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LIVING IN THE  
**Balance of  
Grace & Faith**

by  
Andrew Wommack

**Study Guide**

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*Living in the Balance of Grace & Faith Study Guide*  
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# INTRODUCTION

The balance between grace and faith is an important foundational truth. Whether you are consciously aware of it or not, you deal with this truth on a daily basis.

The body of Christ is basically divided into two groups: those who emphasize grace (God's part) and those who emphasize faith (our part).

The first group preaches that everything is totally up to God. The second group teaches that there are many things we must do. Both contend that the other group is totally wrong.

On a personal level, we may phrase this in many different ways, but it all comes down to which part is God's and what part is ours.

The Bible clearly reveals a balance between grace (God's part) and faith (our part). As you open up your heart to receive God's Word through this study, I believe the Lord will share many life-changing truths with you.

# How to Use Your Study Guide

Whether you are teaching a class, leading a small group, discipling an individual, or studying *The Balance of Grace & Faith* on your own, this *Study Guide* is designed for you! Here's how it works:

Each study consists of a **Lesson Outline**, **Teacher's Guide**, **Discipleship Questions**, **Answer Key**, and **Scriptures**. Some **Lessons** also have **Additional Information**.

The teacher reads the **Lesson** aloud. While the **Lesson** is being read, each student follows along with their own copy of the **Lesson Outline**.

Once the **Lesson** is read, the teacher then facilitates a group Bible study using the **Teacher's Guide**. Simply read aloud one numbered section at a time, ask the corresponding questions that follow, and have the group answer them. Then, repeat the process for the next numbered section. For your convenience, answers are provided in parentheses.

Except for the corresponding questions and answers, the information on the **Teacher's Guide** is the same as the **Lesson Outline**. Therefore, the group should use their **Lesson Outlines** to assist them in answering the questions.

Whenever a question mentions a specific scripture, be sure to have the group look it up in their Bibles and read it together before answering the question. Feel free to interact with the group over the scriptures and points from the **Lesson** as time allows. Don't let any individual dominate the discussion, but try to draw out the quieter ones for the group conversation. As much as possible, keep the discussion centered on the scriptures and the **Lesson** points at hand. Remember, the goal is understanding (Matt. 13:19).

**Discipleship Questions** are provided for further study and meditation. They are designed for use as "homework," but—according to the teacher's discretion—may be helpful during the group study sometimes as well. Each **Lesson** comes with an **Answer Key**. As a brief review before launching into the current **Lesson**, the teacher may wish to go over the **Answer Key** for the previous study's **Discipleship Questions** with the group.

Some **Lessons** also have **Additional Information**. This section, geared toward the teacher, contains resource recommendations for further study.

**Scriptures** from the *King James Version* of the Bible are included as another tool for reference and meditation.

For personal study, read the **Lesson** and review the **Teacher's Guide**. Then, answer the **Discipleship Questions** and check your work with the **Answer Key**. For maximum impact, be sure to utilize the **Additional Information** and **Scriptures** sections.

Outline for Group Study:

- I. Briefly review previous study by going over the **Answer Key** for the **Discipleship Questions** (homework).
- II. Read the current **Lesson** aloud.
  - A. Be sure that each student has a copy of the **Lesson Outline**.
  - B. While the **Lesson** is being read, students should use their **Lesson Outline** to follow along.
- III. Once the **Lesson** is read, facilitate a group Bible study using the **Teacher's Guide**.
  - A. Read one entire numbered section (above).
  - B. Ask the corresponding questions (below).
  - C. Have the group look up and read aloud each specifically mentioned scripture before answering the question.
  - D. Discuss the scripture and the answer/point from the **Lesson** as desired.
  - E. Repeat the process by reading the next numbered section (above).
- IV. Distribute copies of the **Discipleship Questions** to be worked on as homework.

Materials Needed:

Study guide, Bible, and enough copies of the **Outline**, **Discipleship Questions**, and **Scriptures** for each student. (PDFs of the **Outlines**, **Discipleship Questions**, and **Scriptures** can be downloaded via the URL located on the first page of this study guide.)

Outline for Personal Study:

- I. Read **Lesson**.
  - A. Read **Additional Information**, if any.
  - B. Meditate on the given scriptures, as desired.
- II. Review **Teacher's Guide**.
- III. Answer **Discipleship Questions**.
- IV. Check your work with the **Answer Key**.

Materials Needed:

Study guide, Bible, and something to write with.



# **SODIUM AND CHLORINE**

## **Lesson 1**

We can become so familiar with a certain passage of Scripture that we don't really know what it says. We don't pay attention to it anymore because it has become so common to us. Ephesians 2:8-9 has become one such passage for many believers.

***For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.***

There are some profound truths revealed here, one of which is that we are saved by grace through faith.

The body of Christ is basically divided into two groups: those who emphasize grace (what God does) and those who emphasize faith (what we do).

The first group preaches that everything is totally up to God. They say, "It's just the sovereignty of God. It's whatever He chooses." The second group teaches, "No, you have to do this and that, and this and that." Those who preach man's responsibility will normally say that those teaching that it's all up to God are totally wrong. And those who preach that it's all up to God will teach against those who say, "No, you have to do some things."

You might phrase this same issue differently, but it all comes down to which part is God's and which part is yours. God's Word clearly reveals a balance between grace and faith.

### **Appeared to All Men**

Even though the body of Christ typically divides into two camps—one emphasizing what God has to do and the other emphasizing what we have to do—Ephesians 2:8-9 says that we are saved by grace through faith. We aren't saved only by grace nor only by faith.

Now, to be technically accurate, there is a parenthetical phrase in the last part of verse 5, which says:

***(By grace ye are saved).***

Ephesians 2:5

I'm not arguing that it's wrong to say that we are saved by grace. But technically, it's not grace alone that saves us. It's really important that we understand this point. God has done so much for us by grace, but for us to receive what He has done, there must be a positive response on our part, which is what the Bible calls "faith." There has to be a combination of both grace and faith.

You aren't saved by grace alone.

***For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men.***

Titus 2:11

Grace is what God does for you. It's His part. It is something that was done for you before you existed. Grace has nothing to do with you. By definition, it is "unmerited, unearned, undeserved favor." If grace is something that God does and if grace alone saved people, then every person would be saved, because Titus 2:11 reveals that the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to everyone.

## **God's Grace**

God's grace is the same toward everyone. God has been exactly the same toward every person who has ever lived. But you may be wondering, *Then how come so and so got healed and I didn't? Why did God touch them and not me?* The problem is, you think that when you see something happen, all of a sudden God has done something or provided something for that person that He hasn't provided for you. God's grace is the same toward everybody, because it's not based on, or tied to, what you do. God, by grace, has already brought salvation to every person on the face of this earth (Titus 2:11).

This is not something that is commonly understood. Most people believe that it's their performance that earns them extra pull and favor to get the power of God operating in their lives. But the truth is, the moment you begin relating God's blessing—the manifestation of His power in your life—to anything you've done, you have just voided grace, because you've made God's blessing and manifestation in your life proportional to something that you've done. If you think that way, then you don't understand the grace of God.

God, by grace, has already provided everything for you before you ever needed it. Take, for instance, salvation. Many people think that you have to ask God to forgive your sins and for Jesus to come into your heart to receive salvation. They will pray, "Jesus, would You please come into my life?" They tell others, "Just ask Christ to come into your life." That's not what salvation is.

## **A Non-issue**

Acts 16:30-31 is a scriptural example of someone receiving salvation. Paul and Silas were in the Philippian jail, and the jailer came to them and asked,

***Sirs, what must I do to be saved?***

Acts 16:30

They didn't answer by saying, "Ask Jesus to come into your life" or "Repent of your sins, and quit doing this and that." They simply responded,

***Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved.***

Acts 16:31

Believe what? It's not just believe that Jesus existed or that He came to earth.

Jesus didn't die only for the people whom He knew would accept Him someday.

***He is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.***

1 John 2:2

Jesus died for every sinner who has ever lived on this earth. And He died for our sins two thousand years ago, long before we ever committed them. The Lord doesn't wait until we ask Him "Please come into my heart" to forgive us of our sins. The radical truth is that the sins of the entire world are already forgiven.

God forgave your sins before you existed. Before you were ever born, all of your sins were forgiven. Before you had ever committed a sin, God forgave them. Your sins are forgiven. Sin is actually a non-issue with God.

## **Already Been Forgiven**

This is not the message of the church today. The church is basically preaching that every time you sin, it's an affront against God. They say, "You have to get that sin forgiven and under the blood before God can move in your life." That's not what the Scriptures teach. The Word reveals that your sins are already forgiven. You don't have to ask God to forgive you your sins or ask Him to come into your life. What you have to do is believe the Gospel—that Jesus has already come, already died, and already forgiven the sins of the world.

Someone might say, "Well, then, if that's true, then everybody's saved, right?" No, because grace alone doesn't save. God, by grace, has made the provision and paid for every person's sins. People aren't going to hell for sexual immorality, murder, lying, or stealing. All of those sins have been paid for. The sin that is going to send people to hell is the singular sin of rejecting Jesus as their personal Savior. This is what the Bible reveals in John 16.

***When he [the Holy Spirit] is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment.***

John 16:8, brackets mine

Then in verse 9, Jesus explained what that sin is that the Holy Spirit would reprove the world of. It's the sin of not believing on Jesus.

***Of sin, because they believe not on me.***

John 16:9

The church has been misrepresenting the Holy Spirit by saying, “He’s here to nail you every time you lie, cheat, and steal. He’ll get you every time you don’t study the Word or do this and not that.” This has made us sin conscious. It’s magnified sin. But the truth is, Jesus has already paid for that. The Holy Spirit is only dealing with this one issue: Have you believed on the Lord Jesus Christ? If you have made Jesus your Lord, then all of your sins—past, present, and even future sins (sins you haven’t committed yet)—have already been forgiven.

## **Identical Toward Us All**

That truth would get me kicked out of most churches. It’s why my citywide meetings are normally held in a neutral venue, like a hotel or conference center. There aren’t very many churches that will let me share these truths, because they’re just so radical.

Sin has already been dealt with by grace (Heb. 9-10). If it’s by grace, then that means it isn’t dependent on whether you’ve asked Him to forgive you or not. The truth is, God provided salvation for the entire human race by grace.

Again, Titus 2:11 says,

***For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men.***

God’s grace is exactly the same toward everybody—not only to you, but to every person on the face of the earth. Adolph Hitler had as much grace extended toward him as you and I have had extended toward us. Every person who has done terrible things in the history of the world, Jesus loved them, died for them, and paid for their sins exactly the same as He did for all of the people who have received Him, love Him, and seek Him. The grace of God is identical toward us all.

God, by grace, has already provided healing for everybody. One of my staff members who works at our citywide meetings used to be a quadriplegic. Now he’s up walking around and doing great. He was supernaturally healed. Every quadriplegic has had the same exact grace extended toward them. God isn’t different toward any of us.

## **Radical Truth**

The moment you start saying, “Well, why did God heal him? Why did He heal her of cancer? Why did God do this for them, yet He hasn’t done it for me?” The moment you start thinking like that, you have to factor in your performance. “Well, I haven’t prayed enough. I haven’t done enough of this, or enough of that. This is why God hasn’t done it.” That’s totally wrong thinking.

The grace of God is consistent. He’s the same toward everybody. God is no respecter of persons (Rom. 2:11). He doesn’t love one person more than He loves another. He hasn’t



provided more for one person than He's provided for another. God has forgiven the sins of the entire human race. Does that mean that everybody is saved? No, because not everybody has put faith in what God did by grace. Grace is what God does for us independently of us.

Prior to you existing, before you even had the need, God had already created the supply. Before you ever get discouraged, God has already blessed you with all spiritual blessings. He's already abounded toward you. You don't have to ask the Lord to give you joy and peace, to heal you, prosper you, or to save you. You don't have to ask. He's already provided before you ever had the problem. That's awesome!

God, by grace, has already done everything. He anticipated every need you could ever have, and He already met all of those needs through Christ. Jesus was how God intervened in the affairs of man. Jesus is how God provided everything, and that happened two thousand years ago. Jesus hasn't died for a single person's sins since. He hasn't healed a single person since two thousand years ago when He took stripes on His back. Salvation, healing, and deliverance have already been provided. When people today hear the truth and believe, all of a sudden what God has already provided by grace becomes a reality to them. As they mix faith with the Word of God, what He has already done by grace begins to manifest in their lives.

You're saved by grace through faith, not one or the other. That is a radical truth, which I'll be teaching and explaining for the rest of this study. Understanding this foundational truth will make a huge difference in your life.

## **Poison**

It's like sodium and chlorine. Both sodium and chlorine are poisons. If you take either one of them by themselves in sufficient quantity, they'll kill you. Yet, if you mix sodium and chlorine together, it becomes salt, and you'll die if you don't have it.

If all you emphasize is "Well, it's all up to God," that'll kill you. But on the other hand, if all you emphasize is "You have to believe and do this and that," it'll kill you too. True Bible faith is simply a positive response to what God has already provided by grace. Faith only appropriates what God has already provided. Faith doesn't move God or make Him do anything.

If you don't recognize that faith is just the way you appropriate and receive what God has already provided by grace, then the Law and legalism will kill you. That puts the entire burden on your shoulders, which isn't good either. Faith or grace—independent of each other, not mixed together properly—will kill you.

Many people in the church emphasize, "It's totally up to God. God is sovereign. It's whatever He wills. Que sera, sera. Whatever will be, will be. It's just up to God." That will kill you. I can name some people who that has literally killed. They were just waiting on God to heal them, not understanding that they had a part to play too.

On the other hand, there are people who emphasize, “You have to pray, study, and believe God. You have to do something.” They get into this to such a degree that they think their works are making God move. They see their faith as a pry bar—twisting God’s arm and making Him perform. That becomes legalism, and it destroys people.

Basically, that’s the kind of background I came out of. We thought we had to do many different things in order to earn God’s blessing. I didn’t understand that the Lord had provided everything by grace. In fact, we used to have a little poem that said, “Mary had a little lamb, it would have been a sheep. But it joined our local church and died from lack of sleep.” We just worked ourselves to the bone, doing all of these things. Since then, I’ve realized that’s not the way it works. There has to be a balance between grace and faith.

# SODIUM AND CHLORINE

## Lesson 1 – Outline

- I. The body of Christ is basically divided into two groups: those who emphasize grace (what God does) and those who emphasize faith (what we do).

***For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.***

Ephesians 2:8-9

- A. The first group preaches that everything is totally up to God, and the second group teaches, “No, you have to do this and that, and this and that.”
- B. You might phrase this same issue differently, but it all comes down to which part is God’s and which part is ours.
- C. God’s Word clearly reveals a balance between grace and faith.
- D. God has done so much for us by grace, but for us to receive what He has done, there must be a positive response on our part, which is what the Bible calls “faith”—there has to be a combination of both grace and faith.

***For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men.***

Titus 2:11

- II. Grace is what God does for you—it’s His part. Grace has nothing to do with you. By definition, it is “unmerited, unearned, undeserved favor.”

- A. God’s grace is the same toward everybody because it’s not based on, or tied to, what you do.
- B. The moment you begin relating God’s blessing—the manifestation of His power in your life—to anything you’ve done, you have just voided grace, because you’ve made God’s blessing and manifestation in your life proportional to something that you’ve done.

***Sirs, what must I do to be saved? And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.***

Acts 16:30-31

- III. The Word reveals that your sins are already forgiven.

***He is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.***

1 John 2:2

- A. What you have to do is believe the Gospel—that Jesus has already come, already died, and already forgiven the sins of the world.
- B. The sin that is going to send people to hell is the singular sin of rejecting Jesus as their personal Savior.

***When he [the Holy Spirit] is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: Of sin, because they believe not on me.***

John 16:8-9, brackets mine

- C. If you have made Jesus your Lord, then all of your sins—past, present, and even future sins (sins you haven't committed yet)—have already been forgiven.
- D. Sin has already been dealt with by grace (Heb. 9-10).

IV. The grace of God is identical toward us all.

- A. The grace of God is consistent.
- B. God is no respecter of persons (Rom. 2:11).
- C. Grace is what God does for us independently of us.

V. God, by grace, has already done everything.

- A. He anticipated every need you could ever have, and He already met all of those needs through Christ.
- B. Salvation, healing, and deliverance have already been provided.
- C. When people today hear the truth and believe, all of a sudden what God has already provided by grace becomes a reality to them.
- D. As they mix faith with the Word of God, what He has already done by grace begins to manifest in their lives.

VI. True Bible faith is simply a positive response to what God has already provided by grace.

- A. Faith only appropriates what God has already provided.
- B. Faith doesn't move God or make Him do anything.
- C. There has to be a balance between grace and faith.

# Sodium and Chlorine

## Lesson 1 – Teacher’s Guide

1. The body of Christ is basically divided into two groups: those who emphasize grace (what God does) and those who emphasize faith (what we do) (Eph. 2:8-9). The first group preaches that everything is totally up to God, and the second group teaches, “No, we have to do this and that, and this and that.” We might phrase this same issue differently, but it all comes down to which part is God’s and which part is ours. God’s Word clearly reveals a balance between grace and faith. God has done so much for us by grace, but for us to receive what He has done, there must be a positive response on our part, which is what the Bible calls “faith”—there has to be a combination of both grace and faith (Titus 2:11).

2. Grace is what God does for us—it’s His part. Grace has nothing to do with us. By definition, it is “unmerited, unearned, undeserved favor.” God’s grace is the same toward everybody because it’s not based on, or tied to, what we do. The moment we begin relating God’s blessing—the manifestation of His power in our lives—to anything we’ve done, then we have just voided grace, because we’ve made God’s blessing and manifestation in our lives proportional to something that we’ve done (Acts 16:30-31).

3. The Word reveals that our sins are already forgiven (1 John 2:2). What we have to do is believe the Gospel—that Jesus has already come, already died, and already forgiven the sins of the world. The sin that is going to send people to hell is the singular sin of rejecting Jesus as their personal Savior (John 16:8-9). If we have made Jesus our Lord, then all of our sins—past, present, and even future sins (sins we haven’t committed yet)—have already been forgiven. Sin has already been dealt with by grace (Heb. 9-10).

1. A. Read Ephesians 2:8-9 and Titus 2:11. What do “grace” people emphasize? (What God does)  
B. What do “faith” people emphasize? (What we do)  
C. What must there be on our part for us to receive what God has done by grace? (A positive response, which is what the Bible calls “faith”)
2. A. Read Acts 16:30-31. By definition, what is grace? (Unmerited, unearned, undeserved favor)  
B. We void grace the moment we begin relating God’s blessing—the manifestation of His power in our lives—to what? (Anything we’ve done)
3. A. Read 1 John 2:2, John 16:8-9, and Hebrews 9-10. What does the Word reveal about all of our sins—past, present, and even future sins? (They have already been forgiven)  
B. What is the singular sin that is going to send people to hell? (Rejecting Jesus as their personal Savior)

4. The grace of God is identical toward us all. The grace of God is consistent. God is no respecter of persons (Rom. 2:11). Grace is what God does for us independently of us.

5. God, by grace, has already done everything. He anticipated every need we could ever have, and He already met all of those needs through Christ. Salvation, healing, and deliverance have already been provided. When people today hear the truth and believe, all of a sudden what God has already provided by grace becomes a reality to them. As they mix faith with the Word of God, what He has already done by grace begins to manifest in their lives.

6. True Bible faith is simply a positive response to what God has already provided by grace. Faith only appropriates what God has already provided. Faith doesn't move God or make Him do anything. There has to be a balance between grace and faith.

4. A. Read Romans 2:11. How is the grace of God toward us all? (Identical, consistent)  
B. Grace is what God does for us how? (Independently of us)
5. A. How has God already met every need we could ever have? (Through Christ)  
B. What happens when we mix faith with the Word of God? (What He has already done by grace begins to manifest in our lives)
6. A. What is true Bible faith? (Simply a positive response to what God has already provided by grace)  
B. Faith only appropriates what? (What God has already provided)  
C. There has to be a balance between what? (Grace and faith)

# Sodium and Chlorine

## Lesson 1 – Discipleship Questions

1. According to Ephesians 2:8-9, how are we saved?
2. It is the gift of whom?
3. How does Ephesians 2:5 reveal that we are saved?
4. What does Titus 2:11 say brings salvation?
5. And this has appeared to whom?
6. In Acts 16:30-31, what did the Philippian jailer ask?
7. What was the answer to this question?
8. According to 1 John 2:2, Jesus is the propitiation (atoning sacrifice) for whose sins?
9. According to John 16:8-9, the Holy Spirit reproves the world of the singular sin of not believing on whom?
10. According to Romans 2:11, is there respect of persons with God?

# Sodium and Chlorine

## Lesson 1 – Answer Key

1. By grace through faith.
2. God.
3. By grace.
4. The grace of God.
5. All people.
6. “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?”
7. “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ.”
8. Both ours and the whole world’s.
9. Jesus.
10. No.



# Sodium and Chlorine

## Lesson 1 – Scriptures

***For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.***

Ephesians 2:8-9

***Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved).***

Ephesians 2:5

***For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men.***

Titus 2:11

***And brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved? And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.***

Acts 16:30-31

***And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.***

1 John 2:2

***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.***

John 16:8-9

***For there is no respect of persons with God.***

Romans 2:11



# Is God Sovereign?

## Lesson 2

People have taken the truth that God moves independently of us, not based on our performance, and developed a teaching that is commonly called “the sovereignty of God.” They say “God just moves sovereignly,” meaning that we have nothing to do with it. Basically, what they’re doing is overemphasizing grace.

They teach, “God is sovereign. If it’s His will, you’ll be healed. And if it’s not, you’ll die. It’s totally up to God.” Some folks have taken this to the extreme. There are entire denominations that teach that certain people are predestined to salvation, others are predestined to damnation—and that God predetermined it. “There’s nothing you can do about it. It’s totally up to God.”

The theological term for this tension between grace and faith is Calvinism versus Arminianism. Calvinism emphasizes that everything is totally up to God. Arminianism emphasizes that you have a part to play, that you can believe and receive or doubt and do without. You can control the measure of the grace of God you experience by your faith. It’s Calvinists who emphasize this term, “the sovereignty of God.”

### Supreme, Independent, Excellent

The *New International Version* (NIV) popularized the term *sovereignty*. In 288 verses, they substituted the phrase “Sovereign LORD” where it’s translated “Lord GOD” or “Lord God Almighty” in the *King James Version* (KJV) and others.

I’m not against this word—*sovereign*—if you’ll use it the way the dictionary defines it. As a noun, it means “A king, queen, or other noble person who serves as a chief of state; a ruler or monarch” or “A gold coin formerly used in Great Britain” (American Heritage Dictionary). But of course, we’re not talking about a coin.

As an adjective, it speaks of something or someone being “Paramount; supreme.” If you want to call God sovereign in the sense that He’s paramount or supreme, I agree 100 percent.

Another definition is “Having supreme rank or power.” God is definitely the top of the food chain. Nobody tells Him what to do. He is absolutely supreme.

Still another definition is “Self-governing; independent.” The United States is sovereign. We broke away from Great Britain. We are a sovereign nation. In this sense, God is sovereign too. He’s independent. Nobody gives Him orders.

“Sovereign” came from a Latin word that meant “super” or “above.” I agree with that. If you want to use “sovereign” the way the dictionary uses it, God is sovereign.

## A Convenient Theology

Religion has come along and said that “sovereign” means God controls everything and that nothing can happen without His permission. I disagree with that. That’s not what the Word of God teaches. God is not sovereign the way religion has taught.

A person will die, and somebody will say, “Well, it must have been their time.” They just think that nobody dies without it being “God’s time.” Once I was leading the praise and worship at a Full Gospel Businessmen’s meeting. The speaker had just come from the funeral of two teens who had been killed in an automobile accident. After drinking and doing drugs, they drove too fast on a slick, wet street, couldn’t make a turn, and ran into a telephone pole. It killed both of them. This guy stood up and said, “Well, we know that God is sovereign. He works all things together for good, and He has a purpose in this. People can’t die if it isn’t God’s will.” Most people have heard, said, or perhaps even embraced something similar to this at some point in their lives.

This is a convenient theology. We don’t understand certain things, so it’s easier to make statements such as this. Rather than put any responsibility on these teens, saying “They shouldn’t have been drinking, doing drugs, and speeding on a wet road. They killed themselves,” we just say, “Well, it was God’s will.” No, it wasn’t. People die all the time without it being God’s will.

It’s not like God picks your number in heaven, and you’re just destined to die. Scripture makes it very clear that Jesus came to...

***Destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil.***

Hebrews 2:14

Satan is the one who goes about seeking whom he may devour (1 Pet. 5:8). He’s the one who comes to steal, kill, and destroy (John 10:10). God told us not to eat of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, because in the day that we ate thereof, we would surely die (Gen. 2:17). We brought death into this life. We started old age, deterioration, sickness, and disease. God isn’t the one who controls whether you become ill or not. We started the corruption on this planet. God doesn’t control all of those things.

My father died when I was twelve years old. I remember our pastor coming over, sitting down, and looking at me, saying, “Andy, God needed your dad in heaven more than you needed him.” Even as a twelve-year-old, I knew better than that! I thought, *What does God need my dad up in heaven for?* The Lord didn’t kill my dad. This was just a copout. It’s an easy way to deal with things.

## The Truth

In the very first church I pastored, there was a couple who gave birth to a child in a taxi on the way to the hospital. The baby was born not breathing, apparently dead. After going without

air for a period of time, they finally revived the baby. This boy had Down Syndrome and no immune system.

He lived to be four years old and died in my arms while I was praying for him. Then I prayed for him to be raised from the dead for over two hours, but he didn't come back to life. I was struggling for something to minister to the family and to minister to myself. As their pastor, I wanted so much to have something comforting to tell them. I was tempted to say "Well, it must not be God's will" and just put the blame on God. He's big. He can handle it.

I was tempted, but I told that couple the truth, saying, "Look, God did not kill your child. This is not His will. I don't actually understand why we didn't see him healed and raised from the dead. It's either my lack of faith, your lack of faith, or a combination of the two. Or, it might be things that I don't even understand. But I can guarantee you that God is not a baby killer."

Although it wasn't very comforting at the time, I just had to tell those people the truth. It would have been much more comforting to come across with something religious, saying, "God is sovereign. Nothing can happen but what He allows." But it's not the truth.

***Ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.***

John 8:32

It's knowing the truth that will make us free. The woman came back to me later and said, "I had fear since the day he was born. They told me that he didn't have an immune system, and if he ever got a cold, he would die." She told me, "I've dreaded this for four years. When I saw him get this cold, I just knew he was going to die." The Lord showed her some things, and she found out the truth. Because I didn't take the easy way out but told her the truth, that woman discovered where the problem was, dealt with it, and had four more children.

The doctors told her never to have another child because she was too small to have children. If she did have any more, they would have to be taken by C-section, and probably both she and the child would die. But because I told her the truth, she got hold of God's Word and had four more children—all natural childbirths at home. No doctor would've let her have children after seeing her medical records, so she just believed God and had natural births at home. A few years ago, she sent me a picture of all four of them in their caps and gowns from when they graduated from college, and she thanked me for telling her the truth.

## **Acts of God?**

It's understandable to want to make everything fit in a nice little neat box and to have an answer for it, saying, "Well, it must be God's will. He's sovereign." But it's not the truth, and it will put you into bondage.

If God were guilty of everything He's blamed for today, there isn't a civilized nation on the face of the earth that wouldn't persecute, prosecute, and execute Him if He was a physical

person. If God was the one making babies deformed, causing marriages to fail, and sending killer storms, they would kick Him out. If He really did all of the earthquakes, tornadoes, and other natural disasters we refer to in our contracts as “acts of God,” every country would expel Him if they could. The truth is, God is being misrepresented, lied about, and blamed for things that aren’t His doing.

This teaching that says God controls everything sovereignly is the worst heresy in the body of Christ because it renders people passive. If you really believe that He controls every single thing that happens, then what’s the point of you doing anything? Why seek God? Why bother attending church meetings or conferences? Why not just stay at home sitting on your couch, eating candy and watching television, because God’s will is going to come to pass anyway? Why do you need to do anything, because God’s will is going to come to pass whether you believe for it or not? That’s a terrible doctrine!

Some people see the extreme of this, but they still mix it in when it’s convenient. When somebody dies, they say, “Well, it must be God’s will.” No, God isn’t the one who causes death. Satan is the author of death, and we are the ones who loosed him in this earth. God is not killing anybody today. You can’t just take part of this doctrine and mix it together. You can’t say, “Well, I do have some responsibility, but there are some things that God just controls. He’s sovereign in this area.” No, either God controls everything, or He doesn’t. It has to be one or the other, but not a combination of both.

I’ve never understood people who get mad at me for preaching this. They say, “That’s of the devil. How dare you preach that!” So I ask them, “If God controls everything and nothing can happen without Him either causing or allowing it, then I couldn’t be preaching this if God didn’t allow it. By your own doctrine, how could you be upset with me? It must be God’s will for me to preach this. If God really controls everything, then He’s leading me to say everything I’m saying, or I couldn’t say it.”

## **Defies Logic**

If you truly believe that God controls everything, then when you get sick, why would you ever go to a doctor and try to get out of His will? Why would you ever take medicine to lessen the pain? If God caused that and He’s trying to teach you something and work some redemptive purpose in your life, then why are you trying to lessen it? Why not just learn your lesson and suffer to the max?

This defies logic. Nobody would believe this doctrine unless they’re religious. You have to be taught this and accept it on blind faith. It does not function in the natural world. Even the people who say that God is putting sickness on them will go to the doctor and try to get out of “His will.” Even those who are saying that God caused their marriage to fail will pray to the same God—whom they say causes everything—and ask Him to intervene. Even those who say that God is the one who caused their financial problems is using it because they need to be humbled will pray and ask Him for mercy and help. If you really believe that God

sovereignly controls everything, then there is no point in us doing anything, because God's will is sovereignly coming to pass independently of us.

That is not what the word "sovereign" means. That's only a religious definition and application of it.

## **Your Cooperation**

God, by grace, has provided everything. But you have complete freedom of choice as to whether His perfect will for you comes to pass or not. It doesn't happen without your cooperation.

***Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think...***

Ephesians 3:20

Most people stop right there and believe this verse as is. However, they're skipping over the part that the entire verse hinges on.

***According to the power that worketh in us.***

Ephesians 3:20

God cannot—or you could say does not—do anything beyond this power that works in you, which is faith.

## **Not Automatic**

It is God's will for every single person to be saved.

***The Lord is...not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.***

2 Peter 3:9

God, by grace, has already provided salvation for the whole world. But you have to put faith in God's grace to see it come to pass. This verse makes it very clear. It is God's will for every person to be saved, but not every person is saved, because not every person has responded in faith to what God has said. God's will does not come to pass automatically.

***Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.***

Matthew 7:13-14

Jesus said that there will be more people that enter in by the broad gate to destruction than by the narrow gate to everlasting life. The Lord Jesus Christ clearly said that not everybody will be saved, yet 2 Peter 3:9 reveals that it is God's will for everybody to be saved. How can you put these scriptures together and come up with any other conclusion except that God's will does not automatically come to pass?

You have a choice. God, by grace, has provided everything. But if you don't believe, you won't receive.



# Is God Sovereign?

## Lesson 2 – Outline

- I. People have taken the truth that God moves independently of us, not based on our performance, and developed a teaching that is commonly called “the sovereignty of God.”
  - A. Basically, what they’re doing is overemphasizing grace.
  - B. The theological term for this tension between grace and faith is Calvinism versus Arminianism.
  - C. Calvinism emphasizes that everything is totally up to God.
  - D. Arminianism emphasizes that you have a part to play, that you can believe and receive or doubt and do without.
  - E. You can control the measure of the grace of God you experience by your faith.
- II. If you want to use *sovereign* the way the dictionary uses it, God is sovereign.
  - A. But religion has come along and said that “sovereign” means God controls everything and that nothing can happen without His permission.
  - B. That’s not what the Word of God teaches.
  - C. God is not sovereign the way religion has taught.
  - D. This is a convenient theology.
  - E. We don’t understand certain things, so it’s easier to make statements such as this.
- III. People die all the time without it being God’s will.
  - A. Scripture makes it very clear that Jesus came to “**destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil**” (Heb. 2:14).
  - B. Satan is the one who goes about seeking whom he may devour (1 Pet. 5:8 and John 10:10).
  - C. We started the corruption on this planet (Gen. 2:17)—God doesn’t control all of those things (old age, deterioration, sickness, disease, and death).

D. It's knowing the truth that will make us free.

***Ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.***

John 8:32

E. If God were guilty of everything He's blamed for today, there isn't a civilized nation on the face of the earth that wouldn't persecute, prosecute, and execute Him if He was a physical person.

IV. This teaching that God controls everything sovereignly is the worst heresy in the body of Christ because it renders people passive.

A. If you really believe that He controls every single thing that happens, then what's the point of you doing anything?

B. Some people see the extreme of this, but they still mix it in when it's convenient.

C. Either God controls everything, or He doesn't—it has to be one or the other, but not a combination of both.

D. If you truly believe that God controls everything, then when you get sick, why would you ever go to a doctor (or take medicine) and try to get out of God's will?

E. You have to be taught this religious doctrine and accept it on blind faith. It does not function in the natural world.

V. God, by grace, has provided everything, but you have complete freedom of choice as to whether His perfect will for you comes to pass or not.

A. It doesn't happen without your cooperation.

***Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us.***

Ephesians 3:20

B. God cannot—or you could say does not—do anything beyond this power that works in you, which is faith.

C. How can you put 2 Peter 3:9 and Matthew 7:13-14 together and come up with any other conclusion except that God's will does not automatically come to pass?

D. You have a choice.

E. God, by grace, has provided everything, but if you don't believe, you won't receive.

# Is God Sovereign?

## Lesson 2 – Teacher’s Guide

1. People have taken the truth that God moves independently of us, not based on our performance, and developed a teaching that is commonly called “the sovereignty of God.” Basically, what they’re doing is overemphasizing grace. The theological term for this tension between grace and faith is Calvinism versus Arminianism. Calvinism emphasizes that everything is totally up to God. Arminianism emphasizes that we have a part to play, that we can believe and receive or doubt and do without. We can control the measure of the grace of God we experience by our faith.

2. If we want to use *sovereign* the way the dictionary uses it, God is sovereign. But religion has come along and said that “sovereign” means God controls everything and that nothing can happen without His permission. That’s not what the Word of God teaches. God is not sovereign the way religion has taught. This is a convenient theology. We don’t understand certain things, so it’s easier to make statements such as this.

3. People die all the time without it being God’s will. Scripture makes it very clear that Jesus came to **“destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil”** (Heb. 2:14). Satan is the one who goes about seeking whom he may devour (1 Pet. 5:8 and John 10:10). We started the corruption on this planet (Gen. 2:17)—God doesn’t control all of those things (old age, deterioration, sickness, disease, and death). It’s knowing the truth that will make us free (John 8:32). If God were guilty of everything He’s blamed for today, there isn’t a civilized nation on the face of the earth that wouldn’t persecute, prosecute, and execute Him if He was a physical person.

1. A. What is the teaching that overemphasizes grace commonly called? (The sovereignty of God)  
B. What can we control by our faith? (The measure of the grace of God we experience)
2. A. What has religion said that *sovereign* means? (God controls everything, and nothing can happen without His permission)  
B. Is this what the Word of God teaches? (No)
3. A. Read Hebrews 2:14, 1 Peter 5:8, John 10:10, Genesis 2:17, and John 8:32. Whom did Jesus come to destroy? (The one that had the power of death—the devil)  
B. What will make us free? (Knowing the truth)

4. This teaching that God controls everything sovereignly is the worst heresy in the body of Christ because it renders people passive. If we really believe that He controls every single thing that happens, then what's the point of us doing anything? Some people see the extreme of this, but they still mix it in when it's convenient. Either God controls everything, or He doesn't—it has to be one or the other, but not a combination of both. If we truly believe that God controls everything, then when we get sick, why would we ever go to a doctor (or take medicine) and try to get out of God's will? We have to be taught this religious doctrine and accept it on blind faith—it does not function in the natural world.

5. God, by grace, has provided everything—but we have complete freedom of choice as to whether His perfect will for us comes to pass or not. It doesn't happen without our cooperation (Eph. 3:20). God cannot—or we could say does not—do anything beyond this power that works in us, which is faith. How can we put 2 Peter 3:9 and Matthew 7:13-14 together and come up with any other conclusion except that God's will does not automatically come to pass? We have a choice. God, by grace, has provided everything—but if we don't believe, we won't receive.

4. A. How does this teaching that God controls everything sovereignly render people? (Passive)
- B. What does not function in the natural world? (This religious doctrine)
5. A. Read Ephesians 3:20, 2 Peter 3:9, and Matthew 7:13-14. God's perfect will for us won't come to pass without our what? (Cooperation)
- B. What is this power that works in us called? (Faith)
- C. Even though God, by grace, has provided everything, what will happen if we don't believe? (We won't receive)

# Is God Sovereign?

## Lesson 2 – Discipleship Questions

1. According to Hebrews 2:14, who had the power of death?
2. First Peter 5:8 reveals our adversary to be whom?
3. As a roaring lion, whom does our adversary walk around seeking?
4. According to John 10:10, why does the thief come?
5. Jesus came that we might have what?
6. Adam and Eve were commanded in Genesis 2:17 not to eat of what?
7. What would happen if they did?
8. According to John 8:32, knowing \_\_\_\_\_ shall make us free?
9. Ephesians 3:20 reveals that God is able to do exceeding abundantly above all what?
10. According to what that works in us?
11. According to 2 Peter 3:9, is it God's will that any should perish?
12. God wills that all should come to what?
13. According to Matthew 7:13-14, is the gate that leads to life narrow and straight or wide and broad?
14. How many find it?

# Is God Sovereign?

## Lesson 2 – Answer Key

1. The devil.
2. The devil.
3. Those whom he may devour.
4. To steal, kill, and destroy.
5. Life.
6. The Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil.
7. They would surely die.
8. The truth.
9. We ask or think.
10. The power.
11. No.
12. Repentance.
13. Narrow and straight.
14. Few.

# Is God Sovereign?

## Lesson 2 – Scriptures

***Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil.***

Hebrews 2:14

***Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour.***

1 Peter 5:8

***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

***But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.***

Genesis 2:17

***And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.***

John 8:32

***Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us.***

Ephesians 3:20

***The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.***

2 Peter 3:9

***Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.***

Matthew 7:13-14





# God's Will

## Lesson 3

God's will is for every person to be healed. Jesus is the perfect example of God's will.

***God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him.***

Acts 10:38

What Jesus did was good, healing all who were oppressed of the devil. The Bible reveals that in the last days, people will call evil "good" and good "evil" (Is. 5:20). In Jesus' day, He said it was good that He healed the sick. Today, there are denominations that contend that healing the sick is of the devil. They're calling good "evil" and evil "good." Acts 10:38 reveals that it was the devil who was oppressing these people. Today entire denominations are saying, "When you get sick, God's doing this to you. He's humbling you." They've totally flip-flopped, calling good "evil" and evil "good."

If you don't understand this, how are you ever going to see the power of God manifest in your life? If you don't even know what God is doing, how are you ever going to see His power manifest through you to somebody else? If you cannot discern between what God is doing and what the devil is doing, you won't know what to resist or what to yield to.

## Deep Ruts

Are you blaming God for the tragedies in your life?

James 1:2-4 states:

***My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.***

These verses have been twisted and misused to teach that God controls everything in your life. If someone hadn't already been taught that and prejudiced with that concept, they wouldn't get that out of these verses. It's like an old dirt road that wagons have been going up and down for years. The ruts are so deep, you can't even begin to go down the road without slipping into them. Some of us have thought a certain way so long that when we hear something scriptural, we automatically transpose, translate, and interpret it in a way contrary to what the Bible is saying.

James 1:2-4 does not say that God puts troubles in your life to give you patience. Yet that's what people teach out of these verses. "If you want patience, then you are praying for trouble because tribulation works patience."

## Enduring Faith

Romans 15:4 says:

***For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.***

Notice it says "**through patience and comfort of the scriptures.**" Scriptures are where patience comes from.

Patience is simply faith applied over a prolonged period of time. Instead of a momentary faith, patience is prolonged, enduring faith. You just believe, and keep believing. Romans 15:4 says that patience comes through Scripture.

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

Romans 10:17

Faith comes through the Word. So does patience. They are also both fruit of the Spirit.

***But the fruit of the Spirit is...longsuffering [patience]...faith.***

Galatians 5:22, brackets mine

When you were born again, God gave you faith and patience. They are fruit of your brand-new, born-again spirit.

## Experiential Knowledge

Patience doesn't come through hardship. If it did, then the people who have suffered the most would be the most patient. That's not true. I defy you to show me that people who have had it the hardest are going to be the most holy, godly, and patient. Patience does not come through hardship and tribulation.

However, if you already have patience through the Word of God and the fruit of the Holy Spirit on the inside of you, it has to be used before it reaches its full strength.

In 1969, I was drafted into the army. They sent me through basic training to learn how to be a soldier—fire a weapon, throw hand grenades, and many other things. Once I arrived in Vietnam, we had jokes about people who were brand-new in the country because they were dangerous. All they had was intellectual knowledge. They had never put it into practice. Even

though they were trained the same as everyone else, there's a depth of understanding about how to use that training that comes when a soldier puts it into practice. They become a better soldier when they are attacked and have put their training into practice. There's a difference between intellectual knowledge and experiential knowledge.

However, a soldier doesn't just go looking for experiential knowledge. They don't say, "Right now, I know that all I have is intellectual knowledge. I really need Charlie Cong to come along and attack me so that I can become a better soldier." Then, when they see the enemy coming, they run out to hug, embrace, and welcome him because "You've come to make me better!" No, that's not how it works. You'll get killed doing that. The Enemy did not come to make you better. He came to kill you.

Problems are not given by God to make you better. If you think they are, you'll welcome and embrace those problems as being from the Lord. You'll attribute evil to God, which is wrong, and Satan will use that to kill you.

## Passive

Recognize that this problem isn't from God and say, "I'm going to fight this, and when I overcome it, I'll be stronger because I'll have put what I knew in my head into practice. Then I'll be stronger than I was before." Well, then, yes, that's good. In fact, that's what James 1:2-4 is saying. These verses aren't saying that God puts problems on you any more than an enemy comes against you to make you a better soldier. They come against you to kill you.

There are certain things you need to submit to and others you need to resist.

***Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.***

James 4:7

This extreme teaching on the sovereignty of God—where He controls everything—renders this verse useless. If God controls everything, and nothing happens without Him willing or allowing it, then what's the purpose in you resisting anything? It all came from God, and if you resist it, you'll wind up resisting Him. This wrong understanding makes you passive, which is where the vast majority of the body of Christ currently is.

When it comes to sickness, they don't know. They say, "Maybe this is from God. So, Lord, would You please heal me, if it be Your will?" They just throw their prayer out there, and if they get healed, then it must have been God's will. If they don't get healed, their number must have been up. What a stupid theology! Nobody's ever going to receive from God like that.

## Actively Fight Against

A certain preacher was asked if he tithed. He answered, "Sure I do. I take every offering I receive and put it in this big bucket. Then I throw it up in the air, praying, 'God, if You want

anything, go ahead and take it. Whatever falls back to the ground is mine.” You’ll never give a tithe doing that. You have to be a little more deliberate.

To throw your prayer out there, saying “God, if it’s Your will, then heal me. If it’s not, then it must be Your will that I’m suffering the way that I am” is just as stupid as trying to tithe by throwing your money up in the air and asking the Lord to take what He wants. It doesn’t work that way. There are certain things that are from God. You submit to those. There are other things that are from the devil. You resist those.

*Resist* means “to actively fight against.” If you don’t actively fight against the devil, then you have submitted to him. Saying “Dear Satan, please leave me alone” is not resisting the devil. You need to get angry, and there’s no way you can get angry if you think that God has a hand in it.

The congregation of a little church I had begun pastoring wanted to invite a certain preacher to come and minister. I told them no because I didn’t know him. They argued, “Well, he was here before you were.” So I said, “Give me one of his messages, and I’ll listen to it.” In this tape, he taught on Romans 8:28, saying that everything comes from God.

He admitted that he had a demonic lust in his heart for women. While preaching, he would be lusting after the women who were sitting in the auditorium. He said it got so bad that he finally told his wife. They decided to go for deliverance and get this demon cast out of him. As he went to get in his car to go to the appointment, he put his hand on the doorknob and a voice he attributed to God (I don’t believe it was) spoke to him, saying, “You couldn’t have this problem if I didn’t allow it. I’ve sent this to teach you patience and to make you holier and better. If you get this demon cast out, you’re going to thwart my will.” So this guy canceled his appointment and kept his demon because he felt that God had given it to him to make him better.

## **God Allowed it?**

Most people say, “No, that’s wrong.” Well, it’s the same principle. How can you just interpret it this way up to a point, and then say, “Oh, no, I don’t believe that”?

I heard a woman being interviewed on television once. A man had abducted both she and her daughter at gunpoint. He took them out into a remote location and raped them. Then he laid both of them down on the ground and shot them in the back of the head—execution style. The daughter died, but the mother lived through it despite having some physical problems because of it. There she was on television saying, “All things work together for good. God allowed it, and He’s getting glory out of it.”

Most of us would say, “No, I don’t believe God allowed it.” Why not? If God is truly sovereign in the religious sense of the word, where He controls everything and nothing can happen without His permission, then that means God is the one who’s in charge of all the terrorist attacks, rapes, deformities, and problems in this world. You can’t just interpret it to

where it's convenient to your situation and then say, "Beyond that, I believe it's impractical." No. Either it's true, or it isn't.

It's not true. God doesn't control those things, nor does He do them. All James 1 is saying is that when you come into tribulation, rejoice. It's not because God brought it. You must resist that tribulation, knowing that it's from the devil and that it's an opportunity to put your faith to work. As you work it, you'll get experience, and experience will give you hope. You'll be stronger and better because you stood against, resisted, and fought the devil. But if you just sit there, roll over, and let these problems dominate you, thinking *Well, it must be God's will*, you aren't going to be better. You'll be destroyed by it.

## Good God, Bad Devil

The religious church today completely violates James 1:12-13.

***Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him. Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man.***

They are saying that my temptation, hardship, trial, and persecutions are directly from God who is trying to give me patience. In context, these verses are really saying, "These temptations, trials, and tribulations will help your patience become stronger as you put it into practice like a muscle and exercise it. But don't ever say that those temptations, trials, and tribulations are from God. Don't ever do that!" Yet the religious church today is preaching the exact opposite, saying, "God is the source of the tragedy." That's a faith-killer.

Jesus made it very clear:

***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

If it's good, it's God. If it's bad, it's the devil. God is a good God. The devil is a bad devil. Anytime you get that confused, start embracing problems, and saying "O God, I know You sent this to break me, humble me, and make me better," you have just crossed over into the extreme religious sovereignty of God stuff. It's a faith-killer. It will destroy you and render you useless.

## Destroyed Relationship

People who think that the Lord's will is coming to pass with or without them have to blame God for the bad things that are happening in the world. They think it's His fault that our nation is becoming increasingly ungodly and secular. They blame Him for the abortion of more

than 42 million babies in the U.S., thinking that they couldn't have been killed if it wasn't His will. Not only does this mindset give you a skewed opinion of who God is, it'll destroy your relationship with Him as well.

If I were the one being blamed for sending hurricanes, tornadoes, tragedies, sickness, disease, divorce, heartbreak, and rebellious kids, would you want to be my friend? If you thought I was the one responsible for killing and maiming people, would you want to hang out with me? Yet religion says, "God is responsible for all that stuff, and don't you love Him?" Then people put on their most religious faces and answer "Oh, yes, I really love Him," and then they duck. They're afraid that they've done something wrong, and He might put cancer on them because they deserve it. That's double minded, and it's destroying people's relationship with God.

One of the leading media moguls in the United States owns a bunch of television networks. He was raised in a religious home. His sister died when they were children, and the church people came over and told him, "God wanted your sister. It was His will that your sister died." This man said, "If there is a God, I hate Him for killing my sister." Today he professes to be an agnostic and is doing all he can to change the Judeo-Christian ethics of the United States through his television networks. He's doing a fairly good job by introducing all kinds of ungodliness. Religious people represented the Lord as the one who killed his sister, and he turned against a God like that.

There are a lot of people in this nation who are turning against a God who is being represented as the one who sent the terrorist attacks, earthquakes, floods, and hurricanes. Religious leaders publicly attribute these things to the judgment of God. Case in point, Hurricane Katrina was not the judgment of God. If the Lord started judging, He wouldn't have stopped at New Orleans. These things are not the judgment of God. They are simply part of living in a fallen, sin-scarred world. The stupidity of building a city below sea level and then building a large lake above the city, held back by levies, contributed to this catastrophe too. It certainly wasn't God's fault.

# God's Will

## Lesson 3 – Outline

I. Jesus is the perfect example of God's will.

***God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him.***

**Acts 10:38**

- A. What Jesus did was good, healing all that were oppressed of the devil.
- B. The Bible reveals that in the last days, people will call evil “good” and good “evil” (Is. 5:20).
- C. If you cannot discern between what God is doing and what the devil is doing, you won't know what to resist or what to yield to.

II. James 1:2-4 has been twisted and misused to teach that God controls everything in your life.

***My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.***

A. Romans 15:4 says that patience comes through Scripture:

***For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.***

- B. Patience is simply faith applied over a prolonged period of time.
- C. When you were born again, God gave you faith and patience—they are fruit of your brand-new, born-again spirit.

***But the fruit of the Spirit is...longsuffering [patience]...faith.***

Galatians 5:22, brackets mine

D. Patience does not come through hardship and tribulation.

III. If you already have patience through the Word of God and the fruit of the Holy Spirit on the inside of you, it has to be used before it reaches its full strength.

- A. You become a better soldier when you are attacked and have to put your training into practice. There's a difference between intellectual knowledge and experiential knowledge.
- B. Problems are not given by God to make you better—if you think they are, then you'll welcome and embrace those problems as being from the Lord.
- C. You'll attribute evil to God, which is wrong, and Satan will use that to kill you.
- D. James 1:2-4 isn't saying that God puts problems on you any more than an enemy comes against you to make you a better soldier—they come against you to kill you.

IV. There are certain things you need to submit to and others you need to resist.

***Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.***

James 4:7

- A. There are certain things that are from God—you submit to those. There are other things that are from the devil—you resist those.
- B. *Resist* means “to actively fight against.”
- C. If you don't actively fight against the devil, then you have submitted to him.

***Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him. Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man.***

James 1:12-13

- D. If it's good, it's God. If it's bad, it's the devil. God is a good God. The devil is a bad devil (John 10:10). Anytime you get that confused and start embracing problems, it will destroy you and render you useless.

V. People who think that the Lord's will is coming to pass with or without them have to blame God for the bad things that are happening in the world.

- A. Not only does this mindset give you a skewed opinion of who God is, it'll destroy your relationship with Him as well.
- B. There are a lot of people in this nation who are turning against a God who is represented as the one who sent the terrorist attacks, earthquakes, floods, and hurricanes.



# God's Will

## Lesson 3 – Teacher's Guide

1. Jesus is the perfect example of God's will (Acts 10:38). What Jesus did was good, healing all who were oppressed of the devil. The Bible reveals that in the last days, people will call evil "good" and good "evil" (Is. 5:20). If we cannot discern between what God is doing and what the devil is doing, we won't know what to resist or what to yield to.

2. James 1:2-4 has been twisted and misused to teach that God controls everything in our lives. Romans 15:4 says that patience comes through Scripture. Patience is simply faith applied over a prolonged period of time. When we were born again, God gave us faith and patience—they are fruit of our brand-new, born-again spirits (Gal. 5:22). Patience does not come through hardship and tribulation.

3. If we already have patience through the Word of God and the fruit of the Holy Spirit on the inside of us, it has to be used before it reaches its full strength. We become better soldiers when we are attacked and have to put our training into practice. There's a difference between intellectual knowledge and experiential knowledge. Problems are not given by God to make us better. If we think they are, then we'll welcome and embrace those problems as being from the Lord. We'll attribute evil to God, which is wrong, and Satan will use that to kill us. James 1:2-4 isn't saying that God puts problems on us any more than an enemy comes against us to make us better soldiers—they come against us to kill us.

1. A. Read Acts 10:38 and Isaiah 5:20. Who is the perfect example of God's will? (Jesus)  
B. What won't we know if we cannot discern between what God is doing and what the devil is doing? (What to resist or what to yield to)
2. A. Read James 1:2-4, Romans 15:4, and Galatians 5:22. How does patience come? (Through Scripture, and as fruit of our brand-new, born-again spirits)  
B. What is patience? (Faith applied over a prolonged period of time)
3. A. Read James 1:2-4 again. What do we become when we are attacked and have to put our training into practice? (Better soldiers)  
B. If we think problems are given by God to make us better, what will we do? (We'll welcome and embrace those problems as being from the Lord, attributing evil to God)

4. There are certain things we need to submit to and others we need to resist (James 4:7). There are certain things that are from God—we submit to those. There are other things that are from the devil—we resist those. *Resist* means “to actively fight against.” If we don’t actively fight against the devil, then you have submitted to him (James 1:12-13). If it’s good, it’s God. If it’s bad, it’s the devil. God is a good God. The devil is a bad devil (John 10:10). Anytime we get that confused and start embracing problems, it will destroy us and render us useless.

5. Those of us who think that the Lord’s will is coming to pass with or without us have to blame God for the bad things that are happening in the world. Not only does this mindset give us a skewed opinion of who God is, it’ll destroy our relationship with Him as well. There are a lot of people in this nation who are turning against a God who is represented as the one who sent the terrorist attacks, earthquakes, floods, and hurricanes.

- 4. A. Read James 4:7, 1:12-13; and John 10:10. What does *resist* mean? (To actively fight against)
- B. If we don’t actively fight against the devil, then what have we done? (Submitted to him)
- 5. A. If people believe the Lord’s will comes to pass with or without them, who do they have to blame for the bad things that are happening in the world? (God)
- B. What does this skewed mindset of God destroy? (Our relationship with Him)

# God's Will

## Lesson 3 – Discipleship Questions

1. Acts 10:38 reveals that Jesus went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed of whom?
2. Isaiah 5:20 declares woe to those who what?
3. According to James 1:2-4, what does the trying of our faith work?
4. Romans 15:4 says that through patience and comfort of \_\_\_\_\_ we have hope.
5. According to Romans 10:17, what comes by hearing the Word of God?
6. What is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, and faith in Galatians 5:22?
7. Who does James 4:7 tell us to submit ourselves to?
8. Who are we to resist?
9. Romans 8:28 declares that all things work together for good to them that love God and are called according to what?
10. According to James 1:12-13, the person who endures \_\_\_\_\_ is blessed.

# God's Will

## Lesson 3 – Answer Key

1. The devil.
2. Call evil “good” and good “evil.”
3. Patience.
4. The Scriptures.
5. Faith.
6. The fruit of the Spirit.
7. God.
8. The devil.
9. His purpose.
10. Temptation.

# God's Will

## Lesson 3 – Scriptures

***How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him.***

Acts 10:38

***Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!***

Isaiah 5:20

***My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.***

James 1:2-4

***For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.***

Romans 15:4

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

Romans 10:17

***But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith.***

Galatians 5:22

***Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.***

James 4:7

***And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.***

Romans 8:28

***Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him. Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man.***

James 1:12-13

***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



# All Things Work Together for Good

## Lesson 4

We have been taught a religious doctrine from Romans 8:28. But if you read it in context and look at the words, you wouldn't fall for such an erroneous interpretation. Many people who couldn't tell you any other scripture in the Bible can quote Romans 8:28, which says,

***And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.***

People have interpreted this as, "Nothing can happen but what is God's will." This verse does not say that! There is nothing in there that blames God for everything that happens. It's just saying that the Lord can take whatever happens and work it together for good. But it has qualifications. The very first word of this verse is the conjunction "and," which ties this verse to the previous verses. And verses 26 and 27 were talking about how the Holy Spirit...

***Helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought...he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God.***

The Greek word rendered "**Helpeth**" literally means "to take hold of opposite together, i.e. co-operate (assist)" (Strong's Concordance). It describes a union, not the Holy Spirit doing all the interceding for us. The Holy Spirit helps us as we are interceding, but He doesn't automatically do it for us. He takes hold together with us.

When we start doing what we know to do and pray, if we will allow Him, the Holy Spirit will take hold together with us and intercede and produce supernatural results. But it doesn't happen automatically. We have a part to play in this.

That's significant because some people say, "Well, all things work together for good." No, it's not working together for good if you aren't operating in intercession—not just a human intercession but an intercession where you are energized by and operating in the power of the Holy Spirit. When the Holy Spirit gets involved and you're operating in supernatural intercession, then you can say that you know that all things will work together for good.

### Them That Love God

Then there are two more qualifications on it. Verse 28 says that...

***All things work together for good to them that love God.***

This verse is constantly taken out of context as people say, "Well, God works all things together for good." Remember the two teenagers mentioned earlier in the book? They were

doing drugs and alcohol, missed a turn on wet pavement, and died. Those kids didn't love God. I'm not trying to be mean, but we can tell by their actions (Luke 6:43-44). The Bible calls a person who says that they love God but doesn't live like it, a liar (1 John 2:4 and 4:20). Doing drugs and alcohol, breaking the speed limit, going against the law of inertia (too fast around a corner)—say what you want, but there is no indication that these kids loved God.

The speaker at the Full Gospel Businessmen's meeting who had just been to their funeral said, "Well, we know that God took them." No, we don't know that. There are many people who die and go to hell. Not everyone who passes from this life automatically goes to be with the Lord. It depends on whether they were born again.

Jamie and I were in England when Princess Diana died in that car wreck. A denominational pastor was asked by one of the kids in his church, "Did Princess Diana go to heaven?" He answered, "Well, it depends on whether she knew God or not." The media took that way out of context and plastered this headline on newspapers all over the U.K., "Pastor Says Diana in Hell." People got mad! There was fear that riots and civil unrest would break out in England because someone spoke the truth that if she hadn't made Jesus her personal Lord, she went to hell.

No matter who someone is, if they haven't been born again before they die, they go to hell. It's not because of all their individual sins, but because they didn't make Jesus their personal Lord. That may be offensive to some people, but it's the truth. You have to believe in order to receive.

## Choose Life

Since the truth is potentially offensive, especially at a funeral, many people just say "God is working this together for good, and we know they're in heaven," when it isn't necessarily true. There are consequences for one's actions.

This religious doctrine of the sovereignty of God is the same thing we see in the secular world where people are refusing to accept responsibility for their actions. Rather than admit that they have a problem with drinking, they say, "I can't help it. It's in my genes." They aren't responsible for anything. They just blame something, somebody, or everything—society, the color of their skin, where they grew up. And if they can't find anybody else, they can just blame their dysfunctional family.

Nevertheless, the Lord said in Deuteronomy 30:19...

***I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live.***

God not only gave you this quiz, but He also gave you the answer to it—A. Choose life. But notice that He gave you the choice. You have the ability to choose. Satan didn't make you a



jerk. You chose to be a jerk. You may have had some bad things happen in your life that made it harder on you than somebody else, but nobody—not even the devil himself—can do anything to you without your consent and cooperation.

According to modern psychology, I can't be normal because my dad died when I was twelve years old. I grew up in a home without a father. They contend that I'm bound to have all kinds of problems. You might seriously wonder whether I'm normal or not, but my mother told me recently that I never gave her a moment's problem. I didn't go through rebellion. I grew up loving my mother. I didn't realize that a person had to be messed up if they didn't have a father. Nobody told me I had to have these problems.

## **Religious Counterpart**

In our secular society today, nobody accepts responsibility for anything. "It's your fault that I'm the way I am." Instead of blaming the terrorists for what they did, some people are saying, "It's the United States that made these terrorists the way they are." Give me a break!

This extreme sovereignty of God is the religious church's counterpart to the secular world idea about refusing to accept responsibility for anything. The religious church just blames God: "He's in control. All things work together for good." No, He didn't cause those problems. But, yes, He can take those things and work them together for good. First, it's dependent upon the Holy Spirit interceding through you, and second, you have to love God.

The third qualification listed in Romans 8:28 for God to work all things together for good is that it is for...

***Them who are the called according to his purpose.***

The purpose of God is to destroy the works of the devil.

***For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.***

1 John 3:8

It won't work if you aren't resisting the devil and fighting against this problem. If you've embraced it, saying "O God, thank You for giving me cancer," then it's not going to work together for good. It only works together for good if you love God, are resisting the problem, and are out to destroy the works of the devil. If you will let the Holy Spirit work through you, then you can take anything that the devil throws at you, and it will work together for good. But if you embrace the problem, saying "God, thank You for sending these trials into my life," it won't work together for good. In fact, it'll kill you.

## Naptime

When my oldest son was just a year old, I was loading lumber one day to make a little bit of extra money. At the time, I was pastoring a church in Seagoville, Texas. It was hot, over a hundred degrees, and the lumberyard was paved with dirt. Joshua had been out running and playing. His naptime came, and he wanted to lie down in the dirt and take a nap. He was sweaty from running around, and I knew he'd be a mess. I also knew Jamie wouldn't like that, so I put him in the cab of this semi-truck we were loading. The window to that cab was up over my head. When I put Joshua in there, I rolled the windows down and told him to lie down and take a nap.

Joshua revived when he got up in the cab of the truck. He'd wanted to get up there all day long. So he woke up, started looking out the window, and waved at me in the rearview and side mirrors. I went up there and told him to lie down and take a nap. He disobeyed me and got up. Finally, I spanked him and told him to lie down and take a nap. Yet Joshua leaned out of the window, trying to wave at me in the side view mirror again, and fell out of that truck. He hit his eye on the running board and landed on his head on the ground. It could have broken his neck, killed him, or caused some other serious damage.

He was lying on the ground crying. I ran up and hugged him, held him, and prayed over him. When he finally quit crying, I said, "Joshua, this is what I was telling you. If you would have obeyed me, this wouldn't have happened." I used that negative circumstance to teach him a lesson.

If my son would have been like most Christians, he would have gone out and told all of his friends, "My dad is such a wonderful dad! He pushed me out of the cab of that truck, gave me a black eye, and made me land on my head to teach me to obey him." If anybody could prove that a parent does stuff like that, the welfare department would come, take them away, and lock them up because that is not the right way to discipline their children.

## A Real Faith-killer

Yet this is what many Christians are saying: "God is the one that made me quadriplegic, because this glorifies Him." There is a famous quadriplegic minister who blames God for their condition, but the truth is that this person jumped off a rock into a pool of water that had a sign stating, "Do Not Swim." They went ahead, disobeyed, broke their neck, and became quadriplegic. Then they say, "God did this to me to get my attention."

There is no doubt that God used this situation, because this person turned to Him while they were lying there quadriplegic and had nothing else to do but listen to God. This person now praises the Lord and leads many people to Him, but God didn't cause or allow that accident. That's a misrepresentation. The Lord didn't do it.

If all you do is emphasize grace and say “It’s just totally God. We can’t affect His plans. God’s will automatically comes to pass. We have nothing to do with it,” then instead of it being a true biblical grace, it becomes an extreme religious sovereignty of God. Thinking that God controls everything and nothing happens without His permission is a real faith-killer.

If you really believe that, just go out and live in sin because after all, you couldn’t do it if it wasn’t God’s will. Go out and be as carnal as you want to be because you couldn’t do it if the Lord didn’t will it. That just defies logic. Only a religious person would believe that. It’s not true. But that’s where that kind of thinking leads. It’s emphasizing a few scriptures that talk about God being all-powerful and knowing the end from the beginning, and then taking them to an unbalanced extreme.

# All Things Work Together for Good

## Lesson 4 – Outline

I. We have been taught a religious doctrine from Romans 8:28.

A. But if you read it in context and look at the words, you wouldn't fall for such an erroneous interpretation:

***And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.***

Romans 8:28

B. There is nothing in there that blames God for everything that happens.

C. It's just saying that the Lord can take whatever happens and work it together for good.

D. But it has qualifications.

II. The very first word of this verse is the conjunction “and,” which ties this verse to the previous verses, 26 and 27, which were talking about how the Holy Spirit...

***Helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought... he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God.***

Romans 8:26-27

A. The Greek word rendered “**Helpeth**” literally means “to take hold of opposite together, i.e. co-operate (assist)” (Strong's Concordance).

B. It describes a union, not the Holy Spirit doing all the interceding for us.

C. When we start doing what we know to do and pray, if we will allow Him, the Holy Spirit will take hold together with us and intercede and produce supernatural results. But it doesn't happen automatically.

D. When the Holy Spirit gets involved and you're operating in supernatural intercession, then you can say that we know that all things will work together for good.

III. Then there are two more qualifications:

***All things work together for good to them that love God.***

Romans 8:28

- A. The Bible calls a person who says that they love God but doesn't live like it, a liar (1 John 2:4, 4:20; and Luke 6:43-44).
- B. No matter who someone is, if they haven't been born again before they die, they go to hell.
- C. There are consequences for one's actions.

***I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live.***

Deuteronomy 30:19

- D. This extreme sovereignty of God is the religious church's counterpart to the secular world idea about refusing to accept responsibility for anything—the religious church just blames God.
  - E. He didn't cause problems like the terrorist attacks, but yes, He can take those things and work them together for good.
  - F. First, it's dependent upon the Holy Spirit interceding through a person, and second, they have to love God.
- IV. The third qualification listed in Romans 8:28 for God to work all things together for good is that it is for **“them who are the called according to his purpose.”**
- A. The purpose of God is to destroy the works of the devil:

***For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.***

1 John 3:8

- B. All things won't work together for good if we aren't resisting the devil and fighting against the problems he brings.
- C. It only works together for good if you love God, are resisting the problem, and are out to destroy the works of the devil.
- D. If you will let the Holy Spirit work through you, then you can take anything that the devil throws at you, and it will work together for good.
- E. Thinking that God controls everything and nothing happens without His permission is a real faith-killer.

# All Things Work Together for Good

## Lesson 4 – Teacher’s Guide

1. We have been taught a religious doctrine from Romans 8:28. But if we read it in context and look at the words, we wouldn’t fall for such an erroneous interpretation (Rom. 8:28). There is nothing in Romans 8: 28 that blames God for everything that happens. That verse is just saying that the Lord can take whatever happens and work it together for good. But it has qualifications.

2. The very first word of this verse is the conjunction “and,” which ties this verse to the previous verses, 26 and 27, which were talking about how the Holy Spirit **“helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought...he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God.”**

The Greek word rendered **“helpeth”** literally means “to take hold of opposite together, i.e. co-operate (assist)” (Strong’s Concordance). It describes a union, not the Holy Spirit doing all the interceding for us. When we start doing what we know to do and pray, if we will allow Him, the Holy Spirit will take hold together with us and intercede and produce supernatural results. But it doesn’t happen automatically. When the Holy Spirit gets involved and we are operating in supernatural intercession, then we can say that we know that all things will work together for good.

3. Then there are two more qualifications (Rom. 8:28). The Bible calls a person who says that they love God but doesn’t live like it, a liar (1 John 2:4, 4:20; and Luke 6:43-44). No matter who someone is, if they haven’t been born again before they die, they go to hell. There are consequences for our actions (Deut. 30:19). This extreme sovereignty of God is the religious church’s counterpart to the secular world idea about refusing to accept responsibility for anything—the religious church just blames God. He didn’t cause problems like the terrorist attacks, but yes, He can take those things and work them together for good. First, it’s dependent upon the Holy Spirit interceding through us as believers, and second, we have to love God.

1. A. Read Romans 8:28. How do we avoid falling for this erroneous interpretation and religious doctrine that blames God for everything that happens? (By reading Romans 8:28 in context and looking at the words)  
B. What can the Lord take and work it together for good? (Whatever happens)
2. A. Read Romans 8:26-27. If we allow Him, who will take hold together with us and intercede and produce supernatural results? (The Holy Spirit)  
B. Does this happen automatically? (No)
3. A. Read Romans 8:28; 1 John 2:4, 4:20; Luke 6:43-44; and Deuteronomy 30:19. What is the religious church’s counterpart to this secular world’s idea about refusing to accept responsibility for anything? (This extreme sovereignty of God—the religious church just blames God)  
B. Although God didn’t cause problems like the terrorist attacks, He can take those things and work them together for good if \_\_\_\_\_. (The Holy Spirit is interceding through us and we love God)

4. The third qualification listed in Romans 8:28 for God to work all things together for good is that it is for **“them who are the called according to his purpose.”** The purpose of God is to destroy the works of the devil (1 John 3:8). All things won’t work together for good if we aren’t resisting the devil and fighting against the problems he brings. It only works together for good if we love God, are resisting the problem, and are out to destroy the works of the devil. If we will let the Holy Spirit work through us, then we can take anything that the devil throws at us, and it will work together for good. Thinking that God controls everything and nothing happens without His permission is a real faith-killer.

4. A. Read Romans 8:28 and 1 John 3:8. What is the purpose of God? (To destroy the works of the devil)
- B. What can we take and it will work together for good if we will let the Holy Spirit work through us? (Anything the devil throws at us)
- C. What is a real faith-killer? (Thinking that God controls everything and nothing happens without His permission)

# All Things Work Together for Good

## Lesson 4 – Discipleship Questions

1. What does Romans 8:26-28 reveal that the Spirit also helps?
2. The Spirit itself makes intercession for us with what?
3. He that searches the hearts knows what is the mind of whom?
4. He makes intercession for whom?
5. According to the will of whom?
6. According to Luke 6:43-44, can a good tree bring forth corrupt fruit, or a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit?
7. What is every tree known by?
8. What does 1 John 2:4 call someone who says that they know God but doesn't keep His commandments?
9. First John 4:20 calls someone a liar who says that they love God but hates whom?
10. What does Deuteronomy 30:19 counsel us to choose?
11. According to 1 John 3:8, who sinned from the beginning?
12. For what purpose was the Son of God manifested?



# All Things Work Together for Good

## Lesson 4 – Answer Key

1. Our infirmities.
2. Groanings that cannot be uttered.
3. The Spirit.
4. The saints.
5. God.
6. No.
7. His own fruit.
8. A liar.
9. Their brother.
10. Life.
11. The devil.
12. That He might destroy the works of the devil.

# All Things Work Together for Good

## Lesson 4 – Scriptures

***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. And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.***

Romans 8:26-28

***For a good tree bringeth not forth corrupt fruit; neither doth a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. For every tree is known by his own fruit. For of thorns men do not gather figs, nor of a bramble bush gather they grapes.***

Luke 6:43-44

***He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.***

1 John 2:4

***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

***I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live.***

Deuteronomy 30:19

***He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.***

1 John 3:8

# God Is Not Your Problem

## Lesson 5

Although it's a major doctrine in the body of Christ, there are only two places in Scripture where predestination is mentioned: Romans 8:29-30; Ephesians 1:5, and 11. Some people believe that God has just predestined everything.

Romans 8:29 says,

***For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.***

The key to understanding predestination is that God only predestined those that He foreknew. Foreknowledge is talking about God's ability to know the future in advance. Only people whom He already knew would accept Jesus have been predestined. Nobody has been predestined to be saved or lost. But once you become born again, God has predetermined—predestined—that you will be conformed to the image of His Son. If you don't cooperate in this life, then it will happen when He comes.

When we see Jesus...

***We shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.***

1 John 3:2

If you will cooperate with the Lord, then you can start being like Him here in this life. You can start walking in joy, peace, victory, anointing, and power. If you've been born again, it's predetermined that you will ultimately be like Jesus. If you'll cooperate, you can experience it here in this life to the degree that you renew your mind. If you don't cooperate, you'll eventually be like Jesus anyway because you'll be like Him when He comes. You're predestined to be. That's all that means.

## Good Plans

God didn't predestine anyone to be a mess. He didn't predetermine anybody to be a failure.

***For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.***

Jeremiah 29:11

God has good plans for you. He has a plan and a destiny for every person. You didn't happen accidentally. Whether your parents knew you were coming or not, God knew. He has a plan for you, and He didn't plan anyone to be mediocre or a failure. God didn't plan the hurt and

heartache that you've experienced. He didn't plan the tragedy. If you had a terrible childhood, it wasn't God who caused that to happen. It's because God gave people—individuals—free choice and free will.

People have made wrong choices, and sometimes you suffer because of them, but God didn't determine this. He doesn't control people like chess pieces and make everything happen. If you've had terrible tragedies happen in your life, God didn't do it.

I take great comfort in knowing that God is a good God. My dad died when I was twelve years old, but God didn't kill him. I've had a lot of negative circumstances happen in my life. I've been stolen from, lied about, kidnapped, blacklisted, spit on, and much, much more. Those things happened to me, but God didn't order them. He's not the one that caused my problems. At the very least, it was the devil, and half the time or more, I was cooperating somehow. It blesses me to know that God is not my problem.

God is not your problem either. It's not just all up to Him. Grace is what God does for you independent of you, but it doesn't come to pass in your life unless you learn some things and know how to cooperate. As you continue in this study, I'll put more of these truths together, which will help you better understand what God's part is and what your part is. It will help you put faith in what God has done instead of faith in what you have done. It will help you understand the power and authority that God has given you and will give you some answers that will really make a difference in your life.

## **Reach Out and Take it**

In my own personal life, if I hadn't gotten these things straightened out, I wouldn't have seen anywhere near the acts of God as I have. The things of God don't come to pass automatically. If you don't pursue them, you won't get them. You must pursue the things of God.

Take, for instance, the baptism in the Holy Spirit. Many people have told me, "If God wants me to receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit and speak in tongues, I'm ready. It's just up to Him. If He wants to give it to me, I'll get it." That's not how it happens. You can't just say, "If God wants me to be saved, I'll receive. It's just up to Him." No, you must believe!

I remember sitting in the very back of the church auditorium one day as a boy in Vacation Bible School. The man up front took something out of his wallet and announced, "I'll give this dollar bill to the first kid who comes up here and takes it." Instantly, there were twenty or thirty kids jumping up and down around him, saying, "I want it, I want it!" I was thinking, *This was the worst time to be sitting in the back row* (my family normally sat in the front). However, this guy ignored those kids, kept his hand up in the air, and repeated, "I'll give this dollar bill to the first kid who comes up here and takes it." All of us there were wondering, *What's he saying?* All of those kids up there wanted it.

About the third time he said "I'll give this dollar..." it finally hit my lightning-fast mind what he meant. I leaped off my chair and ran all the way down to the front. Pushing my way

through those kids, I grabbed his arm, climbed up his side, and snatched the dollar bill out of his hand. When I did, he looked at me and said, “Now, you’re the first kid that came up here and took it.” Looking at the other kids, he said, “All of you wanted it, and it was available, but you have to reach out and take it.” Then he taught us how receiving salvation is like that.

God has already provided the forgiveness of sins for every person, but it doesn’t automatically come to pass. It’s not just grace alone that saves you. You must believe. You have to reach out and take it. You must come against the thoughts that the devil puts in your mind saying “God couldn’t love you that way. You’re too ungodly” and so on. You have to fight through those things and persevere. You must reach out and by faith declare “I believe what God’s Word says” and take it. It doesn’t come to pass automatically.

### **It’s Your Choice**

It’s the same thing with everything else in the Christian life. God has already provided it, but are you going to sit there, saying “Que sera, sera. Whatever will be, will be” and blame God for the mess your life is in? Or are you going to stand up and declare, “The Lord has provided something better for me than this. Praise God, I’m going to find out what my part is, do what He has told me to do, and receive His miraculous power.” It’s your choice.

# God Is Not Your Problem

## Lesson 5 – Outline

- I. Although it's a major doctrine in the body of Christ, there are only two places in Scripture where predestination is mentioned: Romans 8:29-30; Ephesians 1:5, and 11.

***For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.***

Romans 8:29

- A. Nobody has been predestined to be saved or lost, but once you become born again, God has predetermined—predestined—that you will be conformed to the image of His Son.

***We shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.***

1 John 3:2

- B. If you've been born again, it's predetermined that you will ultimately be like Jesus.
- C. If you'll cooperate, you can experience it here in this life to the degree that you renew your mind.
- D. If you don't cooperate, you'll eventually be like Jesus anyway because you'll be like Him when He comes.

- II. God didn't predestine anyone to be a mess or predetermine anybody to be a failure.

- A. God has good plans for you.

***For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.***

Jeremiah 29:11

- B. He has a plan and a destiny for every person.
- C. God didn't plan the hurt and heartache that you've experienced.
- D. People have made wrong choices, and sometimes you suffer because of them, but God didn't determine this.
- E. He doesn't control people like chess pieces and make everything happen.

III. I take great comfort in knowing that God is a good God.

- A. I've had a lot of negative circumstances happen in my life.
- B. Those things happened to me, but God didn't order them.
- C. At the very least, it was the devil, and half the time or more, I was cooperating somehow.
- D. It blesses me to know that God is not my problem.
- E. God is not your problem either.

IV. The things of God don't come to pass automatically.

- A. If you don't pursue them, you won't get them.
- B. You must pursue the things of God.
- C. You must believe.
- D. You have to reach out and take them.

# God Is Not Your Problem

## Lesson 5 – Teacher’s Guide

1. Although it’s a major doctrine in the body of Christ, there are only two places in Scripture where predestination is mentioned: Romans 8:29-30; Ephesians 1:5, and 11. Nobody has been predestined to be saved or lost, but once we become born again, God has predetermined—predestined—that we will be conformed to the image of His Son (1 John 3:2). If we’ve been born again, it’s predetermined that we will ultimately be like Jesus. If we’ll cooperate, we can experience it here in this life to the degree that we renew our minds. If we don’t cooperate, we’ll eventually be like Jesus anyway because we’ll be like Him when He comes.

2. God didn’t predestine anyone to be a mess or predetermine anybody to be a failure. God has good plans for us (Jer. 29:11). He has a plan and a destiny for every person. God didn’t plan the hurt and heartache that we’ve experienced. People have made wrong choices, and sometimes we suffer because of them, but God didn’t determine this. He doesn’t control people like chess pieces and make everything happen.

3. We can take great comfort in knowing that God is a good God. We’ve probably had a lot of negative circumstances happen in our lives. Those things happened to us, but God didn’t order them. At the very least, it was the devil, and half the time or more, we were cooperating somehow. It should bless us to know that God is not our problem.

4. The things of God don’t come to pass automatically. If we don’t pursue them, we won’t get them. We must pursue the things of God. We must believe. We have to reach out and take them.

1. A. Read Romans 8:29-30; Ephesians 1:5, 11; and 1 John 3:2. Once we become born again, what has God predetermined—predestined? (That we will be conformed to the image of His Son)  
B. If we’ll cooperate, we can experience it here in this life to what degree? (To the degree that we renew our minds)
2. A. Read Jeremiah 29:11. What does God have for us? (Good plans, a destiny)  
B. Why do we suffer and experience hurt and heartache sometimes? (Because people have made wrong choices)
3. A. We can take great comfort in knowing what? (That God is a good God)  
B. It should bless us to know that who is not our problem? (God)
4. A. Do the things of God come to pass in our lives automatically? (No)  
B. What must we do to receive them? (We must pursue the things of God, believing, and reaching out and taking them)



# God Is Not Your Problem

## Lesson 5 – Discipleship Questions

1. Romans 8:29-30 declares that whom He did foreknow, He also did predestinate to be conformed to whose image?
2. According to Ephesians 1:5, we were predestined unto what?
3. By whom?
4. To whom?
5. According to the good pleasure of what?
6. What does Ephesians 1:11 say we have also obtained in Him?
7. We were predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things after the counsel of what?
8. According to 1 John 3:2, when are born-again believers the sons of God?
9. Who shall we be like when He appears?
10. How shall we see Him then?
11. According to Jeremiah 29:11, does the LORD think thoughts of peace or thoughts of evil toward us?
12. To give us what?

# God Is Not Your Problem

## Lesson 5 – Answer Key

1. The image of His Son.
2. The adoption of children.
3. Jesus Christ.
4. Himself.
5. His will.
6. An inheritance.
7. His own will.
8. Now.
9. Him.
10. As He is.
11. Thoughts of peace.
12. An expected end.

# God Is Not Your Problem

## Lesson 5 – Scriptures

***For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.***

Romans 8:29-30

***Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will.***

Ephesians 1:5

***In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will.***

Ephesians 1:11

***Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.***

1 John 3:2

***For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.***

Jeremiah 29:11



# The Response of Faith

## Lesson 6

Both grace and faith need to be combined to see the power of God released in your life. The body of Christ as a whole is divided between those who emphasize grace alone, at the exclusion of faith, and those who emphasize faith alone, at the exclusion of grace. Emphasizing either one—grace or faith—is wrong if you take them independently of the other.

***For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God.***

Ephesians 2:8

It's the combination of grace and faith together that releases the power of God. Grace or faith taken by themselves at the exclusion of the other is actually disastrous and will destroy you.

Many people have emphasized that everything is just up to God to the exclusion of the truth that we have a part to play in what He does. This extreme sovereignty of God teaching—where people blame Him for every single thing that happens to them—is the worst doctrine in the body of Christ today. It just renders people passive. If God is controlling everything, what's the point of us seeking Him, praying, studying the Word, or doing anything, because after all, "Que sera, sera. Whatever will be, will be. It's just up to God"? That's where a large segment of believers are, and it keeps them from taking their authority.

### Resist the Devil

James 4:7 states:

***Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.***

You must recognize that some things are from God, and some things are from the devil. Satan is not God's messenger boy. This mental image that the devil is on a leash and God only lets him go so far isn't true. You are the one who allows Satan to come in.

***Your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour.***

1 Peter 5:8, emphasis mine

The devil cannot devour everybody, and he can't do things to you without your consent and cooperation. One of the things that turns the devil loose in your life is this attitude that, "Well, it couldn't have happened if it wasn't God's will." If that's what you think, you can't really fight against it. Again, James 4:7 tells us to "**resist the devil.**" *Resist* means "to actively fight against." You cannot actively fight against something if you think God has ordained or permitted it. He's not the one that permits these things.

## Unbelief Limits God

Consider when the Israelites came out of Egypt. There are many, many instances where the Lord made it clear that He wanted them to enter directly into the Promised Land and receive the promises He had for them. But because of their disobedience and unbelief, they spent forty years in the wilderness. That wasn't God's will or plan for them.

***Yea, they turned back and tempted God, and limited the Holy One of Israel.***

Psalm 78:41

In their hearts, they turned back to Egypt, tempted God, and limited the Holy One of Israel. Again, many people can't even conceive this. They think, *There's nothing we can do to limit God.* The Lord is not forcing His will upon us individually or collectively as a nation or group of people. You have to cooperate with Him to see His will come to pass in your life.

Deuteronomy 7:15-18 talks about how the Israelites would have absolute victory. Nobody would stand before them. The Lord would deliver all of their enemies into their hands—a promise of complete victory. Then verse 17 says:

***If thou shalt say in thine heart, These nations are more than I; how can I [God] dispossess them?***

Brackets mine

He had just promised them absolute victory. “Nobody will stand before you. You'll win every battle. Everything is going to work. But if you say this in your heart and get into unbelief, how can I dispossess them?”

God cannot bring deliverance in your life if you yield to fear through unbelief and doubt. That stops the power of God from operating. This is a very important truth. But to those who emphasize the extreme sovereignty of God—that He controls everything—what I've just shared is terrible. They hate me for teaching this. I've been branded as a cult teacher and all kinds of things because I preach that God's will doesn't just automatically come to pass, that you have to choose God's will. Personally, I think this is obvious if you are a student of the Word.

## Not in Vain

Paul said,

***For I am the least of the apostles, that am not meet to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.***

1 Corinthians 15:9

That's a strong statement by a man who wrote half of the New Testament and saw people raised from the dead. He was a powerful man of God, yet he knew that wasn't because of who

he was in the natural. It was because of the grace and mercy of God. So he said, “I’m the least, not even fit to be called an apostle, because of the things I did.” But verse 10 says:

***But by the grace of God I am what I am.***

He gave all of the credit to God and said, “It’s the grace, the unmerited favor and ability of God that was given to me that made me who I am.” Then he continued saying:

***And his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain.***

1 Corinthians 15:10

In Galatians 2:16, Paul said that if you are trying to be justified by the works of the law, then Christ profits you nothing. Your faith is vain, and you make void the grace of God.

Grace is what God does for us independently of us. It has nothing to do with our performance. By grace, God has already provided forgiveness of sins, healing, deliverance, joy, and peace. Everything that God is and has, has already been accomplished by grace. But grace alone does not transform us unless there is the response of faith on our part. This is what the Apostle Paul was saying.

## **I Labored More Abundantly**

***His grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.***

1 Corinthians 15:10

This verse serves as a great example of grace and faith working together. God, by grace, extended a call to Paul. He was on his way to murder Christians in Damascus. Yet God appeared to him in a blinding flash of light and gave him an opportunity to respond. That was grace. Paul didn’t deserve that. When the Lord spoke to him, He said:

***I am Jesus whom thou persecutest: it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks.***

Acts 9:5

The Lord had already been convicting him and pricking his heart. There are several scriptures where people were pricked in their hearts (e.g., Acts 2:37). It’s speaking of the conviction of the Holy Spirit.

God had been convicting the Apostle Paul ever since he saw Stephen stoned to death. Saul, who became Paul, was the one whom everybody laid their coats down at his feet. He kept their garments as he watched them stone Stephen to death (Acts 7:58). Saul saw Stephen kneel down and pray as he was dying:

**Lord, lay not this sin to their charge.**

Acts 7:60

Stephen saw the heavens open up and Jesus standing at the right hand of God (Acts 7:55-56). Saul heard Stephen testify of this moments before Stephen was killed, and God had been pricking Saul's heart ever since. The Lord extended grace toward the man who was killing His own people. That's the grace of God!

## **A Spiritual Battle**

However, if he hadn't responded and labored more abundantly than all of them, we might have read the report about how Saul became converted, but he wouldn't have ever become Paul. He wouldn't have been the apostle who wrote half of the New Testament and did all of these great miracles. For God's grace—what He's freely provided for us—to work in our lives, it takes a response on our part.

We are in a battle! I'm amazed how many of us don't understand this. We're looking for physical, natural reasons why everything happens. But we are in a spiritual battle, and Satan is doing everything he can to stop us. But we're looking at things in the natural realm, wondering, *Why is this happening?*

When they see the political process go differently than what they want and they fall into despair, it's because that is where their hope and faith is rather than in God. They are looking to physical, natural things as their salvation. But there is a spiritual battle going on.

When you cooperate with God and seek Him with your whole heart, good things happen. When you don't seek God and you're operating in the carnal realm, bad things happen because Satan is going about seeking whom he may devour. It takes your consent and cooperation for the devil to do anything in your life. Not many people believe that, but it's true.

We aren't fighting flesh and blood. It's not a physical battle; it's a spiritual battle. There are spiritual dynamics taking place, and you have to cooperate. You must resist—fighting the unbelief, discouragement, and negativism of this world—to be able to see what God wants to do in your life come to pass.

God has a perfect plan for every one of us. He hasn't made a single one of us for defeat or failure. He has a perfect plan for everyone, but only some people will see it come to pass in their lives. It's not because God created some of us to be duds. It's not because He wants some of us to be failures. It's not because there are only a few people that God really loves. No, the grace of God is the same toward every person. But not everybody labors abundantly to see what His purpose and plan is for their lives.



## **Go for it!**

Some people have had the Lord speak a word to them, yet here they are a year, two years, even three years later still not doing what God told them to do. I just can't understand that. I don't even want to understand that. I don't even want to get to where I can figure out how people live that way. If God tells me to do something, I'll do it even if it hair lips every devil in hell! I am going to do it.

We offered one of our Bible college graduates a job running our night school. At the time, night school was just a part-time job, and he was used to making a lot of money. He has a large family—five kids—and it was going to be a big cut in pay for him if he accepted the position. While he was at my house helping with some things, he said, “I really feel that this is what God wants me to do, but I have a family to take care of. This is like half of the salary that I had. What do I do?” He was asking me all kinds of questions. I just told him, “You lost me when you said that this is what you feel God wants you to do. If you truly believe that this is what God wants you to do, then just do it.”

“Well, what about...?”

I answered, “I don't care about anything else. If you have to get rid of some things, downsize, sell your house, move into an apartment, sell your cars—whatever you have to do—just do what God tells you to do.”

This man decided to take the job, but it was about four or five months until the position actually opened up. During that time, much of the personnel at our Bible college changed, and we promoted him to a different position that paid nearly identical wages to the job he was leaving. He didn't lose a thing! But if he had not agreed to that part-time position, we probably wouldn't have hired him for the higher paying, full-time position.

Some people hear God's voice, but then they debate it, saying, “But God, what about this?” Who cares about anything else? This is not a dress rehearsal. We aren't just practicing. This is the real deal. If God speaks to you and tells you something, you ought to drop everything else and do whatever it is that He says. If the Lord said it, that ought to be it. God has a plan for your life that is superior to anything you could ever plan on your own. You need to follow Him.

What a privilege it is to hear the voice of God. What an honor it is to have God Almighty speak to you. When He does, just lay aside everything else and go for it.

## **Misplaced Priorities**

A woman once told the director of our school, “I know that God has called me to come to Colorado Springs and go to Charis Bible College, but I have two dogs. What do I do?”

The director answered, “The last time I checked, they allow dogs in Colorado. Bring them with you.”

I told her, “Kill them.” Now, I’m a dog lover, and I’ve had dogs myself. But if a dog was getting in the way of me doing what God told me to do, I would turn that dog loose or give it to another family. I’d do anything it took. Why in the world would anyone let two dogs—or whatever—keep them from obeying God? That’s misplaced priorities.

God has a will for you. He extends grace, but there’s some effort on your part. You have to make some decisions. You need to do whatever it takes to follow God, balancing grace and faith. God, by grace, gives you giftings, talents, and abilities that are completely independent of anything you deserve. It’s just grace. Sure, there are some things that are God’s part. He moves by grace. But then there is a response of faith on your part. You must merge these two together in the proper mixture to be able to see the power of God operate in your life. If you get ahead of God and start making decisions on your own, trying to force Him to do things, that’s not going to work either. You need to discover what God has done by grace—what He’s provided, what His will is. Then there needs to be an appropriate response on your part, which is what the Bible calls faith.

# The Response of Faith

## Lesson 6 – Outline

I. Both grace and faith need to be combined to see the power of God released in your life.

A. Emphasizing either one—grace or faith—is wrong if you take them independently of the other.

***For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God.***

Ephesians 2:8

B. Grace or faith taken by themselves, at the exclusion of the other, is actually disastrous and will destroy you.

II. You must recognize that some things are from God, and some things are from the devil.

***Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.***

James 4:7

A. You are the one who allows Satan to come in.

***Your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour.***

1 Peter 5:8, emphasis mine

B. The devil cannot devour everybody, and he can't do things to you without your consent and cooperation.

C. You cannot actively fight against something if you think God has ordained or permitted it.

III. Consider when the Israelites came out of Egypt.

A. In their hearts, they turned back to Egypt, tempted God, and limited the Holy One of Israel.

***Yea, they turned back and tempted God, and limited the Holy One of Israel.***

Psalm 78:41

B. The Lord is not forcing His will upon us individually or collectively as a nation or group of people.

C. You have to cooperate with God to see His will come to pass in your life.

***If thou shalt say in thine heart, These nations are more than I; how can I [God] dispossess them?***

Deuteronomy 7:17, brackets mine

D. God cannot bring deliverance in your life if you yield to fear through unbelief and doubt (Deut. 7:15-18).

IV. You have to choose God's will.

***For I am the least of the apostles, that am not meet to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.***

1 Corinthians 15:9-10

A. The Lord extended grace toward the man who was killing His own people (Acts 2:37; 7:55-56, 58, 60; and 9:5).

B. However, if he hadn't responded and labored more abundantly than all of them, we might have read the report about how Saul became converted, but he wouldn't have ever become Paul—the apostle who wrote half of the New Testament and did all of these great miracles.

C. For God's grace—what He's freely provided for us—to work in our lives, it takes a response on our part.

D. The grace of God is the same toward every person, but not everybody labors abundantly to see what God's purpose and plan is for their lives.

E. God has a plan for your life that is superior to anything you could ever plan on your own—you need to follow Him.

V. You need to do whatever it takes to follow God, balancing grace and faith.

A. God, by grace, gives you giftings, talents, and abilities that are completely independent of anything you deserve.

B. You need to discover what God has done by grace—what He's provided, what His will is.

C. Then there needs to be an appropriate response on your part, which is what the Bible calls faith.

# The Response of Faith

## Lesson 6 – Teacher’s Guide

1. Both grace and faith need to be combined to see the power of God released in our lives. Emphasizing either one—grace or faith—is wrong if we take them independently of the other (Eph. 2:8). Grace or faith taken by themselves, at the exclusion of the other, is actually disastrous and will destroy us.
2. We must recognize that some things are from God, and some things are from the devil (James 4:7). We are the ones who allow Satan to come in (1 Pet. 5:8). He cannot devour everybody, and he can’t do things to us without our consent and cooperation. We cannot actively fight against something if we think God has ordained or permitted it.
3. Consider when the Israelites came out of Egypt. In their hearts, they turned back to Egypt, tempted God, and limited the Holy One of Israel (Ps. 78:41). The Lord is not forcing His will upon us individually or collectively as a nation or group of people. We have to cooperate with Him to see His will come to pass in our lives (Deut. 7:17). God cannot bring deliverance in our lives if we yield to fear through unbelief and doubt (Deut. 7:15-18).

1. A. Read Ephesians 2:8. What needs to be combined to see the power of God released in our lives? (Both grace and faith)  
B. What happens if we take either grace or faith by themselves, at the exclusion of the other? (It’s disastrous and will destroy us)
2. A. Read James 4:7 and 1 Peter 5:8. What must we recognize? (That some things are from God, and some things are from the devil)  
B. Satan cannot devour everybody, and he can’t do things to us without our what? (Consent and cooperation)  
C. What can we not do if we think God has ordained or permitted something? (Actively fight against it)
3. A. Read Psalm 78:41 and Deuteronomy 7:15-18. What do we have to do in order to see God’s will come to pass in our lives? (Cooperate with Him)  
B. God cannot bring deliverance in our lives if we do what? (Yield to fear through unbelief and doubt)

4. We have to choose God's will (1 Cor. 15:9-10). The Lord extended grace toward the man who was killing His own people (Acts 2:37; 7:55-56, 58, 60; and 9:5). However, if he hadn't responded and labored more abundantly all of them, we might have read the report about how Saul became converted, but he wouldn't have ever become Paul—the apostle who wrote half of the New Testament and did all of these great miracles. For God's grace—what He's freely provided for us—to work in our lives, it takes a response on our part. The grace of God is the same toward every person, but not everybody labors abundantly to see what His purpose and plan is for their lives. God has a plan for our lives that is superior to anything we could ever plan on our own—we need to follow Him.

5. We need to do whatever it takes to follow God, balancing grace and faith. God, by grace, gives us giftings, talents, and abilities that are completely independent of anything we deserve. We need to discover what God has done by grace—what He's provided, what His will is. Then there needs to be an appropriate response on our part, which is what the Bible calls faith.

- 4. A. Read Acts 2:37, 7:55-60, 9:5; and 1 Corinthians 15:9-10. For God's grace—what He's freely provided for us—to work in our lives, what does it take on our part? (A response)
- B. Why do we need to follow God? (Because He has a plan for our lives that is superior to anything we could ever plan on our own)
- 5. A. What do we need to discover? (What God has done by grace—what He's provided, what His will is)
- B. What does the Bible call the appropriate response on our part? (Faith)

# The Response of Faith

## Lesson 6 – Discipleship Questions

1. If we submit ourselves to God and resist the devil, what does James 4:7 reveal that Satan will do?
2. Psalm 78:41 says that the Israelites turned back, tempted God, and did what to Him?
3. According to 1 Corinthians 15:9-10, was God's grace bestowed on Paul in vain?
4. He labored more abundantly than whom?
5. Yet not him, but what that was with him?
6. According to Galatians 2:16, we know that a man is not justified by the works of what?
7. We have believed in Jesus Christ that we might be justified by what?
8. For by the works of the Law shall no \_\_\_\_\_ be justified.
9. What question did Saul ask in Acts 9:5?
10. In Acts 2:37, what did the people who were pricked in their hearts ask?
11. According to Acts 7:55-60, the witnesses laid down their clothes at which young man's feet?
12. As Stephen kneeled down, what did he cry with a loud voice?

# The Response of Faith

## Lesson 6 – Answer Key

1. Flee from us.
2. Limited Him.
3. No.
4. They all.
5. The grace of God.
6. The Law.
7. The faith of Christ.
8. Flesh.
9. “Who art thou, Lord?”
10. Men and brethren, what shall we do?
11. Saul’s.
12. “Lord, lay not this sin to their charge.”



# The Response of Faith

## Lesson 6 – Scriptures

***For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God.***

Ephesians 2:8

***Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.***

James 4:7

***Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour.***

1 Peter 5:8

***Yea, they turned back and tempted God, and limited the Holy One of Israel.***

Psalms 78:41

***And the LORD will take away from thee all sickness, and will put none of the evil diseases of Egypt, which thou knowest, upon thee; but will lay them upon all them that hate thee. And thou shalt consume all the people which the LORD thy God shall deliver thee; thine eye shall have no pity upon them: neither shalt thou serve their gods; for that will be a snare unto thee. If thou shalt say in thine heart, These nations are more than I; how can I dispossess them? Thou shalt not be afraid of them: but shalt well remember what the LORD thy God did unto Pharaoh, and unto all Egypt.***

Deuteronomy 7:15-18

***For I am the least of the apostles, that am not meet to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.***

1 Corinthians 15:9-10

***Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.***

Galatians 2:16

***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.***

Acts 9:5

***Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do?***

Acts 2:37

***But he, being full of the Holy Ghost, looked up stedfastly into heaven, and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God, And said, Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing on the right hand of God. Then they cried out with a loud voice, and stopped their ears, and ran upon him with one accord, And cast him out of the city, and stoned him: and the witnesses laid down their clothes at a young man's feet, whose name was Saul. And they stoned Stephen, calling upon God, and saying, Lord Jesus, receive my spirit. And he kneeled down, and cried with a loud voice, Lord, lay not this sin to their charge. And when he had said this, he fell asleep.***

Acts 7:55-60

# Making God Move

## Lesson 7

Faith is simply your positive response to what God has already done by grace. That's important.

Faith is not something you do to get God to respond. This is a major misconception in the body of Christ among those who emphasize faith.

They often take scriptures, like Mark 11:23, and only emphasize what a person has to do. Some have even come up with the opinion that, "I am forcing God. I'm making God move." This is how they came up with such statements like, "Faith moves God." God isn't the one who's stuck. He's not the one who needs to move. God moved before there was ever a problem. He moved through Jesus. Every person that will ever be healed was healed two thousand years ago through Jesus. Every person that will ever be saved was already forgiven two thousand years ago through Christ. Every person that will ever be blessed, have joy, peace, or whatever—it's already been done two thousand years ago through Jesus.

You don't need God to move. You don't need Him to come and touch you or heal you. God has already provided everything. You can't make Him do anything. If your attitude is "I'm going to make God heal me. I'm going to make the power of God flow," that's arrogance gone to seed. It will cause frustration in your life as you try to twist God's arm and force Him to do something. That's not consistent with the Word at all.

### Faith Appropriates

Faith doesn't move God; He has already moved by grace. Faith is just your positive response to what you believe God has already provided. Faith only appropriates what God has already provided by grace. If God hasn't already provided it by grace, then your faith can't make it happen.

***For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith. Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.***

Mark 11:23-24

This passage has been taught primarily by people who emphasize faith. They say, "We have power and authority, and there are certain things that we have to do to see God's will come to pass." That's true, but it can be taken to a wrong extreme—to the point that you can literally "make" God do anything. "Whatever you want, just say it! Believe that you receive,

and God has to do it.” You’ll hear people put things into that kind of terminology and say, “We’re going to grab hold of God and not let go until we make the power of God flow.”

In a sense, that’s what’s happening in the body of Christ right now concerning prayer and intercession for revival. They believe that God is up there with His arms folded, thinking, *You bunch of hypocrites!* They say, “God isn’t moving or pouring out His power on people to be saved, healed, and delivered, because He’s upset with us. So, what we must do is get people together to pray and repent. But He won’t listen to just one or two of us. We have to have hundreds of thousands, even millions of people. We have to put pressure on God and stay after Him. Let’s get on a twenty-four hour chain and not let go until we just literally badger God and make Him release His power and pour out revival!” They might not use those terms, but that is the exact attitude that is prevalent in the body of Christ—that we are making God move and pour out His power. That’s an affront to God! It’s saying that they love people more than He does.

## **Be a Channel**

Earlier in my life, I did all of these things that I’m teaching against now. I myself have done them, so I’m not against people who are doing what I’m speaking against. But since then, I’ve grown and matured in God’s Word. I remember leading all-night prayer meetings that never lasted past one or two in the morning. That’s before we could pray in tongues. You can pray for the whole world in thirty minutes if you don’t know how to pray in tongues!

I remember praying so hard that I was literally screaming, yelling, and pounding my fist against the wall. I said, “God, if You love the people in Arlington, Texas, half as much as I do, we would have revival!” As soon as that left my lips, I knew that something was seriously wrong with my theology. I was trying to get God to be as compassionate as I was, which is exactly what many people do in prayer. They say, “O God, don’t You care about our country? O Lord, why are You pouring Your Spirit out in Africa? Why don’t we see very many miracles here? O God, please move here!” It’s like, “God, don’t you love these people as much as I do?” Something is seriously wrong with that kind of praying.

When you intercede for someone, perhaps your spouse or children, do you pray, “O God, I just love them so much that I can’t live if they aren’t saved”? Do you honestly think that you love them more than the Lord does? Why do you approach Him that way? It’s because you don’t believe that God has already done His part. You think He’s waiting until somebody rises up and prays, and then He responds to their prayer. That’s wrong, but it’s the way most people are thinking today. That’s you taking too much responsibility and thinking that you can make God move.

At a recent meeting, a woman came up to me, saying, “I know that the Lord hears your prayers. Would you please pray that God would move and save my husband?”

I answered, “What do you want me to pray? How can I get God any more motivated to save your husband than He already is? He already sent His Son to die for your husband. You’re

implying that God isn't as motivated as I am." I told this woman, "You're approaching this whole thing wrong. Instead of approaching God as an adversary and trying to make Him do something, you ought to start praising God that He loves your husband more than you do. You ought to start praising God for the great things He's done and just be a channel of His love flowing toward your mate."

## Whatever You Desire

***For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith. Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.***

Mark 11:23-24

Many people err, trying to force God to do something. They take scriptures like Mark 11:23-24 and say, "I confess with my mouth and believe with my heart that I can rob a bank and get away with a million dollars without being caught." Doesn't Mark 11:23 say "**whatever**"? Isn't robbing a bank a whatever? Of course, most people don't believe you can use Scripture to get away with robbing a bank, but it needs to be understood why that isn't true. Why can't we use Mark 11:23 to go rob a bank?

A certain woman started a faith-oriented Bible school in Arlington, Texas. What she desired was to be Kenneth Copeland's wife. So she put on a wedding gown and had an actual wedding ceremony where she "married" Kenneth Copeland "in the spirit." Of course, he wasn't physically there. But she stood on Mark 11:23-24 and "married" him "in the spirit." She desired Kenneth Copeland to be her husband, so she confessed it and "stood" on this scripture in "faith" for it.

However, Kenneth was already married to Gloria Copeland. This lady in Arlington viewed Gloria as her mountain, so she cursed her and commanded her to die so she would get out of the way. She went ahead and "married" Kenneth "in the spirit," and she was just waiting for Gloria to die so she could go ahead and consummate the marriage with Kenneth. That was over thirty years ago. It hasn't happened yet, and it isn't going to happen.

Most people would say, "I don't believe that." Why not? The Bible clearly says "**What things soever ye desire.**" Isn't wanting somebody else for a mate a whatever? Isn't that a desire? The Word says that "**what things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.**" It's a promise. Why can't you claim another person? Why can't you curse their mate and command them to die? The answer to this is the balance of grace and faith.

Faith only appropriates what God has already provided by grace. If God hasn't already provided it, your faith can't make God do anything. The reason you can't rob a bank using

Mark 11:23-24 is because God didn't provide thievery for you in His atonement. Grace hasn't already provided it. The reason you can't curse someone's mate and command them to die so you can marry their spouse is because God didn't provide murder and adultery in His atonement. Mark 11:23-24 doesn't make God do anything. It's talking about discovering what He's already provided. Then, if you will believe, faith will reach out and appropriate what God has already provided by grace. If you could just understand that, it would revolutionize your relationship with God.

## **A Totally Different Attitude**

Many people are trying to get God to do something. They're struggling to receive, saying, "I'm trying to believe God that He'll do this." Once you understand the balance between grace and faith, it takes the struggle out of receiving from God. How can you doubt that God will do what He's already done? If it's grace, then it's already done. Grace is not something that is going to happen; it's something that has already been done. Jesus already died for the sins of the whole world. He's already died for the forgiveness of our sins, the healing of our bodies, and the deliverance from bondage. It's already done. If Jesus has already died for you and it's already done—"by whose stripes ye were [past tense] healed" (1 Pet. 2:24, brackets mine)—how could you doubt that He would do what He's already done? It takes all of the struggle out of it.

Many people go to a meeting, saying, "O God, I'm just believing that You're going to heal me. I know You're going to heal somebody, and I'm believing that You'll heal me. I'm believing You to heal me." There's an element of doubt in that. There is uncertainty and anxiety. If it hasn't already happened, then there's a possibility that it won't. But when you come to a meeting, saying, "Father, I thank You that I've already been healed. It's already been done. I know it's mine, and hallelujah, I'm receiving." There's a totally different attitude in a person who is just trusting and relying upon what God has already done versus someone who is trying to get God to do something.

Really, the audacity of people who think that they can make God do things defies logic. Yet this is basically where religion is. Religious people are trying to force God through their prayers. They don't believe He'll do it for one, two, or ten people praying, but they believe they need to get a hundred million people praying: "If we could get so many people praying at the exact same moment, that would put pressure on God and make Him move." Nonsense! That's not what these scriptures are teaching.

## **Quit Trying, Start Trusting**

We need to understand that God, by grace, has already done everything. And if He's done it, then it's just a matter of resting in what He's already done. It's just a matter of reaching out by faith to receive it. When you find out that by the stripes of Jesus, you're already healed, then it's easy to say, "If I'm already healed, then that means in the spirit realm, I already have this

power on the inside of me. Instead of struggling, Lord, I'm just going to rest in what You've already done. It's a done deal."

You need to quit trying to get healed and start trusting that you've already been healed. There's a huge difference between the two.

When Jamie and I first started out in the ministry, we were so poor that we couldn't even pay attention. We really struggled financially, and it was my own fault. At times, Jamie and I would go weeks without eating.

The Bible I was using to pastor my first church was one that I had taken with me through my days as a soldier in Vietnam. It was a mildewed mess! I had written all over in it and had taped nearly every page to keep it together. Entire books—not just chapters, but books—of the Bible were gone. They'd fallen out. So I would open my Bible and say "Let's turn over to..." and it wasn't there. I'd just have to quote it from memory. That's one reason I can quote so many scriptures. I had to fake it because I didn't even have a whole Bible.

Finally, I decided that I just had to believe God and start seeing some of these truths work somewhere in my life. So I just drew a line in the sand and declared, "This is it! I believe God for a new Bible." You might have a hard time relating to this, but honestly, it took me six months to believe for an extra twenty dollars so that I could buy a Bible. You may think, *Well, that's just your priorities. You were using it for other things.* When Jamie and I were first married, our entire income for the first twelve months of our marriage was \$1,253. And we had \$100 a month rent plus utilities. I don't know how that works! Our second year's income jumped up to \$2,500 for twelve months. So we had a total of \$3,753 in twenty-four months, and we were struggling. When I say it took me six months to believe for twenty extra dollars for a Bible, that was putting a very high priority on it.

## **You've Already Got it**

During that period of time, I struggled. Satan was telling me, "You'll never get it. It will never work!" For me, I felt that our ministry was going to stand or fall based on whether or not I could believe God for this twenty extra dollars to go purchase a Bible. After six months, I finally had enough money. So I went and bought a Bible. I had my name engraved on it. When I walked out of that bookstore with that Bible under my arm, I instantly quit doubting that I'd get it.

Prior to that time, there wasn't ten minutes during my waking hours that I didn't have some fear, anxiety, or thought of unbelief that "it's not going to work. You can't get it. Some man of God you are. You can't even believe for a Bible!" I had to deal with such thoughts constantly. But as soon as I had it, I quit doubting that I'd get it. You're probably thinking, *Well of course! Why would you doubt that you're going to get it if you've already got it?* That's my point exactly.

Are you saying “I’m healed,” and then your next thought is, *I’m going to die. I don’t know if I’ll ever get better. What will my funeral be like?* Then you catch yourself and say, “No, in the name of Jesus, I’m healed.” The reason you are going through this and dealing with all these thoughts is because you are thinking that God will respond to your faith and heal you. You need to understand that God healed you before you ever became sick, before you were ever born, before you ever had a problem—God has already healed you. According to Ephesians 1:19-23, the same power that raised Jesus Christ from the dead already dwells in you. You have raising-from-the-dead power at your disposal. Jesus gave you the authority to use it to speak to the mountain and command it to be removed. Once you understand that God has already done it, how can you doubt that He’ll do what He’s already done?

If you’re struggling and saying “Well, I’m trying to believe, but I just don’t know if I’ll ever get healed,” it’s because you don’t understand that faith just appropriates what God has already provided. You are still thinking that God is going to respond to you—that when you do everything correctly, including holding your mouth just right and confessing so many times, then God will release His power. You still think that God is responding to your faith. No, your faith is a response to God’s grace. If you ever get those things mixed up, you’ll be frustrated.



# Making God Move

## Lesson 7 – Outline

- I. Faith is simply your positive response to what God has already done by grace.
  - A. Faith is not something you do to get God to respond.
  - B. Faith doesn't move God—He has already moved by grace.
  - C. Faith is just your positive response to what you believe God has already provided.

- II. Faith only appropriates what God has already provided by grace.

- A. If God hasn't provided it by grace, then your faith can't make it happen.

***For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith. Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.***

Mark 11:23-24

- B. Many people err, trying to force God to do something.
    - C. The reason you can't rob a bank using Mark 11:32-24 is because God didn't provide thievery for you in His atonement.
    - D. The reason you can't curse someone's mate and command them to die so you can marry their spouse is because God didn't provide murder and adultery in His atonement.
- III. Once you understand the balance between grace and faith, it takes the struggle out of receiving from God.
  - A. How can you doubt that God will do what He's already done?
  - B. Grace is not something that is going to happen—it's something that has already been done.
  - C. Jesus already died for the forgiveness of our sins, the healing of our bodies, and the deliverance from bondage (1 Pet. 2:24).
- IV. There's a totally different attitude in a person who is trusting and relying upon what God has already done versus someone who is trying to get God to do something.

- A. We need to understand that God, by grace, has already done everything.
  - B. And if He's done it, then it's just a matter of resting in what He's already done.
  - C. It's just a matter of reaching out by faith to receive it.
- V. You need to quit trying to get healed and start trusting that you've already been healed—there's a huge difference between the two.
- A. You need to understand that God healed you before you ever became sick, before you were ever born, before you ever had a problem—God has already healed you.
  - B. According to Ephesians 1:19-23, the same power that raised Jesus Christ from the dead already dwells in you—you have raising-from-the-dead power at your disposal.
  - C. Jesus gave you the authority to use it to speak to the mountain and command it to be removed.
  - D. Your faith is a response to God's grace—if you ever get those things mixed up, you'll be frustrated.

# Making God Move

## Lesson 7 – Teacher’s Guide

1. Faith is simply our positive response to what God has already done by grace. Faith is not something we do to get God to respond. Faith doesn’t move God—He has already moved by grace. Faith is just our positive response to what we believe God has already provided.
2. Faith only appropriates what God has already provided by grace. If God hasn’t provided it by grace, then our faith can’t make it happen (Mark 11:23-24). Many people err, trying to force God to do something. The reason we can’t rob a bank using Mark 11:23-24 is because God didn’t provide thievery for us in His atonement. The reason you can’t curse someone’s mate and command them to die so you can marry their spouse is because God didn’t provide murder and adultery in His atonement.
3. Once we understand the balance between grace and faith, it takes the struggle out of receiving from God. How can we doubt that God will do what He’s already done? Grace is not something that is going to happen—it’s something that has already been done. Jesus already died for the forgiveness of our sins, the healing of our bodies, and the deliverance from bondage (1 Pet. 2:24).

1. A. What is faith? (Our positive response to what God has already done by grace)  
B. Is faith something we do to get God to respond? (No)
2. A. Read Mark 11:23-24. Faith only appropriates what? (What God has already provided)  
B. If God hasn’t provided it by grace, can our faith make it happen? (No)
3. A. Once we understand the balance between grace and faith, what is taken out of receiving from God? (The struggle)  
B. Read 1 Peter 2:24. What has Jesus already died for? (The forgiveness of our sins, the healing of our bodies, and the deliverance from bondage)

4. There's a totally different attitude in a person who is trusting and relying upon what God has already done versus someone who is trying to get God to do something. We need to understand that God, by grace, has already done everything. And if He's done it, then it's just a matter of resting in what He's already done. It's just a matter of reaching out by faith to receive it.

5. We need to quit trying to get healed and start trusting that we've already been healed—there's a huge difference between the two. We need to understand that God healed us before we ever became sick, before we were ever born, before we ever had a problem—God has already healed us. According to Ephesians 1:19-23, the same power that raised Jesus Christ from the dead already dwells in us—we have raising-from-the-dead power at our disposal. Jesus gave us the authority to use it to speak to the mountain and command it to be removed. Our faith is a response to God's grace—if we ever get those things mixed up, we'll be frustrated.

- 4. A. We need to understand that God, by grace, has already done what? (Everything)
- B. And if He's done it, then it's just a matter of resting in what He's already done and reaching out by faith to what? (Receive it)
- 5. A. Read Ephesians 1:19-23. We need to quit trying to get healed and start trusting what? (That we've already been healed)
- B. What power do we have at our disposal? (The same power that raised Jesus Christ from the dead)
- C. If we ever get mixed up about our faith being a response to God's grace, how will we feel? (Frustrated)

# Making God Move

## Lesson 7 – Discipleship Questions

1. According to Mark 11:23-24, we should not doubt in our what?
2. When should we believe that we receive the things we desire?
3. According to 1 Peter 2:24, what did Jesus bear in His own body on the tree?
4. Since we are dead to sins, what should we live unto?
5. How were we healed?
6. Ephesians 1:19-23 speaks of the exceeding greatness of His power toward whom?
7. This is the same mighty power that God wrought in Christ when?
8. God set Him at His own right hand where?
9. What has been put under His feet?
10. What is the church?

# Making God Move

## Lesson 7 – Answer Key

1. Hearts.
2. When we pray.
3. Our sins.
4. Righteousness.
5. By His stripes.
6. Us who believe.
7. When God raised Him from the dead.
8. In the heavenly places.
9. All things.
10. His body.

# Making God Move

## Lesson 7 – Scriptures

*For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith. Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.*

Mark 11:23-24

*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.*

1 Peter 2:24

*And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power, Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places, Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come: And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.*

Ephesians 1:19-23





# Already Provided

## Lesson 8

I came out of the “faith movement,” so I’m not against it. There were many great truths revealed to me through that teaching, and I’m still a “faith person” today. But many people didn’t understand that faith just appropriates what God has already provided. They made faith into a work—something they did trying to force God to move—and became frustrated. There are thousands of faith people who aren’t part of a local church today, because they became frustrated. They did everything they knew. They pushed every button, but God didn’t come out. They feel like the Lord failed them because they did these things, and God didn’t respond the way they were told He would. This whole problem is eliminated when you understand that faith only appropriates what God has already provided.

You aren’t trying to get God to do anything. It’s not about God giving; it’s all about you learning how to receive. Once you understand that, it makes the Christian life so simple. The reason you study the Word isn’t so you can earn a star that you can turn in for an answer to prayer. It’s not going to earn you any favor with God. You study the Word so you can learn what He’s already done, what God has already provided. As you learn about your great salvation, faith rises up on the inside, and you start believing God. This is infinitely better. This will give you peace in your relationship with God.

Even then, there will probably still be some things that you believe God has provided by grace that you aren’t seeing come to pass in your life. When that happens, just keep renewing your mind to the Word. God’s Word works, but it’s a process.

People come up to me and say, “I’m angry at God because He failed to do this.” I don’t even relate to that. God has never failed to do anything. If anyone failed, it was me who failed to understand, appropriate, and receive. I had wrong attitudes that hindered what God wanted to do. But the Lord isn’t the one that’s failed me. If anything, I’ve failed God, but He has never failed me.

Back in those poverty days I spoke of in the previous chapter, it wasn’t God who was failing to meet our needs. It was me who failed to understand the Word about how to receive provision. I was under the impression that I would be sinning against God if I worked a secular job. I was called to the ministry and thought I had to get all my money from ministry, but eventually I learned better. I was hindering God’s supply—which I wanted so desperately—by my failure to work.

Once you understand that God, by grace, has already done everything, it’ll get rid of this wrong attitude. He’s provided everything that you will ever need. If you understand these truths, they’ll transform your life. God has already done His part. We aren’t trying to get Him to do anything. You don’t have to badger God and plead with Him.

## Not a Comparison

Many people have misunderstood what Jesus was communicating in Luke 11. After teaching on what's commonly called "The Lord's Prayer," He told a parable, saying:

***Which of you shall have a friend, and shall go unto him at midnight, and say unto him, Friend, lend me three loaves; For a friend of mine in his journey is come to me, and I have nothing to set before him? And he from within shall answer and say, Trouble me not: the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot rise and give thee. I say unto you, Though he will not rise and give him, because he is his friend, yet because of his importunity he will rise and give him as many as he needeth.***

Luke 11:5-8

This parable is often taught to say, "God is like this friend. When you come asking for what you need, He's liable to respond with the equivalent of, 'I'm in bed. My children are in bed. I'm already asleep. Don't bother Me!' So you just have to keep petitioning, badgering, and staying after Him. You have to give God no rest and make Him get up and give you what you want just to get rid of you." That's not what this passage of Scripture is teaching.

It's a contrast, not a comparison.

I've used contrasts many times before. I remember one fellow I was ministering to who had just recently received the baptism in the Holy Spirit. He was bedridden with a life-threatening illness and didn't know for sure that God wanted to heal him. After sharing God's Word with him for quite a while, he still wasn't persuaded. Struggling to convince this man of the truth, I glanced over at his wife kneeling down right beside the bed and asked, "Do you think that your wife would want you to suffer through all of this pain you're going through, and then die?"

He answered, "Oh, no. My wife loves me too much. If there was anything she could do to heal me, she'd do it."

"You've probably had arguments and fights with your wife at different times."

"Yeah, but there's nothing I've done that would ever cause her to want me to go through this suffering and pain and just die."

Then I said, "And you think your wife—an imperfect human being—loves you more than Almighty God!"

That stopped his argument dead in its tracks.

***God is love.***

1 John 4:8

God—who is perfect—loves you infinitely more than any imperfect physical person does. That’s the point Jesus was trying to get across. He asked, “How many of you have a friend...?” He wasn’t talking about just an acquaintance—somebody you know—but someone you would call a friend. If you had a need at midnight and you called a friend on the phone, saying, “My car broke down. Could you help me?” Do you have a friend that would say, “I’m in bed. My kids are in bed. Who cares about you? Call somebody else!” Someone like that isn’t a friend.

## The Opposite

Jesus was saying, “Do you know anyone, whom you consider a friend, who would treat you that rudely? Of course not! No friend would treat you that way. Then how do you expect God to be like that? Why do you think you just have to badger Him?”

This passage is actually teaching the opposite of the way it’s traditionally been interpreted. It’s saying that if you expect that much mercy and kindness from a physical human being, then how much more should you expect God to answer your prayer without having to badger Him? It’s making a contrast, and the context proves it. Jesus continued:

***And I say unto you.***

In other words, even in this parable you can’t imagine a friend acting this way. But here’s what...

***I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you. 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 11:9-13

In context, do you see what He’s trying to do? Jesus asked the people, “How many of you would treat your children so badly that if they asked for a piece of bread, you would give them a stone? If they asked for an egg, you’d give them a scorpion? How many of you would treat your children that way?” Hopefully nobody! If you would, there are agencies here in America that will prosecute you. It’s wrong to treat kids that way. Well, then, if we who are corrupted, sinful, and do things for our own pleasure and self-benefit are better than this, how do we come off thinking that Almighty God is less compassionate than we are and that we have to badger Him? We think He won’t respond to one person who asks for the power of God to be manifest, but we have to get a hundred million people together to manipulate, badger, and force Him into sending revival. There are some seriously wrong attitudes in the body of Christ today. We need to understand the balance between grace and faith.

## **Confident and Consistent**

God, by grace, has anticipated the needs of the entire human race as well as every one of us individually. He's met every need that you will ever have. Before you ever had the problem, God had already created the answer. He made the supply before you ever had the need. God has already provided everything. There's nothing that will ever come into your life that will catch God by surprise. You don't have to go to Him, begging for help and saying, "O God, I don't know if You can pull this off." The Lord has already dealt with everything.

Everything is already provided, but that doesn't mean you'll experience that provision. You have to have an appropriate response, of faith. Instead of panicking and getting into fear, you must learn to trust in what He's done, resting and saying, "Father, I don't care what the doctor says. I know what You've said, and I trust You. I believe that You've already provided everything I need." Once you get this attitude and start living it, it creates in you such a sense of peace. You know that nothing will ever happen to you that God hadn't already anticipated. The supply was there before the need was. It gives you a confidence that you don't have to be afraid of what the devil throws at you. It doesn't matter, because God has already provided. That's faith.

Faith gives you consistency. Are you an up-and-down kind of Christian? Are you up as long as everything is wonderful, and then when tragedy hits, you go into the valley? While there, do you get desperate and start seeking God, begging and pleading until He comes through and you're back up again? If that's you, you're a very carnal person. You aren't resting in God. You are just going by what you observe in the physical, natural realm. You don't understand that God, by grace, has already provided everything. Understanding this gives you a consistency. It allows you to just be the same at all times because God is the same at all times. Even though my circumstances, finances, health, joy, and other things may fluctuate, God's supply is the same. I'm able to just be consistent. I'm not afraid of any bad news, because I know that God has already met the needs. I don't have to do something to make God respond. That's good news!

Very few Christians have this attitude because very few have understood that we're saved by grace through faith. They either emphasize, "Well, it's just up to God. We're waiting on Him. Whatever is God's will, will be." And they're just passive, not taking their authority, and letting the devil beat them up because they have misunderstood the sovereignty of God. Or, they're fasting, badgering God, and trying to twist His arm to force Him to do something. In a sense, they have become "God" themselves and are taking responsibility for making everything happen. That's very frustrating.

## **Directing Angels**

Many people have tried to act as God concerning angels. There are scriptures that talk about angels and how they work for us (Matt. 18:10 and Heb. 1:14). So some people teach, "You have to tell your angels where to go and what to do. You must command them to protect

you when you get on that plane, train, or bus. Station an angel on every corner of your car to protect you.” The Word reveals that the angels behold the face of God. They aren’t listening to you.

Now, the devil is listening to what you’re saying. If you confess “If anybody is going to have a wreck, it’ll be me,” Satan will take advantage of those words, and you’ll have what you say. That’s shooting yourself in the foot. So, yes, you do need to declare, “I’m blessed, I’m protected, and angels are watching over me.” That’s fine. But the angels are beholding the face of God.

You aren’t sharp enough to tell your angels what to do. There are so many things that go on in our lives that we don’t even know what’s happening. Once we get to heaven, we’ll find out that there were so many times that the devil tried to kill us, and we didn’t even know it because we were walking in joy and peace, believing and trusting God. The Lord commanded the angels and protected us.

Angels are real and they protect us. There are angels right where you are. But God is the one who directs them and takes care of you. Many people think that they have to assign their angels and that their angels can’t do anything without them telling them what to do. You make a very poor God. It would be much better to just trust Him and let Him be the one who directs the angels. He can see what you can’t see. The Lord can take care of things much, much better than what you ever could.

## **Real Effort**

I’m laying a foundation for the truths that I want to get to later in this study. They will really make a positive difference in your life. Everything I’m sharing is basic Christianity—Christianity 101. They’re as foundational as you can get.

If you think God is controlling everything and causing all the tragedies, illnesses, and heartbreaks, then there is no way that you’re ever going to resist them, lest you find yourself resisting God. If you think that the Lord is responding to you and you’re the one that’s making God move by your great faith, you’re wrong. You can’t bear that kind of responsibility. You simply aren’t capable of doing that.

God loves you more than you love yourself. God loves your family more than you love them. He wants you to succeed even more than you want yourself to succeed. God, by grace, has provided everything that is necessary for you to accomplish what He wants you to do. It’s already been done. Now it’s simply us resting and trusting that God has already provided everything we need. That sounds easy, but the hardest thing you’ll ever do is rest.

You must labor to enter into the rest (Heb. 4:11). That sounds contradictory on the surface, but it’s exactly the truth. The hardest thing you’ll ever do is get to where you trust that it’s already been done instead of thinking it still needs to be done. It’s challenging to control your

tongue, actions, and anxiety. This takes effort. You'll have to get into God's Word and start dominating yourself with that knowledge instead of what the world has to say. This will take some real effort.

Paul said,

***I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.***

1 Corinthians 15:10

God, by grace, has provided everything. But it takes effort on our part to trust and rest in the truth that God has already done it.

# Already Provided

## Lesson 8 – Outline

- I. It's not about God giving—it's all about you learning how to receive.
  - A. Once you understand that, it makes the Christian life so simple.
  - B. You study the Word so you can learn what He's already done, what God has already provided.
  - C. As you learn about your great salvation, faith rises up on the inside, and you start believing God.
  - D. Even then, there will probably still be some things that you believe God has provided by grace that you aren't seeing come to pass in your life—when that happens, just keep renewing your mind to the Word.
  - E. God's Word works, but it's a process.
- II. Many people have misunderstood what Jesus was communicating in Luke 11.

***Which of you shall have a friend, and shall go unto him at midnight, and say unto him, Friend, lend me three loaves; For a friend of mine in his journey is come to me, and I have nothing to set before him? And he from within shall answer and say, Trouble me not: the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot rise and give thee. I say unto you, Though he will not rise and give him, because he is his friend, yet because of his importunity he will rise and give him as many as he needeth.***

Luke 11:5-8

- A. It's a contrast, not a comparison.
- B. Jesus was saying, "Do you know anyone, whom you consider a friend, who would treat you that rudely? Of course not! No friend would treat you that way. Then how do you expect God to be like that? Why do you think you just have to badger Him?"
- C. It's saying that if you expect that much mercy and kindness from a physical human being, then how much more should you expect God to answer your prayer without having to badger Him?

***I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you. 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 11:9-13

III. God, by grace, has anticipated the needs of the entire human race as well as every one of us individually.

- A. He made the supply before you ever had the need.
- B. God has already provided everything.
- C. There's nothing that will ever come into your life that will catch God by surprise.
- D. Everything is already provided, but that doesn't mean you'll experience that provision unless you have an appropriate response, of faith.
- E. Faith gives you consistency.

IV. The Word reveals that the angels behold the face of God—they aren't listening to you (Matt. 18:10 and Heb. 1:14).

- A. You aren't sharp enough to tell your angels what to do.
- B. Once we get to heaven, we'll find out that there were so many times that the devil tried to kill us and we didn't even know it because we were walking in joy and peace, believing and trusting God.
- C. Angels are real and they protect us.
- D. But God is the one who directs them and takes care of you.

V. God, by grace, has provided everything that is necessary for you to accomplish what He wants you to do.

- A. Now it's simply us resting and trusting that God has already provided everything we need.
- B. That sounds easy, but the hardest thing you'll ever do is rest.
- C. You must labor to enter into rest (Heb. 4:11).

***I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.***

1 Corinthians 15:10



# Already Provided

## Lesson 8 – Teacher’s Guide

1. It’s not about God giving—it’s all about us learning how to receive. Once we understand that, it makes the Christian life so simple. We study the Word so we can learn what He’s already done, what God has already provided. As we learn about our great salvation, faith rises up on the inside, and we start believing God. Even then, there will probably still be some things that we believe God has provided by grace that we aren’t seeing come to pass in our lives—when that happens, we just have to keep renewing our minds to the Word. God’s Word works, but it’s a process.
2. Many people have misunderstood what Jesus was communicating in Luke 11. Luke 11:5-8 is a contrast, not a comparison. Jesus was saying, “Do you know anyone, whom you consider a friend, who would treat you that rudely? Of course not! No friend would treat you that way. Then how do you expect God to be like that? Why do you think that you just have to badger Him?” It’s saying that if we expect that much mercy and kindness from a physical human being, then how much more should we expect God to answer our prayer without having to badger Him (Luke 11:9-13)?
3. God, by grace, has anticipated the needs of the entire human race as well as every one of us individually. He made the supply before we ever had the need. God has already provided everything. There’s nothing that will ever come into our lives that will catch God by surprise. Everything is already provided, but that doesn’t mean we’ll experience that provision. We have to have an appropriate response, of faith. Faith gives us consistency.

1. A. What understanding makes the Christian life so simple? (It’s not about God giving—it’s all about us learning how to receive)  
B. Why do we study the Word? (So we can learn what God has already done, what He has already provided)
2. A. Read Luke 11:5-13. Is Luke 11:5-8 a comparison or a contrast? (A contrast)  
B. If we expect that much mercy and kindness from a physical human being, then how much more should we expect God to answer our prayer without what? (Having to badger Him)
3. A. When did God make the supply? (Before we ever had the need)  
B. What kind of response must we have to appropriate what God has already provided? (A response of faith)

4. The Word reveals that the angels behold the face of God—they aren't listening to us (Matt. 18:10 and Heb. 1:14). We aren't sharp enough to tell our angels what to do. Once we get to heaven, we'll find out that there were so many times that the devil tried to kill us, and we didn't even know it because we were walking in joy and peace, believing and trusting God. Angels are real and they protect us. But God is the one who directs them and takes care of us.

5. God, by grace, has provided everything that is necessary for us to accomplish what He wants us to do. Now it's simply us resting and trusting that He has already provided everything we need. That sounds easy, but the hardest thing we'll ever do is rest. We must labor to enter into rest (Heb. 4:11 and 1 Cor. 15:10).

4. A. Read Matthew 18:10 and Hebrews 1:14. What will we find out once we get to heaven? (That there were so many times that the devil tried to kill us, and we didn't even know it because we were walking in joy and peace, believing and trusting God)
- B. Who directs the angels and takes care of us? (God)
5. A. Read Hebrews 4:11 and 1 Corinthians 15:10. What has God provided, by grace? (Everything that is necessary for us to accomplish what He wants us to do)
- B. What is the hardest thing we'll ever do? (Rest)

# Already Provided

## Lesson 8 – Discipleship Questions

1. According to Luke 11:5-8, what did this fellow ask his “friend” to lend him?
2. First John 4:8 reveals God to be what?
3. Does someone that doesn't love know God?
4. According to Luke 11:9-13, how much more does our heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to whom?
5. Matthew 18:10 reveals that the angels do always behold the face of whom in heaven?
6. According to Hebrews 1:14, what are angels?
7. They are sent forth to minister to them who shall be heirs of what?
8. Hebrews 4:11 admonishes us to labor to enter into what?
9. Lest we fall after the same example of what?
10. According to 1 Corinthians 15:10, what was with Paul that enabled him to labor more abundantly than them all?

# Already Provided

## Lesson 8 – Answer Key

1. Three loaves.
2. Love.
3. No.
4. Them that ask Him.
5. The Father.
6. Ministering spirits.
7. Salvation.
8. That rest.
9. Unbelief.
10. The grace of God.

# Already Provided

## Lesson 8 – Scriptures

***And he said unto them, Which of you shall have a friend, and shall go unto him at midnight, and say unto him, Friend, lend me three loaves; For a friend of mine in his journey is come to me, and I have nothing to set before him? And he from within shall answer and say, Trouble me not: the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot rise and give thee. I say unto you, Though he will not rise and give him, because he is his friend, yet because of his importunity he will rise and give him as many as he needeth.***

Luke 11:5-8

***He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.***

1 John 4:8

***And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you. 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 11:9-13

***Take heed that ye despise not one of these little ones; for I say unto you, That in heaven their angels do always behold the face of my Father which is in heaven.***

Matthew 18:10

***Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?***

Hebrews 1:14

***Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief.***

Hebrews 4:11

***But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.***

1 Corinthians 15:10



# Believe and Receive

## Lesson 9

We're saved by grace through faith (Eph. 2:8). Grace is what God does for us independently of us. It has nothing to do with us, or it wouldn't be grace. Therefore, you didn't earn it. You didn't merit it. God didn't respond to us. Rather, grace is something that is done by God before we ever have a problem. It's done independently of us—independently of anything we deserve.

That's a wonderful truth. However, some folks have taken this truth that God does things independently of us—not based on our worth or value—and they've gone to an extreme. They forget that it takes faith on our part to release the grace of God.

Other people forget that it's God who provides everything. They actually think that we, by our faith, can make God move and do something. They think that we can manipulate and force the Lord to do things, which is equally wrong.

We aren't saved by faith alone. Neither are we saved by grace alone. Both of these are poison by themselves. They must be taken together properly. We're saved by grace through faith.

### True Biblical Faith

Everyone deals with this problem: What is God's part, and what is my part? What does He do, and what do I do? Probably one of the most common questions people ask me is, "What does God want me to do?" He wants you to understand, believe, and receive what He's already provided.

Faith isn't something you do and then God responds to you. If you have this concept in any form or fashion—you think that God is looking at your Bible study, prayer, holiness, and goodness. Then, when you do enough, He'll release His power. If that's what you think, you aren't operating in true biblical faith. That's legalistic and religious, and it's the reason that things aren't working. Faith is not something you do to get God to do something; faith is just your positive response to what God has already accomplished by grace. It's how you appropriate and receive what God has already provided.

God doesn't "move" when you believe Him. If you believe God for healing, He doesn't respond to you and heal you. First Peter 2:24 reveals that by His stripes, you were healed two thousand years ago.

***By [His] stripes ye were healed.***

Brackets mine

This is speaking of what happened in Herod's judgment hall. The Lord Jesus Christ, on His way to the cross, took those stripes on His back (Matt. 27:26). Jesus isn't healing people

today. He healed people two thousand years ago. All of the power that it takes to heal every sickness, infirmity, and disease of the entire human race was generated two thousand years ago.

## **Raising-from-the-Dead Power**

The very instant you received the Lord and became born again, God placed that raising-from-the-dead power on the inside of you (Eph. 1:19-20). You don't need God to heal you; He has already done it. He's placed raising-from-the-dead power on the inside of you (in your born-again spirit). You just need to understand what has already been provided by grace and learn how to release that provision (out into your soul and body) by faith.

When the Lord showed me this, it transformed my life. These aren't things that I've just studied and made a message out of; this is what God has done in my life. This is how I live. It's how I think. I haven't arrived, but I've left. I'm not perfect, but I've seen some supernatural things happen, including my own son raised up after being dead for five hours.

In the meeting my team and I ministered in last night, a lady received healing for a lump in her breast. That thing dissolved instantly. She went and checked herself. It's gone. Earlier today, we ministered to several people who had pain, some for fifteen to twenty years. It left— instantly. They're healed. Last night we saw people healed of back problems, sinus problems, and many other things. I'm not saying that I have it all figured out, but I know I'm moving in the right direction. I'm seeing results that are beyond mere human results.

One of the things that transformed my life was when I quit trying to get God to do something and started believing what He had already done instead. I began putting faith in grace instead of faith in what I could do to make God move. This is where many people are missing it.

## **Paradigm Shift**

When my eldest son was very young, he became sick with a certain illness on the same day in December every year. It didn't make any sense. I don't believe it was physical. I believe it was a demonic attack. But just like clockwork, the same day every year, he would get this same sickness.

After a few years of this, I saw it coming. When I recognized these symptoms coming on him again, I started fasting and praying, rebuking and binding, and many other things. But Joshua kept getting worse and worse. I remember praying, "God, I know this isn't right. I know this isn't normal. People don't get the same sickness on the same day every year. This is the just the devil. Why aren't we seeing better results?"

What the Lord answered really changed my life. He said, "The problem is you aren't fighting because I have healed you. You're trying to get healed. You see yourself as the sick trying to get well instead of the well whom Satan is trying to steal your health from."



I made a paradigm shift and declared, “This is wrong. God has already healed us. By His stripes we were healed. He’s already put this power on the inside of me, and I’m acting like I’m the one who is fighting to obtain a victory. I already have the victory. I’m not fighting toward a victory; I’m coming from a victory. I have already been made more than a conqueror.”

When you think that healing is “over there,” and in the name of Jesus you are going to get there, you’re in doubt. Even though it sounds positive, you’re believing, “I’m not there.” And if you’re not there, then there is a possibility that you might not get there. But if you said, “No, I’m already healed. I refuse to let anybody take from me what God has already given me.” How can you not get what you’ve already got? How can you not get there if you’re already there?

## Complete in Christ

I no longer see myself as the sick trying to get well. I am the well. God placed His power on the inside of me, and I’m not trying to get God to move.

Once you understand this foundational truth, it’ll change your whole perspective. You’ll see that the Christian life isn’t about getting God to do anything; it’s about renewing your mind to the truth of God’s Word and receiving the physical manifestation of what He’s already done. However, most people view the Christian life as seven steps to get God to do this and three steps to make God do that. It’s all about how to get God to do something and how to make Him move.

If I were to come into most Pentecostal, Spirit-filled, or Charismatic churches preaching, “It’s double-portion time. God is going to pour out twice as much of the Holy Spirit. Would you like more of God? Do you want God to do something new in your life?” I can get nearly 99 percent of the people to run forward because they are looking for something. They’re looking for God to do something new and touch them. Technically, all of that is wrong. God has already done everything He’s going to do.

On the inside of every born-again believer is the same power that raised Christ from the dead. The fullness of the Godhead dwells in you bodily (Col. 1:27 and 2:9). You don’t need God to do anything. You don’t need God to bless you. You don’t need joy or peace. You are complete in Christ (Col. 2:10).

Yet you may be struggling with this, thinking, *Well, you don’t know me. I’m depressed.* That’s because you’re only looking on the outside. You’re searching your emotions. Most people don’t understand what they have in their born-again spirits. In your spirit, you already have love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, and temperance (Gal. 5:22-23). Those aren’t things that are “out there” and if you’ll pray hard enough, study the Word, live holy, and do right, then God will give you love, joy, and peace. No, in your spirit, twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, every day of your life, your born-again spirit is rejoicing and praising God. It has never been depressed. It is never discouraged. When you’re depressed and saying “O God, where are You? It feels like You just up and left,” it’s

never your spirit. That's only your flesh. It's because you are going by what you can see and feel. But there is a spiritual part of you that is seated with Christ Jesus in heavenly places (Eph. 1:3 and Col. 3:1). It's real.

## **God Is Always on**

The truth is, if you're a born-again believer, you already have the same power on the inside of you that raised Jesus Christ from the dead. You have more than enough healing. You don't need God to heal you; you need to find out what He's already provided. Once you get this revelation, it'll change your entire mindset. Instead of trying to get healed, you'll know God has healed you. Then you'll defend what God has already given you. You're not going to let the devil steal it from you. This makes all the difference in the world!

When the Lord revealed this truth to me, I had been fighting this sickness that attacked my son on the same day every year for years. I'd fight and it would take fifteen hours, a day, or whatever, and then I'd see him get healed. It looked like we were going to go through this thing again. But once the Lord showed me this, in ten minutes time, it was over and that was the end of that. Why? I was no longer trying to get my son healed. He was already healed, and there wasn't a devil big enough to steal from us what God had already given us. It's much easier to defend what you already have than to try to get something you don't have.

When people come up to me and ask "Would you please pray that God would pour out His love in my life?" the spirit of slap just comes all over me. What they're implying is that God, for whatever reason, has shut off the flow of His love, peace, joy, or whatever. They think that the reason they don't feel love, peace, or joy is because God hasn't released it. That's never true!

Grace is independent of you and it's consistent. That means it isn't based on you. It's not based on whether you've lived holy, or done anything right or wrong. It's always the same. The grace of God never fluctuates or changes. God is never on and off. It's never the Lord who releases His power into your life and then—when you do something wrong—switches it off. Religion teaches that. But God is always on. He's always releasing His power.

## **Take Revival**

I'm definitely for revival, but the way most of the body of Christ approaches it is wrong. The Lord isn't up in heaven with His arms folded, saying, "No, until more people pray longer and harder; until you get another 100,000 people together; until you beg, plead, and repent some more..." This implies that God controls revival, and it's up to Him to "send" it. This attitude says, "If God wanted to, we could be having red-hot revival. All of our churches would be packed out, and our entire nation would be turning to Him." Really, that's saying, "God is our problem. He's the one not sending revival."

It's not like that at all. God's arms aren't folded—they're wide open. He's trying to release His power through us. God wants revival much more than we do. We don't need to plead with Him; we just need to start believing that He's already placed revival on the inside of us. We already have the same power that raised Christ from the dead, and we can do the same works that Jesus did. We just need to go out and raise a few people from the dead. We'll have all the revival we can handle!

We're praying "O God, send revival," but He's saying, "You go take revival. I've already placed My power on the inside of you—release it!" Most of the church is wondering, *Why hasn't God moved? Why doesn't He do something?* God has already done everything. He moved through the death, burial, and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. Everything that God will ever do for the whole human race has already been accomplished through the Atonement. It's done. It's over. When Jesus said "It's finished," it was finished. He accomplished it. It was done. You don't need God to save you or heal you; He's already saved and healed you. He's forgiven the sins of the whole world and provided healing. God's grace has already provided. The issue is: Will you believe and receive or doubt and do without?

God, by grace, has already moved. He's already done everything He'll ever do. Through Christ's atonement, He's already provided everything we'll ever need. Now it's just up to us to appropriate—receive—it by faith.

# Believe and Receive

## Lesson 9 – Outline

- I. God wants you to understand, believe, and receive what He’s already provided.
  - A. Faith isn’t something you do and then God responds to you.
  - B. Faith is just your positive response to what God has already accomplished by grace—it’s how you appropriate and receive what He has already provided.
- II. First Peter 2:24 reveals that by His stripes, you were healed two thousand years ago.

**By [His] *stripes ye were healed.***

Brackets mine

  - A. The Lord Jesus Christ, on His way to the cross, took those stripes on His back (Matt. 27:26).
  - B. All of the power that it takes to heal every sickness, infirmity, and disease of the entire human race was generated two thousand years ago.
  - C. The very instant you received the Lord and became born again, God placed that raising-from-the-dead power on the inside of you—in your born-again spirit (Eph. 1:19-20).
  - D. You just need to understand what has already been provided by grace and learn how to release that provision (out into your soul and body) by faith.
- III. The Christian life isn’t about getting God to do anything—it’s about renewing your mind to the truth of God’s Word and receiving the physical manifestation of what He’s already done.
  - A. On the inside of every born-again believer is the same power that raised Christ from the dead.
  - B. The fullness of the Godhead dwells in you bodily (Col. 1:27 and 2:9).
  - C. You are complete in Christ (Col. 2:10).
  - D. In your spirit, you already have love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, and temperance (Gal. 5:22-23).
  - E. There is a spiritual part of you that is seated with Christ Jesus in heavenly places (Eph. 1:3 and Col. 3:1).

IV. Once you get this revelation, it'll change your entire mindset.

- A. Instead of trying to get healed, you'll know God has healed you.
- B. Then you'll defend what God has already given you.
- C. You're not going to let the devil steal it from you.
- D. This makes all the difference in the world!
- E. It's much easier to defend what you already have than to try to get something you don't have.

V. The grace of God never fluctuates or changes.

- A. It's never the Lord who releases His power into your life and then—when you do something wrong—switches it off.
- B. God is always on—He's always releasing His power.
- C. Everything that God will ever do for the whole human race has already been accomplished through the Atonement.
- D. God's grace has already provided. The issue is: Will you believe and receive or doubt and do without?

# Believe and Receive

## Lesson 9 – Teacher’s Guide

1. God wants us to understand, believe, and receive what He’s already provided. Faith isn’t something we do and then God responds to us; faith is just our positive response to what He has already accomplished by grace—it’s how we appropriate and receive what He has already provided.
2. First Peter 2:24 reveals that by His stripes, we were healed two thousand years ago. The Lord Jesus Christ, on His way to the cross, took those stripes on His back (Matt. 27:26). All of the power that it takes to heal every sickness, infirmity, and disease of the entire human race was generated two thousand years ago. The very instant we received the Lord and became born again, God placed that raising-from-the-dead power on the inside of us—in our born-again spirits (Eph. 1:19-20). We just need to understand what has already been provided by grace and learn how to release that provision (out into our souls and bodies) by faith.
3. The Christian life isn’t about getting God to do anything—it’s about renewing our minds to the truth of God’s Word and receiving the physical manifestation of what He’s already done. On the inside of every born-again believer is the same power that raised Christ from the dead. The fullness of the Godhead dwells in us bodily (Col. 1:27 and 2:9). We are complete in Christ (Col. 2:10). In our spirits, we already have love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, and temperance (Gal. 5:22-23). There is a spiritual part of us that is seated with Christ Jesus in heavenly places (Eph. 1:3 and Col. 3:1).

1. A. What does God want us to understand, believe, and receive? (What He’s already provided)  
B. How do we appropriate and receive what God has already provided? (Through faith—our positive response to what He has already accomplished by grace)
2. A. Read 1 Peter 2:24, Matthew 27:26, and Ephesians 1:19. Where did the Lord place that raising-from-the-dead power the very instant we received Him and became born again? (Inside of us—in our born-again spirits)  
B. We need to learn how to release by faith that provision out where? (Out into our souls and bodies)
3. A. Read Colossians 1:27, 2:9-10, 3:1; Galatians 5:22-23; and Ephesians 1:3. What is the Christian life about? (Renewing our minds to the truth of God’s Word and receiving the physical manifestation of what He’s already done)  
B. Where do we already have love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, and temperance? (In our spirits)

4. Once we get this revelation, it'll change our entire mindset. Instead of trying to get healed, we'll know God has healed us. Then we'll defend what God has already given us. We're not going to let the devil steal it from us. This makes all the difference in the world! It's much easier to defend what we already have than to try to get something we don't have.

5. The grace of God never fluctuates or changes. It's never the Lord who releases His power into our lives and then—when we do something wrong—switches it off. God is always on—He's always releasing His power. Everything that God will ever do for the whole human race has already been accomplished through the Atonement. God's grace has already provided. The issue is: Will we believe and receive or doubt and do without?

- 4. A. Once we get this revelation, what will it change? (Our entire mindset)
- B. Which is easier, defending what we've already got or trying to get something we don't have? (Defending what we've already got)
- 5. A. Everything that God will ever do for the whole human race has already been accomplished through what? (The Atonement)
- B. Since God's grace has already provided, what is the issue? (Will we believe and receive or doubt and do without?)

# Believe and Receive

## Lesson 9 – Additional Information

My teaching entitled *You've Already Got It!* amplifies and expands on these important truths. When you combine it with *Spirit, Soul & Body* and *A Better Way to Pray*, it'll totally revolutionize the way you receive from God. Really, it all comes back to understanding and applying these truths concerning grace and faith.



# Believe and Receive

## Lesson 9 – Discipleship Questions

1. According to Matthew 27:26, who was released when Jesus was scourged and delivered to be crucified?
2. What does Ephesians 1:19 reveal is to us who believe?
3. What is the hope of glory in Colossians 1:27?
4. According to Colossians 2:9-10, what dwells in Him bodily?
5. What are we in Him?
6. He is the head of all what?
7. According to Galatians 5:22-23, there is no what against the fruit of the Spirit?
8. What does Ephesians 1:3 say that we are blessed with?
9. In heavenly places where?
10. According to Colossians 3:1, what are we to seek?
11. Who is seated?
12. On the right hand of whom?

# Believe and Receive

## Lesson 9 – Answer Key

1. Barabbas.
2. The exceeding greatness of His power.
3. Christ in us.
4. All the fullness of the Godhead.
5. Complete.
6. Principality and power.
7. Law.
8. All spiritual blessings.
9. In Christ.
10. Those things which are above.
11. Christ.
12. God.

# Believe and Receive

## Lesson 9 – Scriptures

***For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God.***

Ephesians 2:8

***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.***

1 Peter 2:24

***Then released he Barabbas unto them: and when he had scourged Jesus, he delivered him to be crucified.***

Matthew 27:26

***And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power, Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places.***

Ephesians 1:19-20

***To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.***

Colossians 1:27

***For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily. And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power.***

Colossians 2:9-10

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

Galatians 5:22-23

***Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ.***

Ephesians 1:3

***If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God.***

Colossians 3:1



# Turn on and Tune in

## Lesson 10

***Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath [past tense] blessed us.***

Ephesians 1:3, brackets mine

The word “**hath**” means it’s already been done. We’re already blessed. It doesn’t say, “Who is going to [future tense]...” Most prophecies in the body of Christ today focus on the future. They say, “God is going to do this, and God is going to do that. He’s going to move and do something new!” The Lord is presented as the great “I’m going to be,” not the Great I Am. The average prophecy today says, “There’s something coming, but right now there’s nothing.” Yet this isn’t the message of the Bible. Here in Ephesians 1:3, the Word reveals that we’re already blessed. (The whole book of Ephesians was written from this perspective that it’s already done.) God has already...

***Blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ.***

Ephesians 1:3

This is just an old English way of saying that God’s given us all earthly and spiritual blessings—and they’re already in us in Christ. God has already deposited everything into our born-again spirits that we’ll ever need. It’s already done. God has already passed His blessings out.

Therefore, it’s unbelief to pray, “O God, bless me.” You’re already blessed. You just haven’t heard God’s Word, believed the truth, and seen it manifested yet. God has already commanded the blessing upon you, but you just haven’t received it yet.

## You Were Healed

It’s an insult to God to pray, “O God, heal me.” First Peter 2:24 says,

***By whose stripes ye were [past tense] healed.***

Brackets mine

If God says “You were healed,” and then you say, “O God, Heal me,” one of you is wrong. Let me just suggest to you that it isn’t God. He says, “By His stripes, you were healed.” If you *were* healed, then you *are* healed. Why are you asking God to do something that He’s already done?

“But I have a doctor’s report and pain in my body that proves I’m not healed.” No, that just proves that your physical body hasn’t yet received the healing that God has already given. But

according to the Scriptures, God has already healed you. The resurrection power He's placed within you is certainly enough to heal your hangnail, cold, headache, cancer, or AIDS. None of these things is a problem for God. He has already placed supernatural healing power on the inside of you, yet you're still asking Him for it. That's unbelief.

How do you think I would respond if I gave you my Bible, but then you asked me, "Andrew, would you please give me your Bible so I could look up a scripture?" How do you respond when a person asks you to give them something you know you've already given to them? Personally, I don't even know how to respond to that. I'd probably just look at you like, "What's wrong?"

If God could be confused, I believe that He would be. All these millions of people are praying, "O God, please heal me. Stretch forth Your hand and heal. I'm believing You to come and heal me."

## Already Anointed

They also pray, "O God, rend the heavens and come down." You may be thinking, *That's in the Bible. What's wrong with that?* God already rent the heavens and came down through Jesus. It was appropriate for Isaiah to pray "Rend the heavens and come down" because God hadn't done it yet (Is. 64:1). However, it's inappropriate to pray this way on this side of the life, death, and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. People who pray this way aren't valuing Jesus properly. They're basically saying, "I know Jesus came down, but what He did isn't enough. I need You to do something else!"

Before Jesus came, it was appropriate for David to pray:

***Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit.***

Psalm 51:10-12

It's unbelief for a Christian to pray this way today. David was an Old Testament man who wasn't born again. He didn't have the promises we do, which say, "**I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee**" (Heb. 13:5) and "**I am with you always, even unto the end of the world**" (Matt. 28:20). It's unbelief for us to come into a church service and pray, "O God, we ask You to meet with us today." In addition to the promise we have in Hebrews 13:5 that He will never leave us, nor forsake us, Jesus said,

***For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.***

Matthew 18:20

We don't have to pray and ask for the anointing to fall; God has already anointed us. When Jesus came into His hometown of Nazareth, He stood up and quoted from Isaiah 61 saying:

***The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor.***

Luke 4:18

He didn't go into a back room with the preacher and say, "Let's pray and ask God to anoint you." People do this with me all the time when I go to their church. They ask, "Would you like to come back here with us? We want to pray for God to anoint you." I am so polite, kind, and non-confrontational that I usually don't say anything. But what is the point of asking God to anoint me? If I'm not anointed by the time I get to your church to minister, I'm not going to get it in the next five minutes. If you don't believe that I'm anointed and that God speaks through me, why would you invite me to your church in the first place? Why go in the back room and spend time praying and asking for God's anointing? It's unbelief. Desiring to see the power of God in manifestation is good, but you don't have to beg God for the anointing.

### **Agree with God's Word**

If God tells us to do something, He would be unjust not to give us what we need to do it. Naturally speaking, I'm an introvert. As a teenager, I couldn't even look someone else in the face. Yet God has called me to speak to millions of people worldwide every day through television, radio, and the internet. He's called me to hold conferences and citywide meetings and to minister in churches and Bible schools. God would be unjust to tell me to do something that I can't do and not supply me with everything I need to do it. He doesn't just command us and then turn us loose on our own until we beg Him. No, with anything God tells us to do, there is an anointing present to get it accomplished.

You don't have to beg God for the anointing. Actually, by approaching Him and saying "O God, please anoint me," you're starting from a position of unbelief. You're saying that you aren't anointed, when the scripture says that God...

***Hath anointed us.***

2 Corinthians 1:21

I'm already anointed. You're anointed (1 John 2:20). He's anointed every one of us. So instead of starting in unbelief and saying "O God, I'm not anointed, but would You anoint me?" you need to start believing that He has already anointed you (2 Cor. 1:21) and blessed you with all spiritual blessings (Eph. 1:3). Agree with God's Word, declaring, "I've already been blessed. I already have love, joy, and peace. I don't need God to give it to me. If I don't feel joy, it's not God who hasn't given; it's me who has somehow or another switched off the joy of the Lord. What I need to do is work on my receiver, not God's transmitter."

Right now, there are television signals wherever you are. If you said "I don't believe it," that doesn't mean they aren't there; it just means you aren't very smart. You say, "But I can't see or hear them." That doesn't mean they aren't there. They're there. They're just in a form that you can't perceive with your little peanut brain.

If you plug in, turn on, and tune in a television set, you'd start seeing and hearing the program. But that's not when the signal started. The signal was already there. It's being broadcast twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. In fact, there are multiple signals—both television and radio—right there where you are. There are all kinds of things happening in the unseen realm all around you. You may not perceive them, but they're there. When you turn on and tune in your television set isn't when the station starts broadcasting; that's just when you start receiving.

## **What about Daniel?**

God is always, always releasing—broadcasting—love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, and goodness. And they're not coming from “out there” somewhere.

“But don't we have to clear a hole through the demonic powers over our city so that our prayers can get through to God?” No, that's just a religious doctrine. “Then what about Daniel?” Daniel was an Old Testament man. Jesus hadn't yet died and broken the dominion of the devil.

Now, in the New Covenant, you don't need your prayers to get above the ceiling. You don't even need them to get above your nose. God lives on the inside of you. The reason you bow your head to pray is so you can look at God. Believing this erroneous concept that demons are blocking your prayers from getting up to God shows that you don't understand what the Lord has already done through grace. That's the reason Satan is eating your lunch and popping the bag—you're lacking important knowledge (Hos. 4:6).

You feel like, “O God, we must have a move from You!” God has already moved through Jesus, and He's placed on the inside of you the same power that raised Christ from the dead. You can do the same works that Jesus did. Start representing Him as somebody who has done everything. Quit representing the Lord as, “He could do it, if we'll pray hard enough.” No, go out and proclaim, “Good news! God has already done it. He's already provided everything you need. He's already forgiven your sins. He's already healed you. Will you believe and receive?” That's a different approach than saying, “Let's pray and ask God to move.” If we would represent God correctly, we'd see much better results. Let's stop begging the Lord to do something and start acting like He's already done it. When we start believing His Word and releasing His power, we'll have more revival than we can handle.

## **Check Your Receiver**

However, for most Christians, their television sets aren't working. And instead of checking to see if they're plugged in, turning the power on, or seeing if they have the channel adjusted, the first thing they do is call the television station. “Why aren't you transmitting? Please turn on the power and start sending a signal. I want to watch Andrew's program!”



The first thing we do if we have sickness in our bodies is say, “God, why haven’t You healed me?” God’s broadcasting 24/7. If we aren’t receiving healing, it’s not God who hasn’t released it; it’s us who don’t know how to receive it. I’m not saying this to condemn people. It takes time to get educated and learn. But the starting place is to recognize that God is not the one who hasn’t healed anybody. He has already healed all of our sicknesses and diseases, and that power is already on the inside of us. If we aren’t feeling it—if it isn’t manifest—it’s not God who hasn’t given. It’s us who haven’t learned to receive. We need to start working on our receivers, not God’s transmitter.

Don’t call the station and say, “God, what’s wrong with You? Broadcast! O God, pour out Your power. O Lord, send revival!” God is not our problem. He’s been releasing His power for over two thousand years now. The reason why the church suffers isn’t because God hasn’t been moving; it’s because we haven’t been receiving. We’ve been ignorant, and Satan has been stealing from us.

# Turn on and Tune in

## Lesson 10 – Outline

I. The Word reveals that we're already blessed.

***Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath [past tense] blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ.***

Ephesians 1:3, brackets mine

- A. This is just an old English way of saying that God's given us all earthly and spiritual blessings—and they're already in us in Christ.
- B. God has already deposited everything into our born-again spirits that we'll ever need.
- C. You just haven't heard God's Word, believed the truth, and seen it manifested yet.

II. First Peter 2:24 says, **“By whose stripes ye were [past tense] healed”** (brackets mine).

- A. If you *were* healed, then you *are* healed.
- B. “But I have a doctor's report and pain in my body that proves I'm not healed.”
- C. No, that just proves that your physical body hasn't yet received the healing that God has already given.
- D. God has already placed supernatural healing power on the inside of you, yet you're still asking Him for it—that's unbelief.

III. It's inappropriate to pray this way on this side of the life, death, and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ.

- A. It was appropriate for Isaiah to pray “Rend the heavens and come down” because God hadn't done it yet (Is. 64:1).

***Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit.***

Psalm 51:10-12

- B. But it's unbelief for a Christian to pray this way today.

- C. David was an Old Testament man who wasn't born again—he didn't have the promises we do, which say, **“I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee”** (Heb. 13:5) and **“I am with you always, even unto the end of the world”** (Matt. 28:20).

***For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.***

Matthew 18:20

- D. God has already anointed us (2 Cor. 1:21 and 1 John 2:20).

***The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor.***

Luke 4:18

IV. There are all kinds of things happening in the unseen realm all around you.

- A. When you turn on and tune in your television set isn't when the station starts broadcasting; that's just when you start receiving.

- B. God is always, always releasing—broadcasting—love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, and goodness. And they're not coming from “out there” somewhere.

- C. God lives on the inside of you.

V. God has already moved through Jesus, and He's placed on the inside of you the same power that raised Christ from the dead.

- A. You can do the same works that Jesus did.

- B. Start representing Him as somebody who has done everything.

- C. Proclaim, “Good news! God has already done it. He's already provided everything you need. He's already forgiven your sins. He's already healed you. Will you believe and receive?”

- D. If we would represent God correctly, we'd see much better results.

- E. When we start believing His Word and releasing His power, we'll have more revival than we can handle.

- F. We need to start working on our receivers, not God's transmitter.

# Turn on and Tune in

## Lesson 10 – Teacher’s Guide

1. The Word reveals that we’re already blessed (Eph. 1:3). This is just an old English way of saying that God’s given us all earthly and spiritual blessings—and they’re already in us in Christ. God has already deposited everything into our born-again spirits that we’ll ever need. We just haven’t heard God’s Word, believed the truth, and seen it manifested yet.

2. First Peter 2:24 says, **“By whose stripes ye were [past tense] healed”** (brackets mine). If we *were* healed, then we *are* healed. “But I have a doctor’s report and pain in my body that proves I’m not healed.” No, that just proves that your physical body hasn’t yet received the healing that God has already given. God has already placed supernatural healing power on the inside of you, yet you’re still asking Him for it—that’s unbelief.

3. It’s inappropriate to pray this way on this side of the life, death, and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. It was appropriate for Isaiah to pray, “Rend the heavens and come down” because God hadn’t done it yet (Is. 64:1). But it’s unbelief for a Christian to pray this way today (Ps. 51:10-12). David was an Old Testament man who wasn’t born again—he didn’t have the promises we do, which say, **“I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee”** (Heb. 13:5) and **“I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world”** (Matt. 28:20 and 18:20). God has already anointed us (2 Cor. 1:21, 1 John 2:20, and Luke 4:18).

1. A. Read Ephesians 1:3. What does the Word reveal? (That we’re already blessed)  
B. Where has God already deposited everything we’ll ever need? (Into our born-again spirits)
2. A. Read 1 Peter 2:24. Is it possible for our physical bodies to have not yet received the healing that God has already given? (Yes)  
B. What are we in when we’re still asking God for the supernatural healing power that He’s already placed on the inside of us? (Unbelief)
3. A. Read Isaiah 64:1; Psalm 51:10-12; Hebrews 13:5; Matthew 28:20, 18:20; 2 Corinthians 1:21; 1 John 2:20; and Luke 4:18. On this side of the life, death, and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ, is it appropriate for us to pray in exactly the same way as Isaiah, David, and other Old Testament saints? (No)  
B. Who has God already anointed? (Us)

4. There are all kinds of things happening in the unseen realm all around us. When we turn on and tune in our television sets isn't when the station starts broadcasting; that's just when we start receiving. God is always, always releasing—broadcasting—love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, and goodness. And they're not coming from "out there" somewhere. God lives on the inside of us.

5. God has already moved through Jesus, and He's placed on the inside of us the same power that raised Christ from the dead. We can do the same works that Jesus did. Let's start representing Him as somebody who has done everything. Let's proclaim, "Good news! God has already done it. He's already provided everything we need. He's already forgiven our sins. He's already healed us. Will we believe and receive?" If we would represent God correctly, we'd see much better results. When we start believing His Word and releasing His power, we'll have more revival than we can handle. We need to start working on our receivers, not God's transmitter.

4. A. What is God always, always releasing—broadcasting? (Love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, and goodness)
- B. Is it coming from "out there" somewhere? (No)
- C. Where does God live? (On the inside of us)
5. A. Since God has already moved through Jesus and placed on the inside of us the same power that raised Christ from the dead, what can we do? (The same works that Jesus did)
- B. What would we see if we represented God correctly? (Much better results)
- C. What do we need to start working on, our receivers or God's transmitter? (Our receivers)

# Turn on and Tune in

## Lesson 10 – Discipleship Questions

1. What did the prophet ask God to do in Isaiah 64:1?
2. What did David ask God to create in him in Psalm 51:10-12?
3. What did he ask to be renewed within him?
4. He asked not to be cast away from what?
5. And to not take whom away from him?
6. In the New Testament, what has God promised in Hebrews 13:5?
7. According to Matthew 28:20, when is Jesus with us?
8. According to Matthew 18:20, where is Jesus whenever two or three are gathered together in His name?
9. According to Luke 4:18, who is the Gospel to be preached to?
10. Who is to be healed?
11. Who are to be set at liberty?
12. Second Corinthians 1:21 reveals that God has anointed whom?
13. According to 1 John 2:20, whom do we have an unction (anointing) from?
14. What do we know?
15. What does Hosea 4:6 say God's people are destroyed for a lack of?

# Turn on and Tune in

## Lesson 10 – Answer Key

1. Rend the heavens and come down.
2. A clean heart.
3. A right spirit.
4. God's presence.
5. The Holy Spirit.
6. I will never leave you, nor forsake you.
7. Always, even to the end of the world.
8. In the midst of them.
9. The poor.
10. The brokenhearted.
11. Them that are bruised.
12. Us.
13. The Holy One.
14. All things.
15. Knowledge.

# Turn on and Tune in

## Lesson 10 – Scriptures

***Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ.***

Ephesians 1:3

***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.***

1 Peter 2:24

***Oh that thou wouldest rend the heavens, that thou wouldest come down, that the mountains might flow down at thy presence.***

Isaiah 64:1

***Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit.***

Psalms 51:10-12

***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.***

Hebrews 13:5

***Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.***

Matthew 28:20

***For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.***

Matthew 18:20

***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.***

Luke 4:18

***Now he which stablisheth us with you in Christ, and hath anointed us, is God.***

2 Corinthians 1:21

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

1 John 2:20



***My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children.***

Hosea 4:6



# Open Your Eyes

## Lesson 11

If you were writing a prayer that would be read by and prayed for the saints 2,000 years in the future, how would you pray? Think about that for a moment.

The exact wording might vary, but the typical Christian today would pray something like, “O God, we ask You to pour out Your power on that generation. Just move and send revival. O God, we ask for a new...” It would all be some form of pleading with God to do a new thing, to move, to do something.

Let’s take a look at the way Paul approached this (Eph. 1:15-23). The only thing he asked God to do is give us a revelation of what the Lord had already done. Paul didn’t ask God to do anything new. He just said, “Open their eyes to what You’ve already done.” He was praying for every believer to receive revelation of what they already have.

### Spirit and Life

I won’t pray for someone who asks me, “Will you please pray that God will pour out His love in my life?” That’s because God has already poured out His love through Jesus. He sent the Holy Spirit, who sheds abroad the love of God in our hearts (Rom. 5:5). There is no problem with God’s love. He loves every one of us infinitely more than any of us have ever understood. We don’t need God to pour out His love.

However, if you ask, “Would you please pray with me to receive a revelation of what I know is true? I know God loves me, but I don’t have a revelation of it. I don’t understand it, and I’m not walking in it.” I’ll pray with you in a heartbeat for that. I’m happy to help you fix your receiver, but I refuse to impute to God that He doesn’t love you. God loves you.

“But I don’t feel the love of God.” Well, then, your feelings are wrong. They’re broken. But it’s not God who isn’t transmitting His love. “I don’t feel the joy of the Lord, or His peace.” Your feelings are wrong because the truth is you have love, joy, and peace on the inside of you all of the time.

Every time you’ve been depressed and discouraged, your spirit is just rejoicing and praising God. Your spirit is always happy and blessed. You may be thinking, *No, it’s not. I would know if it was.* That’s not true. That which is spirit is spirit, and that which is flesh is flesh (John 3:6). You can’t tell what’s going on in the spirit realm unless you get into the Word of God.

***The words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.***

John 6:63

## **“Thank You, Father”**

Let's read this prayer in Ephesians 1:15-16.

***Wherefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus, and love unto all the saints, Cease not to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers.***

Not many people give thanks in prayer. Their prayers are all about, “O God, I need this. Please give me that. O God, help me...forgive me.” That's what most people's prayers are about. And if they're spiritual giants today, then they're prayers are all about “O God, give them this, and give them that. O God, forgive them.” Notice that 99.9 percent of all prayer is about needs. There's not a lot of thanksgiving and praise, because again, they don't see God as having done much. They see Him as able to do anything but that He hasn't done very much. They feel they must constantly petition Him. However, once you start understanding that by grace, it's already been done, then your prayers turn more to just thanksgiving.

I don't sit down and consciously evaluate my prayers, but I guarantee you that 95 to 99 percent of my prayers are all just “Thank You, Father. I love You. I appreciate what You've done.” I spend virtually no time asking God for anything, because He's already provided it.

You may be thinking, *You're weird!* Well, I think you're weird. And until you start getting better results than I am, maybe you ought to consider doing it this way.

## **Enlightened**

Paul was praying in Ephesians 1:16-17,

***[I] cease not to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers; That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him.***

Brackets mine

For the sake of accuracy, verses 8 and 9 say that God has already...

***Abounded toward us in all wisdom and prudence; Having made known unto us the mystery of his will.***

The truth is, God has already given us wisdom and prudence, making known to us the mystery of His will. In verses 16 and 17, Paul was just praying that it'll start functioning. He's not asking God to do something He hasn't done; He's praying that we'd understand what the Lord has already given us.

***The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints.***

Ephesians 1:18

Paul is praying that your eyes would be opened—not your physical eyes, but your spiritual eyes. He’s talking about the eyes of your heart.

## Sixth Sense

Personally, I believe that God originally created us with six senses, not five. We walked by faith. Adam and Eve communicated with God through the spirit. When Genesis 3:7 says that their eyes were opened, it isn’t talking about the eyes of their hearts. It is talking about how their physical eyesight began to dominate them. They were created with a sixth sense of faith, which they originally walked by. But once they fell, their spiritual eyes became closed, and their physical eyes opened up to the existence that most of us live in now. We’re carnal and we just go by what we see. We don’t have any spiritual perception at all. Originally, God made man to perceive things in the spirit realm.

In 2 Kings 6, there’s an instance where Elisha was surrounded with a Syrian host. His servant exclaimed:

***Alas, my master! how shall we do?***

2 Kings 6:15

Elisha prayed and said, “Lord, open up the young man’s eyes” (2 Kin. 6:17). He wasn’t talking about his physical eyes. His physical eyes were already as big as saucers looking at all of the enemy troops round about them. Elisha was praying that his spiritual eyes would be opened. All of a sudden, this young man saw with his heart and perceived all the angels.

Adam and Eve could see into the spirit realm because they were walking by faith through the eyes of their hearts. This instance in 2 Kings 6 is the exact opposite of what happened with Adam and Eve. Adam and Eve degenerated from seeing and walking by faith to seeing and walking by sight. Elisha’s servant went from seeing by sight to seeing by faith and perceiving the spirit realm.

Now, through the new birth...

***We walk by faith, not by sight.***

2 Corinthians 5:7

The norm for the New Testament believer should be walking by faith. We should have this sixth sense of faith restored to where we can see things with our hearts that we can’t see with our physical eyes. That’s normal.

## Supernatural

So in Ephesians 1:17-18, Paul was praying that our spiritual eyesight—our spiritual understanding—would begin to perceive things that we can’t perceive with our little peanut brains. Through the eyes of our hearts, we would start to perceive...

***The hope of his calling.***

Ephesians 1:18

This isn't just the hope of *your* calling; it's the hope of *His* calling!

Now that you're born again, you have a calling that is beyond human ability. Most people are trying to find out what God wants them to do. However, they are looking for something that they are capable of doing on their own. "God, show me what You want me to do." If what you feel God called you to do is something that you can accomplish yourself, then you haven't truly found God's will for your life yet. God has a plan for you that is supernatural. It's going to take His supernatural ability working through you to do it.

I was an introvert and couldn't look at a person in the face. Now God has me speaking to thousands and thousands of people. I'm doing something that is physically impossible for me to do.

If we can do it on your own, I doubt that it's God, because He will call us to something that is supernatural. It's the hope of His calling. God is a supernatural God, and most of us are shooting way too low. We're aiming at nothing, and hitting it every time. We need to increase. We need to get our eyes opened and our understanding enlightened so we can see the hope of His calling—God's plan for us, not just what we think we can accomplish on our own.

## **In the Saints**

***The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is...  
the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints.***

Ephesians 1:18

Notice how the Word says we would see what "***is*** [present tense] **the riches of the glory of His inheritance *in the saints***" (brackets and emphasis mine). His inheritance is in the saints.

We sing these songs about when we all get to heaven, what a day that'll be. In the sweet by and by, it will be wonderful, but in the rough here and now, it's a drag. However, the Word says that we have been called...

***To the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.***

2 Thessalonians 2:14

We have already obtained the glory of the Lord Jesus Christ. You may be saying, "I don't understand that." You go look in the mirror and think, *This is glory?* No, the Word isn't talking about your physical body or your soul (mental and emotional realm). But in the spirit, you are full of the glory of God. If what's on the inside of your born-again spirit had to be replaced, it would bankrupt heaven to put back inside you what you already have. The glory of God

dwells inside you. The riches of the glory of His inheritance is in the saints. It's not out there somewhere; it's already on the inside of you.

Most of us don't know that God has already done this. We think that when we all get to heaven, what a day that'll be. All that will happen in heaven is we'll get a full revelation of what we already have. That's the reason God will have to wipe tears away from our eyes. It's not because we came through such terrible things, barely got into heaven, and so we're weeping and wailing until He wipes our tears away. No, it's when we stand before God and finally recognize what we had all along.

***For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.***

Romans 8:18

Not *to* us, but *in* us! One day we will stand before God and suddenly know all things even as we are known (1 Cor. 13:12). We'll say, "God, You mean that whole time I had the same power on the inside of me that raised Jesus from the dead? I could have been raising the dead, solving those problems, and walking in joy, peace, and victory all along?" We'll be crying and saying, "O God, I missed it!" He'll have to wipe the tears away from our eyes and supernaturally enable us to enjoy heaven once we find out how we let the devil beat us down and destroy us in this life. The riches of the glory of His inheritance is in the saints.

# Open Your Eyes

## Lesson 11 – Outline

- I. If you were writing a prayer that would be read by and prayed for the saints 2,000 years in the future, how would you pray?
  - A. Let's take a look at the way Paul approached this (Eph. 1:15-23).
  - B. The only thing he asked God to do is give us a revelation of what the Lord had already done.
  - C. He was praying for every believer to receive revelation of what they already have.
- II. God has already poured out His love through Jesus.
  - A. He sent the Holy Spirit, who sheds abroad the love of God in our hearts (Rom. 5:5).
  - B. He loves every one of us infinitely more than any of us have ever understood.
  - C. Every time you've been depressed and discouraged, your spirit is just rejoicing and praising God.
  - D. You can't tell what's going on in the spirit realm unless you get into the Word of God.

***The words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.***

John 6:63

- III. Once you start understanding that by grace, it's already been done, then your prayers turn more to just thanksgiving.

***Wherefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus, and love unto all the saints, Cease not to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers; That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him.***

Ephesians 1:15-17

- A. The truth is, God has already given us wisdom and prudence, making known to us the mystery of His will (Eph. 1:8-9).
- B. Paul is not asking God to do something He hasn't done—he's praying that we'd understand what the Lord has already given us.



- IV. Paul was praying that your eyes would be opened—not your physical eyes, but your spiritual eyes, the eyes of your heart.
- A. Elisha prayed and said, “Lord, open up the young man’s eyes” (2 Kin. 6:17).
  - B. All of a sudden, this young man saw with his heart and perceived all the angels.
  - C. Adam and Eve could see into the spirit realm because they were walking by faith through the eyes of their hearts.
  - D. Adam and Eve degenerated from seeing and walking by faith to seeing and walking by sight (Gen. 3:7).
  - E. Now, through the new birth, **“We walk by faith, not by sight”** (2 Cor. 5:7).
- V. Through the eyes of our hearts, we would start to perceive **“the hope of his calling”** (Eph. 1:18).
- A. This isn’t just the hope of *your* calling; it’s the hope of *His* calling!
  - B. Now that you’re born again, you have a calling that is beyond human ability.
  - C. God has a plan for you that is supernatural—it’s going to take His supernatural ability working through you to do it.
- VI. His inheritance is in the saints.

***The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is... the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints.***

Ephesians 1:18

- A. We have already obtained the glory of the Lord Jesus Christ (2 Thess. 2:14).
- B. The Word isn’t talking about your physical body or your soul (mental and emotional realm).
- C. In the spirit, you are full of the glory of God.

***For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.***

Romans 8:18

- D. One day we will stand before God and suddenly know all things even as we are known (1 Cor. 13:12).

# Open Your Eyes

## Lesson 11 – Teacher’s Guide

1. If we were writing a prayer that would be read by and prayed for the saints 2,000 years in the future, how would we pray? Let’s take a look at the way Paul approached this (Eph. 1:15-23). The only thing he asked God to do is give us a revelation of what the Lord had already done. He was praying for all of us as believers to receive revelation of what we already have.
2. God has already poured out His love through Jesus. He sent the Holy Spirit, who sheds abroad the love of God in our hearts (Rom. 5:5). He loves every one of us infinitely more than any of us have ever understood. Every time we’ve been depressed and discouraged, our spirits are just rejoicing and praising God. We can’t tell what’s going on in the spirit realm unless we get into the Word of God (John 6:63).
3. Once we start understanding that by grace, it’s already been done, then our prayers turn more to just thanksgiving (Eph. 1:15-17). The truth is, God has already given us wisdom and prudence, making known to us the mystery of His will (Eph. 1:8-9). Paul was not asking God to do something He hasn’t done—he’s praying that we’d understand what the Lord has already given us.

1. Read Ephesians 1:15-23. In Paul’s prayer for the saints, the only thing he asked God to do is give us a revelation of what? (What the Lord had already done)
2. A. Read Romans 5:5 and John 6:63. How has God already poured out His love? (By the Holy Spirit)  
B. Can we perceive spiritual things with our flesh? (No)  
C. We can’t tell what’s going on in the spirit realm unless we get into what? (The Word of God)
3. A. Read Ephesians 1:8-9 and 15-17. What do our prayers turn more to once we start understanding that by grace, it’s already been done? (Thanksgiving)  
B. What has God already given us, making known to us the mystery of His will? (Wisdom and prudence)

4. Paul was praying that our eyes would be opened—not our physical eyes, but our spiritual eyes, the eyes of our hearts. Elisha prayed and said, “Lord, open up the young man’s eyes” (2 Kin. 6:17). All of a sudden, this young man saw with his heart and perceived all the angels. Adam and Eve could see into the spirit realm because they were walking by faith through the eyes of their hearts. Adam and Eve degenerated from seeing and walking by faith to seeing and walking by sight (Gen. 3:7). Now, through the new birth, **“We walk by faith, not by sight”** (2 Cor. 5:7).

5. Through the eyes of our hearts, we would start to perceive **“the hope of his calling”** (Eph. 1:18). This isn’t just the hope of *our* calling; it’s the hope of *His* calling! Now that we’re born again, we have a calling that is beyond human ability. God has a plan for us that is supernatural. It’s going to take His supernatural ability working through us to do it.

6. His inheritance is in the saints (Eph. 1:18). We have already obtained the glory of the Lord Jesus Christ (2 Thess. 2:14). The Word isn’t talking about our physical bodies or our souls (mental and emotional realm). In the spirit, we are full of the glory of God (Rom. 8:18). One day we will stand before God and suddenly know all things even as we are known (1 Cor. 13:12).

4. A. Read 2 Kings 6:17, Genesis 3:7, and 2 Corinthians 5:7. What was Paul praying would be opened? (Our spiritual eyes, the eyes of our hearts)  
B. Now, through the new birth, do we walk by faith or by sight? (By faith)
5. A. Read Ephesians 1:18. Through the eyes of our hearts, what should we start to perceive? (The hope of His calling)  
B. What is it going to take working through us to do God’s supernatural plan for our lives? (His supernatural ability)
6. A. Read Ephesians 1:18, 2 Thessalonians 2:14, Romans 8:18, and 1 Corinthians 13:12. Where is His inheritance? (In the saints)  
B. In the spirit, what are we full of? (The glory of God)

# Open Your Eyes

## Lesson 11 – Additional Information

I have a great teaching about the eyes of your heart entitled “Walking by Faith,” which is the second message of my *Faith Builders* series.

# Open Your Eyes

## Lesson 11 – Discipleship Questions

1. According to Romans 5:5, what is shed abroad in our hearts?
2. By whom?
3. John 3:6 reveals that that which is born of the flesh is what?
4. And that which is born of the Spirit is what?
5. According to John 6:63, what profits nothing?
6. What quickens (makes alive)?
7. According to Ephesians 1:8-9, in all \_\_\_\_\_ has God abounded toward us.
8. What were opened in Genesis 3:7?
9. What did Elisha pray for the young man in 2 Kings 6:15-17?
10. According to 2 Corinthians 5:7, do we walk by sight?
11. Second Thessalonians 2:14 reveals that we have obtained the glory of whom?
12. According to Romans 8:18, the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed where?
13. First Corinthians 13:12 says that when we're face to face with Jesus, I shall know even as what?

# Open Your Eyes

## Lesson 11 – Answer Key

1. The love of God.
2. The Holy Spirit.
3. Flesh.
4. Spirit.
5. The flesh.
6. The spirit.
7. Wisdom and prudence.
8. The eyes of them both.
9. “LORD, I pray thee, open his eyes, that he may see.”
10. No.
11. Our Lord Jesus Christ.
12. In us.
13. I am known.

# Open Your Eyes

## Lesson 11 – Scriptures

*Wherefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus, and love unto all the saints, Cease not to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers; That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him: The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints, And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power, Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places, Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come: And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.*

Ephesians 1:15-23

*And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.*

Romans 5:5

*That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.*

John 3:6

*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

*Wherein he hath abounded toward us in all wisdom and prudence; Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself.*

Ephesians 1:8-9

*And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons.*

Genesis 3:7

*And when the servant of the man of God was risen early, and gone forth, behold, an host compassed the city both with horses and chariots. And his servant said unto him, Alas, my master! how shall we do? And he answered, Fear not: for they that be with us are more than they that be with them. And Elisha prayed, and said, LORD, I pray thee, open his eyes, that he may see. And the LORD opened the eyes*

***of the young man; and he saw: and, behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha.***

2 Kings 6:15-17

***For we walk by faith, not by sight.***

2 Corinthians 5:7

***Whereunto he called you by our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.***

2 Thessalonians 2:14

***For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.***

Romans 8:18

***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 13:12



# The Same Power

## Lesson 12

In Ephesians 1:19-21, Paul prayed that we would get a revelation of...

***What is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to [to the proportion of, or to the degree of] the working of his mighty power, Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places, Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come.***

Brackets mine

He was praying that God would show us the exceeding greatness of His power that is already on the inside of us. It's the same power that He used when He raised Jesus from the dead.

Again, Ephesians 1:3 reveals that God **“hath”** already blessed us with these things. Paul wasn't praying that the Lord would give us this power, that He'll release more power, or that we'll get a double portion of the Holy Spirit; he was praying that we would receive a revelation of what God has already put inside of us.

The power that is on the inside of every born-again believer is the exact same power that God used when He raised Jesus from the dead. Satan mustered every ounce of strength he had to oppose the Resurrection. He put all of his power, every one of his demonic forces, right in front of that tomb, trying to block Jesus from coming out. Yet the power that raised Christ from the dead was much greater than all the force of the Enemy. And now, as a born-again believer, you have that same power on the inside of you. That's awesome!

### **“Real Dumb”**

I like the way the mega church my wife and I attend dramatizes this truth at the annual Easter presentation. As they trace the story of Jesus, one actor dresses in black and plays the part of Satan. Among other places, he shows up in the desert to tempt the Lord and in the crowd before Pilate, yelling, “Crucify Him, crucify Him!” When it comes to the Resurrection scene, the devil stands there pushing on the tomb, trying to keep Jesus from resurrecting. Then there's a huge explosion. Once the smoke finally clears, Jesus is standing on top of the tombstone, which is lying on top of Satan.

The devil gave it everything he had, but Jesus rose from the dead and overcame all the power of the Enemy. Yet many Christians are saying, “O God, could You please heal me? Could you please spare just enough power to make me well?”

A guy said to me once “I have a sore neck, my back hurts, and I have sciatica all the way down my leg so that my feet are numb. I have neuropathy.” He started naming all these other things that were ailing him, and I just listened to him. Then he looked at me and said, “But do you know what? I could live with the rest if God would just heal the pain that’s in my back and neck.”

So I answered, “Oh, I understand what you’re saying. If we were to ask God to heal your neck, back, nerves, feet—everything—the lights in heaven might dim. I’m not sure God could pull all that off at once. Let’s not ask Him for very much.”

This guy looked at me and said, “What I said was kind of dumb, wasn’t it?”

I said, “Yes, it was. Real dumb.”

That’s how many people approach God. They say, “O God, I’m just asking this little bit of You. Could You please spare enough power to do this?” As a born-again believer, you have the same power inside of you that raised Jesus from the dead. That is greater than the power that it took to create the universe. Raising Jesus from the dead is the greatest display of God’s power in the history of the universe. Yet here we are saying, “O God, could you heal a cold?” I’ve had people ask me, “Can God heal AIDS?” That just expresses how full of unbelief people are.

## Flip the Switch

You have the same power on the inside of you that raised Jesus Christ from the dead. All things are possible. It is not a problem with God, and it’s not the Lord who is out there turning the switch on and off. He’s placed His generator—His power—on the inside of you. If you aren’t seeing the power of God, it’s not God who hasn’t given; it’s you who hasn’t flipped the switch on. It’s you who hasn’t turned on and released His power. God has already done it. By grace, it’s already been provided.

Now, are you going to reach out in faith and partake of it, or will you keep asking God as if He hasn’t done anything? Are you going to continue in unbelief, saying “O God, would You please move in my life?” when the Bible reveals that He’s already moved? Are you going to ask God to rend heaven, not believing that He has already rent heaven and come down through Jesus? Are you going to ask Him to heal you, when He says that by His stripes, you were healed? Are you going to ask Him to give you joy and peace and pour out His love in your life, when the Word says that you already have the fruit of the Spirit—love, joy, and peace? It’s already on the inside of you—and that’s good news!

When I minister these truths, people usually wonder, *Well, then, what do we pray?* I’m glad you asked! The vast majority of how the body of Christ prays is nothing but unbelief, which is the reason they don’t get results. I know that’s a sacred cow. I’m aware this sounds offensive to some people. But the vast majority of Christians aren’t pleased with the results they’re getting. Yet they become offended if someone suggests to them, “You aren’t praying

correctly.” They want to keep doing the same thing and get different results. That’s insane. If what you’re doing isn’t working, you ought to consider that maybe you’re doing something wrong. You would be much more effective to just begin thanking God for what He’s already done instead of asking Him to do something that He hasn’t. It takes faith to thank God.

If you’re believing for healing but you haven’t seen or felt the manifestation yet, start thanking and praising God. Colossians 2:7 reveals that faith abounds with thanksgiving. If you would start thanking God, your faith would rise up, and all of a sudden, things would start happening. God would show you things to do. It’s much easier to say, “O Father, thank You, thank You, thank You that You’ve already done it.” If you spend enough time meditating and thanking Him for what He’s done, you’ll start believing it. And the moment you believe it, grace and faith together will release the supernatural power of God, and you’ll experience in your body what God has already provided.

## **Sister Goiter**

At a certain charismatic ministers’ conference, a woman who had a big goiter on her neck came forward and received prayer. After prayer, she knew that she knew that she knew that God had healed her. So she stood up in front of this large group of people and began to praise God that He had healed her, even though she still had this big goiter on her neck. The people praised God with her and thanked her for her testimony, believing that the healing power of God was there, working, and would manifest itself. So they gave her mercy and grace, even though they couldn’t yet see any visible results.

The next year, she returned to that same conference, stood up, and testified, saying, “Tonight is the one-year anniversary of when Jesus healed my goiter.” Yet she still had this big thing on her neck. This time the people didn’t rejoice. They didn’t praise God, because they thought something was wrong, but they let it go.

The following year she came back and said, “This is the two-year anniversary of when God healed this goiter.” People became upset and went to the conference leadership, saying, “You must tell that woman to quit testifying because it’s obvious she’s not healed. She’s making a fool of herself and mocking the things of God. You need to tell her to quit!” So the leadership went and told this woman, “You can’t testify anymore until that goiter is gone.”

This woman went to the Lord that night and prayed, “God, I know that You healed me. I believe that You healed me that night I received prayer. I know it’s been done. But these preachers can’t believe unless they see it. Will You please take this thing away so that they can believe what You’ve already done?” The next morning she woke up, the goiter was gone, and she testified, “I told you I was healed!”

Don’t get me wrong. I’m not saying that we should go around testifying about things that aren’t manifest. However, I am saying that we need to get to the place where we believe so strongly what the Word says God has already done that whether we’ve experienced it yet in our bodies is immaterial. We know it’s true.

## Normal

I haven't arrived in this area, but I've left. I've come to a place where things I see on the inside are more real to me than what I see on the outside. It's true.

I remember being in a meeting once where I saw—in the spirit—the Lord walk into the room. Although my natural eyes were closed, what I saw with the eyes of my heart was so real. In fact, I opened up my natural eyes to see if I could see it. I could see everything that was happening that I saw in my heart, except I couldn't see Jesus.

In my heart, I saw Jesus walk over to a woman and touch her, and she fell flat on her face. Then He walked over to another lady, and she just knelt down and lifted up her hand. I saw the Lord start touching people one by one. When I opened up my eyes, I saw all of the physical things happening, but I couldn't see the Lord. In my heart, I could see the Lord. I could see it happening before it happened in the natural. What I was seeing with my heart was more real, more vivid, and more clear than what I was seeing with my eyes. So, eventually, I just closed my eyes because I could see better with my heart than I could with my natural eyes.

This should be normal, not abnormal. We should walk by faith, not by sight (2 Cor. 5:7). We can get to where we see what God has done for us by grace. Then we enter into it by faith and begin to rejoice. When you get to a place where you are so lost in what God has done and you are praising Him for it, then the physical realm will just reflect it nearly accidentally, as a byproduct. You'll get to a place where you can say, "God, I know I'm already healed, but wouldn't it be a great testimony to this doctor if the doctor could see and prove it in a test tube?" You don't have to see it for you to believe. You want it manifest so other people can see.

We're living far below our God-given privileges. We have an entirely wrong mindset toward God. We believe He could do anything but that He has done nothing, and we have to beg and plead with Him. There's a better way. Find out what God has already provided by grace, and then just appropriate by faith what is already done. You don't have to labor to make it happen. That's awesome!

## "Such as I Have"

This is the reason we can heal the sick. The Bible doesn't tell you to pray for the sick. Although James 5 mentions that if you're sick, you should call for the church elders to come and pray for you, nowhere in the Bible are you commanded to *pray* for the sick. However, we are commanded to *heal* the sick.

***Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: freely ye have received, freely give.***

Matthew 10:8

There's a huge difference between saying "You're healed in Jesus' name. I release the healing power of God" and saying, "Dear Father, if it be Your will, for Jesus' sake, stretch forth Your hand and heal that person." That's a chicken prayer! It takes no faith to pray that. Nothing is on the line.

We need to stand up in faith and speak like Peter did when he entered the temple with John. To the lame beggar who asked for alms, he said, "I don't have any money with me right now. I left my wallet at home, but..."

***Such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk.***  
Acts 3:6

"Such as I have, give I to you." Most people would kick these disciples out of their church, saying, "How dare you say that you have the healing power of God!"

## **The Difference**

The Lord did say,

***Without me ye can do nothing.***

John 15:5

I, myself, am not the Healer. It's not my power. On my own, I can't heal a gnat. But I'm not on my own. God said He would never leave me nor forsake me (Heb. 13:5). I have the healing power of God inside of me—the same power that raised Jesus from the dead. Because of that, I can say with Peter, "Such as I have." I have the healing power of God. And in the name of Jesus, I can command healing in people. This is a completely different approach.

God has already provided everything by grace. Now you have to get into a position of faith. Instead of trying to believe that it's going to happen, you must believe it's a done deal. It's already been done. You've already got it, so quit trying to get it. Just operate in what God said He's already done. It's the difference between victory and defeat.

# The Same Power

## Lesson 12 – Outline

- I. Paul was praying that we would receive a revelation of what God has already put on the inside of us.

***What is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to [to the proportion of, or to the degree of] the working of his mighty power, Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places, Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come.***

Ephesians 1:19-21, brackets mine

- A. The power that is on the inside of every born-again believer is the exact same power that God used when He raised Jesus from the dead.
- B. Raising Jesus from the dead is the greatest display of God’s power in the history of the universe.
- C. If you aren’t seeing the power of God, it’s not God who hasn’t given—it’s you who hasn’t flipped the switch on.
- D. It’s already on the inside of you—and that’s good news!
- II. If you’re believing for healing but you haven’t seen or felt the manifestation yet, start thanking and praising God.
- A. Colossians 2:7 reveals that faith abounds with thanksgiving.
- B. If you spend enough time meditating and thanking Him for what He’s done, you’ll start believing it.
- C. And the moment you believe it, grace and faith together will release the supernatural power of God, and you’ll experience in your body what God has already provided.
- D. We need to get to the place where we believe so strongly what the Word says God has already done that whether we’ve experienced it yet in our bodies is immaterial—we know it’s true.

III. We should walk by faith, not by sight (2 Cor. 5:7).

- A. We can get to where we see what God has done for us by grace.
- B. Then we enter into it by faith and begin to rejoice.
- C. When you get to a place where you are so lost in what God has done and you are praising Him for it, then the physical realm will just reflect it nearly accidentally, as a byproduct.
- D. We're living far below our God-given privileges.
- E. Find out what God has already provided by grace, and then just appropriate by faith what is already done.

IV. We are commanded to *heal* the sick.

***Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: freely ye have received, freely give.***

Matthew 10:8

- A. We need to stand up in faith and speak like Peter did when he entered the temple with John:

***Such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk.***  
Acts 3:6

- B. I have the healing power of God inside of me—the same power that raised Jesus from the dead.
- C. Because of that, I can say with Peter, “Such as I have.”
- D. I have the healing power of God, and in the name of Jesus, I can command healing in people.

V. God has already provided everything by grace.

- A. Now you have to get into a position of faith.
- B. Instead of trying to believe that it's going to happen, you must believe that it's already been done.
- C. You've already got it, so quit trying to get it.
- D. Just operate in what God said He's already done.
- E. It's the difference between victory and defeat.

# The Same Power

## Lesson 12 – Teacher’s Guide

1. Paul was praying that we would receive a revelation of what God has already put on the inside of us (Eph. 1:19-21). The power that is on the inside of every born-again believer is the exact same power that God used when He raised Jesus from the dead. Raising Jesus from the dead is the greatest display of God’s power in the history of the universe. If we aren’t seeing the power of God, it’s not God who hasn’t given—it’s us who hasn’t flipped the switch on. It’s already on the inside of us—and that’s good news!

2. If we’re believing for healing but haven’t seen or felt the manifestation yet, we need to start thanking and praising God. Colossians 2:7 reveals that faith abounds with thanksgiving. If we spend enough time meditating and thanking Him for what He’s done, we’ll start believing it. And the moment we believe it, grace and faith together will release the supernatural power of God, and we’ll experience in our bodies what God has already provided. We need to get to the place where we believe so strongly what the Word says God has already done that whether we’ve experienced it yet in our bodies is immaterial—we know it’s true.

3. We should walk by faith, not by sight (2 Cor. 5:7). We can get to where we see what God has done for us by grace. Then we enter into it by faith and begin to rejoice. When we get to a place where we are so lost in what God has done and we are praising Him for it, then the physical realm will just reflect it nearly accidentally, as a byproduct. We’re living far below our God-given privileges. We need to find out what God has already provided by grace and then just appropriate by faith what is already done.

1. A. Read Ephesians 1:19-21. The power God used when He raised Jesus from the dead is the exact same power that is on the inside of whom? (Every born-again believer—us)  
B. If we aren’t seeing the power of God, is it God who hasn’t given or us who hasn’t flipped the switch on? (Us who hasn’t flipped the switch on)
2. A. Read Colossians 2:7. How does faith abound? (With thanksgiving)  
B. What releases the supernatural power of God the moment we believe? (Grace and faith together)
3. A. Read 2 Corinthians 5:7. When we get to a place where we are so lost in what God has done and we are praising Him for it, what happens in the physical realm? (It will just reflect what God has done, nearly accidentally, as a byproduct)  
B. What are we living far below? (Our God-given privileges)



4. We are commanded to *heal* the sick (Matt. 10:8). We need to stand up in faith and speak like Peter did when he entered the temple with John (Acts 3:6). We have the healing power of God inside of us—the same power that raised Jesus from the dead. Because of that, we can say with Peter, “Such as I have.” We have the healing power of God, and in the name of Jesus, we can command healing in people.

5. God has already provided everything by grace. Now we have to get into a position of faith. Instead of trying to believe that it’s going to happen, we must believe that it’s already been done. We’ve already got it, so we should quit trying to get it. We just need to operate in what God said He’s already done. It’s the difference between victory and defeat.

4. A. Read Matthew 10:8 and Acts 3:6. What do we have inside of us? (The healing power of God—the same power that raised Jesus from the dead)
- B. In the name of Jesus, what can we command in people? (Healing)
5. A. Who has already provided everything by grace? (God)
- B. Instead of trying to believe that it’s going to happen, what must we believe? (That it’s already been done)
- C. What is this the difference between? (Victory and defeat)

# The Same Power

## Lesson 12 – Discipleship Questions

1. According to Ephesians 1:19-21, Christ is seated at the right hand of God the Father, far above all what?
2. Ephesians 1:3 reveals that God has blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places where?
3. According to Colossians 2:7, we are to be rooted and built up in whom?
4. We are to be established in what?
5. Matthew 10:8 commands us to do what to the sick?
6. Who are we to cleanse?
7. Who are we to raise?
8. What are we to cast out?
9. Who was speaking in Acts 3:6?
10. In whose name did he command the man to rise up and walk?
11. According to John 15:5, who is the vine?
12. Who are the branches?
13. What can we do without Him?
14. Hebrews 13:5 tells us to let our conversation (behavior) be without what?
15. What are we to be with such things as we have?

# The Same Power

## Lesson 12 – Answer Key

1. Principality, power, might, dominion, and every name.
2. In Christ.
3. Him.
4. The faith.
5. Heal them.
6. The lepers.
7. The dead.
8. Devils.
9. Peter.
10. Jesus Christ of Nazareth.
11. I am (Jesus).
12. We are.
13. Nothing.
14. Covetousness.
15. Content.

# The Same Power

## Lesson 12 – Scriptures

***And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power, Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places, Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come.***

Ephesians 1:19-21

***Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ.***

Ephesians 1:3

***Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving.***

Colossians 2:7

***For we walk by faith, not by sight.***

2 Corinthians 5:7

***Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: freely ye have received, freely give.***

Matthew 10:8

***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.***

Acts 3:6

***I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.***

John 15:5

***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.***

Hebrews 13:5

# Mix with Faith

## Lesson 13

Faith reaches out and appropriates what God has already provided for us by grace. We don't have to ask, beg, or plead with God; He's already supplied. It's just a matter of us believing and receiving.

“But, Andrew, what about the scriptures that speak of asking?”

***This is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.***

1 John 5:14-15

It's not wrong to ask. God has already provided everything, so technically you don't have to ask for it. Just believe and receive, command and release the power of God. The harmony between this is the attitude in which you ask.

### A Polite Demand

Consider what Jesus said in what's commonly called “The Lord's Prayer”:

***After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread.***

Matthew 6:9-11

“**Give us this day our daily bread**” is a petition for God to meet your daily needs. However, it's not a “Would You please give us this day our daily bread?” wondering if and will God will do so. No, it's more of a demand. It's similar to a child saying to their mother at mealtime, “Can I have something to eat?”

What would you think if you were over at my house when my kids were little, and one of them came in, fell on their knees before me, put their hands together, and said, “Father I'm so ungodly and I know I don't deserve it, but would you please give me a piece of bread? Could I please have a morsel of food?” If they started begging me like that, you'd think, *Something is wrong in this home.*

A kid, if they're trained properly, doesn't just say, “Give me something to eat!” That's wrong too. They might ask you, “Could I please have something to eat?” They're asking a question, but there's really no question involved. They know that you love them. They know that you're going to supply. So it's really placing a demand. It's just doing it in a polite, kind way.

I'm not saying that we don't ever acknowledge our need or make a request, saying, "God, I need you to supply something." However, it's not a begging request. It's not a request that has a question mark at the end where you doubt that God will do it. It's more of just a polite way of coming in and saying, "Father, I know that You've already provided all of my needs. I'm ready to receive it. Can I have it now?"

## **Beggar or Believer?**

It's not wrong to petition God in faith. But to throw a petition out there not knowing if God's going to answer it or not, feeling like you have to grovel in the dirt, begging and pleading, is a religious concept that's absolutely contrary to what the Scriptures teach.

Imagine me saying to you, "After you finish reading this chapter, I'll give you the keys to my car. You can use it to go and do whatever you want." If I gave you that promise, then after finishing this chapter you would come to me and ask, "Can I have the keys to your car?" You could do that in a couple of different ways. You could be thinking, *Would Andrew really let me have his car? I don't believe that. I'm not sure it's true. Would he really do this?* So you come to me and ask "Can I have the keys to your car?" like "Is this really true? Would you really do this?" That's unbelief. Or you could ask, "Can I have the keys to your car?" You believe me completely, and all you're doing is saying, "I'm ready now. You said it. Here I am requesting it. Can I have the keys to your car?"

You can say the exact same words but with very different motives. You could simply be placing a demand, trusting that what I said is true. Or you could be making a statement of unbelief. It's the unbelief that I've been countering.

People pray, "Lord, if it be Your will, please touch me and move in my life." No, it is God's will. He's already supplied everything. Instead of approaching the Lord as a beggar, we need to be believers who trust His promises and confidently and gratefully just take advantage of what He's already provided for us. That's a powerful truth!

## **Cautious, Aware, and Diligent**

It was this attitude of unbelief that hindered the Jews from receiving God's provision and entering into the Promised Land.

***So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief.***

Hebrews 3:19

Again, anyone who believes that God's will just automatically comes to pass has to turn their brain off when they read the Bible. It wasn't God's will for the children of Israel to spend forty years in the wilderness after coming out from the land of Egypt. This happened because of their unbelief (Num. 13-14 and Ps. 78:40-41). God's will did not come to pass, because

they did not cooperate in faith. They didn't enter into the Promised Land. The generation that came out of Egypt died in the wilderness and never did see God's will for them come to pass, because of their unbelief.

***Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left us of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it.***

Hebrews 4:1

This verse is useless to those who say that God sovereignly does everything and that nothing happens but what is His will. Hebrews 4:1 is saying you need to be careful, cautious, and aware. You need to be diligent because you could miss God's will for you. This verse would be a useless statement if God just automatically does everything, and nothing happens but what is His will. Although this doctrine that God is responsible and controls everything is so prevalent in the church today, this scripture is saying just the opposite. You need to fear—be cautious, aware, and diligent—lest you miss out on something God has provided for you.

## **Harden Not Your Heart**

***For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it.***

Hebrews 4:2

This is exactly what we've been talking about. God, by grace, had provided a plan for them. He promised Abraham in Genesis 15 that He would bring his descendants out of the land of Egypt and give them the entire nation of Canaan and all the surrounding nations too (Gen. 15:18-21). God promised that 430 years before it came to pass. When He finally led the people out, they didn't put faith in His purpose and plan. That generation never saw it come to pass. They died in the wilderness. They came out of the land of Egypt, but they died in the wilderness because of their unbelief.

You have to mix faith with what God wants you to do. You must listen to and obey Him. You have to believe God in order to see His promises come to pass in your life.

***For we which have believed do enter into rest, as he said, As I have sworn in my wrath.***

Hebrews 4:3

Then the writer began to quote from Psalm 95, which they also quoted back in Hebrews 3.

***While it is said, Today if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts, as in the provocation.***

Hebrews 3:15

***Today if ye will hear his voice, Harden not your heart, as in the provocation, and***

***as in the day of temptation in the wilderness: When your fathers tempted me, proved me, and saw my work. Forty years long was I grieved with this generation, and said, It is a people that do err in their heart, and they have not known my ways: Unto whom I swore in my wrath that they should not enter into my rest.***

Psalm 95:7-11

## **The Sabbath Rest**

Those things were quoted in Hebrews 3. So, in Hebrews 4, the writer was once again making reference back to this scripture that David wrote under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. That's what they're talking about in Hebrews 4:3, which says,

***For we which have believed do enter into rest, as he said, As I have sworn in my wrath, if they shall enter into my rest: although the works were finished from the foundation of the world.***

This links the rest that Psalm 95 spoke of to the Sabbath rest that God took in Genesis 2:2. After He created the heavens and the earth, God rested from all of His works.

***For he spake in a certain place of the seventh day on this wise, And God did rest the seventh day from all his works.***

Hebrews 4:4

That's from Genesis 2:2.

***Seeing therefore it remaineth that some must enter therein, and they to whom it was first preached entered not in because of unbelief: Again, he limiteth a certain day, saying in David, Today, after so long a time; as it is said, Today if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts.***

Hebrews 4:6-7

In a nutshell, this is Old English for "Don't be like the Jews who missed out on something that God provided." The rest spoken about here is the same thing talked about in Genesis 2 where God rested on the seventh day from all of His labors. Then it says that this rest, this special relationship, wasn't fulfilled when the Jews occupied the land of Canaan, because **"there remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God"** (Heb. 4:9).

## **Type and Shadow**

The point these passages are making is that this spiritual rest wasn't fulfilled when the Jews occupied the land, because Joshua said afterward that it was going to be fulfilled on another day.



***For if Jesus [Greek translation of Hebrew name Joshua] had given them rest, then would he not afterward have spoken of another day.***

Hebrews 4:8, brackets mine

The word *Jesus* is just the Greek word for “Joshua.” “Joshua” and “Jesus” are the same word in different languages. In context, this isn’t talking about our Lord Jesus Christ; this is saying that if Joshua, the one who led the children of Israel into the Promised Land, would have fulfilled this promise about there being a rest for the people of God, then he would not have said it was going to be fulfilled later.

This passage reveals that the rest these verses were promising was not fulfilled when the Jews occupied the land of Canaan; it’s saying that there is a rest reserved for the people of God, and that applies to us today as New Testament believers.

***For if Jesus [Joshua] had given them rest, then would he not afterward have spoken of another day. There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God. For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God did from his.***

Hebrews 4:8-10, brackets mine

This refers back again to creation when God rested on the seventh day. The rest of God—the Sabbath day—was a picture, a type and shadow of what was to come.

# Mix with Faith

## Lesson 13 – Outline

I. Faith reaches out and appropriates what God has already provided for us by grace.

***This is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.***

1 John 5:14-15

A. The harmony between this is the attitude in which you ask.

***After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread.***

Matthew 6:9-11

B. It's not wrong to petition God in faith.

C. You can say the exact same words but with very different motives.

D. If I told you I would give you my car, you could simply place a demand, trusting that what I said is true, or you could be making a statement of unbelief—it's the unbelief that I've been countering.

E. Instead of approaching the Lord as a beggar, we need to be believers who trust His promises and confidently and gratefully just take advantage of what He's already provided for us.

II. It was this attitude of unbelief that hindered the Jews from receiving God's provision and entering into the Promised Land.

***So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief.***

Hebrews 3:19

A. God's will did not come to pass, because they did not cooperate in faith (Num. 13-14 and Ps. 78:40-41).

***Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left us of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it.***

Hebrews 4:1

B. You need to fear—be cautious, aware, and diligent—lest you miss out on something God has provided for you.

***For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it.***

Hebrews 4:2

- C. You have to mix faith with what God wants you to do—you must listen to and obey Him.

III. You have to believe God in order to see His promises come to pass in your life.

***For we which have believed do enter into rest, as he said, As I have sworn in my wrath, if they shall enter into my rest: although the works were finished from the foundation of the world. For he spake in a certain place of the seventh day on this wise, And God did rest the seventh day from all his works.***

Hebrews 4:3-4

***Today if ye will hear his voice, Harden not your heart, as in the provocation, and as in the day of temptation in the wilderness: When your fathers tempted me, proved me, and saw my work. Forty years long was I grieved with this generation, and said, It is a people that do err in their heart, and they have not known my ways: Unto whom I sware in my wrath that they should not enter into my rest.***

Hebrews 3:15 and Psalm 95:7-11

***Seeing therefore it remaineth that some must enter therein, and they to whom it was first preached entered not in because of unbelief: Again, he limiteth a certain day, saying in David, Today, after so long a time; as it is said, Today if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts.***

Hebrews 4:6-7

- A. In a nutshell, this is Old English for “Don’t be like the Jews who missed out on something that God provided.”
- B. The point these passages are making is that this spiritual rest wasn’t fulfilled when the Jews occupied the land, because Joshua said afterward that it was going to be fulfilled on another day.

***For if Jesus [Greek translation of Hebrew name Joshua] had given them rest, then would he not afterward have spoken of another day. There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God. For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God did from his.***

Hebrews 4:8-10, brackets mine

- C. This refers back again to creation when God rested on the seventh day.
- D. The rest of God—the Sabbath day—was a picture, a type and shadow of what was to come.

# Mix with Faith

## Lesson 13 – Teacher’s Guide

1. Faith reaches out and appropriates what God has already provided for us by grace (1 John 5:14-15). The harmony between this is the attitude in which we ask (Matt. 6:9-11). It’s not wrong to petition God in faith. We can say the exact same words but with very different motives. We could simply be placing a demand, trusting that what He said is true, or we could be making a statement of unbelief. It’s the unbelief that I’ve been countering. Instead of approaching the Lord as a beggar, we need to be believers who trust His promises and confidently and gratefully just take advantage of what He’s already provided for us.

2. It was this attitude of unbelief that hindered the Jews from receiving God’s provision and entering into the Promised Land (Heb. 3:19). God’s will did not come to pass, because they did not cooperate in faith (Num. 13-14 and Ps. 78:40-41). We need to fear—be cautious, aware, and diligent—lest we miss out on something God has provided for us (Heb. 4:1). We have to mix faith with what God wants us to do. We must listen to and obey Him (Heb. 4:2).

3. We have to believe God in order to see His promises come to pass in our lives (Heb. 3:15, 4:3-4; and Ps. 95:7-11). In a nutshell, Hebrews 4:6-7 is Old English for “Don’t be like the Jews who missed out on something that God provided.” The point Hebrews 4:6-9 is making is that this spiritual rest wasn’t fulfilled when the Jews occupied the land, because Joshua said afterward that it was going to be fulfilled on another day.

This refers back again creation when God rested on the seventh day. The rest of God—the Sabbath day—was a picture, a type and shadow of what was to come.

1. A. Read 1 John 5:14-15 and Matthew 6:9-11. What reaches out and appropriates what God has already provided for us by grace? (Faith)  
B. Should we approach the Lord as a beggar or as a believer? (As a believer)
2. A. Read Hebrews 3:19, 4:1-2; Numbers 13-14; and Psalm 78:40-41. What attitude hindered the Jews from receiving God’s provision and entering into the Promised Land? (Unbelief)  
B. Why did God’s will not come to pass for them? (They did not cooperate in faith)
3. A. We have to believe God in order to see what come to pass in our lives? (His promises)  
B. What was the Sabbath Day a picture, a type and shadow, of? (What was to come)

# Mix with Faith

## Lesson 13 – Discipleship Questions

1. According to 1 John 5:14-15, if we ask anything according to God's will, what does He do?
2. Matthew 6:9-11 asks that God's will be done in earth as it is where?
3. What does Hebrews 3:19 say that the Israelites couldn't do because of unbelief?
4. Psalm 78:40-41 reveals that the Israelites often provoked God in the wilderness and grieved Him where?
5. According to Hebrews 4:1-4, what are we to mix with the Word that we hear?
6. Who had the Lord made the covenant with in Genesis 15:18-21?
7. What does Hebrews 3:15 counsel us not to harden when we hear God's voice?
8. For how long does Psalm 95:7-11 say that God was grieved with that generation?
9. When does Genesis 2:2 reveal that God ended His work and then rested?
10. According to Hebrews 4:6-10, what remains for the people of God?

# Mix with Faith

## Lesson 13 – Answer Key

1. He hears us.
2. In heaven.
3. Enter in.
4. In the desert.
5. Faith.
6. Abram.
7. Our hearts.
8. Forty years.
9. On the seventh day.
10. A rest.

# Mix with Faith

## Lesson 13 – Scriptures

***And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.***

1 John 5:14-15

***After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread.***

Matthew 6:9-11

***So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief.***

Hebrews 3:19

***How oft did they provoke him in the wilderness, and grieve him in the desert! Yea, they turned back and tempted God, and limited the Holy One of Israel.***

Psalms 78:40-41

***Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left us of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it. For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it. For we which have believed do enter into rest, as he said, As I have sworn in my wrath, if they shall enter into my rest: although the works were finished from the foundation of the world. For he spake in a certain place of the seventh day on this wise, And God did rest the seventh day from all his works.***

Hebrews 4:1-4

***In the same day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, Unto thy seed have I given this land, from the river of Egypt unto the great river, the river Euphrates: The Kenites, and the Kenizzites, and the Kadmonites, And the Hittites, and the Perizzites, and the Rephaims, And the Amorites, and the Canaanites, and the Girgashites, and the Jebusites.***

Genesis 15:18-21

***While it is said, To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts, as in the provocation.***

Hebrews 3:15

***For he is our God; and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand. To day if ye will hear his voice, Harden not your heart, as in the provocation, and***

***as in the day of temptation in the wilderness: When your fathers tempted me, proved me, and saw my work. Forty years long was I grieved with this generation, and said, It is a people that do err in their heart, and they have not known my ways: Unto whom I sware in my wrath that they should not enter into my rest.***

Psalm 95:7-11

***And on the seventh day God ended his work which he had made; and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had made.***

Genesis 2:2

***Seeing therefore it remaineth that some must enter therein, and they to whom it was first preached entered not in because of unbelief: Again, he limiteth a certain day, saying in David, To day, after so long a time; as it is said, To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts. For if Jesus had given them rest, then would he not afterward have spoken of another day. There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God. For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God did from his.***

Hebrews 4:6-10



# God Anticipated

## Lesson 14

I'm aware of only two places in all of Scripture where a reason for the Sabbath was given. In the Old Testament, Exodus 20:8-11 says that it was for you, your family, your servants, and your animals to rest. The second time the Sabbath is mentioned and explained as to why God gave it is in Colossians.

***Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days: Which are a shadow of things to come; but the body is of Christ.***

Colossians 2:16-17

Verse 17 reveals that all five of these things listed in verse 16, including the Sabbath, were a shadow of something that was to come. In the Old Testament, they didn't have the reality. All of the blood sacrifices and rituals were all symbolic of something yet to come. And types, shadows, pictures, and symbols are very important if you don't have the real thing in front of you.

For instance, imagine that you had never seen me before. If somebody drew a picture of me and showed it to you, it could give you an idea of what I look like. But why would you keep looking at my picture if I were standing right there in front of you? A picture is useful only if the person isn't there.

If I were standing just around the corner of a building from you, you couldn't see me, but you could see my shadow. My shadow could give you a lot of information about me. Although you couldn't see me, from my shadow, you could tell whether I'm standing still, moving toward or away from you, or jumping up and down. You could get an idea whether I was fat or skinny, tall or short. But if I walked around the corner of the building and came into full view, what would you think of the person who fell to the ground trying to hug and shake hands with my shadow? If you can't see me, my shadow might be the next best thing. But if I'm right here in plain view, why would you keep looking at my shadow?

### A New Testament Reality

In Colossians 2:16-17, the Bible says that these five things—one of which was the Sabbath—are a shadow of things to come, but the shadow is not the very image of those things; it's just a shadow. Yet we have Christians today who are trying to observe the Sabbath. There are entire denominations built around observing the Sabbath. It is rigidly enforced. They preach that you're a Sabbath breaker if you work on the Sabbath. Yet they have missed the whole symbolism of the Sabbath.

The Sabbath isn't picturing a day; it was observed in the Old Testament, but now it's a New Testament reality. That's what Hebrews 4 talks about. The Sabbath is a picture of a rest—a relationship with God where you trust and rely on the finished work of Christ and not on your own effort and performance. To prove this, the writer of Hebrews 4 began to talk about the Sabbath that the Lord instituted.

***On the seventh day God ended his work which he had made; and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had made. And God blessed the seventh day.***

Genesis 2:2-3

When the Lord created the heavens and the earth, there was an order to the way He created things. He didn't create man on the first day of creation. Man was the crown jewel of all God's creation. Why didn't He create man first? Because things weren't ready for him! If God would have created man on the first day of creation, man would have had to tread water for four days before there was any land to stand on. Then, once the land was there and God spoke trees into existence, man would have had to dodge all of these full-grown trees popping up everywhere. Contrary to what evolution says, they didn't come from plants and grow gradually. It didn't take millions and billions of years. Although God created these things the first few days, it wasn't ready for man.

## **Abundantly Provided**

The Lord waited until the entire creation was done before He made man. The fruit trees were created full-grown. They already had fruit on them. Man didn't have to wait seven years for these trees to start producing fruit. God created a perfect world for man. There was land to stand on, food to eat, air to breathe, and the temperature was just right. God made animals for man's pleasure. He made everything perfect.

***God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And the evening and the morning were the first day...And the evening and the morning were the second day.***

Genesis 1:5 and 8

The Hebrews count time from sundown one day until sundown the next day. It's not from twelve o'clock midnight until the next twelve o'clock midnight. They count it evening to evening.

So on the first day, the Lord started at sundown and went through the next day. Then right before sundown, at the end of the sixth day, He created man. God created man at the very end of all of His creation. He had already created all of the food. Everything was perfect for him. Then, immediately, God rested and entered into the seventh day. So man was created right before this Sabbath, and he entered into God's Sabbath where everything was already abundantly provided.

God didn't create man on the first day of creation. Man didn't have to tread water, waiting days for God to create land to stand on and food to eat. God had anticipated every need, not only of Adam and Eve, but also for the entire human race. God anticipated we would need all the oil we're pulling out of the ground and put it there for us. The same way we discovered oil, there are other things. God has created everything we need. If there were ten times as many people on this planet, God has made the earth to be able to sustain us. He's anticipated everything.

## God Rested

God isn't creating things today. He isn't making new plants, new animals, or new people.

***God said, Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb yielding seed, and the fruit tree yielding fruit after his kind, whose seed is in itself, upon the earth: and it was so.***

Genesis 1:11

God didn't just say, "Let there be trees. Let there be fruit." If He had said that and didn't create a way for them to reproduce, then the Lord would have to create new trees every time an old one died to maintain the balance. He would have to say "Let there be a million new cows today," and He'd have to create new cows. But when He created the animals, He said,

***Be fruitful, and multiply.***

Genesis 1:22

God gave plants, animals, people—everything—the ability to reproduce. When God finished the creation, saying "Behold, it is good" and then rested, it wasn't just symbolic; God, literally, has not created anything since the original creation. The creation is self-perpetuating.

God created it this way so that when He rested, He literally quit. The work was over. This doesn't mean He rested in the sense that He was tired. It wasn't He would pass out from sheer exhaustion if He made one more moon. It wasn't that He didn't have it in Him to create just one more cow, horse, or tree. No, it wasn't that kind of rest. It was like an artist who had painted a beautiful picture. Everything was perfect. Adding just one more brush stroke would ruin it. So the artist put his paintbrush down and rested from his work, not because he was worn out from holding the brush up, but because his masterpiece is complete. It's done. It's finished. Lawyers say, "I rest my case." That doesn't mean they're worn out or that they can't say one more word; it just means they're finished. They're through. In this way, God rested.

The Lord doesn't get tired like man does (Is. 40:28). He rested because everything was so perfect. When man came and said "Lord, I'm hungry," God didn't have to say, "Oh, I didn't think of that. Here, let Me create a fruit tree for you to eat something." The Lord didn't respond to man's need and say, "Oh, here. Let Me create something for you." No, He had anticipated and provided for every need and so He rested. Man didn't have to ask God for something. All man had to do was reach out and take what God had already created and say, "Thank You." This is what the rest, and the Old Testament Sabbath picture, is all about.

## **“Trust Me for Everything”**

God told His people to take one day a week off while everybody else was working their fingers to the bone. In the natural realm, that doesn't make sense. “How can I prosper as much as other people who work seven days a week if I only work six?” If it's just you and your effort, you can't. But if it's God blessing the work of your hands, you can. If God is your source and you trust and obey Him, then taking one day off out of every seven will actually make you prosper more than those people who only rely on their own ability. Since there was faith involved, the Jews prospered more than the other nations around them, even though they took one day in seven off.

According to Leviticus 25, God told them to take one year in seven off as well. He promised to bless them, just like clockwork, with three times the normal harvest in that sixth year because they were resting and trusting in Him. That supernatural triple harvest in the sixth year took them through the end of the sixth year, the seventh year when they rested, and the eighth year when they planted their new crops and waited on the harvest. This is what the Sabbath is a picture of. It never was about observing a certain day. The Lord hates this attitude of people who only serve Him one day a week. Through the Sabbath picture, God wanted to communicate to His people this truth: “I'm your source. Trust Me for everything.”

Today many folks are enforcing a day. I was raised in a semi-legalistic home. It wasn't as bad as some, but we didn't mow the grass, wash the dishes, or do any other housework on Sunday. To us, that was the Sabbath.

I know now that Sunday isn't the Sabbath. Some people who have become aware of this have simply changed the day to Saturday (e.g., Seventh-Day Adventists). Yet they continued missing the point. The reason the church started meeting on Sunday was because it was the day that Jesus was raised from the dead. They had a revelation that we are redeemed from the Old Testament types and shadows. Now that we're living in the reality of trusting Jesus, they made a clean break between the Old Testament Law and the New Testament.

Yet many New Testament Christians today still have a Sabbath-keeping mentality. They feel guilty if they go out and do certain things on the Sabbath. Some people keep the Sabbath on Saturday. Others are real mean about enforcing it. I used to drive forty minutes out of the way so I wouldn't have to go through a tollbooth and pay someone to work on Sunday.

## **“I Depend on You”**

In the very beginning of my ministry, I held a revival meeting on a Sunday morning. They wanted to take me out to eat, but I told them, “No way! I'm not going to go out to eat and help somebody work on the Sabbath. I refuse to help them be a Sabbath breaker.” There was a whole big group of people who were there to take me out, but they had to leave without me.

You might be thinking, *That's a little legalistic*. Well, if you're going to believe the Sabbath should be kept, believe it. If you want to go back and observe the Old Testament Sabbath, then

it would be more appropriate to do like the Pharisees did. They counted the number of steps that you could walk on a Sabbath day.

John the Baptist was probably raised by the Essenes, the same people who wrote the Dead Sea Scrolls. Their writings reveal that it was considered work to have a bowel movement on the Sabbath day. Therefore, it was against the Law in their eyes.

If you're going to believe it, believe it. It's hypocritical to be partially under the Law and observe just a little bit of it. Either we're under the Sabbath, or we aren't.

The Sabbath is only a picture of trusting God to where you cease from your own labors, saying, "God, I believe that You're my source. I'm not going to depend on my efforts alone; I'm going to depend on You." This is what it pictured.

## **Enter His Rest**

God created everything, and He rested. He doesn't have to create food for you to eat or air for you to breathe; He created the earth in such a way that the trees clean the air so there's a perpetual supply of oxygen. God doesn't have to create anything for us. He already anticipated all of our needs, and He's already made everything. Now we have entered into His rest. We are benefiting from all of the things God created when He anticipated the needs of the entire human race.

This is one reason I strongly disagree with the people who say that we're destroying the earth. Really, it's a slap in God's face to think that man could overwhelm, overtax, and destroy this earth He's created. Take, for instance, Mount St. Helen's. They said it would take ten thousand years for it to regenerate. Within three years, it had done what they thought it would take ten thousand years to do. The earth has the ability to regenerate and cleanse itself. A polluted stream will purify itself in a short period of time if you just stop polluting it. This secular, ungodly attitude has exalted man to the position of god, and God has been eliminated or significantly decreased. They don't realize that God anticipated everything we could ever do.

This earth isn't going to be destroyed by us; God will destroy it with a fervent heat. We aren't going to destroy ourselves.

God anticipated everything. He made all of these things, and we've just entered into His rest. We are benefiting from what He created thousands of years ago. It's already complete. All we're doing is reaching out and appropriating what God has already provided. That's what the Sabbath is a picture of.

# God Anticipated

## Lesson 14 – Outline

- I. In Colossians 2:16-17, the Bible says that these five things—one of which was the Sabbath—are a shadow of things to come, but the shadow is not the very image of those things:

***Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days: Which are a shadow of things to come; but the body is of Christ.***

- A. The Sabbath isn't picturing a day.
- B. It was observed in the Old Testament, but now it's a New Testament reality.
- C. The Sabbath is a picture of a rest—a relationship with God where you trust and rely on the finished work of Christ and not on your own effort and performance.

***On the seventh day God ended his work which he had made; and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had made. And God blessed the seventh day.***

Genesis 2:2-3

- II. The Lord waited until the entire creation was done before He made man.

***God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And the evening and the morning were the first day...And the evening and the morning were the second day.***

Genesis 1:5 and 8

- A. The Hebrews count time from sundown one day until sundown the next day.
- B. God created man at the very end of all of His creation—everything was perfect for him.
- C. Then, immediately, God rested and entered into the seventh day.
- D. So man was created right before this Sabbath, and he entered into God's Sabbath where everything was already abundantly provided.

- III. God had anticipated every need, not only of Adam and Eve, but also for the entire human race.

A. God isn't creating things today.

***God said, Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb yielding seed, and the fruit tree yielding fruit after his kind, whose seed is in itself, upon the earth: and it was so.***

Genesis 1:11

B. God gave plants, animals, people—everything—the ability to reproduce.

***Be fruitful, and multiply.***

Genesis 1:22

C. The creation is self-perpetuating.

D. God created it this way so that when He rested, He literally quit—the work was over.

E. Man didn't have to ask God for something—all man had to do was reach out and take what God had already created and say, "Thank You."

IV. God told His people (in the Old Testament) to take one day a week off while everybody else was working their fingers to the bone.

A. If God is your source and you trust and obey Him, then taking one day off out of every seven will actually make you prosper more than those people who only rely on their own ability.

B. Since there was faith involved, the Jews prospered more than the other nations around them, even though they took one day in seven off.

C. According to Leviticus 25, God told them to take one year in seven off as well.

D. Through the Sabbath picture, God wanted to communicate to His people this truth: "I'm your source. Trust Me for everything."

V. The early church had a revelation that we are redeemed from the Old Testament types and shadows.

A. Now that we're living in the reality of trusting Jesus, they made a clean break between the Old Testament Law and the New Testament.

B. The Sabbath is only a picture of trusting God to where you cease from your own labors, saying, "God, I believe that You're my source. I'm not going to depend on my efforts alone; I'm going to depend on You."

C. God anticipated everything—it's already complete. All we're doing is reaching out and appropriating what God has already provided.

# God Anticipated

## Lesson 14 – Teacher’s Guide

1. In Colossians 2:16-17, the Bible says that these five things—one of which was the Sabbath—were a shadow of things to come, but the shadow was not the very image of those things. The Sabbath isn’t picturing a day; it was observed in the Old Testament, but now it’s a New Testament reality. The Sabbath is a picture of a rest—a relationship with God where we trust and rely on the finished work of Christ and not on our own effort and performance (Gen. 2:2-3).
2. The Lord waited until the entire creation was done before He made man (Gen. 1:5 and 8). The Hebrews count time from sundown one day until sundown the next day. God created man at the very end of all of His creation—everything was perfect for him. Then, immediately, God rested and entered into the seventh day. So man was created right before this Sabbath, and he entered into God’s Sabbath where everything was already abundantly provided.
3. God had anticipated every need, not only of Adam and Eve, but also for the entire human race. God isn’t creating things today (Gen. 1:11). God gave plants, animals, people—everything—the ability to reproduce (Gen. 1:22). The creation is self-perpetuating. God created it this way so that when He rested, He literally quit—the work was over. Man didn’t have to ask God for something—all man had to do was reach out and take what God had already created and say, “Thank You.”

1. A. Read Colossians 2:16-17 and Genesis 2:2-3. Although the Sabbath was observed in the Old Testament, what is it now? (A New Testament reality)  
B. What is a picture of a rest—a relationship with God where we trust and rely on the finished work of Christ and not on our own effort and performance? (The Sabbath)
2. A. Read Genesis 1:5 and 8. The Lord waited until when before He made man? (Until the entire creation was done)  
B. How do the Hebrews count time? (From sundown one day until sundown the next day)
3. A. Read Genesis 1:11 and 22. What had God anticipated, not only for Adam and Eve, but also for the entire human race? (Every need)  
B. What is self-perpetuating? (The creation)  
C. All man had to do was what? (Reach out and take what God had already created and say, “Thank You”)



4. God told His people (in the Old Testament) to take one day a week off while everybody else was working their fingers to the bone. If God is our source and we trust and obey Him, then taking one day off out of every seven will actually make us prosper more than those who only rely on their own ability. Since there was faith involved, the Jews prospered more than the other nations around them, even though they took one day in seven off. According to Leviticus 25, God told them to take one year in seven off as well. Through the Sabbath picture, God wanted to communicate to His people this truth: “I’m your source. Trust Me for everything.”

5. The early church had a revelation that we are redeemed from the Old Testament types and shadows. Living in the reality of trusting Jesus, they made a clean break between the Old Testament Law and the New Testament. The Sabbath is only a picture of trusting God to where we cease from our own labors, saying, “God, we believe that You’re our source. We’re not going to depend on our efforts alone; we’re going to depend on You.” God anticipated everything—it’s already complete. All we’re doing is reaching out and appropriating what God has already provided.

4. A. Read Leviticus 25. If God is our source and we trust and obey Him, then taking one day off out of every seven will actually make us prosper more than those people who only rely on what? (Their own ability)
- B. What truth did God want to communicate to His people through the Sabbath picture? (“I’m your source. Trust Me for everything”)
5. A. What did the early church have a revelation that we are redeemed from? (The Old Testament types and shadows)
- B. They made a clean break between the Old Testament Law and the New Testament living in what reality? (The reality of trusting Jesus)
- C. Since God anticipated everything—it’s already complete—all we’re doing is what? (Reaching out and appropriating what God has already provided)

# God Anticipated

## **Lesson 14 – Additional Information**

For more information about how God made creation, please check out my message entitled “Evolution.”

# God Anticipated

## Lesson 14 – Discipleship Questions

1. According to Exodus 20:8-11, what did the Lord bless and hallow?
2. Among other things listed in Colossians 2:16-17, the Sabbath day is a shadow of what?
3. The Sabbath was a shadow, but the body is of whom?
4. In Genesis 2:2-3, what did God end on the seventh day?
5. Then what did He do?
6. In Genesis 1:5 and 8, what did God call the light?
7. What did He call the darkness?
8. According to Genesis 1:11 and 22, God blessed them, saying, “Be fruitful and \_\_\_\_\_.”
9. According to Isaiah 40:28, who doesn’t faint and neither is weary?
10. There is no searching of His what?

# God Anticipated

## Lesson 14 – Answer Key

1. The Sabbath day.
2. Things to come.
3. Christ.
4. His work that He had made.
5. He rested.
6. Day.
7. Night.
8. Multiply.
9. God, the Lord, the Creator of the ends of the earth.
10. Understanding.

# God Anticipated

## Lesson 14 – Scriptures

***Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: But the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.***

Exodus 20:8-11

***Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days: Which are a shadow of things to come; but the body is of Christ.***

Colossians 2:16-17

***And on the seventh day God ended his work which he had made; and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had made. And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it: because that in it he had rested from all his work which God created and made.***

Genesis 2:2-3

***And God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And the evening and the morning were the first day...And God called the firmament Heaven. And the evening and the morning were the second day.***

Genesis 1:5 and 8

***And God said, Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb yielding seed, and the fruit tree yielding fruit after his kind, whose seed is in itself, upon the earth: and it was so...And God blessed them, saying, Be fruitful, and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and let fowl multiply in the earth.***

Genesis 1:11 and 22

***Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? there is no searching of his understanding.***

Isaiah 40:28



# Labor to Rest

## Lesson 15

In the New Testament, we now have the reality that the Sabbath pictures. We are resting and trusting in what God has done through the Lord Jesus Christ. We now have a relationship with God, and He's already provided everything we'll ever need.

Before you ever needed healing, God had already healed you.

***By whose stripes ye were healed.***

1 Peter 2:24

You don't have to ask God to heal you. You don't have to do something, and then, in response to you, God heals you. No, healing is already provided. All you have to do is just reach out, take it, and say, "Thank You."

You don't have to ask God to bless you. The Lord has commanded the blessing upon you in everything that you do. Before you were ever born, before you ever had your need, the blessing of God is already on you. You don't have to beg God for supply; just rest in Him and trust, saying, "Father, I know You've already met my needs." This is what the Sabbath was a picture of. This is the rest Hebrews 4 speaks of.

Very few Christians today are resting in what Jesus has already provided. Instead, they're operating with the mindset that "O God, I have this problem. I need You to do something." They're waiting on God to create, to move, to do something new to meet their need. They don't understand that God anticipated their need. They aren't resting in the Lord, which is what Hebrews 4 is all about.

### **"Father, it's Done"**

After saying all these things, the writer of Hebrews said,

***For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God did from his.***

Hebrews 4:10

In other words, you've ceased trying to make God do something. You've ceased trying to get God to bless you. You've ceased trying to earn His favor. And now you are just resting in the truth that "Father, through Jesus, You've already supplied everything." In the same way that God created everything and He doesn't have to create new plants, animals, or people today (those are all a result of His original creation), the Lord made a new creation—and that's us as born-again believers.

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

2 Corinthians 5:17

We are a new creation in our born-again spirits. And in this new creation, when we need to be healed, God doesn't have to heal us. It's already in the spirit part of us—that new creation. When we need to be prospered, God doesn't have to prosper us; He has already commanded blessing and prosperity into our spirit man. He has blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places. Now, in the new creation through Jesus, everything is already done.

The key to the Christian life is learning how to rest. Trust that “Father, it's done. My checkbook says I'm broke, and I'm on the verge of bawling and squalling. I have a strong desire to start praying, fasting, and doing something to make You move. But I'm going to rest and trust Your Word. Your Word says that You've already supplied all my needs. You've already blessed me. You've commanded Your blessing upon me. I am blessed above all people.” The Christian life is learning how to rest, not how to work and do something to make God move. That's what this passage is talking about.

## **Trusting and Relying**

If you have entered into His rest, then you have ceased from your own efforts. It's no longer you doing something to make God move; it's you learning how to trust and rely on the truth that God has already done it.

***Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief.***

Hebrews 4:11

This sounds like an oxymoron—a contradiction of terms. How do you labor to rest? This isn't just vegging out, going to sleep, and doing nothing; this is ceasing from your own works, from thinking that you have to earn God's favor. It's ceasing from thinking you have to do something to motivate God to get Him to love you and answer your prayers.

Saying “O God, don't You love this person? I've been praying for them for twenty years. O God, do something!” isn't resting. You think you're the one motivating God, and if it wasn't for your intercession, the Lord would just let people go to hell, because He doesn't care. If you think it's your great intercession that is moving God, you're trusting in your own effort. You aren't resting in Him.

Rest is simply trusting and relying on God. It's saying, “Lord, You love this person more than I ever could. You've already provided salvation for them, so I know it's Your will. Father, I thank You that Your will is coming to pass. Here am I. Use me. If You can open up a door for me to share Your love and Your Word with this person, then I will receive it.” That's how you



pray for lost people. Don't plead with God as if it's up to Him whether or not they get saved. He's not the one who determines who gets saved. God has made the provision. He's provided it for everybody, but each person has a free choice. So you must become a channel for God to flow through.

## Depend on God

When you understand rest properly, it takes effort. You must labor to rest. When the banker is calling, your checkbook is in the red, and your spouse has been saying "You've got to do something. Do something!" it takes labor to say, "My faith is in God. I'm doing what He has told me to do. I trust Him and I'm not going to panic. I refuse to get out of rest. I'm not going to get into fear." When the doctor says you're going to die, it takes labor for you to respond, "That's not what God's Word says. By His stripes, I was healed. I was healed! I'm not going to be healed. I was already healed. He's already supplied healing, and I'm not going to panic. I refuse to get into fear." It takes effort for you to rest like that.

This is why we study the Word. We don't study the Word to get God to heal us; we study the Word to find out that God has already healed us, to calm our fears, and to anchor our faith. Then we can say, "Father, I'm operating on this knowledge that You've given me, and I'm not moving off of it!" This takes effort.

In the area of finances, I'm still learning and growing. I haven't got this licked by any means. However, I'm seeing God's supply in a way that I've never seen in my life. At the beginning of 2009, Andrew Wommack Ministries must have over \$20 million a year just to break even. And we give everything away. If you were to think about this and take the responsibility upon yourself for producing this money, it could affect your sleep. We must have around \$2,000 per hour, 24 hours a day, 365 days per year. It's just beyond my ability, and I have to labor to rest. I have to keep my attention focused on God, saying, "Lord, this is what You called me to do. You're the one who told me to do this. Therefore, it's Your responsibility, not mine." Actually, the bigger the financial needs of the ministry get, the easier it is for me to rest. You might think it's the opposite, but it's not.

Back when we were small, I remember going through a really bad time financially. I had a dream one night. In this dream, I just quit the ministry and joined the Air Force. I was going to pay off all of the debts I had incurred in ministry. It might have taken years, but I could eventually pay it off. Since I'm what they call a "lucid dreamer," I dream in color. My dreams seem so vivid and real to me that sometimes, it's hard for me to tell whether I'm dreaming or not. That night, I woke up with a start. I lay there in bed thinking, *Oh, it was just a dream. Thank You, Jesus, that I didn't join the Air Force.* Then Jamie leaned over and said, "It wasn't so bad that you had to go join the Air Force." My heart started pounding as I thought, *Oh, God. It wasn't a dream!* I found out later that I had been talking in my sleep, and she had heard the whole thing.

Back when our ministry was small and we had \$20,000 indebtedness, I could pay that off

if I had to. But at the level we operate on now, I can't pay off millions and millions of dollars of indebtedness. So actually, it's easier for me to rest now because I'm in way over my head. It's like, "God, if You don't come through, I've had it." So it's been years since I've worried about finances. It's not a big deal, because it's just way beyond my ability. I have to depend on God.

## **"Do Something!"**

Our flesh wants to get into, "All right, what do *I* have to do? God, I'm going to do something." Then you start praying, fasting, or doing something else to try to make God come through. Every time you do that, you've stepped out of faith in what God has already done, and you've moved into legalism and works. You're going to do something to make yourself worthy. You're going to do something so that God has to come through. The moment you've done that, you're out of grace and faith and into legalism. The only thing that's truly offensive to God isn't your sin, but your self-righteousness and self-dependence. It's when you think you no longer need a Savior, but you're going to do something and go through yourself instead of through Jesus. That's the most offensive thing you could possibly do.

In a sense, you're saying, "Jesus isn't enough. I have to do something to motivate God. He has to move in my life because of what I've done." God has already provided everything. The Sabbath illustrated this. The same way He created everything for man—and all man had to do was just reach out and receive—so it is now in the new creation. God has provided everything for you. It's just a matter of reaching out and appropriating by faith what God has already provided by grace.

It's going to take some effort. You'll have to study the Word. It's not to make God impressed with your Bible study and move because you've been holy by doing this. You need to study the Word to renew your mind. You aren't going to hear very many people say what I'm saying. You aren't going to get this watching *As the Stomach Turns* on the television. You're going to have to get into the Word of God and attend meetings. You'll have to turn off the television and start studying the Word. You're going to have to spend time in the presence of God. It's going to take effort. You'll have to labor to rest.

When the pressure is on and the devil is screaming "Do something. Do something!" trying to get you into self-effort, the hardest thing you'll ever do is stand there and say, "My faith is in God, and if He doesn't come through, I'm dead." That's it. It takes effort to rest. It takes a lot of faith to rest. This is a powerful truth.

God has already provided everything. You just need to rest in it.

## **It Takes Effort**

There have been times that the way I've rested is to start praising God for what His Word says He's done, not what I see or feel. When I start in praise, I don't feel like praising God. I

feel like crying, running, and saying, “God, it isn’t working.” But I take a step of faith and start praising Him, saying, “Father, I thank You that I am healed. I thank You that I am blessed. I thank You that I am what Your Word says I am.” I’ll just start praising and resting in Him.

I may start in the flesh. I may not really feel like it, but I’ll do it because I know it’s the right thing to do. And if I’ll keep at it, after a while, I’ll start listening to myself and saying, “Man, that’s pretty good. I do believe that I am healed. I do believe that God has supplied my needs. I do believe that He has already done this.” After a while, true faith begins to rise up in my heart. Then, I’m not doing it anymore just because I know it’s the right thing to do; I do it because I really believe it. The moment I get over into faith—where faith is mixed with God’s grace—boom! The power of God is released, and I see the things of God come to pass.

It’s going to take effort. You can’t just float downstream with circumstances and the crowd. You’ll have to swim against the current. You’re going to have to go against your feelings and against what the circumstances say. It takes effort.

These truths are working for me, and they’ll work for you too. God has already anticipated everything. Everything that you need is already provided. You don’t need to badger God, asking and pleading with Him. He has anticipated every need you could ever have. God has already supplied it. It’s there. Now you just have to rest. You have to get into a position where you believe—not just say you believe. Faith is an active force on the inside of you, but it takes effort to release it. But first, you must know and understand this truth that God has already supplied.

# Labor to Rest

## Lesson 15 – Outline

I. In the New Testament, we now have the reality that the Sabbath pictures.

- A. We are resting and trusting in what God has done through the Lord Jesus Christ.
- B. We now have a relationship with God, and He's already provided everything we'll ever need.
- C. Before you ever needed healing, God had already healed you.

***By whose stripes ye were healed.***

1 Peter 2:24

- D. You don't have to beg God for supply.
- E. Just rest in Him and trust, saying, "Father, I know You've already met my needs."

II. In the same way that God created everything and He doesn't have to create new plants, animals, or people today (those are all a result of His original creation), the Lord made a new creation—and that's us as born-again believers.

***For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God did from his.***

Hebrews 4:10

- A. We are a new creation in our born-again spirits.

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

2 Corinthians 5:17

- B. When we need to be healed, God doesn't have to heal us, because it's already in the spirit part of us—that new creation.
- C. When we need to be prospered, God doesn't have to prosper us, because He has already commanded blessing and prosperity into our spirit man.
- D. Now, in the new creation through Jesus, everything is already done.

III. The key to the Christian life is learning how to rest.

- A. It's you learning how to trust and rely on the truth that God has already done it.

***Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief.***

Hebrews 4:11

- B. It's ceasing from thinking you have to do something to motivate God to get Him to love you and answer your prayers.
- C. Rest is simply trusting and relying on God.

IV. When you understand rest properly, it takes effort.

- A. Our flesh wants to get into, "All right, what do *I* have to do? God, I'm going to do something."
- B. The only thing that's truly offensive to God isn't your sin, but your self-righteousness and self-dependence.
- C. The same way God created everything for man—and all man had to do was just reach out and receive—so it is now in the new creation.
- D. God has provided everything for you—it's just a matter of reaching out and appropriating by faith what God has already provided by grace.
- E. When the pressure is on and the devil is screaming "Do something. Do something!" trying to get you into self-effort, the hardest thing you'll ever do is stand there and say, "My faith is in God, and if He doesn't come through, I'm dead."

V. God has already provided everything—you just need to rest in it.

- A. There have been times that the way I've rested is to start praising God for what His Word says He's done, not what I see or feel.
- B. I take a step of faith and start praising Him, saying, "Father, I thank You that I am healed. I thank You that I am blessed. I thank You that I am what Your Word says I am."
- C. The moment I get over into faith—where faith is mixed with God's grace—the power of God is released, and I see the things of God come to pass.
- D. Faith is an active force on the inside of you, but it takes effort to release it.

# Labor to Rest

## Lesson 15 – Teacher’s Guide

1. In the New Testament, we now have the reality that the Sabbath pictures. We are resting and trusting in what God has done through the Lord Jesus Christ. We now have a relationship with God, and He’s already provided everything we’ll ever need. Before we ever needed healing, God had already healed us (1 Pet. 2:24). We don’t have to beg God for supply; we can just rest in Him, trusting and saying, “Father, we know You’ve already met our needs.”

2. In the same way that God created everything and He doesn’t have to create new plants, animals, or people today (those are all a result of His original creation), the Lord made a new creation—and that’s us as born-again believers (Heb. 4:10). We are a new creation in our born-again spirits (2 Cor. 5:17). When we need to be healed, God doesn’t have to heal us, because it’s already in the spirit part of us—that new creation. When we need to be prospered, God doesn’t have to prosper us, because He has already commanded blessing and prosperity into our spirit man. Now, in the new creation through Jesus, everything is already done.

3. The key to the Christian life is learning how to rest. It’s us learning how to trust and rely on the truth that God has already done it (Heb. 4:11). It’s ceasing from thinking we have to do something to motivate God to get Him to love us and answer our prayers. Rest is simply trusting and relying on God.

1. A. Read 1 Peter 2:24. What do we have now in the New Testament? (The reality that the Sabbath pictures)  
B. What had God already done before we ever needed healing? (Healed us)
2. A. Read Hebrews 4:10 and 2 Corinthians 5:17. Where are we a new creation? (In our born-again spirits)  
B. Everything is already done where? (In the new creation through Jesus)
3. A. Read Hebrews 4:11. What is the key to the Christian life? (Learning how to rest)  
B. What is rest? (It’s ceasing from thinking we have to do something to motivate God to get Him to love us and answer our prayers; it’s simply trusting and relying on God)

4. When we understand rest properly, it takes effort. Our flesh wants to get into, “All right, what do *I* have to do? God, I’m going to do something.” The only thing that’s truly offensive to God isn’t our sin, but our self-righteousness and self-dependence. The same way He created everything for man—and all man had to do was just reach out and receive—so it is now in the new creation. God has provided everything for us—it’s just a matter of reaching out and appropriating by faith what God has already provided by grace. When the pressure is on and the devil is screaming “Do something. Do something!” trying to get us into self-effort, the hardest thing we’ll ever do is stand there and say, “My faith is in God, and if He doesn’t come through, I’m dead.”

5. God has already provided everything—we just need to rest in it. There are times that the way we rest is to start praising God for what His Word says He’s done, not what we see or feel. We take a step of faith and start praising Him, saying, “Father, I thank You that I am healed. I thank You that I am blessed. I thank You that I am what Your Word says I am.” The moment we get over into faith—where faith is mixed with God’s grace—the power of God is released, and we see the things of God come to pass. Faith is an active force on the inside of us, but it takes effort to release it.

4. A. Is the only thing that’s truly offensive to God our sin or our self-righteousness and self-dependence? (Our self-righteousness and self-dependence)
- B. The same way He created everything for man—and all man had to do was just reach out and receive—so it is now where? (In the new creation)
5. A. God has already provided everything—we just need to what? (Rest in it)
- B. Faith is an active force on the inside of us, but it takes \_\_\_\_\_ to release it. (Effort)

# Labor to Rest

## Lesson 15 – Discipleship Questions

1. What does 1 Peter 2:24 say that we should live unto?
2. According to Hebrews 4:10, a person who is entered into His rest has also ceased from what?
3. As whom did from His?
4. According to 2 Corinthians 5:17, if who is in Christ, they are a new creature?
5. Hebrews 4:11 tells us to labor to enter into what?
6. Lest who fall?
7. After the same example of what?



# Labor to Rest

## Lesson 15 – Answer Key

1. Righteousness.
2. His own works.
3. God.
4. Anyone.
5. That rest.
6. Any person.
7. Unbelief.

# Labor to Rest

## Lesson 15 – Scriptures

***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.***

1 Peter 2:24

***For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God did from his.***

Hebrews 4:10

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

2 Corinthians 5:17

***Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief.***

Hebrews 4:11

# Understanding God's Love

## Lesson 16

In the new creation, through what Jesus did, God has already provided everything. We need to learn what has been provided by grace. Then we must learn how to rest in it, trusting God and appropriating by faith what He's already provided.

Although this foundational truth has many applications, the number-one way it has affected me is in my personal relationship with God. It has deeply affected my understanding of how much God loves me. Everything else in the Christian life comes as a result of relationship.

So many people are trying to work some kind of a formula. They're looking for some kind of a key, saying, "Give me two or three steps, something I can do." They treat God like He's a slot machine: "Give me something I can stick in there and pull the handle so I can make God come out." It doesn't work that way.

The most important truth I've learned from all of this is that God's love for me is unconditional. It's not based on anything I do. God's love toward me is consistent. It never fluctuates based on my performance. When I'm better, God doesn't love me more; when I'm bad, God doesn't love me less. I have come to recognize that God's grace—and therefore, God's love, favor, and acceptance of me—is unconditional. It has nothing to do with who I am; it has everything to do with who He is. It's not because I am lovely; it's because He is love. This is one of the greatest applications of this truth.

### Uncontrolled Feelings

***In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him.***

1 John 4:9

How do we know that God loves us? It's not based on a feeling, or whether or not we have some kind of an emotion. Ephesians 4:19 says that they, going beyond, or...

***Past feeling have given themselves over unto lasciviousness.***

Since *lasciviousness* isn't a word that we use often today, many people just skip over it without really thinking about what it means. "Lasciviousness" is uncontrolled, unrestrained, unfettered lust and desire. Ephesians 4 is saying that going beyond a natural, normal use of feelings, there is coming a generation of people who have given themselves into lasciviousness—uncontrolled, unrestrained emotions, feelings, and desires. We live in that generation.

This generation has gone far beyond what God ever intended for emotions to be. People

today have put emotions on a level that is absolutely ungodly. I've literally talked to thousands of people who have told me that they're depressed. I've asked them, "What's the problem? What is it that's depressing you?"

They answer, "Well, nothing. I can't think of anything. But I just feel this." They don't even have a reason for it other than, "I feel this."

We've enshrined feelings to where if we don't feel something, then it must not be true. Feelings are fickle. God gave them to us, and in their proper place, they're okay. But when you let your feelings dominate you, you're acting like a child. Kids say, "Well, I don't feel like doing it." As the parent, you have to say, "I don't care if you feel like doing it or not. I told you to do it. Now, get up and do it." You don't always feel like going to work, but part of being an adult is that you get up and do what you need to do. It's only a spoiled, affluent generation like today's that has the luxury of doing what they feel like.

### **"Hard Keepers"**

One or two generations ago, people were struggling to survive. It didn't matter how they felt. They didn't have time to sit around and discern that. They were too busy scratching out a living and doing what it took to make ends meet. But now we sit around thinking, *I don't feel like you love me anymore. I don't feel like doing this.* You can't praise God when your thumb is in the way. Pull it out of your mouth, grow up, and quit letting feelings dominate you!

People have come to me by the thousands saying, "But I don't feel that God loves me."

I answer, "Well, then, your feelings are wrong."

"Oh, but I've got to feel it."

"Why do you have to feel it?"

"It's not real if I don't feel it."

That's stupid! And it's what is destroying a lot of marriages today. It would be wonderful if your spouse treated you exactly the way they were supposed to. But they don't always say or do things just right. You just need to grow up and give your spouse a little bit of slack sometimes. It doesn't matter that they don't always treat you perfectly. Do what's right—not what you feel like.

"Well, I don't feel like they love me." You know that they do, but you don't feel it. Perhaps they didn't tell you enough. Some people are just what I call "hard keepers."

You can nearly starve some horses, and they'll still look full. These are "easy keepers." With other horses, you can feed and feed and feed them until they die of colic because they've

eaten so much, yet they still look poor. These are called “hard keepers.” We’ve become hard keepers today because we have elevated feelings to a place where we must feel things to believe. That’s immature and childish. There is a place for emotions, but it’s not the place it occupies with most people. We have gone beyond feelings into lasciviousness—to where we have to feel everything.

## **Rule Your Emotions**

Some people may know what the truth is, but it doesn’t matter. It’s whatever they feel. That’s very carnal. It’s demonic. It’s a perversion of the way God made us to be.

Awhile back I listened to a tape of someone ministering. Most of what she said was really good. However, in one of her examples, she was talking about a friend’s daughter who had a certain problem. She was counseling with and trying to deal with her when the daughter said, “But my parents didn’t treat me right. They didn’t honor me. They didn’t do this, and they didn’t do that.” This lady on the tape said, “I knew the parents. These were good parents. They weren’t perfect. They didn’t do everything right. But what the daughter was saying about them wasn’t true. Although they weren’t perfect, these parents loved and honored that daughter.”

Then this minister said, “I knew this girl was wrong, but I didn’t tell her anything, because it didn’t matter whether she was right or wrong. To her it was real.” When this woman said that, I immediately popped the tape out and threw it away. I hate that. I hate it with a passion.

Some people may say, “But that’s right. To her it was real.” No, they’re deceived. It’s the truth that’s going to set you free (John 8:32). The proper thing to do would have been to stop her in the middle of that and say, “Your perception is wrong. And until you start wising up and realizing that not everybody is going to stroke you and treat you perfectly the rest of your life and until you quit blaming other people for the offense that you’ve taken and until you start shouldering your own responsibility, you’re never going to grow and mature.”

You may feel some things so passionately that it doesn’t matter to you whether it’s truth or not. It’s true to you. I’m telling you, it’s only the truth—the real truth, not the “truth” that you feel—that’s going to set you free (John 8:32). You’ll have to pull your thumb out of your mouth and grow up and start realizing some things. God intends for you to rule your emotions, not for your emotions to rule you.

## **“I Just Don’t Feel it”**

When people come up to me, saying, “Would you please pray for me? I just don’t feel the love of God.” I’ll begin to share 1 John 4:9 with them, saying, “Don’t you know that God loves you? Jesus came and died for you.”

“Oh, I know that Jesus died for me. And I know that God loves me. But I just don’t feel it.”

When I hear that, the spirit of slap just comes all over me. You know that God loves you, but you don't feel it. You don't have a goose bump. You don't have a feeling overwhelming you at the moment. And so, because you don't feel loved, forget the truth. Forget reality. Forget the Word. You just don't feel it.

“Andrew, would you please pray that I have a feeling?”

That's lasciviousness. It's inordinate, perverse, and demonic! You don't have to always feel something.

## No Excuse

***In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him.***

1 John 4:9

***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

If you know that, you have zero excuse for ever being depressed, discouraged, defeated, or feeling lonely. You might have reasons, but you have no excuse. You have the knowledge it takes to set you free if you would just meditate on the truth, saying, “Father, You love me.”

***But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.***

Romans 5:8

This love that God gave us through Jesus didn't come in response to your goodness, or because you've merited it by praying, fasting, and studying the Word. It wasn't because you humbled yourself and started being a good person. Think about what this verse says: God commended His love toward us—even died for us—while we were yet sinners!

## A Religious Hypocrite

You may have been a “good” sinner or a “bad” one, but we've all sinned and come short of His glory (Rom. 3:23). Compared to other people, you might look good. But compared to Jesus, we are all an offense against God. We have all fallen so far short of where God wanted us to be. The Lord doesn't look down on anyone and say, “Oh, they're so close. They are so good that I've got to help them and give them a little bit of a boost.” No, from God's perspective—perfection—we've all fallen short of what He wants us to be (Rom. 3:23). None of us were worth God wasting His breath on, much less sending His Son to die for us. No one deserves the love of God.

Before you really understand how much God loves you, you have to quit loving yourself so much. You must quit thinking that somehow or another, you are such a feather in God's cap and that He just couldn't live without you. You must come to the end of yourself, quit trusting in yourself, and recognize where you are.

Although I had already been born again at age eight, the experience that turned my life around came when I was eighteen years old. I had become a religious Pharisee. I was living such a holy life that I was holier than the pastor of our church! I was leading more people to the Lord per week than he was. I've never in all of my life (and I'm almost sixty years old now) spoken a word of profanity, taken a drink of liquor, smoked a cigarette, or even tasted coffee. I'm not saying that coffee and booze are the same. You have a scripture to stand on for drinking coffee. Mark 16:18 says,

***If they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them.***

I was living a holy life, but I had fallen into this deception of trusting in my own goodness. As long as I thought that God owed it to me, I never had a great revelation of how much He loved me. But on March 23, 1968, when I was eighteen years old, God just pulled back a curtain from before my eyes. It was a supernatural revelation. He shined His light on me, and I saw myself for who I really was. Although I had been born again, I was a religious hypocrite.

## **The Beginning of God**

You may have lied, stolen, committed sexual immorality, and done all kinds of other things that I never did, but I doubt very seriously that you have ever seen yourself as more of a sinner than I have. I saw myself from God's perspective. I saw how vile I was—my hypocrisy, my religiosity—and I came to the end of myself. I turned myself inside out confessing my sin for over an hour. I fully expected the Lord to kill me. I had been told that God was the one who killed my dad when I was twelve years old. I thought that God judged us. When I saw how bad I was, I thought it was the first time God had seen it too, and I fully expected Him to kill me on the spot. Honestly, I'm not exaggerating. I never expected to live through the night. So I just confessed everything, not only my actions, but my thoughts, emotions, and attitudes too. I turned myself inside out, hoping that before God killed me, I would repent enough so He would at least take me into heaven.

To my surprise, when I humbled myself and quit putting any faith or confidence in myself, a tangible love of God flowed into my life that just revolutionized me. For four and a half months, I was gone someplace. I was caught up in the presence of God. The Lord just loved me. Yet I never would have understood the depth of God's love if I were thinking there was something I did to deserve it.

If you are still maintaining your own righteousness, then you'll never truly understand God's love. You have to come to the end of yourself. And that's why God gave the Old Testament Law. It was to expose how ungodly we all were—to bring us to the end of ourselves. The Law

condemns. It's harsh. Its purpose was to bring us to the end of ourselves because only when we come to the end of ourselves do we find the beginning of God.



# Understanding God's Love

## Lesson 16 – Outline

- I. In the new creation, through what Jesus did, God has already provided everything.
  - A. We need to learn what has been provided by grace.
  - B. Then we must learn how to rest in it, trusting God and appropriating by faith what He's already provided.
  - C. Everything else in the Christian life comes as a result of relationship.
- II. God's grace—and therefore, God's love, favor, and acceptance of me—is unconditional.
  - A. It has nothing to do with who I am.
  - B. It has everything to do with who He is.

***In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him.***

1 John 4:9

- III. Ephesians 4 says that going beyond a natural, normal use of feelings, there is coming a generation of people who have given themselves into lasciviousness—uncontrolled, unrestrained emotions, feelings, and desires.

***Who being past feeling have given themselves over unto lasciviousness.***

Ephesians 4:19

- A. There is a place for emotions, but it's not the place it occupies with most people.
- B. We have gone beyond feelings into lasciviousness—to where we have to feel everything.
- C. It's only the truth—the real truth, not the “truth” that you feel—that's going to set you free (John 8:32).
- D. God intends for you to rule your emotions, not for your emotions to rule you.

- IV. You have the knowledge it takes to set you free if you would just meditate on the truth, saying, “Father, You love me.”

***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

- A. This love that God gave us through Jesus didn’t come in response to your goodness, or because you’ve merited it by praying, fasting, and studying the Word.

***But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.***

Romans 5:8

- B. From God’s perspective—perfection—we’ve all fallen short of what He wants us to be (Rom. 3:23).

- C. No one deserves the love of God.

- V. If you are still maintaining your own righteousness, then you’ll never truly understand God’s love.

- A. You have to come to the end of yourself—and that’s why God gave the Old Testament Law.

- B. It was to expose how ungodly we all were—to bring us to the end of ourselves.

- C. The Law condemns—it’s harsh.

- D. The Law’s purpose was to bring us to the end of ourselves because only when we come to the end of ourselves do we find the beginning of God.

# Understanding God's Love

## Lesson 16 – Teacher's Guide

1. In the new creation, through what Jesus did, God has already provided everything. We need to learn what has been provided by grace. Then we must learn how to rest in it, trusting God and appropriating by faith what He's already provided. Everything else in the Christian life comes as a result of relationship.
2. God's grace—and therefore, God's love, favor, and acceptance of us—is unconditional. It has nothing to do with who we are; it has everything to do with who He is (1 John 4:9).
3. Ephesians 4 says that going beyond a natural, normal use of feelings, there is coming a generation of people who have given themselves into lasciviousness—uncontrolled, unrestrained emotions, feelings, and desires (Eph. 4:19). There is a place for emotions, but it's not the place it occupies with most people. We have gone beyond feelings into lasciviousness—to where we have to feel everything. It's only the truth—the real truth, not the “truth” that we feel—that's going to set us free (John 8:32). God intends for us to rule our emotions, not for our emotions to rule us.

1. A. How has God already provided everything in the new creation? (Through what Jesus did)  
B. How does everything else in the Christian life come? (As a result of relationship)
2. A. Read 1 John 4:9. What is unconditional? (God's grace, love, favor, and acceptance of us)  
B. It has everything to do with who we are or who He is? (Who He is)
3. A. Read Ephesians 4:19 and John 8:32. What is lasciviousness? (Uncontrolled, unrestrained emotions, feelings, and desires—where we have to feel everything)  
B. What does God intend for us to do with our emotions? (Rule them)

4. We have the knowledge it takes to set us free if we would just meditate on the truth, saying, “Father, You love me” (John 3:16). This love that God gave us through Jesus didn’t come in response to our goodness, or because we’ve merited it by praying, fasting, and studying the Word (Rom. 5:8). From God’s perspective—perfection—we’ve all fallen short of what He wants us to be (Rom. 3:23). No one deserves the love of God.

5. If we are still maintaining our own righteousness, then we’ll never truly understand God’s love. We have to come to the end of ourselves—and that’s why God gave the Old Testament Law. It was to expose how ungodly we all were—to bring us to the end of ourselves. The Law condemns—it’s harsh. Its purpose was to bring us to the end of ourselves because only when we come to the end of ourselves do we find the beginning of God.

- 4. A. Read John 3:16; Romans 3:23, and 5:8. From God’s perspective—perfection—what have we all fallen short of? (What He wants us to be)
- B. Who deserves the love of God? (No one)
- 5. A. We’ll never truly understand God’s love if we are still maintaining our own what? (Righteousness)
- B. What was the purpose of the Old Testament Law? (To expose how ungodly we were—to bring us to the end of ourselves)

# Understanding God's Love

## Lesson 16 – Additional Information

God intends for you to rule your emotions, not for your emotions to rule you. If this is something you struggle with, I recommend my teaching series entitled *Harnessing Your Emotions*.

# Understanding God's Love

## Lesson 16 – Discipleship Questions

1. What does 1 John 4:9 say was manifested toward us?
2. Who did God send into the world?
3. That we might \_\_\_\_\_ through Him.
4. Ephesians 4:19 reveals that people who have given themselves over unto lasciviousness are past what?
5. According to John 8:32, what must we know to be made free?
6. According to John 3:16, who did God so love that He gave His only begotten Son?
7. Will those who believe in Him perish, or will they have everlasting life?
8. Who does Romans 5:8 say died for us?
9. He did this while we were what?
10. According to Romans 3:23, who has sinned?
11. What have we come short of?
12. According to Mark 16:18, what will happen to the sick people that believers lay their hands on?

# Understanding God's Love

## Lesson 16 – Answer Key

1. The love of God.
2. His only begotten Son.
3. Live.
4. Feeling.
5. The truth.
6. The world.
7. Everlasting life.
8. Christ.
9. Yet sinners.
10. All.
11. The glory of God.
12. They shall recover.

# Understanding God's Love

## Lesson 16 – Scriptures

***In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him.***

1 John 4:9

***Who being past feeling have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness.***

Ephesians 4:19

***And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.***

John 8:32

***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

***But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.***

Romans 5:8

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

Romans 3:23

***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 16:18



# Unconditional

## Lesson 17

God, by grace, commended His love toward us. While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. He didn't see something in us that was just so wonderful that He had to have us. It was because of His great love.

***But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us.***

Ephesians 2:4

The Lord was motivated to love us, not because we are lovely, but because He is love. This is what the balance between grace and faith has taught me. God's love for me is not tied to any worth or value of my own.

### Self-esteem vs. Christ-esteem

“But, Andrew, this is depressing. It's discouraging. What are you trying to do to my self-worth?” Your self is what caused Jesus to come to this earth and die. Your self may be better than my self, but it still has caused a lot of heartache and pain in both your life and others' too.

As a believer in Jesus, I am not into self-esteem—I'm into Christ-esteem. I esteem what Jesus has done. I am thrilled with who I am in Christ—what God has done in me. But there is a part of me that is corrupt. There's a part that I deny and reject as I walk in the Spirit (Gal. 5:16). There's a part of me that's still not born again. My spirit is born again, but I still have flesh. So there's a part of me I don't esteem.

There are times when you feel absolutely rotten. There are times when you act like the devil. When you act stupid, you ought to feel stupid. God gave us emotions. It's similar to the feeling in your hand. If you weren't paying attention, you could lean up against a hot stove and do irreparable damage to yourself. But God gave you the ability to feel pain. None of us like it. But if you put your hand on a hot stove, before you even have time to think about it or see what temperature the burner is, your hand tells you. You have pain, and instantly you withdraw it before you hurt yourself more.

### All about God

God gave you the ability to be depressed and discouraged, but not so you could live there.

The Bible says in Isaiah 26:3 that the Lord will...

*Keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.*

If you're depressed, you aren't keeping your mind stayed on God; you're looking at circumstances. You've let your attention move off of Jesus, the Author and Finisher of your faith (Heb. 12:2). The reason you're sinking is because you quit looking at Jesus. You started looking at the wind and the waves around you, which caused you to fear (Matt. 14:30). There's a purpose for your feelings.

When discouragement comes against me, I don't ignore it; I recognize that it's there because I haven't been meditating on God. I haven't been focused on the Lord the way that I should've been. So I get back to focusing on the Lord, and my feelings realign to the Word.

But even when I'm not feeling right, I don't start disbelieving that God loves me because I don't feel it. I have written this in my heart. It's an absolute—a cardinal rule—that I never deviate from.

***But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.***

Romans 5:8

That means it had nothing to do with my goodness or anything in me. It was all about God.

## **Much More Now**

***Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.***

Romans 5:9

God loved you by grace—not based on your performance. If He loved you so much that He died for you while you were yet a sinner, then how much more does He love you now that you're born again!

The average church teaches that God loves you much less now. They wouldn't ever say it that way, but that's their attitude. They say, "Come to the Lord just as you are. If you're a sinner, that means you're qualified. Jesus died for sinners."

What would happen if someone came into a church service drunk and reeking of alcohol? The typical Christian would walk up and say, "God loves you. He has a better life for you. Jesus died for your sins. Wouldn't you like to receive Him? Wouldn't you like to be forgiven?" The average Christian will extend grace toward a lost man. But let that drunk pray to receive salvation and come back again drunk the next week. If he claims to be a believer, the average Christian would tell him, "God is mad at you. He isn't going to bless you. God won't answer your prayers. The wrath of God is coming on you. You'd better repent or else! Turn or burn!" They'd start preaching wrath to him.

This is the reason a lot of people go through what's called a "honeymoon" period when they become born again. As sinners, they're told, "Regardless of what you've done, God loves you by grace. It's unconditional. It doesn't matter what you've done. Come, accept Jesus, and you'll get all of your sins forgiven." So they say "That's good news," and they believe. They receive salvation and are just so in love with God. Colors are brighter, sounds are better, and smells are nicer. Everything is wonderful because they believe that God loves them.

## **"What's Wrong?"**

Then they go to church. They see somebody testify that they were healed of something. So the new believer says, "Well, I have something. I'd like to be healed too." They pray, but they don't instantly see a manifestation. So they ask, "What's wrong?" Then they're told, "Sin." And they say, "I thought God had forgiven me."

"Oh, yeah. He had back then. But you've sinned since then. You're going to have to start studying more. You're going to have to read the Bible an hour a day, pray in tongues, and go to church. Have you been paying your tithes? God won't bless you unless you pay your tithes."

All of a sudden, without this person realizing it, this feeling they had that God loves them unconditionally based on grace is replaced with, "Uh-oh! If I'm going receive from God, I need to start being holy. I need to do all of these things, or God won't bless me." They stop putting faith in grace, and they're trying to merit and earn God's favor instead.

You might have had a similar experience. But Romans 5:8 reveals that God loved you so much that while you were yet a sinner, Christ died for you. Romans 5:9 says that much more now are you saved from wrath through Him. You may have come to Christ while you were living in adultery. You confessed Jesus as your Lord, believing in your heart that He was raised from the dead, and instantly you were in relationship with God. Adultery couldn't stop you from God. You might have lied and stolen. You may have been a drug addict or an alcoholic. You did all kinds of things, yet you came to the Lord. You believed and confessed Jesus as your Lord, and instantly you came into relationship with God. But now that you're born again, you feel guilty. You know you ought to be studying the Word more. You've made a promise to have a daily devotion, but you haven't kept it. You got mad at your spouse on the way to church, or you had an argument and haven't been home. You didn't go to your kid's ballgame and you feel guilty. God accepted you when you were an adulterer, liar, thief, addict, and murderer, but now, if you don't do your daily Bible readings and pray, He's liable to let you die of cancer.

## **A Works Mentality**

***As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him.***

Colossians 2:6

In order to receive the Lord Jesus Christ, you had to hear about the grace of God. God commended His love toward you. While you were yet a sinner, Christ died for you. Two

thousand years ago, Jesus bore the sins of the world before you were ever born. When you heard the good news of the grace of God, your faith just reached out and appropriated it.

However, now that you've become religious, you've started trying to earn things. It may be doing "good things" like fasting, praying, and studying the Word, but your motive is to merit God's favor. Your faith is no longer in the unconditional love of God that made everything available to you free; it's based on how holy you're living. Your faith is in you, not God's grace.

Perhaps you are deflecting what I'm sharing, and saying to yourself, "That's not me." Be honest with yourself before the Lord. This is where most people live. They are in a works mentality, which is why they aren't experiencing a greater relationship with God and manifesting their salvation benefits. They feel they have to earn it, so they constantly try to perform instead of just receive God's love by grace—putting faith in the unmerited, unearned, undeserved favor of God. God's love for you has nothing to do with how good you are.

Imagine that you're in one of my meetings right now, and someone just fell over dead. I've seen three people raised from the dead, including my own son. He was dead for over five hours but was raised up completely healed. I've seen blind eyes and deaf ears opened. I've seen cancers, AIDS, diabetes, and many other diseases healed. If I said "All right, how many of you believe that God can raise this person from the dead?" you would be right there with me. If I continued, saying "I'm going to pray for them, and we're going to see this person raised from the dead," you'd be excited, getting up out of your seat, and moving toward the front for a better look. But I would probably lose you when I said, "All right. If you believe it, you come up here and pray for them." All of a sudden, your excitement would drain right out of you. Your faith would turn into unbelief and your anticipation into dread. It's not that you doubt God can do it; you doubt God's willingness to use His ability on your behalf because you don't feel worthy.

## **Independent of You**

You haven't yet understood that it's totally the grace of God. You think you have to do something to merit and earn it. That's why you have more faith in my prayers than you have in your own. If you knew me as well as you know you, you wouldn't have any more faith in my prayers than you have in your prayers. It's true! You think that preachers have it all worked out, and we live holy all of the time. Talk to my wife. She doesn't love me by justice. She loves me in spite of who I am, not because of who I am.

The problem is, you know you so well, you bear a sin-consciousness. You feel unworthy because you don't fully understand that it's all the grace of God. God hasn't ever had anybody qualified working for Him yet. I'm not qualified to do this. God doesn't use me because I deserve it. I'm not holy enough. I have to stand up and believe in the goodness and grace of God.

This is the number-one truth that I've received from this revelation. I've applied it to my relationship with God, and I know His love for me. I've experienced it. That day I realized how ungodly I was and confessed all of my sins was the first and greatest revelation I've ever had

of God's love. It wasn't based on any worth or goodness of my own. It had nothing to do with me. God loves me completely independently of you. I don't have to earn or deserve it. It's the grace of God.

God, by grace, loved you before you were born again (Rom. 5:8). Now that you are born again, He loves you much, much, much more (Rom. 5:9). Even if you are the sorriest saint you know, God loves you infinitely more than He ever loved you before you were born again. God's love for you is unconditional. It's unending and unchanging. Since you didn't do anything to cause God to love you, you can't do anything to cause Him not to love you. God's love for you has never been tied to anything you've done.

God loves you. If you could get a revelation of that, it would solve all of your problems.

## All Things

"But you don't understand. I'm dying. God's love wouldn't solve that problem." Yes, it would!

***Faith...worketh by love.***

Galatians 5:6

If you understood how much God loved you, your faith would shoot through the roof. You'd be overwhelmed! God loved you enough to bear your sins, suffer the shame, and die for you.

***He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?***

Romans 8:32

Compared to being forgiven and loved by God, being healed is insignificant. You may not have ever phrased it this way, but if you're struggling to believe that God is going to heal you and that you'll see healing, you're really struggling to understand the love of God.

## A Standstill

One time a man brought his daughter in a wheelchair. She was twelve years old and quadriplegic. Her mind was fried. She couldn't talk or communicate. She was a vegetable. They had diapers on her. She was twelve years old, but she had never responded. She was breathing, but she wasn't alive. This man became offended, got up, and left during the service when I declared, "It's God's will for every person to be healed."

The people who brought him to the meeting said, "Why don't you just wait until after the service is over and ask Andrew what he's talking about. Maybe he could explain it." So this

guy stayed, and we talked afterward. I stood in front of his daughter who was sitting in the wheelchair. He was behind it, telling me, “God made her this way. This was God’s will. He’s getting glory out of this.” He was misusing scriptures.

I shared with him from James 1 that God is not the author of these things.

***Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man.***

James 1:13

***Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.***

James 1:17

He thought I was misusing my scriptures, and I thought he was misusing his. We were at a standstill.

### **“What Kind of a Father Are You?”**

Since this guy was already mad at me, I thought, *I have nothing to lose*. So I just looked at him and said, “What kind of a father are you in the first place? You don’t even love your daughter. You don’t care if she’s ever normal. You don’t care if she ever walks. You don’t care if she ever interacts with anybody, if she ever gets married. You don’t care! You don’t love your daughter!”

This guy was hot! He was boiling mad, yelling at me, and saying, “I would do anything. If there was an operation, I would pay any amount of money. If I could, I would be like her so she could be well.”

Then I turned to him and said, “And you think God loves your daughter less than you do?”

We could have argued scriptures and doctrine forever. But when I brought it down to just love, he knew that there was nothing that would have kept him from ministering to his daughter and healing her if he could. Yet here he was thinking that God, who is all-powerful, didn’t care about his daughter as much as he did. When I brought it down to relationship and spoke of love, he just had to say, “I see your point. If God is any kind of a God at all—any kind of a good God—it must be His will for my daughter to be well.”

# Unconditional

## Lesson 17 – Outline

I. The Lord was motivated to love us, not because we are lovely, but because He is love.

***But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us.***

Ephesians 2:4

- A. God's love for me is not tied to any worth or value of my own.
- B. As a believer in Jesus, I am not into self-esteem—I'm into Christ-esteem. I esteem what Jesus has done.
- C. My spirit is born again, but I still have flesh—so there's a part of me I don't esteem (Gal. 5:16).

II. God gave you the ability to be depressed and discouraged, but not so you could live there.

***Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.***

Isaiah 26:3

- A. If you're depressed, you aren't keeping your mind stayed on God (Heb. 12:2 and Matt. 14:30).
- B. When discouragement comes against me, I don't ignore it—I recognize that I haven't been focused on the Lord the way that I should've been.
- C. So I get back to focusing (meditating) on the Lord, and my feelings realign to the Word.
- D. But even when I'm not feeling right, I don't start disbelieving that God loves me because I don't feel it.

III. God loved you by grace—not based on your performance.

***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.***

Romans 5:8-9

- A. If God loved you so much that He died for you while you were yet a sinner, then how much more does He love you now that you're born again!

***As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him.***

Colossians 2:6

- B. When you heard the good news of the grace of God, your faith just reached out and appropriated it.
  - C. But now that you've become religious, you've started trying to earn things.
  - D. Your faith is in you, not God's grace.
  - E. God's love for you has nothing to do with how good you are.
- IV. You doubt God's willingness to use His ability on your behalf because you don't feel worthy.
- A. The problem is, you know you so well that you bear a sin-consciousness.
  - B. God's love for you has never been tied to anything you've done.

***Faith...worketh by love.***

Galatians 5:6

- C. If you understood how much God loved you, your faith would shoot through the roof.

***He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?***

Romans 8:32

- V. Compared to being forgiven and loved by God, being healed is insignificant.
- A. You may not have ever phrased it this way, but if you're struggling to believe that God is going to heal you and that you'll see healing, you're really struggling to understand the love of God.

***Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man.***

James 1:13

***Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.***

James 1:17

- B. When I brought it down to relationship and spoke of love, the man with the quadriplegic daughter just had to say, "I see your point. If God is any kind of



a God at all—any kind of a good God—it must be His will for my daughter to be well.”

# Unconditional

## Lesson 17 – Teacher’s Guide

1. The Lord was motivated to love us, not because we are lovely, but because He is love (Eph. 2:4). God’s love for us is not tied to any worth or value of our own. As a believer in Jesus, we aren’t into self-esteem—we’re into Christ-esteem. We esteem what Jesus has done. Our spirits are born again, but we still have flesh—so there’s a part of us we don’t esteem (Gal. 5:16).

2. God gave us the ability to be depressed and discouraged, but not so we could live there (Is. 26:3). If we’re depressed, we aren’t keeping our minds stayed on God (Heb. 12:2 and Matt. 14:30). When discouragement comes against us, we don’t ignore it—we recognize that we haven’t been focused on the Lord the way that we should’ve been. So we get back to focusing (meditating) on the Lord, and our feelings realign to the Word. But even when we’re not feeling right, we don’t start disbelieving that God loves us because we don’t feel it.

3. God loved us by grace—not based on our performance (Rom. 5:8-9). If He loved us so much that He died for us while we were yet sinners, then how much more does He love us now that we’re born again! When we heard the good news of the grace of God, our faith just reached out and appropriated it (Col. 2:6). But now that we’ve become religious, we’ve started trying to earn things. Our faith is in us, not God’s grace. God’s love for us has nothing to do with how good we are.

1. A. Read Ephesians 2:4 and Galatians 5:16. As believers in Jesus, should we be into self-esteem or Christ-esteem? (Christ-esteem)  
B. What part of us is born again? (Our spirits)
2. A. Read Isaiah 26:3, Hebrews 12:2, and Matthew 14:30. If we’re depressed, we aren’t keeping our mind stayed on whom? (God)  
B. When we get back to focusing—meditating—on the Lord, what will our feelings realign to? (The Word)
3. A. Read Romans 5:8-9 and Colossians 2:6. Now that we’ve become religious, what have we started trying to do? (Earn things)  
B. Our faith is in us, not where? (God’s grace)

4. We doubt God's willingness to use His ability on our behalf because we don't feel worthy. The problem is, we know ourselves so well that we bear a sin-consciousness. God's love for us has never been tied to anything we've done. If we understood how much God loved us, our faith would shoot through the roof (Gal. 5:6 and Rom. 8:32).

5. Compared to being forgiven and loved by God, being healed is insignificant. We may not have ever phrased it this way, but if we're struggling to believe that God is going to heal us and that we'll see healing, we're really struggling to understand the love of God (James 1:13 and 17). When Andrew brought it down to relationship and spoke of love, a man with a quadriplegic daughter just had to say, "I see your point. If God is any kind of a God at all—any kind of a good God—it must be His will for my daughter to be well."

- 4. A. Read Galatians 5:6 and Romans 8:32. Why do we doubt God's willingness to use His ability on our behalf? (Because we don't feel worthy)
- B. What would happen if we understood how much God loved us? (Our faith would shoot through the roof)
- 5. A. Read James 1:13 and 17. Compared to being forgiven and loved by God, what is insignificant? (Being healed)
- B. If we're struggling to believe that God is going to heal us, what are we really struggling to \_\_\_\_\_. (Understand the love of God)

# Unconditional

## Lesson 17 – Discipleship Questions

1. According to Ephesians 2:4, what is God rich in?
2. If we walk in the Spirit, Galatians 5:16 says that we won't fulfill the lust of the what?
3. How will God keep us if keep our minds stayed on Him?
4. According to Hebrews 12:2, who is the Author and Finisher of our faith that we are to look unto?
5. What did Peter cry out in Matthew 14:30?
6. What does Romans 5:8-9 say that we are justified by?
7. What are we saved from through Him?
8. How does Colossians 2:6 tell us to walk in Christ Jesus our Lord?
9. According to Galatians 5:6, does either circumcision or uncircumcision avail anything in Christ Jesus?
10. How does faith work?
11. According to Romans 8:32, what shall God also freely give us?
12. According to James 1:13 and 17, can God be tempted with evil?
13. Where is every good gift and every perfect gift from?
14. Who does it come down from?
15. Is there any variableness or shadow of turning with Him?

# Unconditional

## Lesson 17 – Answer Key

1. Mercy.
2. Flesh.
3. In perfect peace.
4. Jesus.
5. Lord, save me.
6. His blood.
7. Wrath.
8. As we have received Him.
9. No.
10. By love.
11. All things.
12. No.
13. Above.
14. The Father of lights.
15. No.

# Unconditional

## Lesson 17 – Scriptures

***But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us.***

Ephesians 2:4

***This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.***

Galatians 5:16

***Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.***

Isaiah 26:3

***Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.***

Hebrews 12:2

***But when he saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink, he cried, saying, Lord, save me.***

Matthew 14:30

***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.***

Romans 5:8-9

***As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him.***

Colossians 2:6

***For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh by love.***

Galatians 5:6

***He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?***

Romans 8:32

***Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man...Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.***

James 1:13 and 17

# You Qualify!

## Lesson 18

Understanding God's love would solve your theological problems. It would get rid of this thinking that He's the one causing earthquakes, hurricanes, tsunamis, tornadoes, and other bad things to judge people. That's not God!

Religion has been misrepresenting the Lord. They will preach the Gospel to a degree. They sing the song "Just as I am, without one plea" and preach grace for sinners to be born again. That's why it's so easy to be born again. Grace is presented, and faith is simply your positive response to what God has already done.

Suppose salvation had been presented differently: "Jesus might forgive your sins. He might come to earth and die for you if you will repent and pray hard enough. If you promise never to do anything wrong again and live holy, then God might do it." You would never have been saved, because you would have thought, *It will never work for me*. But the reason it was easy for you to receive salvation is because it was presented as already done.

It's good news, not good prophecy. It's already happened. It's already taken place. The news is supposed to tell you about what has already happened. The reason it's easy to be born again is because you're told that Jesus already died for the sins of the world. He's already commended His love toward us in that while we were yet sinners, He died for us. It's news. So you say, "Well, if it's already happened, I'll receive it."

It's easy to reach out and receive something that's already done. If it's already done, there's no element of doubt in it, wondering, *Will God do it?* That's the reason you become born again relatively easy. But then you run into the same problem as the Galatians.

### **"O Foolish Galatians"**

The Galatians were people who received the Gospel and were born again. But then, shortly afterward, religious Jews came in and started saying, "Faith in Jesus isn't enough; you also have to be circumcised, keep the Law, and observe the feasts. You have to start doing this and doing that." They started perverting and changing the Gospel. They said, "You may get born again by grace, but God won't bless you, answer your prayers, or move in your life until you start living holy."

Paul responded to this perversion of the Gospel by writing his letter to the Galatians. It's his most aggressive, vicious attack on this unbelief of any book in the Bible!

***O foolish Galatians. Who hath bewitched you?***

Galatians 3:1

Paul was saying that this teaching is demonic. He was telling them, “You’re living in deception!”

***But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed.***

Galatians 1:8

Some people must have thought, *Oh, that’s too hard. He couldn’t have meant that.* So the next verse says:

***As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.***

Galatians 1:9

Paul didn’t want anybody to misunderstand what he was saying. This is where the body of Christ is today. They’re preaching salvation only to a degree, so that people will be born again by grace. They sing, “Just as I am without one plea.” But then, after they’re born again, they start singing, “Just as I’m supposed to be.” And we start trying to live right, wondering, *O God, have I done enough?*

## Performance

People come to me by the thousands, saying, “Why hasn’t God healed me? I fast and pray. I study the Word and pay my tithes. I attend church and read the Word. I’m doing everything I know to do. Why hasn’t God healed me?” They just told me why they aren’t healed. They never pointed to what Jesus did for them; they’ve pointed to what they have been doing, which reveals that their faith is in all of their doing, thinking that God responds to their faith. That’s not grace and faith.

Faith doesn’t move God. God has provided everything for you independently of you. All faith does is reach out and appropriate what Jesus has already done. If you’re pointing to your goodness, then you aren’t putting faith in God’s grace; you’re putting faith in your efforts and performance.

It’s good for you to do all these things—pray, fast, read the Word, attend church, tithe—but not to affect God. Again, God’s love for you isn’t based on what you do. He didn’t save you because you were worth saving. He didn’t save you because of some goodness in your life. It was His grace that commended His love toward you while you were yet a sinner. Your holiness—or lack thereof—does not change God’s heart toward you. God loved you before you were holy. Now that you are semi-holy, He doesn’t love you any less, nor will He love you any more. But your holiness will change *your* heart toward God.

You need to study the Word to change your heart, not because God is looking at it to reward you and answer your prayers now that you’ve been good enough. You need to attend



church because it helps you. Meeting with other believers helps you hear the Word of God and fellowship with other people. You need to come to meetings where people are teaching the Word of God, speaking the truth, and seeing the power of God. You need to hear testimonies where people have been healed, tumors have dissolved, and miracles have happened. It's good for you. It helps you. But it doesn't make God love you any more.

God's not keeping a record of your attendance, and you can't cash in so many meetings for one answered prayer. If you never go to church again, God would love you exactly the same. But you're stupid if you don't go to church. We're being bombarded with unbelief constantly. You need some place where you can go hear the truth. You need to be around people who will love you and turn the other cheek when you do something wrong. You need to be around the fellowship of believers. You're stupid if you don't go to church. But God loves you, stupid! His love for you is based on His grace, not your performance.

## **Not a Problem**

This helps me. I can try to have a positive self-esteem, thinking that I'm never wrong, and everybody else is the problem. I can think that it's never me, that it's always somebody else. But eventually, I just have to look in the mirror and see that I do some dumb things. I make mistakes. It blesses me to know that God's love is not conditional.

Just recently I was sharing with my partners that we've made the biggest expansion we've ever made in our ministry. We took this huge step of faith and went on the second largest television station in America. It cost us nearly \$70,000 a month, and I've been on it now for eighteen months. We've put nearly \$600,000 more into it than what's come out of it, so I have to take a step back. Some people just can't handle that. They say, "Oh, you made a mistake?" Well, it wouldn't be the first one I've ever made. They say, "I don't know if I can cope with that." It's not a problem to me.

Some people think that when God touches their lives, they just go straight there and everything is perfect. That's not been my experience at all. It's more like this: I'm moving in the direction that God wants me to go, but I'm not doing everything perfectly. God could have picked somebody better than me. He could have chosen someone with a lot better grasp of the English language and much more charisma than I have. I'm definitely not the sharpest knife in the drawer. But, praise God, I'm seeing good things happen just because I know that God loves me in spite of me and not because of me.

Very few are one of those "perfect" people who think that they have the greatest of everything. Most of us deal with feelings of unworthiness and wonder, *God, why did You choose me? I'm not qualified.* If you follow people in the Bible, you'll see that every person the Lord called, said, "God, I can't do it!" They struggled for a period of time.

***For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called: But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are: That no flesh should glory in his presence. But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption.***

1 Corinthians 1:26-30

God has not chosen many mighty, noble, or people who just have it all together. God chooses the base things of the world, things that are despised and things that are nothing, to bring to naught things that are.

## **Apply Within**

If you're a loser, a nothing—you qualify! God isn't against people who have all of these great abilities and talents. It's just that all of their abilities and talents compared to God's are nothing. You have to come to the end of yourself and say, "O Lord, it's got to be You." God says, "If you're a nothing, if you are base, if you're despised—apply within." You must come to the end of yourself and realize that it's not you.

When you understand grace, you recognize that it's not based on any goodness of your own; it's just based on God's love. He loves you in spite of who you are, not because of who you are. God loved you before you were born. He loved you before you sinned. He loved you even after you sinned. He commended His love toward you. Now that you've accepted Him, He loves you much, much, much more than He ever loved you before you even received, because now you have made Jesus your Lord. You are part of Him. The grace—the blessing—of God is in your life unconditionally.

That's what I received from that experience in 1968. For the first time in my life, I saw that I was a zero with the rim knocked off. I had no confidence in and no satisfaction with myself whatsoever. At this recognition of my worst state, God's love flowed into me. I just knew it had nothing to do with me. I knew that God loved me because He is love. That's what changed my life.

# You Qualify!

## Lesson 18 – Outline

- I. Understanding God’s love would solve your theological problems.
  - A. Religion has been misrepresenting the Lord.
  - B. The reason it’s easy to be born again is because you’re told that Jesus already died for the sins of the world.
  - C. He’s already commended His love toward us in that while we were yet sinners, He died for us.
  - D. It’s easy to reach out and receive something that’s already done.
- II. The Galatians were people who received the Gospel and were born again.
  - A. But then, shortly afterward, religious Jews came in and started saying, “Faith in Jesus isn’t enough; you also have to be circumcised, keep the Law, and observe the feasts. You have to start doing this and that.”
  - B. Paul responded to this perversion of the Gospel by writing his letter to the Galatians.

***O foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you, that ye should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ hath been evidently set forth, crucified among you?***

Galatians 3:1

***But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.***

Galatians 1:8-9

- C. This is where the body of Christ is today—they’re preaching salvation only to a degree, so that you will be born again by grace.
- D. But then, after you’re born again, you start singing, “Just as I’m supposed to be.”
- E. And you start trying to live right, wondering, *O God, have I done enough?*

III. Faith doesn't move God.

- A. All faith does is reach out and appropriate what Jesus has already done.
- B. If you're pointing to your goodness, then you aren't putting faith in God's grace.
- C. You're putting faith in your efforts and performance.

IV. It's good for you to do all these things—pray, fast, read the Word, attend church, tithe—but not to affect God.

- A. God's love for you isn't based on what you do.
- B. Your holiness—or lack thereof—does not change God's heart toward you.
- C. But your holiness will change *your* heart toward God.
- D. His love for you is based on His grace, not your performance.

V. God has not chosen many mighty, noble, or people who just have it all together.

***For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called: But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are: That no flesh should glory in his presence. But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption.***

1 Corinthians 1:26-30

- A. God chooses the base things of the world, things that are despised and things that are nothing, to bring to naught things that are.
- B. If you're a loser, a nothing—you qualify!
- C. You must come to the end of yourself and realize that it's not you.
- D. When you understand grace, you recognize that it's not based on any goodness of your own—it's just based on God's love.
- E. The grace—the blessing—of God is in your life unconditionally.

# You Qualify!

## Lesson 18 – Teacher’s Guide

1. Understanding God’s love would solve our theological problems. Religion has been misrepresenting the Lord. The reason it’s easy to be born again is because we’re told that Jesus already died for the sins of the world. He’s already commended His love toward us in that while we were yet sinners, He died for us. It’s easy to reach out and receive something that’s already done.

2. The Galatians were people who received the Gospel and were born again. But then, shortly afterward, religious Jews came in and started saying, “Faith in Jesus isn’t enough; you also have to be circumcised, keep the Law, and observe the feasts. You have to start doing this and that.” Paul responded to this perversion of the Gospel by writing his letter to the Galatians (Gal. 1:8-9 and 3:1). This is where the body of Christ is today—they’re preaching salvation only to a degree, so that we will be born again by grace. But then, after we’re born again, we start singing, “Just as I’m supposed to be.” And we start trying to live right, wondering, *O God, have I done enough?*

3. Faith doesn’t move God. All faith does is reach out and appropriate what Jesus has already done. If we’re pointing to our goodness, then we aren’t putting faith in God’s grace. We’re putting faith in our efforts and performance.

1. A. What would solve our theological problems? (Understanding God’s love)  
B. What is easy to reach out and receive? (Something that’s already done)
2. A. Read Galatians 1:8-9 and 3:1. After the Galatians were born again, who came to them saying, “Faith in Jesus isn’t enough”? (Religious Jews)  
B. How did Paul respond to this perversion of the Gospel? (By writing his letter to the Galatians)
3. A. Does faith move God? (No)  
B. What does faith do? (It reaches out and appropriate what Jesus has already done)  
C. If we’re pointing to our goodness, what are we putting faith in? (Our efforts and performance)

4. It's good for us to do all these things—pray, fast, read the Word, attend church, tithe—but not to affect God. God's love for us isn't based on what we do. Our holiness—or lack thereof—does not change God's heart toward us. But our holiness will change *our* heart toward God. His love for us is based on His grace, not our performance.

5. God has not chosen many mighty, noble, or people who just have it all together. God chooses the base things of the world, things that are despised and things that are nothing, to bring to naught things that are (1 Cor. 1:26-30). If we're losers, nothings—we qualify! We must come to the end of ourselves and realize that it's not us. When we understand grace, we recognize that it's not based on any goodness of our own; it's just based on God's love. The grace—the blessing—of God is in our lives unconditionally.

4. A. What does our holiness, or lack thereof, change—God's heart toward us or our hearts toward Him? (Our hearts toward Him)
- B. Is God's love for us based on His grace or our performance? (His grace)
5. A. Read 1 Corinthians 1:26-30. When we understand grace, what do we recognize? (That it's not based on any goodness of our own)
- B. How are God's love, grace, and blessing given in our lives? (Unconditionally)

# You Qualify!

## Lesson 18 – Discipleship Questions

1. How did Paul describe the Galatians in Galatians 3:1?
2. Paul said the Galatians were bewitched that they should not obey the what?
3. Before whose eyes, who was evidently set forth crucified?
4. In Galatians 1:8-9, what did Paul say twice about those who would preach any other Gospel?
5. According to 1 Corinthians 1:26-30, what has God chosen to confound the wise?
6. What has God chosen to confound the mighty?
7. God chose all these things so that no \_\_\_\_\_ should glory in His presence.
8. What has God made Jesus Christ to us?

# You Qualify!

## Lesson 18 – Answer Key

1. Foolish.
2. Truth.
3. Jesus Christ.
4. Let them be accursed.
5. The foolish things of the world.
6. The weak things of the world.
7. Flesh.
8. Wisdom, righteousness, sanctification, and redemption.



# You Qualify!

## Lesson 18 – Scriptures

*O foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you, that ye should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ hath been evidently set forth, crucified among you?*  
Galatians 3:1

*But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.*

Galatians 1:8-9

*For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called: But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are: That no flesh should glory in his presence. But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption.*

1 Corinthians 1:26-30



# Forgiven

## Lesson 19

God manifested His love toward us in that He died for us while we were yet sinners (Rom. 5:8). Yet, through religion, the devil has convinced us that God's love, acceptance, and favor toward us are tied to our works and performance. We believe God exists. We know He is able. Many of us just doubt His willingness to move on our behalf because we feel condemned over our sins.

Most people think that God offers them forgiveness of all their sins up until the time they become born again. When they accept Jesus, they believe their past sins are forgiven. But then every sin they commit after that has to be dealt with, repented of, and put back under the blood. There are primarily two applications of this. The extreme version says, "If you have a sin in your life that isn't confessed and you were to die in a car wreck before you got that sin confessed, you would go to hell. Even though you might have been born again for twenty years, if you have an unconfessed sin in your life and die, you go to hell. You lose your salvation even though you've walked with God for all those years." Most Christians believe a lesser interpretation of the same principle. They say, "God won't answer your prayer, fellowship with, or use you if there's any sin in your life." Both are wrong.

### Missing the Mark

According to Hebrews 9, 10, and 12, God forgave all of your sins—past, present, and future. Even sins you haven't committed yet have already been forgiven. Your salvation, God's love for you, Him using you and answering your prayers are not dependent upon you getting every sin confessed. If they were, the moment you became born again, I'd just kill you. I might go to hell, but that's the only way you would ever get to heaven. That's the only way you would ever walk in the joy of the Lord. Why? Because sin isn't only the wrong things you do. The Bible says,

***Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin.***

James 4:17

But sin is also failing to do what you should be doing. Every believer should love their wife the way Christ loved the church. You might be doing better at it than you've ever done, but you aren't doing it perfectly. Every wife is supposed to reverence her husband the way the church should reverence Christ. You might be doing better than other people, but no one reverences their husband the way that the church is supposed to reverence Christ.

No one studies the Word as much as they would like to, and they know that we should. No one operates in love toward others exactly the way they should. Nobody's perfect. We commit sins that we aren't even aware of. We fail all of the time. According to the Bible, sin is missing

the mark. We're all missing the mark. If we think we have to have every sin confessed, we need to just give it up. We're never going to get there.

“But, according to 1 John 1:9, aren't we supposed to confess our sin?” I strongly recommend that you check out my book entitled *The War Is Over*. I devoted an entire chapter to answering that very question, which I'll briefly summarize here.

All of your sin—past, present, and even the ones you haven't committed yet—have already been forgiven (Heb. 9, 10, and 12). The instant you were born again, your new man—your born-again spirit—was created in righteousness and true holiness (Eph. 4:24). You were sanctified and perfected forever (Heb. 10:10 and 14). In that same moment, you were sealed by the Holy Spirit (Eph. 1:13). When you sin, sin doesn't penetrate that seal around your spirit. It doesn't get in and affect your spirit. Since God is a Spirit, He sees you Spirit to born-again spirit (John 4:24). This means God sees you as righteous, holy, and as pure as Jesus is (1 Cor. 6:17 and 1 John 4:17). That's the way your born-again spirit is and it's sealed. When you sin, that sin doesn't affect your right standing with God. It's through who you are in Christ—your born-again spirit—that you must fellowship with God.

## Drive Satan Out

However, your body and soul get defiled when you sin. Satan comes only to steal, kill, and destroy (John 10:10). If you yield to sin, you're yielding yourself to the author of that sin—the devil (Rom. 6:16). Yielding to sin gives Satan an inroad into your physical body to bring poverty, sickness, and disease. It gives him an inroad into your soul to bring depression, discouragement, and the like. So, yes, sin still has consequences—but not on your born-again spirit or your relationship with God. It's your soul and body that get contaminated and defiled. If you give Satan an inroad into your life, he'll eat your lunch and pop the bag.

So, as a believer, what do you do when we know that you've sinned? First of all, if you are walking in the knowledge and revelation that God has given you, then the blood of Christ cleanses you from the sins that you don't even know about.

***But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.***

1 John 1:7

However, when you do know that you've committed a sin, 1 John 1:9 says to confess it.

***If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.***

1 John 1:9

*Confess* means to say the same thing as. It's acknowledging, “God, You were right. I was wrong. I turn from this sin.” By confessing and repenting, you're closing the door on the devil.

You're also drawing out into your flesh (body and soul) the righteousness and holiness that already existed in your born-again spirit. This will drive Satan out of your life. Even though you gave the devil a legal right to come into your life by yielding to sin, when you confess, repent, and turn from it, you give this power that is located in your spirit the ability to come out and cleanse you from all unrighteousness.

## **Never Fluctuated**

First John 1:9 doesn't mean that you must confess every sin in order to have relationship with God. That would be impossible. You don't even realize every time you sin! If I've rubbed some of your religious traditions the wrong way, you may be sinning against me right now. You could be thinking some evil thoughts toward me. But whether you like it or not, I'm your brother in the Lord. Who knows, perhaps we'll be neighbors in heaven. If you hate me in your heart, the Bible says that you are guilty of murder (1 John 3:15).

You can't live this way. Even if you aren't offended at me, you'll be offended with someone. Thinking that you have to keep everything confessed in order to be right with God puts the burden of salvation on you. You might as well try to save yourself. But, no, there's only one Savior, and you're not Him! Jesus died for all of your sins—past, present, and even future sins. You are forgiven.

You need to understand that there's nothing you've done that made God love you. There's nothing you can do that will make God not love you. He is love (1 John 4:8). However, there are lots of things you can do that will keep you from this understanding. Sin will make you spiritually retarded. Your heart will become hardened—cold, insensitive, unyielding, and unfeeling—toward God (Heb. 3:13).

Sin isn't smart. It's stupid. It's emotional. When you sin, you put blinders on. You can't see or perceive. You become dull and lose your perception. Yes, sin has consequences. But God is a Spirit, and He's looking at you in the spirit (John 4:24). Even when you've sinned and given Satan an inroad into your life, God's love for you has never fluctuated. He loves you just as much as He ever did. He doesn't love you because you're lovely; He loves you because He is love.

## **Sober, Righteous, and Holy**

You may be thinking, *You're encouraging sin*. No, I'm not. I hate sin, probably much more than you do. You can't say, "Andrew, you preach grace because it allows you to go live in sin." I've lived holier accidentally than most people have ever lived on purpose. My standard of holiness is much stricter than the vast majority of people. A true understanding of God's grace does not encourage sin.

***For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world.***

Titus 2:11-12

The grace of God teaches you to live a sober, righteous, and holy life. The grace of God hasn't caused me to go live in sin. You're barking up the wrong tree if you're thinking that I'm encouraging people to live in sin. I'm encouraging people to understand that God's love for them is unconditional. And if you ever get a revelation of that, you'll serve God more accidentally than you ever have on purpose.

# Forgiven

## Lesson 19 – Outline

- I. God manifested His love toward us in that He died for us while we were yet sinners (Rom. 5:8).
  - A. Yet, through religion, the devil has convinced us that God’s love, acceptance, and favor toward us are tied to our works and performance.
  - B. You just doubt His willingness to move on your behalf because you feel condemned over your sins.  
  
*Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin.*  
James 4:17
  - C. But sin is also failing to do what you should be doing.
  - D. You commit sins that you aren’t even aware of.
  - E. If you think that you have to have every sin confessed, just give it up—you’re never going to get there.
- II. All of your sin—past, present, and even the ones you haven’t committed yet—have already been forgiven (Heb. 9, 10, and 12).
  - A. The instant you were born again, your new man—your born-again spirit—was created in righteousness and true holiness (Eph. 4:24).
  - B. You were sanctified and perfected forever (Heb. 10:10 and 14).
  - C. In that same moment, you were sealed by the Holy Spirit (Eph. 1:13).
  - D. When you sin, sin doesn’t penetrate that seal around your spirit.
  - E. Since God is a Spirit, He sees you Spirit to born-again spirit (John 4:24).
  - F. This means God sees you as righteous, holy, and as pure as Jesus is (1 Cor. 6:17 and 1 John 4:17).
- III. However, your body and soul get defiled when you sin.
  - A. Satan comes only to steal, kill, and destroy (John 10:10).

B. If you yield to sin, you're yielding yourself to the author of that sin—the devil (Rom. 6:16).

C. So, yes, sin still has consequences—but not on your born-again spirit or your relationship with God.

D. It's your soul and body that get contaminated and defiled.

IV. If you are walking in the knowledge and revelation that God has given you, then the blood of Christ cleanses you from the sins that you don't even know about.

***But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.***

1 John 1:7

A. By confessing and repenting, you're closing the door on the devil.

***If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.***

1 John 1:9

B. You're also drawing out into your flesh (body and soul) the righteousness and holiness that already existed in your born-again spirit.

C. First John 1:9 doesn't mean that you must confess every sin in order to have relationship with God—that would be impossible.

D. Sin will make your heart become hardened—cold, insensitive, unyielding, and unfeeling—toward God (Heb. 3:13).

E. Even when you've sinned and given Satan an inroad into your life, God's love for you has never fluctuated (1 John 4:8).

V. A true understanding of God's grace does not encourage sin.

***For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world.***

Titus 2:11-12

A. The grace of God teaches you to live a sober, righteous, and holy life.

B. I'm encouraging people to understand that God's love for them is unconditional.

C. If you ever get a revelation of that, you'll serve God more accidentally than you ever have on purpose.



# Forgiven

## Lesson 19 – Teacher’s Guide

1. God manifested His love toward us in that He died for us while we were yet sinners (Rom. 5:8). Yet, through religion, the devil has convinced us that God’s love, acceptance, and favor toward us are tied to our works and performance. We just doubt His willingness to move on our behalf because we feel condemned over our sins. But sin is also failing to do what you should be doing (James 4:17). We commit sins that we aren’t even aware of. If we think that we have to have every sin confessed, we need to just give it up—we’re never going to get there.

2. All of our sin—past, present, and even the ones we haven’t committed yet—have already been forgiven (Heb. 9, 10, and 12). The instant we were born again, our new man—our born-again spirits—was created in righteousness and true holiness (Eph. 4:24). We were sanctified and perfected forever (Heb. 10:10 and 14). In that same moment, we were sealed by the Holy Spirit (Eph. 1:13). When we sin, sin doesn’t penetrate that seal around our spirits. Since God is a Spirit, He sees us Spirit to born-again spirit (John 4:24). This means God sees us as righteous, holy, and as pure as Jesus is (1 Cor. 6:17 and 1 John 4:17).

3. However, our body and soul get defiled when we sin. Satan comes only to steal, kill, and destroy (John 10:10). If we yield to sin, we’re yielding ourselves to the author of that sin—the devil (Rom. 6:16). So yes, sin still has consequences—but not on our born-again spirit or our relationship with God. It’s our soul and body that get contaminated and defiled.

1. A. Read Romans 5:8 and James 4:17. Through religion, what has the devil convinced us about God’s love, acceptance, and favor toward us? (That they are tied to our works and performance)  
B. Why do we doubt God’s willingness to move on our behalf? (Because we feel condemned over our sins)
2. A. Read Hebrews 9, 10, and 12. What has already been forgiven? (All of our sin—past, present, and even the ones we haven’t committed yet)  
B. Read Ephesians 1:13, 4:24; Hebrews 10:10, 14; John 4:24; 1 Corinthians 6:17; and 1 John 4:17. How does God see us? (He sees our born-again spirits—we’re as righteous, holy, and as pure as Jesus is)
3. A. Read John 10:10 and Romans 6:16. What part(s) of our beings—spirit, soul, and body—get defiled and contaminated when we sin? (Our bodies and souls)  
B. Who are we yielding to when we yield to sin? (The author of that sin—the devil)

4. If we are walking in the knowledge and revelation that God has given us, then the blood of Christ cleanses us from the sins that we don't even know about (1 John 1:7). By confessing and repenting, we're closing the door on the devil (1 John 1:9). We're also drawing out into our flesh (body and soul) the righteousness and holiness that already existed in our born-again spirits. First John 1:9 doesn't mean that we must confess every sin in order to have relationship with God—that would be impossible. Sin will make our hearts become hardened—cold, insensitive, unyielding, and unfeeling—toward God (Heb. 3:13). Even when we've sinned and given Satan an inroad into our lives, God's love for us has never fluctuated (1 John 4:8).

5. A true understanding of God's grace does not encourage sin. The grace of God teaches us to live a sober, righteous, and holy life (Titus 2:11-12). I'm encouraging people to understand that God's love for them is unconditional. And if we ever get a revelation of that, we'll serve God more accidentally than we ever have on purpose.

4. A. Read 1 John 1:7, 1:9, 4:8; and Hebrews 3:13. By confessing and repenting, we're closing the door on the devil and also drawing what out into our flesh—body and soul? (The righteousness and holiness that already existed in our born-again spirits)
- B. How does sin make our hearts toward God? (Hardened—cold, insensitive, unyielding, and unfeeling)
5. A. Read Titus 2:11-12. Does a true understanding of God's grace encourage sin? (No)
- B. What kind of life does the grace of God teach us to live? (A sober, righteous, and holy life)

# Forgiven

## Lesson 19 – Additional Information

My teachings entitled *The War Is Over, Redemption, and Spirit, Soul & Body* all deal with these truths more thoroughly than I'm able to in this **Lesson**.

# Forgiven

## Lesson 19 – Discipleship Questions

1. According to James 4:17, what is it to him who knows to do good but doesn't do it?
2. According to 1 John 1:9, what does God cleanse us from?
3. Ephesians 4:24 reveals that our new man—born-again spirit—is created after God in righteousness and what?
4. According to Hebrews 10:10 and 14, how often was the body of Jesus Christ offered?
5. For how long has this one offering perfected them that are sanctified?
6. Ephesians 1:13 says that after we believed the Gospel we were sealed with whom?
7. Since God is a Spirit, John 4:24 reveals that we must approach and worship Him how?
8. According to 1 Corinthians 6:17, a person that is joined unto the Lord is what?
9. First John 4:17 reveals that as Jesus is, so are we where?
10. According to Romans 6:16, when we yield ourselves to sin, what is produced in our lives?
11. When we yield ourselves to obey the Lord and His Word, what manifests in our lives?
12. When we walk in the light, 1 John 1:7 says that we have fellowship with whom?
13. According to 1 John 3:15 and 4:8, does someone who hates his brother know God and have eternal life abiding in him?
14. What does Hebrews 3:13 reveal happens to us through the deceitfulness of sin?
15. According to Titus 2:11-12, when and where does the grace of God that brings salvation teach us to live holy?

# Forgiven

## Lesson 19 – Answer Key

1. Sin.
2. All unrighteousness.
3. True holiness.
4. Once, for all.
5. Forever.
6. The Holy Spirit of promise.
7. In spirit and in truth.
8. One spirit.
9. In this world.
10. Death.
11. Righteousness.
12. One another.
13. No.
14. We are hardened.
15. In this present world.

# Forgiven

## Lesson 19 – Scriptures

***But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.***

Romans 5:8

***Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin.***

James 4:17

***If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.***

1 John 1:9

***And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.***

Ephesians 4:24

***By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all...For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified.***

Hebrews 10:10 and 14

***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

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

John 4:24

***But he that is joined unto the Lord is one spirit.***

1 Corinthians 6:17

***Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world.***

1 John 4:17

***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

***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?***  
Romans 6:16

***But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.***  
1 John 1:7

***Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him.***  
1 John 3:15

***He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.***  
1 John 4:8

***But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.***  
Hebrews 3:13

***For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world.***  
Titus 2:11-12





# Religion or Relationship?

## Lesson 20

Love will be a greater motivation to serve God than fear ever was. Fear has torment (1 John 4:18). Many Christians are tormented in their relationship with God, thinking, *I have to do all these things in order for God to love me.*

What kind of a relationship would you have if your spouse came to you and said, “All right, unless you do this, that, and the other, I’m not going to fellowship with you. I’m keeping a checklist, and the first time you get out of line, I’m not going to talk to you. You aren’t getting any money from me. I’m going to punish you. I’m liable to give you cancer if you don’t repent and change.”

That’s how religion has presented God. “He’s not going to talk to you. He won’t answer your prayers or even listen to them. God has His fingers in His ears until you repent. He’ll throw a fit and a temper tantrum. He’s liable to strike your child dead because He’s displeased that you haven’t done your daily Bible readings.” No one wants to live with a person like that!

You can’t have a good relationship with God if you’re basing it upon your performance and fear. This is the picture that religion has painted of God, and we wonder why people are struggling to maintain a relationship.

### “My Favorite Thing to Do”

God loves you because He’s a good God. It’s grace! And your faith doesn’t move Him. God isn’t responding to you. Your faith is a response to Him. You need to understand that God loves you and deals with you by grace. He’s already forgiven all of your sins. You need to quit sinning so you don’t let Satan have an inroad into your life. But your holiness—or lack thereof—is not the basis of your relationship with God.

By understanding and applying these truths to your life, you’ll move to a whole new level of relationship with God. It would be so easy to believe Him. If God loved you enough to die for you while you were an absolute jerk, how much more does He love you now that you’re just a minimum jerk? How much more would He move in your life now? This just reduces the Christian life down to where it’s just super simple.

God loves me. I study the Word, not to get God to love me, but because I want to read His love letter and discover how much He loves me. I pray, not because I have to, but because I want to. I’m not just punching a time clock and getting my “credit.” I pray because I love God and truly enjoy hanging out with Him.

The worship leaders of our citywide meetings often sing a song that says, “My favorite thing to do is to spend my time with You.” Is this true of you? Is spending time with God truly

your favorite activity? It is for me. I don't share this to put me up and you down; I share it to encourage you that it's possible. In fact, this kind of intimacy and relationship with God isn't just possible—it's what He created us for in the first place.

It's what religion and tradition has taught you about God that hinders you from enjoying Him. It's not easy to hang out with somebody whom you think is killing babies, making some retarded, and causing others to be born deformed. How can you draw near to someone who "sent" the terrorist attacks, violent weather, and other so-called "acts of God"? You can't. But when you understand the truth of how good He really is, your favorite thing to do will be to just love and hang out with Him.

## A Free Gift

I say this with love and compassion, but if this isn't your experience—then you're religious. You've been deceived. You're putting faith in your effort and thinking that God is responding to you. You need to understand God's grace, and that your faith is simply how you appropriate the goodness of God. I'm sure this is challenging much of what you've believed, but it's true.

Perhaps in the course of reading this book, you've realized that your faith has been in your own works and performance instead of in Christ. I'd like to give you an opportunity to begin your relationship with God. However, you need to understand that you don't become a Christian by being born into a "Christian" nation or by growing up in a Christian home. Attending church doesn't make you a Christian any more than sitting in a garage would make you a car. You must be born again.

You must come to the end of trusting in yourself and understand that God loves you—not because you deserve it, but because He is love. He sent His Son, Jesus Christ, 2,000 years ago to pay for all of your sins. That payment has already been made. Will you accept it now as a free gift?

***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.***

Romans 10:9

The Bible way to receive this gift is to confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and to believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead. If you do, you'll be saved. But making Jesus your Lord is more than just saying those words; you have to be willing to submit to Jesus as your Lord. That means He's in control and not you. I'm not saying you will do that perfectly, but you have to be willing for that to happen.

## Make Jesus Your Lord

You might be religious. You might be a good person, thinking, *Well, I'm good enough. God will accept me.* It's not about your goodness and what you have or haven't done; it's about

what Jesus did. You have to humble yourself and receive salvation as a gift. If you've never done this before, I encourage you to make Jesus your Lord right now.

You could pray from your heart something like this:

*“Jesus, I turn from trusting in myself and my own works for salvation. I confess that You are my Lord. I believe in my heart that God raised You from the dead, and I receive Your gift of salvation right now by faith. Thank You for revealing Your love and grace to me!”*

Once you're born again, you also need the baptism in the Holy Spirit. The truths I've shared from God's Word in this book won't be understandable to you if you're operating out of your own intellect; you must have the Holy Spirit give you revelation of what I've been talking about.

## **The Number-one Benefit**

I quit arguing with people a long time ago. When I first started out in ministry, I used to argue with people. I'd fight with them, using lots of Scripture, trying to convince them of the truth. I don't do that anymore. I've realized that understanding the truth must come by revelation. And that's the job of the Holy Spirit (John 14:26 and 16:13).

Revelation knowledge is the number-one benefit of receiving the baptism in the Holy Spirit. The very Person who inspired the Bible will begin teaching you what it says. As you pray in tongues, the Word says that you are praying the hidden wisdom of God (1 Cor. 2:7 and 14:2). Then you can pray to interpret that tongue (1 Cor. 14:13). This is how you can receive revelation knowledge.

In fact, that's how God showed me most of these truths I've shared in this book. I put the truth in me by reading and studying His Word, but I couldn't understand it. So I prayed in tongues and believed for the interpretation. God would give me the revelation and then explain to me what it meant. It's my personal conviction, from both God's Word and my experience, that you just can't understand much of the things of God without the quickening power of the Holy Spirit.

If the Bible seems like a closed book to you, it's because the Holy Spirit wrote it to your heart—not your brain. You need to get the Author of this book to reveal it to you. Although praying in tongues is important—and comes as a part of the baptism in the Holy Spirit “package”—the number-one benefit I experienced when I received the Holy Spirit was revelation knowledge. I began to understand. Revelation knowledge just exploded on the inside of me.

Once you're born again, you need to be baptized in the Holy Spirit. You need this in order to succeed in the Christian life, to operate in the gifts of the Holy Spirit, and to grow in the things of God. As His child, your loving heavenly Father wants to give you the supernatural power you need to live this new life. If you haven't already done so, I encourage you to receive this gift—the baptism in the Holy Spirit—right now.

## Receive the Holy Spirit

All you have to do is ask, believe, and receive.

***For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened...how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?***

Luke 11:10-13

Go ahead and pray from your heart something like this:

*“Father, I recognize my need for Your power to understand Your Word and to live this new life. I desire to receive Your revelation knowledge. Please fill me with Your Holy Spirit. By faith, I receive it right now. Thank You for baptizing me. Holy Spirit, You are welcome in my life!”*

Congratulations—now you’re filled with God’s supernatural power!

Some syllables from a language you don’t recognize will rise up from your heart to your mouth (1 Cor. 14:14). As you speak them out loud by faith, you’re releasing God’s power from within and building yourself up in the spirit (1 Cor. 14:4). You can do this whenever and wherever you like!

It doesn’t really matter whether you felt anything or not when you prayed to receive the Lord and His Spirit; if you believed in your heart that you received, then God’s Word promises that you did.

***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

God always honors His Word—believe it!

Please contact me and let me know that you’ve prayed to receive Jesus as your Lord and/or to be filled with the Holy Spirit. I would like to rejoice with you and help you understand more fully what has taken place in your life. I’ll send you a free book explaining salvation and the baptism of the Holy Spirit. It’s the same book I give to everyone who comes forward to receive these gifts at our meetings. Thousands of people have received the gift of speaking in tongues by reading this book. We have a Helpline staffed by mature Christians who will be glad to pray with you and send you this book entitled, *The New You & The Holy Spirit*. Our Helpline is open from 4:00 am to 9:30 pm (Mountain Time) each weekday. The number is 719-635-1111. Give us a call—we’re here to help you understand and grow in your new relationship with the Lord.

Welcome to your new life. May you enjoy an intimate relationship with God as you live each day by grace through faith!

# Religion or Relationship?

## Lesson 20 – Outline

- I. Love will be a greater motivation to serve God than fear ever was.
  - A. Fear has torment (1 John 4:18).
  - B. You can't have a good relationship with God if you're basing it upon your performance and fear.
- II. God loves you because He's a good God—it's grace!
  - A. Your faith is a response to Him.
  - B. You need to understand that God loves you and deals with you by grace.
  - C. He's already forgiven all of your sins.
  - D. You need to quit sinning so you don't let Satan have an inroad into your life, but your holiness—or lack thereof—is not the basis of your relationship with God.
- III. By understanding and applying these truths to your life, you'll move to a whole new level of relationship with God.
  - A. It would be so easy to believe Him.
  - B. Is spending time with God truly your favorite activity?
  - C. This kind of intimacy and relationship with God isn't just possible—it's what He created us for in the first place.
  - D. It's what religion and tradition has taught you about God that hinders you from enjoying Him.
  - E. When you understand the truth of how good He really is, your favorite thing to do will be to just love and hang out with Him.
- IV. You must be born again.
  - A. He sent His Son, Jesus Christ, 2,000 years ago to pay for all of your sins.
  - B. That payment has already been made—will you accept it now as a free gift?

- C. The Bible way to receive this gift is to confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and to believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead.

***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.***

Romans 10:9

- D. You could pray from your heart something like this: *“Jesus, I turn from trusting in myself and my own works for salvation. I confess that You are my Lord. I believe in my heart that God raised You from the dead, and I receive Your gift of salvation right now by faith. Thank You for revealing Your love and grace to me!”*

- V. Once you’re born again, you also need the baptism in the Holy Spirit.

- A. Although praying in tongues is important—and comes as a part of the baptism in the Holy Spirit “package”—the number-one benefit I experienced when I received the Holy Spirit was revelation knowledge (John 14:26, 16:13; 1 Cor. 2:7, 14:2, and 13).

- B. You need this in order to succeed in the Christian life, to operate in the gifts of the Holy Spirit, and to grow in the things of God.

- C. All you have to do is ask, believe, and receive.

***For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened...how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?***

Luke 11:10-13

- D. Go ahead and pray from your heart something like this: *“Father, I recognize my need for Your power to understand Your Word and to live this new life. I desire to receive Your revelation knowledge. Please fill me with Your Holy Spirit. By faith, I receive it right now. Thank You for baptizing me. Holy Spirit, You are welcome in my life!”*

- E. It doesn’t really matter whether you felt anything or not when you prayed to receive the Lord and His Spirit—if you believed in your heart that you received, then God’s Word promises that you did.

***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

- F. God always honors His Word—believe it!

# Religion or Relationship?

## Lesson 20 – Teacher’s Guide

1. Love will be a greater motivation to serve God than fear ever was. Fear has torment (1 John 4:18). We can’t have a good relationship with God if we’re basing it upon our performance and fear.
2. God loves us because He’s a good God—it’s grace! Our faith is a response to Him. We need to understand that God loves us and deals with us by grace. He’s already forgiven all of our sins. We need to quit sinning so we don’t let Satan have an inroad into our lives, but our holiness—or lack thereof—is not the basis of our relationship with God.
3. By understanding and applying these truths to our lives, we’ll move to a whole new level of relationship with God. It would be so easy to believe Him. Is spending time with God truly our favorite activity? This kind of intimacy and relationship with God isn’t just possible—it’s what He created us for in the first place. It’s what religion and tradition has taught us about God that hinders us from enjoying Him. When we understand the truth of how good He really is, our favorite thing to do will be to just love and hang out with Him.

1. A. Read 1 John 4:18. What will be a greater motivation to serve God than fear ever was? (Love)  
B. If we’re basing our relationship upon our performance and fear, what can’t we have? (A good relationship with God)
2. A. What has God already forgiven? (All of our sins)  
B. If our holiness—or lack thereof—is not the basis of our relationship with God, then why do we need to quit sinning? (So we don’t let Satan have an inroad into our lives)
3. A. What has hindered us from enjoying God? (What religion and tradition has taught us about Him)  
B. When we really understand the truth of how good God really is, what will be our favorite thing to do? (Just love and hang out with Him)

4. We must be born again. He sent His Son, Jesus Christ, 2,000 years ago to pay for all of our sins. That payment has already been made—will we accept it now as a free gift? The Bible way to receive this gift is to confess with our mouths that Jesus is Lord and to believe in our hearts that God raised Him from the dead (Rom. 10:9).

We could pray from our hearts something like this: *“Jesus, I turn from trusting in myself and my own works for salvation. I confess that You are my Lord. I believe in my heart that God raised You from the dead, and I receive Your gift of salvation right now by faith. Thank You for revealing Your love and grace to me!”*

5. Once we’re born again, we also need the baptism in the Holy Spirit. Although praying in tongues is important—and comes as a part of the baptism in the Holy Spirit “package”—the number-one benefit Andrew experienced when he received the Holy Spirit was revelation knowledge (John 14:26, 16:13; 1 Cor. 2:7, 14:2, and 13). We need this in order to succeed in the Christian life, to operate in the gifts of the Holy Spirit, and to grow in the things of God. All we have to do is ask, believe, and receive (Luke 11:10-13).

We can go ahead and pray from our hearts something like this: *“Father, I recognize my need for Your power to understand Your Word and to live this new life. I desire to receive Your revelation knowledge. Please fill me with Your Holy Spirit. By faith, I receive it right now. Thank You for baptizing me. Holy Spirit, You are welcome in my life!”*

It doesn’t really matter whether we felt anything or not when we prayed to receive the Lord and His Spirit—if we believed in our hearts that we received, then God’s Word promises that we did (Mark 11:24). God always honors His Word—let’s believe it!

4. A. Read Romans 10:9. What did Jesus Christ do 2,000 years ago? (He paid for all of our sins)
- B. What is the Bible way for us to accept this payment and receive this free gift? (To confess with our mouths that Jesus is Lord and to believe in our hearts that God raised Him from the dead)
5. A. Read John 14:26, 16:13; 1 Corinthians 2:7, 14:2, 13; and Luke 11:10-13. Although praying in tongues is important—and comes as a part of the baptism in the Holy Spirit “package,” what was the number-one benefit Andrew experienced when he received the Holy Spirit? (Revelation knowledge)
- B. Why do we need the baptism in the Holy Spirit? (In order to succeed in the Christian life, to operate in the gifts of the Holy Spirit, and to grow in the things of God)
- C. All we have to do is what? (Ask, believe, and receive)



# Religion or Relationship?

## Lesson 20 – Discipleship Questions

1. According to 1 John 4:18, what does perfect love cast out?
2. According to Romans 10:9, what do we believe with?
3. Whom does John 14:26 reveal as the Comforter?
4. What does John 16:13 promise that the Spirit of Truth would guide us into?
5. According to 1 Corinthians 14:2, to whom are we speaking when we speak in tongues?
6. How does 1 Corinthians 14:13 instruct us to pray when we speak in tongues?
7. When we're speaking in tongues, what kind of wisdom does 1 Corinthians 2:7 reveal that we are speaking?
8. According to Luke 11:10-13, how much more shall our heavenly Father give whom to them that ask Him?
9. According to 1 Corinthians 14:4, speaking in tongues edifies \_\_\_\_\_.
10. First Corinthians 14:14 reveals that when we're speaking in tongues, our spirits pray, but unless we receive interpretation what is unfruitful?

# Religion or Relationship?

## Lesson 20 – Answer Key

1. Fear.
2. Our hearts.
3. The Holy Spirit.
4. All truth.
5. God.
6. That we may interpret.
7. The wisdom of God in a mystery, hidden wisdom.
8. The Holy Spirit.
9. The one speaking in tongues.
10. Our understanding.

# Religion or Relationship?

## Lesson 20 – Scriptures

***There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love.***

1 John 4:18

***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.***

Romans 10:9

***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

***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 16:13

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

1 Corinthians 14:2 and 13

***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 2:7

***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

***He that speaketh in an unknown tongue edifieth himself; but he that prophesieth edifieth the church...For if I pray in an unknown tongue, my spirit prayeth, but my understanding is unfruitful.***

1 Corinthians 14:4 and 14

***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

## About the Author

For over four decades, Andrew Wommack has traveled America and the world teaching the truth of the Gospel. His profound revelation of the Word of God is taught with clarity and simplicity, emphasizing God's unconditional love and the balance between grace and faith. He reaches millions of people through the daily *Gospel Truth* radio and television programs, broadcast both domestically and internationally. He founded Charis Bible College in 1994 and has since established CBC extension schools in other major cities of America and around the world. Andrew has produced a library of teaching materials, available in print, audio, and visual formats. And, as it has been from the beginning, his ministry continues to distribute free audio materials to those who cannot afford them.

