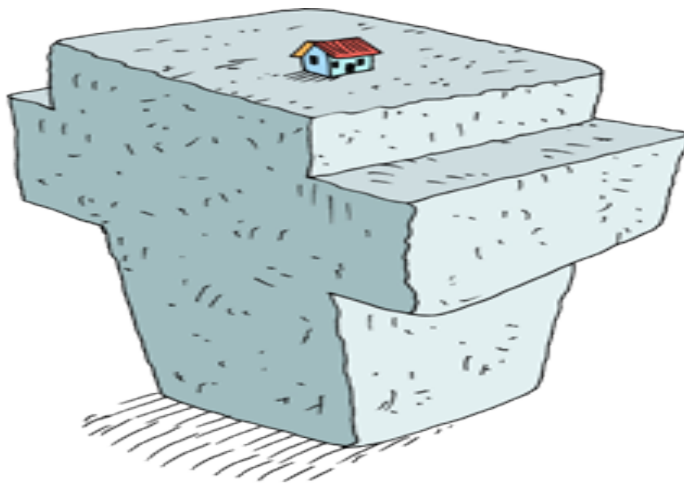


Response Bible Institute

Course 3: Foundations of Faith



Build on the Rock
Matthew 7:24

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Response Bible Institute

The Institute offers a comprehensive bible diploma that is completed in one year. Instruction is free and course materials can be downloaded online for no charge. A cost is incurred if hard copies of the course materials are requested.

The 19 courses you will cover to complete your diploma are:

1. Introduction to Christian Response
2. Strategies for spiritual harvest
3. Foundations of Faith
4. Kingdom Living
5. Spiritual Strategies: A manual for Spiritual Warfare
6. The Ministry of the Holy Spirit
7. Knowing God's Voice
8. Creative Bible Study Methods
9. Basic Bible Survey - Old Testament
10. Basic Bible Study - New Testament
11. Developing a Biblical Worldview
12. Teaching Tactics
13. Methodologies of Multiplication
14. Power Principles
15. Biblical Management Principles
16. Principles of Environmental Analysis
17. Management by Objectives
18. Mobilization Methodologies
19. Leaven like Evangelism

As you progress through the courses there will be opportunities for you to connect with others and make an impact for the Lord in our world.

To obtain the Christian Response Institute Diploma you need to:

- * Complete the written exercises at the end of each chapter.
- * Pass an examination at the end of each course
- * Complete practical activities at an appropriate level for your stage of Spiritual growth and situation.

Christian Response Team

Foundations of Faith

The basic theme of the training is to teach what Jesus taught, that which took men who were fishermen, tax collectors, etc., and changed them into reproductive Christians who reached their world with the Gospel in a demonstration of power.

This manual is a single course in one of several modules of curriculum which moves believers from visualizing through deputizing, multiplying, organizing, and mobilizing to achieve the goal of evangelizing.

HARVESTIME INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE

This course is part of the **Harvestime International Institute**, a program designed to equip believers for effective spiritual harvest.

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HOW TO USE THIS MANUAL

MANUAL FORMAT

Each lesson consists of:

Objectives: These are the goals you should achieve by studying the chapter. Read them before starting the lesson.

Key Verse: This verse emphasizes the main concept of the chapter. Memorize it.

Chapter Content: Study each section. Use your Bible to look up any references not printed in the manual.

Self-Test: Take this test after you finish studying the chapter. Try to answer the questions without using your Bible or this manual. When you have concluded the Self-Test, check your answers in the answer section provided at the end of the book.

For Further Study: This section will help you continue your study of the Word of God, improve your study skills, and apply what you have learned to your life and ministry.

Final Examination: If you are enrolled in this course for credit, you received a final examination along with this course. Upon conclusion of this course, you should complete this examination and return it for grading as instructed.

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS NEEDED

You will need a New International Version (NIV) of the Bible.

SUGGESTIONS FOR GROUP STUDY

FIRST MEETING

Opening: Open with prayer and introductions. Get acquainted and register the students.

Establish Group Procedures: Determine who will lead the meetings, the time, place, and dates for the sessions.

Praise And Worship: Invite the presence of the Holy Spirit into your training session.

Distribute Manuals To Students: Introduce the manual title, format, and course objectives provided in the first few pages of the manual.

Make The First Assignment: Students will read the chapters assigned and take the Self-Tests prior to the next meeting. The number of chapters you cover per meeting will depend on chapter length, content, and the abilities of your group.

SECOND AND FOLLOWING MEETINGS

Opening: Pray. Welcome and register any new students and give them a manual. Take attendance. Have a time of praise and worship.

Review: Present a brief summary of what you studied at the last meeting.

Lesson: Discuss each section of the chapter using the **HEADINGS IN CAPITAL BOLD FACED LETTERS** as a teaching outline. Ask students for questions or comments on what they have studied. Apply the lesson to the lives and ministries of your students.

Self-Test: Review the Self-Tests students have completed. (Note: If you do not want the students to have access to the answers to the Self-Tests, you may remove the answer pages from the back of each manual.)

For Further Study: You may do these projects on a group or individual basis.

Final Examination: If your group is enrolled in this course for credit, you received a final examination with this course. Reproduce a copy for each student and administer the exam upon conclusion of this course.

Module: Deputizing
Course: Foundations of Faith

INTRODUCTION

The basic doctrines of the Christian faith are the subject of this course. Doctrines are a collection of teachings on a certain subject. The basic doctrines of the Christian faith are the teachings of Jesus Christ recorded in the Bible.

These doctrines are listed in the Bible in the book of Hebrews:

Therefore let us move beyond the elementary teachings about Christ and be taken forward to maturity, not laying again the foundation of repentance from acts that lead to death, and of faith in God,

instruction about cleansing rites, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment.

And God permitting, we will do so. (Hebrews 6:1-3)

Two spiritual objectives are set forth in this verse:

The first objective is that of building your spiritual life on the right foundation. This foundation is the doctrine of Jesus Christ.

The second objective is to go on to perfection. Perfection means spiritual maturity.

There are two reasons for failure to live a victorious Christian life.

The first reason is that some who are trying to live like Christians have never been born again. They do not understand the basic doctrines of Jesus Christ. Because of this lack of understanding they have failed to make a proper response to God.

The second reason for failure is not going on to spiritual maturity.

The six foundational doctrines of Hebrews 6:1-3 will be discussed:

- Repentance from dead works
- Faith toward God
- Doctrine of baptisms
- Laying on of hands
- Resurrection of the dead
- Eternal judgment

After establishing this foundation, the second purpose of this course is to take you on to perfection [spiritual maturity]...

"...And God permitting we will do so..." Hebrews 6:3

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of this course you will be able to:

- Explain the six basic doctrines of the Christian faith listed in Hebrews 6:1-3.
- Establish a proper spiritual foundation in your own life.
- Go on to spiritual maturity.

CHAPTER ONE

FOUNDATIONS

OBJECTIVES:

Upon completion of this chapter you will be able to:

- Write the Key Verse from memory.
- Distinguish between right and wrong spiritual foundations.
- Explain the importance of building on the right spiritual foundation.
- Acknowledge Jesus Christ as the true spiritual foundation.
- List three steps for building a proper spiritual foundation.

KEY VERSES:

Therefore let us move beyond the elementary teachings about Christ and be taken forward to maturity, not laying again the foundation of repentance from acts that lead to death, and of faith in God,

Instruction about cleansing rites, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment.

And God permitting, we will do so. (Hebrews 6:1-3)

INTRODUCTION

The Bible compares the life of a believer to the construction of a building:

...you are God's building... (I Corinthians 3:9)

Each believer is united in Christ with other Christians to form the Church. The Bible also compares the Church to a building:

And in him[Jesus] you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit. (Ephesians 2:22)

Whenever men erect a building they must first lay a proper foundation. Since this is a natural principle understood by all people, God used it to teach a great spiritual truth.

A believer must have a proper foundation in order to build a good spiritual house. The foundation must be laid according to the builder's plan. The Bible gives the plan of the master builder, Jesus Christ.

This chapter explains the importance of having a proper spiritual foundation. It also presents basic principles the Bible teaches about this foundation.

THE PURPOSE OF BUILDING

The purpose of your spiritual "building" is to provide a habitation [a dwelling place] for God. His Spirit will dwell in you only when your life is built on the right foundation. Paul asked:

Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in your midst? (I Corinthians 3:16)

Because of this you are cautioned to build your spiritual life properly:

By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as a wise builder, and someone else is building on it. But each one should build with care. For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ. (1 Corinthians 3:10-11)

THE FOUNDATION

The spiritual foundation of which the Word of God speaks:

IS BASED ON GOD'S WORD:

God's solid foundation stands firm, sealed with this inscription

(II Timothy 2:19, The Living Bible)

IS A GOOD FOUNDATION:

In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age (I Timothy 6:19)

IS BASED ON RIGHTEOUSNESS:

When the storm has swept by, the wicked are gone, but the righteous stand firm forever.

(Proverbs 10:25, The Amplified Bible)

IS ETERNAL:

... In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.... (I Timothy 6:19, The Amplified Bible)

RESTS ON TWO BASIC PRINCIPLES:

**Nevertheless, God's solid foundation stands firm, sealed with this inscription:
"The Lord knows those who are his," and, "Everyone who confesses the name of
the Lord must turn away from wickedness."
(II Timothy 2:19, The Amplified Bible)**

The two principles upon which the foundation stands are:

1. Redeemed men: The Lord knows those who are His.
2. Living redeemed lives: Let everyone who names himself by the name of the
Lord give up all iniquity and stand aloof from it.

IS BUILT UPON A ROCK WHICH IS IMMOVABLE:

**They are like a man building a house, who dug down deep and laid the
foundation on rock. When a flood came, the torrent struck that house but
could not shake it, because it was well built. (Luke 6:48)**

THAT ROCK IS JESUS CHRIST:

Do not tremble, do not be afraid. Did I not proclaim this and foretell it long ago?

**You are my witnesses. Is there any God besides me? No, there is no other Rock; I
know not one." (Isaiah 44:8, The Amplified Bible)**

Jesus Christ is the only foundation for spiritual life:

**For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is
Jesus Christ.
(I Corinthians 3:11)**

JESUS: THE FOUNDATION

God is the one who chose Jesus Christ as the foundation for spiritual life:

**...See, I lay a stone in Zion, a tested stone, a precious cornerstone for
a sure foundation; the one who relies on it will never be stricken with
panic... (Isaiah 28:16)**

Just as a good foundation is necessary to properly support a building in the natural world, the right spiritual foundation is necessary to support the building of your spiritual life:

For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ.

If anyone builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw,

their work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each person's work. (I Corinthians 3:11-13)

All so called "Christian" works will be tested by God. The structure of your spiritual life will be examined to determine if it is built on the proper foundation. The only foundation of spiritual life which will stand is that which is built on Jesus Christ.

THE IMPORTANCE OF FOUNDATIONS

Foundations are very important. The writer of Psalms realized this when he asked:

When the foundations are being destroyed, what can the righteous do? (Psalms 11:3)

In the natural world if the foundation of a building is not properly laid the whole structure can collapse. The same is true in the spiritual world. A wrong foundation will result in spiritual disaster.

The Biblical record of Haggai stresses the importance of proper spiritual foundations. Israel was experiencing poor harvests in the natural world. Haggai told them to examine their ways:

You have planted much, but harvested little. You eat, but never have enough. You drink, but never have your fill. You put on clothes, but are not warm. You earn wages, only to put them in a purse with holes in it.

This is what the Lord Almighty says: "Give careful thought to your ways.

"You expected much, but see, it turned out to be little. What you brought home, I blew away. Why?" declares the Lord Almighty. "Because of my house, which remains a ruin, while each of you is busy with your own house. (Haggai 1:6,7,9)

To correct the problem, Haggai told Israel they must rebuild both in the natural and spiritual worlds.

...Then Haggai said, “So it is with this people and this nation in my sight,’ declares the Lord. ‘Whatever they do and whatever they offer there is defiled. (Haggai 2:14, The Amplified Version)

A right work offered by unholy hands is not acceptable. The spiritual foundation of their lives was wrong and this is why they were not blessed by God.

In the natural world Haggai told God's people that the foundation of the Lord's temple must be rebuilt. He said they must also rebuild their spiritual lives on a proper foundation. From the day that Israel started to build on the right foundation God began to bless them:

But now note this: ‘From this day on, from this twenty-fourth day of the ninth month, give careful thought to the day when the foundation of the Lord’s temple was laid. Give careful thought:

Is there yet any seed left in the barn? Until now, the vine and the fig tree, the pomegranate and the olive tree have not borne fruit.

“From this day on I will bless you.” (Haggai 2:18-19, The Living Bible)

From the day you start to build proper spiritual foundations, God will bless you in every area of your life.

THE DOCTRINE OF JESUS

Jesus stressed the need for building on a good spiritual foundation. He illustrated this truth by a parable of two men who built houses. The Bible has two records of this parable. One is in Matthew 7:24-29 and the other is in Luke 6:47-49. They are reproduced here to allow comparison of the two passages:

As for everyone who comes to me and hears my words and puts them into practice, I will show you what they are like. They are like a man building a house, who dug down deep and laid the foundation on rock. When a flood came, the torrent struck that house but could not shake it, because it was well built. But the one who hears my words and does not put them into practice is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation. The moment the torrent struck that house, it collapsed and its destruction was complete.” Luke 6:47-49

“Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash.”

When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were amazed at his teaching, because he taught as one who had authority, and not as their teachers of the law.

Matthew 7:24-29

There are several important principles in these passages:

DOCTRINE:

The first principle is that building a proper spiritual foundation is part of the doctrine [teachings] of Jesus. This passage records that the people were "astonished at His doctrine." Part of that doctrine was the story He told about building on a good foundation.

Paul also refers to building a foundation as part of the doctrine of Christ:

Therefore let us move beyond the elementary teachings about Christ and be taken forward to maturity, not laying again the foundation of repentance from acts that lead to death, and of faith in God. (Hebrews 6:1)

Paul then continues to list the content of the doctrine of Jesus.

THE RIGHT FOUNDATION:

The steps for building a good spiritual foundation are given in Luke 6:47:

1. Whoever comes to me...
2. Hears my sayings...
3. And does them.

All three steps are required. It is not enough to come to Jesus. You must also listen to what He has said. But coming and listening are not enough. You must also take personal action. A person can come to Jesus, hear what He has to say, but not respond:

**Why do you call me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ and do not do what I say?
(Luke 6:46)**

You can know the Word and still not act upon it. Jesus is not truly Lord of your life until you respond to His teachings. A good foundation is based on the Word of God. The man who came to Jesus, heard His Word, and then acted on it is called wise. This man made sure the spiritual foundation of His life was firm. He "dugged deep" removing everything between him and the Rock, Jesus Christ.

God's Word is the plan which shows how to build your spiritual life. The Bible must be accepted as the absolute authority and the plan for your spiritual foundation because...

**...For prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.
(II Peter 1:21)**

The purpose of God's revelation is given in II Timothy 3:16:

**All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking,
correcting and training in righteousness.
(II Timothy 3:16)**

The Bible contains instruction in the basic doctrines of Jesus. It also provides reproof and correction for failing to follow these teachings.

THE WRONG FOUNDATION:

The man who built on a wrong foundation heard the Word of God but did not take personal action on what he heard. He is called a foolish man and compared to a man who built without a foundation (Luke 6:49). His house was built on the sand instead of the rock (Matthew 7:27).

You build on the sand spiritually when you base your life on the traditions or religious beliefs of man. It is thinking you can make yourself spiritual by good works, church attendance, or religious ceremonies.

THE STORMS OF LIFE:

Jesus' story of the two builders reveals another great truth. It is the nature of life to be stormy. Circumstances of life result in many personal crises. You must face death, disease, and disaster. Even believers will face problems. Acts 14:22 warns that "we must go through many hardships to enter into the Kingdom of God."

Jesus said:

"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." (John 16:33)

No one escapes the storms. Stormy circumstances of life are experienced by all people everywhere. The storms are the same, but what differs is how people respond to them. If your spiritual life does not have the right foundation you will fall. Just as the house built on sand, the fall will be great. If your life is built on the right foundation of Jesus Christ and His Word [doctrine], the storm cannot shake you:

...At that time his voice shook the earth, but now he has promised, "Once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heavens."

**The words "once more" indicate the removing of what can be shaken—that is, created things—so that what cannot be shaken may remain.
(Hebrews 12:26-27)**

When the shaking experience comes, that which cannot be shaken will remain. Those who stand have built a right spiritual foundation.

FOUNDATIONS: A PREREQUISITE

A good foundation is a prerequisite for constructing a sound building in the natural world. The word "prerequisite" means that it is "required before." A proper foundation is required before constructing the "superstructure." The "superstructure" is that which is built on the foundation.

A proper spiritual foundation is a prerequisite to spiritual maturity. In Hebrews 6:1-3 we are told we cannot go on to perfection unless the spiritual foundation is properly laid. Spiritual maturity is the superstructure [the building] which rests on the spiritual foundation. If the foundation is wrong then the superstructure will not stand and you will never achieve spiritual maturity.

The following lessons explain things which must be part of your spiritual foundation. But as the parable of the two houses indicates, it is not enough to be informed of these basic doctrines. You must make a personal response to God's Word and integrate these truths into the spiritual foundation of your life.

If you do not respond to God's Word, you are like the man described by the Apostle James:

**Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says
Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like
someone who looks at his face in a mirror;
and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he
looks like.**

But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it—not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it—they will be blessed in what they do. (James 1:22-25)

Remember that from the moment you decide to start building your spiritual life on the proper foundation, God will bless you.

These are the basic principles you will study in the following lessons:

- Repentance from dead works
- Faith toward God
- Baptisms
- Laying on of hands
- Resurrection of the dead
- Eternal judgment

SELF-TEST

1. Write the Key Verses from memory.

2. What are the six foundational doctrines listed in Hebrews 6:1-3?

3. What enables you to go on to spiritual maturity?

4. What are the three steps for building a proper spiritual foundation given in Luke 6:47?

5. Who is the spiritual foundation laid by God?

(Answers to tests are provided at the conclusion of the final chapter of this manual.)

FOR FURTHER STUDY

The Bible contains the teachings [doctrine] of Jesus Christ and the words of the one true and living God. It explains how to build your spiritual life on the right foundation.

Study the following verses about God's Word and summarize what they teach:

THE BIBLE IS GOD'S WORD:

II Timothy 3:14-17

II Peter 1:19-21

Hebrews 1:1

I Corinthians 2:13

I Thessalonians 2:13

John 5:39

THE BIBLE IS ETERNAL:

Matthew 24:35

Isaiah 40:8

THE BIBLE IS A SET STANDARD ON WHICH TO BASE SPIRITUAL LIFE:

Psalms 119:89

CHAPTER TWO

REPENTANCE FROM DEAD WORKS: PART I

OBJECTIVES:

Upon completion of this chapter you will be able to:

- Write the Key Verse from memory.
- Define "repentance from dead works."
- Explain the origin of sin.
- Recognize different names used for sin in the Bible.

KEY VERSE:

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. (Romans 3:23)

INTRODUCTION

Hebrews 6:1-3 lists principles of the doctrine of Christ on which a believer is to build his spiritual life. These principles are called the "foundations" of the Christian faith. They are the basic doctrines on which the Christian faith rests. The first of these principles is "repentance from dead works."

REPENTANCE

The basic meaning of the word "repentance" is a change in mind which results in a change in outward actions.

Some people associate repentance with emotions, like shedding tears and feeling sorry for wrong actions and thoughts. Repentance is not an emotion. It is a decision. Emotion sometimes accompanies true repentance. But it is possible for a person to feel great emotion and to shed many tears and yet never truly repent.

Other people associate repentance with meeting special religious requirements. This is sometimes called "doing penance." It is possible to fulfill many such religious requirements and yet never repent in the true Biblical sense.

True repentance is a change of mind that results in a change in outward actions. Outward change is the act of turning away from sin towards God and righteousness. This "turning away" shows the inward change of mind which has occurred.

To summarize: Biblical repentance is an inner change of mind resulting in an outward turning away from sin to move towards God and righteousness.

INEFFECTIVE REPENTANCE

There are some passages in the Bible where the word "repent" is used in a different way.

JUDAS:

In Matthew 27:3-4 Judas Iscariot realized Jesus had been condemned to death. He repented of his part in betraying Christ:

When Judas, who had betrayed him, saw that Jesus was condemned, he was seized with remorse and returned the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and the elders. "I have sinned," he said, "for I have betrayed innocent blood."

**"What is that to us?" they replied. "That's your responsibility."
(Matthew 27:3-4)**

The Greek word used here is not the same word which means change. It is a word which people often misinterpret as true repentance. In many languages there are words which have more than one meaning. This is true in the languages in which the Bible was written. There is more than one meaning to the word "repent" in the Bible. The word used in this passage about Judas means emotion, sorrow, and anguish.

Judas experienced sorrow over what he had done but he did not experience true Biblical repentance. He did not make a decision which resulted in change in his actions. He continued in sin and in the end, hung himself.

ESAU:

Esau was another man who made this tragic error. Esau sinned by selling his God-given birthright for a bowl of soup. The Bible records:

Afterward, as you know, when he wanted to inherit this blessing, he was rejected. Even though he sought the blessing with tears, he could not change what he had done. (Hebrews 12:17)

Esau exchanged his birthright for a bowl of soup. In doing so, he rejected all the blessings and promises of God associated with the birthright.

Later, Esau regretted what he had done. He cried aloud and shed bitter tears. But strong emotion is not proof of repentance. Esau did not truly repent. He was just sorry he had lost the birthright and wished he could have it back. His "repentance" was not acceptable because there is a difference between regret and true repentance.

DEAD WORKS

If we are to fully understand the meaning of repentance, we must understand what it is from which we are to repent. We must understand "dead works." "Dead works" are the actions of a life lived apart from God. These works may be wrong deeds or acts of self-righteousness.

These are called "sin" in the Bible. The basic thing that causes sin is selfishness. It is the love of self as opposed to the love of God. This love of self results in man going "his own way":

We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all. (Isaiah 53:6)

Jesus died for the sins of men in order that...

And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.

(II Corinthians 5:15)

When you repent from these dead works of selfishness it means you acknowledge the existence of the one true God, realize you are a sinner, ask forgiveness of your sin, and accept God's plan of salvation through Jesus Christ.

THE ORIGIN OF SIN

Evil existed before man was created. Sin was originated by Lucifer, also known as Satan. The Bible records that Lucifer was a special angel who was originally created perfect by God. Lucifer sinned when he tried to stage a rebellion against God. Because of this sin, Lucifer was cast out of Heaven to earth:

How you have fallen from heaven, morning star, son of the dawn! You have been cast down to the earth, you who once laid low the nations!

You said in your heart, "I will ascend to the heavens; I will raise my throne above the stars of God; I will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly, on the utmost heights of Mount Zaphon.

I will ascend above the tops of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High. (Isaiah 14:12-14)

You were anointed as a guardian cherub, for so I ordained you. You were on the holy mount of God; you walked among the fiery stones.

You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created till wickedness was found in you

**Through your widespread trade you were filled with violence, and you sinned. So I drove you in disgrace from the mount of God, and I expelled you, guardian cherub, from among the fiery stones.
(Ezekiel 28:14-16)**

On earth, Lucifer [who became known as Satan] continued his rebellion against God. When God created the first man and woman [Adam and Eve], Satan led them to sin against God. This rebellion is sometimes called "the fall of man", meaning that man fell from righteousness into sin. You can read about this in Genesis chapters two and three.

God warned Adam and Eve that the penalties of sin would include physical and spiritual death. Spiritual death was a loss of their relationship with God. Physical death was death of their actual physical body. Because of the sin of Adam and Eve death came on all men:

**Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all people, because all sinned
(Romans 5:12)**

Because of the fall of the first man and woman, sin passed on all mankind. That means everyone born inherits the basic nature of sin.

Just as physical traits are inherited, the spiritual trait of the basic sin nature is inherited. Each person has sinned and faces the penalties of physical and spiritual death.

Satan is responsible for all evil in the world. His rebellion towards God still continues as he tempts man to sin. There is a constant battle in the spirit world for the hearts, minds, and souls of men.

Each person has inherited the basic sin nature. Each person sins individually when he is drawn by this sinful nature to rebel against God:

But each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed. Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death. (James 1:14-15)

All have sinned, but God has provided a way to escape the penalties of sin. Through repentance from dead works and accepting Jesus Christ as personal Savior you can be "saved" from the penalties of sin.

NAMES FOR SIN

The Bible uses several different names for sin:

SIN:

She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins. (Matthew 1:21)

The actual meaning of the word "sin" is to miss the mark and be in error. It is like shooting a weapon and missing the target. It is falling short of what you should be and God's perfect plan for you.

EVIL:

For it is from within, out of a person's heart, that evil thoughts come—sexual immorality, theft, murder (Mark 7:21)

Evil means bad, worthless, corrupt, wicked, and morally sinful.

WICKEDNESS:

Wickedness means to have an evil mind set to do mischief. It is a mental disregard for righteousness, justice, truth, and virtue:

This is how it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come and separate the wicked from the righteous (Matthew 13:49)

TRANSGRESSION:

Transgression means breaking the law. It is like a man stepping across a line over which he has no right to step, invading forbidden territory, and crossing the boundary between right and wrong:

Why, then, was the law given at all? It was added because of transgressions until the Seed to whom the promise referred had come. The law was given through angels and entrusted to a mediator.. (Galatians 3:19)

UNRIGHTEOUSNESS:

This word means injustice, wrong, iniquity, falsehood, and deceitfulness:

All wrongdoing is sin, and there is sin that does not lead to death. (I John 5:17)

UNGODLINESS:

Ungodliness means dishonesty, wickedness, and total disregard of God. It is treating God as if He did not exist. Ungodliness is not the same as atheism, which believes there is no God. Ungodliness is knowing there is a God but totally ignoring Him and His laws:

The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of people, who suppress the truth by their wickedness (Romans 1:18)

INIQUITY:

Iniquity means to be lawless, either without the law or violating the law:

Then I will tell them plainly, ‘I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers! (Matthew 7:23)

DISOBEDIENCE:

Disobedience is the opposite of obedience. It means to ignore God and His law:

For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous. (Romans 5:19)

TRESPASS:

Trespass means to leave the right path and cross the boundary from right into wrong. It is like being on another man's property where you do not belong:

As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins. (Ephesians 2:1)

JUST AN INTRODUCTION...

This chapter is only an introduction to the subject of repentance from dead works. You learned the definition of repentance, the names and definitions for sin, and the origin of sin.

The next chapter continues this discussion of the first principle of the Christian faith, repentance from dead works.

SELF-TEST

1. Write the Key Verse from memory.

2. Define "repentance from dead works."

3. List nine words used for sin in the Bible.

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

4. How many in the human race are sinners? Give a Scriptural reference to support your answer:

5. Describe the origin of sin.

6. Name two people in the Bible whose repentance was ineffective.

_____ and _____

(Answers to tests are provided at the conclusion of the final chapter in this manual.)

FOR FURTHER STUDY

This chapter discussed the origin of sin and defined its Biblical names. But what does God consider sin? Sin is any violation of God's laws:

Everyone who sins breaks the law; in fact, sin is lawlessness. 1 John 3:4

God's laws are recorded in the Bible. In addition to His laws, God has also listed specific sins we must avoid.

SINS LISTED IN SCRIPTURE

The New Testament lists specific sins, identifies the source of these sins, and reveals special judgments for them. The following references identify a total of 103 different sins. Some are repeated in more than one list. There are...

- Seven which come from the heart and defile: Matthew 15:18-20
- Thirteen which come from the heart and defile: Mark 7:21-23
- Twenty-three which bring the judgment of God: Romans 1:29-32
- Seven which believers cannot do: Romans 13:13,14
- Six with which believers should not associate: I Corinthians 5:9-11
- Ten which prevent entrance into the Kingdom of God: I Corinthians 6:9,10
- Seventeen more which prevent entrance into the Kingdom of God: Galatians 5:19-21
- Four which bring wrath and prevent entrance into the Kingdom of God: Ephesians 5:5-6
- Eleven from which believers must turn away: II Corinthians 12:20-21
- Nine in which the unsaved live and in which believers should not live: Ephesians 4:17-19
- Six which must not exist among believers: Ephesians 5:3,4
- Nine which believers should put away: Ephesians 4:25,28,29,31
- Six which believers must put off: Colossians 3:8,9
- Six which believers must mortify and which bring the wrath of God: Colossians 3:5-6
- Fourteen for which the law was given: I Timothy 1:9-10
- Nineteen from which believers must turn away: II Timothy 3:1-5
- Nine from which believers are saved: Titus 3:3-5
- Five which believers must lay aside: I Peter 2:1
- Seven sins of the flesh in which believers no longer live: I Peter 4:2-4
- Eight which condemn to the lake of fire: Revelation 21:8
- Six which prevent access to the tree of life and the holy city: Revelation 22:14

CHAPTER THREE

REPENTANCE FROM DEAD WORKS: PART II

OBJECTIVES:

Upon completion of this chapter you will be able to:

- Write the Key Verse from memory.
- Explain the importance of repentance.
- Explain what causes men to repent.
- Name four things associated with repentance.
- Define conversion.
- Explain the importance of conversion.
- Define justification.
- Explain what it means to be "saved."
- Use the parable of the prodigal son to describe repentance and conversion.

KEY VERSE:

I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance. (Luke 5:32)

INTRODUCTION

The last chapter defined "repentance from dead works" which is the first of the basic doctrines listed in Hebrews 6:1-3. "Dead works" were defined as sin and the origin of sin was examined. You learned how the original sin of Adam and Eve corrupted human nature and how this sinful nature is inherited by all men. You also learned how this corrupt nature results in all men sinning individually when they are drawn by this nature into actual acts of sin.

This chapter continues study of the first foundational principle of repentance from dead works.

REPENTANCE

Repentance from dead works was defined as "an inward decision or change of mind resulting in the outward action of turning from sin to God and righteousness." Acts 20:21 calls it "repentance toward God." By the act of repentance you turn from your own dead works of sin towards God. Repentance is a personal decision to forsake sin and enter into fellowship with God. It is the power of God which actually brings the change in the mind, heart, and life of the sinner:

When they heard this, they had no further objections and praised God, saying, “So then, even to Gentiles God has granted repentance that leads to life.”

(Acts 11:18)

Repentance is a gift of God:

God exalted him[Jesus] to his own right hand as Prince and Savior that he might bring Israel to repentance and forgive their sins.

(Acts 5:31)

Although emotions may be involved in repentance, true repentance from dead works is a decision, not just an emotion. As you learned, sorrow for sins, shedding tears, etc., is not enough. This must be accompanied by an inward decision that results in an outward change.

THE IMPORTANCE OF REPENTANCE

There are several reasons why repentance is considered a foundational truth of the Christian faith:

GOD COMMANDS IT:

In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent. (Acts 17:30)

IT IS NECESSARY TO AVOID SPIRITUAL DEATH:

I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish. (Luke 13:3)

IT IS NECESSARY FOR ETERNAL LIFE:

Through repentance the penalty of death is removed and eternal life is granted:

When they heard this, they had no further objections and praised God, saying, “So then, even to Gentiles God has granted repentance that leads to life.” (Acts 11:18)

IT IS NECESSARY FOR FORGIVENESS:

God cannot forgive your sins unless you repent:

Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. (Acts 2:38)

IT IS NECESSARY TO ENTER GOD'S KINGDOM:

From that time on Jesus began to preach, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." (Matthew 4:17)

IT IS GOD'S DESIRE FOR ALL:

God does not want anyone to experience the spiritual death of eternal separation from God in Hell:

The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance. (II Peter 3:9)

IT IS THE REASON JESUS CAME INTO THE WORLD:

I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance. (Luke 5:32)

DO CHRISTIANS REPENT?

In the first act of repentance, sinful men turn from wrong to right, accept the Gospel message, and become true believers in Jesus Christ. In the process of going on to perfection (which will be studied later in this course), a believer sometimes falls back into the old patterns of sinful behavior. According to the Biblical record, whenever believers sin they must also repent:

THE CORINTHIANS:

The believers at a city called Corinth had to repent:

yet now I am happy, not because you were made sorry, but because your sorrow led you to repentance. For you became sorrowful as God intended and so were not harmed in any way by us. (II Corinthians 7:9)

For I am afraid that when I come I may not find you as I want you to be, and you may not find me as you want me to be. I fear that there may be discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, slander, gossip, arrogance and disorder.

I am afraid that when I come again my God will humble me before you, and I will be grieved over many who have sinned earlier and have not repented of the impurity, sexual sin and debauchery in which they have indulged. (II Corinthians 12:20-21)

The believers at Ephesus were told to repent:

Consider how far you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first. Revelation 2:5

CHRISTIANS IN PERGAMOS:

God told the Christians in Pergamos:

Repent therefore! Otherwise, I will soon come to you and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth. (Revelation 2:16)

CHRISTIANS IN SARDIS:

Remember, therefore, what you have received and heard; hold it fast, and repent. But if you do not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what time I will come to you. (Revelation 3:3)

CHRISTIANS IN LAODICEA:

Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest and repent (Revelation 3:19)

Wherever there is sin, there must be repentance:

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. (I John 1:8-9)

THE MESSAGE OF REPENTANCE

Because repentance is necessary for salvation, God made a special plan to enable the message of repentance to reach everyone. The call to repentance began in the New Testament with the ministry of John the Baptist:

After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God.

And so John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins (Mark 1:3-4)

Repentance was necessary in order for the Messiah [Jesus] to be revealed. Until Israel had been called back to God in repentance, Jesus could not be revealed. Repentance was the first message Jesus preached:

Now after that John was put in prison, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the Gospel of the Kingdom of God,

The time has come,” he said. “The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!” (Mark 1:14-15)

Repentance was preached by believers in the early church:

I have declared to both Jews and Greeks that they must turn to God in repentance and have faith in our Lord Jesus. (Acts 20:21)

Today, believers still have the responsibility to spread the message of repentance throughout the world. Jesus gave final instructions to His followers that...

and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem (Luke 24:47)

WHAT CAUSES MEN TO REPENT?

Since repentance is a foundation on which the Christian faith rests, we must understand what causes men to repent. If you are responsible to spread the message of repentance throughout the world then you must know how men are persuaded to repent from dead works.

GOODNESS OF GOD:

The blessings of God in the life of an ungodly person are not to be mistaken as God's approval of his life style. The goodness of God is one way the Lord appeals to men to turn to Him:

Or do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, forbearance and patience, not realizing that God's kindness is intended to lead you to repentance? (Romans 2:4)

PREACHING:

The preaching of the Word of God causes men to repent. The preaching of Jonah resulted in the whole city of Ninevah repenting:

The men of Nineveh will stand up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it; for they repented at the preaching of Jonah, and now something greater than Jonah is here. (Matthew 12:41)

CHRIST'S CALL:

As the Word of God is preached, people hear and respond to the call of Christ which leads to repentance:

**But go and learn what this means: ‘I desire mercy, not sacrifice.
(Matthew 9:13)**

GOD, THE FATHER:

Jesus said no one could come to Him except the Father draw him. God draws men to repentance:

**No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws them, and I
will raise them up at the last day. (John 6:44)**

REBUKE:

Rebuke causes men to repent. Rebuke is correction given from the Word of God:

**If thy brother sins, rebuke him; and if he repent, forgive him. (Luke
17:3)**

GODLY SORROW:

As you learned, repentance may be accompanied by emotion. Natural emotion alone is not true repentance, but Godly emotion leads to true repentance:

**Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation
and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death.
(II Corinthians 7:10)**

THINGS ASSOCIATED WITH REPENTANCE

The Bible identifies several things associated with repentance:

FAITH:

Faith towards God is associated with repentance. It is listed in Hebrews 6 as the second foundational principle of the Christian faith. Repentance from dead works must be combined with faith towards God:

**“The time has come,” he said. “The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and
believe the good news!” (Mark 1:15)**

**I have declared to both Jews and Greeks that they must turn to
God in repentance and have faith in our Lord Jesus.
(Acts 20:21)**

You will learn more about "faith toward God" in the next chapter as you study the second foundation of the Christian faith.

BAPTISM:

Baptism should accompany repentance as an outward sign of the inward change which has occurred:

Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord (Acts 3:19)

The doctrine of baptisms will also be discussed later in this course as it is part of the foundations mentioned in Hebrews 6.

WORKS:

The works of man, which the Bible also calls fruit, testify as to whether or not there has been true repentance:

First to those in Damascus, then to those in Jerusalem and in all Judea, and then to the Gentiles, I preached that they should repent and turn to God and demonstrate their repentance by their deeds (Acts 26:20)

Produce fruit in keeping with repentance (Matthew 3:8)

"Works" and "fruits" both refer to outward behavior which should change after true repentance.

CONVERSION:

Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord (Acts 3:19)

Since conversion is related to repentance, you need to understand conversion.

CONVERSION

Conversion means "to turn." When it is used in connection with Biblical repentance, it means to "turn from the wrong way to the right way."

He will bring back many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God (Luke 1:16)

All those who lived in Lydda and Sharon saw him and turned to the Lord. (Acts 9:35)

All those who lived in Lydda and Sharon saw him and turned to the Lord. (Acts 11:21)

Conversion is turning from the darkness of sin to the light of God's righteousness:

To open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me (Acts 26:18)

It is turning from the power of Satan to God:

To open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me (Acts 26:18)

It is turning from worldly things to spiritual things:

Friends, why are you doing this? We too are only human, like you. We are bringing you good news, telling you to turn from these worthless things to the living God, who made the heavens and the earth and the sea and everything in them (Acts 14:15)

It is turning from false gods to the true and living God:

For they themselves report what kind of reception you gave us. They tell how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God (I Thessalonians 1:9)

IMPORTANCE OF CONVERSION

Conversion must accompany repentance. You must turn from the wrong to the right because...

IT IS NECESSARY TO ENTER THE KINGDOM OF GOD:

And he said: "Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. (Matthew 18:3)

IT SAVES FROM SPIRITUAL DEATH:

Your wealth has rotted, and moths have eaten your clothes (James 5:20)

IT IS NECESSARY FOR THE BLOTTING OUT OF SIN:

Our sin is written in the records of God until we repent and are converted, then it is blotted out:

Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord (Acts 3:19)

THE PRODIGAL SON

Repentance and conversion are best illustrated by a story Jesus told about the prodigal son.

A young man left his father and home and went to a distant land. Eventually this young man realized his condition. He was hungry, lonely, in rags, and tending pigs for a job. Then he made an important decision. He said, "I will arise and go to my father." This inward decision resulted in a change in his outward actions. He went home to his father to seek forgiveness.

REPENTANCE...THE CHANGE OF MIND:

Read Luke 15:17-19. The young man realized his sinful condition. He made a decision to go to his father and repent of his sin. This is an example of repentance, an inward decision which results in outward action.

CONVERSION...ACTING ON THE DECISION:

Luke 15:20 records how the young man arose and left the old life and went to his father to start a new life. This is conversion.

PRODIGAL MEN

In his own sinful condition, every man has turned his back on God as his Father and on Heaven as his home. Each step he takes is a step away from God and one step nearer the spiritual death of eternal separation from God.

There is a major decision he must make. He must "come to himself" and recognize his spiritual condition. He must make a decision which will result in a change of spiritual direction. That change in spiritual direction will turn him from sin towards God. This is the first step in building a proper spiritual foundation.

JUSTIFICATION AND SALVATION

There are two other terms used in the Bible which relate to repentance. These terms are "justification" and "salvation." God is the judge of all mankind. When you are living in "dead works" [sin] you are condemned before Him:

Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son.

**This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil.
(John 3:18-19)**

When you repent from sin and make the decision to turn from your sinful ways this establishes a right relationship with God. This right relationship or right standing before God is called "justification":

Don't you know that when you offer yourselves to someone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one you obey—whether you are slaves to sin, which leads to death, or to obedience, which leads to righteousness?

But thanks be to God that, though you used to be slaves to sin, you have come to obey from your heart the pattern of teaching that has now claimed your allegiance

**You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness.
(Romans 6:16-18)**

The penalties for sin are physical and spiritual death. When Jesus died on the cross, He paid the penalty for the sins of all mankind:

**God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.
(II Corinthians 5:21)**

If you believe that Jesus died for your sins, repent, and accept Him as Savior, then you will not experience spiritual death of eternal separation from God in Hell. Although your physical body will die, you will be resurrected to eternal life. This is made possible through the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus. You are justified, or brought into right relationship to God, by Jesus Christ:

And all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. (Romans 3:24)

Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him! (Romans 5:9)

Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ (Romans 5:1)

When you are justified by repenting and accepting Jesus Christ as your Savior you are saved from a life of sin and the penalties of sin:

Very truly I tell you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be judged but has crossed over from death to life. (John 5:24)

This is what it means to be saved and is what the Bible is speaking of when the term "salvation" is used.

It is God's desire that all men obtain salvation rather than experience the wrath of God's judgment of sin:

For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. He died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with him. (I Thessalonians 5:9-10a)

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

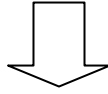
For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. (John 3:16-17)

SUMMARY

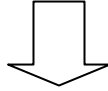
The chart on the following page summarizes the basic concepts taught in chapters two and three.

It is important to remember that each foundational principle of the Christian faith is related to all the others. For example, repentance from dead works cannot be separated from faith toward God which is the subject of the next chapter.

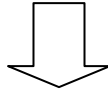
Origin of Sin: Lucifer (Satan)
Rebelled Against God
He led man into sin which resulted in



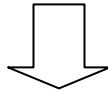
The Fall of Man (Adam and Eve)
This resulted in



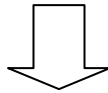
All men inheriting the basic sin nature and committing
individual acts of sin due to this nature



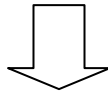
Sin leads to:
Spiritual Death
Physical Death



On the cross, Jesus paid these penalties which resulted in justification of sinful man:
Repentance From Dead Works (An Inward Decision)
which leads to



Conversion
(An Outward Change)
which results in



Justification Of Sinful Man Before A Righteous God
and
Salvation From A Life Of Sin And The Penalties Of Sin

SELF-TEST

1. List seven reasons why repentance is important and required for salvation.

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

2. List six things which cause men to repent.

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

3. Define conversion.

4. Using the story of the prodigal son, describe repentance and conversion.

5. Write the Key Verse from memory.

6. List four things the Bible associates with repentance.

7. Do Christians repent? _____

8. Give three Biblical examples of Christians needing to repent.

9. Define justification.

10. What does it mean to be "saved"?

(Answers to tests are provided at the conclusion of the final chapter in this manual.)

FOR FURTHER STUDY

Repentance, conversion, and justification were discussed in this chapter.

Use the following references to continue your study of these important terms.

CONVERSION:

Matthew 18:3

Acts 3:19

Psalms 19:7

JUSTIFICATION:

Acts 13:39

Romans 2:13; 3:4,20,24,28; 4:2,25; 5:1,16,18; 8:30

I Corinthians 6:11

Galatians 2:16-17; 3:8,11,24

Titus 3:7

James 2:21-25

REPENTANCE:

Matthew 3:2,8,11; 4:17; 9:13; 11:20-21; 12:41

Mark 1:4,15; 2:17; 6:12

Luke 3:3,8; 5:32; 11:32; 13:3,5; 15:7,10; 17:3,4; 24:47

Acts 2:38; 3:19; 5:31; 8:22; 17:30; 26:20; 5:31; 11:18; 13:24; 19:4; 20:21

Romans 2:4

II Corinthians 7:8-10

II Peter 3:9

Revelation 2:5,16; 3:3,19

CHAPTER FOUR

FAITH TOWARD GOD

OBJECTIVES:

Upon completion of this chapter you will be able to:

- Write the Key Verse from memory.
- Define faith.
- Identify different types of faith.
- Define the term "faith toward God."
- Explain why faith toward God is important.
- Explain how faith can be increased.

KEY VERSE:

And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him. (Hebrews 11:6)

INTRODUCTION

The second of the foundation doctrines is "faith toward God." "Faith toward God" refers to your attitude toward God. Some men hate God and rebel against Him. Others are afraid of Him. Your attitude should be one of faith toward God.

Faith and repentance are both necessary for genuine conversion. To turn to God without forsaking sin is not true repentance. To try to forsake sin without turning to God in faith ends in failure. The ministry of Paul to the unsaved was:

I have declared to both Jews and Greeks that they must turn to God in repentance and have faith in our Lord Jesus. (Acts 20:21)

Both repentance and faith toward God are necessary for salvation.

DEFINITION

Faith means to believe and have assurance of something. To believe means to have trust. The words "faith, believe, and trust" all mean the same thing when we use them in relation to God. The Bible defines faith as:

Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. (Hebrews 11:1)

The Amplified Bible adds to this definition:

Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. (Hebrews 11:1)

Faith gives assurance that the things promised in the future are true and that unseen things are real.

HOPE:

Faith differs from hope. Hope is a desire or attitude of expectancy concerning things in the future. Faith is belief in something you cannot see but have assurance you already possess. Hope is in the mind. Faith is in the heart:

But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet. (I Thessalonians 5:8)

In this verse faith is associated with the region of the heart as a breastplate. Hope is a helmet associated with the head.

Hope is a mental attitude of expectancy about the future. Faith is a condition of the heart producing belief in God:

For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved. (Romans 10:10)

It is not enough to accept the Gospel with the mind. This is not true Scriptural faith and does not produce change in your life. True Scriptural faith, believing with the heart, always produces change in your life. The result is something experienced in the present, not something hoped for in the future.

MIND OVER MATTER:

Faith is not the same as "mind over matter" which is taught by some religions. "Mind over matter" teaches that man can overcome all problems in the real world [the world of matter] by using his mind, reason, or willpower. These teachings are man-centered. They rely on self and not on God. "Mind over matter" is not based on the Word of God.

Faith is God-centered, not man-centered. It is a gift of God, not something man produces through self-efforts of his own mind.

TYPES OF FAITH

There are different types of faith.

NATURAL FAITH:

This is a natural trust in things that have proven stable. For example, faith that the chair on which you are sitting will support you. This faith is not "faith toward God." It is a natural faith in certain things around you that you have learned by experience are usually dependable. The following types of faith are what we mean when we speak of "faith toward God":

SANCTIFYING FAITH:

I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. (Galatians 2:20)

Sanctifying faith enables the believer to live a holy life after conversion. You will learn more about sanctification in the last chapter of this study as we discuss going on to perfection.

Faith toward God includes sanctifying faith which is believing you can live a holy life. You do not do this by your own strength but through the power of God which dwells within you.

DEFENSIVE FAITH:

Faith is one of the weapons for defense against your spiritual enemy, Satan:

In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. (Ephesians 6:16)

Satan will try to attack your faith by sending "darts" of unbelief into your mind. Having faith toward God provides a spiritual defense to these attacks.

SAVING FAITH:

Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ (Romans 5:1)

Faith toward God, combined with true repentance, is saving faith. Salvation is knowing, believing, and personally accepting the Gospel message. Saving faith requires a personal response toward God. No person can respond on behalf of another. Each person is saved by his own response to the Gospel.

Faith is a fact. It is the gift of God to men to enable them to be saved:

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God (Ephesians 2:8)

But faith is also an act. Each person must act upon the faith given him by God. Faith toward God is your response, your action by faith toward Him.

After you have experienced "faith towards God" and become a believer, the spiritual fruit of faith and the gift of faith both increase your faith toward God. The gift and fruit of faith are discussed in detail in the Harvestime International Institute course entitled "Ministry Of The Holy Spirit."

MISPLACED FAITH

The doctrine you are studying is called "faith toward God." It is not just faith in general, but it is directed faith. You can have misdirected faith. Misdirected faith can be in...

NATURAL WEAPONS:

**I put no trust in my bow, my sword does not bring me victory
(Psalms 44:6)**

GREAT MEN:

**Do not put your trust in princes, in human beings, who cannot save
(Psalms 146:3)**

SELF:

**Those who trust in themselves are fools, but those who walk in
wisdom are kept safe (Proverbs 28:26)**

IDOLS:

**But those who trust in idols, who say to images, 'You are our gods,'
will be turned back in utter shame. (Isaiah 42:17)**

FALSE PROPHETS:

**Do not trust in deceptive words and say, "This is the temple of the Lord,
the temple of the Lord, the temple of the Lord!" (Jeremiah 7:4,8)**

NATURAL POWER:

Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the Lord our God. (Psalms 20:7)

WEALTH:

**“Here now is the man who did not make God his stronghold but trusted in his great wealth and grew strong by destroying others!”
(Psalms 52:7)**

FRIENDS:

**Even my close friend, someone I trusted, one who shared my bread,
has turned against me. (Psalms 41:9)**

Having faith is not enough. Your faith can be misplaced. True faith is directed faith. It is "faith toward God."

THE IMPORTANCE OF FAITH

There are two reasons why faith toward God is required:

IT IS NECESSARY FOR SALVATION:

The first reason faith toward God is important is that you cannot be saved without it:

Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned. (Mark 16:16)

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God (Ephesians 2:8)

Those along the path are the ones who hear, and then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved. (Luke 8:12)

YOU CANNOT PLEASE GOD WITHOUT FAITH:

The second reason faith is important is that you cannot please God without it:

And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him. (Hebrews 11:6)

LEVELS OF FAITH

The Bible reveals that there are various levels of faith. Jesus spoke of people who did not use their faith as being "faithless" (Matthew 17:17). He spoke of those with little faith (Matthew 6:30; 8:26; 14:31; Luke 12:28) and of those with great faith (Matthew 8:10; 15:28; Luke 7:9).

The Bible teaches that each person has a certain amount of faith which is given to him as a gift of God:

For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you. (Romans 12:3b)

Each believer has some faith because it is through faith you are saved:

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God (Ephesians 2:8)

HOW TO INCREASE FAITH

Sanctifying faith enables you to live a holy life. Increased faith will help you go on to perfection. Defensive faith shields you from the attacks of the enemy, Satan. If you increase your faith you increase your spiritual defensive forces. The Bible tells how to increase faith:

Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word about Christ. (Romans 10:17)

You increase faith toward God through hearing the Word of God. You must first hear the Word of God in order to repent of sin and receive Jesus as Savior. Saving faith comes by hearing God's Word.

After you are saved, Biblical teaching and preaching will continue to increase your faith. The more you hear the Word of God, the more your faith will increase. The more faith increases the easier it will be to live a holy life and defend against the spiritual attacks of the enemy.

Just a small amount of faith is very powerful:

He replied, "Because you have so little faith. Truly I tell you, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you." (Matthew 17:20)

FAITH AND WORKS

Faith is a gift of God. It cannot be increased by works. By faith we mean "that which you believe." By works we mean "that which you do." The Bible teaches:

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God not by works, so that no one can boast. (Ephesians 2:8-9)

Faith is the gift of God to believe. This does not mean that works [what you do] are not important. Faith comes first, as a gift of God. Works [what you do] are the test of whether or not your faith is real. James wrote:

What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them?

Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food.

If one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it?

In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.

But someone will say, "You have faith; I have deeds."

**Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by my deeds.
(James 2:14-18)**

Your works...how you live and react to the needs of those around you...are a test of the reality of your faith.

James sums up the connection between faith and works by the example of the relationship between man's body and spirit. The Bible teaches that when a man dies, his spirit leaves his body. James says that...

**As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead.
(James 2:26)**

Your actions should reflect the living faith within you:

Clearly no one who relies on the law is justified before God, because "the righteous will live by faith." (Galatians 3:11)

AN EXAMPLE OF FAITH

Hebrews chapter 11 lists the names of many people who were great examples of faith. But there is one man in the Bible who is called "the father of all them that believe" (Romans 4:11). His name is Abraham.

Christians are those who walk in the steps of faithful Abraham (Romans 4:12) and are spoken of as the children of Abraham (Galatians 3:7). Because of his faith toward God, Abraham was justified:

And the scripture was fulfilled that says, "Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness," and he was called God's friend (James 2:23)

When Paul wanted to illustrate faith toward God, he used Abraham as an example:

**The words "it was credited to him" were written not for him alone,
but also for us, to whom God will credit righteousness—for us who believe
in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead.**

**He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to
life for our justification. (Romans 4:23-25)**

Paul said that the record of Abraham's faith which resulted in justification was not kept just for him. The record was kept so that we also, by believing the Gospel message, could be justified.

The reasons Abraham was an example of faith are as follows:

HE HEARD THE WORD:

Abraham listened to the promises of God:

**It was not through the law that Abraham and his offspring received the
promise that he would be heir of the world, but through the righteousness
that comes by faith. (Romans 4:13,21)**

HE BELIEVED THE WORD:

He not only heard the promises of God, he believed:

Against all hope, Abraham in hope believed and so became the father of many nations, just as it had been said to him, “So shall your offspring be.” (Romans 4:18)

Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy,

for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls. (I Peter 1:8-9)

HE TURNED FROM HIS HOPELESS CONDITION:

Hearing of the Word of God resulted in a change in Abraham's life:

Against all hope, Abraham in hope believed and so became the father of many nations, just as it had been said to him, “So shall your offspring be.”

Without weakening in his faith, he faced the fact that his body was as good as dead—since he was about a hundred years old—and that Sarah’s womb was also dead. (Romans 4:18-19)

Just as men and women lost in sin, Abraham faced a hopeless condition in the natural world. The promise to become the father of many nations could only come through God because Abraham and Sarah were too old to have children.

Salvation comes only through Jesus Christ. There is no other way you can receive the promise except by faith in His plan of salvation:

So that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, (Ephesians 3:17)

HE ACCEPTED THE PROMISE AS A FACT:

Yet he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, (Romans 4:20)

This is faith toward God.

AN EXAMPLE FOR US

The faith toward God demonstrated by Abraham is an example for you to follow. You must:

- Hear the Word of God.

- Believe the Word of God.

- Turn from your hopeless condition (change through repentance from dead works).

- Accept God's promise as fact. His promise is that you are justified by repentance and faith toward God through Jesus.

SELF-TEST

1. Define "faith."

2. Define the following types of faith:

Natural faith:

Saving faith:

Sanctifying faith:

Defensive faith:

3. Give two main reasons why faith toward God is necessary.

4. How can you increase your faith toward God?

5. Write the Key Verse from memory.

6. List four reasons why Abraham is a good example of faith.

7. How does faith differ from hope?

8. What is the difference between faith and "mind over matter"?

9. What is the difference between faith and works?

10. What is meant by "faith toward God"?

(Answers to tests are provided at the conclusion of the final chapter in this manual.)

FOR FURTHER STUDY

"Trust" is another word for faith. David wrote much about trust in the book of Psalms. Use the following study to continue learning about faith toward God which David calls "trust."

MISPLACED TRUST

Study the following references. In the column provided list what David said NOT to trust:

Reference	Do Not Trust...
Psalms 20:7	_____
Psalms 41:9	_____
Psalms 44:6	_____
Psalms 49:6	_____
Psalms 52:7	_____
Psalms 115:8	_____
Psalms 118:8-9	_____
Psalms 135:17-18	_____
Psalms 146:3	_____

WELL PLACED TRUST

Throughout the Psalms David encourages trust in God. He also encourages trust in things related to God. Study the following references. In the second column make a list of what David said he would trust in.

Reference	Trust In ...
Psalms 33:21	_____
Psalms 36:7	_____
Psalms 13:5	_____
Psalms 52:8	_____
Psalms 57:1	_____
Psalms 61:4	_____
Psalms 78:22	_____
Psalms 91:4	_____
Psalms 119:42	_____

WHEN TO TRUST...

Psalms 56:3	_____
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BENEFITS OF TRUSTING

David listed many benefits of trusting or having faith toward God. Study the following references. In the column provided list the benefits of trusting God:

Reference	Benefit Of Trusting God...
Psalms 25:2	_____
Psalms 25:20	_____
Psalms 26:1	_____

Reference**Benefit Of Trusting God...**

Psalms 28:7

Psalms 31:1

Psalms 31:6

Psalms 31:19

Psalms 32:10

Psalms 33:21

Psalms 34:8

Psalms 34:22

Psalms 37:5

Psalms 37:40

Psalms 40:3

Psalms 2:12

Psalms 5:11

Psalms 7:1

Psalms 9:10

Psalms 16:1

Psalms 17:7

Psalms 21:7

Psalms 22:4

Psalms 22:5

Psalms 22:8

Reference	Benefit Of Trusting God...
Psalms 40:4	_____
Psalms 56:4	_____
Psalms 56:11	_____
Psalms 57:1	_____
Psalms 64:10	_____
Psalms 71:1	_____
Psalms 73:28	_____
Psalms 84:12	_____
Psalms 86:2	_____
Psalms 112:7	_____
Psalms 119:42	_____
Psalms 125:1	_____
Psalms 141:8	_____
Psalms 143:8	_____
Psalms 144:2	_____

RESULTS OF NOT TRUSTING GOD

David identifies the results of not trusting God:

Reference	Result Of Not Trusting God
Psalms 32:10	_____
Psalms 55:23	_____
Psalms 78:21-22	_____

DAVID'S HISTORY OF TRUSTING

David tells how long he has trusted God:

Psalms 71:5 Since my "_____."

ADDITIONAL REFERENCES

The following passages are additional references David made to trusting God. Study the references. In the column provided summarize each verse in your own words:

Reference	Summary
Psalms 31:4	_____
Psalms 4:5	_____
Psalms 11:1	_____

CHAPTER FIVE

DOCTRINE OF BAPTISMS: PART I

OBJECTIVES:

Upon completion of this chapter you will be able to:

- Write the Key Verse from memory.
- Identify four baptisms mentioned in the New Testament.
- Define the word "baptize."
- Explain the importance of Christian baptism.
- List qualifications to be met by those seeking Christian baptism.

KEY VERSE:

“I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me comes one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. (Matthew 3:11)

INTRODUCTION

The third foundational principle listed in Hebrews chapter 6 is the doctrine of baptisms.

In Hebrews 6:2 the word "baptism" is plural. It is "the doctrine of baptisms" [plural], not "the doctrine of baptism" [singular]. This means the complete doctrine of the Christian faith includes more than one baptism.

FOUR BAPTISMS

The New Testament mentions four different baptisms. These are:

- Christ's baptism of suffering
- The baptism of John
- Christian baptism
- Baptism in the Holy Spirit

This chapter discusses the first three baptisms. The following chapter concerns the Baptism of the Holy Spirit.

DEFINITION

The word "baptize" used in the Bible means to entirely immerse or submerge in something.

CHRIST'S BAPTISM OF SUFFERING

There is one baptism in the New Testament which we will call the baptism of suffering. This baptism is spoken of by Jesus:

But I have a baptism to undergo, and what constraint I am under until it is completed! (Luke 12:50)

This baptism is also mentioned in Mark 10:38 where the sons of Zebedee asked for the honor of sitting with Christ on His right and left sides in Heaven. Jesus answered: "You don't know what you are asking," Jesus said. "Can you drink the cup I drink or be baptized with the baptism I am baptized with?" Jesus was speaking of the suffering awaiting Him through His death for the sins of all mankind. He was to be immersed in suffering, buried in the tomb, and resurrected in a new body.

THE BAPTISM OF JOHN

The baptism of John the Baptist was baptism in water connected with the message of repentance. John the Baptist was born miraculously to Zacharias and Elizabeth (Luke 1). God had a special plan for his life. He was to serve as the "forerunner" of Jesus Christ:

And you, my child, will be called a prophet of the Most High; for you will go on before the Lord to prepare the way for him,

to give his people the knowledge of salvation through the forgiveness of their sins, (Luke 1:76-77)

The word "forerunner" means one who goes before and prepares the way. John was to preach the message of repentance and baptism to Israel to prepare them for the coming of their Messiah, Jesus Christ:

I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me comes one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. (Matthew 3:11)

The ministry of John the Baptist was the beginning of a new spiritual age:

The Law and the Prophets were proclaimed until John. Since that time, the good news of the kingdom of God is being preached, and everyone is forcing their way into it. (Luke 16:16)

Before the time of John the people lived under the law. Prophets and priests served as spiritual leaders and interpreters of the law. Only the priests had access to the presence of God in the temple. They served as mediators between the people and God and offered sacrifices for sin as God had commanded. This all changed with the coming of Jesus Christ. Through His life, death, and resurrection, Jesus made access to God possible for all men. Jesus now serves as the mediator between sinful man and a righteous God.

John made two demands on the people: Repentance and public confession of sins. Those who were willing to meet these God-given requirements were baptized in the Jordan River as a public testimony. It was an outward sign that they had repented of their sins.

When some of the religious leaders came to John to be baptized, he refused to do it. He demanded that they show evidence of real change in their lives before he would baptize them:

But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to where he was baptizing, he said to them: “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath?

Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. (Matthew 3:7-8)

Repentance and remission of sins was required by John before he would baptize. The phrase "baptism for repentance and remission of sins" does not mean that these two experiences followed the act of being baptized in water. Baptism was a visible confirmation that those being baptized had already experienced repentance and forgiveness.

CHRISTIAN BAPTISM

The passage which best introduces what we will call "Christian baptism" describes the baptism of Jesus:

Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John.

But John tried to deter him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?”

Jesus replied, “Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness.” Then John consented.

As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him.

And a voice from heaven said, “This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.” (Matthew 3:13-17)

Jesus was not baptized by John as evidence that He had repented of sin because He had no sins for which to repent. Jesus was baptized to "complete all righteousness." He was setting a righteous example of behavior which He wanted all believers to follow.

BAPTISM OF BABIES

Jesus was not baptized as a baby. When He was an infant His parents brought Him to Jerusalem to present Him to the Lord, but He was not baptized (Luke 2:22). Jesus was not baptized until He knew what He was doing and the reason why He was doing it.

Babies should not be baptized. Children can be presented to the Lord for dedication and blessing by the laying on of hands. But they should not be baptized until they understand the meaning of the act and have met the Biblical requirements. There is no set age at which this understanding comes. It depends on the mental and spiritual development of each child.

SPRINKLING OR IMMERSION?

Some churches baptize by sprinkling with water. Others totally immerse in water. When Jesus was baptized He went down into and then came up out of the water. Considering this and the Biblical meaning of the word "baptize", we must conclude He was fully immersed in the waters of Jordan.

In allowing Himself to be baptized, Jesus showed outward obedience to the will of God. Through this act of obedience He fulfilled the plan of God. When believers are baptized, this outward act symbolizes the inward righteousness which they have received by faith.

REQUIREMENTS FOR BAPTISM

There were spiritual conditions to be met by those who sought baptism from John. There are also requirements to be met by those seeking Christian baptism.

INSTRUCTION:

The first requirement for baptism was given by Jesus:

**Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,
and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.
And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."
(Matthew 28:19-20)**

Christ's command to teach new believers is given twice. They are to be taught before and after baptism. Sinners must first hear and receive the Gospel to become true believers:

Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day. (Acts 2:41)

On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. (Acts 19:5)

One of those listening was a woman from the city of Thyatira named Lydia, a dealer in purple cloth. She was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to respond to Paul's message.

When she and the members of her household were baptized, she invited us to her home. "If you consider me a believer in the Lord," she said, "come and stay at my house." And she persuaded us.

(Acts 16:14-15)

Before baptism, believers should receive enough teaching to understand its meaning. After baptism, they should continue to receive instruction in order to become mature Christians. Paul calls this "going on to perfection" (Hebrews 6).

REPENTANCE:

The second condition for baptism is repentance from sin. Peter stressed this during his sermon on the day of Pentecost:

Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. (Acts 2:38)

Note that conviction of sins is not enough. Action must be taken. The two commands Peter gave were repent and be baptized. Repentance comes before baptism.

BELIEF:

The third condition for baptism is believing [faith]:

He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation.

Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned. (Mark 16:15-16)

This requirement of believing is illustrated by the story of Philip and the Ethiopian man who he met on the road from Jerusalem to Gaza (Acts 8). Philip heard the Ethiopian read from the book of Isaiah. He joined him in his chariot to explain the Gospel. As they continued on their journey the road led past water. Upon the Ethiopian's request and his confession of faith, Philip baptised the Ethiopian:

As they traveled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water. What can stand in the way of my being baptized?"

**And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him.
(Acts 8:36-38)**

Philip said to the eunuch: "If you believe with all your heart, thou may be baptized." The eunuch replied: "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God." A person who desires Christian baptism first must confess to faith in Jesus Christ as the Son of God.

A GOOD CONSCIENCE TOWARD GOD:

A fourth condition for Christian baptism is a good conscience toward God. Peter compares Christian baptism in water to the experience of Noah and his family who were saved from judgment as they entered into the ark:

and this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also—not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a clear conscience toward God. It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ, (I Peter 3:21)

Peter dismisses any idea that the purpose of baptism is any kind of cleansing of the physical body. He says the condition of Christian baptism is the inner relationship of the believer's heart toward God. He calls it "a good conscience toward God."

THE TIME OF BAPTISM

To be eligible for water baptism a person must receive proper instruction, repent, believe, and have a good conscience toward God. The length of time it takes to meet these requirements will differ depending on the individual.

Some churches require those who desire baptism to take long periods of instruction lasting weeks or months. But the Bible says that on the day of Pentecost three thousand people were baptized. A few hours before they were unbelievers who rejected Jesus to be either the Messiah of Israel or the Son of God. From the end of Peter's sermon to their baptism, the time required to give necessary instruction could not have exceeded a few hours:

Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day. (Acts 2:41)

Philip baptized the Ethiopian the same day he preached the Gospel to him.

TO SUMMARIZE...

The practice of the early church in relation to baptism was as follows:

1. Before baptism they taught the basic facts of the Gospel centering on the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.
2. They related these facts to the act of baptism.
3. They verified understanding, repentance, and confession of faith in the new believer, then baptism in water followed immediately.
4. After baptism the new believers received further instruction for spiritual development.

SIGNIFICANCE OF CHRISTIAN BAPTISM

The following text reveals the spiritual significance of Christian baptism:

What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase?

By no means! We are those who have died to sin; how can we live in it any longer?

Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?

We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. (Romans 6:1-4)

When you repent and accept Jesus Christ as Savior, death to sin and the old life occurs. There is creation of a new life of righteousness lived for God:

In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires.

For sin shall no longer be your master, because you are not under the law, but under grace. (Romans 6:11,12,14)

Christian baptism in water is a symbol of the death and resurrection of Jesus. It symbolizes death to sin as you are immersed in that "grave" of water and resurrection into a new life lived for God in righteousness as you come up out of the water.

The believer who is raised up out of the water to live this new life does not do this in his own power. The new life is lived by the power of God, the same power that raised Jesus from the grave. (We will learn more about living the new life in Chapter Eleven). The effect of water baptism depends on the repentance and faith of the one being baptized. Without this, baptism is of no value.

True Christian baptism means we are baptized into Jesus Himself, not into a particular church or denomination:

for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. (Galatians 3:27)

BAPTISMS: A CONTRAST

Both John's baptism and Christian baptism occur by immersion in water, but there is a difference between the two. When Paul visited the city of Ephesus he found a group of people who were disciples of John the Baptist. They had heard John's message of repentance and been baptized, but had heard nothing of the Gospel of Jesus Christ:

While Apollos was at Corinth, Paul took the road through the interior and arrived at Ephesus. There he found some disciples and asked them, “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?”

They answered, “No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.”

So Paul asked, “Then what baptism did you receive?” “John’s baptism,” they replied.

Paul said, “John’s baptism was a baptism of repentance. He told the people to believe in the one coming after him, that is, in Jesus.”

On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. (Acts 19:1-5)

After Paul explained the Gospel, these people accepted it and were baptized again. This time they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. This example shows that the baptism of John and Christian baptism are different. John's baptism was no longer accepted after the death and resurrection of Jesus. Those who had received John's baptism were baptized again in Christian baptism.

John's message prepared the hearts of the people of Israel for the revelation of their Messiah, Jesus Christ. By baptism they outwardly confessed repentance of their sins and their belief in the coming Messiah.

After the death and resurrection of Jesus, people were then baptized in the name of the Father, and the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. By doing so they outwardly demonstrated their acceptance of the Gospel message and the fact that it had changed their lives. Jesus commanded this baptism:

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, (Matthew 28:19)

The difference between Christian baptism and the baptism of John is that Christian baptism is to be done in the full authority of God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

John's baptism could not be done with this same authority. It was only a baptism of repentance and confession of belief in the coming Messiah. Christian baptism is a baptism confessing acceptance of the completed redemptive plan of God.

WORDS SPOKEN AT BAPTISM

We have discussed the requirements to be met before baptism and confirmed that it is to be total immersion in water. One question remains: What are the words that should be spoken at the time of baptism?

Jesus said to baptize in the name of "the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit." Many ministers choose to use these exact words when baptizing and this is acceptable according to Scripture. But it is also acceptable to use just the name of the Lord Jesus. The Bible records that the disciples did this:

**because the Holy Spirit had not yet come on any of them; they had simply been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.
(Acts 8:16)**

**So he ordered that they be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.
Then they asked Peter to stay with them for a few days..
(Acts 10:48)**

**On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.
(Acts 19:5)**

Jesus did not command His disciples to baptize in the names [plural] of the Father, the Son and of the Holy Spirit, but in the "name" [singular] the persons of the Trinity of God.

**For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form
(Colossians 2:9, The Amplified Bible)**

The Bible teaches we are baptized into Christ:

**Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus
were baptized into his death? (Romans 6:3)**

Some denominations have had much controversy over the words to be spoken at the time of baptism. They claim one wording is right and the other is wrong. But according to the Bible, baptism "in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ" or in the "Name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit" are both acceptable to be spoken at the time of Christian baptism. There is no conflict between either wording. Both refer to the Trinity of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

To be consistent with the Bible and at the same time bring unity in this area, the following wording is suggested:

"Upon the basis of the confession of your faith, in the name of God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, I baptize you into the Lord Jesus Christ."

SELF-TEST

1. Write the Key Verse from memory.

2. Define the word "baptize."

3. Why is Christian baptism important?

4. What are four qualifications that should be met by those seeking Christian baptism?

5. What are the four types of baptism mentioned in the New Testament?

6. In the New Testament, how soon were repentant, believing sinners baptized?

7. Give the Bible reference which proves there is a difference between the baptism of John and Christian baptism.

8. Should babies be baptized in water?

9. At what age should a child be allowed to be baptized in water?

10. If the statement is TRUE, write T on the blank in front of it. If the statement is FALSE, write the letter F on the blank in front of it.

a. _____ If you were only baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ you should be baptized again in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

b. _____ The Biblical word "baptize" means to immerse rather than sprinkle with water.

c. _____ You should understand the meaning of baptism before being baptized.

(Answers to tests are provided at the conclusion of the final chapter in this manual.)

FOR FURTHER STUDY

This chapter introduced the subject of the doctrine of baptisms. To expand your knowledge of the subject study the following Scriptures concerning baptism:

Matthew 3:6,7,11-16; 11:11-12; 14:2; 16:4; 20:22-23; 21:25

Mark 1:4,5,8,9; 10:38-39; 11:30; 16:16

Luke 3:3,7,12,16,21; 7:29-30; 12:50; 20:4

John 1:25-28,33; 3:22-23,26; 4:1-2; 10:40

Acts 1:5,22; 2:38,41; 8:12,13,16,36,38; 9:18; 10:37,47-48; 11:16; 13:24; 18:8,25; 19:3,4,5; 22:16

Romans 6:3-4

I Corinthians 1:13-16; 10:2; 12:13; 15:29

Galatians 3:27

Ephesians 4:5

Colossians 2:12

I Peter 3:21

Hebrews 6:2

CHAPTER SIX

DOCTRINE OF BAPTISMS: PART II

OBJECTIVES:

Upon completion of this chapter you will be able to:

- Write the Key Verse from memory.
- Explain some of the purposes of the Holy Spirit.
- Explain how to receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit.
- Name the outward physical sign of the baptism of the Holy Spirit.
- Identify the true evidence of baptism in the Holy Spirit.
- Recognize gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit.

KEY VERSE:

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” (Acts 1:8)

INTRODUCTION

In the last chapter you learned the definition of the word "baptize" and studied three of the four baptisms mentioned in the New Testament. You learned about the baptism of suffering experienced by Jesus, the baptism of John the Baptist, and Christian baptism in water. This chapter concerns the fourth baptism which is the baptism of the Holy Spirit.*

PROMISE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

After the resurrection and prior to His return to Heaven, Jesus gave important instructions to His followers:

* This chapter serves only as an introduction to the doctrine of the Holy Spirit. For a detailed study of the Holy Spirit, Harvestime International Institute offers a separate course entitled *"Ministry Of The Holy Spirit."*

**I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.”
(Luke 24:49)**

The promise to which Jesus referred was the Holy Spirit. Jesus had spoken of this previously to His followers:

And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever

the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you

I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. (John 14:16-18)

PURPOSES OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

One of the main purposes of the Holy Spirit is given in the passage just quoted: To comfort believers. But the Bible gives many other purposes for the Holy Spirit in the life of the believer. The Holy Spirit is to:

- Fill and baptize him: Acts 2:4
- Dwell in him: I Corinthians 6:19
- Unite him in one spirit with God and other believers: I Corinthians 6:17
- Pray for him: Romans 8:26
- Guide him: John 16:13
- Show the love of Christ to him and through him: Romans 5:5 -Conform him to the image of Christ: II Corinthians 3:18
- Reveal Biblical truth to him: I Corinthians 2:10
- Teach him: John 14:26
- Inspire him to true worship: John 4:24
- Strengthen him: Ephesians 3:16
- Quicken him: Romans 8:11
- Sanctify him: II Thessalonians 2:13-14
- Change him: Titus 3:5
- Convict him when he does wrong: John 16:8-11
- Give assurance of salvation: Romans 8:16
- Give him liberty: Romans 8:2
- Speak through him: Mark 13:11
- Demonstrate God's power: I Corinthians 2:4
- Give him power to witness: Acts 1:8
- Inspire him to worship: John 4:24

THE EVIDENCE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

The Holy Spirit has many purposes in the lives of believers, but the main purpose and true evidence of baptism in the Holy Spirit is to make the Christian a powerful witness for the Gospel:

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” (Acts 1:8)

The evidence of the baptism of the Holy Spirit was present immediately in the life of the Apostle Peter. Before the Day of Pentecost he had fearfully denied that he knew Jesus. After his baptism in the Holy Spirit, Peter stood and gave a powerful witness to the Gospel that resulted in the salvation of 3,000 people. It was the power of the Holy Spirit in the early church that resulted in the spread of the Gospel throughout the world. The book of Acts is a record of this powerful witness which was evidence of baptism in the Holy Spirit.

BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT

There are seven passages in the New Testament where the word "baptize" is used in relation to the Holy Spirit. Four of these are the words of John the Baptist recorded in the Gospels:

I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me comes one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. (Matthew 3:11)

I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.” (Mark 1:8)

John answered them all, “I baptize you with water. But one who is more powerful than I will come, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. (Luke 3:16)

And I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water told me, ‘The man on whom you see the Spirit come down and remain is the one who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.’ (John 1:33)

Jesus also spoke of the baptism of the Holy Ghost:

For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.” (Acts 1:5)

When Peter spoke of events which took place in the home of Cornelius, he quoted the words of Jesus:

Then I remembered what the Lord had said: ‘John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.’ (Acts 11:16)

Paul also used the word "baptize" in relation to the Holy Spirit:

For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. (I Corinthians 12:13)

Use of the phrase "to baptize into" the Holy Spirit is the same as when it is used to describe Christian baptism in water. In both cases baptism is an outward confirmation of an inward spiritual condition.

The Holy Spirit came down from Heaven on the disciples on the day of Pentecost and completely immersed [or baptized] them in the Holy Spirit. Peter said this experience was the fulfillment of God's promise: "In the last days...I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh." This promise was given in Joel 2:28.

THE PHYSICAL SIGN

The Holy Spirit is invisible to the natural eye. He was compared by Jesus to the wind:

The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.” (John 3:8)

Although the wind is invisible, the effects which it produces can be seen and heard. When the wind blows the dust rises from the ground, the trees all bend in one direction, leaves rustle, the waves of the sea roar, and clouds move across the sky. These are all physical signs of the wind. So it is with the Holy Spirit. Even though He is invisible, the effects which the Holy Spirit produces can be seen and heard.

There are three places in the New Testament where we are told what happened when people were baptized in the Holy Spirit:

DAY OF PENTECOST:

Acts 2:2-4 is the record of what happened on the day of Pentecost:

Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting.

They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them.

All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

(Acts 2:2-4)

HOUSE OF CORNELIUS:

Acts 10:44-46 records what happened when Peter preached the Gospel to a man named Cornelius and his family:

While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit came on all who heard the message.

The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on Gentiles.

For they heard them speaking in tongues and praising God.

(Acts 10:44-46)

CONVERTS AT EPHESUS:

Acts 19:6 describes what happened to the first group of converts at Ephesus:

When Paul placed his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied. (Acts 19:6)

As we compare these passages there is one physical sign which is common to all three: Those who received the baptism of the Holy Spirit spoke with other tongues. Other supernatural signs of the Holy Spirit are mentioned, but none as having taken place on all of the occasions.

On the day of Pentecost there was the sound of a rushing wind and visible tongues of fire were seen. These were not recorded on the other two occasions.

At Ephesus the new converts prophesied. But this is not mentioned as having occurred on the day of Pentecost or in the house of Cornelius.

The one outward sign which the apostles observed in the experience of Cornelius and his household was that they spoke with tongues. This physical sign was proof to the disciples that they had been baptized in the Holy Spirit.

THE TONGUES

The sign of "tongues" can be languages known to man. This is what happened on the day of Pentecost:

Utterly amazed, they asked: "Aren't all these who are speaking Galileans?"

**Then how is it that each of us hears them in our native language?
(Acts 2:7-8)**

Tongues can also be a language not known to man. This is called an unknown tongue:

For anyone who speaks in a tongue does not speak to people but to God. Indeed, no one understands them; they utter mysteries by the Spirit. (I Corinthians 14:2)

PURPOSES FOR TONGUES

The "other tongues" received through baptism in the Holy Spirit has many purposes in the lives of believers. I Corinthians chapter 14 identifies some of the purposes for the manifestation of tongues:

- Prayer to God: Verse 2
- Self-edification: Edification means to build or promote spiritual growth: Verse 4
- When interpreted they edify the church: Verse 12
- Intercession: Verse 14 (See also Romans 8:26-27)
- Sign to unbelievers: Verse 22
- Fulfillment of prophecy: Verse 21 (See also Isaiah 28:11-12)
- Praise: Verse 15,17

OBJECTIONS

Some people object to the sign of speaking in tongues. These are some of the objections they raise:

EVERY CHRISTIAN HAS THE HOLY SPIRIT:

One of the most common objections is that every Christian receives the Holy Spirit when he is converted and does not need any further experience to receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit. But consider the examples of people in the New Testament who were true believers.

The apostles had repented of their sins and believed Jesus was the Messiah. They had witnessed personally and accepted as true the facts of His death, burial, a resurrection. Jesus told His followers:

I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.” (Luke 24:49)

He also said:

For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.” (Acts 1:5)

The promised experience of being baptized in the Holy Spirit came on the day of Pentecost:

All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them. (Acts 2:4)

Although the apostles were already genuine believers it was not until the day of Pentecost that they were filled with [baptized in] the Holy Spirit. The people of Samaria had heard the Gospel preached. They had believed and been baptized. But they had not received the Holy Spirit:

When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to Samaria.

When they arrived, they prayed for the new believers there that they might receive the Holy Spirit,

because the Holy Spirit had not yet come on any of them; they had simply been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.

Then Peter and John placed their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit. (Acts 8:14-17)

The people of Samaria received salvation through the ministry of Philip. They received the Holy Spirit through the ministry of Peter and John. Receiving the baptism of the Holy Spirit was a separate experience from receiving salvation.

Acts 19:1-6 describes how Paul went to Ephesus and met people described as "disciples." The first question Paul asked was, "Have you received the Holy Spirit since you believed?" If people received the baptism of the Holy Spirit when they received salvation it would be foolish of Paul to ask this question. The fact that he asked it makes it clear people become believers in Christ without receiving the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Even if a person receives the baptism of the Holy Spirit at the same time he is converted, it is a separate experience from salvation.

The ministry of the Holy Spirit has been operative throughout eternity. The Old Testament speaks of the Holy Spirit coming on Israel's spiritual leaders. The Holy Spirit is also operative in the life of a sinner to bring him to Christ.

But this is different than being filled with the Holy Spirit. Jesus made that clear when He said:

The Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. (John 14:17)

The Holy Spirit was with the disciples at that time, but not yet in them. They were filled [baptized] with the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost. The Holy Spirit is WITH the sinner to draw him to Jesus Christ. But this is not the same as being IN the believer.

The Holy Spirit was with the spiritual leaders of Old Testament times. But He was not yet in them. This is the difference between the Old and New Testament ministries of the Holy Spirit.

DO ALL SPEAK WITH TONGUES?:

Another objection to tongues has come through misunderstanding of a question of the Apostle Paul in I Corinthians 12:30. He asks, "Do all speak with tongues?" The answer to his question is "No, all do not speak with tongues."

But Paul is not speaking here of the experience of being baptized in the Holy Spirit. The discussion concerns gifts of the Holy Spirit which can be used by the believer in the church:

Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.

And God has placed in the church first of all apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, of helping, of guidance, and of different kinds of tongues. (I Corinthians 12:27-28)

Paul is speaking of gifts which may be used by members of the Church. One of these gifts of the Holy Spirit is "diversities of tongues." It is an ability to give special messages to the Church in tongues under the power of the Holy Spirit. Although everyone experiences the sign of tongues when baptized in the Holy Spirit, not everyone receives the special gift of diversities of tongues.

FEAR:

Some believers do not seek the baptism of the Holy Spirit because they are afraid they will receive an experience that is not of God. But the Bible says:

“Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.

For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.

“Which of you, if your son asks for bread, will give him a stone?

Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake?

If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him! (Matthew 7:7-11)

If a believer seeks God for a gift, just like a good earthly Father, God will not let him receive anything that will harm him.

EMOTIONAL EXPERIENCE:

Another objection to tongues is that it is an emotional experience. Many believers who have received the baptism of the Holy Spirit emphasize their own emotional reactions to the experience. Man is an emotional creature. Conversion does not eliminate a man's emotions. He will still experience joy and sorrow.

Conversion frees man's emotions from the control of sin. It redirects these emotions to worship of God. The word "joy" in Scripture is closely associated with the Holy Spirit. In Acts 13:52 we read that "the disciples were filled with joy, and with the Holy Spirit"

Some people react with great emotion to the joy which comes with the baptism of the Holy Spirit because they are naturally more emotional than others. They may shout, laugh, or experience other sensations in their physical bodies. But these emotional reactions are not the sign of baptism in the Holy Spirit. The confirming sign is speaking in tongues.

It is not necessary to show great emotion such as laughing, shouting, dancing, etc., to be baptized in the Holy Spirit. How one reacts emotionally to the joy this experience brings is often related to his natural emotional nature.

But we should not criticize those who have joyful emotional reactions to the Holy Spirit. The Bible tells of emotional reactions by those who had a powerful experience with God. People trembled, fell prostrate on the ground, shouted, rejoiced, and danced before God.

It is interesting to observe the emotional reaction of people to various athletic events. They will yell, laugh, jump up and down, and express much excitement over a sports game. How much

more excited we should be over a gift like the Holy Spirit which accomplishes so many purposes in our lives, brings great joy, and equips us with power to reach the world with the Gospel.

The Psalmist David agreed. He presents a picture of joyful, loud, emotional worship of God:

Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation.

Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol him with music and song.

**For the Lord is the great God, the great King above all gods.
(Psalms 95:1-3)**

Praise him with the sounding of the trumpet, praise him with the harp and lyre,

praise him with timbrel and dancing, praise him with the strings and pipe,

praise him with the clash of cymbals, praise him with resounding cymbals.

**Let everything that has breath praise the Lord. praise the Lord.
(Psalms 150:3-6)**

You do not have to fear that the baptism in the Holy Spirit will cause you to do something improper or lose control of yourself. The Bible says:

The spirits of prophets are subject to the control of the prophets. (I Corinthians 14:32)

This means that any gift God gives is subject to the wise control of the user. God does nothing improper because...

**For God is not a God of disorder but of peace as in all the congregations of the Lord's people.
(I Corinthians 14:33)**

GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Jesus left His followers with a responsibility to extend the Gospel message to the ends of the earth. The power of the Holy Spirit would help them fulfill this task. Part of this "power" of the Holy Spirit was special gifts which the Holy Spirit gives believers to equip them to minister effectively.

These spiritual gifts are not the same as natural talents. Natural talents and abilities are given at the time of physical birth and/or developed by natural efforts during the course of a lifetime. They can be used to minister in the church, but are different than spiritual gifts.

Spiritual gifts come from the Holy Spirit. Their purpose is...

To equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up

until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming.

Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ.

(Ephesians 4:12-15)

This passage reveals spiritual gifts are for:

- Perfecting of the saints.
- Promoting the work of the ministry.
- Edifying Christ and the church.

The end objectives of these gifts are that we will:

- Be united in the faith.
- Develop our knowledge of Christ.
- Develop in perfection, with Christ as our model.
- Become stable, not deceived by false doctrines.
- Mature spiritually in Christ.

Some churches claim that all of the gifts of the Holy Spirit are not for modern believers. They teach that some of the powerful gifts like miracles and speaking in other tongues were only for the early Church.

The answer to their objection is this: The Lord gave ministry gifts to accomplish certain purposes in the church. He will not withdraw any of these gifts without the purposes being accomplished. Are all our churches in unity? Do we have full knowledge of Christ? Are we all walking in perfection, stable, and mature? Have we stopped false doctrines from penetrating our churches?

The answer to these questions is "no." All the purposes of the ministry gifts have not been fulfilled. For this reason, all the gifts which God gave to accomplish these objectives are still operative today. The Bible also says that the "gifts and callings of God are without repentance" (Romans 11:29). That means God will not change His mind and take back a gift or a calling He has given.

The Holy Spirit gives each believer at least one spiritual gift (I Peter 4:10; Ephesians 4:7, I Corinthians 12:7). It is important for us to discover and use our spiritual gift in the church. The main passages explaining the spiritual gifts available to believers through the Holy Spirit are Romans 12:1-8, I Corinthians 12:1-31, Ephesians 4:1-16 and I Peter 4:7-11.*

FRUIT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

The Holy Spirit develops in the life of the believer qualities which the Bible calls "spiritual fruit." The fruit of the Holy Spirit refers to the nature of the Holy Spirit being evident in the life of a believer. God desires that all the fruit be evident in the life of each Christian:

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

gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. (Galatians 5:22-23)

The development of these qualities are another important function of the Holy Spirit in the life of the believer.

RECEIVING THE HOLY SPIRIT

The following are Biblical guidelines for receiving the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

REPENT AND BE BAPTIZED:

This will put you in a position of spiritual receptivity:

Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. (Acts 2:38)

* The Harvestime International Institute course, *"Ministry of the Holy Spirit"*, explains in detail the gifts and fruit of the Holy Spirit. It is designed to help believers discover their spiritual gift and develop the fruit of the Spirit in order to function effectively in the Body of Christ.

BELIEVE IT IS FOR YOU:

The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call.” (Acts 2:39)

DESIRE IT:

On the last and greatest day of the festival, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, “Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink.

Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them.”

By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified. (John 7:37-39)

REALIZE IT IS A GIFT:

The Holy Spirit has already been given. It was given to the Church on the Day of Pentecost. Because it is a gift, you can do nothing to earn it:

Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. (Acts 2:38)

I would like to learn just one thing from you: Did you receive the Spirit by the works of the law, or by believing what you heard?

So again I ask, does God give you his Spirit and work miracles among you by the works of the law, or by your believing what you heard?

He redeemed us in order that the blessing given to Abraham might come to the Gentiles through Christ Jesus, so that by faith we might receive the promise of the Spirit.

(Galatians 3:2,5,14)

Begin to praise and thank God for the gift of the Holy Spirit.

YIELD TO GOD:

Do not be afraid to speak the language of the Spirit as you are praising and worshiping God. As you praise Him audibly you will first experience stammering lips. Yield your tongue to the Holy Spirit and He will speak through you words foreign to your understanding. This is the sign of Holy Spirit baptism:

Very well then, with foreign lips and strange tongues God will speak to this people (Isaiah 28:11)

All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them. (Acts 2:4)

REQUEST THE PRAYERS OF OTHER BELIEVERS:

The Holy Spirit can be received through the laying on of hands (Acts 8,9,19) or without the laying on of hands (Acts 2,4,10). Study these chapters which show how Spirit-filled believers can help you experience baptism in the Holy Spirit.

SELF-TEST

1. What are some of the purposes of the Holy Spirit in the life of the believer?

2. Give six guidelines for receiving the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

3. Write the Key Verse from memory.

4. What is the outward physical sign of the baptism of the Holy Spirit?

5. What is the true evidence of the baptism of the Holy Spirit? Give a Biblical reference to support your answer.

6. What is meant by the term "fruit" of the Holy Spirit?

7. List the nine fruit of the Holy Spirit which should be in the lives of believers:

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

8. What are some of the purposes of the gifts of the Holy Spirit?

9. Why is this a false statement: "Not all of the gifts of the Holy Spirit are for us today. Some of them were only for the early church."

10. What are the four main objections some people have to the sign of other tongues?

_____	_____
_____	_____

11. Are any of these objections valid on the basis of Scripture?

(Answers to tests are provided at the conclusion of the final chapter in this manual.)

FOR FURTHER STUDY

This chapter introduced the study of the Holy Spirit through discussion of the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

Continue your study of the Holy Spirit with the following outline:

THE NATURE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

-He is called God:	Acts 5:3-4
-Omnipresent: He is present everywhere:	Psalms 139:7
-Omniscient: He knows all things:	I Corinthians 2:10-11
-Omnipotent: He is all powerful:	Acts 1:8
-Eternal: He is everlasting:	Hebrews 9:14
-Equal with the Father and the Son:	Matthew 3:16-17

THE PERSONALITY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

-He has a mind:	Romans 8:27
-This mind is intelligent:	I Corinthians 2:10-11
-He searches out the human mind:	I Corinthians 2:10
-He has a will:	I Corinthians 12:11
-He guides through giving and denying permission:	Acts 16:6-7,10
-He speaks:	Acts 8:29
-He loves:	Romans 15:30
-He grieves:	Ephesians 4:30
-He intercedes:	Romans 8:26

A SENSITIVE NATURE

The Holy Spirit has a sensitive nature. We must be careful lest we:

-Lie to the Holy Spirit:	Acts 5:3-4
-Resist the Spirit:	Acts 7:51
-Quench the Spirit:	I Thessalonians 5:19
-Grieve the Spirit:	Psalms 78:40
-Insult the Spirit:	Hebrews 6:4-6
-Vex the Holy Spirit:	Isaiah 63:10
-Blaspheme the Holy Spirit:	Matthew 12:31-32

NAMES AND TITLES OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

The names and titles of the Holy Spirit give further knowledge of His nature and purposes. He is called:

-The Spirit of God:	I Corinthians 3:16
-The Spirit of Christ:	Romans 8:9
-The Eternal Spirit:	Hebrews 9:14
-The Spirit of Truth:	John 16:13; 14:26
-The Spirit of Grace:	Hebrews 10:29
-The Spirit of Life:	Romans 8:2
-The Spirit of Glory:	I Peter 4:14
-The Spirit of Wisdom and Revelation:	Ephesians 1:17
-The Comforter:	John 14:26
-The Spirit of Promise:	Acts 1:4-5
-The Spirit of Holiness:	Romans 1:4
-The Spirit of Faith:	II Corinthians 4:13
-The Spirit of Adoption:	Romans 8:15

EMBLEMS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

The following symbols are used in the Bible to represent the Holy Spirit:

-The dove:	John 1:32
-Oil:	Luke 4:18
-Water:	John 7:37-39
-A Seal:	Ephesians 1:13
-Wind:	John 3:8
-Rivers:	John 7:38-9
-Fire: Which signifies:	
-Presence of the Lord:	Exodus 3:2
-Approval:	Leviticus 9:24
-Protection:	Exodus 13:21
-Purifying:	Isaiah 6:1-8
-The Gift of the Holy Spirit:	Acts 2:3
-Judgment:	Hebrews 12:29

CHAPTER SEVEN

LAYING ON OF HANDS

OBJECTIVES:

Upon completion of this chapter you will be able to:

- Write the Key Verse from memory.
- Define laying on of hands.
- Identify purposes for laying on of hands in Old Testament times.
- Identify purposes for laying on of hands in New Testament times.
- List qualifications for ministering by laying on of hands.

KEY VERSE:

So Paul and Barnabas spent considerable time there, speaking boldly for the Lord, who confirmed the message of his grace by enabling them to perform signs and wonders. (Acts 14:3)

INTRODUCTION

The doctrine of the laying on of hands is the fourth principle in the foundations of the Christian faith. Laying on of hands is an act in which one person places his hands on the body of another person with a definite spiritual purpose. This laying on of hands is accompanied by prayer or prophecy.

THE OLD TESTAMENT RECORD

Laying on of hands in the Old Testament was used for the following purposes:

1. Transference of spiritual blessing or authority. [Transference means that something spiritual flows from the one laying on hands to the one he is touching.]
2. Public confirmation of a spiritual blessing or authority received from God.
3. Commitment to God for a special ministry.

Three Old Testament examples illustrate these purposes of laying on of hands:

ISRAEL:

Genesis 48 is the first record of the laying on of hands for spiritual benefit. Joseph brought his two sons, Ephraim and Manasseh, to his father to bless them:

**But Israel reached out his right hand and put it on Ephraim's head, though he was the younger, and crossing his arms, he put his left hand on Manasseh's head, even though Manasseh was the firstborn.
(Genesis 48:14)**

The blessing of Jacob was transferred to his two grandsons by laying his hands upon their heads.

LEVITES:

The Levites were ordained by God to serve the congregation of Israel as spiritual leaders. In this position they represented the people before God. The laying on of hands was confirmation by the people of the Levite's authority before God:

You are to bring the Levites before the Lord, and the Israelites are to lay their hands on them. (Numbers 8:10)

MOSES:

As Moses approached the end of his earthly ministry, he asked the Lord to appoint a new leader over Israel:

So the Lord said to Moses, "Take Joshua son of Nun, a man in whom is the spirit of leadership, and lay your hand on him.

Have him stand before Eleazar the priest and the entire assembly and commission him in their presence.

Give him some of your authority so the whole Israelite community will obey him.

Moses did as the Lord commanded him. He took Joshua and had him stand before Eleazar the priest and the whole assembly.

Then he laid his hands on him and commissioned him, as the Lord instructed through Moses.

(Numbers 27:18-20,22-23)

The results that this laying on of hands produced in Joshua is recorded in Deuteronomy:

Now Joshua son of Nun was filled with the spirit of wisdom because Moses had laid his hands on him. So the Israelites listened to him and did what the Lord had commanded Moses. (Deuteronomy 34:9)

Moses laying hands on Joshua was important both for Joshua and for the whole congregation of Israel. By this act, Moses transferred to Joshua a measure of the wisdom and honor which he had received from God. Moses also confirmed to the people God's selection of Joshua as the new leader.

NEW TESTAMENT RECORD

The New Testament records five general purposes for the laying on of hands.

SUPERNATURAL SIGNS:

Jesus practiced laying on of hands in His ministry:

He could not do any miracles there, except lay his hands on a few sick people and heal them. (Mark 6:5)

At sunset, the people brought to Jesus all who had various kinds of sickness, and laying his hands on each one, he healed them.(Luke 4:40)

Then he put his hands on her, and immediately she straightened up and praised God. (Luke 13:13)

In His final message to the disciples at the close of His earthly ministry, Jesus listed supernatural signs which were to accompany the preaching of the Gospel:

And these signs will accompany those who believe: In my name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new tongues;

they will pick up snakes with their hands; and when they drink deadly poison, it will not hurt them at all; they will place their hands on sick people, and they will get well."

(Mark 16:17-18)

One of these supernatural signs was the laying on of hands through which God would heal the sick and perform other miracles. Mark 16:17-18 confirms that this practice was to continue after the end of Christ's earthly ministry.

The laying on of hands in the name of Jesus is used to minister physical healing to the sick. The person who places his hands on one who is sick transfers the supernatural healing power of God. Sometimes the sick person actually feels the power of God in his body. At other times there is no

feeling at all, but this does not mean healing will not occur. The laying on of hands is an act of faith and obedience to God's Word. Its effectiveness does not depend on feeling.

The timing of healings vary. Sometimes complete healing is received instantly as soon as hands are laid on the sick. Other times healing comes gradually (Mark 8:22-25). It is important to instruct those seeking healing concerning the importance of maintaining faith until their healing is complete. (Further instructions on this is provided in the Harvestime International Institute course, *"Battle For The Body."*)

The book of Acts records how God used the laying on of hands by believers to perform miraculous healings and other supernatural signs confirming His Word:

So Paul and Barnabas spent considerable time there, speaking boldly for the Lord, who confirmed the message of his grace by enabling them to perform signs and wonders. (Acts 14:3)

The apostles performed many signs and wonders among the people. And all the believers used to meet together in Solomon's Colonnade. (Acts 5:12)

Then Ananias went to the house and entered it. Placing his hands on Saul, he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord—Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you were coming here—has sent me so that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit." (Acts 9:17)

God did extraordinary miracles through Paul (Acts 19:11)

His father was sick in bed, suffering from fever and dysentery. Paul went in to see him and, after prayer, placed his hands on him and healed him. (Acts 28:8)

BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT:

Another purpose of laying on of hands is for baptism in the Holy Spirit. There are five examples recorded in the book of Acts of how people received baptism in the Holy Spirit. The first example is that of the disciples in the upper room in Jerusalem on the day of Pentecost. You can read about this in Acts 2:1-4. The other examples are of the new converts in Samaria in Acts 8:14-20; Saul of Tarsus in Acts 9:17; Cornelius and his family in Acts 10:44-46; and the disciples at Ephesus in Acts 19:1-6.

In three of these examples those seeking the baptism of the Holy Spirit were ministered to by other believers through the laying on of hands:

-Acts 8:18 states that through laying on of the apostles' hands the Holy Spirit was given.

-In Damascus, Ananias laid his hands on Saul that he might receive his sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.

-In Ephesus, the disciples to whom Paul ministered received the Holy Ghost after Paul laid his hands on them.

Laying on of hands is not the only way people receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit. In the upper room in Jerusalem and in the house of Cornelius people received the experience without anyone laying hands on them. But on the basis of these examples, it is Scriptural for those seeking baptism in the Holy Spirit to be ministered to through the laying on of hands.

IMPARTING SPIRITUAL GIFTS:

Another purpose for the laying on of hands is to impart spiritual gifts. Paul wrote Timothy:

Do not neglect your gift, which was given you through prophecy when the body of elders laid their hands on you. (I Timothy 4:14)

Paul refers again to Timothy's spiritual experience:

For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands. (II Timothy 1:6)

Laying on of hands was combined with the gift of prophecy to direct, encourage, and strengthen Timothy to fulfill his God-given ministry.

COMMISSIONING CHRISTIAN WORKERS:

Another purpose for laying on of hands is to commission Christian workers. "Commission" means to authorize, delegate, or send on a mission. As spiritual leaders were waiting before the Lord in Antioch...

.While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them."

So after they had fasted and prayed, they placed their hands on them and sent them off.

The two of them, sent on their way by the Holy Spirit, went down to Seleucia and sailed from there to Cyprus.. (Acts 13:2-4)

The Bible indicates God had already spoken privately to Paul and Barnabas about the work He wanted them to do before He spoke publicly to the church leaders. The public revelation was a confirmation of the call they already had received.

The leaders did not send Paul and Barnabas on their mission immediately. They took time for fasting and prayer. The sending forth of these two men was completed by the laying on of hands by church leaders.

Paul also laid hands on Timothy to commission his ministry:

For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands. (II Timothy 1:6)

The practice of laying on of hands to commission Christian workers was not used openly for missionaries and ministers. The appointing of the first deacons (Acts 6:1-6) was accompanied by the laying on of hands:

They presented these men to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them. (Acts 6:6)

The office to which these men were appointed in the church at Jerusalem came to be known by the title of "deacon." The method for appointing deacons is outlined in Acts 6:3-6. The apostles gave the people the responsibility to choose men qualified to fill the office.

These men were brought before the apostles who laid hands on them and prayed. By this act the apostles showed they accepted these men as qualified to hold this office. They committed them to God for the task for which they were chosen and transmitted to them a measure of their own spiritual wisdom necessary for the task.

DEDICATION OF INFANTS:

It is not Scriptural to baptize infants, as they cannot repent or believe which are the requirements for baptism. But through the laying on of hands, infants can be dedicated and committed to God's protection, guidance, and blessing:

And he took the children in his arms, placed his hands on them and blessed them. (Mark 10:16)

A SPECIAL CAUTION

The New Testament provides a word of caution regarding laying on of hands:

Do not be hasty in the laying on of hands, and do not share in the sins of others. Keep yourself pure..

(I Timothy 5:22, The Amplified Bible)

Because an act of spiritual transference occurs when you lay hands on someone or they lay hands on you, it is wise to be cautious in using this practice. If the person laying on hands is not spiritually qualified, the practice is not effective. The Bible is specific about who is qualified to lay hands on another to impart spiritual benefit:

BELIEVERS:

Believers may lay hands on others:

And these signs will accompany those who believe: In my name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new tongues;

they will pick up snakes with their hands; and when they drink deadly poison, it will not hurt them at all; they will place their hands on sick people, and they will get well.”

(Mark 16:17-18)

The qualifications of true believers have been discussed in previous chapters in the teaching on the principles of repentance from dead works and faith toward God.

APOSTLES AND DISCIPLES:

When Simon saw that the Spirit was given at the laying on of the apostles' hands, he offered them money (Acts 8:18)

Then Ananias went to the house and entered it. Placing his hands on Saul, he said, “Brother Saul, the Lord—Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you were coming here—has sent me so that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit.” (Acts 9:17)

The apostles and disciples were men appointed and anointed of God. They were mature believers and examples of qualified leadership.

MEMBERS OF THE PRESBYTERY:

Do not neglect your gift which was given to you by prophetic message when the elders laid their hands on you.

(I Timothy 4:14)

SUMMARY

The five purposes for the laying on of hands in the New Testament are:

- Supernatural signs
- Baptism of the Holy Spirit
- Imparting spiritual gifts
- Commissioning Christian workers
- Dedication of infants

Understanding and using the laying on of hands is important because Jesus indicated the practice was to be part of the ministry of the Church.

The laying on of hands is a spiritual practice missing in many churches today. But...

- Consider the impact on the spread of the Gospel if every believer was effective in the laying on of hands for healing and miracles.
- Consider the impact on the spread of the Gospel if spiritual gifts were being imparted and Christian workers commissioned on a regular basis through laying on of hands.

SELF-TEST

1. Give three Old Testament examples of the laying on of hands.

2. List the five purposes for the laying on of hands revealed in the New Testament.

3. Write the Key Verse from memory.

4. Give a Bible reference which confirms that the laying on of hands was to continue after Jesus returned to heaven. _____

5. Define "laying on of hands."

6. Who does the Bible specifically name as qualified to practice the laying on of hands?

_____, _____ and _____

7. If the statement is TRUE write T in the blank in front of it. If the statement is FALSE, write F.

- a. ____ If there is no feeling of power experienced when laying on of hands is done then it is not effective.
b. ____ Laying on of hands can be used to commission Christian workers.
c. ____ The Bible teaches that anyone is qualified to lay hands on others.
d. ____ Laying on of hands is the only way for a person to receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit.
e. ____ Spiritual gifts can be imparted by the laying on of hands.
f. ____ Laying on of hands should not be used with infants because they do not understand it.

(Answers to tests are provided at the conclusion of the final chapter in this manual.)

FOR FURTHER STUDY

Study the miracles performed by Jesus during His earthly ministry. Observe how and when He used laying on of hands to impart spiritual blessing.

BRINGING THE DEAD TO LIFE:

Jarius' daughter:	Matthew 9:18-19, 23-25
Widow's son:	Luke 7:11-15
Lazarus:	John 11:1-44

HEALING:

Leper:	Matthew 8:2-3
Centurion's servant:	Matthew 8:5-13
Peter's mother-in-law:	Matthew 8:14-15
Gadarenes:	Matthew 8:28-34
Paralyzed man:	Matthew 9:2-7
Woman with blood issue:	Matthew 9:20-22
Blind men:	Matthew 9:27-31
Man dumb and possessed:	Matthew 9:32-33
Man with withered hand:	Matthew 12:10-13
Blind, dumb, possessed:	Matthew 12:22
Canaanite woman's girl:	Matthew 15:21-28
Boy with epilepsy:	Matthew 17:14-18
Blind men:	Matthew 20:29-34
Deaf and dumb man:	Mark 7:31-37
Man with unclean spirit:	Mark 1:23-26
Blind at Bethsaida:	Mark 8:22-26
Woman bent double:	Luke 13:11-13
Man with dropsy:	Luke 14:1-4
Ten lepers:	Luke 17:11-19
Malchus' ear:	Luke 22:50-51
Official's son:	John 4:46-54
Sick man at Bethesda:	John 5:1-9
Man born blind:	John 9

(Jesus never used a set pattern in miracles. God works in many ways to perform miraculous signs to confirm His Word. The laying on of hands is just one of many methods God uses.)

CHAPTER EIGHT

RESURRECTION OF THE DEAD: PART I

OBJECTIVES:

Upon completion of this chapter you will be able to:

- Write the Key Verse from memory.
- Define the word "resurrection."
- Distinguish between past, present, and future resurrections.
- Describe the present spiritual resurrection of believers in Jesus Christ.
- Describe the past resurrection of Jesus.

KEY VERSES:

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die;

and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?"

(John 11:25-26)

INTRODUCTION

There are two other foundational doctrines of the Christian faith. These are the resurrection of the dead and eternal judgment. In the study of these two remaining doctrines, the Bible takes us by revelation beyond the present time into the future of eternity.

By the act of creation, God brought the present world into being with the order of time including the past, present, and future (Genesis 1). Someday God will bring this present world to an end and time, as we now know it, will cease to be.

The Bible reveals that for the world as a whole, the end of time will come at a special moment ordained by God. There are many events which will happen in the world at this end of time. Only God knows the exact timing of these events.

As individuals, however, a moment awaits each of us when "time shall be no longer." This is when we come to the end of our earthly lifetime and step from time into eternity. For each person, the end of physical life is the end of time.

There are some mysteries surrounding the end of time and eternity which the Bible does not explain. But the doctrine of the "resurrection of the dead" provides some knowledge of the end of time and eternity which follows.

This chapter introduces the doctrine of the resurrection of the dead. The past, present, and future resurrections spoken of in the New Testament are defined and the past and present resurrections discussed. The future resurrection of the dead is discussed in the following chapter.

DEFINITION

The meaning of the word "resurrection" is a raising or rising up. It means to cause to rise or raise up from the dead.

THREE RESURRECTIONS

There are three resurrections identified in the New Testament:

Past: The resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

Present: The spiritual resurrection of believers in Jesus Christ.

Future: The future resurrection of all that are in the graves.

THE RESURRECTOR

Jesus Christ was raised from the dead by the power of God:

More than that, we are then found to be false witnesses about God, for we have testified about God that he raised Christ from the dead. But he did not raise him if in fact the dead are not raised. (I Corinthians 15:15)

Through Jesus the believer experiences present spiritual resurrection. Through Him the future resurrection of the dead from the graves will happen.

The Bible confirms that Jesus is the resurrector, the one who will resurrect the dead:

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; (John 11:25)

**So it is written: "The first man Adam became a living being"; the last Adam, a life-giving spirit.
(I Corinthians 15:45)**

but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior, Christ Jesus, who has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. (II Timothy 1:10)

PAST: RESURRECTION OF JESUS CHRIST

OLD TESTAMENT PROPHECY:

The Old Testament foretold the birth of Jesus Christ, His death for the sins of all mankind, and His resurrection. David mentioned the resurrection of Jesus:

But he was a prophet and knew that God had promised him on oath that he would place one of his descendants on his throne.

Seeing what was to come, he spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, that he was not abandoned to the realm of the dead, nor did his body see decay. (Acts 2:30-31, American Standard Version)

Many verses in the Bible confirm the resurrection of Jesus from the dead on the third day after His burial:

But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. (I Corinthians 15:20)

After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb.

The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified.

He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay.

Then go quickly and tell his disciples: 'He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.' Now I have told you." (Matthew 28:1,5-7)

The "For Further Study" section at the end of this chapter lists many other references confirming the resurrection of Jesus.

APPEARANCES:

Jesus was seen by many people after His resurrection:

After his suffering, he presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God. (Acts 1:3, Phillips Translation)

and that he appeared to Cephas, and then to the Twelve.

After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep.

Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles,

**and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born.
(I Corinthians 15:5-8)**

HIS RESURRECTED BODY:

After His resurrection, Jesus was careful to provide evidence that He had a real body and He was the same person that had been crucified. The evidence of this was His hands, feet, and side which still had the marks of the nails and the spear.

In other ways His body had experienced important changes. It no longer was subject to the limitations of a mortal body. He could now appear or disappear at will. He could enter a closed room and He could pass between earth and Heaven (John 20:19).

Prior to His death and resurrection during a conversation with religious leaders of Israel...

Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days."

They replied, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and you are going to raise it in three days?"

But the temple he had spoken of was his body.

(John 2:19-21)

Jesus was not talking about the temple in Jerusalem. He was referring to His own body as a temple. After the death and burial of Jesus, when the women entered the tomb to anoint His body, they "found not the body of the Lord Jesus" (Luke 23:55-24:3). When Jesus appeared to His disciples He let them touch the nail prints and the scar from the spear to prove His identity:

While they were still talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you."

They were startled and frightened, thinking they saw a ghost.

He said to them, “Why are you troubled, and why do doubts rise in your minds?

Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself! Touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have.”

**When he had said this, he showed them his hands and feet.
(Luke 24:36-40)**

Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe.”

Thomas said to him, “My Lord and my God!”

(John 20:27-28)

IMPORTANCE OF THE RESURRECTION:

Why is the doctrine of the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead so important to the Christian faith?

If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised.

And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith. (I Corinthians 15:13-14)

Believing in the resurrection of Jesus Christ is necessary to become a true believer:

If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. (Romans 10:9)

Paul presents the resurrection of Jesus as a part of the message of the Gospel:

Now, brothers and sisters, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand.

By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain.

For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures,

that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures,(I Corinthians 15:1-4)

The resurrection confirms Jesus Christ is the Son of God:

**and who through the Spirit of holiness was appointed the Son of God in power by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord.
(Romans 1:4, The Amplified Bible)**

The resurrection confirms Jesus is supreme over all created beings:

He exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms,

far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come.

And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church,

**which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.
(Ephesians 1:20-23, The Amplified Bible)**

The resurrection confirms that believers are justified:

He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification. (Romans 4:25)

The resurrection means death is defeated:

Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might break the power of him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil- (Hebrews 2:14)

Because of the resurrection of Jesus, believers will also be resurrected and have new bodies:

Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed

**in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.
(I Corinthians 15:51-52)**

**who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.
(Philippians 3:21)**

We will study more about this resurrection from the dead in the following chapter.

Through the resurrection there is a new life source for believers:

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, (I Peter 1:3)

PRESENT: RESURRECTION OF BELIEVERS

The Bible speaks of the present resurrection of believers. This means those who were once spiritually dead in sin are now made alive spiritually through Jesus Christ:

As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins,

made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved.

(Ephesians 2:1,5 The Amplified Bible)

When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, (Colossians 2:13)

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come:[a] The old has gone, the new is here!

(II Corinthians 5:17, The Amplified Bible)

THE OUTWARD SIGN OF THIS RESURRECTION:

Baptism in water is an outward sign of death to the old life of sin and the spiritual resurrection of the believer in Jesus Christ. But it is not only water baptism that confirms the spiritual resurrection of the believer. It is the new life which he lives:

We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.

For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly also be united with him in a resurrection like his. (Romans 6:4,5)

EVIDENCES OF THIS RESURRECTION:

Jesus provided many evidences of His resurrection. These included the empty tomb, the message of the angels, and His visible appearances after His resurrection. There are also evidences which confirm the spiritual resurrection of believers. They include the following:

-Death To Sin Resulting In A New Life:

Spiritual resurrection results in death to sin. The believer does not live like he used to live. He is dead to the evil things of the world and alive in Jesus:

In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus. (Romans 6:11)

-A New Master:

Spiritual resurrection makes Jesus the master of your life. Instead of living for yourself, you live to serve Him:

And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again. (II Corinthians 5:15)

-New Life Purpose:

A new life purpose results from spiritual resurrection. Instead of concern about temporal things of the world such as material gain, ambition, etc., the attention of believers is focused on eternal things:

Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.

Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. (Colossians 3:1-2, The Amplified Bible)

SUMMARY

The past resurrection of Jesus and the present spiritual resurrection of believers are two of the three resurrections mentioned in the New Testament. The other one is the future resurrection of all the dead from the graves. This is discussed in the next chapter.

SELF-TEST

1. Write the Key Verses from memory.

2. Define the word "resurrection."

3. What are the three resurrections recorded in the New Testament?

Past: _____
Present: _____
Future: _____

4. Give a Bible reference to confirm each of the following:

That the Old Testament foretold the resurrection of Jesus: _____
That Jesus rose from the dead: _____
That He appeared to people after His resurrection: _____
That He had the same body, yet no human limitations: _____

5. Why is belief in the resurrection of Jesus Christ important?

6. What is meant by the "present spiritual resurrection of believers"?

7. What are the evidences of the spiritual resurrection of the believer discussed in this chapter?

8. What outward act signifies the spiritual resurrection of the believer? _____

(Answers to tests are provided at the conclusion of the final chapter in this manual.)

FOR FURTHER STUDY

Study the following references to expand your knowledge of the resurrection of Jesus.

The four main accounts of His resurrection are given in:

Matthew 28

Mark 16

Luke 24

John 20

The following verses also provide additional information on the resurrection of Jesus:

Acts 1:22; 2:24,32; 3:15,26; 4:10,33; 5:30; 10:40,41; 13:30-33,34,37; 17:18,32

Romans 1:4; 4:24; 6:5; 8:11,34

I Corinthians 6:14; 15:12-58

II Corinthians 4:14

Galatians 1:1

Philippians 3:10

Ephesians 1:20

I Thessalonians 1:10

II Timothy 2:8

I Peter 1:3

CHAPTER NINE

RESURRECTION OF THE DEAD: PART II

OBJECTIVES:

Upon completion of this chapter you will be able to:

- Write the Key Verse from memory.
- Describe the future resurrection of the dead.
- Distinguish between the resurrections of the just and the unjust.
- Explain how the death and resurrection of Jesus affected the destiny of the human soul.

KEY VERSES:

For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first.

After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. (I Thessalonians 4:16-17)

INTRODUCTION

In the previous chapter the term "resurrection" was defined and three resurrections mentioned in the New Testament were identified. The past resurrection of Jesus and the present resurrection of the believer in Jesus were discussed in detail.

This chapter explains the future resurrection of all that are in the graves. The future resurrection actually will be two separate resurrections, one of the just and one of the unjust. This chapter also explains how the death and resurrection of Jesus affected the destiny of the human soul.

Since this chapter concerns future events, it deals with prophecy about the end of time and eternity. If you are not familiar with Bible prophecy then you should review the "For Further Study" section of this chapter. It provides a general outline of future events as revealed in God's Word.

FUTURE: RESURRECTION OF ALL IN THE GRAVES

The Bible reveals two things about all human beings:

1. All will experience the resurrection of the dead.
2. All will experience eternal judgment.

Jesus said concerning the future resurrection:

Do not be amazed at this, for a time is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice

and come out—those who have done what is good will rise to live, and those who have done what is evil will rise to be condemned. (John 5:28-29)

The Apostle Paul also writes about this resurrection:

**For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive.
(ICorinthians 15:22)**

Because of the original sin of Adam, death came upon all men. Because of the death and resurrection of Jesus, all men will die physically and later be resurrected.

EXCEPTIONS TO THE RESURRECTION

Those who never die will not need to be resurrected from the dead.

Paul wrote:

Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed

In a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.

For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality.(I Corinthians 15:51-53)

When Paul says "we shall not ALL sleep" he means all true believers who are alive at the time of Christ's return for His Church.

These believers will never experience death. They will be caught up to meet Jesus and be reunited with Christians resurrected from the grave.

DESTINY OF THE DEAD

There is much about the period between physical death and the resurrection that is not revealed in the Bible, but three things are clear:

1. At the time of death there is a separation between the body and the spirit and soul. The physical body is put in the grave, but the soul and spirit live on in eternity.
2. The spirits and souls of those who were righteous go to a different place than those who were wicked.
3. The destiny of the righteous was different before and after the death of Jesus.

Jesus revealed what happens after death through the story of a beggar named Lazarus who laid at a rich man's gate:

“The time came when the beggar died and the angels carried him to Abraham’s side. The rich man also died and was buried.

In Hades, where he was in torment, he looked up and saw Abraham far away, with Lazarus by his side.

So he called to him, ‘Father Abraham, have pity on me and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, because I am in agony in this fire.’

“But Abraham replied, ‘Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, while Lazarus received bad things, but now he is comforted here and you are in agony.

And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been set in place, so that those who want to go from here to you cannot, nor can anyone cross over from there to us.’ (Luke 16:22-26)

At death, the physical body returns to the earth:

**By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return.”
(Genesis 3:19b)**

The soul and Spirit of man enters a new existence in eternity. There is still a personality, and recognition of one person by another, and awareness of present conditions. The destiny of the righteous is different from the fallen of wicked. Both Lazareth and the rich man went to a place of departed spirits called in the Hebrew language "Sheol" and in the Greek language "Hades." (Most of the Old Testament was originally written in Hebrew. The New Testament was written in Greek).

But the destinies of the two men were different. The rich man was in a place of torment called Hell. Lazarus was in a place of rest. Between these two places there was a gulf that could not be crossed from either side.

If the gulf could not be crossed, then it means there is no hope to change the eternal destiny of the soul after death. Because of this, it is of no value to pray for the dead. The decision to accept or reject Jesus as Savior must be made during this life. It is this decision that determines the destiny of your soul.

The place of rest for departed spirits of the righteous was called "Abraham's bosom." This meant it was a place for those who followed the same faith of Abraham by serving the one true and living God.

AFTER THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS

The story of Lazarus and the rich man reveals what happened to departed souls before the death and resurrection of Jesus. After His resurrection the destiny of the souls of the wicked remained the same, but the destiny of righteous souls changed.

When Jesus died He said "Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit." His body was laid in a tomb but the destiny of His spirit was decided by God. The Bible reveals what happened to the spirit of Christ after death:

What does "he ascended" mean except that he also descended to the lower, earthly regions?

He who descended is the very one who ascended higher than all the heavens, in order to fill the whole universe. (Ephesians 4:9-10)

Before His death, Jesus told the dying thief who repented:

**Jesus answered him, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise."
(Luke 23:43)**

The spirit of Jesus descended into Sheol, the place of all departed spirits. First He went to the place of the spirits of the righteous. This was called "paradise" or "Abraham's bosom."

From paradise, Jesus went further into the area of Sheol reserved for the wicked spirits. This was necessary in order for Him to complete the work of atonement for man's sin. He had to endure both the physical and spiritual penalties of sin. The physical penalty was physical death.

The spiritual penalty was separation from God which is called spiritual death. Jesus experienced that in Sheol.

Then the spirit of Jesus ascended from Sheol back to the world. At that time, His body which had been lying lifeless in the tomb, was raised up from death. His soul, spirit, and body were reunited to form a complete personality. As we learned in the last chapter, Jesus appeared in visible form to many on earth before He returned to Heaven.

THE NEW PATTERN

The events between the death and resurrection of Jesus set a new pattern for the destiny of righteous souls. Prior to Christ's resurrection, departed spirits of the righteous went to paradise. After the death and resurrection of Jesus, the spirits of the righteous could ascend immediately into the presence of God. This is confirmed in the record of the death of Stephen:

But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked up to heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God.

“Look,” he said, “I see heaven open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.”

While they were stoning him, Stephen prayed, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.”

Then he fell on his knees and cried out, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” When he had said this, he fell asleep. (Acts 7:55-56,59-60)

Moments before death, Stephen saw a vision of Jesus in Heaven at the right hand of God. His words, "Lord Jesus receive my spirit," indicate he knew that immediately upon death his soul and spirit would go directly to Heaven.

The Apostle Paul also confirms this:

Therefore we are always confident and know that as long as we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord.

We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord. (II Corinthians 5:6,8)

Paul compared the value of death to that of remaining alive in order to fulfill his earthly ministry. He said that to be absent from the body is to be with Christ:

For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. If I am to go on living in the body, this will mean fruitful labor for me. Yet what shall I choose? I do not know!

If I am to go on living in the body, this will mean fruitful labor for me. Yet what shall I choose? I do not know!

I am torn between the two: I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far;

**but it is more necessary for you that I remain in the body
(Philippians 1:21-24)**

In addition to the new destiny of the righteous dead, Jesus set another new pattern that will be followed by all men:

1. At death man's spirit and soul will go to the realm of the departed spirits. The righteous will ascend to the presence of God. The wicked will go to a place of torment [hell].
2. At the time of resurrection, the body will be raised again from death and reunited with the spirit and soul.

RESURRECTION OF THE DEAD: THREE STAGES

The Apostle Paul describes the resurrection of the dead in three stages.

THE FIRST:

The first resurrection of the dead was that of Jesus:

For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive..

But each in turn: Christ, the firstfruits; then, when he comes, those who belong to him.

Then the end will come, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father after he has destroyed all dominion, authority and power.

(I Corinthians 15:22-24)

The first resurrection was of Jesus. This is what is meant by the phrase "Christ the firstfruits." There are two other resurrections of the dead which will occur in the future. These are the resurrection of the just and unjust:

**and I have the same hope in God as these men themselves have, that there will be a resurrection of both the righteous and the wicked.
(Acts 24:15)**

The Bible also calls these two resurrections the resurrection of life and the resurrection of damnation:

Very truly I tell you, a time is coming and has now come when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God and those who hear will live.

“Do not be amazed at this, for a time is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice

**and come out—those who have done what is good will rise to live, and those who have done what is evil will rise to be condemned.
(John 5:25,28-29)**

THE SECOND:

The resurrection of life will happen when Jesus returns to earth for His Church. This event will resurrect from the dead all true believers in Jesus. This is called the resurrection of the just or the resurrection of life.

The resurrection of Jesus was the first stage... The resurrection of believers is the second stage...

THE THIRD:

The third stage of the resurrection of the dead is called "the end." This resurrection occurs at the end of Christ's earthly reign of 1000 years of peace. This resurrection is called the resurrection of the unjust or the "resurrection unto damnation."

TO SUMMARIZE:

The following chart summarizes what you have learned about the three stages of the resurrection of the dead:

Resurrection Of The Dead

Stage One: Resurrection Of Jesus Christ

Stage Two: Resurrection Of The Just (Resurrection Of Life)

Stage Three: Resurrection Of The Unjust (Resurrection Of Damnation)

You have already studied the resurrection of Jesus. Now you will study the resurrections of the just and the unjust.

THE RESURRECTION OF THE JUST

Paul said those in the second stage of the resurrection are "they that are Christ's." This means those who have repented from dead works and through faith accepted Jesus as Savior. Paul said that this resurrection of believers will happen at the time of Christ's coming. The main New Testament passage describing this resurrection of life [the just] is found in Thessalonians:

Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death, so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope.

For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him.

According to the Lord's word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep.

For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first.

After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever.

Therefore encourage one another with these words.(I Thessalonians 4:13-18)

The purpose of Paul's teaching is to comfort believers concerning other Christians who have died ["them which are asleep"]. His message provides assurance that all true believers will be resurrected.

When Jesus returns, two great events will occur on earth:

1. All true believers who have previously died will be resurrected, given new bodies, and reunited with their own soul and spirit.

2. All believers alive on earth at that moment will experience a quick change in their physical bodies.

Both those resurrected and those alive at the time of Christ's coming will be raised by God's power from the earth into the air. They will be reunited with the Lord and each other. From that time on, they will forever be with the Lord.

The book of Revelation provides an additional record of the resurrection of the righteous:

I saw thrones on which were seated those who had been given authority to judge. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony about Jesus and because of the word of God. They had not worshiped the beast or its image and had not received its mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ a thousand years.

(The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were ended.) This is the first resurrection.

Blessed and holy are those who share in the first resurrection. The second death has no power over them, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with him for a thousand years. (Revelation 20:4-6)

The resurrection described in this passage is of believers who die as martyrs during the tribulation period. They are raised just before Christ's Kingdom is established on earth. This passage reveals that the resurrection of the just, which is called the first resurrection, is complete after the raising of this last group of believers.

NEW BODIES FOR BELIEVERS

The Bible reveals some things about the new bodies believers will receive. The new body will be:

ACCORDING TO THE WILL OF GOD:

But God gives it a body as he has determined, and to each kind of seed he gives its own body. (I Corinthians 15:38)

A GLORIOUS BODY:

It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power;. (I Corinthians 15:43)

A SPIRITUAL BODY:

it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body. (I Corinthians 15:44)

A POWERFUL BODY:

it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power; (I Corinthians 15:43b, The Amplified Bible)

AN IMMORTAL BODY:

This means the new body will never age, decay, or die:

In a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.

For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality.

When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: "Death has been swallowed up in victory." (I Corinthians 15:52-54)

A BODY LIKE THAT OF OUR RISEN LORD:

But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. (I Corinthians 15:20)

Jesus arose from the dead first. His resurrection is compared to the first sheaf of a great harvest that will follow. This harvest is the raising of believers in the resurrection. Our resurrected bodies will be like the Lord's:

Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. (I John 3:2)

Who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body. (Philippians 3:21)

THE RESURRECTION OF THE UNJUST

The last resurrection is described by Paul in I Corinthians 15:24. He calls it "the end." This is

the resurrection of the unjust. When Jesus completes His earthly Millennial reign of 1000 years, God will defeat all His enemies. The last of these enemies to be conquered will be death. This will complete God's plan for the world:

He made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ,

To be put into effect when the times reach their fulfillment—to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ. (Ephesians 1:9-10)

Revelation chapter 20 reveals how the resurrection of the unjust relates to other parts of God's plan. In this chapter, the Apostle John describes Satan's final attempt to take the authority of God. This happens at the end of Christ's Millennial reign:

When the thousand years are over, Satan will be released from his prison

and will go out to deceive the nations in the four corners of the earth—Gog and Magog—and to gather them for battle. In number they are like the sand on the seashore.

They marched across the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of God's people, the city he loves. But fire came down from heaven and devoured them.

And the devil, who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of burning sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown. They will be tormented day and night for ever and ever. (Revelation 20:7-10)

During the Millennium reign, Jerusalem will be the center of Christ's rule over the nations of earth. Satan will be a prisoner during this time. At the end of the Millennium, Satan will be freed long enough to stage a final rebellion among the Gentile nations. This will result in an attempt to attack Jerusalem. God will intervene with fire from Heaven and the rebellion will be defeated. Satan will be cast into the lake of eternal fire to be tormented forever.

THE END AND ETERNITY

John describes the final resurrection of all the remaining dead:

Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. The earth and the heavens fled from his presence, and there was no place for them.

And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books.

The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what they had done.

Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death.

Anyone whose name was not found written in the book of life was thrown into the lake of fire. (Revelation 20:11-15)

TO SUMMARIZE...

All true believers who have died will be raised from the grave before the 1000 Millennium year reign of Christ. This is the first resurrection. It is the resurrection of the just to eternal life. The majority of those resurrected at the close of the Millennium will be the unrighteous dead. This is the resurrection of the unjust to damnation. The Bible tells of another great event which will happen after these resurrections. This event is known as eternal judgment and is the subject of study of the next chapter.

After judgment, the destiny of the unrighteous is the lake of fire which is called in the Bible "the second death." The wicked already experienced physical death. Now they will experience the second death of eternal separation from God. This is spiritual death or the "second death." The destiny of the righteous is eternity in the presence of God.

THE RESURRECTION MESSAGE

The doctrine of the resurrection is a foundational truth of the Christian faith. The message of the Gospel not only includes the life and death of Jesus Christ, but also the message of His resurrection.

The apostles preached both the resurrection of Jesus and the resurrection of the dead:

They were greatly disturbed because the apostles were teaching the people, proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection of the dead. (Acts 4:2)

A group of Epicurean and Stoic philosophers began to debate with him. Some of them asked, "What is this babbler trying to say?" Others remarked, "He seems to be advocating foreign gods." They said this because Paul was preaching the good news about Jesus and the resurrection.

When they heard about the resurrection of the dead, some sneered, but others said, "We want to hear you again on this subject."(Acts 17:18,32)

These verses illustrate two different responses of people to the message of the resurrection. Some will not believe it. Others will listen to the message. Our responsibility as believers is to share the resurrection message as part of the Gospel. This is what Paul did:

Now, brothers and sisters, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand.

By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain.

For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures,

that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures,

and that he appeared to Cephas, and then to the Twelve.

After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep.

Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles,

and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born.

(I Corinthians 15:1-8)

The preaching of the Gospel is incomplete without the doctrine of the resurrection:

And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith.

If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man.

**For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive.
(I Corinthians 15:14,19-22)**

SELF-TEST

1. Write the Key Verses from memory.

2. What are the two future resurrections called?

_____ and _____

3. What two things does the Bible reveal about the destiny of all human souls?

4. Read the statements below. If the statement is TRUE write the letter T in the blank in front of it. If the statement is FALSE, write the letter F in the blank in front of it.

a. _____ Those who do not die will not be resurrected.

b. _____ At the time of death there is a separation between spirits of those who were righteous and those who were wicked.

c. _____ It is important to pray for the dead to be saved.

d. _____ The destiny of the righteous is different now than before the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

e. _____ The resurrection of Jesus is important but it is not really part of the Gospel message.

5. What verses illustrate the two responses of men to the resurrection message?

(Answers to tests are provided at the conclusion of the final chapter in this manual.)

FOR FURTHER STUDY

The doctrine of the resurrection of the dead which you have studied and the doctrine of eternal judgment which you will study in the next chapter both concern future events. Future events are foretold in the Word of God. Although these events have not happened yet, God has provided knowledge of His future plans through prophecy.

There is much about future events which is not revealed in God's Word. That which is revealed has been interpreted several different ways by students of the Bible. It is not necessary to understand all the various interpretations of Bible prophecy given by men. Most of these interpretations center on the exact timing of certain prophetic events or specific details of these events.

What is important to foundations of the Christian faith is a general understanding of what the Bible says will happen.

The following outlines these important events:

- I. The Bible teaches that the Lord will return to earth for believers.
Jesus promised His followers:

My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you?

And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. (John 14:2-3)

- A. The Rapture: I Thessalonians 4:13-18 gives the most detail about Christ's return for believers. This return is called the rapture:
 - 1. Christ Himself will return. (Verse 16)
 - 2. There will be a resurrection from the grave of those who were believers when they died. (Verse 16)
 - 3. There will be a rapture, which means "the act of taking a person from one place to another." Living believers will be taken from earth to meet Christ. (Verse 17)
 - 4. There will be a reunion between believers who have previously died, believers living at the time of Christ's return, and their Lord Jesus Christ. (Verse 17)

- B. The Tribulation: The Bible tells of a terrible time on earth which is called the tribulation.
1. The tribulation will last for 42 months or 1,260 days (Daniel 9:24-27)
 2. It will be a very difficult time. There have been many difficult times in the world, but three things will distinguish the tribulation from all other times of trouble.
 - a. First, it will be worldwide and not just local. (Revelation 3:10)
 - b. Second, people will realize the end of the world is near. (Revelation 6:16)
 - c. Third, the intensity of the trouble will be greater than ever before experienced. (Matthew 24:4-14)
 3. Its description: There are a series of judgments of God on the earth during the tribulation. These are described in Revelation chapters 6, 8-9, and 16 and Matthew 24:4-14.
 4. The reason for the tribulation: The wickedness of man must be punished, Satan defeated, and Jesus acknowledged as Lord of all. This completes God's plan of the ages spoken of in Ephesians 1:8-9.

C. The Timing Of The Rapture:

Some people believe the rapture will occur before the tribulation and that believers will not have to experience any of this terrible time on earth. Others believe the rapture will happen midway through this period. Still others believe the rapture will happen at the end of the tribulation.

The most common interpretation is that the rapture of believers will happen before the tribulation period begins. The different views of the timing of the rapture result from various interpretations of the prophetic information given in Scripture. What is most important is to know you are a true believer and will be ready to go with Jesus in the rapture when it does occur.

D. The Millennium:

The Millennium is a period of 1,000 years after the tribulation during which Jesus will rule the earth in righteousness (Zechariah 14:9; Daniel 7:14). The city of Jerusalem will be the center of government (Isaiah 2:3). This period will end

when Satan stages a last revolt against God (Revelation 20:7-9). God will send fire from Heaven and end all opposition. Satan will be cast into the lake of fire for eternity (Revelation 20:10).

E. Judgment:

All created beings will be judged by God. This is known as the time of eternal judgment. It is the last of the foundational principles of Hebrews 6:1-3 and is discussed in the following chapter. Those who died as unbelievers will be resurrected to face judgment. Because they did not repent from sin and accept Jesus as Savior they will be condemned to eternity in Hell (Revelation 20:12-15). True believers who repented from sin and accepted Jesus as Savior will spend eternity in Heaven in the presence of God (Revelation 21).

CHAPTER TEN

ETERNAL JUDGMENT

OBJECTIVES:

Upon completion of this chapter you will be able to:

- Write the Key Verse from memory.
- Define the word "judgment."
- Explain why judgment is necessary.
- Identify who will judge at the final judgment.
- Identify who will be judged in the final judgment.
- Explain the principles governing final judgment.

KEY VERSE:

For the Lord is our judge, the Lord is our lawgiver, the Lord is our king; it is he who will save us. (Isaiah 33:22)

INTRODUCTION

Eternal judgment is the last of the six foundation principles of the Christian faith.

In the Old Testament the word "judgment" is used two ways. One refers to the statutes, testimonies, and laws of God. The other concerns God's judgment on men and nations. The latter meaning is how the word "judgment" is used in the New Testament. It is this meaning that is used in this chapter.

DEFINITION

The word "to judge" means to separate or make a difference between. This includes bringing to trial, examining evidence, determining guilt or innocence, and deciding the penalty for sin. Eternal judgment is the great and final judgment spoken of in the Bible which determines the eternal destiny of all souls.

THE JUDGES

GOD IS THE JUDGE:

For the Lord is our judge. (Isaiah 32:22)

To the church of the firstborn, whose names are written in heaven. You have come to God, the Judge of all, to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, (Hebrews 12:23)

God judges the sinful behavior of mankind. God's real desire is not judgment but that all men come to the knowledge of Jesus Christ:

For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. (John 3:17)

The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

(II Peter 3:9)

God's desire is that all men everywhere repent. If they do not repent of sin they will experience His judgment:

In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent.

For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to everyone by raising him from the dead.” (Acts 17:30-31)

JESUS CHRIST:

God has given Jesus authority to judge:

Moreover, the Father judges no one, but has entrusted all judgment to the Son,

And he has given him authority to judge because he is the Son of Man.. (John 5:22,27, The Amplified Bible)

Or do you not know that the Lord's people will judge the world? And if you are to judge the world, are you not competent to judge trivial cases?

**Do you not know that we will judge angels? How much more the things of this life!
(I Corinthians 6:2-3)**

The word "saints" in this verse means all true believers. They will help judge the "world" [the unrighteous].

THE STANDARD OF JUDGMENT:

The standard by which we all will be judged is the Word of God:

"If anyone hears my words but does not keep them, I do not judge that person. For I did not come to judge the world, but to save the world.

**There is a judge for the one who rejects me and does not accept my words; the very words I have spoken will condemn them at the last day.
(John 12:47-48)**

It is not the standards, creeds, or traditions of man by which we will be judged. It is not on the basis of organizational or denominational rules. The standard by which we will be judged is the fixed standard of the Word of God:

Your word, Lord, is eternal; it stands firm in the heavens.. (Psalms 119:89)

THE REASON FOR JUDGMENT

The Bible reveals judgment is necessary because of sin against God's law, ungodliness, unrighteousness, unbelief, trespasses, and evil deeds. Although these are different words, they are all words for sin:

SIN AGAINST GOD'S LAW:

**All who sin apart from the law will also perish apart from the law, and all who sin under the law will be judged by the law.
(Romans 2:12)**

UNGODLINESS:

**By the same word the present heavens and earth are reserved for fire, being kept for the day of judgment and destruction of the ungodly. (II Peter 3:7)
to judge everyone, and to convict all of them of all the ungodly acts they have committed in their ungodliness, of all the defiant words ungodly sinners have spoken against him." (Jude 15)**

UNRIGHTEOUSNESS:

If this is so, then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from trials and to hold the unrighteous for punishment on the day of judgment. (II Peter 2:9)

UNBELIEF:

Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son. (John 3:18)

TRESPASS:

Consequently, just as one trespass resulted in condemnation for all people, so also one righteous act resulted in justification and life for all people. (Romans 5:18, The Amplified Bible)

EVIL DEEDS:

This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. (John 3:19)

THE PRINCIPLES OF DIVINE JUDGMENT

Worldly principles of judgment vary from nation to nation. The standards may vary from state to state within a nation and from city to city. Worldly principles of judgment and punishment vary because people interpret certain acts in different ways. The same act interpreted as wrong in one culture may be acceptable in another. For example, killing of a cow is viewed quite differently in America, where it is used for meat, than in India where the cow is considered sacred by some people.

The judgment of man varies because the standards by which they judge vary. But the principles of God's judgment do not change. God judges...

ON THE BASIS OF THE WORD OF GOD:

God's law and the principles of judgment are fixed in His Word:

Your word, Lord, is eternal; it stands firm in the heavens. (Psalms 119:89)

ACCORDING TO KNOWLEDGE:

Men and nations will be judged according to the knowledge of God which was given them. Jesus said some would be judged more severely than the cities of Sodom, Gomorrha, Ninevah, Tyre, and Sidon. These were evil cities mentioned in the Old Testament which God judged and punished.

The reason Jesus pronounced more severe judgment on some New Testament cities was because these cities had more knowledge of God. Jesus Himself had ministered in these cities and performed mighty works of healing and deliverance. Still, the people of these cities would not repent. Jesus warned:

“Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the miracles that were performed in you had been performed in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes.

But I tell you, it will be more bearable for Tyre and Sidon on the day of judgment than for you.

And you, Capernaum, will you be lifted to the heavens? No, you will go down to Hades. For if the miracles that were performed in you had been performed in Sodom, it would have remained to this day.

But I tell you that it will be more bearable for Sodom on the day of judgment than for you.” (Matthew 11:21-24)

The men of Nineveh will stand up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it; for they repented at the preaching of Jonah, and now something greater than Jonah is here. (Matthew 12:41)

A general revelation of God is given to all men through the wonders of creation:

For since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse. (Romans 1:20)

This general understanding of God given to all men through creation is the basic standard by which men will be judged. Those who receive additional revelation by hearing God's Word will be judged by a higher standard of knowledge.

INDIVIDUALLY:

Each person will be judged individually:

The one who sins is the one who will die. The child will not share the guilt of the parent, nor will the parent share the guilt of the child. The righteousness of the righteous will be credited to them, and the wickedness of the wicked will be charged against them. (Ezekiel 18:20)

Judgment determining individual eternal destiny will not be on a group basis. It will be on an individual basis.

ACCORDING TO TRUTH:

Paul wrote:

Now we know that God's judgment against those who do such things is based on truth. (Romans 2:2)

ON THE BASIS OF PERSONAL CONDUCT:

Each of us will stand before the judgment seat of Christ and will be judged according to our deeds. The Bible also calls this judgment according to "works":

For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each of us may receive what is due us for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad. (II Corinthians 5:10)

God "will repay each person according to what they have done." (Romans 2:6)

Since you call on a Father who judges each person's work impartially, live out your time as foreigners here in reverent fear. (I Peter 1:17)

And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books. (Revelation 20:12)

God's record of man's "works" covers not only actions but also thoughts and motives. God looks on the heart, not just on the outward appearance (I Samuel 16:7).

WITHOUT PARTIALITY:

The eternal judgment will be without partiality. This means without special favor. People will not be judged on the basis of their wealth, social position, nationality, or education.

Since you call on a Father who judges each person's work impartially, live out your time as foreigners here in reverent fear. (I Peter 1:17)

God's judgment is not influenced by any of these things:

But the Lord said to Samuel, “Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The Lord does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.” (I Samuel 16:7)

ACCORDING TO THE LAW:

All who sin apart from the law will also perish apart from the law, and all who sin under the law will be judged by the law. (Romans 2:12)

ACCORDING TO RIGHTEOUSNESS:

He rules the world in righteousness and judges the peoples with equity (Psalms 9:8)

Let all creation rejoice before the Lord, for he comes, he comes to judge the earth. He will judge the world in righteousness and the peoples in his faithfulness. (Psalms 96:13)

For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to everyone by raising him from the dead.” (Acts 17:31)

But because of your stubbornness and your unrepentant heart, you are storing up wrath against yourself for the day of God’s wrath, when his righteous judgment will be revealed. (Romans 2:5)

Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing. (II Timothy 4:8)

ACCORDING TO MOTIVES AND THOUGHTS:

Therefore judge nothing before the appointed time; wait until the Lord comes. He will bring to light what is hidden in darkness and will expose the motives of the heart. At that time each will receive their praise from God. (I Corinthians 4:5)

This will take place on the day when God judges people’s secrets through Jesus Christ, as my gospel declares. (Romans 2:16)

THE TIME OF JUDGMENT

The Bible indicates there is a past, present, and future judgment:

PAST JUDGMENT:

The Bible is a history of God's past judgment. From the time of Adam and Eve it records God's judgment of nations and individuals.

The Bible records two special past judgments that are important to believers. These are the judgments of Satan and the world. God has already passed judgment and set the penalties for both.

Satan And His Angels:

Through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, God passed final judgment on Satan:

and about judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned (John 16:11)

And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross. (Colossians 2:15)

Satan has already been judged by God. He is allowed limited activity until he is cast into the lake of fire at the end of the world but he is already condemned as guilty. Satan's angels, who left their original position in Heaven as angels of God to join him in rebellion, are also already condemned:

And the angels who did not keep their positions of authority but abandoned their proper dwelling—these he has kept in darkness, bound with everlasting chains for judgment on the great Day. (Jude 6)

The World:

Jesus said:

Now is the time for judgment on this world; now the prince of this world will be driven out. (John 12:31)

Because it is ruined by the presence of sin, the physical world is already condemned by God's judgment. The Bible says the world will be destroyed by fire:

But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything done in it will be laid bare. (II Peter 3:10)

PRESENT JUDGMENT:

There is a present judgment that goes on continuously. All men are presently judged as sinful or righteous before God. The present judgment of man is on the basis of whether or not he has accepted Jesus Christ as Savior:

Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son. (John 3:18)

God's present judgment on unbelievers is by showing His wrath because they hinder the truth:

The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of people, who suppress the truth by their wickedness, (Romans 1:18, The Amplified Bible)

God's present judgment of believers is in love. He corrects them when they do wrong:

And have you completely forgotten this word of encouragement that addresses you as a father addresses his son? It says, "My son, do not make light of the Lord's discipline, and do not lose heart when he rebukes you,

because the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and he chastens everyone he accepts as his son.

If you are not disciplined—and everyone undergoes discipline—then you are not legitimate, not true sons and daughters at all. (Hebrews 12:5,6,8)

Just as a natural father corrects his children, God judges the behavior of His children. If they sin, God corrects them in love just as a father does his son. God's chastisement [correction] of His children is for a specific purpose:

No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it. (Hebrews 12:11)

FUTURE JUDGMENT:

It is the future judgment to which Paul refers in Hebrews 6 when he speaks of "eternal judgment." Eternal judgment happens after death:

Just as people are destined to die once, and after that to face judgment, (Hebrews 9:27)

The final judgment confirming eternal destinies occurs after the end of the world and the resurrection:

In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I give you this charge: (II Timothy 4:1)

Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about them: “See, the Lord is coming with thousands upon thousands of his holy ones (Jude 14,15)

THE LOCATIONS OF FINAL JUDGMENT

There are three locations where final judgment will occur:

THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST:

Those judged here will be all true believers:

You, then, why do you judge your brother or sister? Or why do you treat them with contempt? For we will all stand before God’s judgment seat. (Romans 14:10)

For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each of us may receive what is due us for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad. (II Corinthians 5:10)

THE THRONE OF HIS GLORY:

The second place of judgment is called "the throne of Christ's glory." Those judged here will be those who remained on the earth during the tribulation period. The righteous will be resurrected and judged prior to Jesus setting up the Millennial Kingdom on earth.

I saw thrones on which were seated those who had been given authority to judge. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony about Jesus and because of the word of God. They had not worshiped the beast or its image and had not received its mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ a thousand years.

(The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were ended.) This is the first resurrection. (Revelation 20:4-5a)

THE GREAT WHITE THRONE:

The final place of judgment is called the "great white throne." Those judged here are the remaining dead who will be resurrected at the close of the Millennium. (This is the second resurrection called the resurrection of the unjust.)

The Great White Throne judgment is recorded in Revelation 20:11-15. The unrighteous will be judged and because of their sin cast into a lake of fire along with Satan and his angels.

ETERNAL JUDGMENT

There will be only two basic divisions of people who are tried in the final judgments: Believers and unbelievers.

BELIEVERS:

Believers will be judged for their works and rewarded accordingly.

**So then, each of us will give an account of ourselves to God.
(Romans 14:12)**

For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each of us may receive what is due us for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad. (II Corinthians 5:10)

Believers will be judged by how they have built their lives on the foundation of God's Word:

**If anyone builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones,
wood, hay or straw,**

**their work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light.
It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each person's
work.**

what has been built survives, the builder will receive a reward.

**If it is burned up, the builder will suffer loss but yet will be saved—even
though only as one escaping through the flames. (I Corinthians 3:12-15)**

In the natural world, wood, hay, and stubble all grow visibly above the ground. They burn easily. They are examples of works done by believers to be seen by man. The motive for these works was wrong.

Gold and silver are not destroyed by fire. In the natural world, these substances develop below the ground unseen by man. They are an example of works done with the right motive, not done just to be seen and praised by man. They are works which are valuable in God's Kingdom because they were done with the right motive.

The works of true believers will be judged on the basis of obedience. The parables of the talents in Matthew 25 and the parable of the pounds in Luke 19 were told by Jesus to illustrate this truth.

In both these parables, servants were judged on the basis of what they had done with what they had been given. They were told to invest funds for their masters. Servants who were disobedient were judged unfaithful.

Just like these parables, our Master has given us a responsibility. That responsibility is known as the Great Commission:

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

(Matthew 28:19-20)

We are to take what God has given us, the message of the Gospel, and reproduce it by sharing it with others throughout the world. As we obey this commission, we are investing what God has given us and increasing it.

Some believers have greater responsibilities than others in this commission. Some are called as pastors, evangelists, teachers, etc. But every born-again believer has some responsibility in reaching the world with the Gospel.

Believers will be judged on the basis of their faithfulness to the responsibility God has given them:

Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful. (I Corinthians 4:2)

Believers will not be judged on the basis of abilities, education, or spiritual gifts. They will be judged on the basis of obedience and faithfulness to what God has given them to do. The judgment of true believers is not one of condemnation. That is, the true believer cannot be condemned to eternal punishment. Through accepting Christ, he already has passed from spiritual death to eternal life:

“Very truly I tell you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be judged but has crossed over from death to life. (John 5:24)

A true believer is one who has repented from sin and shown faith toward God by accepting Jesus Christ as personal Savior. He is one who has become and lived as a new creature in Jesus Christ. Paul confirmed:

Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, (Romans 8:1)

When a sinner comes to Jesus his record of former sins is erased by God. When a believer sins, he needs only to repent and confess his sin and God erases it from the record:

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:9)

UNBELIEVERS:

The unrighteous will be judged and punished for sin. God keeps a record called the "book of life" in which is listed the names of those who have repented, accepted Jesus Christ, and become true believers. Those who have rejected Him will be judged for sin and doomed to eternal punishment. Their names are not in the book of life:

Anyone whose name was not found written in the book of life was thrown into the lake of fire. (Revelation 20:15)

It is important to understand that you must live as a new creature in Jesus after conversion. It is possible to be saved and then because of continuing in sin to "backslide" into the old life. The Bible confirms that it is possible to have your name written in the book of life but then have it blotted out because of sin:

The Lord replied to Moses, "Whoever has sinned against me I will blot out of my book. (Exodus 32:33)

This is why learning to live a holy life is so important. (We will discuss this in the final chapter on perfection). By overcoming sin in your life, you can be assured God will not blot your name out of the book of life:

The one who is victorious will, like them, be dressed in white. I will never blot out the name of that person from the book of life, but will acknowledge that name before my Father and his angels. (Revelation 3:5)

THE DESTINY OF THE RIGHTEOUS

The righteous are destined to eternal life in the presence of God. The presence of God is called Heaven. In the Bible it is described by several names:

THE FATHER'S HOUSE:

Jesus described it as His Father's house, a place of home, rest, and fellowship:

My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? (John 14:2)

A HEAVENLY COUNTRY:

The Bible compares Heaven to a country to which we are traveling just as Israel traveled to the Promised Land:

Instead, they were longing for a better country—a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them. (Hebrews 11:16)

A CITY:

Heaven is compared to a city:

I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. (Revelation 21:2)

The Bible reveals some wonderful things about Heaven. It is a place of:

HOLINESS:

Nothing impure will ever enter it, nor will anyone who does what is shameful or deceitful, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life. (Revelation 21:27)

JOY:

'He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death' or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.' (Revelation 21:4)

BEAUTY:

The wall was made of jasper, and the city of pure gold, as pure as glass. (Revelation 21:18)

SERVICE:

Therefore, "they are before the throne of God and serve him day and night in his temple; and he who sits on the throne will shelter them with his presence. (Revelation 7:15)

REIGNING WITH CHRIST:

Jesus promised...

To the one who is victorious, I will give the right to sit with me on my throne, just as I was victorious and sat down with my Father on his throne. (Revelation 3:21)

WORSHIP:

The Bible records that those in Heaven...

The four living creatures said, “Amen,” and the elders fell down and worshiped.. (Revelation 5:14)

LIGHT AND GLORY:

The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp. (Revelation 21:23)

A PLACE OF NEW PERSPECTIVE:

Being in Heaven will give us a new perspective on everything:

“See, I will create new heavens and a new earth. The former things will not be remembered, nor will they come to mind. (Isaiah 65:17)

THE DWELLING PLACE OF GOD:

And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. (Revelation 21:3)

ETERNAL DESTINY OF THE UNRIGHTEOUS

Hell is the eternal destiny of the wicked. Hell is a place of:

EXTREME SUFFERING:

And the devil, who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of burning sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown. They will be tormented day and night for ever and ever. (Revelation 20:10)

MEMORY AND REMORSE:

In Hades, where he was in torment, he looked up and saw Abraham far away, with Lazarus by his side.

“But Abraham replied, ‘Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, while Lazarus received bad things, but now he is comforted here and you are in agony. (Luke 16:23,25)

UNSATISFIED DESIRE:

So he called to him, ‘Father Abraham, have pity on me and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, because I am in agony in this fire.’ (Luke 16:24)

CONTEMPT:

Multitudes who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake: some to everlasting life, others to shame and everlasting contempt. (Daniel 12:2)

WICKED COMPANIONSHIP:

But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars—they will be consigned to the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death.” (Revelation 21:8)

HOPELESSNESS:

Hopes placed in mortals die with them; all the promise of their power comes to nothing. (Proverbs 11:7)

ETERNAL PUNISHMENT:

Hell was originally prepared for Satan and his angels. Because of sin, man is also destined for eternity in Hell unless he is redeemed by Jesus Christ:

“Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. (Matthew 25:41)

Punishment for the wicked is eternal. The same word that is used for eternal life in the Bible (John 3:15) and the eternal God (I Timothy 1:17) is used to describe eternal judgment (Hebrews 6:2). If one of these is temporary, then the other two would have to be temporary.

There is no way to escape the conclusion that if God is everlasting and eternal life is everlasting, then so is punishment in Hell. God does not send people to Hell. Man chooses to go there by rejecting Jesus Christ and living a sinful life. God has provided a way of escape from eternal punishment through the plan of salvation. He is not willing that any should perish.

HOW THEN SHOULD WE LIVE?

How should the doctrine of eternal judgment affect our lives as believers?

When writing on the subject of future judgment, the Apostle Peter answered this question:

Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives

**So then, dear friends, since you are looking forward to this, make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with him.
(II Peter 3:11,14)**

Understanding of eternal judgment should result in spiritual maturity in the life of the believer.

The subject of Christian maturity, which Paul calls "going on to perfection," is the subject of next chapter.

SELF-TEST

1. In what two ways is the word "judgment" used in the Old Testament?

2. What is the meaning of the words "to judge"?

3. Why is judgment necessary?

4. Who will do the judging at the time of eternal judgment?

5. Who will be judged? _____

6. What principles will govern judgment at that time?

7. Write the Key Verse from memory.

8. If the statement is TRUE write the letter T in the blank in front of it. If the statement is FALSE, write the letter F.

a. _____ There is judgment going on at all times.

b. _____ There is a judgment reserved for a special time in the future.

c. _____ The Bible does not tell where future judgment will occur.

(Answers to tests are provided at the conclusion of the final chapter in this manual.)

FOR FURTHER STUDY

This chapter has introduced the subject of judgment as it is taught in the Bible. To expand knowledge of this subject continue your study of judgment by using the following outline:

JUDGMENT IS AN ATTRIBUTE (QUALITY) OF GOD

Psalms 89:14; 97:2; 99:1-5; Isaiah 28:5-6; 30:18; 61:8; Daniel 4:37

JUDGMENT IS AN ATTRIBUTE OF JESUS

Psalms 72:2; Isaiah 9:7; 11:1-5; John 5:30; 8:15-16,26

PURPOSES OF GOD'S JUDGMENT

To give life: Leviticus 18:4-5; Nehemiah 9:29; Psalms 119:149,156

To redeem His people: Exodus 6:6; 7:4; Isaiah 1:27

To establish: I Chronicles 28:7; Psalms 37:28; Proverbs 2:8; Zephaniah 2:3

To chasten [correct]: Psalms 119:75; Jeremiah 10:24; Habakkuk 1:12

To help His people: Psalms 76:8-9; 119:175

THE BLESSINGS OF GOD'S JUDGMENT

Comfort: Psalms 119:52

Reward: Psalms 58:11

Instruction and righteousness: Isaiah 26:8-9

PENALTIES FOR NOT RESPONDING TO HIS JUDGMENT

These are listed in Ezekiel 5:6-17; 11:11-12; 14:21; Malachi 2:1-4; 3:1-6

THE NATURE OF GOD'S JUDGMENTS

Righteous: Deuteronomy 4:8; Psalms 19:9; 119:137; Jeremiah 11:20; II Thessalonians 1:4-6; I

Peter 2:23; Revelation 15:4; 16:7; 19:2,11

Based on love: Psalms 33:5

True and just: Psalms 111:7; Proverbs 2:9; Jeremiah 4:2; John 8:15-16

Far above the wicked: Psalms 10:5

Eternal: Psalms 119:160

Great: Psalms 36:6

Renewed: Zephaniah 3:15

Unsearchable: Romans 11:33

They will be made manifest [apparent to us]: Revelation 15:4

WHO GOD JUDGES

All people: Psalms 7:8; 9:7-8; 96:10; Hebrews 12:23; Jude 15-16
Those who persecute the righteous: Psalms 119:84
The righteous: Psalms 7:11
Scorners: Proverbs 19:29
Every man: Proverbs 29:26
Young men: Ecclesiastes 11:9
Nations: Isaiah 2:4
Leaders: Isaiah 3:13-14
The wicked: Deuteronomy 7:10-11; Jeremiah 1:16; Hebrews 13:4; Jude 15-16
The world: John 9:39; 12:31
The prince of this world [Satan]: John 16:11; 12:31
Those outside the church [those without]: I Corinthians 5:13
His people: Hebrews 10:30
Teachers: James 3:1
Grudgers: James 5:9
The church [the house of God]: I Peter 4:17
The heathen: Ezekiel 39:21

HOW GOD JUDGES

Through Jesus Christ: John 5:22,27
By the Holy Spirit: John 16:11; Ezekiel 36:27
According to the Word of God: John 12:48
According to each man's works: I Peter 1:17
Through His ministers: Ezekiel 44:24; Hosea 6:5

OUR ATTITUDE TOWARDS GOD'S JUDGMENTS

We should:

Teach them: Ezra 7:10; Psalms 37:30
Observe and do them: Deuteronomy 11:32
Praise God for them: Psalms 48:11; 97:8; 119:7,62,164
Desire them: Psalms 119:20
Set them before us: Psalms 119:30
Hope in them: Psalms 119:43
Declare them: Psalms 119:13
Not depart from them: Psalms 119:102
Fear them: Psalms 119:120
Be aware of them: Psalms 35:23
Ask God to judge us: Psalms 35:24
Preach His judgments: Acts 24:25

THE PURPOSES OF GOD'S PRESENT JUDGMENT

His purposes for chastening of believers are to:

Make us holy: Hebrews 12:10
Bring righteousness in our lives: Hebrews 12:11
Bring life: Hebrews 12:9; Proverbs 15:31
Prepare us for the Spirit's guidance: Proverbs 1:23
Bring honor: Proverbs 13:18
Bring wisdom: Proverbs 15:5,32
Teach the fear of God: Proverbs 15:33
Perfect us: Colossians 1:28; II Timothy 3:16-17
Teach us patience: I Peter 2:20
Avoid condemnation: I Corinthians 11:32
Bring repentance: Revelation 3:19; Romans 2:4
Correct us: Jeremiah 10:24

THE REASONS FOR CHASTENING

Sin and backsliding: Jeremiah 2:19; John 3:20; 16:8; II Peter 2:16
Faults: I Peter 2:20
Unbelief: Romans 11:20
Disobedience: Luke 12:47-48
Respect of persons: Job 13:10

HOW TO AVOID CHASTISEMENT

I Corinthians 11:31-32 [self-examination]; Romans 11:22; Philippians 2:12-16

THE DEGREES OF CHASTENING:

God has a pattern of chastening in our lives. It moves from reproof, which is a simple form of chastening, through more severe levels of chastening (Hebrews 12:11).

REPROOF:

To correct a fault, make a statement of error, give instruction or correction. God speaks to us and reproves us of wrong in our lives. Isaiah 11:4; Psalms 50:21; 141:5; Proverbs 1:23; Ephesians 5:13; II Timothy 3:16.

REBUKE:

A sharp reproof or reprimand. If we fail to listen to reproof, God will deal more sternly. Hebrews 12:5; Revelation 3:19; Psalms 6:1; Deuteronomy 28:20.

WRATH:

After we are rebuked if we persist in our sinful ways and refuse God's correction, then His wrath may come upon us. Romans 2:8-9.

AFFLICTION:

God's wrath may be revealed through affliction. It may be financial, material, or physical affliction. (This does not mean all affliction is judgment from God.) Romans 2:9, Psalms 119:75; Deuteronomy 28:15-47; Leviticus 26:14-39; Amos 4:6-13

REJECTION:

This is the final step of God's judgment when chastisement has failed to result in repentance. Hebrews 6:4-6; 10:26-31; Jeremiah 14:11-12; II Peter 2:20; I John 5:16; Proverbs 1:25-32; 5:1-23; 15:10; 29:1

THE RESULTS OF CHASTENING

God's objective in chastening is that we return unto Him: Hosea 6:1

CHAPTER ELEVEN

PERFECTION

OBJECTIVES:

Upon completion of this chapter you will be able to:

- Write the Key Verse from memory.
- Define "perfection."
- Identify the example of perfection for believers.
- Name the standard of perfection for believers.
- Distinguish between initial and progressive perfection.
- List factors involved in the perfection process.

KEY VERSE:

Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect (Matthew 5:48)

INTRODUCTION

Just as a good foundation is important to a building in the natural world, a good spiritual foundation is important for the believer. Through the parable of the two builders you learned that your spiritual foundation must be built on the Word of God.

Hebrews 6:1-3 reveals that the foundations of the Christian faith are:

- Repentance from dead works
- Faith toward God
- Doctrine of baptisms
- Laying on of hands
- Resur-rection of the dead
- Eternal judgment

These are basic doctrines of the Word of God on which you are to build your spiritual life. You studied each of these in previous chapters.

ON TO PERFECTION

In Hebrews 6:1-3 Paul gives an additional step which is necessary in building your spiritual life:

Therefore let us move beyond the elementary teachings about Christ and be taken forward to maturity, not laying again the foundation of repentance from acts that lead to death, and of faith in God. (Hebrews 6:1)

Repentance from dead works, faith toward God, baptisms, laying on of hands, resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment are all principles of the doctrine of Christ.

Two extremes are common among believers. One is that they have a knowledge of the Word of God but do not apply that knowledge to daily living. The other extreme is that believers emphasize experience and ignore doctrine. Both doctrine and experience are important. A proper understanding of doctrine results in experience. But experience that is not based on Biblical doctrine is not trustworthy.

You must not only understand the basic doctrines of Hebrews 6:1-3 but you must also experience them. Once you have built your life on these doctrines through experience, you must learn how to "go on unto perfection." That is the purpose of this chapter.

DEFINITION

The word "perfection" means complete, finished, and mature. The Bible uses the word "perfection" rather than "maturity" to describe a spiritually mature believer. A "perfect" Christian is one who has achieved spiritual maturity. This means his body, soul, and spirit are under the control of the Holy Spirit.

The word "perfection" is similar to the word "sanctification" or "consecration" which are also used in the Bible. "Sanctification" means holiness and "consecration" means to be set apart in righteousness.

TWO DANGERS

There are two dangers if spiritual foundations are emphasized without attention to perfection:

1. One danger is to lay a good spiritual foundation and not go on to spiritual maturity.
2. The other danger is to attempt to build a "superstructure" of perfection on a faulty spiritual foundation.

COMPLETING THE FOUNDATION

A foundation is not a completed building. A superstructure must be built on the foundation. A superstructure is that part of a building which is visible above the foundation. A good spiritual foundation is not the final goal for a believer:

For if you lay the foundation and are not able to finish it, everyone who sees it will ridicule you,

saying, 'This person began to build and wasn't able to finish.' (Luke 14:29-30)

Many people begin with God. They hear the Gospel, repent from dead works, and have faith toward God, but they never progress beyond this point. They never complete their spiritual foundation and go on to perfection.

A partial foundation in the natural world is not functional. You cannot construct a building on a partial foundation or it will collapse under stress. You must complete the foundation and then construct the building.

Believers who have not completed their spiritual foundations will have difficulty under stress. They will live "up and down" lives spiritually. Their spiritual building will not weather the storms of life. They cannot go on to perfection [spiritual maturity] because their foundation is incomplete.

BUILDING THE SUPERSTRUCTURE

In the natural world, a foundation alone is not very functional. It is the building constructed on that foundation that serves as a home, office, or school. The reason some people are spiritually immature is because they only lay a spiritual foundation and never finish the building by going on to perfection.

Paul spoke of these spiritually immature believers:

In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God's word all over again. You need milk, not solid food!

Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness.

But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil. (Hebrews 5:12-14)

Paul told the Corinthian believers that it was time they should be teaching others the Gospel. Instead, they were having to be taught the first [foundational] principles of God. He compared them to babies who only could drink milk. By "milk" he meant the first principles of God.

Milk is very healthy and brings growth, but there comes a time when a baby goes on to solid foods:

**“Who is it he is trying to teach? To whom is he explaining his message? To children weaned from their milk, to those just taken from the breast?
(Isaiah 28:9)**

Just as weaning from milk is necessary in the natural world if a child is to develop properly, it is also necessary in the spiritual world. Believers must go beyond first principles on to spiritual maturity [perfection]. Spiritually mature believers are able to feast on the meat, not just the milk, of the Word of God.

THE CALL TO PERFECTION

Jesus calls His followers to perfection:

Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect. (Matthew 5:48)

This perfection reflects the presence of God:

**I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.
(John 17:23)**

It results in spiritual maturity:

Brothers and sisters, stop thinking like children. In regard to evil be infants, but in your thinking be adults. (I Corinthians 14:20)

Perfection was a goal of the early church. Paul wrote:

We are glad whenever we are weak but you are strong; and our prayer is that you may be fully restored. (II Corinthians 13:9,11)

Individual perfection results in your being perfectly joined together with other believers in the Body of Christ:

I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another in what you say and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly united in mind and thought. (I Corinthians 1:10)

Divisions in the Body of Christ are a result of spiritual immaturity.

THE EXAMPLE OF PERFECTION

Jesus is the example of perfection for believers:

To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps. (I Peter 2:21)

In bringing many sons and daughters to glory, it was fitting that God, for whom and through whom everything exists, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through what he suffered. (Hebrews 2:10)

and, once made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him. (Hebrews 5:9)

God planned believers to be conformed [be made like] Jesus who is our example of perfection:

For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. (Romans 8:29)

THE STANDARD OF PERFECTION

The standard of perfection by which believers are measured is God's Word. Jesus was the example of perfection and conformed perfectly to the Word because He was the visible revelation of God's Word. God has set standards in His Word which are to govern our lives. The first standards He gave man were called the "law" and are recorded in the first five books of the Old Testament.

Much of the history of the Old Testament records the inability of man to keep God's laws. God knew man would not be able to keep the law through his own efforts. But God had some specific purposes for giving the law. One of the purposes of the law was to show men their sinful condition. Another purpose was to show them that they could not become righteous by their own efforts:

Therefore no one will be declared righteous in God's sight by the works of the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of our sin. (Romans 3:20)

God did not leave us in this hopeless condition. Through the law He promised the Messiah:

I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their fellow Israelites, and I will put my words in his mouth. He will tell them everything I command him.

I myself will call to account anyone who does not listen to my words that the prophet speaks in my name. (Deuteronomy 18:18-19)

In Acts 3:22-26 these same words are quoted by the Apostle Peter and applied to the Lord Jesus Christ.

In the Old Testament, various sacrifices were required by God for sin. After Jesus sacrificed His life for the sin of all mankind, the Old Testament sacrifices were no longer necessary:

The law is only a shadow of the good things that are coming—not the realities themselves. For this reason it can never, by the same sacrifices repeated endlessly year after year, make perfect those who draw near to worship.

For by one sacrifice he has made perfect forever those who are being made holy. (Hebrews 10:1,14)

The purpose of the law is summarized in these words:

But Scripture has locked up everything under the control of sin, so that what was promised, being given through faith in Jesus Christ, might be given to those who believe.

Before the coming of this faith, we were held in custody under the law, locked up until the faith that was to come would be revealed

So the law was our guardian until Christ came that we might be justified by faith. (Galatians 3:22-24)

Man could not keep the standards of a righteous God through self-effort. The law showed the need for a Savior and led man to Jesus Christ. It is through Christ, not self-effort, that you are perfected. It is through Him that you are conformed to His example of perfection and to the standard of the Word of God.

(for the law made nothing perfect), and a better hope is introduced, by which we draw near to God. (Hebrews 7:19)

LEVELS OF PERFECTION

There are two levels of perfection:

INITIAL PERFECTION:

In I Corinthians 1:2 Paul calls the believers "saints" which means "sanctified ones." Yet in the same letter he corrects these "saints" because of sin. They were believers and sanctified in Christ, but some of them were not living right in their daily conduct.

These believers had received initial perfection. They were forgiven of their sins through redemption from dead works. These sins were forgiven once and for all (Hebrews 10:14). This initial perfection was received at the time they accepted Jesus as Savior. But these Christians had not gone on to perfection. They had not continued to put off the "old man" of sin:

For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin. (Romans 6:6)

Paul told them it was not right to continue living in sin after conversion. He said:

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! (II Corinthians 5:17)

As a believer you should live a new life. It is not right to continue in sin. Paul said:

What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase?

By no means! We are those who have died to sin; how can we live in it any longer?

We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. (Romans 6:1,2,4)

We must go on to perfection.

PROGRESSIVE PERFECTION:

Initial perfection from sin at the time of salvation is the start of a progressive life of sanctification. After salvation, you are to live a new life in Christ:

I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. (Galatians 2:20)

Paul described progressive perfection in his own life:

Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. (Philippians 3:12)

Paul had not attained complete perfection, but it was his goal. He described his struggle for perfection in another passage:

I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do.

And if I do what I do not want to do, I agree that the law is good.

As it is, it is no longer I myself who do it, but it is sin living in me.

For I know that good itself does not dwell in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out.

For I do not do the good I want to do, but the evil I do not want to do—this I keep on doing.

Now if I do what I do not want to do, it is no longer I who do it, but it is sin living in me that does it.

So I find this law at work: Although I want to do good, evil is right there with me. So I find this law at work: Although I want to do good, evil is right there with me.

For in my inner being I delight in God's law

but I see another law at work in me, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within me. (Romans 7:15-23)

Paul wanted to live by God's standards, but he realized that by himself [in his flesh] he could not achieve this goal. There was a constant battle between his flesh and his spirit. His spirit wanted to keep God's laws (verse 22). His flesh wanted to sin. He discovered that the only way he could achieve perfection was through Christ:

But if Christ is in you, then even though your body is subject to death because of sin, the Spirit gives life because of righteousness.

And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of his Spirit who lives in you.

For if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body you will live. (Romans 8:10,11,13)

It is only through the Spirit of God that you can overcome the evil desires of the flesh and conform to God's standards. When the flesh results in you doing those things we would not, God has provided a way to restore you to perfection.

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. (I John 1:9)

You do not have to try to live this new life in your own strength. You live it through "faith in the Son of God." Whenever you fail, you can be restored to perfection before God by confessing your sins and asking forgiveness.

When you are born again, you are just like a baby in the natural world. You have much to learn spiritually. While you are learning you make mistakes. When you make mistakes, you must confess your sins and God will forgive you.

As a believer, you fight your enemy, Satan. This is a spiritual battle which takes place in your mind and through the circumstances of life around you. On occasion, you may lose a battle to the enemy. But this does not mean he has won the war. You may temporarily go down in defeat but through confession of your sins you can rise again in righteousness to continue on to perfection.

As you learned in a previous chapter, Jesus has already judged Satan. Satan was defeated by Jesus at Calvary. The power of God within you is greater than the power of the enemy:

You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world. (I John 4:4)

You go on to perfection through the strength of this power, not human effort. Going on to perfection is not a course in self-improvement. It is learning to live as the new creature you are through faith in Christ Jesus.

THE PERFECTION PROCESS

The following things are necessary for the perfection process to occur in your life:

A GOOD FOUNDATION:

As you learned in this course, a good spiritual foundation is required to go on to perfection (Hebrews 6:1-3).

RESPONSE TO THE WORD OF GOD:

One of the purposes of the Word of God is to provide correction which results in perfection:

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness,

so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. (II Timothy 3:16-17)

Just studying God's Word will not perfect you. You must make a personal response to the Word:

Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you.

Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.

Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror

and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like.

But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it—not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it—they will be blessed in what they do. (James 1:21-25)

You must not only look into God's law, but "continue" [live] according to it. You must make a personal response to the Word by laying aside all "moral filth and evil" Being a doer of the Word brings assurance of salvation:

But if anyone obeys his word, love for God is truly made complete in them. This is how we know we are in him: (I John 2:5)

PRAYER:

Prayer results in perfection:

Epaphras, who is one of you and a servant of Christ Jesus, sends greetings. He is always wrestling in prayer for you, that you may stand firm in all the will of God, mature and fully assured. (Colossians 4:12)

CONSECRATION:

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.

Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will. (Romans 12:1-2)

By consecrating your life to God you will know His perfect will. Consecration means to be set apart. When you consecrate your life to God you refuse to conform to the standards of the world. You choose to conform to the standards of God's Word.

GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT:

One of the purposes of the gifts of the Holy Spirit is to assist the perfection process in your life. As you learned in a previous chapter, God has ministry gifts in the church for...

to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up

until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. (Ephesians 4:12-13)

SUBMISSION TO PROVEN MINISTRIES:

God uses spiritual leaders in the perfection process. You should submit to the leadership of those God sets in authority in the church. Submission to "proven" ministries means submitting to spiritual leaders whose ministries have shown conformity to God's Word. The role of spiritual leaders in the perfection process is revealed in Paul's writings:

Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you again and supply what is lacking in your faith. (I Thessalonians 3:10)

He is the one we proclaim, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone fully mature in Christ. (Colossians 1:28)

Epaphras, who is one of you and a servant of Christ Jesus, sends greetings. He is always wrestling in prayer for you, that you may stand firm in all the will of God, mature and fully assured. (Colossians 4:12)

We are glad whenever we are weak but you are strong; and our prayer is that you may be fully restored. (II Corinthians 13:9)

SUFFERING:

No one likes to suffer, but when suffering comes in the life of a believer it can have a positive purpose: Suffering results in perfection:

And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast. (I Peter 5:10)

Patience during times of suffering results in perfection:

Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. (James 1:4)

SELF-CONTROL:

Part of the process of perfection is learning self-control. We are told to...

...cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God. (II Corinthians 7:1)

One of the most difficult things to control is the tongue. But control of the tongue is a key to self-control of your whole life:

Therefore, since we have these promises, dear friends, let us purify ourselves from everything that contaminates body and spirit, perfecting holiness out of reverence for God. (James 3:2)

RESPONDING TO SPIRITUAL CORRECTION:

Correction received from mature believers is also part of the perfection process:

Brothers and sisters, if someone is caught in a sin, you who live by the Spirit should restore that person gently. But watch yourselves, or you also may be tempted. (Galatians 6:1)

You will be restored to perfection if you respond properly to such correction.

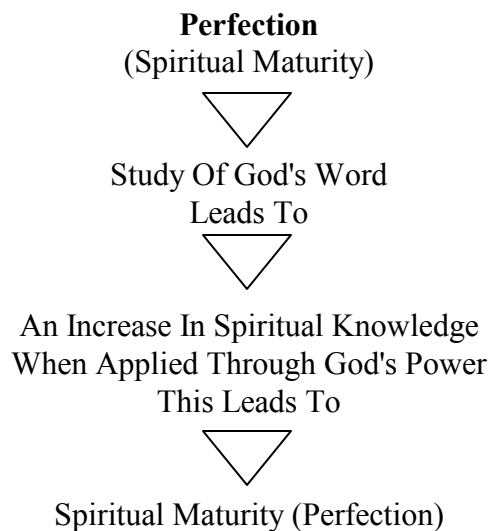
SUMMARY

Spiritual maturity does not mean advancing in God's favor. It does not mean the work of salvation is incomplete. It does not gain you access to Heaven, because this was done through the death of Jesus Christ. It is through Jesus you are justified before God. It is through Him you are saved and have the promise of Heaven.

Perfection does not come by maintaining a set of standards. It is possible for a person to maintain standards that give an outward spiritual appearance yet be unspiritual and maybe even unsaved.

Spiritual maturity does not depend on how you feel emotionally. It does not come automatically through years of being a Christian or by Christian service. Spiritual maturity [perfection] comes through an increase in and application of spiritual knowledge. This increase in knowledge comes by study of God's Word.

This study results in understanding of the processes for perfection and the commandments of our Lord Jesus Christ. Personal application of what you learn leads to spiritual maturity through the enabling power of God.



IN CLOSING...

We have come to the conclusion of our study of foundations of the Christian faith. But in reality you have not completed this course. As Paul said, you must now...

Therefore let us move beyond the elementary teachings about Christ and be taken forward to maturity, not laying again the foundation of repentance from acts that lead to death, and of faith in God, (Hebrews 6:1).

Each chapter of this course began with a list of objectives. These were the goals which were to be achieved through study of the chapter. Your new objective, for the next chapter of your life, is perfection...

For we know in part and we prophesy in part, (II Corinthians 13:9)

SELF-TEST

1. Define "perfection."

2. Who is the example of perfection for believers?

3. Define initial perfection.

4. What is meant by progressive perfection?

5. List nine factors involved in the perfection process.

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6. Write the Key Verse from memory.

7. If the statement is TRUE write T on the blank in front of it. If the statement is FALSE, write F on the blank in front of it.

- a. ____ Spiritual maturity depends on the length of time one has been a Christian.
- b. ____ Progressive sanctification does not mean salvation was incomplete.
- c. ____ Many Christian activities will help you mature spiritually.
- d. ____ Perfection comes through an increase in spiritual knowledge and personal application of that knowledge.

8. What is the standard of perfection for believers?

(Answers to tests are provided at the conclusion of the final chapter in this manual.)

FOR FURTHER STUDY

Continue your study of perfection by using the following references:

NEW TESTAMENT REFERENCES

COMMANDS TO BE PERFECT:

Matthew 5:48
John 17:23
I Corinthians 1:10
II Corinthians 7:1; 13:9,11
Colossians 4:12
Hebrews 6:1; 13:21
James 1:4

THINGS THAT PREVENT PERFECTION:

Luke 8:14
Galatians 3:3
Philippians 3:15
Hebrews 7:11,19; 9:9; 10:1

REASONS TO BE PERFECTED:

John 17:23;
Romans 12:2
Colossians 4:12
II Timothy 3:16-17
James 1:4; 2:22; 3:2
I John 2:5

HOW WE ARE PERFECTED:

Matthew 19:21
Luke 6:40
II Corinthians 7:1; 12:9
Galatians 3:3
Ephesians 4:12-13
Philippians 3:12,15
Colossians 1:28; 3:14
II Timothy 3:16-17
Hebrews 2:10; 7:11
James 1:4,17,25; 2:22; 3:2

I Peter 5:10

I John 2:5; 4:12; 4:17-18

OLD TESTAMENT REFERENCES

Abraham was to be perfect before God: Genesis 17:1

Hezekiah was perfect before God: Isaiah 38:3

God's way for us is perfect: II Samuel 22:31

Read the books of I and II Kings. You will find the phrase "his heart was not perfect" used often to describe evil kings who ruled Israel. As you read their stories, observe why their hearts were not perfect and the results of this lack of perfection.

PERFECTION IN THE PSALMS

Study what David said about perfection:

God's way is perfect: Psalms 18:30,32

God's law is perfect: Psalms 19:7

The end of the perfect man is peace: Psalms 37:37

We are to walk perfectly before God: Psalms 101:2,6

APPENDIX

"Foundations Of Faith" is an important study for new believers. It teaches the basic doctrines of Jesus which provide the proper foundations for spiritual maturity (Hebrews 6:1-3).

New believers are like newborn babies in the natural world. You would never take a newborn baby, show him the door, and say, "We will look in on you in a couple of weeks." Yet this is often what happens in the church. This is why many newborn believers die spiritually. Your responsibility for the souls of men and women does not end at an altar where they pray the prayer of repentance. You are responsible to move the new believer from the altar to the church.

A new believer has entered a strange environment. He has been born into the Kingdom of God (John 3:3-7). We speak a language different than he has ever heard. There are terms like faith, repentance, baptism, eternal judgment, etc., which must be explained. Not only must he learn the language of the Kingdom, he also must learn the basic principles of new life in the Kingdom.

Each new believer needs the personal care of a mature Christian. He needs nurture in the spiritual world just as a baby in the natural world. A baby is in greater need of care immediately after birth than at any other time. Use the following guidelines to provide proper spiritual care for newborn believers:

STEP ONE:

Within 24 hours after a person has responded to the Gospel message, repented, and accepted Jesus as Savior, he should receive personal contact from a mature Christian.

The new believer may live in a bad environment surrounded by cursing, immoral conversation, and sinful actions. Personal contact from a mature Christian will provide encouragement and let him know someone cares and is praying for him. The objectives of this first follow up contact are:

- To let the new believer know he has a Christian friend who cares.
- To answer questions he may have.
- To pray with him regarding any personal needs.
- To enroll him in the "Foundations Of Faith" program described in Step Two.

STEP TWO:

As was stressed in this study, continued teaching after conversion was the pattern set by Jesus and followed by the early church. This course, "Foundations Of Faith", can be used to teach the basic doctrines of Jesus to new believers. There are two ways this can be done:

First: Form a class on "Foundations Of Faith" for new believers. This should be taught by a mature Christian and should be repeated continuously in the church.

Each new believer should be enrolled in this course. If he misses a session, the teacher should make personal contact and provide opportunity for makeup sessions.

The advantage of this method is that new believers are taught in a group situation with other new Christians. They become acquainted with people on their own spiritual level with similar needs and questions.

Or...

Second: A mature Christian can be assigned to each new believer. This Christian will meet regularly with the new convert to study "Foundations Of Faith" on an individual basis.

The advantage of this method is that a new believer can progress spiritually at his own rate of speed. He can move rapidly or slowly through lessons as he is capable. There is more opportunity for personal questions to be answered and a relationship to be established between the new believer and his teacher. He can turn to his teacher with questions, needs, and problems requiring spiritual counsel.

If individual instruction is used, men should train men only and women should train women only. Each person teaching "foundations" by either method should have completed the "Foundations Of Faith" course and be committed to the responsibility of caring for new believers.

STEP THREE:

Guide the new believer into regular prayer and Bible study. Do not assume he knows how to pray or study the Bible. Give him basic instruction in these areas. Harvestime International Institute offers a course entitled "Creative Bible Study Methods." Guidelines on prayer are given in a course entitled "Intercessory Prayer."

STEP FOUR:

New believers should be guided to the experiences of water baptism and baptism in the Holy Spirit as soon as they are ready spiritually. For some, this might be the same day, week, or month of their conversion. For others, it may take more time to prepare them for these experiences. If you are teaching new believers in a group situation, do not hold one person back until the group is ready. Let each progress as he is spiritually capable.

STEP FIVE:

Help the new believer find his place in the Body of Christ, the Church. Guide him in the discovery of his spiritual gift. The Harvestime International Institute course, "Ministry Of The Holy Spirit," will help you do this.

Challenge him with the personal responsibility of all believers to reach others with the Gospel message. You may want to use the Harvestime International Institute courses entitled "Strategies For Spiritual Harvest" and "Developing A Biblical World View" to communicate this challenge.

Remember: Your goal is to integrate the new believer into the Church as a functional, reproductive member capable of going on to perfection [spiritual maturity].

ANSWERS TO SELF-TESTS

CHAPTER ONE:

1. Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God,

Of the doctrine of baptisms, and of laying on of hands, and of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment.

And this will we do, if God permit. (Hebrews 6:1-3)

2.
 - Repentance from dead works
 - Faith toward God
 - Doctrine of Baptisms
 - Laying on of Hands
 - Resurrection of the Dead
 - Eternal judgment
3. A proper spiritual foundation based on the doctrine of Jesus Christ.
4. See Luke 6:47.
 - Whoever comes to me... -
 - Hears my words...
 - And puts them into practice.
5. Jesus Christ.

CHAPTER TWO:

1. For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God. (Romans 3:23)
2. Repentance from dead works is an inner change of mind resulting in an outward turning away from sin to move towards God and righteousness.
3.

-Sin	-Ungodliness
-Evil	-Iniquity
-Wickedness	-Disobedience
-Transgression	-Trespass
-Unrighteousness	
4. All are sinners. Romans 5:12

5. Lucifer [Satan] originated sin when he rebelled against God in Heaven. He was cast out of Heaven to earth and led the first man and woman into sin. Because of this, sin and the penalties of sin were passed on to all men.
6. Judas (Matthew 27:3-4) and Esau (Hebrews 12:17).

CHAPTER THREE:

1.
 - God commands it.
 - It is necessary to avoid spiritual death.
 - It is necessary for eternal life.
 - It is necessary for forgiveness.
 - It is necessary to enter God's Kingdom.
 - It is God's desire for all.
 - It is the reason why Jesus came into the world.
2.
 - The goodness of God.
 - Preaching.
 - Christ's call.
 - God the Father.
 - Rebuke.
 - Godly sorrow.
3. Conversion means to turn from the wrong way to the right way.
4. The prodigal son is like sinful man who has turned his back on God his Father and Heaven his home. When this young man realized his sinful condition he made a decision to go to his father and repent of his sin. This was repentance. The young man left the old life and went to his father to start a new life. This is conversion.
5. I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance. (Luke 5:32)
6. Faith, baptism, works (fruits), conversion.
7. Yes.
8. Check the subheadings of this chapter. Any of these are Biblical examples of Christians needing to repent.
9. Justification is a right relationship or standing before God made possible through repentance from dead works and accepting God's plan of salvation through Jesus Christ.

10. To be saved from a life of sin and the penalties of sin through repenting and accepting Jesus Christ as Savior.

CHAPTER FOUR:

1. Faith means to believe and have assurance of something. Faith is assurance that the things promised in the future are true and that unseen things are real (Hebrews 11:1).
2. Natural faith: Natural trust in things which have proven stable.

Saving faith: Faith toward God combined with true repentance.

Sanctifying faith: Helps you live a holy life after conversion.

Defensive faith: Spiritual weapon for defense against Satan.
3. It is necessary for salvation. You cannot please God without it.
4. By hearing God's Word. Romans 10:17.
5. But without faith it is impossible to please Him: For he that cometh to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him. (Hebrews 11:6)
6. -He heard the Word.
-He believed the Word.
-He turned from his hopeless condition.
-He accepted God's promise as fact.
7. Faith is an attitude of believing in something you cannot see but have assurance you already possess. Hope is a desire or attitude of expectancy concerning things still in the future.
8. "Mind over matter" teaches that man can overcome all problems by using his mind, reason, or willpower. These teachings are man-centered and rely on self instead of God. Faith is God-centered, not man-centered. it is a gift of God, not something man produces through self effort.
9. Faith is what you believe. Works are what you do.
10. "Faith toward God" refers to your attitude towards God. It should be one of faith, not of rebellion, fear, etc.

CHAPTER FIVE:

1. I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but He that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: He shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire. (Matthew 3:11)
2. The word "baptize" used in the Bible means to entirely immerse or submerge in something.
3. It is the outward confession of the inward change which has occurred.
4.
 - Instruction
 - Repentance
 - Belief
 - Good conscience toward God
5.
 - Christ's baptism of suffering
 - The Baptism of John
 - Christian baptism
 - Baptism in the Holy Spirit
6. Immediately after they received instruction and confessed their faith.
7. Acts 19:1-5
8. No.
9. The age depends upon their ability to understand the meaning of baptism and fulfill the requirements.
10. a.False b.True c.True

CHAPTER SIX:

1. Compare your list to the purposes itemized in Chapter Six.
2.

-Repent and be baptized	-Believe it is for you
-Desire it	-Realize it is a gift
-Request the prayers of other believers	-Yield to God
3. But ye shall receive power after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth. (Acts 1:8)

4. Speaking in a language not known to the speaker.
5. To make the Christian a powerful witness for the Gospel. Acts 1:8
6. The fruit of the Holy Spirit refers to the nature of the Holy Spirit being evident in the life of a believer.
7. Galatians 5:22-23
 - Love
 - Joy
 - Peace
 - Longsuffering
 - Gentleness
 - Goodness
 - Faith
 - Meekness
 - Temperance
8.
 - For perfection of the saints.
 - For promoting the work of the ministry.
 - For edifying Christ and the Church.
9. Because the Lord gave ministry gifts to accomplish certain purposes in the church. These purposes have not yet been accomplished. He will not withdraw any of these gifts without the purposes for which they were given being accomplished.
10.
 - Every Christian receives the Holy Spirit when he is converted.
 - The Bible says not all speak with tongues.
 - Fear.
 - It is an emotional experience.
11. No.

CHAPTER SEVEN:

1.
 - Israel on Ehpriam and Manasseh
 - The people of Israel on the Levites
 - Moses commissioning Joshua
2.
 - Supernatural signs
 - Baptism of the Holy Spirit
 - Imparting spiritual gifts
 - Commissioning Christian workers
 - Dedication of infants

3. Long time therefore abode they speaking boldly in the Lord, which gave testimony unto the word of His grace, and granted signs and wonders to be done by their hands.
(Acts 14:3)
4. Mark 16:17-18.
5. Laying on of hands is an act in which one person places his hands on the body of another person with a definite spiritual purpose. It is accompanied by prayer or prophecy.
6. -Believers
-Apostles and disciples
-Members of the presbytery [elders]
7. a.False b.True c.False d.False e.True f.False

CHAPTER EIGHT:

1. Jesus saith unto her, I am the resurrection and the life; he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die.
(John 11:25-26)
2. Resurrection is a raising or rising up. It means to cause to rise or raise up from the dead.
3. Past: The resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.
Present: The spiritual resurrection of believers in Jesus Christ.
Future: The future resurrection of all that are in the graves.
4. -Acts 2:30-31
-Matthew 28:1,5-7
-I Corinthians 15:5-8
-John 20:19
5. Because if Christ did not rise from the dead, then our preaching and faith is in vain.
(I Corinthians 15:13-14). Belief in the resurrection is also necessary to become a true believer. (Romans 10:9; I Corinthians 15:1-4). The resurrection confirms Jesus is the Son of God (Romans 1:4) and supreme over all created beings (Ephesians 1:20-23). It confirms that believers are justified (Romans 4:25) and that death is defeated (Hebrews 2:14). Because of His resurrection, we also will be resurrected and have new bodies (I Corinthians 15:51-52; Philippians 3:21).
6. This means those who were once spiritually dead in sin are made alive spiritually through Jesus Christ. Ephesians 2:1,5

7. -Death to sin resulting in a new life in Christ
 -A new master
 -New life purpose
8. Christian baptism in water and the new life of the believer.

CHAPTER NINE:

1. For the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first;

 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air; and so shall we ever be with the Lord. (I Thessalonians 4:16-17)
2. The resurrection of the just and the resurrection of the unjust.
3. All will experience the resurrection of the dead. All will experience eternal judgment.
4. a.True b.True c.False d.True e.False
5. Acts 17:13,32

CHAPTER TEN:

1. To refer to the statutes, testimonies, and laws of God. Concerning God's judgment on the affairs of men and nations.
2. The words "to judge" mean to separate or make a difference between. This includes bringing to trial, examining evidence, determining guilt or innocence, and deciding the penalty for sin.
3. Judgment is necessary because of sin.
4. God, Jesus, and the saints.
5. All souls.
6. -The Word of God.
 -According to knowledge.
 -Individually.
 -According to truth.
 -On the basis of personal conduct.

- Without partiality.
- According to the law.
- According to righteousness.
- According to motives and thoughts.

7. For the Lord is our judge, the Lord is our lawgiver, the Lord is our king. (Isaiah 33:22)
8. a.True b.True c.False

CHAPTER ELEVEN:

1. The word perfection means complete, finished, and mature. A perfect Christian is one who has achieved spiritual maturity. This means his body, soul, and spirit are under the control of the Holy Spirit.
2. Jesus Christ.
3. Initial perfection is having all your past sins forgiven when you repent and accept Jesus Christ as Savior.
4. Progressive perfection is the continued process of perfection in the life of the believer after initial perfection from sin at the time of salvation.
5.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -A good foundation -Response to the Word of God -Prayer -Consecration -Gifts of the Holy Spirit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Submission to proven ministries -Suffering -Self-control -Responding to correction
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6. Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in Heaven is perfect. (Matthew 5:48)
7. a.False b.True c.False d.True
8. The Word of God.