him in the presence of Pilate, when he was determined to let him go. [14] But ye denied the Holy One and the Just, and desired a murderer to be granted unto you; [15] And killed the Prince of life, whom God hath raised from the dead; whereof we are witnesses. [16] And his name through faith in his name hath made this man strong, whom ye see and know: yea, the faith which is by him hath given him this perfect soundness in the presence of you all. [17] And now, brethren, I wot that through ignorance ye did it, as did also your rulers. [18] But those things, which God before had shewed by the mouth of all his prophets, that Christ should suffer, he hath so fulfilled. [19] Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord. [20] And he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you: [21] Whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began. [22] For Moses truly said unto the fathers, A prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you of your brethren, like unto me; him shall ye hear in all things whatsoever he shall say unto you. [23] And it shall come to pass, that every soul, which will not hear that prophet, shall be destroyed from among the people. [24] Yea, and all the prophets from Samuel and those that follow after, as many as have spoken, have likewise foretold of these days. [25] Ye are the children of the prophets, and of the covenant which God made with our fathers, saying unto Abraham, And in thy seed shall all the kindreds of the earth be blessed. [26] Unto you first God, having raised up his Son Jesus, sent him to bless you, in turning away every one of you from his iniquities. [1] And as they spake unto the people, the priests, and the captain of the temple, and the Sadducees, came upon them, [2] Being grieved that they taught the people, and preached through Jesus the resurrection from the dead. [3] And they laid hands on them, and put them in hold unto the next day: for it was now eventide.

ACTS 4:5-14

And it came to pass on the morrow, that their rulers, and elders, and scribes, [6] And Annas the high priest, and Caiaphas, and John, and Alexander, and as many as were of the kindred of the high priest, were gathered together at Jerusalem. [7] And when they had set them in the midst, they asked, By what power, or by what name, have ye done this? [8] Then Peter, filled with the Holy Ghost, said unto them, Ye rulers of the people, and elders of Israel, [9] If we this day be examined of the good deed done to the impotent man, by what means he is made whole; [10] Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, even by him doth this man stand here before you whole. [11] This is the stone which was set at nought of you builders, which is become the head of the corner. [12] Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved. [13] Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marvelled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus. [14] And beholding the man which was healed standing with them, they could say nothing against it.

ACTS 1:4-5

And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me. [5] For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence.

ACTS 1:8-9

But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth. [9] And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight.

2 CORINTHIANS 3:6

Who also hath made us able ministers of the new testament; not of the letter, but of the spirit: for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life.

— OUTLINE —

- I. If you believe the Word of God, you cannot dispute the existence of a baptism in the Holy Spirit.
 - A. Speaking of Jesus, John the Baptist said, **“I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire”** (Matt. 3:11).
 - B. Christ was baptized in the Holy Spirit (Matt. 3:16, Mark 1:10, and Luke 3:22).
 - C. The early apostles, including Paul, were baptized in the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:1-4 and 9:17-18).
 - D. Whenever people were born again in the book of Acts, they also received the baptism in the Holy Spirit soon thereafter.
 - E. Many Christians claim that the baptism in the Holy Spirit comes automatically at salvation—**“No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day”** (John 6:44).
 - F. They recognize the Spirit’s work in drawing people to God and assume that they get all of the Holy Spirit they can the moment they’re born again.
 - G. Although it’s true that they have the Holy Spirit once they’re saved, that doesn’t mean they’ve been baptized in Him!
- II. ***It’s one thing to have the Holy Spirit and quite another for the Holy Spirit to have you!***
 - A. There are major differences between having the Holy Spirit present in your life and having the Holy Spirit in control of your life.
 - B. Jesus told His disciples,

And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.

JOHN 14:16-17
 - C. Prior to Jesus’ resurrection, the Holy Spirit couldn’t be received the way I’m discussing with you.
 - D. He was present **with** the disciples and worked through them (as evidenced by the miracles they did), but He wasn’t **in** them.
 - E. When the Holy Spirit is in you, rivers of life flow out from your innermost being.

Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)

JOHN 7:37-39

- F. Jesus promised His disciples that the Holy Spirit who had been with them would one day be in them—that day arrived shortly after His ascension.

And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

ACTS 2:1-4

- III. Those who don't believe that the baptism in the Holy Spirit is a second, separate experience from salvation, erroneously teach that God's miraculous power ceased with the passing of the first apostles.

- A. They don't believe in the gifts of the Spirit, speaking in tongues, or casting out demons—nor living in victory over sickness, disease, and poverty.
- B. They believe that if you see any of these miracles occurring today that God Himself did in the Bible, it's the work of the devil.
- C. Something's wrong with this theology!
- D. The Holy Spirit is the power Source!
- E. Reject Him and you won't see miracles, healings, demons cast out, or speaking in tongues.
- F. Accept Him by receiving the baptism in the Holy Spirit, and you open yourself to God's supernatural power working in all these wonderful ways—but you must receive the Source in order to have His power.

- IV. The Bible makes it clear that the baptism in the Holy Spirit is a separate experience from salvation.

- A. The only way you can miss this is if you have some kind of religious prejudice against it.
- B. Some people assume, "You aren't really saved until you're baptized in the Holy Spirit!"
- C. Acts 8 soundly refutes this.
- D. Salvation saves and the baptism in the Holy Spirit empowers!
- E. Certain disciples at Ephesus also demonstrate this truth.

And it came to pass, that, while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul having passed through the upper coasts came to Ephesus: and finding certain disciples, He said unto them, Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed? And they said unto him, We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost.

ACTS 19:1-2

- F. Apollos had been zealously preaching Jesus wherever he went (Acts 18:24-25); however, he had left the company of the disciples before Christ resurrected, so they didn't know about the baptism in the Holy Spirit either.
- G. Before this, Apollos had already made some converts in Ephesus, whom Paul found some time later.
- H. Paul picked up where Apollos left off and shared with these Ephesian believers how they could receive God's power into their lives—**“And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied”** (Acts 19:6).
- V. Millions of people alive today can attest to this separate, distinct work of the Holy Spirit in their lives after salvation.
 - A. Although many born-again Christians in Western countries deny this experience, the majority of believers in the rest of the world have welcomed the baptism in the Holy Spirit!
 - B. Across the body of Christ worldwide, the parts that are experiencing the most growth are those who believe in the baptism in the Holy Spirit.
 - C. Most traditional, denominational churches that fight against this gift have either stagnated or are suffering serious decline.
 - D. Spirit-baptized believers are progressing in the Christian life, doing most of the effective evangelism and making the biggest impact for the advancing kingdom of God.
 - i. Do you want to be where God's power is moving?
 - ii. Are you hungry to experience excitement and life?
 - iii. Do you long to join the winning side?
 - E. You'll find all this and more among believers who have been baptized in the Holy Spirit!

DISCIPLESHIP — QUESTIONS —

1. True or false: If you believe the Word of God, you cannot dispute the existence of a baptism in the Holy Spirit.

2. Speaking of Jesus, John the Baptist said, **“I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the _____, and with fire”** (Matt. 3:11).

3. What do many Christians claim regarding the baptism of the Holy Spirit?

4. Although it’s true they have the Holy Spirit once they’re saved, does that mean they’ve been baptized in Him?

5. There are major differences between having the Holy Spirit present in your life and what?

6. Prior to Jesus’ resurrection, what couldn’t happen?
 - A. The Holy Spirit couldn’t work at all
 - B. You couldn’t speak in other languages
 - C. The Holy Spirit couldn’t be received the way I’m discussing with you
 - D. All of the above
 - E. None of the above

7. John 7:37-39 says, **“Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow _____ . (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)”**

8. True or false: Those who don't believe that the baptism in the Holy Spirit is a second, separate experience from salvation, correctly teach that God's miraculous power ceased with the passing of the first apostles.

9. What happens when you accept the Holy Spirit by receiving the baptism of the Holy Spirit?

10. What must you do in order to have His power?

11. The Bible makes it clear that the baptism in the Holy Spirit is what?

- A. A separate experience from salvation
- B. Absolutely necessary for salvation
- C. Not for us today
- D. All of the above
- E. None of the above

12. What chapter of the Bible soundly refutes the idea that you aren't really saved until you're baptized in the Holy Spirit?

13. Salvation _____ and the baptism in the Holy Spirit _____!

14. What did Paul do for the Ephesian believers in Acts 19?

15. Across the body of Christ worldwide, what is happening to the parts that believe in the baptism of the Holy Spirit?

16. What has happened to the churches that fight this gift?

17. True or false: Spirit-baptized believers are progressing in the Christian life, doing most of the effective evangelism and making the biggest impact for the advancing kingdom of God.

— SCRIPTURES —

MATTHEW 3:11

I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire.

MATTHEW 3:16

And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him.

MARK 1:10

And straightway coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens opened, and the Spirit like a dove descending upon him.

LUKE 3:22

And the Holy Ghost descended in a bodily shape like a dove upon him, and a voice came from heaven, which said, Thou art my beloved Son; in thee I am well pleased.

ACTS 2:1-4

And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. [2] And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. [3] And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. [4] And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

ACTS 9:17-18

And Ananias went his way, and entered into the house; and putting his hands on him said, Brother Saul, the Lord, even Jesus, that appeared unto thee in the way as thou camest, hath sent me, that thou mightest receive thy sight, and be filled with the Holy Ghost. [18] And immediately there fell from his eyes as it had been scales: and he received sight forthwith, and arose, and was baptized.

JOHN 6:44

No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.

JOHN 14:16-17

And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; [17] Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.

JOHN 7:37-39

In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. [38] He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. [39] (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)

ACTS 8:5-12

Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria, and preached Christ unto them. [6] And the people with one accord gave heed unto those things which Philip spake, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did. [7] For unclean spirits, crying with loud voice, came out of many that were possessed with them: and many taken with palsies, and that were lame, were healed. [8] And there was great joy in that city. [9] But there was a certain man, called Simon, which beforetime in the same city used sorcery, and bewitched the people of Samaria, giving out that himself was some great one: [10] To whom they all gave heed, from the least to the greatest, saying, This man is the great power of God. [11] And to him they had regard, because that of long time he had bewitched them with sorceries. [12] But when they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.

ACTS 8:14-17

Now when the apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent unto them Peter and John: [15] Who, when they were come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost: [16] (For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.) [17] Then laid they their hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost.

ACTS 19:1-2

And it came to pass, that, while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul having passed through the upper coasts came to Ephesus: and finding certain disciples, [2] He said unto them, Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed? And they said unto him, We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost.

ACTS 18:24-26

And a certain Jew named Apollos, born at Alexandria, an eloquent man, and mighty in the scriptures, came to Ephesus. [25] This man was instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in the spirit, he spake and taught diligently the things of the Lord, knowing only the baptism of John. [26] And he began to speak boldly in the synagogue: whom when Aquila and Priscilla had heard, they took him unto them, and expounded unto him the way of God more perfectly.

ACTS 19:6

And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied.

— OUTLINE —

- I. The Holy Spirit will function in your life many different ways:
 - A. The Holy Spirit will abide with you forever.
 - i. **“And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever”** (John 14:16).
 - ii. Wherever you go, whatever you do, God Himself will be with you!
 - B. The Holy Spirit will comfort you through challenges and difficulties.
 - i. **“Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God”** (2 Cor. 1:4).
 - ii. He’ll also enable you to minister God’s comfort to others.
 - C. The Holy Spirit will be your Teacher.
 - i. **“But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you”** (John 14:26).
 - ii. He’ll also remind you of everything the Lord has said.
 - D. The Spirit of truth will testify to you of Jesus.
 - i. **“But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me: And ye also shall bear witness, because ye have been with me from the beginning”** (John 15:26-27).
 - ii. He’ll also help you bear witness of Jesus to others.
- II. It’s to your advantage that Jesus is in heaven, and the Holy Spirit is on earth—**“Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you”** (John 16:7).
 - A. Jesus could only be in one place at a time when He walked the earth as a man—now, through His Spirit, He can be with every believer all the time!
 - B. The Holy Spirit will convict and convince: **“And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: Of sin, because they believe not on me; Of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more; Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged”** (John 16:8-11).

- i. He convicts you of not trusting Jesus.
 - ii. He convinces you that you're righteous in Christ.
 - iii. And the devil, who constantly hurls condemnation and lies at you, is judged.
- C. The Holy Spirit will guide you into all truth: **"I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now. Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come"** (John 16:12-13).
- i. The Spirit of truth will progressively share Jesus' words with you as you're mature enough to handle them.
- D. The Holy Spirit will glorify Jesus: **"He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you"** (John 16:14).
- i. He'll receive things from the Lord and show them to you.
- E. God's power will flood into you as you're baptized in Him: **"But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth"** (Acts 1:8).
- III. In light of all these awesome benefits, I urge you to accept the fact that the baptism in the Holy Spirit is not merely optional but essential.
- A. The baptism in the Holy Spirit makes God's power available to you.
 - B. Although you're not automatically transformed into a victorious Christian, you'll experience increasing victory as you draw out His power by faith.
 - C. Those who reject the baptism in the Holy Spirit deny themselves access to His power.
 - D. Some Christians may have been baptized in the Holy Spirit without realizing it.
 - E. They are wonderful people who don't speak in tongues or believe in a distinct experience with the Holy Spirit, yet they clearly exhibit all of the other characteristics of someone who has received the baptism.
 - F. God intends for you to have His full package!
 - i. Why receive only part of God's gift?
 - ii. Why not receive it all?
 - G. Your loving heavenly Father cared enough to give you the baptism in the Holy Spirit—honor Him by receiving the full package!

DISCIPLESHIP

QUESTIONS

1. True or false: The Holy Spirit will abide with you for as long as you attend church faithfully.
2. **“And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another _____, that he may abide with you for ever”** (John 14:16).
3. According to 2 Corinthians 1:4, what two things will the Holy Spirit do for you?

4. What verse tells you that the Holy Spirit **“shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you”**?

5. John 15:26-27 says, **“But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of _____: And ye also shall bear _____, because ye have been with me from the beginning.”**
 - A. Love / fruit
 - B. Me / witness
 - C. Truth / crosses
 - D. All of the above
 - E. None of the above
6. What is the lesson being taught by John 16:7?

7. Why is it advantageous that Jesus went to heaven and sent you His Spirit?

8. True or false: The Holy Spirit convicts you of not trusting Jesus.
9. True or false: The Holy Spirit convinces you that you're righteous in Christ.

10. True or false: The devil, who constantly hurls condemnation and lies at you, may be judged.

11. John 16:12-13 says, **“I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now. Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will _____ you into all _____: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you _____.”**

12. The baptism in the Holy Spirit is not merely...

- A. Needed but received
- B. For the early church but for you today
- C. Recommended but preached
- D. All of the above
- E. None of the above

13. Are you automatically transformed into a victorious Christian when you receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit?

14. Is it honoring God to receive the full package He has given?

— SCRIPTURES —

JOHN 14:16

And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever.

2 CORINTHIANS 1:4

Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God.

JOHN 14:26

But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

JOHN 15:26-27

But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me: [27] And ye also shall bear witness, because ye have been with me from the beginning.

JOHN 16:7-14

Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you. [8] And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: [9] Of sin, because they believe not on me; [10] Of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more; [11] Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged. [12] I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now. [13] Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come. [14] He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you.

ACTS 1:8

But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

— OUTLINE —

- I. God wants you baptized in the Holy Spirit!
 - A. His longing to fill, control, and empower you far surpasses your desire to be filled, controlled, and empowered.
 - B. In fact, the Holy Spirit has been eagerly waiting for you to open your heart and invite Him in.
 - C. Some groups erroneously teach that you must “travail” and wait on God to receive this experience.
 - D. This idea is based upon a misinterpretation of Acts 1:4-5, which says,
And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me. For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence.
 - E. Jesus commanded the disciples to wait for the baptism because the Holy Spirit had not yet been poured out upon the earth.
 - F. Pentecost was God’s appointed time to pour out the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:1 and 4).
 - G. Since He’s already been given, there’s no need to wait!
 - H. The baptism in the Holy Spirit is a **gift**, not something you can earn by travail or holiness (Luke 11:13).
 - I. If you could rid yourself of all the sin in your life and be perfect before receiving the Holy Spirit, you wouldn’t need Him!
- II. You need to desire the baptism in the Holy Spirit wholeheartedly.
 - A. If you are persuaded and hungry, receiving can be as simple as praying a prayer.
 - B. Occasionally, someone needs a period of time to grow in their hunger and desire to receive.
 - C. Where are you today?
 - D. Are you ready to commit yourself to the Holy Spirit without reservation?
 - E. Perhaps you’ve even recited a prayer for this before but weren’t really ready yet.
 - F. However, after learning these truths—how you’ll receive power, that this was something even Jesus had to have, that it totally transformed the apostles—you’re ready to receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit.

III. God wants you filled, but you must reach out in faith to take it!

For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened. If a son shall ask bread of any of you that is a father, will he give him a stone? or if he ask a fish, will he for a fish give him a serpent? Or if he shall ask an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?

LUKE 11:10-13

- A. Ask, believe, and receive!
- B. If you're ready, pray out loud the following prayer from your heart:

“Father, I surrender to You completely. I recognize my need for Your power to live the Christian life. I'm hungry for You! Please baptize me in Your Holy Spirit!

“By faith, I receive now the baptism in the Holy Spirit. I take it! It's mine in Jesus' name!

“Father, thank You for giving me the Holy Spirit! Holy Spirit, thank You for coming. You are welcome in my life!”
- C. Some people have dramatic experiences receiving the Holy Spirit, and others are genuinely baptized without feeling a thing.
- D. One's not better than the other, as long as you received!
- E. Don't let outward manifestations, or a lack thereof, enable the devil to talk you out of this gift from God (Matt. 13:19).
- F. If you believed in your heart when you prayed, then God's Word promises that you received—**“Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them”** (Mark 11:24).
- G. Congratulations—you've been filled with God's supernatural power!
- H. As you learn to tap into this power, your life will never be the same.

DISCIPLESHIP

QUESTIONS

1. God wants you baptized in the Holy Spirit! His longing to fill, control, and empower you far surpasses what?

2. True or false: The Holy Spirit has been eagerly waiting for you to open your heart and invite Him in.

3. What do some groups erroneously teach?
- A. You can receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit anytime after you are born again
 - B. Moses was reincarnated as a dog
 - C. You must “travail” and wait on God to receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit
 - D. All of the above
 - E. None of the above

4. Why did Jesus command the disciples to wait for the baptism?

5. _____ was God’s appointed time to pour out the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:1 and 4).

6. Is the baptism in the Holy Spirit something you can earn by travail or holiness (Luke 11:13)?

7. You wouldn’t need the Holy Spirit if you could do what?

8. You need to desire the baptism in the Holy Spirit _____.

- 9 . If you are persuaded and hungry, receiving can be as simple as...
- A. Standing on your head
 - B. Praying a prayer
 - C. Engaging in spiritual warfare
 - D. All of the above
 - E. None of the above
10. True or False: Occasionally, someone needs a period of time to grow in their hunger and desire to receive.
11. Luke 11:10-13 says, **“For every one that asketh _____; and he that seeketh _____; and to him that knocketh it shall be _____. If a son shall ask bread of any of you that is a father, will he give him a stone? or if he ask a fish, will he for a fish give him a serpent? Or if he shall ask an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your _____ give the Holy Spirit to them that _____ him?”**
12. Some people have dramatic experiences receiving the Holy Spirit, and others are genuinely baptized without feeling a thing—is one better than the other, as long as you received?
- _____
- _____
- _____
13. What does God’s Word promise you in Mark 11:24?
- _____
- _____
- _____

— SCRIPTURES —

ACTS 1:4-5

And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me. [5] For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence.

ACTS 2:1

And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.

ACTS 2:4

And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

LUKE 11:10-13

For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened. [11] If a son shall ask bread of any of you that is a father, will he give him a stone? or if he ask a fish, will he for a fish give him a serpent? [12] Or if he shall ask an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? [13] If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?

MATTHEW 13:19

When any one heareth the word of the kingdom, and understandeth it not, then cometh the wicked one, and catcheth away that which was sown in his heart. This is he which received seed by the way side.

MARK 11:24

Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.

JOHN 20:22

And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost.

— OUTLINE —

- I. God's Word reveals that speaking in tongues is one of the first manifestations to occur when you receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit.

- A. Jesus' disciples spoke in tongues immediately after receiving the Holy Spirit.

And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

ACTS 2:1-4

- B. As Peter preached the Gospel to the entire household of Cornelius, they received both salvation and the baptism in the Holy Spirit.

While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word. And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost. For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God.

ACTS 10:44-46

- C. Speaking in tongues was outward evidence that these brand-new believers had truly received the Holy Spirit.

- D. Peter used this fact to prove to the rest of the Jewish believers (who weren't there in person) that these Gentiles had indeed been born again.

And as I began to speak, the Holy Ghost fell on them, as on us at the beginning. Then remembered I the word of the Lord, how that he said, John indeed baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost. Forasmuch then as God gave them the like gift as he did unto us, who believed on the Lord Jesus Christ; what was I, that I could withstand God? When they heard these things, they held their peace, and glorified God, saying, Then hath God also to the Gentiles granted repentance unto life.

ACTS 11:15-18

- E. Paul ministered the baptism in the Holy Spirit to Apollos' converts in Ephesus—**“And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied”** (Acts 19:6).

- II. Those who argue against speaking in tongues as initial evidence for the baptism in the Holy Spirit try to use Acts 8 to support their point (Acts 8:5-8 and 14-24).

- A. However, even though these scriptures don't directly say that the people of Samaria spoke in tongues, there's still plenty of evidence to imply it.
- B. Speaking in tongues was present every other time the Holy Spirit was poured out in the book of Acts.
- C. Speaking in tongues is an immediate audible manifestation of the Holy Spirit available to every Spirit-baptized believer.
- D. It's something you can do to help prove that you've received Him.
- E. However, tongues won't automatically force their way up out of your mouth just because you've been baptized.
- F. The Holy Spirit will never make you do something against your will; therefore, you must choose to speak in tongues.

III. Personally, I stumbled into the baptism in the Holy Spirit.

- A. I had been seeking the Lord with all of my heart and crying out for Him to fill me with His power.
- B. On March 23, 1968, He dramatically answered my prayer by baptizing me in the Holy Spirit.
- C. At the time, I had no idea what this was, because I'd never been taught about it—all I knew was that my intimate encounter with God had left me supernaturally empowered.
- D. Before receiving the baptism in the Holy Spirit, I always had to trust what the preacher told me, and I assumed it was true—there wasn't any assurance in my heart or understanding of my own.
- E. Then I received the Holy Spirit, and the One who had written the Bible started explaining it to me.
- F. John 14:26 describes this: **“But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.”**
- G. In addition to revelation knowledge, I became bold and passionate for the Lord.
- H. God's awesome love and glorious presence constantly overwhelmed me.
- I. Witnessing to people changed from being a religious chore into a daily delight.

IV. Everything indicated that I had been baptized in the Holy Spirit, except I didn't speak in tongues.

- A. Why? I'd been taught against it!
- B. Ignorance and wrong teaching predisposed me against this gift.

- C. Although speaking in tongues was available, negative feelings and fear prevented me from using it.
- D. It took me a long time to renew my mind to what God's Word said about my new relationship with the Holy Spirit.
- E. Until I saw what God's Word said about this, my faith wasn't strong enough to walk in it (Rom. 10:17).
- F. If it weren't for my religious prejudice, I could have spoken in tongues as soon as I was baptized in the Holy Spirit.
- G. You don't have to speak in tongues—you get to!
- H. Besides, there's really no good reason not to.
- I. Speaking in tongues releases God's power in your life, and it's available to every Christian who has received the baptism in the Holy Spirit.
- J. If you're not speaking in tongues, you're missing out!

DISCIPLESHIP — QUESTIONS —

1. As revealed in God's Word, what is one of the first manifestations of the baptism in the Holy Spirit?

2. Jesus' disciples spoke in tongues _____ after receiving the Holy Spirit.
- A. A few hours
 - B. A few days
 - C. A few years
 - D. All of the above
 - E. None of the above

3. Acts 10:44-46 says, **"While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost _____ on all them which heard the word. And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost. For they heard them _____ with tongues, and _____ God."**

4. True or false: Peter used this fact to prove to the rest of the Jewish believers that these Gentiles had indeed been born again (Acts 11:15-18).

5. What chapter of the Bible do people use to argue against speaking in tongues as initial evidence for the baptism in the Holy Spirit?

6. Why is that chapter used?

7. Speaking in tongues is an immediate audible manifestation of the Holy Spirit that is what?

8. The Holy Spirit will _____ make you do something against your will; therefore, you must _____ to speak in tongues.

9. What two things happened to Andrew after he received the baptism in the Holy Spirit?

10. Did Andrew speak in tongues right away?

11. What did Andrew have to do then?

— SCRIPTURES —

ACTS 2:1-4

And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. [2] And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. [3] And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. [4] And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

ACTS 10:44-46

While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word. [45] And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost. [46] For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God. Then answered Peter.

ACTS 11:15-18

And as I began to speak, the Holy Ghost fell on them, as on us at the beginning. [16] Then remembered I the word of the Lord, how that he said, John indeed baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost. [17] Forasmuch then as God gave them the like gift as he did unto us, who believed on the Lord Jesus Christ; what was I, that I could withstand God? [18] When they heard these things, they held their peace, and glorified God, saying, Then hath God also to the Gentiles granted repentance unto life.

ACTS 19:6

And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied.

ACTS 8:5-8

Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria, and preached Christ unto them. [6] And the people with one accord gave heed unto those things which Philip spake, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did. [7] For unclean spirits, crying with loud voice, came out of many that were possessed with them: and many taken with palsies, and that were lame, were healed. [8] And there was great joy in that city.

ACTS 8:14-24

Now when the apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent unto them Peter and John: [15] Who, when they were come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost: [16] (For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.) [17] Then laid they their hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost. [18] And when Simon saw that through laying on of the apostles' hands the Holy Ghost was given, he offered them money, [19] Saying, Give me also this power, that on whomsoever I lay hands, he may receive the Holy Ghost. [20] But Peter said unto him, Thy money perish with thee, because thou hast thought that the gift of God may be purchased with money. [21] Thou hast neither part nor lot in this matter: for thy heart is not right in the sight of God. [22] Repent therefore of this thy wickedness, and pray God, if perhaps the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee. [23] For I perceive that thou art in the gall of bitterness, and in the bond of iniquity. [24] Then answered Simon, and said, Pray ye to the Lord for me, that none of these things which ye have spoken come upon me.

JOHN 14:26

But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

ROMANS 10:17

So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

— OUTLINE —

- I. God's Word clearly teaches that the gift of tongues is for today.
 - A. This can best be seen in the three chapters of the Bible that deal specifically with the gifts of the Holy Spirit—1 Corinthians 12, 13, and 14.
 - B. The local body at Corinth was one of the most carnal churches in the entire New Testament.
 - C. These believers were carnal in spite of the gifts of the Spirit—not because of them!
 - D. It's wrong to assume that the gifts are bad for you just because the Corinthians had so many problems.
 - E. Although maturity isn't instantly granted, the gifts of the Holy Spirit do promote spiritual growth.
 - F. This is why three different times, Paul advised this carnal, sinful bunch to earnestly **"desire spiritual gifts"** (1 Cor. 14:1, see also 1 Cor. 12:31 and 14:39).
- II. I started talking about the Lord once to a woman whose house I was painting.
 - A. When she asked me why I'd left the Baptist church, I told her that they kicked me out after I received the baptism in the Holy Spirit. "Are you talking about speaking in tongues?" she inquired. I answered, "Yes, that's part of it. I do speak in tongues, and that's why they asked me to leave the church." She said, "Well, my church would have kicked you out too." I showed her 1 Corinthians 14:39 and said, "The Bible clearly says here, **'Forbid not to speak with tongues.'**" I've never forgotten her candid reply: "Well, there are lots of things in the Bible our church doesn't believe."
 - B. With that, I knew I couldn't minister to her anymore, because God's Word was not the final authority in her Christian life.
 - C. She, like so many others, had chosen to believe her denomination's doctrines above God's Word.
 - D. This is why 1 Corinthians 13 remains the most misunderstood passage of Scripture regarding the gifts of the Holy Spirit today.
- III. The gifts of the Holy Spirit are meant to be operated in love.
 - A. This explains why Paul wrote **"But covet earnestly the best gifts: and yet shew I unto you a more excellent way"** (1 Cor. 12:31) as he launched into his famous love passage (1 Cor. 13).

- B. Some people have tried to say that love is the “**more excellent way**”; however, the context clearly shows that all of Paul’s comments concerning love in chapter 13 pertain specifically to the use of the gifts of the Holy Spirit that are listed in chapter 12 and expounded on in chapter 14.
- C. His point was not that love is better than the gifts but rather that operating the gifts in love is better than using them without it.
- D. The Holy Spirit doesn’t control you like a puppet—He leads, guides, and inspires you to speak in tongues and operate the other gifts, but you are the one who actually does it.
- E. Therefore, it’s possible to operate in the gifts carnally, make mistakes, and fail to be motivated by love.

Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal. And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing.

1 CORINTHIANS 13:1-2

- F. It doesn’t matter which gift you’re operating in—tongues, prophecy, faith—there’s no benefit apart from the right motive.
 - G. In fact, God’s love should be the motivation for everything you do—“**And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing**” (1 Cor. 13:3).
 - H. From God’s point of view, your motive is more important than your action.
- IV. People who reject the baptism in the Holy Spirit twist 1 Corinthians 13:8-10 in order to support their position that tongues passed away with the early church:

Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away. For we know in part, and we prophesy in part. But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away.

1 CORINTHIANS 13:8-10

- A. They claim that God only gave the gifts of the Holy Spirit (speaking in tongues, prophecy, gifts of healing, working of miracles, etc.) to the early church because the Bible wasn’t written yet.
- B. Asserting that the Bible is “**that which is perfect,**” they justify their conclusion that God doesn’t do these things anymore—nonsense!
- C. If you read that passage in its context, you can easily see what it’s really saying.

For we know in part, and we prophesy in part. But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away. When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things. For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known.

1 CORINTHIANS 13:9-12, UNDERLINE MINE

- D. The **“then”** in verse 12 refers to **“when that which is perfect is come.”**
- E. **“That which is perfect”** refers to your glorified body, not the Bible.
- F. For now, speaking in tongues has been given to help you grow in the knowledge of Him.
- G. In your glorified body, you won’t need tongues or the other gifts of the Holy Spirit—prophecy, the word of wisdom, discerning of spirits, interpretation of tongues, etc.—to reveal the Lord anymore, because you’ll already know Him fully.
- H. The very scriptures people use to dismiss the gifts of the Holy Spirit actually prove their validity for today!
- I. As long as your knowledge of Him is incomplete, the gifts of the Spirit will function.
- J. Since **“that which is perfect”** has yet to come, God’s miraculous power continues on earth today just as it did for the early church.
- K. **“Brethren, covet to prophesy, and forbid not to speak with tongues”** (1 Cor. 14:39)!
- V. Some people fight so hard against the truth that the baptism of the Holy Spirit and His miraculous power are for today—two main reasons for this are wrong teaching and a rejection of personal responsibility.
 - A. Doctrines of men can render the Word of God ineffective—that’s what happens when you hold on to religious tradition instead of God’s Word (Mark 7:13).
 - B. Also, there’s a fear of having to produce biblical results.
 - C. If you profess to believe in the baptism in the Holy Spirit, speaking in tongues, casting out demons, healing, and miracles, then that puts pressure on you to manifest them (Mark 16:17-18).
 - D. Instead, many hide behind a convenient theology—calling themselves “Christian,” they quickly confess that their sins are forgiven, while their lives offer very little proof.
 - E. It’s easy to profess “My sins are forgiven” because you can’t see a sin, and you can’t see when it’s forgiven.
 - F. However, if miracles are really part of the Christian life, then there are things you can do to prove their reality.
 - G. Jesus used miracles to prove salvation.

Whether is it easier to say to the sick of the palsy, Thy sins be forgiven thee; or to say, Arise, and take up thy bed, and walk? But that ye may know that the Son of man hath power on earth to forgive sins, (he saith to the sick of the palsy,) I say unto thee, Arise, and take up thy bed, and go thy way into thine house.

MARK 2:9-11

- H. No one can see a sin forgiven, but everyone in that crowded room, including the Pharisees, would be able to see if this man was healed or not.
- I. **“And immediately he arose, took up the bed, and went forth before them all; insomuch that they were all amazed, and glorified God”** (Mark 2:12)—Jesus used the fact that He could heal bodies and perform miracles in the physical realm to substantiate the fact that He could also do things, like forgiving sins, in the spiritual realm.
- J. The reason many people hide behind this false doctrine that miracles passed away is so they can claim to be in relationship with God without ever doing anything to demonstrate it.
- K. The truth is that God still does miracles today, and you should be speaking in tongues until you receive your glorified body!

DISCIPLESHIP

QUESTIONS

1. What are the three chapters in the Bible that best show that the gift of tongues is for today?

2. True or false: The Corinthian believers were carnal because of the gifts of the Spirit.
3. Although maturity isn't _____ granted, the gifts of the Holy Spirit do _____ spiritual growth.
4. What scripture did Andrew use in dealing with the woman whose house he was painting?

5. What makes 1 Corinthians 13 one of the most misunderstood passages of Scripture regarding the gifts of the Holy Spirit?

6. The gifts of the Holy Spirit are meant to be operated...
 - A. In a hospital
 - B. Carnally
 - C. In love
 - D. All of the above
 - E. None of the above
7. Paul preceded his famous love passage (1 Cor. 13) with 1 Corinthians 12:31, which says, **“But covet earnestly the best gifts: and yet shew I unto you a _____.”**
8. What was Paul's point regarding 1 Corinthians 12:31 and 1 Corinthians 13?

9. True or false: The Holy Spirit doesn't control you like a puppet—He leads, guides, and inspires you to speak in tongues and operate the other gifts, but you are the one who actually does it.

10. Is there any benefit to operating in the gifts apart from the right motive?

11. What should be your motivation for everything you do?

12. What do people who reject the baptism in the Holy Spirit claim?

13. First Corinthians 13:9-12 says, “**For we know in part, and we prophesy in part. But when that which is _____ is come, then that which is in part shall be done away. When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things. For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then _____ to _____: now I know in part; but _____ shall I know even as also I am known.**”

14. What does “**that which is perfect**” refer to and what does it not refer to?

15. Why has speaking in tongues been given, for now?

16. Will you need the gifts of the Holy Spirit once you receive your glorified body? Why or why not?

17. What are the two main reasons some people fight so hard against the truth that the baptism of the Holy Spirit and His miraculous power are for today?
- A. Wrong teaching and a lack of knowledge
 - B. Wrong teaching and a rejection of personal responsibility
 - C. A crowd mentality and a rejection of personal responsibility
 - D. All of the above
 - E. None of the above
18. True or false: It's hard to profess "My sins are forgiven" because you can't see a sin, and you can't see when it's forgiven.
19. True or false: If miracles are really part of the Christian life, then there is nothing you can do to prove their reality.
20. **"Whether is it _____ to say to the sick of the palsy, Thy sins be forgiven thee; or to say, Arise, and take up thy bed, and walk? But that ye may know that the Son of man hath power on earth to _____ sins, (he saith to the sick of the palsy,) I say unto thee, Arise, and take up thy bed, and go thy way into thine house" (Mark 2:9-11).**
21. Did Jesus use the fact that He could heal bodies and perform miracles in the physical realm to substantiate the fact that He could also do things, like forgiving sins, in the spiritual realm?

— SCRIPTURES —

1 CORINTHIANS 12:8-10

For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit; [9] To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit; [10] To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues.

1 CORINTHIANS 5:1

It is reported commonly that there is fornication among you, and such fornication as is not so much as named among the Gentiles, that one should have his father's wife.

1 CORINTHIANS 6:1

Dare any of you, having a matter against another, go to law before the unjust, and not before the saints?

1 CORINTHIANS 6:6-7

But brother goeth to law with brother, and that before the unbelievers. [7] Now therefore there is utterly a fault among you, because ye go to law one with another. Why do ye not rather take wrong? why do ye not rather suffer yourselves to be defrauded?

1 CORINTHIANS 3:3-5

For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men? [4] For while one saith, I am of Paul; and another, I am of Apollos; are ye not carnal? [5] Who then is Paul, and who is Apollos, but ministers by whom ye believed, even as the Lord gave to every man?

1 CORINTHIANS 11:20-22

When ye come together therefore into one place, this is not to eat the Lord's supper. [21] For in eating every one taketh before other his own supper: and one is hungry, and another is drunken. [22] What? have ye not houses to eat and to drink in? or despise ye the church of God, and shame them that have not? What shall I say to you? shall I praise you in this? I praise you not.

1 CORINTHIANS 14:26-28

How is it then, brethren? when ye come together, every one of you hath a psalm, hath a doctrine, hath a tongue, hath a revelation, hath an interpretation. Let all things be done unto edifying. [27] If any man speak in an unknown tongue, let it be by two, or at the most by three, and that by course; and let one interpret. [28] But if there be no interpreter, let him keep silence in the church; and let him speak to himself, and to God.

1 CORINTHIANS 14:1

Follow after charity, and desire spiritual gifts, but rather that ye may prophesy.

1 CORINTHIANS 12:31

But covet earnestly the best gifts: and yet shew I unto you a more excellent way.

1 CORINTHIANS 14:39

Wherefore, brethren, covet to prophesy, and forbid not to speak with tongues.

1 CORINTHIANS 13:1-12

Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal. [2] And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing. [3] And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing. [4] Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, [5] Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; [6] Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; [7] Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things. [8] Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away. [9] For we know in part, and we prophesy in part. [10] But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away. [11] When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things. [12] For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known.

DANIEL 12:4

But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased.

MARK 7:13

Making the word of God of none effect through your tradition, which ye have delivered: and many such like things do ye.

MARK 16:17-18

And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; [18] They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.

MARK 2:9-12

Whether is it easier to say to the sick of the palsy, Thy sins be forgiven thee; or to say, Arise, and take up thy bed, and walk? [10] But that ye may know that the Son of man hath power on earth to forgive sins, (he saith to the sick of the palsy,) [11] I say unto thee, Arise, and take up thy bed, and go thy way into thine house. [12] And immediately he arose, took up the bed, and went forth before them all; insomuch that they were all amazed, and glorified God, saying, We never saw it on this fashion.

— OUTLINE —

- I. The primary purpose of speaking in tongues is to promote personal spiritual growth.

For he that speaketh in an unknown tongue speaketh not unto men, but unto God: for no man understandeth him; howbeit in the spirit he speaketh mysteries...He that speaketh in an unknown tongue edifieth himself.

1 CORINTHIANS 14:2 AND 4

- A. When you speak in tongues, you're building yourself up spiritually.
- B. You also keep yourself in the love of God—**“But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost, Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life”** (Jude 20-21).
- C. Speaking in tongues produces rest and spiritual refreshment—**“For with stammering lips and another tongue will he speak to this people. To whom he said, This is the rest wherewith ye may cause the weary to rest; and this is the refreshing”** (Is. 28:11-12).
- D. Your spirit is the part of you where God lives—it's brand new, pure, righteous, and holy.
- E. When you pray in tongues, you release into your soul and body the rest and refreshment that's already in your spirit.
- F. Once you realize you can pray in the spirit anytime you choose, you have no excuse to ever be depressed again!

- II. When you pray in tongues, your natural mind doesn't understand—**“For if I pray in an unknown tongue, my spirit prayeth, but my understanding is unfruitful”** (1 Cor. 14:14).

- A. Unless there's an interpretation, your intellect doesn't know what your spirit is praying.
- B. Your spirit has the mind of Christ.

For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ.

1 CORINTHIANS 2:16

- C. Your spirit knows all things.

But ye have an unction from the Holy One, and ye know all things.

1 JOHN 2:20

And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him.

COLOSSIANS 3:10

- D. Therefore, your spirit always knows how to pray perfectly for situations, yourself, and others.
- E. There's a big difference between praying from your spirit and praying from your mind.
 - i. Your natural mind typically has incomplete information.
 - ii. It lacks full knowledge of God's Word, the situation, and the people involved.
 - iii. Therefore, you cannot pray from your intellect with completeness and 100 percent accuracy.
- F. However, since your born-again spirit knows all things, it's impossible to pray in tongues without praying God's perfect will!
- G. At times, the Holy Spirit may intercede for someone else through you as you pray in tongues.

Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God.

ROMANS 8:26-27

- H. As you speak in tongues, you are speaking the hidden wisdom of God.
- I. Paul received the revelation for the messages he preached through speaking in tongues.

Howbeit we speak wisdom among them that are perfect: yet not the wisdom of this world, nor of the princes of this world, that come to nought: But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory.

1 CORINTHIANS 2:6-7

For he that speaketh in an unknown tongue speaketh not unto men, but unto God: for no man understandeth him; howbeit in the spirit he speaketh mysteries.

1 CORINTHIANS 14:2

- J. As Paul spoke God's mysteries in tongues, he built himself up spiritually and revelation knowledge came—as you pray in tongues, you'll be built up spiritually as revelation knowledge comes to you too!

DISCIPLESHIP — QUESTIONS —

1. What is the primary purpose of speaking in tongues?
 - A. To promote personal spiritual growth
 - B. So that God can understand you
 - C. For the edification of the body of Christ
 - D. All of the above
 - E. None of the above

2. When you speak in tongues, you also keep yourself in the what?

3. Isaiah 28:11-12 says, “**For with stammering lips and another _____ will he speak to this people. To whom he said, This is the _____ wherewith ye may cause the weary to rest; and this is the _____.**”

4. When you pray in tongues, you release into your soul and body the rest and refreshment that’s where?

5. True or false: Your natural mind understands it when you pray in tongues.

6. What is a characteristic of your spirit?
 - A. Your spirit has the mind of Christ
 - B. Your spirit knows how to pray perfectly for situations, yourself, and others
 - C. Your spirit knows all things
 - D. All of the above
 - E. None of the above

7. Is there a big difference between praying from your spirit and praying from your mind?

8. Since your born-again spirit knows all things, it’s impossible to do what?

9. What passage of Scripture tells you that the Holy Spirit may intercede for someone else through you as you pray in tongues?

10. As you speak in tongues, you are speaking the _____

— SCRIPTURES —

1 CORINTHIANS 14:2

For he that speaketh in an unknown tongue speaketh not unto men, but unto God: for no man understandeth him; howbeit in the spirit he speaketh mysteries.

1 CORINTHIANS 14:4

He that speaketh in an unknown tongue edifieth himself; but he that prophesieth edifieth the church.

JUDE 20-21

But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost, [21] Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.

ISAIAH 28:11-12

For with stammering lips and another tongue will he speak to this people. [12] To whom he said, This is the rest wherewith ye may cause the weary to rest; and this is the refreshing; yet they would not hear.

1 CORINTHIANS 14:14

For if I pray in an unknown tongue, my spirit prayeth, but my understanding is unfruitful.

1 CORINTHIANS 2:16

For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ.

1 JOHN 2:20

But ye have an unction from the Holy One, and ye know all things.

COLOSSIANS 3:10

And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him.

ROMANS 8:26-27

Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. [27] And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God.

1 CORINTHIANS 2:6-7

Howbeit we speak wisdom among them that are perfect: yet not the wisdom of this world, nor of the princes of this world, that come to nought: [7] But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory.

— OUTLINE —

I. When you speak in tongues, you should believe God for the interpretation—“**Wherefore let him that speaketh in an unknown tongue pray that he may interpret**” (1 Cor. 14:13).

A. It’s beyond your carnal ability to grasp the mysteries and hidden wisdom of God that you’re praying in the spirit.

B. However, if you ask Him, God will supernaturally give you the interpretation.

C. The public use of the gift of tongues in a church service requires interpretation.

If any man speak in an unknown tongue, let it be by two, or at the most by three, and that by course; and let one interpret. But if there be no interpreter, let him keep silence in the church; and let him speak to himself, and to God.

1 CORINTHIANS 14:27-28

D. Without interpretation of a publicly given tongue, some people will think you’re crazy:

If therefore the whole church be come together into one place, and all speak with tongues, and there come in those that are unlearned, or unbelievers, will they not say that ye are mad?

1 CORINTHIANS 14:23

E. Certain members of the body are given the vocation of interpretation for public purposes.

Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular. And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues. Are all apostles? are all prophets? are all teachers? are all workers of miracles? Have all the gifts of healing? do all speak with tongues? do all interpret?

1 CORINTHIANS 12:27-30

F. Some people have misunderstood 1 Corinthians 12:29-30 to mean that not everyone should speak in tongues.

G. However, Mark 16:17-18 states:

And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.

H. Therefore, some have vocations of speaking and/or interpreting tongues given publicly in a church service, but every Spirit-baptized believer can pray in tongues for personal edification.

- II. Tongues come in two different types—tongues of men and tongues of angels: **“Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels”** (1 Cor. 13:1).
- A. Tongues of men are languages that either have been or are spoken on earth.
 - B. When the disciples were first baptized in the Holy Spirit on Pentecost, they spoke in tongues of men (Acts 2:4-12).
 - i. This wasn’t merely a supernatural acceleration of language learning, because the speakers themselves had no idea what they were saying.
 - ii. The Holy Spirit suddenly baptized them, and their tongues became a supernatural sign to the unbelievers within earshot whose native languages the disciples were speaking (1 Cor. 14:22).
 - C. Tongues of angels are heavenly languages.
 - i. Every Spirit-baptized believer can pray in the tongues of angels.
 - ii. When you speak mysteries and the hidden wisdom of God, you are speaking in an angelic tongue.
 - D. It doesn’t matter if you speak in a tongue of men or an angelic tongue—you can ask God for the interpretation!
- III. All you need to interpret tongues for personal edification is to gain understanding.
- A. When you’re praying by yourself, you don’t have to stop and get an interpretation in English.
 - B. This method—praying out loud in tongues, then waiting until the English interpretation is given—works well in public, but it’s not the only way to receive interpretation.
 - C. You just need your mind to become fruitful.
- IV. When you pray in tongues, your mind can be occupied with something else.
- A. Since your spirit’s praying and not your brain, your mind can wander—you can even think about things totally unrelated to God.
 - B. Personally, I’ve trained myself to pray with my understanding while praying in tongues.
 - C. You can do this while praying for people, when you need wisdom for a challenging situation, or simply to understand a particular scripture—just take the person, situation, or passage, and begin praying in tongues over it.
 - D. As you’re praying, ask the Lord to show you what it means.
 - E. Although understanding may not always come at that exact moment, God will give you an interpretation.

- F. As you step out in faith to pray in tongues and believe God for the interpretation, you'll receive exactly what you need from the Holy Spirit!

DISCIPLESHIP QUESTIONS

1. **“Wherefore let him that speaketh in an unknown tongue pray that he may _____”** (1 Cor. 14:13).

2. True or false: It’s within your carnal ability to grasp the mysteries and hidden wisdom of God that you’re praying in the spirit.

3. God will supernaturally give you the interpretation if you what?

4. What have some people done with 1 Corinthians 12:29-30?

5. Some have vocations of speaking and/or interpreting tongues given _____ in a church service, but _____ Spirit-baptized believer can pray in tongues for personal edification.

6. Tongues come in two different types (1 Cor. 13:1). What are they?
 - A. Tongues of Farsi and of Tamil
 - B. Tongues of men and of angels
 - C. Tongues of old and of new
 - D. All of the above
 - E. None of the above

7. What are tongues of men?

8. What are tongues of angels?

9. When you're praying by yourself, do you need to stop and get an interpretation in English?

10. Do you just need your mind to become fruitful?

11. True or false: When you pray in tongues, your mind can be occupied with something else.

12. Since your spirit's praying and not your brain, what can happen?

13. You can pray with your understanding while praying for _____, when you need _____ for a challenging situation, or simply to _____ a particular scripture.

14. What should you do as you're praying?

15. Although understanding may not always come _____, God will give you an interpretation.

- A. At that exact moment
- B. On the full moon
- C. With prayer and fasting
- D. All of the above
- E. None of the above

16. As you step out in faith to pray in tongues and believe God for the interpretation, what will happen?

— SCRIPTURES —

1 CORINTHIANS 14:13

Wherefore let him that speaketh in an unknown tongue pray that he may interpret.

1 CORINTHIANS 14:27-28

If any man speak in an unknown tongue, let it be by two, or at the most by three, and that by course; and let one interpret. [28] But if there be no interpreter, let him keep silence in the church; and let him speak to himself, and to God.

1 CORINTHIANS 14:22-23

Wherefore tongues are for a sign, not to them that believe, but to them that believe not; but prophesying serveth not for them that believe not, but for them which believe. [23] If therefore the whole church be come together into one place, and all speak with tongues, and there come in those that are unlearned, or unbelievers, will they not say that ye are mad?

1 CORINTHIANS 12:27-30

Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular. [28] And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues. [29] Are all apostles? are all prophets? are all teachers? are all workers of miracles? [30] Have all the gifts of healing? do all speak with tongues? do all interpret?

MARK 16:17-18

And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; [18] They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.

1 CORINTHIANS 13:1

Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal.

ACTS 2:4-12

And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. [5] And there were dwelling at Jerusalem Jews, devout men, out of every nation under heaven. [6] Now when this was noised abroad, the multitude came together, and were confounded, because that every man heard them speak in his own language. [7] And they were all amazed and marvelled, saying one to another, Behold, are not all these which speak Galilaeans? [8] And how hear we every man in our own tongue, wherein we were born? [9] Parthians, and Medes, and Elamites, and the dwellers in Mesopotamia, and in Judaea, and Cappadocia, in Pontus, and Asia, [10] Phrygia, and Pamphylia, in Egypt, and in the parts of Libya about Cyrene, and strangers of Rome, Jews and proselytes, [11] Cretes and Arabians, we do hear them speak in our tongues the wonderful works of God. [12] And they were all amazed, and were in doubt, saying one to another, What meaneth this?

— OUTLINE —

- I. Speaking in tongues is not something you do just once to prove you've received the baptism in the Holy Spirit; it's a powerful tool to edify yourself spiritually.
 - A. Whenever you pray in tongues, you cause yourself to rest, you build yourself up on your most holy faith, and you keep the love of God active and alive in your heart.
 - B. As you speak forth hidden wisdom and believe for interpretation, revelation knowledge will open up and supply answers you couldn't get any other way.
 - C. The Holy Spirit inspires the words, but you have to say them—**“And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance”** (Acts 2:4).
 - D. It's not just purely the Holy Spirit speaking through you—He gives you a prodding and a desire, but you must do the talking.
 - E. Fear short-circuits your ability to speak in tongues.
 - F. Yield your tongue to the Holy Spirit, and then speak forth by faith the words He gives you.
- II. For months, I struggled to pray in tongues—even though I was convinced it was of God and wanted it, I had a hard time receiving my prayer language.
 - A. Looking back, I know now that I could have spoken in tongues all along.
 - B. However, I was under the false impression that the Holy Spirit would come upon me with such force that I wouldn't be able to keep myself from blurting out in tongues.
 - C. When that never happened, I discovered that He doesn't work that way.
 - D. The Holy Spirit was just waiting for me to speak out in faith the words He'd been gently inspiring me to say.
 - E. Now it's your turn to do the same!
- III. By faith, say out loud those sounds coming up from deep within.
 - A. You'll be talking in a language unknown to you, but the Holy Spirit is the One inspiring it—you'll be speaking in tongues!
 - B. Go ahead—practice awhile! Enjoy yourself in the Lord!
 - C. If you aren't fluent right away, don't worry—God is proud of you!
 - D. When little children start to speak, their parents know what they are trying to say—even though it's baby talk, they're pleased.

- E. Your heavenly Father is proud of you, even if your tongue isn't fluent yet.
- F. If you'll just keep using it and not worry about yourself so much, tongues will begin to flow out of you unhindered!

DISCIPLESHIP — QUESTIONS —

1. True or false: Speaking in tongues is not something you do just once to prove you've received the baptism in the Holy Spirit.

2. When you pray in tongues, what three things happen?

3. As you speak forth hidden wisdom and believe for interpretation,
 _____ will open up and supply
 _____ you couldn't get any other way.

4. Acts 2:4 says, "**And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to**
 _____ **with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them**
 _____."

5. True or false: Fear short-circuits your ability to speak in tongues.

6. Will the Holy Spirit come upon you with such force that you won't be able to keep yourself from blurting out in tongues?

7. What is the Holy Spirit waiting for?

8. If you aren't fluent right away, what should you do?
 - A. See a speech therapist
 - B. Believe to receive the Holy Spirit again
 - C. Don't worry
 - D. All of the above
 - E. None of the above

9. Is God proud of you, even if your tongue isn't fluent yet?

10. What should you do to get tongues to flow out of you unhindered?

— SCRIPTURES —

ACTS 2:4

And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

MARK 16:17

And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues.