



KNOW  
what we  
BELIEVE

A STUDY ON THE BELIEFS OF THE  
AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN CHURCHES

---

by John Iuliano

All quotes are from The New King James unless otherwise stated.  
No part of this publication may be copied without permission.

Copyright © John Iuliano, August 1999  
Revised 2006

*Check the website, [www.nsc.org.au/KnowWhatWeBelieve](http://www.nsc.org.au/KnowWhatWeBelieve) for the latest version of these notes.*

PO Box 753  
WILLOUGHBY NSW 2068

# Contents

<b>INTRODUCTION.....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>ETERNAL GODHEAD.....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>THE LORD JESUS CHRIST.....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>THE HOLY SPIRIT .....</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>THE HOLY SCRIPTURES.....</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>THE DEVIL .....</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>THE FALL OF MAN.....</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>THE ATONEMENT .....</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>SALVATION OF MAN .....</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>THE CHURCH.....</b>	<b>34</b>
<b>WATER BAPTISM.....</b>	<b>39</b>
<b>THE LORD'S SUPPER.....</b>	<b>42</b>
<b>SANCTIFICATION.....</b>	<b>46</b>
<b>THE BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT.....</b>	<b>51</b>
<b>GIFTS.....</b>	<b>59</b>
<b>DIVINE HEALING .....</b>	<b>65</b>
<b>THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST.....</b>	<b>69</b>
<b>THE MILLENIUM.....</b>	<b>72</b>
<b>THE PUNISHMENT OF THE WICKED.....</b>	<b>75</b>
<b>THE NEW HEAVEN AND THE NEW EARTH .....</b>	<b>79</b>
<b>CREATION .....</b>	<b>83</b>

## **INTRODUCTION**

The purpose of these notes is to give the reader a brief study on the articles of faith of the Australian Christian Churches rather than a detailed systematic theology.

Each study is designed as teaching notes that can be used in Bible study groups, home groups, and even in Church Bible schools. The first paragraph of each study is the relevant doctrinal statement issued by the Australian Christian Churches; the remainder of the study explains the statement and takes you to the related Bible passages.

My desire is that as you go through these studies, you will not only receive information but more importantly receive revelation about the greatness of God and what He desires to do through your life. I hope that you also become more confident in your understanding of the scripture so that you can become better equipped to take God's love to a world that desperately needs it.

(Please Note: This is not an official document representing the views of the Australian Christian Churches.)

Pastor John Iuliano  
M.A. Min.

# **LESSON 1**

## **ETERNAL GODHEAD**

***We believe in the unity of the true and living God who is the eternal, self-existent One, who has revealed Himself as one being in three persons – Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and who is the Creator and preserver of things visible and invisible—Deuteronomy 6:4, Mark 12:29; Matthew 28:19; Genesis 1:1; Psalm 86:9–10; Isaiah 43:10–11; John 1:1–3.***

The Bible doesn't argue God's existence; it assumes it. His existence is accepted as fact.

Trying to define God is not an easy task because He is greater than our finite thinking. We tend to think in terms of a beginning and an end, size, dimension, volume, capacity and things that can be scientifically evaluated. God surpasses all these measurements. He has no beginning and no end. He was not created nor will He ever be consumed. The Bible ascribes to God some of the following attributes:

### **1. Eternal**

Having no beginning and no end.

Psalm 90:2, *"Even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God."*

The word everlasting literally means vanishing point. It is a mathematical expression, which refers to infinity in the past extending to infinity in the future. God had no beginning and He has no end. He is eternal.

### **2. Self-existent**

Not dependant on anything except self for life existence.

Colossians 1:17, *"And He is before all things and in Him all things consist."*

He was not created or mysteriously appeared. He is the absolute source of all life and creator of all things that have ever existed both visible and invisible. God is not dependant on any source outside Himself for His being or essence. He is self-existent.

### **3. Immutable**

Never changing.

Malachi 3:6, *"For I am the Lord, I change not"*.

Man has a tendency to change from day to day, but God is consistently the same. His character, His reasoning, His Word, never changes. There is no variation in God. He is immutable.

#### **4. Omnipresent**

Being everywhere at the same time.

Jeremiah 23:24, *"Can anyone hide himself in secret places, so I shall not see him?" says the Lord, 'Do I not fill heaven and earth?' says the Lord."*

God is not in everything, but He is everywhere. Wherever you may go God is there. He is in heaven and also on the earth. Wherever two or three are gathered together, He is in the midst. How reassuring it is to know that wherever you are, even in your darkest place, God is there.

#### **5. Omniscient**

Knowing everything past, present and future.

Psalms 139:4, *"For there is not a word on my tongue, but behold O Lord, you know it altogether"*.

There is nothing that happens in the universe of which God is unaware. Every thought, every deed, every dream, God has knowledge of it. He also has total wisdom and total understanding. Man is discovering new things every day of which God has had eternal knowledge. It is assuring to know that God in His wisdom has made plans for our lives that will bring us total satisfaction. It is essential for us to trust the fact that God knows best because He knows everything.

#### **6. Omnipotent**

All powerful.

Jeremiah 32:17, *"Ah, Lord God, behold You have made the heavens and the earth by Your great power and outstretched arm. There is nothing too hard for You."*

The nuclear power that men have at their disposal is insignificant to the power that God exhibited in creating the earth. His power is immeasurable and beyond human comprehension. What have we to fear when we realise that the One who loves us is greater than all the combined power in the universe. He is all powerful.

#### **7. Sovereign**

The highest authority.

Genesis 14:22, *"I have lifted my hand to the Lord God Most High, the possessor of heaven and earth"*.

God rules in heaven, on earth and under the earth. He is sovereign over angels, principalities, demons and Satan himself. Because He made all things, He also rules over all realms and He is in control. There isn't a problem for which God doesn't have a solution. He can handle any difficulty because He is sovereign.

## 8. The Tri-unity (Trinity) of God

Our human mind has difficulty in understanding the Divine mystery of the tri-unity of the Godhead.

Deuteronomy 6:4, *"Hear O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is One"*.

Clearly there is only one God but He is revealed in three persons—Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The three are not the same person with a different name but three distinct personalities; i.e. the Father is not the Son, nor the Son the Holy Spirit, nor the Holy Spirit the Father. All are co-equal and co-eternal. They are distinct yet one.

- a. Even though God is one, he is revealed in three persons.
  - (i) Matthew 3:16–17 records the story of Jesus' baptism. Here we see Jesus in the water, the Holy Spirit descending like a dove and the Father in heaven saying, *"This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased"*. We see the distinction of each person.
  - (ii) Matthew 28:19 tells us to make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Again we see the distinction of the three persons.
  - (iii) 2 Corinthians 13:14 is the apostolic benediction. *"The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all, Amen"*.
- b. We also have clear Biblical references of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit as God.
  - (i) **Father.** Ephesians 4:6, *"One God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in you all"*. The Father is called God.
  - (ii) **Son.** Titus 2:13 *"Looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Saviour Jesus Christ"*. Jesus Christ is called God.
  - (iii) **Holy Spirit.** Acts 5:3, 4. *"Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit? ... You have not lied to men, but to God."* The Holy Spirit is called God.
- c. The Westminster Confession gives us a good summary of how we are to understand the tri-unity of the Godhead.

*"There is but one living and true God. In the unity of the Godhead there are three persons, of one substance, power and eternity—God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. The Father is one, neither begotten nor proceeding; the Son is eternally begotten of the Father, the Holy Spirit eternally proceeding from the Father and the Son"*.

## **Conclusion**

The aspiration of all men should be to know and worship God. The greater the knowledge of God, the greater our faith will be. The more we know God the less we will doubt, the less we will fear, the less we will suffer anxiety and the less we will feel alone. He is our all-sufficiency and He constantly desires to impart to us any good and perfect gift.

How incredible it is to think that this all powerful, all sufficient God created us to have intimacy with Him. Our completeness can only be fully found when we enter into relationship with Almighty God.

## **LESSON 2**

# **THE LORD JESUS CHRIST**

***WE BELIEVE in the Lord Jesus Christ, the second person of the triune Godhead, who was and is the eternal Son of God; that He became incarnate by the Holy Spirit and was born of the virgin Mary.***

***WE BELIEVE in His sinless life, miraculous ministry, substitutionary atoning death, bodily resurrection, glorious ascension, and abiding intercession—Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:23; Hebrews 7:26; 1 Peter 2:22; Acts 2:22; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Hebrews 9:12; Luke 24:39; 1 Corinthians 15:4; Acts 1:9; Ephesians 4:9–10; Romans 8:34; Hebrews 7:23.***

### **Introduction**

An understanding of the essence of the Lord Jesus Christ is one of the essential foundation stones in Christianity. Because it is through faith in Christ that we are saved, a distortion of this doctrine can jeopardise salvation as faith is placed in the wrong person. The majority of cults have distorted this Bible teaching of who the Lord Jesus Christ really is. This study will help us gain an understanding of who the Bible declares Jesus to be.

### **1. He is the second person of the Triune Godhead**

- a. He was not a created being but is eternally existent.  
John 1:1, *"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was God."*  
(Note John 1:14 tells us that the Word is Jesus Christ).
- b. There was never a time when the Father and Son were not together.  
John 1:2, *"He was in the beginning with God"*.
- c. Jesus is not a lesser god but of one substance and equal with the Father. Colossians 2:9, *"For in Him, dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily."*

### **2. He is the eternal Son of God**

- a. Jesus is called the only begotten Son of God.  
  
John 1:18, *"...The only begotten Son who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him."*

Begotten, means unique, only one of a kind. Begotten does not refer to His conception but to His uniqueness.

- b. Jesus affirms the fact that He is eternal, was never created and is the Almighty God.  
Revelation 1:8; *"I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, says the Lord, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty."*

### **3. His humanity was conceived through the Holy Spirit and born of a virgin**

- a. Jesus willingly left His domain in the form of God and took on the form of a man. Philippians 2:6, *"...who being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a servant and coming in the likeness of man."*
- b. He was not conceived by man but through the work of the Holy Spirit.  
Matthew 1:20, *"...for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit."*
- c. Mary the mother of Jesus was a virgin when Jesus was born.  
Matthew 1:23, *"Behold a virgin shall be with child and bear a Son and they shall call His name Emmanuel which is translated—God with us."*

### **4. He lived a sinless life**

- a. Jesus was not only divine, He was also human. However, it must be noted that His divine nature and human nature coexisted in the one body. 1 John 4:2, *"Every spirit that confesses Jesus Christ has come in the flesh, is of God."*
- b. Even though He was the Son of Man and lived on earth in human form and was exposed to the temptations that every human is exposed to, He did not sin. He led a totally sinless existence. Hebrews 4:15, *"For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathise with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin."*

### **5. He had a miraculous ministry**

- a. Jesus' public ministry was accompanied by miraculous signs.  
John 2:12, *"This beginning of signs, Jesus did in Cana of Galilee, and manifested His glory and His disciples believed in Him."*
- b. Jesus affirms He is the Christ by the miracles He performed.  
Matthew 11:3–5, *"Are you the Coming One, or do we look for another? Jesus answered and said to them, 'Go and tell John the things which you hear and see. The blind receive their sight, and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up and the poor have the gospel preached to them.'"*

## **6. He died for the sins of mankind**

- a. Jesus came to give up His life and to save the lives of mankind. He came to die so believers may have eternal life through His death. Mark 10:45, *"For even the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."*
- b. Jesus literally died on the Cross when His spirit separated from His body and He stopped breathing. Luke 23:46, *"And when Jesus had cried out with a loud voice, He said, 'Father, into your hands I commend My spirit.' And having said this, He breathed His last."*

## **7. He rose from the dead**

- a. Jesus died but on the third day He rose from the dead. 1 Corinthians 15:3–4, *"...Christ died for our sins, was buried, and rose again on the third day."*
- b. The resurrection of Christ was not only spiritual but also physical. He had a physical body. Luke 24:39, *"Behold my hands and My feet that it is I Myself. Handle me and see for a spirit does not have flesh and bones you can see I have."*
- c. The resurrected Christ was seen by over five hundred people. He was not a figment of someone's imagination but the victorious Saviour who was alive and had conquered death. 1 Corinthians 15:3–6, *"...Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures and that He was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve. After that He was seen by over five hundred brethren at once."*

## **8. He ascended into Heaven**

Jesus, in His physical body, ascended into heaven. Mark 16:19, *"So then, after the Lord had spoken to them, He was received up into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God."*

## **9. He always lives to make intercession on our behalf**

Jesus continues His work in heaven on the believers' behalf. He has not separated Himself from us but is constantly interceding for us. We have an understanding, merciful and faithful Saviour in heaven.

Hebrews 7:25, *"Therefore He is able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him since He always lives to make intercession for them."*

## **Conclusion**

A good theology of who Jesus is will include these nine characteristics:

1. He is the second person of the Triune godhead.
2. He is the eternal Son of God.
3. His humanity was conceived through the Holy Spirit and born of a virgin.
4. He lived a sinless life
5. He had a miraculous ministry.
6. He died for the sins of mankind.
7. He rose from the dead.
8. He ascended into heaven.
9. He always lives to make intercession on our behalf.

Paul said in Galatians 1:7 "...There are some who trouble you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ." Any deviation from the above nine characteristics will pervert the gospel of Christ. A correct Christology is essential to a correct gospel.

Once we have discovered the "pearl of great price, the altogether lovely One", Jesus Christ, the King of kings, and Lord of lords, the only thing left for us to do is:

**BOW OUR KNEE AND LET OUR TONGUE CONFESS THAT HE IS LORD!!!**

## **LESSON 3**

# **THE HOLY SPIRIT**

***WE BELIEVE in the Holy Spirit, the third person of the triune Godhead, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, and is ever present and active in the work of convicting and regenerating the sinner, and sanctifying and guiding the believer into all truth. John 14:26; John 16:8–11; 1 Peter 1:2; Romans 8:14.***

### **Introduction**

So many people sincerely think of the Holy Spirit as a mere influence or power. They fail to see Him as a person with individual characteristics. Some people don't realise that if it weren't for the Holy Spirit there would be no Bible, no faith, no new birth, no holiness, no Christian in the world at all.

### **I HE IS THE THIRD PERSON OF THE TRIUNE GODHEAD**

- a. He is called **God**.  
*Acts 5:4, "But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit... You have not lied to man but to God."*
  
- b. He has the divine attributes.
  1. **Eternal.**  
*Hebrews 9:14, "How much more shall the blood of Christ who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God."*
  
  2. **Omniscience.**  
*John 14:26, "...The Holy Spirit whom the Father will send in My Name, He will teach you all things...."*  
  
*1 Corinthians 2:11, "...no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God."*
  
  3. **Omnipresence.**  
*Psalms 139:7 says, "...Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence?"*
  
  4. **Omnipotence.**  
*Zechariah 4:6 says, "Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit says the Lord of Hosts."*

## **II HE PROCEEDS FROM THE FATHER AND THE SON**

Because the Holy Spirit carries out the will of the Father, glorifies the Son and speaks not of Himself, it doesn't mean that He is inferior. It merely points to the inner workings of the Godhead. Man thinks in terms of submission as equivalent to inferiority, but in God, submission is all part of co-operation and co-existence. What an example for the Christian to be in submission to one another.

John 16:13, *"When the Spirit of truth has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears, He will speak and He will tell you things to come. He will glorify Me..."*

## **III HIS WORK AT SALVATION**

### **1. He convicts us of sin**

John 16:7–8, *"And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin and of righteousness and of judgement."*

### **2. He reveals to us the truth about Jesus Christ**

John 14:26, *"But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you."*

### **3. He gives us new spiritual birth which is called regeneration**

John 3:5–6, *"Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the spirit, he cannot enter the Kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit."*

### **4. He joins us into the Body of Christ**

1 Corinthians 12:13, *"for by one Spirit we were all baptised into one body..."*

### **5. He sanctifies the believer**

2 Thessalonians 2:13, *".....God from the beginning chose you for salvation through sanctification by the spirit and belief in the truth."*

**6. At conversion, believers are indwelt by the Holy Spirit and they immediately come under His sanctifying influence**

Sanctification is:

- (i) The believer's separation from the world and being set apart to follow Christ.
  
- (ii) The believers continual cleansing and transformation into a life of holiness to God.

Galatians 5:17, *"I say then: walk in the Spirit and you shall not fulfil the lusts of the flesh."*

1 Corinthians 6:11 says, *"But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God."*

**IV HE GUIDES THE BELIEVER INTO ALL TRUTH**

Jesus promised the believer a helper, one who would draw near and be of assistance. The Holy Spirit is our teacher, guiding the believer into all truth.

John 14:16, 17, *"And I will pray the Father and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever, even the Spirit of Truth, whom the world cannot receive because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him for He dwells with you and will be in you."*

**Conclusion**

It is essential for the believer to recognise the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives. The more we allow the Holy Spirit to work in our lives, the more like Christ the believer will become. It is God's purpose to give us the Holy Spirit to dwell with us in order to guide, direct, and motivate us to do the works that Jesus did.

## **LESSON 4**

# **THE HOLY SCRIPTURES**

***WE BELIEVE in the verbal, plenary inspiration of the Holy Scriptures, namely the Old and the New Testaments in their original writings. All scriptures is given by inspiration of God and is infallible, inerrantly revealing the will of God, concerning us all, in all things necessary to our salvation, and is absolutely supreme and sufficient authority in all matters of faith and conduct. The Bible does not simply contain the Word of God, but is, in reality, the complete revelation and the very Word of God, inspired by the Holy Spirit, so that whatever is not contained therein is not to be enjoined as an article of faith.***

***Matthew 5:17–18; 24:35; John 4:39; 2 Timothy 3:16, 17; 2 Peter 1:19–21.***

### **Introduction**

It makes sense to believe that the Creator of humanity would leave a written document explaining the purpose of life and how to have a relationship with Him. We believe that this document is the Bible. The Bible is divided into 2 sections, the Old Testament containing 39 books and the New Testament containing 27 books.

### **1. Verbal, plenary inspiration**

2 Timothy 3:16, *"All scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness."*

- (i) Verbal—the words.
- (ii) Plenary—extending to all parts equally.
- (iii) Inspiration—divinely breathed out.

What this means is, God inspired men to write what He wanted written using their vocabulary and background. He did not dictate what to write down, but breathed into them divine inspiration.

This accounts for different styles of writers, but what is consistent is the fact that every word written was inspired and breathed by God. No part of the Bible is more inspired than another, but all of it has equal and total dependence on the Holy Spirit's inspiration.

## **2. Divine inspiration**

2 Peter 1:20–21, *"...no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit"*.

The Bible is not a book of private, human inspiration. It does not contain some of God's words, written around human words. It is God motivated, God inspired and God initiated. God has given us His permitted revelation and nothing must be removed or added to distort that which He has already revealed.

The Bible claims to be divinely inspired at least 3000 times alone in the Old Testament. We have statements like: *"Now the Lord spoke to Moses saying..."* (Exodus 14:1, 15, 26).

Moses was commanded to write what God told him in a book (Exodus 17:14; 34:27) and we are told that he did this (Exodus 24:4; 34:29). Some of the other prophets claim likewise. (Isaiah 1:2; Jeremiah 11:1; Ezekiel 1:3; Hosea 1:1, Joel 1:1).

The New Testament writers also claim likewise. Paul said the things he wrote were the commandments of God (1 Corinthians 14:37) *"The things which I write to you are the commandments of the Lord"*.

## **3. The inerrancy of the Bible**

Inerrancy means without mistake.

The original writings in their Hebrew (O.T), Aramaic (Daniel 2:46–7:28; Ezra 4:6:18, 7:12–26; Jeremiah 10:11) and Greek (N.T.) contain no mistakes. They are infallible, without error whatsoever.

Matthew 24:35 says, *"Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away."*

## **4. Absolute authority of the Scriptures**

The biblical record takes precedent over any traditions of man, or differences. The Bible is the chief source of correction, teaching and guidance concerning salvation and the will of God, and how we should conduct our lives. An article of faith cannot be founded on anything except a clear revelation from the Bible.

2 Timothy 3:15, *"... you have known the Holy Scriptures which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus"*.

## **Conclusion**

The Bible is the revelation of God Himself. It clearly declares His nature and His abundant love for humanity. Those who love His Word and partake of it, actually reveal that they love God and are partakers of His nature.

Hebrews 4:12 says *"For the Word of God is living and powerful..."*

James 1:21, *"...receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls."*

Psalm 107:20, *"He sent His word and healed them"*.

What we have in the Bible is not just a simple book but the most powerful source of divine revelation known to mankind.

## **LESSON 5**

# **THE DEVIL**

***WE BELIEVE in the personality of the devil who, by his influence, brought about the downfall of man, and now seeks to destroy the faith of every believer in the Lord Jesus Christ – Genesis 3:1–15; Matthew 4:1–11; Luke 4:1–13; James 4:7; 1 Peter 5:8; John 13:2.***

### **Introduction**

Apart from God, no other personality is given as much coverage in the Bible as the devil. Whereas it is important to not give the devil undue prominence, the Scriptures also tell us to not be “ignorant of his devices” (2 Corinthians 2:11)

### **1. His personality**

The Bible speaks of the devil as a personality not a mere evil influence. He is described as having a will (Isaiah 14:13–14), having knowledge (Job 1:9–10), performing acts (Job 2:7), having reason (Job 1:9–11) and desiring worship (Matthew 4:9). During Jesus time in the wilderness, He had conversations with the devil. One cannot have a conversation with an influence but only with a personality. (Matthew 4:1-11)

### **2. His origin**

God created a beautiful archangel which He named Lucifer (“the morning star”). Lucifer, out of his own free will became Satan, which means “opponent, arch enemy, and adversary”. Ezekiel 28:12–19 gives us a picture of the devil’s existence before his fall. Isaiah 14:12–17 describes his fall which can be summarised as pride and selfishness. In 1 Timothy 3:6 Paul describes Satan’s fall as “being lifted up with pride”.

### **3. The names of the devil**

1. Lucifer – Morning Star - Isaiah 14:12
2. Satan - Opponent, arch enemy, adversary -Job 1:6
3. Devil – Accuser, slanderer - Matthew 4:5
4. Serpent- Revelation 12:9
5. Dragon- Revelation 12:9
6. Beelzebub - Dung god, lord of the flies - Matthew 12:24
7. Belial – Worthless one - 2 Corinthians 6:15
8. Tempter - Matthew 4:3
9. Wicked one - Matthew 13:19
10. Evil one - James 4:11
11. Prince of this world - John 12:31
12. Prince of the power of the air - Ephesians 2:2
13. God of this world - -2 Corinthians 4:4
14. The accuser - Revelation 12:10
15. Angel of light - 2 Corinthians 11:14

- 16. Murderer - John 8:44
- 17. Father of lies - John 1:44
- 18. Roaring lion - 1 Peter 5:8
- 19. Abaddon / Apollyon – Destroyer - Revelation 9:11

The devil's names reveal his nature. The Christian must always be on guard against the enemy and never give him a foothold to destroy what God has done in our lives.

1 Peter 5:8, "Be sober, be vigilant, because your adversary, the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour."

#### **4. The devil's defeat**

- 1. He was removed from his exalted position, (Isaiah 14:12–14).
- 2. He was cursed in the Garden of Eden, (Genesis 3:14–15).
- 3. He was thwarted by Christ in the wilderness, (Matthew 4:3–10).
- 4. He was defeated on the cross by Jesus, (Romans 16:20).

#### **5. The devil's destiny**

- 1. He will be confined to the Bottomless Pit for 1000 years, (Revelation 20:1–3).
- 2. He will be cast into the Lake of Fire for eternity, (Revelation 20:10).

#### **6. How the Christian can Overcome the Devil**

- 1. Through the Word of God
  - (i) Paul calls the Word of God "The Sword of the Spirit" (Ephesians 6:17).
  - (ii) Paul states that the weapons of our warfare are mighty in God for pulling down strongholds (2 Corinthians 10:3-4).
  - (iii) Jesus constantly used the Word of God to overcome the devil during His times of testing in the wilderness (Matthew 4:1-11).
- 2. Through the Armour of God (Ephesians 6:10-18). We are to put on the armour of God so that we may be able to stand against the wiles (scheming) of the devil (6:11). The armour of God includes:

- (i) Truth 6:14
- (ii) Righteousness 6:14
- (iii) The Gospel 6:15
- (iv) Faith 6:16
- (v) Salvation 6:17
- (vi) The Word of God 6:17
- (vii) Prayer 6:18

3. Through the Name of Jesus

It is through the Name of Jesus that:

- (i) Demons are cast out and the devil's power is stopped.
- (ii) Luke 10:19 Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you.
- (iii) Mark 16:17 And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues.

4. Through the Blood of the Lamb

Revelation 12:11 And they overcame him (the devil) by the blood of the Lamb ...

The Blood of the Lamb is the blood that Jesus shed when He died upon the cross. It represents His life. He substituted His life for our life. He took upon Himself our sins, our unrighteousness, our condemnation, our guilt and declared us righteous. The devil can no longer cross the "Blood line".

5. Through the Word of our Testimony

Revelation 12:11 And they overcame him (the devil) ... by the word of their testimony ...

Testimony = GK MARTURIA (G3141) = that which someone witnesses or states concerning a person or thing. It is the declaration by a witness who speaks with the authority of what he knows and has witnessed.

As soon as the Christian becomes aware of what Jesus did to redeem us and set us free from death and sin, it becomes a testimony that is able to overcome the devil's power in our lives. The devil's power is in deception and trying to convince us that we aren't saved. The confession of what we know to be true overcomes him.

6. Through not loving our lives to the death

Revelation 12:11 And they overcame him (the devil) by... they did not love their lives to the death.

One of the greatest weapons the devil holds over us is "fear of death". Paul tells us in 1 Corinthians 15:54-57 that Jesus defeated death and removed its sting. For the Christian to die means to be present with the Lord (2 Corinthians 5:8).

Once the Christian loses fear of death, he is able to overcome much of the devil's taunts and manipulations.

## 7. 10 Fast Facts about the Devil

1. The devil has power but only God is omnipotent.
2. The devil has a lot of knowledge but only God is omniscient.
3. The devil has a huge network of demons but he is limited to where he can be at one time, only God is omnipresent.
4. The devil's power is still subject to the sovereignty of God, (Isaiah 1:10; Job 2:4–6; Luke 22:31; 2 Corinthians 12:7–9).
5. We need to resist the devil and he will flee from us, (James 4:7).
6. We need to remember that Jesus is interceding on our behalf, (Hebrews 7:25; Luke 22:31, 32).
7. We need to be vigilant and aware of the devil's plans, (1 Peter 5:8).
8. We need to deny the devil any foothold in our lives, (Ephesians 4:27).
9. We need to understand that God has given us everything we need to stand in the spiritual warfare against the schemes of the devil, (Ephesians 6:10–18).
10. When the enemy comes to us as “the accuser of the brethren” reminding us of our past, then we need to stand up in God's authority and remind him of his future.

### **Conclusion**

We don't have to be afraid of him; he needs to be afraid of us. We are part of God's victorious army; the devil is the leader of the losing force. At the end of it all, we win and he loses. Now that is the perspective we need to keep.

## **LESSON 6**

# **THE FALL OF MAN**

***WE BELIEVE: that man was created by God by a specific, immediate act and his image and likeness morally upright and perfect, but fell by voluntary transgression. Consequently, all men are separated from original righteousness, being deprived and without spiritual life. Genesis 1:26–31; 3:1–7; Romans 5:12–21.***

### **Introduction**

The first three chapters of Genesis give us a detailed account of the creation of this world and the creation of man. What is quite clear is the perfection of God's creation; everything was good. Man being created in God's image was good, sinless and in harmony with his Creator. What we then proceed to witness is the degeneration of the human race from perfection to moral abasement. This is called "The Fall of Man".

## **I MANS CREATION**

### **1. God created man by a specific and immediate action**

Not by a series of progressive and interspersed actions. Man was created perfect in the first instance. He was created in God's image and likeness, reflecting God's perfection in His spirit, mind and body.

*Genesis 1:27, "So God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him, male and female He created them".*

*Genesis 2:7, "The Lord God formed man out of the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life and man became a living being".*

### **2. Man was immediately given dominion over the world and the animal kingdom**

Separating man as a unique creation, special, distinct, and above the rest of God's creation.

*Genesis 1:28, "...fill the earth and subdue it, have dominion over the fish of the seas, over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves on the earth".*

## **II MAN'S INITIAL RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD**

### **1. Given stewardship of the Garden of Eden**

*Genesis 2:15, "Then the Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to tend and keep it."*

**2. Given one restriction which meant they had an ability of choice**

God had given them a free will. Genesis 2:16–17, "*...of every tree of the garden, you may freely eat, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat for in the day that you eat of it, you shall surely die.*"

**3. Given authority to name the animals**

Genesis 2:19, "*and brought them to Adam to see what he would call them. And whatever Adam called each living creature, that was its name.*"

**4. God would walk in the Garden in the cool of the day and commune with man**

Genesis 3:8, "*And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the Garden in the cool of the day.*"

**III THE FIRST HUMAN SIN RESULTING IN THE FALL OF MAN**

**1. Satan interferes with God's word**

This is one of the enemy's oldest ploys—a distortion of God's Word to place some doubt in the mind of Man.

Genesis 3:1, "*...Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden?'"*

God didn't say that at all.

**2. Eve distorts the real meaning of God's Word**

Genesis 3:1, "*God has said, 'You shall not eat of it, nor shall you touch it lest you die.'"*

God didn't make His commands unreasonable, as is suggested in the statement "nor touch it". The very addition of that statement causes discredit to be cast on the character of God.

**3. Satan attacks God's word and then proceeds to attack God's character**

Genesis 3:4, "*You shall not surely die.*"

Genesis 3:5, "*For God knows that in the day you eat of it, your eyes will be opened and you will be like God.*"

This gave Eve the impression that God was holding back something good from them. Maybe God was insecure about His position and didn't want them on His level. Here is Man's greatest temptation—the desire to be exalted.

#### **4. Adam and Eve give in to temptation and wilfully choose to sin**

Genesis 3:6, *"So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her and he ate.*

Note: Satan did not make them sin. He tempted them but they chose to give in and wilfully sin. The first sin was rebellion to God's will. It was placing what MAN WANTS above what GOD WANTS.

### **IV THE RESULTS OF THE FALL**

#### **1. Immediately – Shame, guilt and fear**

#### **2. To Woman:**

Pain in childbirth, Genesis 3:16a  
Woman to be ruled by man, Genesis 3:16b.

#### **3. To Man:**

- a. The ground will be cursed so that it will no longer only bare good crops. It would now begin to bear thorns and thistles, Genesis 3:17–18c.
- b. Hard work would be needed to make a living, Genesis 3:19.
- c. Physical death was now part of every man's destiny, Genesis 3:19b.
- d. Banishment from the Garden and the Presence of God, Genesis 3:23–24.

#### **4. To the rest of the human race:**

- a. All men are born with a sinful nature which they have inherited from Adam.

Romans 5:12, *"Therefore, just as through one man, sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all man, because all sinned."*

Romans 5:19, *"For as by one man's disobedience, many were made sinners..."*

Romans 2:10, *"There is none righteous, no not one"*.

Romans 3:23, *"For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God."*

All men are therefore sinners before God without respect of class, colour, or condition.

- b. Sin always results in death.  
Romans 6:23, *"For the wages of sin is death."*

There are three types of death.

### **1. Physical Death**

Physical death is the separation of the spirit from the body.  
James 2:26, *"...as the body without the spirit is dead."* The body goes back to dust. Genesis 3:19, *"...for out of it you were taken. For dust you are and to dust you shall return."*

### **2. Spiritual Death**

This is the separation from God. If a person is not saved, they are dead in their sins and are regarded as children of disobedience, rather than children of God.  
Ephesians 2:1–3, *"And you He made ALIVE who were dead in trespasses and sins."*

### **3. Eternal Death.**

This is the eternal separation from God which is the punishment of those who do not have their names written in the Book of Life.

Revelation 20:14–15, *"Then Death and Hades were cast into the Lake of Fire. This is the second death and anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of Fire."*

- c. Sin results in its peculiar curses of the human spirit, mind and body.
1. Men's understanding is darkened, Ephesians 4:18.
  2. The heart is deceitful and wicked, Jeremiah 17:9–10.
  3. The mind and conscience are defiled, Titus 1:15.
  4. The will has a slant towards evil, Romans 7:17–20.
  5. The body cannot cope with all these negatives, so it degenerates until it finally dies.

## **Conclusion**

Some theories teach that man began his existence at the lowest moral level, and slowly developed into higher moral levels. What the Bible teaches is the opposite. Man began at the highest level and through rebellion to God's laws, fell to the base levels that unregenerate man now lives in. It is only by God's grace, as revealed through Jesus Christ, that fallen man can be picked up and placed back to his rightful place and purpose for being created; in fellowship with God.

## **LESSON 7**

# **THE ATONEMENT**

***WE BELIEVE that God's answer to man's sinful state is in the death of his Son, the Lord Jesus Christ upon the cross, whose sufferings and shed blood have made full atonement for the sins of the whole world, both original and actual, and that there is no other ground for salvation— 2 Corinthians 5:18–21; Galatians 1:4, Ephesians 1:7; Colossians 1:14; Hebrews 9:25,26; 1 Peter 1:19–20.***

### **Introduction**

It is in this subject, the atonement, that we find release from the curse. In our last study we saw the Fall of Man and how it brought in a curse upon the human race. That curse is anything negative that afflicts man, i.e., sin, depravity, separation from God, sickness, poverty, mental anguish. What we are now going to look at is God's answer to the curse—"The Atonement".

### **Definition**

Atonement means to cover over. It means to cancel, pardon, to put off, to reconcile. The reconciliation is between a sinful man and a holy God. The Atonement is covering over that which separated man from God. It also includes the restoration to that place of favour with God.

## **I THE MEANS OF ATONEMENT**

### **1. God's law requires a blood sacrifice in the place of sin**

Hebrews 9:22 says, *"Without shedding of blood there is no remission"*.

- a. When Adam and Eve sinned, God made tunics of skin to clothe their nakedness. To make the skins, animals had to die. Their death and shedding of blood covered over Adam and Eve's shame. Genesis 3:21.
- b. The correct sin offering.  
Abel offered to God a pure lamb. The lamb's life and blood covered over his sins. Genesis 4:2–3.
- c. The Atonement in the law.  
Exodus 29:36–37 says, *"And you shall offer a bull every day as a sin offering for atonement"*.

## **2. Animal blood was temporary**

- a. Hebrews 10:4, *"For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats could take away sins"*.
- b. Hebrews 10:11, *"And every priest stands ministering daily and offering repeatedly the same sacrifices which can never take away sins"*.

## **3. God provides a permanent covering for sin**

Our permanent covering for sin is found in the work of Christ. His shed blood, His suffering and His death are all essential to our reconciliation to God.

### a. The Blood of Jesus.

- (i) Hebrews 9:12, *"Not with the blood of goats and calves but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all having obtained eternal redemption"*.
- (ii) Colossians 1:20, *"Having made peace through the blood of His cross"*.
- (iii) 1 Peter 1:18, 19, *"Knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things ... but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot."*

### b. The Suffering of Jesus.

- (i) 1 Peter 1:18, *"For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust that He might bring us to God"*.
- (ii) Isaiah 53:5, *"He was wounded, He was bruised, He was chastised, He was whipped."*

All this was on our behalf that we might be reconciled back into full relationship with God.

### c. The Death of Jesus.

- (i) 2 Corinthians 5:15, *"He died for all, that those who live, should live no longer for themselves but for Him who died for them and rose again"*.
- (ii) 1 Peter 2:24, *"who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree"*.
- (iii) Romans 5:6, *"For when we were still without strength, in due time, Christ died for the ungodly"*.

(iv) Romans 5:8, *"But God demonstrates His own love towards us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."*

Christ made His atonement for every single sin in the world, past, present and future. There is no sin too big for which Christ cannot atone. However, what is essential is the appropriation of that atonement into our lives. Potentially everyone can be saved. Practically, not everyone will be saved because some choose to remain in their sin.

## **II THE RESULTS OF THE ATONEMENT**

### **1. Forgiveness:**

Colossians 2:13–14, *"And you being dead in your trespasses .... He has made alive, having forgiven you all trespasses ...And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross".*

### **2. Cleansing:**

1 John 1:7, *"The blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin".*

### **3. Fellowship with God:**

1 Timothy 2:5, *"For there is one God and one Mediator between God and man, the Man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself a ransom for all".*

### **4. Healing:**

Isaiah 53:5, *"And by His stripes we are healed".*

### **5. Prosperity:**

2 Corinthians 8:9, *"For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that through His poverty, you might become rich".*

### **6. A New Creation:**

2 Corinthians 5:17, *"If anyone is in Christ, He is a new creation, old things have passed away, behold all things have become new".*

### **7. The Breaking of the Curse:**

Galatians 3:13, *"Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law having become a curse for us (for it is written, cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree)."*

For a detailed account of the different types of curses under the law from which the atonement frees us, read Deuteronomy 28:15–68. It includes poverty, diseases, sorrow, and every negative thing imaginable.

## **Conclusion**

The Fall of Man brought a curse on the world. Jesus Christ through His blood, suffering and death, brought freedom to the world. This freedom is called "The Atonement". We can choose to live in the curses of the fall or the blessings of the atonement. Christians, let's appropriate every blessing that Christ paid so dearly to get for us and stop grovelling in the curses of sin, disease, poverty and separation from God. Jesus paid a high price to make us winners. Let's show the world the difference.

## **LESSON 8**

# **SALVATION OF MAN**

***WE BELIEVE salvation is received through repentance toward God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. This experience is also known as the new birth and is an instantaneous and complete operation of the Holy Spirit whereupon the believing sinner is regenerated, justified, and adopted into the family of God and becomes a new creation in Christ Jesus, (Titus 2:11; 3:5-7; 1 Peter 1:23; 1 John 5:1) and an heir of eternal life.***

### **Introduction**

The central message of the gospel is, "How man can be saved". We have already seen how man was separated from God by sin, the price that was paid to atone for man's sin and now we are going to look at what man must do to be saved.

## **I TWO THINGS NECESSARY FOR SALVATION**

Acts 20:21 contains Paul's simple message of salvation that he preached wherever he went, i.e. "repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ."

### **1. REPENTANCE TOWARD GOD**

#### **a. Definition—**

- (i) (Greek) Metanoia = a change of mind. It involves a turning from sin and a turning towards God.
- (ii) (Illustration) The Prodigal Son, Luke 15:18—Arose, left his sin and went to his father.

#### **b. Signs of Repentance.**

- (i) Remorse for sin.  
2 Corinthians 7:10, "*For godly sorrow produces repentance to salvation ...*"  
This is more than just a sorrow for sins consequences. It is a sorrow that comes from the understanding of being wrong.
- (ii) Hatred of Sin.  
Psalm 51; David wrote this Psalm once his sin with Bathsheba was exposed. It clearly shows the heart of a truly repentant sinner.

- (iii) Confession of sin.

1 John 1:9, *"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."*

Confession is accepting responsibility for sin. It says, *"I am guilty and I ask for forgiveness"*. It is not blame shifting or making excuses for mitigating circumstances.

- (iv) Renunciation of Sin.

This is making the conscious decision—"I'm not going to sin anymore."—(to the best of your strength).

Isaiah 1:16 "cease to do evil".

Isaiah 55:7, let wicked forsake his ways.

Ephesians 4:22 "put off concerning your former conduct".

- (v) Desire to make restitution.

If something can be put back to its rightful place and you have the power to do it, then restitution becomes a demonstration of true repentance.

Luke 19:8, Zacchaeus repents and says, *"If I have taken anything from anyone by false accusation, I restore fourfold"*.

## **II FAITH TOWARDS OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST**

### **a. What is Faith?**

- (i) Belief by itself is not faith.

James 2:19 says, *"Demons believe and even tremble"*. But they are not saved.

- (ii) Belief must be combined with a positive action.

James 2:17 says, *"Faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead"*.

### **b. Faith has to be directed towards Christ**

- (i) John 1:12, *"to as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God"*.

- (ii) Jesus claimed to be the only way to God, John 14:6. Therefore to place faith in Christ means renouncing any other gods, deities and belief systems that oppose Christianity.

- (iii) Romans 10:9 tells us:

- To confess with our mouths the Lord Jesus Christ.
- To believe in our hearts that God raised Him from the dead. This needs to be a radical action of making Jesus totally sovereign over our lives. Allowing Him to guide us, direct us and help us to make decisions that are Christ honouring.

### III NEW TESTAMENT WORDS DESCRIBING SALVATION

#### a. **Born Again (New Birth, New Creation).**

Jesus says, *"Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the Kingdom of God"*. John 3:3

This is a description of what happens upon entering the Kingdom of God. No one is naturally born a child of God. As heirs of the first Adam, we are born in sin. When a person repents, has faith in Christ Jesus then a second birth happens—the new birth. They are now children of God. John 1:12. They are separated from their past life and are now a new creation in God's Kingdom.

2 Corinthians 5:17, *"If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation, old things have passed away, behold all things have become new"*.

#### b. **Regeneration.**

This is an act whereby God gives man a new life. It is not the old life changed, but the impartation of a new life from above. It is not the turning over of a new leaf but a supernatural act of God that supersedes man's natural abilities to change. It is a spiritual awakening quickened by God.

Ephesians 2:1 says, *"And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins"*.

#### c. **Justification.**

Justification involves two very important events.

##### (i) The forgiveness of sins.

It is the total removal of sin so that there is no more sinful residue or guilt or impending punishment.

Psalm 103:12, *"As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us"*.

##### (ii) The imputation of Christ's righteousness.

This is forgiveness of sins taken a step further whereby we also receive the righteousness of Christ. God no longer looks at us and sees a sinner forgiven, but a person who is as righteous as Christ. Just as if we had never sinned.

2 Corinthians 5:21 says, *"For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin that we might become the righteousness of God in Him"*.

**d. The difference between Regeneration and Justification.**

<b>Regeneration</b>	<b>Justification</b>
1. That which takes place in the believer's heart.	That which takes place before God
2. The impartation of new life.	The declaration of righteousness in the eyes of God.
3. God's answer to spiritual death.	God's answer to the problem of guilt

**e. Adoption into God's family.**

This concept of adoption was a Roman one used by Paul to describe God's total acceptance of the believer into His family. The Roman adoption was the establishing of the adopted son into an identical position with one born into the family. Romans 8:15, "*you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out 'Abba, Father'.*" God has placed us into a very intimate position with full rights even to the extent where we are joint heirs with 'His only begotten Son' Jesus.

**IV BENEFITS OF SALVATION**

- 1. Access to God—Hebrews 10:19.**
- 2. No condemnation—Romans 8:1.**
- 3. Name in the Book of Life—Luke 10:20.**
- 4. We will not be thrown into the Lake of Fire—Revelation 20:15.**
- 5. Heirs to eternal life—Titus 3:7.**
- 6. Rights to God's inheritance—Romans 8:14–17.**
- 7. We are the temple of the Holy Spirit—1 Corinthians 6:19.**

**V TERMS**

1. Justified	legal term	Pronounced not guilty
2. Sanctified	temple term	Made holy
3. Redeemed	slave market term	Bought back, no longer a slave
4. Washed	bathroom term	Made clean
5. Adopted	family term	Made a part of a family

## **Conclusion**

How wonderful it is to have experienced the grace of God that leads to salvation. Our desire should be that everyone gets a chance to hear this marvellous message and be given an opportunity to respond. My prayer is that God will raise up every believer and send us out as messengers of this exciting, life changing message.

## **LESSON 9**

# **THE CHURCH**

***WE BELIEVE the Church is the body of Christ, the habitation of God through the Spirit, with divine appointments for the fulfilment of her great commission. Each believer, born of the Spirit is an integral part of the General Assembly and Church of the First-born which are written in heaven—(Ephesians 1:22, 23; 2:22; Hebrews 12:23).***

### **Introduction**

The average person's response to the word 'church' is steeples, stained glass windows, and a huge pipe organ. What is interesting is that in New Testament times, the average person's response to the word 'church' was a group of fanatical people turning the world upside down with their radical message of one God, and one Saviour Jesus Christ. Somehow over the centuries, the emphasis has changed from people to buildings.

Jesus loves the church so much that He calls her His bride. This study will help us better understand what the church looks like.

### **Definition:**

- a. Church—(Greek) **Ekklesia**—to call out from.
- b. Acts 7:38, "*This is He who was in the congregation (church) in the wilderness*". The context refers to the children of Israel, a group of people called out of Egypt and called into fellowship with God.
- c. In New Testament terms, the church is a group of people who are called out of the world and who are called into fellowship with Jesus Christ.
- d. Another word regularly used in the New Testament is *Assembly* (i.e.) a gathering of God's people.

## **I THE NEW TESTAMENT UNDERSTANDING OF THE TERM CHURCH.**

### **a. The Universal Church**

Made up of all genuine believers that are saved and will be saved. The Bible refers to them as "*The General Assembly and Church of the Firstborn*". Hebrews 12:23.

### **b. The Local Church**

Made up of believers that worship together in one locality. They live within easy access of each other.

Acts 11:22—The church at Jerusalem.

Romans 16:1—The Church at Cenchrea

1 Corinthians 1:2—The Church at Corinth.

**c. The Church in a Home**

In the New Testament there were times when the believers did not have a building to meet in. Therefore they met in each other's homes.

1 Corinthians 16:19, Paul says, *"The churches of Asia (local churches) greet you. Aquila and Priscilla greet you heartily in the Lord, with the Church that is in their house."*

**d. The Collective Church**

This is where all existing churches are combined into one collective church, and reference is made to it in the singular.

1 Corinthians 10:32, *"The Church of God"*.

1 Corinthians 15:9, Galatians 1:13, Philippians 3:6, *"The Church"*.

**II THE CHURCH IS THE BODY OF CHRIST**

Ephesians 1:22, 23 says, *"And He put all things under His feet and gave Him to be head over all things to the church which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all"*.

The work of Christ is now fulfilled through the Church.

**a. His work is finished.**

John 19:30, *"So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished."*

**b. He is now seated at the right hand of the Father.**

Hebrews 10:12, *"But this man after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of the God."*

**c. He is the head of the Body, and is still working closely with the Church.**

Mark 16:20, *"And they went out and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the word through the accompanying signs"*.

**d. The Church is the extension of the Lord Jesus Christ.**

The members of the Church are His arms, legs, mouth, etc.  
1 Corinthians 12:14–27.

1 Corinthians 12:27 says, *"Now you are the body of Christ and members individually"*.

### **III THE CHURCH IS THE LORD'S SANCTUARY**

Ephesians 2:21–22 says, *"in whom the whole building, being joined together grows into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you are also being built together for a habitation of God in the Spirit."*

- a. The Lord's sanctuary is not in buildings made of stone but in people. Acts 17:24–28.
- b. He dwells where His people are gathered together in His Name, Matthew 18:20.
- c. The church, His people become the temple of the Holy Spirit, 1 Corinthians 3:16.
- d. Because people make up the temple, people become holy; they are consecrated, not the block of land. 1 Corinthians 3:17.

### **IV THE DIVINE MANDATES OF THE CHURCH**

- a. Evangelism  
Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. (Mark 16:15).
- b. Discipleship  
Make disciples of all nations (Matthew 28:19–20)
  - (i) baptise them.
  - (ii) teach them to observe Jesus commands.
- c. Acts of Service  
Heal the sick and cast out devils (Mark 16:17–18). Do good works (Acts 10:38).

### **V DISTINCTIVES OF THE CHURCH**

Rick Warren has summarised them beautifully in "The Purpose Driven Life". We have five purposes to fulfil in this world.

- a. Worship
  - (a) We were planned for God's pleasure. The purpose of life is to know and love God.
  - (b) Mark 12:30 *"Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength."*
  - (c) God comes first in all we do; the Lordship of Christ is pre-eminent.
  - (d) Worship is not singing a song but how we live life.

- b. Fellowship
  - (a) We were formed for God's family.
  - (b) Romans 12:5, "*so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another.*"
  - (c) Love and unity is what makes the church strong.
  - (d) The enemy is always at work to DIVIDE, division stunts our growth and weakens our ability to change.
  
- c. Discipleship
  - (a) We were created to become like Christ.
  - (b) Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus. Philippians 2:5
  - (c) Teaching them to obey all things I have commanded you. Matthew 28:19-20.
  
- d. Ministry
  - (a) We were shaped to serve God and one another.
  - (b) 1 Peter 4:10: Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others.
  - (c) There is amazing fulfilment in serving others with our spiritual gifts.
  - (d) The Bible calls it BODY MINISTRY. Romans 12 and 16:12
  
- e. Evangelism
  - (a) We were made to share the gospel.
  - (b) Colossians 4:5, Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity.

## **VI IS IT IMPORTANT TO BELONG TO A LOCAL CHURCH?**

- a. Hebrews 10:25 says, "*Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.*"
  
- b. A body can only operate if its members are joined together with one mind. Romans 12:5 says, "*So we, being many are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another*"
  
- c. God hasn't called us to be devoted to a building, a system or a ritual, but He has called us to be devoted to one another—Romans 12:9–19. The only way we can be devoted to people is to be committed to a local church.

## **Conclusion**

- a. Find a body/local church and become part of it.
- b. Become committed to the people and submitted to the authority of the local church and you will find great release and peace in your spiritual walk.
- c. God has never given us perfect leaders but He still expects us to be submitted to leadership.
- d. Keep in mind that there is no such thing as a perfect church. Where you have people there will always be mistakes.

## **LESSON 10**

### **WATER BAPTISM**

***WE BELIEVE that baptism, by single immersion, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, is enjoined upon all who have repented and have believed in Christ as Saviour and Lord, and that it is symbolic of our identification with Christ in His death, burial and resurrection—Matthew. 28:19, 20; Acts. 10:47, 28; 2:38, 39; Romans 6:4, 5; Colossians. 2:12; Mark 16:16.***

#### **Introduction**

An ordinance is an outward sign of an inward work. The word ordinance literally means "something commanded and enforced by the proper authority". We believe that Jesus established two ordinances for us to observe (i.e.) Water Baptism and the Lord's Supper. This lesson will cover Water Baptism; the next lesson will cover the Lord's Supper.

#### **Definition:**

- (i) Baptism = (Greek) Baptizo = to immerse. It consists of the processes of submersion and emergence.
- (ii) "It was used among the Greeks to signify the dying of a garment, or the drawing of water by dipping a vessel into another, etc." (W. E. Vine).
- (iii) Baptism can best be interpreted as being immersed in water. Sprinkling, wetting, splashing does not fully convey the meaning of baptism.

#### **I IT IS A COMMAND OF CHRIST**

1. Matthew 28:19, "*Jesus commanded His disciples to "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."*
2. John 14:23, "*If anyone loves me. He will keep My Words."*
3. John 14:24, "*He who does not love Me does not keep My words"*.
4. Mark 16:16 Jesus said, "*He who believes and is baptised will be saved."*

#### **II THE MEANING OF CHRISTIAN BAPTISM**

1. **A sign of the death of our old nature.**  
Romans 6:3, 6, "*Do you not know that as many of us as were baptised into Christ Jesus were baptised into His death? ... knowing this that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin."*

2. **A sign of our new birth.**  
Romans 6:4, *"Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life."*
3. **A sign of identification with the death of Christ.**  
Romans 6:3, *"Do you not know that as many of us as were baptised into Christ Jesus were baptised into His death?"*
4. **A sign of identification with the resurrection of Christ**  
Romans 6:5, *"For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection."*
5. **A sign of belonging to Jesus Christ.**
  - a. In the Old Testament circumcision of the flesh was the sign of separation unto God.
  - b. In the New Testament baptism has taken over from Old Testament circumcision and is a sign that we belong to God.  
Colossians 2:11–12, *"In Him you were also circumcised with the circumcision made without hands buried with Him in baptism".*

### III THE NEW TESTAMENT PRECEDENT

1. Jesus was baptised in the river Jordan, Matthew 3:13–15.
2. On the day of Pentecost 3000 were baptised, Acts 2:41.
3. The Samaritans that believed were baptised, Acts 8:12.
4. The Ethiopian eunuch was baptised by Philip, Acts 8:38.
5. Paul was baptised three days after his Damascus Road experience, Acts 9:18.
6. Cornelius and his household were commanded to be baptised, Acts 10:47.
7. Lydia and her household were baptised, Acts 16:15.
8. The Philippian gaoler and his household were baptised, Acts 16:33.
9. Many Corinthians were baptised, Acts 18:8.
10. The Ephesian disciples were baptised, Acts 19:5.

### IV WHEN TO BE BAPTISED

1. **After Salvation.**
  - a. Matthew 28:19—*"Make disciples then baptise them"*.
  - b. Mark 16:16—*"He who believes and is baptised."*
  - c. Acts 2:36—What we must do: first repent, second be baptised.

2. **No definite time period.**
  - a. On the day of Pentecost, they were baptised the same day, Acts 2:41.
  - b. Paul was baptised three days after his Damascus Road experience, Acts 9:9, 18.
3. **If a person is old enough to realise he/she is a sinner, then they are old enough to be baptised.**
  - a. They must first of all be able to repent and place faith in Christ.
4. **If a person was baptised before they were born again, should they get baptised again? YES.**
  - a. One cannot be baptised before salvation. They can of course get sprinkled, wet, soaked, immersed, but it is not Christian baptism.
  - b. Christian baptism can only occur after salvation. It has no real significance to the individual unless they are saved.
5. **If a person is baptised as a baby, should they get baptised again? YES.**
  - a. There is not one Scripture supporting infant baptism.
  - b. A baby doesn't have the ability to repent and place faith in Christ.
  - c. When a person can repent and place faith in Christ then they are at an age where baptism is significant. Before this point it is only a ritualistic ceremony.

## **Conclusion**

What is abundantly clear from this lesson is that baptism is not an optional extra but a definite command for all born again Christians. The Bible leaves no choice to the sincere person. If you haven't been baptised then please see your pastor and arrange to get baptised as soon as possible.

For the genuine Christian, baptism is a glorious event that witnesses to the world and to the church that they are no longer in the Kingdom of darkness but in the Kingdom of God. It declares that the believer has died to their old nature and is alive to their new nature in Christ. It makes a bold declaration to all that they now BELONG TO JESUS.

## **LESSON 11**

# **THE LORD'S SUPPER**

***WE BELIEVE the Lord's Supper, consisting of the elements of bread and the fruit of the vine, is the symbol expressing our sharing the divine nature of our Lord Jesus Christ (2 Peter 1:4); a memorial of His sufferings and death (1 Corinthians 11:26); and a prophecy of His second coming (1 Corinthians 11:26), and is enjoined upon all believers "until He comes". Luke 22:15–20; Matthew 26:26–28; Acts 20:7.***

### **Introduction**

As we saw in our last lesson, an ordinance is the outward sign of an inward work. We believe Jesus only established two ordinances for us to observe. (i.e.) Water Baptism (which was covered in the previous lesson) and the Lord's Supper which is covered in this lesson. The Lord's Supper is also referred to as Communion, which speaks of the relationship between Jesus and believers, and "Breaking of Bread", a special reference to Jesus breaking the bread on the night He initiated "The Lord's Supper." "The Lord's Table" is also used.

### **I. IT IS A COMMAND OF CHRIST**

- a. Luke 22:19, Jesus said, *"This is My Body which is given for you, DO THIS in remembrance of Me".*
- b. 1 Corinthians 11:23,25 Paul said, *"For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you ... This do as often as you drink it in remembrance of Me".*
- c. 1 Corinthians 11:26, *"For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes."*
- d. The early Church made it their custom. Acts 20:7 *"Now on the first day of the week when the disciples came together to break bread..."*

### **II. THE MEANING OF THE LORD'S SUPPER**

#### **1. It is a constant reminder that Jesus made atonement for us.**

- a. The broken bread reminds us of His broken body which was given for us that our sins may be forgiven. (See lesson 7 on Atonement). Not only does it remind us of the atonement but also His Incarnation. God became flesh, dwelt amongst us and gave Himself for us.

Luke 22:19, *"And He took the bread, gave thanks and broke it and gave it to them saying, 'This is My body which is given for you.'"*

John 6:35 *"He was the bread of Heaven, the bread of Life"*

- b. The cup reminds us of the shed blood of Christ, the blood that is able to wash away our sins. This was the establishment of the new covenant whereby men do not have to offer up the blood of animals to receive forgiveness but simply exercise faith in the blood of Christ. What can wash away my sin? Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

*Matthew 26:27–28, "Then He took the cup and gave thanks and gave it to them saying, "Drink from it, all of you. For this is My blood of the new covenant which is shed for many for the remission of sins".*

- 2. It is a proclamation by the church that we believe the death of Christ is the foundation of our salvation and its remembrance bears repeating.**

*1 Corinthians 11:26, "For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death".*

- 3. It is a constant reminder that He hasn't forgotten us but is coming back to finalise the work that He began in our lives.**

*1 Corinthians 11:26, "You proclaim the Lord's death, TILL HE COMES".*

- 4. It unites the Body of Christ into one.**

As we partake of the Lord's Supper, we not only have fellowship with Him, but also with one another.

*1 Corinthians 10:16,17, "The bread which we break, does it not mean that in eating it we participate in and share a fellowship, a communion, in the body of Christ. For we, no matter how numerous we are, are one body, because we all partake of the one Bread, the One whom the communion bread represents." (Amplified).*

- 5. It is a constant reminder of the Person of Christ.**

His love, compassion, character, miracles, teaching.

*1 Corinthians 11:25, ".. as often as you drink it, IN REMEMBRANCE of Me".*

- 6. It is the sign of the New Covenant, our assurance of Salvation.**

*Luke 22:20 "This cup is the new covenant in My blood which is shed for you."*

Illustration: In ancient times a contract was established with a blood seal. Jesus made a contract with us, sealed it with His blood. He has saved us, forgave us, cleansed us, redeemed us and is returning to take us back to live with Him forever and ever.

### III. THE NEW TESTAMENT PRECEDENT

1. Jesus shared communion with the disciples on the night of the Passover, Matthew 26:26–30.
2. The Early Church observed it as one of their earliest practises, Acts 2:42. Note: The breaking of bread is another term used for the Lord's Supper.
3. The Early Church did not restrict it to public worship, but partook of the Lord's Supper from house to house, Acts 2:46.
4. It was the disciples custom to partake of the Lord's Supper on the first day of the week (i.e.) Sunday, Acts 20:7, 11.
5. Paul reiterates the importance of communion by giving clear teaching about it in his letter to the Corinthians (1 Corinthians 11:23–26).

### IV. FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. **How old must someone be before they can partake of the Lord's Supper?**
  - As with Water Baptism, the Lord's Supper is an outer sign of an inner experience.
  - The Lord's Supper symbolises what Christianity is all about and therefore should only be received by someone who is a Christian.
  - If someone is old enough to realise Jesus died for their sins and rose from the dead and has accepted Him as Lord and Saviour, that person is old enough to partake of the Lord's Supper.
2. **Should certain people be excluded from the Lord's Supper?**
  - Paul gives clear teaching in 1 Corinthians 11:27-30 that one can either approach the Lord's Supper in a worthy manner or an unworthy manner.
  - The implication is that an "unworthy manner" means having unconfessed sin or behaving in some sinful manner.
  - The admonition is that before we approach the Lord's Supper, we should "examine" ourselves. If after examination, there is no repentance, then we should not approach in an unworthy manner.
3. **How often should we commemorate the Lord's Supper?**
  - The Bible doesn't say.
  - In 1 Corinthians 11:25 we are told "As often as you drink it..." However we are not told how often that is.
  - The disciples at Troas established a custom of commemorating the Lord's Supper every Sunday Acts 20:7.

#### 4. Who can administer the Lord's Supper?

- 1 Peter 2:9 tells us that every believer is of the "royal priesthood".
- As believers we can partake and distribute the Lord's Supper because we are all priests unto God.
- The early Church went from house to house partaking of the Lord's Supper. There is no evidence that the Apostles had to be present. Acts 2:46

#### V. A SPECIAL NOTE.

Jesus said in John 6:51, *"I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever and the bread that I shall give is My flesh..."*

Was Jesus stating that when we eat the bread in the Lord's Supper we are eating the flesh of Jesus? We do not believe that the bread becomes flesh. We believe Jesus was using figurative language. The incarnation of Jesus meant that the flesh of Jesus was contained in the body of Jesus. Anything else would change our understanding of the humanity of Jesus.

We believe that the bread and the wine represent the body and blood of Jesus. Even though the Lord's Supper is an intensely spiritual experience it is still essentially a commemoration of Christ's death.

#### Conclusion

The celebration of the Lord's Supper should never be reduced to a religious ritual. It is a celebration of communion with Christ and with His body, the Church. It is a very spiritual and sacred experience for the Christian.

In this celebration, we remember that Jesus died for our sins; we remember that His body was broken for our redemption and His blood was shed for our forgiveness. We remember that He rose from the dead and forever lives to make intercession on our behalf. We are reminded that because He lives, we will live and one day Jesus will return to take us to be with Him forever.

Whenever we partake of the Lord's Supper we need to enter into a time of tremendous celebration, rejoicing and thanksgiving reminding ourselves of the victory Jesus accomplished on our behalf.

## **LESSON 12**

# **SANCTIFICATION**

***Sanctification is an act of separation from that which is evil, and of dedication unto God. WE BELIEVE it is the glorious provision for every believer in Christ to be made pure in heart and wholly sanctified, through the operation of the Holy Spirit, by the blood of Jesus and the Word of God—John 17:15–19; Acts 15:8,9; 1 Thessalonians 4:3,4; Hebrews 2:11; 1 Thessalonians 5:23,24; Hebrews 10:16–19; Romans 12:1–2.***

### **Introduction**

In the generic sense, to sanctify means to separate something for the use intended by the designer. A calculator is sanctified when it calculates numbers, a car when it drives.

In the Biblical sense, to sanctify means to separate something or someone unto God. It implies the object or person has been made holy and is consecrated for divine use. Sanctification, holiness and consecration are synonymous terms. For the Christian, the doctrine of sanctification focuses not so much on the believer's position but on his behaviour.

### **I. THE MEANING OF SANCTIFICATION**

#### **1. Separated from evil.**

It is the turning away from all that is sinful and all that defiles the believer. For God to use us we must be willing to separate ourselves from all that which defiles us and seek to reflect His moral perfection.

1 Thessalonians 4:3, 7, *"For this is the will of God your sanctification that you should abstain from sexual immorality. For God did not call us to uncleanness, but in holiness."*

#### **2. Dedicated to God.**

In the Old Testament anything sanctified was for the exclusive use of the Lord. To be sanctified not only means to be separated from sin, but even more importantly, it means to be dedicated to God's exclusive use.

1 Corinthians 6:19, 20, *"Do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price, therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit which are God's."*

### 3. Consecrated to serve.

In the Old Testament the priests were consecrated to serve God with special ceremonies of cleansing and purification. The New Testament calls all believers a "holy priesthood". By the blood of Jesus we have been set apart, consecrated, to offer up spiritual sacrifices which are acceptable to God.

1 Peter 2:5, *"you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ."*

## II. THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN REGENERATION, JUSTIFICATION AND SANCTIFICATION

These three theological words have great significance for the believer. They express three different aspects of what it means to be truly saved.

REGENERATION	JUSTIFICATION	SANCTIFICATION
1. Change of nature.	Change in standing with God	Change of character.
2. Takes place in the believer's heart.	Takes place before God	Takes place in the believer's conduct.
3. Impartation of new life.	Declared righteous before God.	Becoming righteous in our daily walk.
4. God's answer to spiritual death.	God's answer to the problem of guilt.	The believer's response to God's work.
5. Places us into right relationship with God.	Declares our right relationship with God.	Exhibits the fruit of our relationship with God.

If regeneration has truly taken place in the believer's heart and the believer truly understands the grace of God that is revealed in justification then with the help of the Holy Spirit, the believer ought to begin behaving in a Godly manner. This is sanctification.

## III. THE THREE ASPECTS OF SANCTIFICATION

### 1. The Initial Act (Positional). We are sanctified.

The moment a person is saved, they are said to be sanctified, i.e. separated from evil and dedicated to God. This is the way that God sees them.

1 Corinthians 6:11, *"And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God".*

## **2. The Practical Act (Progressive). We are being sanctified.**

Even though positionally before God we are sanctified, there is still a progressive act of sanctification. What we have positionally, we must seek experientially. The New Testament makes it abundantly clear.

- a. 2 Corinthians 3:18, *We "are being transformed into the same image (of Christ) from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord".*
- b. 1 Thessalonians 4:1, *We "ought to abound more and more, just as you received from us, how you ought to walk and to please God".*
- c. 2 Corinthians 7:1, *"Let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God".*

## **3. The Final Act (Perfected). We will be sanctified.**

Sinless perfection and final sanctification await us when Jesus Christ returns. It is then that we will be like Him. We will be delivered totally from the body of this flesh and we will be totally holy.

1 Thessalonians 3:13, *"so that He may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all His saints."*

1 John 3:2, *"But we know that when He is revealed we shall be like Him for we shall see Him as He is".*

When God first created man, He created us in His Image. Sin defiled us and separated us from God's initial destiny. God made a way through the sacrifice of His Son whereby man could once more be restored to God's original design. Now the will of God for us is to be conformed to the image of His Son (Romans 8:29). At salvation, God exchanged our unrighteousness with Christ's righteousness (2 Corinthians 5:21). Before God's eyes we have the righteousness of Christ. At this moment, all of us are working on things that the Holy Spirit reveals to us. We are being transformed (2 Corinthians 3:18). When Christ returns, we will be changed. We will shake off this body of mortality and in an instant be transformed into the image of Christ (1 John 3:2)

#### IV. THE MEANS OF SANCTIFICATION

As with so many things in our Christian life, there is the union of the Divine will with the Human will. Both sides are involved in our sanctification. Luther was asked how much of sanctification is a work of God and how much is the work of man. He replied: "It is 100% God and 100% man".

##### 1. The Divine Side

The Godhead is at work in our sanctification.

###### a. The Father

1 Thessalonians 5:23, *"Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely and may your whole spirit, soul and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ"*.

###### b. The Son

Hebrews 10:10, *"We have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all"*.

Hebrews 13:12, *"Therefore Jesus also, that He might sanctify the people with His own blood, suffered outside the gate"*.

###### c. The Holy Spirit

1 Peter 1:2, *"according to the foreknowledge of the Father in sanctification of the Spirit"*.

##### 2. The Human Side

We need to appropriate what God has done by:

###### a. Submitting to the Holy Spirit

Galatians 5:16, *"Walk in the Spirit and you shall not fulfil the lusts of the flesh"*.

###### b. Crucifying the flesh.

Galatians 5:25, *"Those who are in Christ, have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires"*.

###### c. Walking in Faith

2 Corinthians 5:7, *"For we walk by faith not by sight"*.

###### d. Obedience to God's Word

John 17:17, *"Sanctify them by your truth. Your word is truth"*.

Ephesians 5:26, *"That He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word"*.

###### e. Personal Choice

Romans 12:1, *"... present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God which is your reasonable service"*.

Hebrews 12:14, *"Pursue peace with all people and holiness without which no one will see the Lord"*.

Romans 6:11, *"... reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin"*.

## Conclusion

1 Peter 2:9–11 gives us a great definition of sanctification.

*"But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvellous light; who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy. Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul".*

What is clearly seen is that God has made us holy. We have been separated from sin, we do belong to Him, and we are progressively working out holiness within our own lives. For too long the world has resisted Christian things because they have observed a hypocritical stance on this subject. Let us never excuse wilful sin, but let us also be honest to the world. We are progressing. We desire to live a godly lifestyle. If we fail, let us admit it, but then let's pick ourselves up and in God's strength press on to better things.

## **LESSON 13**

# **THE BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT**

***WE BELIEVE that the Baptism in the Holy Spirit is the bestowing of the believer with power to be an effective witness for Christ. This experience is distinct from, and subsequent to, the New Birth; is received by faith, and is accompanied by the manifestation of speaking in tongues as the Spirit gives utterance, as the initial evidence—Luke 24:49; Acts 1:4,5,8; Acts 2:1–4; 8:15–19; 11:14–17; 19:1–7.***

### **Introduction**

The disciples had all been trained by Jesus for three years. They had received His teaching, received the gospel, received the mandate to take the gospel to the ends of the earth but Jesus told them not to begin their commission until they received one more thing.

Luke 24:49 *“Behold I sent the promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endured with power from on high”.*

The one thing they lacked was not the Holy Spirit. They had received the Holy Spirit soon after the resurrection when Jesus breathed on them and said “Receive the Holy Spirit” (John 20:22). What they lacked was the Baptism in the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:5). This event was to happen on the day of Pentecost. It is an experience for every Christian disciple to enjoy not just the early disciples.

### **I TWO DISTINCT EVENTS**

For the Christian, there are two distinct events which ought to be experienced.

#### **1. Conversion.**

- a. This happens when a person repents of sins, receives Jesus as Saviour and commits to obeying all His commands. Mark 16:15-16, Matthew 28: 19-20.
- b. The believer is then baptised in water and is made part of God’s family.
- c. There is no question that the disciples were converted before the day of Pentecost. Not only had they placed faith in Christ and repented of their sins:
  - (i) They had their names in the book of life in heaven (Luke 10:20).
  - (ii) They had received the indwelling Holy Spirit (John 20:22).
  - (iii) They had been given the responsibility of the gospel (Matthew 28:19-20).

## **2. Baptism in the Spirit.**

- a. This is an event subsequent to salvation.
- b. The believer must ask for this gift, rarely is it automatic.
- c. Peter's message to the Jewish seekers gives the sequence of events. "*Repent and let every one of you be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.*" Acts 2:38
  - (i) First be converted by repentance, accepting Christ and baptism.
  - (ii) Second, after conversion you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

### **An important note on what Luke means by the Gift of the Holy Spirit.**

Luke gives this experience at least 9 different titles in Luke-Acts.

1. Falling of the Holy Spirit—Acts 8:16, 10:44, and 11:15.
2. Filling of the Holy Spirit, Acts 2:4, 4:8,31; 6:3,5; 7:55; 9:17; 11:24; 13:9.
3. Coming upon of the Holy Spirit, Acts 1:8; 19:6.
4. Pouring out of the Holy Spirit, Acts 10:45.
5. Receiving the Holy Spirit, Acts 2:38; 8:15, 17; 8:19; 10:48; 19:2.
6. Gift of the Holy Spirit, Acts 2:38, 8:20, 10:15.
7. Baptised in (with) the Holy Spirit, Acts 1:5; 11:16; Matthew 3:11; Mark 1:8; Luke 3:16.
8. Giving of the Holy Spirit, Luke 11:13, Acts 5:32, 8:18, 15:8.
9. The promise of the Father, Luke 24:49, Acts 1:4, 2:33, 2:29.

As far as Luke is concerned, not one of the above experiences refers to conversion. Each one is a reference to a subsequent experience.

## II TWO DISTINCT EXPERIENCES

The indwelling of the Spirit and the infilling of the Spirit.

<b>Indwelling of the Spirit Occurs at conversion</b>	<b>Infilling of the Spirit Occurs subsequent to conversion</b>
1. Romans 8:9 "... <i>the Spirit of God dwells in you</i> ".	1 Acts 2:4 " <i>They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance</i> ".
2. Romans 8:11 " <i>If the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you...</i> ".	2. Acts 4:31 " <i>They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and they spoke the Word of God with boldness</i> ".
3. John 14:17 " <i>The Spirit of truth ... He dwells with you and will be in you</i> ".	3. Acts 6:3-5
4. 1 Corinthians 3:16 "... <i>you are the temple of God and the Spirit of God dwells in you</i> ".	4. Acts 7:55
5. 1 Corinthians 6:16 "... <i>you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: 'I will dwell in them'</i> ".	5. Acts 9:17
6. 2 Timothy 1:14 "... <i>the Holy Spirit who dwells in us</i> ".	6. Acts 11.24
	7. Acts 13:9
	8. Ephesians 5:18 " <i>..be filled with the Spirit</i> ".

Some important points:

1. The indwelling of the Spirit happens automatically at conversion. Once a person repents of sin and accepts Christ, the miracle of conversion occurs through the indwelling of the Spirit. (Romans 8:9).
2. The infilling of the Spirit is something that the Christian must desire. It is not automatic but must be sought and asked for. (Ephesians 5:18).

## III FOUR EXAMPLES OF SUBSEQUENCE IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

1. **Disciples on Day of Pentecost** Acts 2:4
  - a. They were all converted under the ministry of Jesus.
  - b. They were ALL filled with the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost.

**2. The Samaritan Disciples Acts 8:4-17**

- a They were converted under the ministry of Philip.
- b They were filled with the Spirit under the ministry of Peter and John. Acts 8:17.

**3. Paul's Experience Acts 9:1-17**

- a He was converted on the road to Damascus when he called Jesus Lord. Acts 9:6
- b He was filled with the Holy Spirit at least three days later under the ministry of Ananias. Acts 9:17

**4. The Ephesian Disciples Acts 19:1-6**

- a. They were converted when Paul preached Christ to them. Acts 19:4-5
- b. They were filled with the Spirit after they were baptised in water. Acts 19:5-6.

**IV THE PURPOSE FOR BEING FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT.**

In Acts 1:8 Jesus told the disciples that they would receive power (Gk, DUNAMIS = miracle working power, supernatural ability). This supernatural ability is mainly for three things:

**1. Power for Evangelism**

- a. Jesus said that the power was for evangelism, to witness for Jesus beginning in Jerusalem and extending to the ends of the earth. Acts 1:8
- b. Peter's example on the day of Pentecost. He became dynamic. Acts 2:41 3,000 people added in one day.
- c. The early church's example. Acts 4:31 - They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and they spoke the word of God with boldness. Believers were increasingly added to the church. Acts 5:14.
- d. Philip's example. Acts 6:3, 5; 8:5. He was chosen as a deacon because he was filled with the Holy Spirit. He went to Samaria and saw multitudes converted. There was great joy in the city. Acts 8:8
- e. Paul's example. Acts 9:17, 20. After he was filled with the Holy Spirit He immediately preached Christ in the synagogues.

**2. Power for signs that lead to Evangelism**

- a. Jesus said greater works shall you do (John 14:12)
- b. After Jesus sent the disciples out with the great commission, He told them that signs will follow them and their evangelism. Mark 16:15-18.

c. The New Testament Church saw a huge connection between signs and evangelism.

(i) Peter and the healing of man at Gate Beautiful Acts 3:10-4:4  
Result: 5,000 men came to Christ

(ii) The Apostles saw many signs and wonders Acts 5:12-14  
Result: Multitudes of both men and women came to Christ.

(iii) Philip goes to Samaria with the gospel and miracles Acts 8:4-13  
Result: A whole city is filled with great joy

(iv) Peter sees healing of Aeneas - man bedridden for 8 years  
Acts 9:32-35  
Result: All who lived at Lydda and Sharon turned to Christ.

(v) Paul's ministry was earmarked with miracles and evangelism  
Acts 14:1-15  
Acts 17:1-3  
Acts 19:11-20  
Result: People saved and churches planted.

### **3. Power for inspired utterance**

a. On the Day of Pentecost

All the Disciples (not some but all) were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to declare the wonderful works of God in a variety of different languages they had not learnt. (Acts 2:1-11) This is inspired utterance.

b. After the Day of Pentecost

(i) Those in Cornelius' household who were filled with the Holy Spirit spoke with tongues and magnified God. (Acts 10:46) This magnifying of God in a language not learnt before is inspired utterance.

(ii) The disciples experienced another outpouring of the Spirit after Pentecost which resulted in another dimension of boldness in their utterances. (Acts 4:31).

(iii) Paul declares that one of the evidences of being filled with the Spirit is inspired utterances of psalm, hymns, spiritual songs. Ephesians 5:18-19.

## V THE INITIAL EVIDENCE OF BEING FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

It seems that there is too much evidence in the scripture to leave this question ambiguous. From the scriptural record we see that speaking in tongues is the sign that is usually associated as the evidence of being filled with the Holy Spirit.

1. On the day of Pentecost, they ALL spoke with other tongues. Acts 2:4.
2. Paul was filled with the Holy Spirit. In Acts 9:17, He testified to the Corinthians that he spoke in tongues more than all of them. 1 Corinthians 14:18.
3. Cornelius and all his household spoke in tongues. Acts 10:46
4. The Ephesian disciples spoke in tongues. Acts 19:6.
5. The Corinthian Church certainly spoke in tongues. 1 Corinthians 14
6. Jesus said that believers would speak in tongues Mark 16:17.  
These signs will follow those who believe ...THEY WILL SPEAK WITH NEW TONGUES.
7. Paul wished everyone spoke in tongues. 1 Corinthians 14:5
8. Paul commanded that we do not forbid speaking with tongues. 1 Corinthians 14:39

## VI SOME CLARIFICATIONS CONCERNING TONGUES

1. The ability to speak in tongues that one receives at the Baptism in the Holy Spirit is different to the manifestation of the Gifts of the Spirit as enumerated in 1 Corinthians 12:4–11.
2. There is a special gift called the 'gift of tongues'—PUBLIC USE  
This gift is for special use in Church meetings in conjunction with another gift called the 'interpretation of tongues'. Not everyone has this gift. 1 Corinthians 12:30 “...do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret?”
3. This gift of tongues is for man’s benefit that all who hear the message with its interpretation may profit.

1 Corinthians 12:7, *"But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all"*. Note the word ALL.

4. The tongues that one receives at the Baptism of the Holy Spirit is for—PRIVATE USE. It is not for everyone's benefit but rather for God.

1 Corinthians 14:2—Speaking to God. *"For he who speaks in a tongue does not speak to man but to God."*

5. This private use of tongues edifies the believer, not the church.

1 Corinthians 14:4, *"He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself."*  
Edify = Gk OIKODOMEO = to build up, promoting the spiritual growth and development of the character of believers. (Vines)

## VII HOW TO RECEIVE THE BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT

### 1. Repent

Acts 2:38, *"Repent and let everyone one of you be baptised in the name of Jesus ... and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."*

- a. We cannot approach God on our terms.
- b. We must completely surrender our will to Him
- c. Turning away from sin and turning to Jesus.

### 2. Be Baptised in Water

- a. This is a step of obedience.
- b. It shows your sincerity in following Jesus as the only true way to God.
- c. You ask and receive forgiveness of sins.

(NB: Baptism in itself is not always a precondition, but obedience certainly is. In Acts 10:44–48, we see that Cornelius and his household were baptised in the Holy Spirit before they were baptised in water.)

### 3. Seek Earnestly

Luke 11:9 says, *"Ask and it shall be given you, seek and you shall find, knock and it will be opened to you."*

Luke 11:13, *"If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him".*

### 4. Believe

- a. Anything we receive from God is on the basis of faith.
- b. If we truly desire the baptism, it requires believing that God wants to give us this great gift. Luke 11:13, *"If you being evil know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him."*

## 5. Receive

- a. As with everything in God, He does His part, we do our part.
- b. By faith we are saved.
- c. By faith we are baptised in the Holy Spirit.
- d. By faith we receive.
- e. By faith we speak in new languages. The Holy Spirit will not place us in a trance and move our tongues for us. By faith WE SPEAK by His inspiration.

### **Conclusion**

Being filled with the Holy Spirit is an experience every disciple needs to have. Why would you want to make something an optional extra that Jesus considered so necessary that He would not allow His disciples to leave Jerusalem until they had received it?

This experience which is subsequent to conversion is for the purpose of receiving Power to Evangelize, Power to do Signs and Wonders and Power to Give Glory to God through inspired utterance. It doesn't necessarily make the disciple a holier Christian but certainly a more powerful Christian.

This experience is not something that we can receive once and then forget about. Paul's admonition in Ephesians 5:18 gives us the clear message that we need to be continually being filled with the Holy Spirit.

When the Christian disciple is feeling a little tired, and a little worn out, a little weary, then its time to turn to God and pray – "Lord, fill me afresh with your Holy Spirit. Let your power rest upon me."

Watch and see what God will do with Christians that are surrendered to Him and filled with the Holy Spirit.

## **LESSON 14**

### **GIFTS**

**We believe in the present day operation of the nine supernatural gifts of the Holy Spirit, as recorded in 1 Corinthians 12. We also believe in the ministry gifts of Christ, as recorded in Ephesians 4:11–13.**

#### **Introduction**

It is amazing how difficult some jobs are without the proper tools. Can you imagine how difficult it would be to cut a piece of timber if you didn't have a saw? Spiritual gifts are the tools that God has given us to enable us to be more effective in accomplishing the task of working with Him to build His church. They are not an optional extra for the ultra special people, but a divine gift to all believers that dares to open themselves up to the power of God working through them.

#### **I THE NINE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT 1 CORINTHIANS 12:8–10**

##### **1. The Word of Wisdom**

A revelation of a portion of God's infinite wisdom. It will be the solution to the problem at hand.

Illustration: Matthew 22:15–22, is it lawful to pay taxes?  
John 8:3–11, the woman caught in the act of adultery

##### **2. The Word of Knowledge**

A revelation of a portion of God's knowledge that would otherwise have been impossible for that person to know.

Illustration: Acts 5:1–11, Peter received knowledge about what Ananias and Sapphira had done.  
John 4:17–18, Jesus knew the history of the woman of Samaria.

##### **3. Faith**

A supernatural manifestation which enables the Christian to have perfect confidence that God will bring to pass that which is promised or spoken.

Illustration: Acts 3:4–8, Peter had absolute faith that the lame man would walk.  
Joshua 10:12–14, Joshua had absolute faith that the sun would stand still.

#### **4. Gifts of Healing**

A divine enabling to supernaturally bring healing to those who are sick. Sometimes the healing is instantaneous and sometimes it may take a little time. It will however be quicker than by the normal healing process.

Illustration: Acts 5: 15–16, Peter and the apostles saw many people healed.  
Luke 6:19, Jesus healed all who sought Him.

#### **5. Working of Miracles**

A divine intervention in the normal course of nature to accomplish something that could not have been accomplished by natural means. (Healing is God speeding up the process that would naturally occur. Miracles are divine interventions in what would not naturally occur.)

Illustration: Matthew 14:17–21, feeding the 5000 with five loaves and two fish.  
John 6:15–21, Jesus walking of water.

#### **6. Prophecy**

A divinely inspired utterance that edifies exhorts and comforts. It can declare what will happen in the future but doesn't necessarily have to be predictive. It involves speaking both the mind and counsel of God.

Illustration: Acts 21:9, Philip's daughters who prophesied.  
1 Corinthians 14:1–40, Paul's teaching on prophecy.

#### **7. Discerning of Spirits**

A revelation which discerns what kind of spiritual powers are motivating certain actions and manifestations. It will reveal if it is the work of the Holy Spirit, a demonic spirit or the human spirit.

Illustration Acts 8:18–24, Peter discerning the spirit in Simon.  
Acts 16:16–18, Paul discerned the demonic spirit in the young lady.

#### **8. Different Kinds of Tongues**

A divinely inspired utterance given in a language that has not been learnt by the speaker. It is spontaneous and under Holy Spirit direction.

Illustration: Acts 2:7–12, the disciples spoke messages in tongues to people at Pentecost.  
1 Corinthians 14:27–28, Paul's teaching.

## **9. The Interpretation of Tongues.**

The interpretation of tongues follows directly after a manifestation of the gift of tongues. It is the interpretation of that message in the language of the speaker and hearer. The purpose is to edify the church.

Illustration: 1 Corinthians 14:5, Paul's teaching.

## **II PAUL'S INSTRUCTION ON PROPHECY AND TONGUES**

### **1. Everyone ought to desire to prophesy and operate in the spiritual gifts.**

1 Corinthians 14:1, *"Pursue love and desire spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy."*

### **2. Everyone can prophesy**

1 Corinthians 14:31 *"For you can all prophesy one by one."*

### **3. The test of prophecy is whether or not it edifies, exhorts and comforts.**

1 Corinthians 14:3, *"But he who prophesies speak edification and exhortation and comfort to man."*

1 Corinthians 14:4b *"...he who prophesies edifies the church."*

### **4. Those who are inspired to prophesy are in control of the timing, the words used, the emotion and the way it is presented.**

1 Corinthians 14:32 *"And the spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets."*

### **5. Those who prophesy must be willing to have the accuracy of their prophecy judged by others in authority.**

1 Corinthians 14:29, *"Let two or three prophets speak and let the others judge."*

### **6. There are 2 types of tongues.**

#### **(i) Personal**

A message for God that is not directed to man.

1 Corinthians 14:2, *"For he who speaks in a tongue does not speak to man but to God, for no one understands him..."*

GK GLOSSOLALIA = languages.

**Personal Tongues are for edifying oneself and praying in the spirit.**

1 Corinthians 14:4, *"He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself..."*

1 Corinthians 14:14, *"For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays..."*

(ii) **Public**

A message for men that is inspired by the Holy Spirit.

1 Corinthians 14:21, "... *with men of other tongues and other lips I will speak to this people.*"

GK XENOLALIA = languages understood by men.

**Public Tongues when interpreted are for the edification of the church.**

1 Corinthians 14:5, "*I wish you all spoke with tongues... that the church may receive edification*"

Note: Once the two types of tongues are understood then it is clearer to see why the public use of tongues is a gift that not all believers use. It is one of the nine gifts and is motivated by the will of the Holy Spirit. However the private use of tongues is for personal edification. Every believer needs to be built up. Every believer needs to pray in the spirit. Classical Pentecostals believe that the ability to speak in "personal" tongues is the initial evidence of being filled with the Holy Spirit and may be but is not necessarily the "gift of tongues".

### III THE MINISTRY GIFTS OF CHRIST

Ephesians 4:11, "*And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers.*"

#### 1. **Apostle.**

Definition: One that is authorised and sent forth as a messenger to carry out an official duty on the sender's behalf.

Duties: To establish churches. To govern churches. To raise up ministries. To pilot a Christian movement. To equip Christians for service.

Illustration: Acts 2:42–47, the establishing of the New Testament under the apostles leadership.

Acts 19:1–20, Paul establishes a Christian movement throughout Asia while based at Ephesus.

#### 2. **Prophet.**

Definition: One who speaks divinely inspired messages and has a role of leadership within the church. One who is able to foresee future events and has an ability to discern the signs of the times. (Just because one operates in the gift of prophecy doesn't necessarily mean that one is a prophet.)

Duties: Keep a church on an even keel. Has foresight in making sure the church is keeping on course. Motivates spiritual zeal, equips Christians for the work of the ministry. Exhorts, encourages and comforts.

Illustrations: Acts 11:28–29, Agabus foresaw a great famine coming and prepared the church to send relief to the churches in Judea.

Acts 15:32, Judas and Silas were used of God to exhort and strengthen the church.

### **3. Evangelist.**

Definition: One who declares the good news about Christ.

Duties: To keep the church passionate about evangelism. To equip Christians to declare the good news about Jesus to those who don't know Him.

Illustration: Acts 8; 4–8, Philip takes God's word to Samaria and sees a revival (Acts 21:8 calls him an evangelist).

Romans 10:14–15, Paul describes an evangelist.

### **4. Pastor.**

Definition: One who cares, tends, feeds and leads a group of Christians into their God-given destiny. A shepherd.

Duties: To encourage people in the faith. To lead a congregation of Christians. To equip Christians to serve. To correct those who go astray. To declare and teach God's truth.

Illustration: 1 Peter 5:1–5, Peter's description of a good shepherd (pastor).

1 Timothy 4:6–16, Paul's description of a good minister (pastor).

### **5. Teacher.**

Definition: One who instructs. One who turns the lights on. One who makes difficult things easy to understand. One who leads others into understanding.

Duties: Knows God's word, loves God's word and reveals God's word. To impart to Christians a love for God's word. To make God's word practical and applicable in a daily Christian walk.

Illustration: 2 Timothy 1:11, Paul was a teacher to the Gentiles.

John 3:2, Jesus was a teacher sent from God.

## **Conclusion**

God's gifts are given to the church to equip us to be able to impact the world. It is important that we not only recognise the validity of these gifts, but also constantly seek to promote and utilise their use within the church. These gifts are not meant to be ornaments placed into the churches display box, but tools on the church floor constantly used, constantly appreciated, constantly worked and constantly producing what God intended them to produce:—AN EFFECTIVE, PROGRESSIVE, ADVANCING CHURCH FOR HIS GLORY!

## **LESSON 15**

### **DIVINE HEALING**

*In accordance with the teachings of the Scriptures, we trust our heavenly Father to protect and heal our bodies from sickness and disease. WE BELIEVE that divine healing for the body, as with all redemptive blessings of God, has been provided for us by the atoning death and victorious resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ; it is the privilege of all believers and it is appropriated by faith in our heavenly Father's unfailing promises Exodus 15:26; Isaiah 53:4; Matthew 8:16, 17; 1 Peter 2:24; Psalms 103:3; James 5:14, 15; Mark 16:17, 18.*

#### **Introduction**

Matthew.1:21, "And you shall call His Name Jesus (Saviour) for He will SAVE His people from their sins."

Save = GK: Sozo = heal, deliver, save, make whole

When we say that Jesus came to save His people, we are referring to Jesus making us whole in body, soul and spirit. Forgiveness of sins, healing of the body and deliverance are all in that word "SOZO". What this actually means is that if you have faith for salvation then you can also have faith for healing. It's all connected to the same atonement of Jesus.

#### **I. THE CLOSE ASSOCIATION BETWEEN SALVATION AND HEALING**

##### **1. Psalm 103:2–3.**

Forget not ALL His benefits—FORGET = NEGLECT.

- a. Who forgives ALL your iniquities (sins, transgressions, faults).
- b. Who heals ALL your diseases.

If we leave out or don't believe part (ii) then we are forgetting some of His benefits and missing out.

If God wants to save you, He also wants to heal  
They are both parts of His benefits towards you.

##### **2. Isaiah 53:4–5**

Surely, (truly, be positive) He has taken upon Himself OUR—

- a. GRIEFS. = malady, anxiety, calamity, disease, sickness and griefs.
- b. SORROWS = anguish, affliction, pain.
- c. TRANSGRESSIONS = revolt, rebellion, sin.
- d. INIQUITIES = perversity, evil, fault, mischief, sin.
- e. TROUBLES = So that we can have peace.
- f. HEALED = to mend by putting back together, to cure, to repair, to make whole.

What we clearly see here is the intermixing of sin and sickness and Jesus dealing with the lot.

**3. Matthew 8:16–18**

Matthew refers to the awesome Isaiah passage and declares that what Jesus was doing was fulfilling this prophecy and thereby confirming that it was God's will to heal the sick through this ministry.

**4. Matthew 9:35**

Jesus went about:

- a. Teaching
- b. Preaching the good news of salvation through Jesus.
- c. Healing EVERY sickness and EVERY disease.

**5. Matthew 10:7–8**

Jesus commissioned the disciples to:

- a. Preach the Kingdom of God
- b. Heal the sick.

**6. Matthew 11:5**

Jesus spoke of Himself as one who—

- a. Heals the sick
- b. Preaches the gospel.

**7. 1 Peter 2:24**

Peter tells us that Jesus did two things when He was crucified.

- a. He bore our sins.
- b. He healed us from our sickness.

**II. THERE ARE MANY MEANS GOD HAD GIVEN US TO RECEIVE HEALING**

To make sure that the believer gets healed, God has opened up to us many avenues that lead to healing.

**1. The atonement**

Matthew 8:17, *"He Himself took our infirmities and bore our sicknesses."*

**2. The laying on of hands by believers**

Mark 16:17a, 18b, *"these signs will follow those who believe, they will lay hands on the sick and they will recover."*

**3. The anointing with oil by the elders**

James 5:14–15a, *"Isaiah anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church and let them pray over him anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer of faith will save the sick and the Lord will raise him up."*

**4. The confession of sins to one another**

James 5:16, *"Confess your trespasses to one another and pray for one another that you may be healed."*

**5. The gifts of healings**

This is one of the nine gifts of the spirit that operate as the Holy Spirit wills. 1 Corinthians 12:9.

**6. The covenant name of God – YHWH ROPHE**

Exodus 15:26, *"...For I am the Lord who heals you."*

What is abundantly clear is God's desire to see His people well.

**III. TWENTY REASONS WHY WE SHOULD PRAY FOR THE SICK**

10. Sickness causes sorrow, whereas God wants to give us joy. John 15:11.
11. Sickness stops people having abundant life, whereas God want us to have abundant life. John 10:10.
12. Sickness takes away our peace, whereas God wants to give us peace. John 14:27.
13. Sickness wastes away our resources, (i.e. time, money, energy) whereas God wants to give us even more resources. 2 John 2.
14. Sickness does not benefit people, whereas God wants to benefit His people. Psalm 103:2
15. Sickness causes death, whereas God wants to give us life. Luke 8:40–50.
16. Sickness is a curse, whereas God wants to give us blessings. Deuteronomy 28:1–14.
17. Sickness is imperfect, whereas God wants to make us perfect. Matthew 5:48.
18. Sickness saps our strength and hinders our effectiveness, whereas God wants to renew our strength and increase our effectiveness. Isaiah 40:31.
19. Sickness is degenerative and destructive, whereas God wants to regenerate, restore and re-create goodness in our lives. Joel 2:25.
20. In Isaiah 53:4–5, sickness is placed in the same category with sins, transgressions, iniquities, griefs and sorrows. Jesus suffered and died so that we might be free from them.

21. In Revelation 21:4 we see that heaven will be free from sin and sickness. Jesus came to give us a taste of God's Kingdom on earth.
22. In Luke 13:13 we see that the woman glorified God because of her healing. Sickness does not glorify God. People do not go around testifying how good God is by giving them sickness.
23. In Exodus 15:26 God said my name is YHWH Rapha. *"I am the Lord that healeth thee."* He has not changed His name; He is the same yesterday, today and forever. Hebrews 13:8.
24. In Mark 16:18 Jesus gave every believer authority to lay hands on the sick and see them recover. This means that I have been commissioned by Jesus to pray for the sick.
25. In Mark 7:27 Jesus calls healing "the children's bread." Because I am a child of God, healing is rightfully mine.
26. In Matthew 8:16–17; 9:35–36; 12:15; 14:14; 19:2, we see that Jesus healed all people of all manner of sickness. Nowhere do we see Jesus giving people the impression that it wasn't God's will to heal.
27. In Luke 13:6, we see that sickness is a bondage. Jesus came to loose the captives and set them free from their bondage.
28. In Acts 10:38, we see that sickness is an oppression. Jesus was anointed to heal the oppressed.
29. In Luke 13:6 and Acts 10:38 we see that sickness is the work of the devil, Satan. 1 John 3:8, *"The reason the Son of God was made manifest (visible) was to undo (destroy, loosen and dissolve) the works the devil [has done]."* Amplified Bible

## **Conclusion**

The Bible leaves us no doubt that God wants us to pray for the sick. Healing is a Pentecostal emphasis that should never be watered down. Healing has always gone hand in hand with Pentecostal beliefs. Let us keep the healing fires burning within our Churches as a sign to the world that Jesus is still alive and still wants to heal all of our diseases.

## **LESSON 16**

# **THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST**

**WE BELIEVE** in the premillennial, imminent and personal return of our Lord Jesus Christ to gather his people unto himself. Having this glorious hope and earnest expectation, we purify ourselves, even as He is pure, so that we may be ready to meet him when He comes—John 14:1–3; James 5:7,8; Titus 2:13; 1 Thessalonians 4:15–17; 2 Thessalonians, 2:1; 1 John 2:28; 3:2,3.

### **Introduction**

The second coming of Christ is one of the constantly repeated messages in the New Testament. It is mentioned over 300 times. Fifty times in the New Testament believers are admonished to watch and be ready for His coming. Its importance is not overstated when in Titus 2:13 Paul refers to it as THE BLESSED HOPE.

### **I. THE PERSONAL RETURN OF CHRIST**

We believe in the literal, personal and physical return of Jesus Christ to earth.

- a. Acts 1:11, *"This same Jesus who was taken from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven."*
- b. John 14:3, *"And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, there you may be also."*

### **II. THE TIME OF HIS COMING**

We are not permitted to set exact dates because God has not revealed to man the "day or hour".

Matthew 24:36, *"But of that day or hour no one knows, no not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only".*

### **III. THE EVENTS OF HIS COMING**

The gathering of the church to be with Jesus, the resurrection of those who died in Christ, and the coming of Christ occur simultaneously. We also call this event the rapture.

- 1 Corinthians 15:51–53, *"Behold I tell you a mystery, we shall all be changed. In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For thus corruptible must put on incorruption, and thus mortal must put on immortality."*

- 1 Thessalonians 4:16–17, *"For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain, shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord."*
- Mark 13:26–27, *"Then they will see the Son of Man coming in the clouds with great power and glory, and then He will send His angels and gather together His elect from the four winds; from the farthest part of earth to the farthest part of heaven."*
- Revelation 1:7, *"Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him."*

From these scriptures we conclude that the following events occur at the rapture, (the gathering of the church):

1. Jesus returns to the earth but only as far as the clouds.
2. The dead in Christ rise from the dead to meet the Lord in the clouds.
3. Those who are alive in Christ will be changed and rise up to the clouds to meet Christ with those who have just risen from the dead.
4. We then will never again be separated from Christ.

#### **IV. THE SECOND COMING HAPPENS BEFORE THE MILLENIUM (PRE MILLENNIAL)**

(Note: The millennium is a thousand-year period of Christ's rule over the earth. It is covered in the next study.)

- a. We have to note again that the resurrection of those who died in Christ happens at His return. 1 Corinthians 15:51–53, 1 Thessalonians 4:16–17.
- b. The scriptures then tell us that those who take part in this resurrection also take part in the Millennium. Therefore we conclude that the second coming takes place before the Millennium.

Revelation 20:6, *"Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such, the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years."*

## V. THE SECOND COMING IS A MOTIVATING FORCE FOR THE BELIEVER

- a. To keep our hearts blameless, 1 Thessalonians 3:13.
- b. To live soberly, righteously and godly, Titus 2:12–13.
- c. To assemble ourselves together in order to exhort one another, Hebrews 10:25.
- d. To faithful Christian service which will be rewarded by a crown of glory, 1 Peter 5:4.
- e. To witness and see souls saved, 1 Thessalonians 2:19.
- f. To comfort those who have lost a saved loved one, 1 Thessalonians 4:13–18.

### Conclusion

What a blessed hope we have. Our Saviour is coming back. In the twinkling of an eye, we will leave this earth and meet with our beloved Jesus, to be with Him throughout eternity.

To the Christian, the second coming is what keeps us motivated and on fire for evangelism, knowing that it's only up to the time of His coming that we can do anything for the evangelisation of the world.

We don't live our lives merely hanging on, hoping we can make it until Jesus returns. We live our lives as Ambassadors for Christ, knowing that we are commissioned to do a wonderful work for Jesus. He is not returning for a weak, beaten up, irrelevant church. He is returning for a victorious, spotless, overcoming church.

## **LESSON 17**

# **THE MILLENIUM**

**THE MILLENIUM:** We believe in the return of the Lord Jesus Christ to set up His millennial reign on this earth—Zechariah 14:5; Daniel 7:22; Revelation 5:9–10; Psalms 96:10–13; Psalms 11; Revelation 20:1–10.

### **Introduction**

The actual word millennium is not found in the Bible. It comes from the Latin word meaning 1000 years. However the references to a period of one thousand years are found six times in Revelation 20 and it is from these references that we base this study of the millennium. Because scriptural references to this 1000 year period are limited, it is important that we don't overly speculate or try to fit obscure passages into describing this period.

### **I WHAT IS THE MILLENIUM?**

1. **A period when Satan is bound for 1000 years.**  
*Revelation 20:2, "He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is the Devil and Satan and bound him for a thousand years."*
2. **A period when Christ will rule over the earth for 1000 years.**  
*Revelation 20:6b, "...They shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years."*
3. **It begins with the imprisonment of Satan and ends with:**
  - (i) His release  
*Revelation 20:7–8a, "Now when the thousand years have expired, Satan will be released from his prison and will go out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth."*
  - (ii) The final confrontation of good and evil  
*Revelation 20:9, "They went up on the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city. And fire came down from God out of heaven and devoured them."*
  - (iii) The destruction of this world.  
*Revelation 21:1, "And I saw a new heaven and a new earth for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away."*

## II THE RULE OF CHRIST OVER THE EARTH

1. **It was prophesied by Daniel that Christ's rule over the earth would be the last worldwide kingdom that will last forever.**

Daniel 2:44, *"And in the days of these kings, the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break into pieces and consume all these kingdoms and it shall stand forever."*

2. **This kingdom is to be set up on the earth where all peoples and nations should serve Him.**

Daniel 7:14, *"Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom that all peoples, nations and languages should serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away and His kingdom the one which shall not be destroyed."*

## III THE REIGN OF THE SAINTS

(Note: In lesson 16, we studied that the saints are taken up to heaven before the millennium. Therefore to reign on the earth during the millennium, they have to return.)

1. **The Lord returns to earth at the beginning of the millennium with all the saints.**

Zechariah 14:5b, *Thus the Lord my God will come and all the saints with Him."*

Zechariah 14:9, *"And the Lord shall be king over all the earth. In that day it shall be—The Lord is one and His name one."*

2. **The saints will have thrones to sit on and be able to pronounce judgements from those thrones.**

Revelation 20:4a, *"And I saw thrones and they sat on them, and judgement was committed to them."*

3. **The reign of the saints lasts throughout the millennium.**

Revelation 20:6b, *"They shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years."*

Revelation 2:26, *"And he who overcomes and keeps My words until the end, to him I will give power over the nations."*

## **Conclusion**

From the limited number of scriptures we cover, it seems that the millennium will be a time when the world will finally function in the way God had intended. Peace, justice, and prosperity will be hallmarks of this age. What a joy it will be for us to rule and reign with Christ over the earth during this time. It is a privilege reserved only for the faithful servants of the Lord Jesus Christ. If we serve Him now, we will live to reign with Him later.

## **LESSON 18**

### **THE PUNISHMENT OF THE WICKED**

**WE BELIEVE** in the everlasting punishment of the wicked (in the sense of eternal torment) who wilfully reject and despise the love of God manifested in the great sacrifice of His only Son upon the cross for their salvation—Matthew 25:46; 13:49,50; Luke 12:47,48; 2 Thessalonians 1:8,9; Romans 6:23; Revelation 20:11–15. We believe that the devil and his angels and whosoever is not found written in the Book of Life shall be consigned to everlasting punishment in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death—Revelation 19:20; Revelation 20:10–15.

#### **Introduction**

Some people try and reject that a God of love would punish anyone eternally. However, what must be kept in mind when discussing this subject is the perfection of God's love must be kept in perspective with the perfection of His justice. If God excused sin, His love and justice would be out of balance, which would make Him less than perfect. For us to survive in an environment where evil prevails there must be punishment of the law-breaker. It would be inconsistent to think that God would gloss over sin and not punish the wicked.

#### **I. THE DURATION OF PUNISHMENT**

##### **1. Forever.**

The New Testament is quite clear in detailing the length of punishment for the wicked. It uses the Greek word "AIONIOS" = forever and ever.

*Matthew 25:46a, "And these will go away into everlasting punishment."*

The Old Testament is equally clear in detailing the length of punishment for the wicked. It uses the Hebrew word "**Owlam**"—the vanishing point, a mathematical term for infinity, continuance, always eternity.

*Daniel 12:2b, "Some to share the everlasting contempt."*

##### **2. Same word used for punishment as eternal life.**

Both the above passages also refer to the length of life for the righteous. In both cases the exact same adjective is used.

Matthew 25:46,                      Everlasting punishment—Ainios  
Eternal life—Ainios

Daniel 12:2,                        Everlasting life—Owlam  
Everlasting contempt—Owlam

## II. THE DESCRIPTION OF PUNISHMENT

### 1. Separation from the presence of God.

2 Thessalonians 1:9, *"These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power."*

### 2. The indignation and wrath of God.

Romans 2:8–9a, *"But to those who are self seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness—indignation and wrath, tribulation and anguish, on every soul of man who does evil."*

### 3. Eternal Fire.

Jude 1:7b, *"... suffering the vengeance of eternal fire."*

### 4. Eternal Torment.

Revelation 14:11a, *"And the smoke of their torment ascends forever and ever and they have no rest day or night."*

### 5. Outer Darkness.

Jude 1:13b, *"... for whom is reserved the blackness of darkness forever."*

### 6. Wailing and gnashing of teeth.

Matthew 13:50, *"And cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth."*

### 7. The Second Death.

Revelation 20:14, *"Then Death and Hades were cast into the Lake of Fire. This is the second death."*

a. The first death is what everyone who physically dies experiences.

b. At the first death there is a separation of the just from the unjust.

(i) The Unjust

They can expect judgment. Their souls go to Hades, a holding place for the dead.

Luke 16:22b–23a, *"The rich man also died and was buried. And being in torment in Hades, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham afar off."*

(ii) The Just

*Luke 16:22 so it was that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels to Abraham's bosom.*

c. The just are resurrected at the Second Coming. (See Lesson 16 on the Second Coming.)

d. The unjust are waiting for the Great White Throne Judgement which occurs after the Millennium. Revelation 20:5.

(i) At this judgement, the unrighteous have their lives and deeds exposed. Revelation 20:12.

(ii) There is no recourse for them because their sin will be evident. Revelation 20:13, *"And they were judged each one according to his works."*

(iii) The final judgement is the lake of fire which burns with fire and brimstone. This is the second death. (At this moment, there is no human soul in the lake of fire.)

*Revelation 22:8, "But the cowardly, unbelieving, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death."*

### **III WHO WILL BE ETERNALLY PUNISHED?**

1. Those who do not know God. 2 Thessalonians 1:8a.
2. Those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, 2 Thessalonians 1:8b.
3. Those who have sinned, Romans 6:23.
4. Those who take the mark of the beast, Revelation 14:9–11.
5. All those whose names are not found in the Book of Life, Revelation 20:15.
6. The devil, the beast and the false prophet, Revelation 20:10.
7. The cowardly, unbeliever, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and liars, Revelation 21:8.
8. The angels who did not keep their proper domain, Jude 1:6.

## **Conclusion**

As terrifying as the prospect of eternal suffering is, we should in no way stop warning people of this impending danger. Jesus speaks more about it than any other preacher in the New Testament. He came to demonstrate God's love which ensures deliverance from such a place.

May Christians never speak about eternal punishment without ardent compassion and a spirit aflame with the desire of seeing no one condemned to such a fearful judgement.

## **LESSON 19**

# **THE NEW HEAVEN AND THE NEW EARTH**

*"We, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth wherein dwelleth righteousness"—2 Peter 3:13; Revelation Chapters 21 and 22.*

### **Introduction**

Hebrews 11 speaks to us about the great faith people, one of which was Abraham. He obeyed God implicitly when asked to move out into something new. The underlying motivation for Abraham's unwavering trust in God was an understanding of the topic we will be discussing in this lesson. Abraham had a revelation of *"the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God"*, v10. Everything we place our trust and confidence in, has foundations that one day will be destroyed. But the true Christian is a citizen of the Heavenly City. A city that will never be destroyed.

### **I. ALL THINGS WILL BE MADE NEW**

#### **1. God will destroy the earth, as we know it and also the heavens (our universe).**

Note that there are three heavens, 2 Corinthians 12:2:

- (i) Our atmosphere
- (ii) Our universe
- (iii) The spiritual realm where God operates

*2 Peter 3:7, "But the heavens and the earth which now exist are kept in store by the same word, reserved for fire until the day of judgement and perdition of ungodly men."*

*2 Peter 3:12b, "... the heavens will be dissolved being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat."*

#### **2. He will create a new heaven (universe) and a new earth.**

*2 Peter 3:13, "Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells."*

*Revelation 21:1, "And I saw a new heaven and a new earth and the first heaven and the first earth had passed away."*

## II. WHO WILL LIVE IN THE NEW HEAVEN?

### 1. The Godhead

Revelation 21:22–23, *“But I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. The city has no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it for the glory of God illuminated it. The Lamb is its light.”*

### 2. An innumerable company of angels

Hebrews 12:22, *“But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels.”*

### 3. Those whose names are written in the Book of Life. They make up the General Assembly and church of the firstborn.

Hebrews 12:22–23, *“But you have come to Mount Zion, and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels, to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are registered in heaven.”*

Revelation 21:27, *“But there shall by no means enter it anything that defiles ... but only those who are written in The Lamb’s Book of Life.”*

## III. WHAT WON’T BE IN THE NEW HEAVEN?

### 1. Marriage

Matthew 22:30, *“For in the resurrection they shall neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels of God in heaven.”*

### 2. The painful things of this earth

- a. Grief
- b. Death
- c. Sorrow
- d. Crying
- e. Pain

Revelation 21:4, *“And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow; nor crying; and there shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.”*

### 3. Sun, Moon, Night or Darkness

Revelation 21:23, *“And the city had no need of the sun, or of the moon to shine in it, for the glory of God illuminated it and the Lamb is its light.”*

Revelation 21:25b, *“there shall be no night there.”*

#### **4. Negative influence**

Revelation 21:27, *"But there shall by no means enter it anything that defiles or causes an abomination or a lie."*

#### **5. Curses**

Revelation 22:3a, *"And there shall be no more curse."*

#### **6. Wicked People**

Revelation 22:15, *"But outside are dogs and sorcerers and sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters and whoever loves and practises a lie."*

### **III. WHAT WILL BE PRESENT IN THE NEW HEAVEN?**

#### **1. Life**

##### **a. The River of Life.**

Revelation 22:1a, *"And he showed me a pure river of water of life."*

##### **b. The Tree of Life.**

Revelation 22:2a, *"...on either side of the river was the tree of life."*

#### **2. Worship**

Revelation 5:13–14, *"And every creature which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and such as are in the seas and all that are in them. I heard them saying, 'Blessing and honour and glory and power be to Him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb for ever and ever.'"*

#### **3. Recognition**

Revelation 7:9, *"After these things I looked and behold, a great multitude which no one could number of all nations, tribes, peoples and tongues."*

Luke 16:23, *"And being in torment in Hades, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham afar off."*

#### **4. Eating and drinking**

Revelation 19:9, *"Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb."*

Luke 16:24, *"... send Lazarus that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue."*

#### **5. Mansions (a residence, abode)**

John 14:2, *"In My Father's house are many mansions, if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you."*

#### **6. Excitement**

- a. A new earth is to be explored, Revelation 21:1
- b. A new universe to discover, Revelation 21:1.
- c. Lots of people to meet, Revelation 7:9.
- d. Angel to judge, 1 Corinthians 6:3, *"Do you not know that we shall judge angels?"*
- e. We will have rewards and treasures to enjoy, Matthew 6:20, *"But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven."*

### **Conclusion**

What a difference there is between the eternal abode of the righteous and the eternal abode of the wicked. A good understanding of both is needed to give the Christian extra motivation to evangelise the world and our friends.

For those who have accepted Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour, our treasure is not in this world; our treasure is where moth, rust or thieves have no access. Everything in this world will be destroyed. Everything we lay up in heaven will be enjoyed eternally. Let's get our perspective right and do God's important work while we still have time.

## **LESSON 20**

### **CREATION**

*We believe that the heavens and earth and all original life forms, including man, were made by the specific immediate creative acts of God as described in the account of origins presented in Genesis, and that all biological changes which have occurred since creation are limited to variation within each species.*

**1. God created the Heavens and the Earth, Genesis 1:1**

John 1:3 *“All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.”*

Create = to make without use of pre-existing material the whole visible and invisible universe.

**2. God created the Plant Kingdom, Genesis 1:11–13**

Genesis 1:11, *“Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb that yields seed and the fruit tree that yields fruit according to its kind, whose seed is in itself.”*

- a. Seed: God placed life within the seed that is able to grow and produce other seeds into perpetual life.
- b. According to its kind: God placed parameters of kind. The Hebrew word is translated species. There can be varieties within species but there is no crossing over into other species. (i.e.) There can be lots of varieties of roses but a rose won't become a tomato.

**3. God created the Animal Kingdom, Genesis 1:20–25**

He created life in the sea, life in the air, life on the land, but stipulated that they reproduce and multiply *“according to their kind.”*

- a. Created = (Hebrews—bara) same word as used in Gen 1:1 when God created the Heavens and the Earth. It occurs 53 times in the Bible. It means to make, to shape, to put together. It implies a direct relationship between the Creator and that which is made.
- b. According to their kind: God placed parameters between and within the species. There was to be no crossing over. There can be many varieties within the dog species but a dog cannot cross the species line and become a cat.

**4. God created man in His own image and according to His own likeness, Genesis 1:26–28**

*Genesis 2:7, “And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life and man became a living being.”*

- a. Formed = (Hebrews—yatsar) to make into shape, to mould into a form. To fashion something in a similar way to a potter using clay to make something he envisions.
- b. Breathed = (Hebrews—naphach) to inflate, to puff, to blow.
- c. Living being = (Hebrews—chay nephesh) A breathing creature, man had no existence, life or personality until this specific act of creation. There is nothing that intimates anything else but a definite, immediate creative act of God that brought man into existence.

**Conclusion**

How wonderful it is to realise that man is God’s ultimate masterpiece created in His own image. This causes us to value human life, love human life and seek to establish with our Creator the relationship He intended to have with us. When we receive a revelation of creation and our Creator then we can truly say that man’s greatest aspiration is to know God, to love God and to make Him known.