



ZBC
ZION BAPTIST CHURCH

Dr. Marshall F. Prentice, Pastor



BASIC BIBLE TRUTHS FOR NEW DISCIPLES

*Zion Baptist Church
1700 N. Caroline Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21213*



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DR. MARSHAL F. PRENTICE, PASTOR

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Zion Baptist Church
New Disciples Ministry
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Church Mission Statement

We, the church of Zion Baptist Church, Inc., composed of professed and immersed- baptized believers, will proclaim and teach the doctrine of Christ. We will spread the Gospel to win souls, teach, testify, and transform. Minister to the spiritual and physical needs of the Church, disciples, community and the world.

Mission Statement of New Disciples Ministry

The mission of every local church, as revealed in Matthew 28:19-20, is to evangelize the lost, to immerse believers and to teach the converts. In view of the mission of the church, the main emphasis of the New Disciples Ministry is to provide basic Christian instruction in discipleship and to facilitate the new disciple's transition into this local church.

Teachers:

Pastor Marshall Prentice

Sister Joan Blake- Scott, Director

Sister Lee Monroe- Johnson

Sister Carolyn Eames

Church Worship Services

1st Sundays—COMMUNION SUNDAY*

8:30 a.m. Sunday School and New Disciples Class

10:00 a.m. Early Morning Worship Service

3:00 p.m. Baptismal Service

5:00 p.m. COMMUNION SERVICE

2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th Sundays

7:45 a.m. Early Morning Worship Service

9:30 a.m. Sunday School and New Disciples Class

11:00 a.m. Morning Worship Service

Tuesday

7:00 p.m. Prayer Service

Wednesday

10:30 a.m. Daytime Bible Study

Thursday

7:00 p.m. N.B.C./ Bible Study

Friday

6:00 a.m. Early Morning Prayer Service

*During the summer and winter months, the times for Baptismal and Communion Service are subject to change.

CHURCH ETIQUETTE

This section details the behavior to be observed by members and visitors when worshipping in the LORD's House.

Before coming to church, you should place yourself in the proper frame for worshipping by praying and praising the LORD. Worship of the LORD is sacred and should not be entered into haphazardly.

Zion has two Sunday services, 7:45 and 11 a.m. The time is different on Communion Sunday and during the summer and winter months. Members should make an effort to attend at least one service each week. If work schedules or other obligations preclude one of the Sunday services, then you should attend prayer meetings or one of the bible study classes conducted during the week.

You should be seated before the start of service and not leave before the benediction is said.

Worship requires preparation inwardly and outwardly. Your dress should be appropriate. Your dress should reflect being in the presence of God. (Don't wear shorts and halters into the service.)

God's word is written in the Holy Bible. Bring your Bible with you.

What not to do while in the sanctuary:

Do not leave your seat while:

The Pastor (or minister) is preaching

The Bible is being read

Do not leave your seat while:

Someone is offering a prayer

The choir is singing

The invitation to Discipleship is being offered ("open door of the church)

The benediction is being said

Do not attempt to pass notes to the Pastor once service has begun. You can ask one of the ushers to give the note to the chairman of the Deacon Board.

Does not drink, eat, or chew gum while in the sanctuary.

Do not throw candy wrappers, gum wrappers, discarded worship guides, or other trash on the floor, or leave on the seats. Remember, this is God's House.

Do not leave service before the benediction has been offered. "Leave to serve"

To Become a Disciple

(not a member)

Christian discipleship is developing a personal, lifelong, obedient relationship with Jesus Christ in which He transforms your character in Christ likeness; changes your values into Kingdom values; and involves you in HIS mission in the home, the church, and the world.

BASIC

BIBLE

TRUTHS

Water Baptism and LORD'S Supper

The New Testament church has two ordinances: water baptism and the Lord's Supper (Holy Communion). They are not sacramental but symbolic in nature.

The Christian ordinances may be defined as symbolic acts commanded by Jesus to signify that which Christ did to effect salvation from sin.

Water Baptism

The Meaning of Baptism

It is identification with Christ (Colossians 2:12).

Christian baptism symbolizes the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus. It also typifies the Christian's death to his old life, its burial, and his resurrection to walk in newness of life in Christ Jesus.

(Read Romans 6:4-6).

Water baptism demonstrates, but does not bring salvation. It is Spiritual Baptism---Faith in the Lord Jesus Christ as one's savior---that brings salvation.

The Method of Baptism

Jesus came _____ out of the river (Matthew 3:15, 16)

(Righteousness is doing what GOD wants us to do)

There was _____ water there (John 3:23).

They went _____ into the water (Acts 8:38).

The word "baptize" means to "dip, plunge, submerge, or immerse." Baptist does not sprinkle babies or adults. Babies are dedicated, not christened.

The Reason for Baptism

It is GOD's command (Matthew 28:18-20).

Jesus said, "If you _____ ME, keep MY _____ (John 14:15).

It brings personal joy (Acts 8:37-39).

The Must of Baptism

Believing and being saved comes first; and being immersed is to follow (Acts 8:37, 38; Acts 18:8).

The LORD Supper

Water baptism is a prerequisite of the Lord's Supper. The LORD did not state when or how often we are to observe the Lord's Supper. It is a repetitive ordinance that is to be observed as a remembrance of what the LORD did for our salvation, until HE comes again.

The _____ is symbolic of HIS broken body, broken in death for us (1Cor. 11:23, 24).

The _____ symbolizes HIS shed blood (1Cor. 11:25).

Through HIS blood we have _____ (Eph. 1:7) and cleansing (1 John 1:7).

The LORD's Table (Holy Communion) is defined most clearly in

1 Corinthians 11:

It is a table of remembrance (verse 24)

It is a table of obedience (verse 25)

It is a table of testimony and expectation (verse 26)

It is a table of examination (verses 27 & 28)

It is a table of warning (verses 29-31)

The LORD's Table looks back to Calvary and Christ's death. It looks forward to his return

(1Cor. 11:26).

Principles of Our Faith

"Water Baptism"

Meaning of Water Baptism

Baptize simply means to dip or to submerge.

--Baptism in and of itself cannot save anyone. It is faith in the LORD Jesus Christ as one's Savior that brings an individual to salvation.

--Water baptism is an essential part of obedience; it is not optional. To refuse water baptism is to live in disobedience to the revealed Word of GOD.

I. Why is the believer to be baptized?

A. Matthew 3:13-15 – Jesus set example for us to follow.

B. Mark 16:16; Matthew 28:19 -- Jesus commanded the believers be baptized.

("If ye love me, keep my commandments." John 14:15)

C. Acts 2:37-39; 10: 44-48 –the apostles commanded it.

D. James 2: 17-18 – We validate our faith by our obedience to the Word of GOD.

("If ye love me, keep my commandments." John 14:15)

II. Requirements of Prerequisites for Water Baptism.

A. Acts 2:38 – Repentance – One is not baptized merely because he/ she wants to become part of a church group.

B. Acts 8:12: --Belief – How old dose one have to be or does age make a difference?

C. Acts 10:47 – Reception of the Holy Spirit.

(He that believeth and is baptized, shall be shaved.)

III. What Takes Place in Water Baptism?

We are baptized simply because it is commanded by GOD to do so. However, as we respond to the Word of the LORD in faith, some very important things will take place. Every person who goes into the water of baptism should expect to experience the following, by faith:

Romans 6:3-5, Colossians 2:12; 3:1 – To be buried with the Lord Jesus Christ in His death, burial and resurrection.

In baptism, the old nature is crucified. In immersion, the old nature is buried. But in rising out of the water, the new man rises to walk in newness of life.

Romans 6:11-18 – A new nature over life-dominating sins.

- A. Romans 6:3-5; Colossians 2:12; 3:1- To be buried with the Lord Jesus Christ in His death, burial and resurrection.

In baptism, the old nature is crucified. In immersion, the old nature is buried. But in rising out of the water, the new man rises to walk in newness of life.

Romans 6:4 – Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we should walk in newness of life.

- B. Romans 6:11-18 - A new nature over life-dominating sins.
- C. Acts 22:16 - A spiritual renewal. The water itself affects no cleansing, but as we respond in faith to the commands of Christ the Holy Spirit works in connection with the God-ordained means.
- D. Acts 2:38; 8:12, 16; 10:48 – An identification with the Holy Spirit of the Lord.

“Baptism in this sense is equivalent to marriage. When the wife puts on marriage she takes her husband’s name and enters into her husband’s possessions and has legal rights to her husband’s home. When the believer is baptized into the name of Christ, he puts on all that is in Christ. He not only puts on the name, but takes his legal rights and privileges in Christ”.
(Kenyon)

IS BAPTISM FOR ME?

"If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest." Acts 8:37

"Then they that gladly received His word and were baptized." Acts 2:41

"Sirs, what must I do to be saved? And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house. And they spake unto him the word of the Lord and to all that were in his house. And he took them the same hour of the night, and washed their stripes; and was baptized, he and all his, straightway." Acts 16:30-33.

CONCLUSION: BAPTISM IS FOR BELIEVERS ONLY!

WHY SHOULD I BE BAPTIZED?

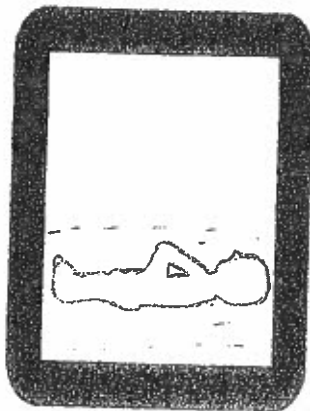
- 1) Commanded by Christ ---"Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and the Son, and of the Holy Ghost." Matthew 28:19, 20.
- 2) Christ is our example ---"Then cometh Jesus from Galilee to Jordan unto John, to be baptized of him." Matthew 3:13.
- 3) Believers shows obedience ---"Then they that gladly received His word were baptized." Acts 2:41.

CONCLUSION: WE ARE BAPTIZED TO OBEY THE COMMAND OF JESUS CHRIST

HOW SHOULD I BE BAPTIZED



DEATH



BURIAL



Resurrect

Baptism by immersion pictures our position with Christ in His death, burial and resurrection. Romans 6:3-5.

1. Baptism is with water. "John answered them saying, I baptized with water." John 1:26.
2. Baptism is by immersion (under the water). "Jesus was baptized by John in the Jordan. Mark 1:9.
"And straightway coming up out of water." Mark 1:10
They both went down into the water." Acts 8:38.

CONCLUSION: ONLY BAPTISM BY IMMERSION PICTURES DEATH, BURIAL, AND RESURRECTION OF LIFE

A LOOK AT MY LIFE

BEFORE I WAS SAVED

God's word does not commend what I was like before I was saved, but what it states is true and correct.

I was like a sheep going _____ (Isaiah 53:6).

I was an _____ of God (Romans 5:10).

God's _____ was upon me because I was an unbeliever (John 3:36).

The _____ was my father (John 8:44).

I was a sinner (1Timothy1:15). I was following Satan, the prince of the power of the air (Ephesians 2:2). As an unbeliever, I was already condemned.(see also John 3:18)

WHAT HAPPENED TO ME?

I _____ upon the name of the Lord, and He _____ me (Romans 10:13)

Christ knocked on the door of my heart. When I opened my heart, Christ came in (Rev 3:20)

God says I am _____ (Acts13:38, 39). This means I have a new legal standing before God.

The _____ of Jesus the Christ has cleansed me from _____ sin (John 1:7)

WHAT AM I NOW

I am a _____ of _____ God (John 1:12)

I am a _____ creature (2Corinthians 5:17)

I am a newborn _____ (1Peter 2:2)

I have been _____ by God (Ephesians 1:6)

I am a believer (Acts 5:14)

I am now a Christian (Acts 11:26)

I HAVE BEEN SAVED (ACTS 16:31)

UNDERSTANDING THE CHURCH, HIS BODY

All believing (saved) Jews and Gentiles, since the Day of Pentecost, comprise what is known in the New Testament era as the Body of Christ (Ephesians 1:22, 23; 2:16, 1Cor. 12:27). The Body of Christ is the Universal Church.

IT IS DIVINE IN ITS ORIGIN

The church was planned by God before the _____ of the world was laid (Ephesians 1:4)

Christ purchase the Church with His own _____ (Acts 20:28)

It had its birth on the Day of _____ (Acts 2:1)

The Church is a New Testament organism that was unknown in the Old Testament period. Of the 114 times the word "church" is used in the New Testament, 91 times it refers to a local church.*

IT IS DIVINE IN ITS ORGANIZATION

Christ is the _____ of the church, which is comprised of saved individuals. (Colossians 1:18; 2:19)

IT IS DIVINE IN ITS OFFICERS

The two Scriptural officers are _____ or pastors (1Timothy 3:1) and _____ (1 Timothy 3:8)

IT IS DIVINE IN ITS ORDERS

It's commission is to _____ to all nations, to preach the gospel (evangelize), immerse believers and to teach the converts (Matthew 28:19, 20)

IT IS DIVINE IN ITS OUTCOMES

It will be spotless and without _____ (Ephesians 5:27).

Believers shall be _____ Him (1John 3:2), as well as _____ Him (John 14:2, 3)

The church conducts its own affairs (Acts 6: 1-6)

It sends out it missionaries (Acts 13:1-4)

It is to discipline its own disciples (Matthew 18:17, 18; 1 Corinthians 5: 4-7, 12-13)

* Local church. Congregation of Christ baptized believers united in what he said and agreeing to do what He commanded.

The Ministry of the Church

Edify its disciples

Educate its disciples

Acts as a restraining force in an evil world

Preach the Word of God

UNDERSTANDING STEWARDSHIP

A steward is the manager or caretaker of another's property; and is accountable to the owner. God has made man the steward of His creation. (Psalm 24:1; 8:6). We are to be stewards of our time, talents and treasure.

God established the tithe before the law in the Old Testament for us to have economic partnership with Him. It was the minimum of giving under the Law. Beyond the Law, under grace, the believer may be compelled by love and gratitude to give more. Tithes and offerings is the plan God teaches all through His word for financing the great ministries that He gave His Church to do.

Tithing is giving 10 percent of my income to the Lord. It is a matter of love, not law. We bring and pay out tithe, and give an offering.

Tithing Before the Law of Moses

Commenced by _____ (Genesis 14:17-24)

Continued by _____ (Genesis 28: 20-22)

Tithing Under (during) the Law

It is _____ unto God (Leviticus 27:30-33)

We rob God in _____ and _____ (Malachi 3:8-10)

Tithing in the New Testament

Commanded by Jesus Christ (Matthew 23:23)

Commended by Paul (1Cor. 16: 1,2)

The Purpose of Storehouse Tithing

It is an act of worshiping God. It teaches that God owns and man owes.

It is biblical method of financing God's work.

It is to develop man's sense of responsibility to God.

Thus, it is more concerned with the giver than the gift.

We should _____ give (Matthew 10:8)

We should give cheerfully, not _____ (2Cor. 9:6-7)

We should be like the Bereans who first gave _____ to the Lord (2Cor. 8:5, 12)

Tithing, A Christian Duty

MEMORY VERSE: Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes, and in offering. Malachi 3:8

INTRODUCTION

It is sad but many Christians are guilty of robbing God. It is bad to steal from another person, but worse to steal from God. It is bad to steal from the church, but worse to steal from God. But men rob God, but worse than that many Christians rob God.

- I. WHAT IS TITHING?
 1. It is giving 10% or a tenth of your income back to God. Genesis 28:20-22.
 2. It is being in partnership with God. Genesis 28:20
 3. It is an act of faith. Malachi 3:10
 - a. God wants us to try him
 - b. God wants us to trust him.
- II. WHY TITHE?
 1. God commad it. (Malachi 3:10; Leviticus 27:30-34)
 - A. It is to be obeyed.
 - B. You don't have to question it. (Duet. 11:22)
 2. It is God's way for us to support His church (Malachi 3:10; 1 Cor. 16:2)
 - A. No other except freewill offering is found in the Bible
 - B. If everybody tithes there would not be a need to sell dinners.
 3. Not tithing is stealing from God.
 - A. Men rob God. (Malachi 3:8)
 - B. God is possessor of all things. (Psalms 50:10-12)
 4. It is scriptural.
 - A. The Patriarch did it. (Genesis 28:22)
 - B. Paul spoke of it. (1Corinthians 16:2)
 - C. Jesus spoke of it. (Matthew 23:23)
 5. We received blessings when we tithe.
 - A. Material (II Chronicles 31:4-10)
 - B. Spiritual (Malachi 3:10)
 6. Others will receive blessings.
 - A. Others will be helped physically. (II Chronicles 31:10)
 - B. Others will be helped spiritually. (Souls Saved)

CONCLUSION: ARE YOU ROBBING GOD? IF YOU ARE NOT TITHUNG YOU ARE MORE SPECIFICALLY, YOU ARE A THEIF.

Tithe Chart----NET WEEKLY INCOME

Net Weekly Income	Weekly Tithe
\$50.00	5.00
75.00	7.50
100.00	10.00
125.00	12.50
150.00	15.00
200.00	20.00
225.00	22.50
250.00	25.00
275.00	30.00
500.00	50.00
900.00	90.00
1000.00	100.00

Net income is Actual Take Home Pay after Federal and State Taxes, union dues etc. If column 1 is income received every two weeks, divide the weekly contribution by 2.

Tithe Chart ---- Yearly Gross Income

Gross Yearly Income	Weekly Tithe
\$5,000	\$9.62
10,000	19.23
15,000	28.85
20,000	38.46
25,000	48.08
30,000	57.69
35,000	67.31
40,000	76.92
45,000	86.54
52,000	100.00

Weekly tithe based on Gross income = 10% of Gross income/ 52 Sundays.
Gross income is income prior to "any" deductions.

UNDERSTANDING MY BIBLE

The Bible contains sixty-six books. It was written by forth authors over a period of 1,600 years. Its theme is consistently redemption from sin.

The Bible is God's Word to us. The more you read it, the more it will mean to you. You will thus be better equipped for service to the Lord.

It was given by _____ of God, which means literally "God breathed" (2Timothy 3:16, 17)

(Read Luke 24:44 and 45). This was stated by the Lord _____. Therefore, I should read the Bible diligently, reverently, repeatedly, prayerfully, consecutively, and honestly.

As I read a chapter, I should ask:

Is there a command here for me?

Is there a sin I must forsake?

Is there some virtue to gain?

How is Christ revealed here?

Should I memorize Scripture? YES.

Why should I memorize Scripture? Because it is the word of GOD.

Will generate _____ (Romans 10:17)

Gives strength (1 John 2:14)

Is nourishment and cause one to _____ spiritually (1 Peter 2:2).

Brings cleansing and causes one not to _____ (Ps. 119:9, 11)

BIBLE READING

Ten – minute reading is a discipline you can make and keep for the rest of your life. Give it a try. You'll be amazed at your growth by the end of one year. After all, by reading the Bible faithfully for ten minutes a day, every day for a year, you'll have spent more than sixty hours reading the Bible. Imagine how much better you'd know any subject after sixty hours of focused reading.

Advantages. Choosing to read the Bible at least ten minutes a day has two noteworthy advantages.

You can always find ten minutes. Ten minutes can be carved out of virtually any person's day; sitting in a lobby as you wait for an appointment; waiting for the bus; or taking a coffee break.

Many educators consider ten minutes to be the ideal length for a learning period. Virtually any concept – even the most complicated scientific material- can be broken down into short, readily learned subunits. The same is true for the Bible. By concentrating on one segment of the Bible – and limiting yourself only to that segment during a specific period of time - you will probably find yourself more readily able to absorb that information and comprehend.

Feed the Inner You. Consider your ten – minute reading time to be a mealtime for your inner person. The Bible proclaims, "Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good" (Ps. 34:8). You will probably devote one or more hours today to the feeding of your physical, perishable body. Choose to devote at least ten minutes to the nourishment of your everlasting imperishable soul and spirit.

You'll probably find that there will be times when you want to read fifteen minutes or longer. There will even be times when you want to feast on the Word for several hours or all day. You may find that you desire to have several ten minute reading times throughout the day.

If you miss a day of reading, don't go on a guilt trip and stop. Just pick up your commitment again the next day.

THE IMPORTANCE OF PRAYER

If God already knows everything, why is prayer important? Prayer is for fellowship with God and to invite God to come into our situation. Prayer is simply talking to God. How can I learn to pray? By praying. Try it. Practice is the key.

How should I pray?

- Without hypocrisy (Luke 18:11, 12)
- Privately (Matt. 6:6)
- Specifically (Luke 11:5; Matt. 6:7)
- Persistently (Luke 18:5)
- In Jesus' name (John 14:13, 14)

When should I pray?

- _____ Times daily (Psalm 55:17)
- Regularly (Daniel 6:10, 11)
- At mealtime, thanking God for the food.
- Anytime with persistence (Luke 18:1-7)

For whom should I pray?

- Fellow believers (James 5:16)
- The unconverted (Eph. 6:19)
- Missionaries and missionary work (Col. 4:3)
- My church, my pastor, my family, and myself.

What hinders prayer?

- "If I regard _____ in my heart, the Lord will _____ hear me" (Psalm 66:18)
- Disobedience to God (Isaiah 1:15)
- An unforgiving attitude (Matt. 6:14, 15; Matt. 18:21, 22 and Col 3:13)
- Asking out of God's will (James 4:3)

MY CHRISTIAN RESPONSIBILITIES

To my Lord: I am to love, honor and serve Him. I am to reverence and obey Him and His Word. Read Deut. 6: 4-10 and Psalms 111:9 We stand in Zion for the reading of the Word – Neh. 8:5.

To my local church: I am to attend regularly and to pray for its ministry. I am to give freely and cheerfully of my time, energy, talent and money. Read Acts 2: 41-47 and Hebrew 10:25.

To my Bible: Since it is the word of God, I must read it regularly and systematically; and I must apply to my life what I read. Read 2 Tim. 2:15; 3:16; Acts 17:11 and Ps.119:11.

To my pastor: I am to stand by him, pray for him, and encourage him. I am to help him all that I can. Read 1 Tim. 5:17, 18; Deut. 5:24-27.

To the unsaved: I must live a godly, spotless, consistent life before the world. I am to pray daily for unbelievers and to witness to them of what Christ has done for me. Read Matt.5:42-48 and Rom. 12:1-2.

To the heathen/pagan: Since millions have never heard of Christ, I am to pray. I am to give money to enable missionaries to go to them with the gospel. Read Matt. 28:19 and Matt. 5:44.

To fellow believers: I am to pray for them, help them with their burdens, and conduct myself as an example. Read Gal. 6:2, 10.

To myself: I am to grow spiritually, to progress in my Christian life, and strive toward maturity. Read Rom. 12:1; Ps. 1; 2 Peter 3:18

I am to be a disciple of Christ and not merely a member of a church.

**EXTRA
STUDY
FOR
LESSONS**

Additional Bible reading for Lesson 2: A Look At My Life

Before I was saved:

I was a _____ (Romans 5:8).

I was without _____ and I was _____ (Romans 5:6).

God says I was _____ in trespasses and sins (Ephesians 2:1).

God says, "all have sinned," and I must acknowledge that I am _____ (Romans 3:23)

I was _____ Christ, an _____ and _____. I had no _____, and I was without God (Ephesians 2:12).

I was far off from God (Ephesians 2:13).

This is what I once was, but now I am saved!

What Happened To Me?

I have been reconciled to God, Brought back into His favor (Romans 5:10).

Now in Christ I have two things:

1. _____ through His _____ (Ephesians 1:7).
2. Forgiveness of _____ by His grace (Ephesians 1:7).
3. I now possess the _____ of Christ (2 Peter 1:4).

I have two natures: my own human nature and Christ's divine nature. Since my human nature is worthless (Romans 7:18), I ought not to obey its suggestions, for it is not trustworthy (Philippians 3:3). The divine nature should control my human nature.

WHAT AM I NOW?

I am a _____ of Christ (1 Corinthians 11:1).

I have been _____ (John 3:5-7) which means born from above, from Heaven

I have been forgiven (Colossians 1:14; 2:13).

I have been cleansed (Ephesians 2:26).

I have eternal life (John 3:16).

I possess Christ's divine nature (2 Peter 1:4).

Additional Scripture reading for Lesson 5 – Understanding my Bible

The Word of God is settled in _____ (Ps. 119:89).

_____ and _____ shall pass away, but not God's word (Matt. 24:35)

I should follow the example of the Berean Christians who _____ the Scripture _____ (Acts 17:11).

An acrostic clearly shows how this should be done:

S – eriously

E – arnstly

A – nxiously

R – egularly

C – arefully

H – umbly

Why I should memorize Scripture:

Is the _____ seed by which **one** is born again (1 Peter 1:23)

Is able to _____ one up (Acts 20:32).

Insures God's blessing (Rev. 1:3)

How can I do it?

Print a verse on a card and take it with you. In your spare time, repeat it over and over. Always carry a pocket-size New Testament. Read it in your spare time. Follow these five steps:

1. Read it.
2. Write it down.
3. Pray it for yourself.
4. Pray it for someone else.
5. Tell it to another person

Additional study for Lesson 5: My Bible

Bible Study

Approach the Bible in prayer; with reverence, awe, and expectancy; with a willing mind; and with a thirst for truth, righteousness, and fullness in the Lord Jesus Christ. When you come with a humble and contrite heart, you can trust God the Holy Spirit to reveal God's truth to you.

TOOLS NEEDED:

- Bible that is easy for you to understand.
- A notebook or journal and pen to record God's Word to you. This will not only result in a deeper, more serious study, it will also give you a written record of how God speaks to you and your response to him.

ADDITIONAL TOOLS:

As funds are available and you continue to grow spiritually, you will want to acquire other Bible helps for your study.

- At least two translations of the Bible. More than one translation gives alternate meanings for the same verse. Good for comparison.
- Topical Bible -- organize verses according to topics. List additional references on each topic it covers. Give an explanation of the topic.
- Concordance -- lists additional references for keywords.
- Bible dictionary -- gives pronunciation and meaning for words in the Bible and Christian terminology.

PRAYER

By Warren Doud

Prayer is the expression of man's thoughts to God the Father. The Bible, God's Word, is the expression of God's thoughts to mankind. Therefore, human beings can have a two-way communication with the almighty God.

Prayer is an extension of the Faith-Rest principle –it is a part of the Grace principle of claiming promises from the Bible. Here are some of the principles passages dealing with prayer:

Psalm 116:1, 2; Isaiah 65:24; Jeremiah 33:3; Matthew 7:7; John 14: 13,14; John 15:7; (see also 2 Corinthians 12:7, 8); Philipians 4:6; 1 Thessalonians 5:17

Principles of Prayer

Prayer is for Christian believers only. One can address God as Father only as a member of the family of God. John 1:12; Galatians 3:26

Prayer should be directed to God the Father. Ephesians 5:20; Matthew 6:9; 1 Peter 1:17

Prayer should be in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. John 14:13; John 15:16

The power for prayer is through the ministry of the Holy Spirit. Ephesians 6:18 Prayer is never made to the Holy Spirit

Four Parts to Private Prayer

The first part of private prayer is the confession of personal sins. This makes it possible for the Lord to respond to the other parts of the prayer, because the believer is in fellowship when he prays. "If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me" Psalm 66:18. See also 1 John 1:6-10

Next, thanksgiving should be made to express appreciation to God the Father for His blessings and provisions. Ephesians 5:20.

Then, prayer should be made for others (intercession). Ephesians 6:18

Finally, it is in order to pray for one's own needs. Hebrews 4:16

Reasons Why Some Prayers Are Not Answered

Sometimes God does not respond to prayers from believers, no matter how heartfelt and earnest that prayer might be. The main reason that this communication is hindered is carnality on the part of the one praying. When a Christian is not walking in fellowship, the only prayer that God will answer is that of confession. When confession is made, the Lord provides cleansing according to the provisions of 1 John 1:9, at which time further prayer can be made.

There are many reasons given in the Bible why some prayer is not answered:

- Lack of faith: Matthew 21:22; Mark 11:24; Romans 14:23; James 1:5-7
- Failure to take in Bible teaching (lack of edification: Proverbs 1:24-31; Proverbs 28:9; Zachariah 7:11-13
- Selfishness: James 4:2,3
- Carnality: Psalm 66:18; Micah 3:4; Isaiah 1:15; Isaiah 29:1-3
- Lack of compassion: Proverbs 21:13
- Lack of harmony in the home: 1 Peter 3:7
- Pride and self righteousness: Job 35:12, 13
- Lack of control of the Holy Spirit: Ephesians 6:18
- Lack of obedience: 1 John 3:22; Ephesians 5:18; Deut. 1:43-45; 1 Samuel 14:37; 1 John 5:14

Four Ways Prayers are Answered

Many times we pray for things because we think that what we ask for will bring happiness to ourselves or to someone else. The petition may be for some specific detail of life such as health, money or success in some enterprise. But the desire is for something less tangible, perhaps, like prosperity or happiness. Often, the Lord will answer prayer by granting the unstated inner desire without granting the petition directly. Sometimes we get everything we ask for, sometimes nothing. Here are the four methods which God uses to answer prayer.

PETITION GRANTED but DESIRE NOT GRANTED

In Numbers 11 is the story of the Israelites wanting meat to eat. Their petition for meat was granted, but their desire for a pleasant experience was not answered.

In 1 Samuel 8, the children of Israel asked for a king. They did not want to continue under God's personal rule. Their petition to have a king was granted. Their desire to be like other nations and to have peace was not granted. Instead, they had strife and civil war as long as Saul was their king.

PETITION NOT GRANTED but DESIRE GRANTED

In Genesis 17:18, Abraham ask that Ishmael might be his established heir. His petition was denied, but his desire for a son and heir was later granted in the birth of Isaac.

In Genesis 18, Abraham prays for God to spare Sodom and Gomorrah. His request was denied, but his desire, that Lot and his family be safe, was granted.

PETITION GRANTED and DESIRE GRANTED

In 1 Kings 18, Elijah prayed that God would destroy the alter on which offering had been made to Baal. His desire was that God would be glorified. His petition and desire were granted.

"THE SEVEN LAST WORDS"

"GOOD FRIDAY"

THE FIRST WORD:..... *"Father, forgive them for they know not what they do"* (Luke 23:34)

THE SECOND WORD:..... *"Verily I say unto thee, today thou shalt be with me in paradise"* (Luke 23:43)

THE THIRD WORD:..... *"Father, behold thy son."* (John 19:26, 27)

THE FOURTH WORD:..... *"My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?"* (Matthew 27:46)

THE FIFTH WORD:..... *"I thirst"* (John 19:28)

THE SIXTH WORD:..... *"I am thirsty"* (John 19:30)

THE SEVENTH WORD:..... *"Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit"* (Luke 23:46)



Why Pray?

Most people thinking about prayer eventually ask, "Why pray at all?" Is the basic purpose of prayer to get things from God? Certainly the Bible assures us that God hears us and gives us what we need. But is that the basic reason Jesus taught us to pray?

George MacDonald offered this rationale for prayer:

What if God knows prayer to be the thing we need first and most? What if the main object in God's idea of prayer is a supplying of our great, our

endless need—the need of Himself? . . . Hunger may drive the runaway child home, and he may or may not be fed at once, but he needs his parents more than his dinner. Communion with God is the one need of the soul beyond all other need. Prayer is the beginning of that communion, of talking with God, a coming-to-one with Him, which is the sole end of prayer, yea, of existence itself. . . . We must ask that we may receive, but that we should receive what we ask in respect to our lower needs is not God's end in making us pray. He could give us everything without that. To bring His child to His knee, God withholds that men may ask.

When we pray, we often concentrate on the gifts in God's hand and ignore the hand of God Himself. We pray fervently for the new job or for the return of health. When we gain the prize, we are delighted. And then we have little more to do with God. If we are only after the gifts, God's hand serves only as a way to pay the rent, heal the sickness, or get through the crisis. After the need has been met, the hand itself means little to us.

While God in His grace does give good gifts to His children, He offers us more than that; He offers us Himself. Those who are satisfied merely with the trinkets in the Father's hand miss the best reward of prayer—the reward of communicating and communing with the God of the universe.

COMING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place (Acts 2:1)

The words fully come could be translated "fulfilled". When the Day of Pentecost was being fulfilled, the disciples of Christ were all together in one place.

Pentecost took place fifty days after the Feast of Firstfruits (see Leviticus 23). The Feast of Firstfruits speaks of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Christ is the firstfruits- "...Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at His coming" (1 Cor. 15:23).

The Passover speaks of the death of Jesus Christ ("...For even Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us," 1 Cor. 5:7) Since the Passover has been fulfilled in the death of Christ, and the Feast of Firstfruits has been fulfilled in the resurrection of Christ, the Feast of Pentecost represents the fulfillment of something else. Its fulfillment is the birth of the church.

When the Day of Pentecost "was being fulfilled" or "was fully come," means that this was the fulfillment of the meaning and the purpose for which it was given originally. On Pentecost there was to be a meal offering to the Lord, which was to be presented in two loaves of fine flour baked with leaven. This was to depict the beginning and the origin of the church. It spoke of the coming of the Holy Spirit in the very particular ministry of calling a people out of this world to form the body of Christ, which is the church.

The Holy Spirit began to baptize believers which means that the Holy Spirit identified them with Christ and His body here on earth. "For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit" (1 Cor. 12:13).

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