

Basic Bible Studies

For Christians On All Levels Of Spiritual Maturity

Lesson - 1

Living By Faith

Live By Faith. Do Not Depend On Your Feelings.

The experience of being a Christian goes far beyond just using the title, "Christian." As you have experienced this awesome change in your life, you will learn that you have started a great adventure. Perhaps some of that excitement has already started to well up inside your soul and spirit. Now that you are a new or rededicated Christian, It is important that you go through this series of Bible Study lessons. They will help encourage and challenge you in your new faith in Christ.

This first lesson is important because as soon as you walked away from that moment of change and new commitment in your life, Satan began to try to discourage and defeat you. Things have happened and will continue to happen that will be used by Satan to cause doubt and fear in your new life in Christ. Hold steady. Satan has no power over you. If you sin or make a mistake, don't give up. Simply ask Christ to forgive you and help you to overcome this thing in your life. In these first few days and weeks of your new experience in Christ, it is important not to depend on your feelings. Feelings will come and go. They will be both positive and negative, but you must not let them govern your spiritual life. You must live by faith -- not feelings.

It is living by faith that will help you overcome the everyday rise and fall of normal emotions that all human beings experience. Listed are some scripture references for you to look up and study. To study means that you should read them prayerfully. Read them several times and allow the Spirit of Christ, Who now lives within you, to reveal their meaning and make them personal for your life.

STUDY TIPS:

Bible Study should start with prayer. Remember to keep it short and simple; you are talking to God. A prayer might go something like this: "Lord, please reveal your truth for me as I read and study these portions of Scripture. I love you, Lord. Thank you for forgiving me of my sins, and help me to live the kind of life you want me to live. Amen."

If there are words you do not fully understand in your study, refresh your memory by looking them up in a dictionary. Misunderstanding one simple word can change the whole meaning of a verse of Scripture.

Read each Scripture passage several times and give it a chance to soak in and become personal to your life.

Answer these simple questions by filling in the blanks. This will help you to recognize the key points.

The first passage is found in ([Romans 3:21-31](#)).

There is a _____ that comes from God through

_____ to all of those who _____. ([Romans 3:21-22](#))

_____ is common to all of mankind. ([Romans 3:23](#))

Because of grace that came by Jesus Christ, we are _____.
([Romans 3:24](#)) Write out what this word means:

God presented _____ as a sacrifice. ([Romans 3:25-26](#)). (Write out the full name here)

It is not the _____ of the _____, but

_____ that justifies us. ([Romans 3:27-30](#))

We do not _____ the law by Faith. ([Romans 3:31](#)) What does he mean by this verse? _____

Next, look at ([Hebrews 11:1-40](#)).

This is a great chapter to just read and soak in. It tells of several Old Testament characters that lived their lives by faith.

If you have any questions, please write them down so you will remember them when you talk to your study partner. Remember that the only ridiculous question is the one you are afraid to ask.

God bless you as you begin this new journey in Christ.

(Lesson - 1 answers on next page)

Answer Sheet Lesson - 1

Living By Faith

Live By Faith. Do Not Depend On Your Feelings.

There is a **RIGHTEOUSNESS** that comes from God by **FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST** to all of those who BELIEVE. ([Romans 3:21-22](#))

SIN is common to all of mankind. ([Romans 3:23](#))

Because of grace that came by Jesus Christ, we are **JUSTIFIED**. ([Romans 3:24](#)) Write out what this word means: — To justify was a legal term meaning to secure a favorable verdict, to acquit, to vindicate, to declare righteous. ([Deuteronomy 25:1](#)).

God presented **JESUS CHRIST** as a sacrifice. ([Romans 3:25-26](#))

It is not the **OBSERVING** of the **LAW**, but **FAITH** that justifies us. ([Romans 3:27-30](#))

We do not **NULLIFY** the law by Faith. ([Romans 3:31](#)) What does he mean by this verse? **OUR FAITH DOES NOT FREE US FROM OBSERVING GOD'S LAW. IT HELPS US TO LIVE BY GOD'S LAW.**

This Bible Study includes a copy of [The Articles Of Faith](#). You can find them at the end of this document. These are Christian beliefs and their scripture references that show us basic Christian truths. Do not let these overwhelm you. Just use them for reference when you have a question on any of the topics covered by any of the lessons.

For now just concentrate on the Bible Studies in this booklet. If you are interested in becoming a church member, you will need to study The Articles Of Faith at that time. Write down any questions you may have about them and talk to your study partner about them.

God bless you as you grow up in Him.

Lesson - 2

What Happened?

I Know That I Got Saved, But What Really Happened To Me?

There is an interesting poster picture of Jesus' arm and hand reaching out to a little girl. She has beautiful brown hair, sad brown eyes, and a beautiful white dress with a pink bow on the collar. Taking Jesus' hand in her own, her sad brown eyes looking in the direction of Jesus' face and pointing to a large wound in His hand, she asks the question, "What happened to your hand?" The wound in His hand is of course the wound from the nail that held Him to the cross that He died on. The cross represents one of the cruelest deaths that a person can suffer. It is confusing to understand how anything good can come out of a cruelty like this, but this is how we are saved. Jesus died for our sins and by Faith we accept His salvation.

Included with this study is a copy of the [The Four Spiritual Laws](#). They are contained in a separate *.PDF file. In a very simple way, they explain to us what happens when we get saved, and why Jesus had to die on the cross for us. Read these four spiritual laws and the scriptures that go with them. Other scripture references are included in this lesson that will help you to understand each law in greater detail.

Law One - Tells about how it is God's love for us that moved Him to take the drastic measure of allowing His Son to be put to death on the cruel cross. ([John 3:1-21](#); [Numbers 21:4-9](#))

Law Two - Tells about separation from God. This separation from God will last for all of eternity if we do not do something about it. ([Genesis 3:1-24](#))

Law Three - Tells about how God took care of the separation that sin caused. ([1 Timothy 2:1-8](#))

Law Four - Tells about receiving God's gift of salvation. ([John 4:4-26](#))

NOTE: There is a section in the "Four Spiritual Laws" booklet, on page 12, that deals with the topic we looked at in lesson 1, "Facts and feelings".

God bless you as you continue to grow stronger and stronger in this new way of life.

Lesson - 3

Now What?

As A New Christian What Should I Do Next?

In dealing with this question it is very easy to fall into the trap of spelling out a list of things you should and should not do now that you are a Christian. In fact, this is one of the major mistakes the new Christian can make in the early stages of a new relationship with Jesus Christ. This study will not lead you in that direction, but neither will it teach you that life can be lived as it was before you got saved or rededicated your life to Christ. Here are a few scriptures that will help you. These scriptures do not lay down rules and regulations but they teach Christian Principles that we can apply to our everyday life.

Look first at ([Romans 6:11-23](#)). This tells us of the great change that God brings after we accept Jesus Christ into our life.

([Romans 6:11](#)) - What is it that we are dead to? _____ And what are we alive to?

([Romans 6:12-13](#)) - Tells about how our life changes. We no longer offer ourselves _____, but we now offer ourselves _____.

We now have a new master. ([Romans 6:11](#)) tells us that the old master of sin is dead, and ([Romans 6:14](#)) tells us that we are now under _____.

([Romans 6:15-23](#)) - Talks about this idea in more detail. Make sure you take some time to study these verses.

After you are aware of the great change that takes place in your life, you realize a desire to grow up spiritually. To help us with this concept, let's look at ([Romans 8:1-39](#)). Study the entire chapter but especially look at the following verses:

([Romans 8:12-13](#)) - Talks about the _____ we have to live a different life now.

([Romans 8:14-16, 26, 28, 31-39](#)) - Talks about the help we get from the Holy Spirit.

List some of the things God does to help us that are mentioned in these verses:

([Romans 8:14](#)) - _____

([Romans 8:16](#)) - _____

([Romans 8:26](#)) - _____

(Romans 8:28) - _____

(Romans 8:31) - _____

(Romans 8:34) - _____

(Romans 8:39) - _____

It is important not to become overwhelmed with the thought that we must change everything all at once. We are admonished by John to take one step at a time, walking in the light the Holy Spirit gives us. Study (1 John 1:5-7). The Spirit of Christ that now lives within you will show you what you are to change in your life. He may have already talked to you about something He wants you to change. What has He talked to you about?

The question is always asked, "What if I mess up, or make a mistake, or even commit a sin?" This is a valid question because it is unlikely that there has ever been a Christian that could say that he or she never messed up after they were saved. The real question is, "What should I do if I mess up?" Look at (1 John 1:8-22). Do not delay, tell God you are sorry, ask for His forgiveness, and then believe by Faith that He loves you no matter what. Now move forward asking Him to help you in areas that you have trouble with.

God bless you as you seek His truth for your daily life.

(Lesson - 3 answers on next page)

Answer Sheet Lesson - 3

Now What?

As A New Christian What Should I Do Next?

Looking in ([Romans 6:11-23](#)), we learn about the great change that God brings after we accept Jesus Christ into our life.

([Romans 6:11](#)) - What is it that we are dead to? **SIN** and alive to **GOD IN CHRIST JESUS**.

([Romans 6:12-13](#)) - Tells about how our life changes. We no longer offer ourselves **TO SIN AS INSTRUMENTS OF WICKEDNESS**, but we now offer ourselves but we now offer ourselves **TO GOD AS INSTRUMENTS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS**.

We now have a new master. ([Romans 6:11](#)) tells us that the old master of sin is dead, and ([Romans 6:14](#)) tells us that we are now under **GRACE**.

([Romans 6:15-23](#)) - Tells about this idea in more detail. Make sure you take some time to study these verses.

After we are aware of the great change that takes place in our life we realize a desire to grow up spiritually. To help us with this concept let us look at Romans 8:1-39. Study the entire chapter but especially look at the following verses.

([Romans 8:12-13](#)) - Tells about the **OBLIGATION** we have to live a different life now.

([Romans 8:14-16, 26, 28, 31-39](#)) - Tells about the help we get from the Holy Spirit.

Here is a list of some of the things God does to help us.

([Romans 8:14](#)) - **THE HOLY SPIRIT LEADS US**.

([Romans 8:16](#)) - **THE HOLY SPIRIT TESTIFIES OR WITNESSES WITH OUR SPIRIT**.

([Romans 8:26](#)) - **THE HOLY SPIRIT HELPS US WITH OUR WEAKNESSES**.

([Romans 8:28](#)) - **WE HAVE THE PROMISE THAT ALL THINGS WORK FOR OUR GOOD**.

([Romans 8:31](#)) - **GOD IS FOR US**.

([Romans 8:34](#)) - **CHRIST IS INTERCEDING FOR US IN GOD'S PRESENCE**.

([Romans 8:39](#)) - **NOTHING IS ABLE TO SEPARATE US FROM GOD'S LOVE**.

It is important not to become overwhelmed with the thought that we must change everything all at once. We are admonished by John to take one step at a time, walking in the light the Holy Spirit gives us. Study ([1 John 1:5-7](#)). The Spirit of Christ that now lives within you will show you

what you are to change in your life. He may have already talked to you about something He wants you to change. What has He talked to you about? One Christian tells of his experience: "ON THE DAY AFTER I GOT SAVED THE HOLY SPIRIT TALKED TO ME ABOUT MY CURSING. WITH HIS HELP IT TOOK ME ONE WEEK TO OVERCOME THIS BAD HABIT. THE SECOND THING THAT HE TALKED TO ME ABOUT WAS THE PRINCIPLE OF TITHING. THIS HAPPENED ABOUT TWO MONTHS AFTER I GOT SAVED". *(Ask your study partner about some of the things the Holy Spirit has talked to them about.)*

The question is always asked, "What if I mess up, or make a mistake, or even commit a sin?" This is a valid question because it is unlikely that there has ever been a Christian that could say that he or she never messed up after they were saved. The real question is, "What should I do if I mess up?" Look at ([1 John 1:8-2:2](#)). Do not delay, tell God you are sorry, ask for His forgiveness, and then believe by Faith that He loves you no matter what. Now move forward asking Him to help you in areas that you have trouble with.

God bless you as you seek His truth for your daily life.

Lesson - 4

The Holy Spirit

What Is The Role Of The Holy Spirit In My Life?

In the next four lessons we will be talking about the Holy Spirit and the role He plays in our lives.

The first thing we need to do is answer the question, "Who or what is the Holy Spirit?" You need to go to the section of the book titled, [The Articles of Faith](#). There are three topics you need to look at: The Triune God, The Holy Spirit, and Entire Sanctification. They include many scripture references that are very helpful. Do not let them overwhelm you. They are given for your information to read and study at your leisure. You may not be able to cover all of them this week.

Who is the Holy Spirit? Let's take a look at ([Matthew 13:16-17](#)). This portion of scripture shows us a clear picture of the Trinity: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. When we speak of the Holy Spirit we are talking about God Himself. To gain a clearer understanding of the Holy Spirit, read each statement below and study the scripture references.

1. He convicted you of your sin, drawing you to Jesus Christ and repentance. ([John 16:5-11](#))
2. He came into your heart when you got saved and lives within you. ([Romans 8:9-11](#), [Revelation 3:19-20](#))
3. He guides you by His still small voice within you. ([John 14:23-26](#), [John 16:13-14](#))

In closing, pray this prayer: "Dear Lord, I just want to ask You to help me. I will be spending the next three lessons studying the topic of the Holy Spirit and I need Your help in understanding this truth. Help me in my everyday struggle as a Christian, for I cannot make it on my own. I love You, Lord, and believe that You are with me and helping me every moment of every day. Amen."

Lesson - 5

The Holy Spirit

What Is The Spirit-Filled Life?

Included with this study is a copy of the [The Spirit-Filled Life](#). It is contained in a separate *.PDF file. Make sure you take the time to study it in detail. Looking at the diagrams will help you understand the truths that are being taught. As always, make sure you look up the scriptures. The Word of God is the most important source of truth we have for growing as a Christian.

Make sure you understand the truths being taught and the scriptures that you study with the booklet. Included is a simple outline of the booklet to help you work through its content. Make sure you look up all the scriptures in the booklet and study them carefully.

There are three different kinds of people. The circle illustrations are helpful to understand where Christ is in relation to the lives of these three kinds of people.

Details about the Spiritual Person.

Details about the Worldly Person.

Explain what the Holy Spirit does in the life of a Spiritual Person.

Explain how the Christian can be directed and empowered by the Holy Spirit. It includes a prayer you can pray.

Helps you to deal with feelings of doubt and fear.

Tells you about how to live the Spirit-Filled life.

In the next lesson we will go into more detail about how to live as a Spiritual Person filled with the Holy Spirit.

Pray this prayer: "Dear Lord! Thank You for giving me Your Word to study, and thank You for giving me the Holy Spirit to lead and guide me in Your Word. It is not always easy to follow You, but I believe that You help me every day with my weaknesses. Help me as I continue my study of the Holy Spirit. I pray these things in the name of the Lord, Jesus Christ. Amen."

Lesson - 6

The Holy Spirit

What Is The Fruit Of The Spirit?

This lesson is a study of the fruit of the Spirit. There are three important facts you should know about your Christian life that are revealed in this study.

Fact one: The Christian life is a life of discipline that takes a lot of time and patience - literally, a lifetime.

Fact two: The fruit of the Spirit comes from the presence of the Holy Spirit within you.

Fact three: The development of the fruit of the Spirit is evidence that you are growing as a Christian.

The first fact is found in ([James 5:7-9](#)):

([James 5:7](#)): What are we to be? _____

([James 5:7](#)): What is the time frame? _____

([James 5:7](#)): What does the farmer do? (two words) He _____ and is _____.

([James 5:8-9](#)) applies this talk about the farmer to our spiritual lives. Living the Christian life is a process of discipline. This process is something that we do for a lifetime.

The second fact is found in two scripture references:

([Matthew 7:15-18](#)) - Talks about two kinds of trees and two kinds of fruit, what are they?

_____ and _____. The idea is that if we are bad inwardly we will produce bad fruit, but if we are good inwardly we will produce good fruit.

In lesson 5 we looked at *The Spirit-Filled Life* which tells us about the Natural Person and the Worldly or Carnal Person. Neither of these kinds of people can be fruitful Christians, for they fall into the category of a bad tree that produces bad fruit. But the Spiritual Person is the good tree that produces good fruit.

Read ([Galatians 5:16-18](#)). The _____ and the _____ are in conflict with each other.

Read ([Galatians 5:19-21](#)). What is the warning given here?

Read ([Galatians 5:22-26](#)). How many fruits of the Spirit are there? _____

How are we to live?

1. ([Galatians 5:25](#)): _____

2. ([Galatians 5:25](#)): _____

3. ([Galatians 5:26](#)): _____

The idea for the third fact is found in a prayer that Paul mentions:

Read ([Philippians 1:9-11](#)). In these verses Paul talks about Love, the first fruit of the Spirit, increasing more and more. What else does he mention that will increase in our life?

_____ and depth of _____.

Be patient with yourself as you grow in your life with Christ, but never let down your guard. The Christian life is a life of discipline and hard work. Remember the rewards are worth all of the effort we put into our relationship with God.

(Lesson - 6 answers on next page)

Answer Sheet Lesson - 6

The Holy Spirit

What Is The Fruit Of The Spirit?

The first fact is found in ([James 5:7-9](#)).

In ([James 5:7](#)), what are we to be? **patient**

In ([James 5:7](#)), what is the time frame? **Until the Lord's coming**

In ([James 5:7](#)), what does the farmer do? (two words) He **waits** and is **patient** .

([James 5:8-9](#)) applies this talk about the farmer to our spiritual lives. Living the Christian life is a process of discipline. This process is something that we do for a lifetime.

The second fact is found in two scripture references.

([Matthew 7:15-18](#)) - Tells about two kinds of trees and two kinds of fruit. What are they? **Good and bad**. The idea is, if we are bad inwardly we will produce bad fruit, but if we are good inwardly we will produce good fruit.

In lesson 5 we studied *The Spirit-Filled Life* which tells us about the Natural Person and the Worldly or Carnal Person. Neither of these kinds of people can be a fruitful Christian, for they fall into the category of a bad tree that produces bad fruit. But the Spiritual Person is the good tree that produces good fruit.

Read ([Galatians 5:16-18](#)). The **spirit** and the **sinful nature** are in conflict with each other.

Read ([Galatians 5:19-21](#)). What is the warning given here? **Those who live by the sinful nature will not inherit the Kingdom of God.**

Read ([Galatians 5:22-26](#)). How many fruits of the Spirit are there? **Nine**.

How are we to live?

1. ([Galatians 5:25](#)) - **by the Spirit**
2. ([Galatians 5:25](#)) - **in step with the Spirit**
3. ([Galatians 5:26](#)) - **not conceited, not provoking or envying each other.**

The idea for the third fact is found in a prayer that Paul mentions.

Read ([Philippians 1:9-11](#)). In these verses Paul talks about Love, the first fruit of the Spirit increasing more and more. What else does he mention that will increase in our life?

Knowledge and depth of **insight**.

Lesson - 7

The Holy Spirit

What Are The Gifts Of The Spirit?

In this lesson we will take a look at the Gifts of the Spirit. God has given each of us natural talents and abilities. These talents and abilities, along with the things we have acquired with our experiences in life, are enhanced by the power of God to become our Spiritual Gifts. They are a great benefit to the Kingdom of God and the church.

Let us take a look at ([Romans 12:1-8](#)). In the first three verses Paul talks about requirements for committed Christian living.

In ([Romans 12:1](#)), what does Paul urge us to do? _____

In ([Romans 12:2](#)), he says we are to be what? _____

What are we told in ([Romans 12:3](#))? _____

Then in ([Romans 12:4-5](#)), Paul uses the _____ as an illustration of unity in the church which is the body of Christ.

In ([Romans 12:6-8](#)), we are told that we have different _____.

Can you name them? _____

In ([2 Corinthians 1:3-4](#)), Paul tells us the reason that we use our gifts; in this case, the gift of comforting others. What is that reason?

([1 Corinthians 12:1-31](#)), also talks about the unity of the body of Christ and the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

In the blanks next to the words or phrases below, write the verse numbers that tell about that topic or idea.

Don't be ignorant. _____

Different kinds of gifts and works. _____

Speaks of unity and/or a common good. _____

Gifts of the Spirit are mentioned. _____

Read ([2 Corinthians 14:12](#)). Here, Paul tells us to seek gifts for the purpose of building up the church.

Read ([Hebrews 2:4](#)). Here, Paul tells us that the Holy Spirit gives us gifts according to His will.

This study on the Gifts of the Spirit should make you aware of your own talents and gifts that can possibly be used in the Kingdom of God. Getting involved in the Kingdom of God will help you to grow spiritually.

(Lesson - 7 answers on next page)

Answer Sheet Lesson - 7

The Holy Spirit

What Are The Gifts Of The Spirit?

In this lesson we took a look at the Gifts of the Spirit. God has given each of us natural talents and abilities. These talents and abilities, along with the things we have acquired with our experiences in life, are enhanced by the power of God to become our Spiritual Gifts. They are a great benefit to the Kingdom of God and the church.

Let us take a look at ([Romans 12:1-8](#)). In the first three verses, Paul talks about requirements for committed Christian living.

In ([Romans 12:1](#)), what does Paul urge us to do? **We are to offer our bodies as living sacrifices.**

In ([Romans 12:2](#)), he says we are to be what? **We are to be transformed by the renewing of our minds.**

What are we told in ([Romans 12:3](#))? **Not to think of ourselves more highly than we ought to. This speaks of humility.**

Then in ([Romans 12:4-5](#)), Paul uses the **body** as an illustration of unity in the church which is the body of Christ

In ([Romans 12:6-8](#)), we are told that we have different **gifts**.

Can you name them? **Prophesying, serving, teaching, encouraging, contributing, leadership, showing mercy.**

In ([2 Corinthians 1:3-4](#)), Paul tells us the reason that we use our gifts; in this case, the gift of comforting others. What is that reason? **Because we have been comforted by God. In other words, we show others what God has done for us by doing the same to them.**

([1 Corinthians 12:1-31](#)) also tells about the unity of the body of Christ and the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

In the blanks next to the words or phrases below, write the verse numbers that tell about that topic or idea.

Don't be ignorant. **verse 1.**

Different kinds of gifts and works. **verses 8-10.**

Speaks of unity and / or a common good. **verses 12-26.**

Gifts of the Spirit are mentioned. **verse 28.**

Read ([1 Corinthians 14:12](#)). Here Paul tells us to seek gifts for the purpose of building up the church.

Read ([Hebrews 2:4](#)). Here Paul tells us that the Holy Spirit gives us gifts according to His will.

Hopefully, this study on the Gifts of the Spirit has made you aware of your own talents and gifts that can possibly be used in the Kingdom of God. Getting involved in the Kingdom of God will help you to grow spiritually.

God bless you as you seek a place of service in His Kingdom.

Lesson - 8

A Final Note

Take your stand

Our final study is found in ([Ephesians 6:10-18](#)). Take Your Stand. Make a decision that you are going to commit your entire life and all of its aspects to Jesus Christ. Put on the full armor of God. Do everything you can to be successful, for, after all, we are headed for eternity.

As you read and study these verses, take note of the following important principles:

The belt of Truth - A belt holds everything together. To know and live by the truth gives us unwavering confidence to move forward. When a belt is fastened, one is ready to go. The only real source of truth comes from the Word of God. When we know His Word we are ready to take our stand for Christ as we live our everyday life. That is why the continuing study of God's Word is so important to every Christian.

The breastplate of Righteousness - A breastplate is a very personal piece of armor that protects the soldier in front and in back. It protects the vital organs of the body. As Christians, righteousness protects our most vital part: Our soul. One scholar (William Barclay) wrote, "When a man is clothed in righteousness, he is impregnable."

Feet fitted with the Gospel of Peace - Our feet represent where we go and what we do. In the wake of our path there should be peace and love. It also presents the idea of being ready. As a person that is ready to go has their shoes on, so the Christian who is ready to take his or her stand against Satan and evil is prepared with the good news of the Gospel.

The shield of Faith - The shield is another form of protection for us. Faith is a complete reliance on God. The greatest protection that a Christian can have against attack is Faith. We are not usually attacked physically but mentally with doubt and fear. Our faith will protect us from these.

The helmet of Salvation - This helmet symbolizes the protection which participation in God's salvation assures us. When you are saved you come under His protection.

The sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God - The sword is a tool we use to fight our battles. In the spiritual battle, it is the Word of God.

Read about the temptations of Jesus in the wilderness in ([Luke 4:1-13](#)). Each time He is tempted He takes out His sword, the Word of God, to defeat Satan. Again we see the importance of the ongoing study of God's Word.

Be alert and always keep on praying. Paul finishes this section of scripture talking about the importance of alertness in prayer. Praying is keeping the lines of communication open to God on a regular basis. It is important that you spend time in prayer for two major reasons:

It is important that you share your fears, concerns, hurts and joys with God. There will be things that you will not be able to tell anyone else because they will not understand. But God

understands our personality, our temperament, our weaknesses, our strengths, our fears, our sorrows, our hurts, and our backgrounds. After all, He created us.

It is important that you let God speak to you. He will help you as you strive every day to live the Christian life, and as you fight the battle against evil and Satan.

This is our final lesson in this series of Bible studies, but this should not be the end of your study of the Word of God. By now you should be in the habit of studying God's Word every week. A suggestion for future studies is to take the scriptures used in sermons and Sunday School Lessons and study them in detail during the week. If you ever have questions or need help of any kind, please feel free to contact your Bible Study partner who will do everything they can to help you.

God bless you as you live a life committed to Christ and His Kingdom.

Pastor David dgbostick@gmail.com

Articles of Faith

Church of the Nazarene
Manual, 1997—2001

I. The Triune God

1. We believe in one eternally existent, infinite God, Sovereign of the universe; that He only is God, creative and administrative, holy in nature, attributes, and purpose; that He, as God, is Triune in essentials being, revealed as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

(Genesis 1; Leviticus 19:2; Deuteronomy 6:4-5; Isaiah 5:16; 6:1-7; 40:18-31; Matthew 3:16-17; 28:19-20; John 14:6-27; 1 Corinthians 8:6; 2 Corinthians 13:14; Galatians 4:4-6; Ephesians 2:13-18) Scripture references are supportive of the Articles of Faith but are not to be considered as part of the Constitutional text. Other items enclosed () have been added to the original text.

II. Jesus Christ

2. We believe in Jesus Christ, the Second Person of the Triune Godhead; that He was eternally one with the Father; that He became incarnate by the Holy Spirit and was born of the Virgin Mary, so that two whole and perfect natures, that is to say the Godhead and manhood, are thus united in one Person very God and very man, the God-man.

We believe that Jesus Christ died for our sins, and that He truly arose from the dead and took again His body, together with all things appertaining to the perfection of man's nature, wherewith He ascended into heaven and is there engaged in intercession for us.

(Matthew 1:20-25; 16:15-16; Luke 1:26-35; John 1:1-18; Acts 2:22-36; Romans 8:3, 32-34; Galatians 4:4-5; Philippians 2:5-11; Colossians 1:12-22; 1 Timothy 6:14-16; Hebrews 1:1-5; 7:22-28; 9:24-28; 1 John 1:1-3; 4:2-3, 15)

III. The Holy Spirit

3. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Third Person of the Triune Godhead, that He is ever present and efficiently active in and with the Church of Christ, convincing the world of sin, regenerating those who repent and believe, sanctifying believers, and guiding into all truth as it is in Jesus.

(John 7:39; 14:15-18, 26; 16:7-15; Acts 2:33; 15:8-9; Romans 8:1-27; Galatians 3:1-14; 4:6; Ephesians 3:14-21; 1 Thessalonians 4:7-8; 2 Thessalonians 2:13; 1 Peter 1:2; 1 John 3:24; 4:13)

IV. The Holy Scriptures

4. We believe in the plenary (plenary: all scripture is inspired by God), inspiration of the Holy Scriptures, by which we understand the 66 books of the Old and New Testaments, given by divine inspiration, inerrantly (without error) revealing the will of God concerning us

in all things necessary to our salvation, so that whatever is not contained therein is not to be enjoined as an article of faith.

(Luke 24:44-47; John 10:35; 1 Corinthians 15:3-4; 2 Timothy 3:15-17; 1 Peter 1:10-12; 2 Peter 1:20-21)

V. Sin, Original and Personal

5. We believe that sin came into the world through the disobedience of our first parents, and death by sin. We believe that sin is of two kinds: original sin or depravity, and actual or personal sin.

5.1. We believe that original sin, or depravity, is that corruption of the nature of all the offspring of Adam by reason of which everyone is very far gone from original righteousness or the pure state of our first parents at the time of their creation, is averse to God, is without spiritual life, and inclined to evil (a bent toward sin), and that continually. We further believe that original sin continues to exist with the new life of the regenerate, until eradicated by the baptism with the Holy Spirit.

5.2. We believe that original sin differs from actual sin in that it constitutes an inherited propensity to actual sin for which no one is accountable until its divinely provided remedy is neglected or rejected. 5.3. We believe that actual or personal sin is a voluntary violation of a known law of God by a morally responsible person. It is therefore not to be confused with involuntary and inescapable shortcomings, infirmities, faults, mistakes, failures, or other deviations from a standard of perfect conduct that are the residual effects of the Fall. However, such innocent effects do not include attitudes or responses contrary to the spirit of Christ, which may properly be called sins of the spirit. We believe that personal sin is primarily and essentially a violation of the law of love; and that in relation to Christ sin may be defined as unbelief.

(Original sin: Genesis 3; 6:5; Job 15:14; Psalm 51:5; Jeremiah 17:9-10; Mark 7:21-23; Romans 1:18-25; 5:12-14; 1:1--8:9; 1 Corinthians 3:1-4; Galatians 5:16-25; 1 John 1:7-8; Personal sin: Matthew 22:36-40 (with 1 John 3:4); John 8:34-36; 16:8-9; Romans 3:23; 6:15-23; 8:18-24; 14:23; 1 John 1:9--2:4; 3:7-10)

VI. Atonement

6. We believe that Jesus Christ, by His sufferings, by the shedding of His own blood, and by His meritorious death on the Cross, made a full atonement for all human sin, and that this Atonement is the only ground of salvation, and that it is sufficient for every individual of Adam's race. The Atonement is graciously efficacious for the salvation of the irresponsible and for the children in innocency but is efficacious for the salvation of those who reach the age of responsibility only when they repent and believe.

(Isaiah 53:5-6; Mark 10:45; Luke 24:46-48; John 1:29; 3:14-17; Acts 4:10-12; Romans 3:21-26; 4:17-25; 5:6-21; 1 Corinthians 6:20; 2 Corinthians 5:14-21; Galatians 1:3-4; 3:13-14; Colossians 1:19-23; 1 Timothy 2:3-6; Titus 2:11-14; Hebrews 2:9; 9:11-14; 13:12; 1 Peter 1:18-21; 2:19-25; 1 John 2:1-2)

VII. Free Agency

7. We believe that the human race's creation in Godlikeness included ability to choose between right and wrong, and that thus human beings were made morally responsible; that through the fall of Adam they became depraved so that they cannot now turn and prepare themselves by their own natural strength and works to faith and calling upon God. But we also believe that the grace of God through Jesus Christ is freely bestowed upon all people, enabling all who will to turn from sin to righteousness, believe on Jesus Christ for pardon and cleansing from sin, and follow good works pleasing and acceptable in His sight.

We believe that all persons, though in the possession of the experience of regeneration and entire sanctification, may fall from grace and apostatize and , unless they repent of their sins, be hopelessly and eternally lost.

(Godlikeness and moral responsibility: [Genesis 1:26-27; 2:16-17; Deuteronomy 28:1-2; 30:19; Joshua 24:15; Psalm 8:3-5; Isaiah 1:8-10; Jeremiah 31:29-30; Ezekiel 18:1-4; Micah 6:8; Romans 1:19-20; 2:1-16; 14:7-12; Galatians 6:7-8](#) Natural inability: [Job 14:4; 15:14; Psalms 14:1-4; 51:5; John 3:6a; Romans 3:10-12; 5:12-14, 20a; 7:14-25](#) Free grace and works of faith: [Ezekiel 18:25-26; John 1:12-13; 3:6b; Acts 5:31; Romans 5:6-8, 18; 6:15-16, 23; 10:6-8; 11:22; 1 Corinthians 2:9-14; 10:1-12; 2 Corinthians 5:18-19; Galatians 5:6; Ephesians 2:8-10; Philippians 2:12-13; Colossians 1:21-23; 2 Timothy 4:10a; Titus 2:11-14; Hebrews 2:1-3; 3:12-15; 6:4-6; 10:26-31; James 2:18-22; 2 Peter 1:10-11; 2:20-22\)](#)

VIII. Repentance

8. We believe that repentance, which is a sincere and through change of the mind in regard to sin, involving a sense of personal guilt and a voluntary turning away from sin, is demanded of all who have by act or purpose become sinners against God. The Spirit of God gives to all who will repent the gracious help of penitence of heart and hope of mercy, that they may believe unto pardon and spiritual life.

([2 Chronicles 7:14; Psalms 32:5-6; 51:1-17; Isaiah 55:6-7; Jeremiah 3:12-14; Ezekiel 18:30-32; 33:14-16; Mark 1:14-15; Luke 3:1-14; 13:1-5; 18:9-14; Acts 2:38; 3:19; 5:31; 17:30-31; 26:16-18; Romans 2:4; 2 Corinthians 7:8-11; 1 Thessalonians 1:9; 2 Peter 3:9](#))

IX. Justification

9. We believe that justification is the gracious and judicial act of God by which He grants full pardon of all guilt and complete release from the penalty of sins committed, and acceptance as righteous, to all who believe on Jesus Christ and receive Him as Lord and Savior.

10. We believe that regeneration, or the new birth, is that gracious work of God whereby the moral nature of the repentant believer is spiritually quickened and given a distinctively spiritual life, capable of faith, love and obedience.

11. We believe that adoption is that gracious act of God by which the justified and regenerated believer is constituted a son of God.

12. We believe that justification, regeneration, and adoption are simultaneous in the experience of seekers after God and are obtained upon the condition of faith, preceded by repentance; and that to this work and state of grace the Holy Spirit bears witness.

(Luke 18:14; John 1:12-13; 3:3-8; 5:24; Acts 13:39; Romans 1:17; 3:21-26, 28; 4:5-9, 17-25; 5:1, 16-19; 6:4; 7:6; 8:1, 15-17; 1 Corinthians 1:30; 6:11; 2 Corinthians 5:17-21; Galatians 2:16-21; 3:1-14, 26; 4:4-7; Ephesians 1:6-7; 2:1, 4-5; Philippians 3:3-9; Colossians 2:13; Titus 3:4-7; 1 Peter 1:23; 1 John 1:9; 3:1-2, 9; 4:7; 5:1, 9-13, 18)

X. Entire Sanctification

13. We believe that entire sanctification is that act of God, subsequent to regeneration, by which believers are made free from original sin, or depravity, and brought into a state of entire devotement to God, and the holy obedience of love made perfect.

It is wrought by the baptism with the Holy Spirit, and comprehends in one experience the cleansing of the heart from sin and the abiding, indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit, empowering the believer for life and service.

Entire sanctification is provided by the blood of Jesus, is wrought instantaneously by faith, preceded by entire consecration; and to this work and state of grace the Holy Spirit bears witness.

This experience is also known by various terms representing its different phases such as "Christian perfection," "perfect love," "heart purity," "the baptism with the Holy Spirit," "the fullness of the blessing," and "Christian holiness."

14. We believe that there is a marked distinction between a pure heart and a mature character. The former is obtained in an instant, the result of entire sanctification; the latter is the result of growth in grace.

We believe that the grace of entire sanctification includes the impulse to grow in grace. However, this impulse must be consciously nurtured, and careful attention given to the requisites and processes of spiritual development and improvement in Christlikeness of character and personality. With out such purposeful endeavor one's witness may be impaired and the grace itself frustrated and ultimately lost.

(Jeremiah 31:31-34; Ezekiel 36:25-27; Malachi 3:2-3; Matthew 3:11-12; Luke 3:16-17; John 7:37-39; 14:15-23; 17:6-20; Acts 1:5; 2:1-4; 15:8-9; Romans 6:11-13, 19; 8:1-4; 12:1-2; 2 Corinthians 6:14--7:1; Galatians 2:20; 5:16-25; Ephesians 3:14-21; 5:17-18, 25-27; Philippians 3:10-15; Colossians 3:1-17; 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24; Hebrews 4:9-11; 10:10-17; 12:1-2; 13:12; 1 John 1:7, 9)

("Christian perfection," "perfect love": Deuteronomy 30:6; Matthew 5:43-48; 22:37-40; Romans 12:9-21; 13:8-10; 1 Corinthians 13; Philippians 3:10-15; Hebrews 6:1; 1 John 4:17-18 "Heart purity": Matthew 5:8; Acts 15:8-9; 1 Peter 1:22; 1 John 3:3 "Baptism with the Holy Spirit": Jeremiah 31:31-34; Ezekiel 36:25-27; Malachi 3:2-3; Matthew 3:11-12; Luke 3:16-17; Acts 1:5; 2:1-4; 15:8-9 "Fullness of the blessing": Romans 15:29 "Christian holiness": Matthew 5:1--7:29; John 15:1-11; Romans 12:1--15:3; 2 Corinthians 7:1; Ephesians 4:17-5:20; Philippians 1:9-11; 3:12-15; Colossians 2:20--3:17; 1 Thessalonians 3:13; 4:7-8; 5:23; 2 Timothy 2:19-22; Hebrews 10:19-25; 12:14; 13:20-21; 1 Peter 1:15-16; 2 Peter 1:1-11; 3:18; Jude 20:21)

XI. The Church

15. We believe in the Church, the community that confesses Jesus Christ as Lord, the covenant people of God made new in Christ, the Body of Christ called together by the Holy Spirit through the Word. God calls the Church to express its life in the unity and fellowship of the Spirit; in worship through the preaching of the Word, observance of the sacraments, and ministry in His name; by obedience to Christ and mutual accountability.

The mission of the Church in the world is to continue the redemptive work of Christ in the power of the Spirit through holy living, evangelism, discipleship, and service.

The Church is a historical reality, which organizes itself in culturally conditioned forms; exists both as local congregations and as a universal body; sets apart persons called of God for specific ministries. God calls the Church to live under His rule in anticipation of the consummation at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

(Exodus 19:3; Jeremiah 31:33; Matthew 8:11; 10:7; 16:13-19, 24; 18:15-20; 28:19-20; John 17:14-26; 20:21-23; Acts 1:7-8; 2:32-47; 6:1-2; 13:1; 14:23; Romans 2:28-29; 4:16; 10:9-15; 11:13-32; 12:1-8; 15:1-3; 1 Corinthians 3:5-9; 7:17; 11:1, 17-33; 12:3, 12-31; 14:26-40; 2 Corinthians 5:11--6:1; Galatians 5:6, 13-14; 6:1-5, 15; Ephesians 4:1-17; 5:26-27; Philippians 2:1-16; 1 Thessalonians 4:1-12; 1 Timothy 4:13; Hebrews 10:19-25; 1 Peter 1:1-2, 13; 2:4-12, 21; 4:1-2, 10-11; 1 John 4:17; Jude 24; Revelation 5:9-10)

XII. Baptism

16. We believe that Christian baptism, commanded by our Lord, is a sacrament signifying acceptance of the benefits of the atonement of Jesus Christ, to be administered to believers and declarative of their faith in Jesus Christ as their Savior, and full purpose of obedience in holiness and righteousness.

Baptism being a symbol of the new covenant, young children may be baptized, upon request of parents or guardians who shall give assurance for them of necessary Christian training.

Baptism may be administered by sprinkling, pouring, or immersion, according to the choice of the applicant.

(Matthew 3:1-7; 28:16-20; Acts 2:37-41; 8:35-59; 10:44-48; 16:29-34; 19:1-6; Romans 6:3-4; Galatians 3:26-28; Colossians 2:12; 1 Peter 3:18-22)

XIII. The Lord's Supper

17. We believe that Memorial and Communion supper instituted by our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ is essentially a New Testament sacrament, declarative of His sacrificial death, through the merits of which believers have life and salvation and promise of all spiritual blessings in Christ. It is distinctively for those who are prepared for reverent appreciation of its significance, and by it they show forth the Lord's death till He come again. It being the Communion feast, only those who have faith in Christ and love for the saints should be called to participate therein.

(Exodus 12:1-14; Matthew 26:26-29; Mark 14:22-25; Luke 22:17-20; John 6:28-58; 1 Corinthians 10:14-21; 11:23-32)

XIV. Divine Healing

18. We believe in the Bible doctrine of divine healing and urge our people to seek to offer the prayer of faith for the healing of the sick. Providential means and agencies when deemed necessary should not be refused.

(2 Kings 5:1-19; Psalm 103:1-5; Matthew 4:23-24; 9:18-35; John 4:46-54; Acts 5:12-16; 9:32-42; 14:8-15; 1 Corinthians 12:4-11; 2 Corinthians 12:7-10; James 5:13-16)

XV. Second Coming of Christ

19. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ will come again; that we who are alive at His coming shall not precede them that are asleep in Christ Jesus; but that, if we are abiding in Him, we shall be caught up with the risen saints to meet the Lord in the air, so that we shall ever be with the Lord.

(Matthew 25:31-46; John 14:1-3; Acts 1:9-11; Philippians 3:20-21; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Titus 2:11-14; Hebrews 9:26-28; 2 Peter 3:3-15; Revelation 1:7-8; 22:7-20)

XVI. Resurrection, Judgment, and Destiny

20. We believe in the resurrection of the dead, that the bodies both of the just and of the unjust shall be raised to life and united with their spirits -- "they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation."

21. We believe in the future judgment in which every person shall appear before God to be judged according to his or her deeds in this life.

22. We believe that glorious and everlasting life is assured to all who savingly believe in, and obediently follow, Jesus Christ our Lord; and that the finally impenitent shall suffer eternally in hell.

(Genesis 18:25; 1 Samuel 2:10; Psalm 50:6; Isaiah 26:19; Daniel 12:2-3; Matthew 25:31-46; Mark 9:43-48; Luke 16:19-31; 20:27-38; John 3:16-18; 5:25-29; 11:21-27; Acts 17:30-31; Romans 2:1-16; 14:7-12; 1 Corinthians 15:12-58; 2 Corinthians 5:10; 2 Thessalonians 1:5-10; Revelation 10:11-15; 22:1-15)

Agreed Statement of Belief:

Recognizing that the right and privilege of persons to church membership rests upon the fact of their being regenerate, we would require only such avowals of belief as are essential to Christian experience. We, therefore, deem belief in the following brief statements to be sufficient. We believe:

In one God -- the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

That the Old and New Testament Scriptures, given by plenary inspiration, contain all truth necessary to faith and Christian living.

That man is born with a fallen nature, and is, therefore, inclined to evil, and that continually.

That the finally impenitent are hopelessly and eternally lost.

That the atonement through Jesus Christ is for the whole human race; and that whosoever repents and believes on the Lord Jesus Christ is justified and regenerated and saved from the dominion of sin.

That believers are to be sanctified wholly, subsequent to regeneration, through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

That the Holy Spirit bears witness to the new birth, and also to the entire sanctification of believers.

That our Lord will return, the dead will be raised, and the final judgment will take place.