

# Foundations 3

## Lesson 1 Love

*Psalm 86:15 But you, Lord, are a compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness.*

On the night that Jesus was taken away to be tortured and then die on the cross, one of Jesus' disciples wanted to fight. This disciple pulled out a sword and cut off the ear of one of the men who came to arrest Jesus. Jesus told him to put away his sword. Then Jesus told his disciples that He had the authority to call twelve legions of angels to come to his rescue.

A legion in the Bible is at least 6,000 troops. This means that Jesus could have called 72,000 angels to come and rescue Him. But Jesus did not want to be rescued. Jesus wanted to die on the cross to save us from sin, from death, and from hell. The cross was not an accident. He could have stopped the crucifixion at any time. But He didn't. Why? Because he loves us!

*Matthew 26:51-53 With that, one of Jesus' companions reached for his sword, drew it out and struck the servant of the high priest, cutting off his ear.*

*52 "Put your sword back in its place," Jesus said to him, "for all who draw the sword will die by the sword. 53 Do you think I cannot call on my Father, and he will at once put at my disposal more than twelve legions of angels?"*

To love is the greatest commandment. *Jesus replied: "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments (Matthew 22:36-40)."*

But it is very important to remember that we love God because He first loved us. God talks more about his love for us than he does about our love for Him and others.

In 1 John 4:19 the Bible tells us, *"We love him, because he first loved us."*

Yes, we must love God and others but God wants us to know that He loved us first. He wants us to know that all true believers are God's beloveds.

Colossians 3:12 *So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience;*

God has chosen us and we are his holy and beloved people.

### **A. How do we know that God loves us?**

We know that God loves us because he sent His Son into the world to die on a cross for our sins.

John 3:16 *For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.*

God demonstrated his love for us.

Romans 5:8 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

The greatest act of love is for someone to give his life for someone else!

*John 15:13 Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends`*

Jesus was tortured, he suffered, and then he died for our sins. He did this because He loves everyone in the world. If people believe in Him and what He has done for them by dying on the cross, they can have eternal life.

Paul the Apostle wrote, "The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me (Galatians 2:20b)."

It is a wonderful thing that God, who created everything, would care so much about us. It is such a powerful expression of love that he would give himself for us! We should praise Him every day for his great love and kindness towards us.

### **B. Nothing can separate us from this love!**

Romans 8:37-39 *No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

Demons cannot separate us from the love of God. All of life's situations cannot separate us from the love of God. Satan cannot separate us from the love of God. Nothing can separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

### **C. We did not earn this love. We receive the love of God by grace!**

Ephesians 2:4-5 *But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved.*

The word grace means to receive something that you did not earn. If you work and get a salary – that is not grace. If you receive a gift because you are loved that is grace.

Grace is the free gift of God.

Grace is God saving sinners who only deserved judgment.

Grace is God's love in action.

We don't deserve to be loved but God loves us anyway!

God is gracious. God wants to extend His grace to everyone.

1 Timothy 2:3-4 *This is good, and pleases God our Savior, <sup>4</sup> who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.*

### **D. Because God so loves us we should love Him and love others.**

1 John 4:9-11 *In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.*

First, God loved us. Because he loves us we should thank Him and love Him. God also says because he so loves us we ought to love one another.

We read in 1 John 4:19, "We love God because He first loved us."

Christianity is all about love. This love started with God. Nothing can separate us from it. We did not earn it but we can pass it on! Let us rejoice today that God loves us. Let us continue this love by loving Him and loving others.

## **Lesson 2: Joy**

We find in the Old Testament a story of two men, a priest named Ezra and a leader named Nehemiah. They both helped to rebuild Israel the country of Israel both physically and spiritually.

One day all the people met together in the town square. Ezra praised the Lord and all the people lifted their hands and responded, “Amen! Amen!” Then they bowed down and worshiped the Lord with their faces to the ground. Ezra and some of the other Levites read from the Word of God from six in the morning until twelve in the afternoon. They read the Word and then explained the meaning so everyone could understand as everyone carefully listened.

*<sup>9</sup> Then Nehemiah the governor, Ezra the priest and teacher of the Law, and the Levites who were instructing the people said to them all, “This day is holy to the Lord your God. Do not mourn or weep.” For all the people had been weeping as they listened to the words of the Law.*

*<sup>10</sup> Nehemiah said, “Go and enjoy choice food and sweet drinks, and send some to those who have nothing prepared. This day is holy to our Lord. Do not grieve, for the joy of the Lord is your strength (Nehemiah 8:9-10).”*

As the people heard the Word of God, they felt convicted. They felt bad because they had not been obeying the Word of God. All those in the city square began to weep and mourn but they were told to stop. Nehemiah, Ezra, and the Levites told them that this day is holy. This is a time to celebrate. They also explained that the **joy of the Lord was their strength.**

We learn from this story that there is strength in joy. It pleases God when we are filled with joy and it is also a source of strength. If we want to be strong Christians, we need to be filled with joy! God wants us to live in joy! In fact, God commands us to rejoice in the Lord.

Philippians 4:4, *“Rejoice in the Lord always and again I say rejoice.”*

In this verse we learn that God wants us to rejoice all the time. In every circumstance, God wants us to have joy. *Rejoice in the Lord **always!*** That means that we need to rejoice when things are going good and when things are going bad.

The Bible even tells us to rejoice when we experience difficulties.

James 1:2-3 *Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters whenever you face trials of many kinds, <sup>3</sup> because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance.*

We can rejoice because God has given us eternal life. One day all believers are going to be with God in Paradise forever. God has forgiven our sins. He will give us victory over death. God has saved us from hell! Therefore, we can rejoice even when we face trials of many kinds. God also promised that trials are going to produce perseverance in our lives.

In Romans 8 we learn that all things that happen to us happen for our good.

*Romans 8:28 And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.*

When we have joy we are filled with strength and encouragement. When we live in joy we can be a strong witness to the world.

How do we receive joy from the Lord?

*Galatians 5:22-23 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup> gentleness and self-control.*

We receive joy as a fruit of the Holy Spirit. When we walk in the Spirit God gives us supernatural joy.

*Galatians 5:16 So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.*

How do we walk in the Spirit? 1. As we saw in the lesson “Walking in the Spirit: we need to pray. 2. We need to read the Bible or meditating on it. 3. When we praise God or thank God for who He is or what He has done, we are walking in the Spirit. 4. When we repent and obey God, we are walking in the Spirit. 5. When we have spiritual fellowship with other believers, we are walking in the Spirit. 6. When we evangelize others, we are walking in the Spirit. 7. When we love our neighbor, we are walking in the Spirit. All of these are ways in which we keep in step with the Spirit. 8. We need to agree with the Holy Spirit. In Amos we read, “How can two walk together unless they agree?” We have to follow, obey, and have the same mind as the Holy Spirit. 9. There is also a supernatural union we have with God as we live and abide in him. We need to walk in an awareness of his presence. By faith we take each step with him.

These are all ways we can be filled with the fruit of the Holy Spirit. When we do these things God will fill us with His love, joy, and peace. We will also receive forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

Let us look closer at these seven spiritual disciplines.

## **A. Prayer**

1. Prayer. Joy and prayer go together. When we talk to God, He not only answers our prayers but we experience His presence and power.

*1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 Rejoice always, <sup>17</sup> pray continually, <sup>18</sup> give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.*

If we pray continually we are able to rejoice continually! Notice how joy, prayer, and thanksgiving go together.

## **B. Meditate**

2. Read and meditate on the Bible. The word of God is a source of joy to our souls.

The Scriptures are full of reasons why we should rejoice. God has saved us from sin, from death, and from hell. We will be in paradise with God forever. When we meditate on these things God will fill us with joy!

*Ephesians 2:4-5 But God had so much loving-kindness. He loved us with such a great love. <sup>5</sup> Even when we were dead because of our sins, He made us alive by what Christ did for us. You have been saved from the punishment of sin by His loving-favor. God raised us up from death when He raised up Christ Jesus. He has given us a place with Christ in the heavens.*

Rejoice!

## **C. Praise and Thanksgiving**

3. Praise the Lord and give thanks. Notice again how giving thanks and joy go together.

*1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 Rejoice always, <sup>17</sup> pray continually, <sup>18</sup> give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.*

When we draw near to God, He draws near to us.

*James 4:8 **Draw near to God and He will draw near to you.***

When we talk to God, give thanks, and meditate on His Word, we draw close to Him. This is how we enter into His presence.

Psalm 16:11 *"In His presence, there is fullness of joy."*

#### ***D. Repent, Obey, and then Rejoice***

4. When we repent and obey God we experience joy.

When King David sinned against God by killing Uriah and having sex with Bathsheba, he repented and prayed that God would restore his joy.

David prayers, *Psalm 51:12* “Restore to me the joy of your salvation.”

Sin robs us of joy, but repentance and obedience give us joy.”

*Psalm 119:111-112* I have been given Your Law forever. It is the joy of my heart. <sup>112</sup> I have set my heart on obeying Your Law forever, even to the end.

God has given us His Word. In the Old Testament it is called “*the Law of God*”. His Law can be the joy of our hearts. Let us set our hearts on obeying it.

#### **E. Spiritual Fellowship**

5. When we encourage one another with spiritual fellowship, we experience joy. King David wrote that the holy people of God were His delight.

*Hebrews 10:24-25* And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, <sup>25</sup> not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

*Psalm 16:3* I say of the holy people who are in the land, “They are the noble ones in whom is all my delight.”

#### **F. Evangelism**

6. There is joy in evangelism.

Paul the Apostle found great joy whenever he could be with those He was able to lead to the Lord.

*Philippians 4:1* Therefore, my brothers and sisters, you whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, dear friends!

The people Paul led to the Lord were his love and his joy.

Even the angels of heaven rejoice when one sinner repents and believes.

*Luke 15:7 I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need repent.*

### **G. Love our Neighbor**

7. There is joy when we love our neighbor.

Jesus gave his life as a sacrifice for everyone in the world. He was tortured and then he died on the cross. The Bible says for the JOY set before him he endured the cross. The joy was going back to heaven knowing he had provided salvation to the world. Salvation is available to everyone because of the cross. Even though He suffered and died, it brought Him great joy to make a way for salvation to all people.

*Hebrews 12:2 ...**For the joy set before him** he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.*

As we pray, read the Bible, give thanks, praise the Lord, repent, obey, evangelize, and love others, we are filled with the Holy Spirit and filled with joy!

The Bible says this joy is our strength!

Remember the Kingdom of God is all about joy, righteousness, and peace.

*Romans 14:17 For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.*

Let us walk in the Spirit and experience the Lord's joy in our lives.

8. We need to agree with the Holy Spirit. We read in Amos 3:3 "*Can two walk together, unless they are agreed?*" Part of walking together in unity is agreement. When you walk with someone you have to agree on two things, where you are going and how you are going to get there. We walk in the Spirit when we do things the Holy Spirit wants us to do and we take the path he wants us to take. For example, if the Holy Spirit says to love your neighbor as yourself and you decide to hate your neighbor then you are not walking in the Spirit. You have picked a different path than the one given to you by the Holy Spirit.

We find the path to walk that the Holy Spirit wants us to follow in the Bible. We read in Psalm 119:105 Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path.



We also find the path that the Holy Spirit wants us to walk when we pray and are sensitive to his guidance.

It is good to pray, “God I want to cooperate with all that you want for my life, help me to depend upon you and your power, and help me to yield to your Spirit. Amen”

9. We must mentally be aware of the fact that we live in fellowship with the Holy Spirit.

Read carefully these words, “May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen (2 Corinthians 13:14).”

This is the Apostle Paul’s prayer for all believers, that they would experience fellowship with the Holy Spirit. Everyone who is a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ has a life in the Spirit. We are the temple of the Holy Spirit. That means that we are now united with him. It is important to live in the awareness that God is with you and his power is available moment by moment to help you walk with him.

We need to have an experiential relationship with the Holy Spirit. By faith we have an awareness and experience of his presence in our lives. It is a reality beyond a knowledge of who God is or what he has done for us. We have an intimate relationship with God and he is intimately involved in our lives. By faith we need to walk in this awareness.

## **Lesson 3: Peace**

*Colossians 3:15 Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful.*

### **A. The Peace of God is Beyond Understanding**

Jesus wants to give us a supernatural peace. Notice that we can let the peace of Christ rule in our hearts. The world does not have this kind of peace. You cannot have this kind of peace if you are not a Christian.

Jesus said to His disciples in John 14:27, *“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.”*

Jesus travelled with his disciples for three years. They had heard His teachings and seen all the miracles He had done. In John chapter 14 Jesus tells His disciples that He is going to give them peace. Not peace like the world gives, but a more powerful peace. Jesus was about to be arrested and crucified. The disciples would be worried and anxious. Before this happens, Jesus tells them, *“Peace I live with you; my peace I give.”* He tells them, *“Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.”*

Life can be difficult. God does not promise to rescue us from difficulties; rather He tells us that He will give us peace in the middle of troubles.

When there was a giant storm on the Sea of Galilee, all of Jesus’ disciples were afraid. They all thought they were going to die in the storm. They woke up Jesus and said, “Lord save us, we are going to drown!” Jesus said to them, “Oh you of little faith” and then He calmed the storm. It is important to see that Jesus was going through the same storm as the disciples. Jesus had peace. Jesus had so much peace that he could sleep through the storm.

*Matthew 8:24 Suddenly a furious storm came up on the lake, so that the waves swept over the boat. But Jesus was sleeping. 25 The disciples went and woke him, saying, “Lord, save us! We’re going to drown!” 26 He replied, “You of little faith, why are you so afraid?” Then he got up and rebuked the winds and the waves, and it was completely calm.*

*Psalms 29:11 The LORD gives strength to his people; the LORD blesses his people with peace.*

No matter what difficulties we may experience, the Lord gives us both strength and peace.

In the last lesson we learned that joy comes from the Holy Spirit. The Bible also says that peace comes from the Holy Spirit.

*Galatians 5:22,23 says, “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.”*

When we have a close and strong relationship with God, The Lord fills us with the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit then blesses us with love, joy, peace, and all the fruits of the Spirit. Let us look at six things we can do to have a stronger relationship with God and have more of God’s peace.

## **B. We have peace with God**

It is so important that by faith we accept the fact that we are completely forgiven! The more think about God's love and forgiveness the more peace we experience! Whenever we think about our past we must remember that every mistake or sin is completely forgiven!

Through His death Jesus has brought us peace. We have peace with God and we have an inner supernatural peace that only God can give.

Isaiah 53:5 But he was pierced for our transgressions,  
he was crushed for our iniquities;  
the punishment that brought us peace was on him,  
and by his wounds we are healed.

## **C. Prayer and peace go together.**

*Philippians 4:6 says, "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."*

Anxiety is the opposite of peace. God does not want us to be anxious. When we pray with thanksgiving and give all of our requests to God, He gives us a supernatural peace!

## **D. Reading and thinking about the Word of God also give us peace.**

*Psalms 119:165, "Great peace have those who love your Word, and nothing can make them stumble."*

*Philippians 4:8-9 "Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you."*

*Romans 8:6 The mind governed by the flesh is death, but the mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace.*

*Repentance and peace go together*

The Bible is very clear that we need to stop sinning if we want to have peace. Isaiah 28:22 "There is no peace," says the LORD, "for the wicked." God wants to bless us and give us good things but when we don't listen to God and do wicked things, we cannot receive his blessings.

#### **F. Peace and thankfulness also go together.**

*Philippians 4:6, "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, **with thanksgiving**, present your requests to God. 7 And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.* We are told in *Colossians 3:15 Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful.* When we say, "Thank you" to God we draw close to Him. We have fellowship with Him. We acknowledge that all good things come from Him and we have the correct attitude towards God. Whenever we draw close to God we can experience His presence. The Bible says, *James 4:8 "Draw near to God and He will draw near to you."* In John 15:5 we learn that anyone who abides in Jesus Christ bears much fruit. *John 15:5 "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing."* Being thankful is one way we draw near to God and abide in Him.

#### **G. We receive peace when we think about the good things God has for us!**

*John 14:1-2 "Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe in Me as well. My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you?"* Notice that God encourages us to not be troubled. Why? Because God has a place prepared for us in heaven. We will not always be in this world. We will one day be in heaven for all of eternity.

In Psalm 85:8 we are told, *"I will listen to what God the LORD says; he promises peace to his people, his faithful servants— but let them not turn to folly."*

God promises us peace. All we must do is listen to Him and walk in His ways. When we are His faithful servants and do not turn to the foolish things of this world, we will receive this peace.

## **Lesson 4 Forgiveness**

God commands us to forgive others! If God can forgive us of all the awful things we've done, then we can obey Him and forgive others.

In this life it is hard to have peace if you have anger and bitterness towards others. Forgiving others helps us to grow in the Lord and become more mature!

If we have bitterness or anger towards others, we should confess this sin and God will purify us! 1 John 1:9 says, *If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.*”

In the Gospel of Matthew the Apostle Peter asked Jesus a question about forgiveness.

**Matthew 18:21** *Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, “Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?”*

Perhaps Peter thought, “Seven times is a lot. Jesus will think I am very forgiving!”

But Jesus does not want us to forgive someone who sins against us seven times.

Jesus wants us to continue to forgive!

**Matthew 18:22** Jesus answered, “I tell you, not seven times, but seventy times seven.

Seven times seventy is four hundred and ninety.

What Jesus is saying is that we have to always forgive!

People will do mean things.

People will say mean things.

We must forgive them. We must be nice to them. We must respect them.

We have sinned against God and God has forgiven us! God has forgiven us more than four hundred and ninety times!

Because of Jesus’ death on the cross, God has forgiven all of our sins. Jesus is perfect and because He offered himself to be a sacrifice for our sins by dying on the cross, He is able to take the punishment for our sins and bring us back to a right relationship with Holy God. All we must do is repent of our sins and believe in what Jesus has done for us. Everyone who believes in Jesus can have all of their sins absolved. The Bible says that God has removed our sins as far as the east is from the west.

*Psalms 103:12 He has removed our sins as far from us as the east is from the west.*

We are supposed to live like Jesus! *1 John 2:9 Whoever says he abides in him [Jesus] ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.*

Jesus provided forgiveness for everyone, so we should be forgiving as well!

We are to love everyone – even our enemies. Jesus said in *Luke 6:27, “I say, love your enemies! Do good to those who hate you.”*

We need to be nice to everyone! We need to show respect to everyone, even our enemies. We cannot be mean to anyone, even if they have offended us.

Jesus told a story about a man who would not forgive others in Matthew 18,

*23 “Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. 24 As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand bags of gold was brought to him. 25 Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt.*

In that day, if a man borrowed money and could not return it, the man could be put in prison and his wife and children were made slaves until the money was returned.

It was very dangerous to borrow money.

In this story the man owed ten thousand bags of gold.

This is an amount equal to millions and millions of metical.

It would be impossible for someone to return this much money.

This story is given to help us understand forgiveness.

This man had a debt he could never pay.

His wife and kids would be slaves forever.

He would go to jail forever.

**Matthew 18:26** “At this the servant fell on his knees before him. ‘Be patient with me,’ he begged, ‘and I will pay back everything.’ **27** The servant’s master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go.

He canceled the debt.

He did not have to pay back anything!

He was free!

He was forgiven!

He should have rejoiced.

He should have been very thankful.

**Matthew 18:28** “But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred silver coins.

One hundred silver coins is a lot, but not impossible to pay back. One good harvest and he could pay back the silver.

Matthew 18:28b He grabbed him and began to choke him. ‘Pay back what you owe me!’ he demanded. **29** ‘His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, ‘Be patient with me, and I will pay it back.’ **30** ‘But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt.

He was forgiven a debt he could not pay.

His fellow servant only owed a little bit.

His fellow servant begged for forgiveness.

But he would not forgive him.

He would not show him mercy.

He had his fellow servant thrown in jail until all the money was paid back.

**This is terrible.**

He was forgiven

But he would not forgive his fellow servant.

Matthew 18:**31** When the other servants saw what had happened, they were outraged and went and told their master everything that had happened. **32** “Then the master called the servant in. ‘You wicked servant,’ he said, ‘I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. **33** Shouldn’t you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?’

This is what God wants to say to us!

God has forgiven us more than four hundred and ninety times.

God has forgiven us a debt we could never pay.

We would have to spend eternity in hell paying for our sins.

But God forgave us!

Now we must forgive our fellow servants.

We must forgive everyone.

The Bible says that we should forgive the way God has forgiven us.

*Ephesians 4:32 Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.*

God also says, If we will not forgive others He will not forgive us.

*Matthew 6:14 For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. 15 But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.*

When the master heard that the man he forgave would not forgive others, he was very angry.

*Matthew 18:34 In anger his master handed him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed. 35 "This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart."*

It is so important that we forgive people. That means that we still love people who do mean things to us. We are still kind to people who insult us. We still show respect to those who gossip about us.

Is there anyone you are angry with?

Is there someone that you treat badly? God says you have to forgive them!

God says you have to love them. Love everyone.

Even if they offend you seven times seventy times!

Continue to love and continue to forgive and you will be like your Father in Heaven.

Side note: Obeying God's command to love and forgive does not mean you must allow others to abuse you. If you are in an abusive situation, seek godly counsel and report it to the police. You can love and forgive someone and also seek justice at the same time.



## Lesson 5: Grace Part 2

Jesus told the story of a young man who turned away from the Father and lived a very sinful life. In this story God is the Father and we are all like the son. The story is found in *Luke 15:11-32*.

*11 Jesus continued: "There was a man who had two sons. 12 The younger one said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of the estate.' So he divided his property between them.*

*13 "Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. 14 After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. 15 So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. 16 He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything.*

*17 "When he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! 18 I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. 19 I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.' 20 So he got up and went to his father.*

*"But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.*

*21 "The son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.'*

*22 "But the father said to his servants, 'Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. 23 Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. 24 For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' So they began to celebrate.*

*25 "Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. 26 So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on. 27 'Your brother has come,' he replied, 'and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.'*

*28 “The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him. 29 But he answered his father, ‘Look! All these years I’ve been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. 30 But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!’*

*31 “‘My son,’ the father said, ‘you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. 32 But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’”*

The son did not deserve a party.

The son did not deserve new clothes.

The son did not deserve the love and compassion of the Father.

But the Father loved him and blessed him. The Father wrapped His arms around the son and loved him.

This is grace.

Grace is not deserved. You do not work for grace.

If you turn away from the evil things of this world and turn to God, He will receive you and bless you!

The word grace means to receive something without working for it or deserving it.

Grace is unmerited favor.

*Romans 3:23-24 tells us, “for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.”*

We have all sinned. No one is worthy of being forgiven and entering God’s presence in heaven. But God has freely forgiven us. This forgiveness is given to us through believing in His Son.

We are justified freely by grace.

This is wonderful news! We are all sinners. No one lives a perfect life. No one deserves God's forgiveness. Yet God opens up his arms and is ready to receive us the way a loving father receives his or her child.

God tells us that we are saved by grace and not by the things we do.

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

No one can boast that he or she has earned salvation. We can only say, "Thank you, God"!

The Bible tells us that both grace and peace are ours in abundance through our knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.

*2 Peter 1:2, "Grace and peace be yours in abundance through the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord."*

Because we are His children and because we have received this grace, we can boldly enter His presence and pray.

*Hebrews 4:16, "Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need."*

By grace, God is willing to help us and bless us. One day we will enter heaven and we will be able to enter His presence because of grace.

The grace of God has come to this earth in the person of the Lord Jesus Christ. God became man to live a sinless life and then die on a cross to offer salvation to all people. This is grace.

*Titus 2:11, "For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people."*

Christians are NOT people who follow rules, like "do this and don't do that," in order to be saved. No rules or laws can save us. We are saved by grace.

Romans 11:6. "And if by grace, then it cannot be based on works; if it were, grace would no longer be grace."

Acts 15:11, “No! We believe it is through the grace of our Lord Jesus that we are saved, just as they are.”

We should all thank God for the grace that He has given us.

God’s grace has given us the forgiveness of sin and God’s grace empowers us to live for him.

By grace we have received the Holy Spirit.

By grace we have received spiritual gifts.

By grace we have become His children.

Grace is a wonderful thing.

Grace is priceless.

Grace is ours when we receive Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior!

## **Lesson 6: What Happens After We Die?**

We all know what happens to our physical body once we die. Our bodies are taken to the cemetery and buried. No one has a body that will last forever. Some die young from a disease or an accident. Some live until they are old. The physical body is temporary but God tells us that our souls are eternal. Everyone’s soul lives forever. Some go to be with God in heaven and everyone else goes to a place that God calls “hell.”

The minute someone dies their spirit leaves their body.

Jesus told a story of a rich man and a poor man. The rich man had everything he ever wanted. He had a big house, servants, and the best food. The poor man, Lazarus, had nothing. He was a beggar. He sat at the outside gate of the rich man’s house. He would beg for food or money to buy food. He wanted to eat the leftovers from the rich man’s table.

He would have been happy to eat the food that the rich man threw away.

This story is in Luke 16:19-31, *“There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and lived in luxury every day. <sup>20</sup> At his gate was laid a beggar named Lazarus, covered with sores <sup>21</sup> and longing to eat what fell from the rich man’s table. Even the dogs came and licked his sores.”*

*<sup>22</sup> “The time came when the beggar died and the angels carried him to Abraham’s side. The rich man also died and was buried. <sup>23</sup> In Hades, where he was in torment, he looked up and saw Abraham far away, with Lazarus by his side. <sup>24</sup> So he called to him, ‘Father Abraham, have pity on me and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, because I am in agony in this fire.’*

*<sup>25</sup> “But Abraham replied, ‘Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, while Lazarus received bad things, but now he is comforted here and you are in agony. <sup>26</sup> And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been set in place, so that those who want to go from here to you cannot, nor can anyone cross over from there to us.’*

*<sup>27</sup> “He answered, ‘Then I beg you, father, send Lazarus to my family, <sup>28</sup> for I have five brothers. Let him warn them, so that they will not also come to this place of torment.’*

*<sup>29</sup> “Abraham replied, ‘They have Moses and the Prophets; let them listen to them.’*

*<sup>30</sup> “‘No, father Abraham,’ he said, ‘but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.’*

*<sup>31</sup> “He said to him, ‘If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.’”*

In this story, would you rather be the rich man or Lazarus?

Some might want to be the rich man. He had good things in this life but suffered eternal punishment.

It would be better to be Lazarus! He is going to enjoy eternal life with God in heaven!

He will never go hungry again. He is never going to have another sore or sickness. He will never be cold again!

When the rich man was alive, everyone envied him. Everyone wanted to have his house; they wanted to have his type of clothes and food.

But the rich man was not rich towards God. He did not think of God. He did not live by faith. In the end he was in torment and thirsty. He wanted Lazarus to wet his finger to relieve his thirst.

Being rich or poor is not what is important. What is important is if we are going to heaven or hell. Jesus said in *Mark 8:36*, “*What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul?*”

In this story we see what happens to a man’s soul immediately after he dies.

Angels came and took Lazarus to paradise to be with Abraham.

The rich man was taken directly to eternal punishment!

This is what happens to everyone. Their soul is taken away from this earth. The righteous will receive eternal life and those who do not believe in God will be taken to torment.

Paul the Apostle talked about his desire to depart and be with God. He said that this would be much better for him. Paul knew that he would go directly to heaven.

*Philippians 1:23-24*, “*I am torn between the two: I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far; <sup>24</sup> but it is more necessary for you that I remain in the body.*”

Paul was ready to go and be with Jesus.

He also knew it would be better for the church if he stayed and continued his ministry. The Bible says he was torn between the two.

Once someone dies, they do not stay here on earth. That is a false belief taught by those who do not understand the Bible.

We read in *2 Corinthians 5:6-8*, “*Therefore we are always confident and know that as long as we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord. <sup>7</sup> For we live by faith, not by sight. <sup>8</sup> We are confident, I say, and would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord.*”

Again, the Bible says that when we leave this body we are at home with the Lord.

Again Paul the Apostle says, "I would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord!"

This is what happens after you die. You go to be with Jesus or to a place of eternal punishment. There is no waiting. No one wanders around the earth.

If you have faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, you go to be with Jesus and this is far better than anything else.

No one can do anything to help you receive salvation. Salvation is a free gift from God! You receive salvation through faith in Jesus Christ. Each individual has to have faith in the Lord Jesus Christ before they die to go to heaven. There is no purgatory. Praying for someone after they die will not better their chances of getting into heaven at a later time. This is a false teaching that is not in the Bible.

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

*Romans 6:23 "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."*

*Revelation 21:4, "He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away."*

Those who have received the gift of eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord will enter paradise. There will be no more mourning or pain. All of the old things will pass away.

### **Final Notes**

1. Demons can perform false miracles and impersonate dead relatives.

*2 Thessalonians 2:9-10, "The coming of the lawless one will be in accordance with how Satan works. He will use all sorts of displays of power through signs and wonders that serve the lie,<sup>10</sup> and all the ways that wickedness deceives those who are perishing. They perish because they refused to love the truth and so be saved."*

*Galatians 1:8, "But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, let them be under God's curse!"*

Satan and his demons are very deceptive. They can appear as good angels or as dead relatives in order to mislead people. Do not believe them. Believe only the Word of God! When people die, they go to heaven or hell. No human being stays here on earth. Also, there are false miracles performed by demonic powers. Do not follow them. We must only follow what God has written for us in the Bible.

2. Once anyone dies he or she is judged. If a person knows Jesus, they will go to heaven. If they do not know Jesus, they will not go to heaven. Only Jesus saves.

*Hebrews 9:27, "people are destined to die once, and after that to face judgment,"*

*2 Thessalonians 1:8, "He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus."*

*Romans 10:13 for, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."*

3. Though we should speak well of anyone who has died, we should not show anyone who dies special adoration. The only one who we adore is God!

*1 Chronicles 29:11-14 Yours, Lord, is the greatness and the power  
and the glory and the majesty and the splendor,  
for everything in heaven and earth is yours.*

*Yours, Lord, is the kingdom;  
you are exalted as head over all.*

*12 Wealth and honor come from you;  
you are the ruler of all things.*

*In your hands are strength and power  
to exalt and give strength to all.*

*13 Now, our God, we give you thanks,  
and praise your glorious name.*

*14 "But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to give as  
generously as this? Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what  
comes from your hand."*

The Bible is clear that God is the one we are to adore.



## Lesson 7: There really is a Hell

In the last lesson we learned that we should all be thankful because Jesus came to earth to save us from sin, death, and hell! Now that we have been saved from sin, through the death of Jesus on the cross, we can go to heaven to be with God forever!

If Jesus did not die for our sins, we would not be able to go to heaven.

God is holy and heaven is a holy place. If our sins are not forgiven, we cannot go there. Sin cannot enter heaven. All those who do not believe go to a place the Bible calls hell.

Because God loves us, He made it possible for us to be saved from hell and go to heaven. However, only those who believe in Jesus will be saved. Jesus said only a small amount of people would go to heaven, while all the other ones would not.

*Matthew 7:13-14 "Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. <sup>14</sup> But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it."*

Jesus told us that most of the people in the world are on, "the road that leads to destruction."

There are many verses in the Bible that tell us about hell.

The word hell means a place of eternal punishment.

God uses very strong language to describe hell as the worst possible place we can imagine. Hell is described as outer darkness, with weeping and gnashing of teeth, unquenchable fire, and eternal torment. These strong words communicate clearly that unbelievers should repent and believe in Jesus before it is too late.

*Matthew 25:30, "...and throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."*

*Matthew 3:12, "His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor, gathering his wheat into the barn and burning up the chaff with unquenchable fire."*

*Matthew 25:41, “Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.’”*

*Mark 9:48 ‘the worms that eat them do not die, and the fire is not quenched.’*

Jesus wants to forgive all sinners. He calls everyone to repent and believe in Him.

He has told us as a church to preach the gospel to the whole world. As we understand that there is a literal hell, we should be motivated to tell others about Jesus.

*Matthew 28:18-20, “Then Jesus came to them and said, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup> Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.’”*

In Revelations 21:8 we read, *“But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars—they will be consigned to the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death.”*

These warnings need to be taken seriously by everyone. There are many who still practice the magic arts and think they are Christians.

Those who continually lie and do not repent, their place is the lake of fire.

Those who are continually involved in sexual immorality and do not repent, their place is the lake of fire.

It is important that we warn our friends and neighbors. Today is the day to repent and believe in Jesus!

In Matthew chapter 25 we are told that one day in the future Jesus will separate all the people on the earth into two groups.

*Matthew 25:31-32, "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne. <sup>32</sup> All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats."*

The group on the right will receive eternal life and go into heaven. The group on the left will go away to eternal punishment.

*Matthew 25:46, "Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life."*

We need to believe in Jesus.

We must know the truth.

We must not be deceived.

Throughout the history of the church, Satan has deceived people. Satan wants them to believe that they can continue in sin, not repent, and still go to heaven. This is not true.

No one can continue in sexual immorality and be a Christian.

No one can continue to get drunk and be a Christian.

*We read in 1 Corinthians 6:9-10, "Do you not know that wrongdoers will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor men who have sex with men, nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God."*

Adulterers will not enter the kingdom of heaven. An adulterer is someone who has sex with someone other than his wife.

Swindlers are those who cheat people out of their money.

We must not continue to commit any of these sins found in 1 Corinthians 6:9-10. If we are involved with any of these sins, we must repent.

God says, "Do not be deceived." If God said, "Do not be deceived," then he knows that this is something that is going to tempt people. People who do not repent and continue to do these things are deceived. They are not Christians and will not go to heaven.

It is important that all pastors teach the Word of God. We do not want anyone in our churches to be deceived.

Heaven is real and hell is real. We want to tell everyone how they can spend eternity in paradise with God.

There is a final judgment day approaching. We need to be ready.

Hebrews 9:27, "People are destined to die once, and after that to face judgment..."

Jesus said in *Mark 1:15*, "The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!"

Those who do not hear and believe are punished with everlasting destruction.

*2 Thessalonians 1:9*, They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might.

Jesus also said those who have the Son have life and those who do not have the Son do not have life.

*1 John 5:12*, "Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life."

Hell is described as a horrible place that no one would want to go to.

Read carefully God's description of heaven.

*Revelation 21:1-4* Then I saw "a new heaven and a new earth," for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. <sup>2</sup> I saw the Holy City, the New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. <sup>3</sup> And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. <sup>4</sup> 'He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death' or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away."

Heaven is a wonderful place. By believing in Jesus, no one needs to go to hell. We all have the opportunity to repent, receive God's forgiveness, and go to heaven where there is no more death, mourning, crying, or pain.

## **Lesson 8: There really is a Heaven**

We can all be thankful because Jesus came to earth to save us from sin, death, and hell! Now that we have been saved from sin, through the death of Jesus on the cross, we can go to heaven to be with God forever!

When Jesus was here on earth, He said that he was going back to heaven and there he was going to prepare a place of all of his people.

*John 14:2-3, "My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? <sup>3</sup> And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am."*

This is wonderful and something we should all think about! Jesus is coming back. When Jesus comes back, He is going to take all of those who believe back with Him to heaven.

God calls heaven paradise.

When Jesus was dying on the cross Jesus told the man next to him, "Today you will be with me in paradise."

Luke 23:39-43

*<sup>39</sup> One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him: "Aren't you the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" But the other criminal rebuked him. "Don't you fear God," he said, "since you are under the same sentence? We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong."*

*Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom."*

*Jesus answered him, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise."*

Paradise is a glorious place!

*Psalm 73:24-25 "You guide me with your counsel, and afterward you will take me into glory. Whom have I in heaven but you? And earth has nothing I desire besides you."*

Though the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross, everyone who believes receives eternal life.

Eternal life is not just life without end. Eternal life is living forever in glory, enjoying paradise with God, being with Jesus, and enjoying his blessings.

*1 Thessalonians 4:16-17, "For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever."*

*John 3:16, "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."*

When we believe in Jesus, the Bible tells us that we receive eternal life and also that our names are written in the book of life.

*Revelation 13:8, "All who dwell on the earth will worship him, everyone whose name has not been written from the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who has been slain."*

Jesus says that we should rejoice that our names are written in the book of life!

Luke 10:20 "Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are recorded in heaven."

We receive eternal life and our names are written in the book of life when we receive Jesus. He is called the free gift of God!

*Romans 6:23, "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."*

Eternal life in heaven is available to everyone!

*Romans 10:13 “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”*

The Bible tells us that today we are citizens of heaven! We don't have to wait until we die!

*Philippians 3:20, “But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ.”*

This world is not our true home. Our true home is in heaven! Jesus says we should not store up treasures here on earth but store up treasures in heaven.

*Matthew 6:19-20, “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. <sup>20</sup> But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal.”*

Heaven is a real place and God wants everyone to go there.

*1 Timothy 2:3-4, “This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.”*

When a believer dies, he or she goes straight to heaven.  
When a non-believer dies he or she goes directly to hell.

In Matthew 25:46 Jesus says there are only two types of people, those who go away to eternal punishment, and the righteous who go to eternal life.

*Matthew 25:46, “Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.”*

There is no second chance to receive salvation.

The Bible says, “Today is the day of salvation.”

*2 Corinthians 6:2, “In the time of my favor I heard you, and in the day of salvation I helped you.” I tell you, now is the time of God's favor, now is the day of salvation.”*

This is why it is so important for Christians to proclaim salvation in Jesus' name. We need to tell everyone the good news of Jesus Christ.

The Bible tells us in Mark 1:15, "The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!"

Those who hear and don't believe are punished with everlasting destruction.

*2 Thessalonians 1:9, "They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might."*

Jesus also said those who have the Son have life and those who do not have the Son do not have life.

*1 John 5:12, "Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life."*

What do we learn in this lesson?

1. Jesus has gone into heaven to prepare a place for all those who believe and one day He is coming back to take us there.
2. God wants everyone to be saved and to go to heaven, but they must first believe.
3. Jesus calls heaven paradise.
4. Today we are citizens of heaven.
5. Today, we should store up our treasures in heaven.
6. We should tell everyone about the good new of Jesus Christ!

## **Lesson 9: Resist the Devil part 1**

We must learn to resist the devil like Jesus did. While Jesus was on earth, Satan came and tempted Him. Jesus was fasting for forty days. When Jesus was hungry, Satan came to him and said, in *Matthew 4:2*, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread."



*<sup>4</sup> Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.’<sup>[b]</sup>”*

*<sup>5</sup> Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. <sup>6</sup> “If you are the Son of God,” he said, “throw yourself down. For it is written:*

*“‘He will command his angels concerning you,  
and they will lift you up in their hands,  
so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.’<sup>[c]</sup>”*

*<sup>7</sup> Jesus answered him, “It is also written: ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’<sup>[d]</sup>”*

*<sup>8</sup> Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. <sup>9</sup> “All this I will give you,” he said, “if you will bow down and worship me.”*

*<sup>10</sup> Jesus said to him, “Away from me, Satan! For it is written: ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.’<sup>[e]</sup>”*

Satan tempted Jesus, but Jesus did not fall into his temptations. He resisted the Devil with every temptation Jesus quoted from the Bible.

Satan and all his demons want to destroy Christians. Like Jesus, every Christian needs to stand against the lies and temptations of Satan.

In the beginning, Adam and Eve sinned by eating from the forbidden tree in the Garden of Eden. Satan came and tempted Eve. Through this temptation Adam and Eve sinned. This is how sin entered the world.

Jesus came to destroy the work of the Devil.

*1 John 3:8, “The one who does what is sinful is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil’s work.”*

Through his temptation the Devil brought sin into the world.

The Devil brought death into the world.

The Devil’s actions caused God to create a place for Satan, called hell.

Jesus destroyed the work of the Devil. Jesus destroyed the power of death, the power of sin, and the power of hell.

Through Jesus we are forgiven of our sins, saved from hell, and given eternal life with the Father in heaven.

*Hebrews 2:14-15, "Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might break the power of him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil—<sup>15</sup> and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death."*

*Romans 6:23, "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in<sup>[a]</sup> Christ Jesus our Lord."*

*John 14:6 Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."*

We become a Christian by,

1. Repenting of our sins
2. Having faith (believing) that Jesus suffered and died on the cross for our sins
3. Believing that Jesus rose again on the third day

Everyone who is saved receives the Holy Spirit.

*1 Corinthians 6:19, "Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own."*

The Holy Spirit is God.

The Holy Spirit is all-powerful.

The Holy Spirit is more powerful than Satan and all his demons.

At the end of the age, Satan and all the fallen angels will proclaim that Jesus is Lord before being cast into the lake of fire.

*Philippians 2:9-10, "Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth."*

*Revelation 20:10, "And the devil, who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of burning sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown. They will be tormented day and night for ever and ever."*

God lives in you.

God is greater than every demonic being in the world.

Talking about the evil spirits in this world, the Apostle John wrote, in *1 John 4:4*, "You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world."

We are forgiven.

We have passed from death onto life.

We have been given the Holy Spirit.

And we have become a part of the kingdom of God!

*Colossians 1:13, "For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves."*

Jesus rescued us from the domain of darkness by dying on the cross for our sins!

We do not have to fear Satan! God has given us victory over him. This victory is through the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ.

*Revelation 12:10-11 Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say:*

*"Now have come the salvation and the power  
and the kingdom of our God,  
and the authority of his Messiah.*

*For the accuser of our brothers and sisters,  
who accuses them before our God day and night,  
has been hurled down.*

*11 They triumphed over him  
by the blood of the Lamb  
and by the word of their testimony;  
they did not love their lives so much  
as to shrink from death.*

God tells us to resist the Devil! In the next lesson we will look at things we can do to be victorious over Satan.

## Lesson 10: Resist the Devil part 2

How do we overcome Satan and all the demons in this world?

### **A. We overcome by trusting in the power of Jesus.**

Jesus is Lord of lords and King of kings! Jesus overcomes Satan and all his demonic forces.

*Revelation 17:14, "They will wage war against the Lamb, but the Lamb will triumph over them because he is Lord of lords and King of kings—and with him will be his called, chosen and faithful followers."*

We trust in Jesus!

We believe that Jesus is more powerful than Satan and his evil forces.

We believe that Jesus has given us eternal life.

Jesus has given us victory of Satan.

Jesus has given us victory over sin, over death, and over hell.

### **B. We overcome by having faith in Jesus!**

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

Satan will tempt you.

Satan will try to turn you away from God's Word.

It is by faith that we say no to temptation. It is by faith that we believe the Word of God and not the false teachings and ways of this world.

### **C. We overcome by resisting the devil and his temptations.**

*James 4:7, "Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you."*

Resisting the Devil means to run away from his lies and temptations.

We submit ourselves to God and say, "No" to sin!

We submit ourselves to God and say, "No" to the lies of this world.

#### **D. We overcome when the Word of God abides in us!**

*1 John 2:14, "I write to you, dear children, because you know the Father. I write to you, fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning. I write to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God lives in you, and you have overcome the evil one."*

*Hebrews 4:12, "For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart."*

We are victorious when we know the Word of God.

We are victorious when we think about the Word of God.

We are victorious when we believe the Word of God.

We are victorious when we obey the Word of God.

#### **E. We overcome when we stand firm.**

To stand firm means that we do not move from what is right and holy.

*Ephesians 6:13-14, "Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. <sup>14</sup> Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place,"*

We cannot be moved from what we believe.

We cannot be moved away from holiness.

#### **F. We overcome by depending upon the power of God.**

Only the Lord is powerful enough to defeat the Devil. Michael, the powerful archangel, could not rebuke the Devil; rather he called out for the Lord to rebuke the Devil.

*Jude 1:9, "But even the archangel Michael, when he was disputing with the devil about the body of Moses, did not himself dare to condemn him for slander but said, "The Lord rebuke you!"*

It is only God who has the power to crush Satan!

*Romans 16:20, "The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet."*

We cannot say, "I rebuke you Satan." It is God who has the power!

We as human beings do not have the power to overcome Satan. God has the power!

We can say, "The Lord rebuke you."

God has all the power and in Jesus' name we can be victorious over Satan and every demonic power.

### **G. We overcome when we put on the armor of God.**

*Ephesians 6:12-13, "For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. <sup>13</sup> Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand."*

*Ephesians 6:14, "Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place,"*

We put on the belt of truth by living according to the truth of God's Word! Satan is always a liar – in order to defeat him we need to know the truth and live by the truth.

*John 8:44, "You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies."*

We must never lie, for lying is the language of Satan. God loves it when we tell the truth and live by the truth.

*Ephesians 6:14, "Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place."*

The breastplate of righteousness means to do the right thing. We can only do the right thing after we receive the righteousness of Jesus Christ. This happens when a person repents and has faith in Jesus Christ.

We must believe in Jesus and always do the right thing.

*Ephesians 6:16-17, “In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. <sup>17</sup> Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.”*

The helmet of salvation is the confidence that we have that the blood of Jesus is powerful enough to forgive our sins. We know we have been forgiven and we do not believe Satan when he wants us to doubt our salvation.

*1 Peter 5:8, “Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.”*

Satan wants to destroy us but Jesus has come to make us victorious.

We are victorious when...

- We put on the armor of God
- We trust in Jesus
- We have faith
- We live by the Word of God
- We stand firm
- We depend upon God’s power

When we do these things, we will be victorious.

## **Lesson 11 The 2nd Coming**

Before returning to heaven, Jesus gathered all of his disciples together and he told them that they would soon receive the Holy Spirit. He told them that they would be His witnesses to the ends of the earth. After that he was taken up into heaven in a cloud.

Jesus was on earth for about thirty-three years. He was crucified and rose again on the third day. After being with the disciples for another forty days he returned to heaven.

*Acts 1:6-11*

*<sup>6</sup> Then they gathered around him and asked him, “Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?”*

*7 He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. 8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."*

*9 After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.*

*10 They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. 11 "Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, **will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.**"*

Jesus is coming back again! We do not know when. God says that the time and date are a mystery but we need to understand that Jesus could come back at any time.

Therefore, we need to be ready.

The Bible says, "Today is the day of salvation." No one should wait to receive Jesus Christ as his or her Lord and Savior.

Today is the day to repent.

Today is the day to believe in Jesus.

*Matthew 24:42 "Therefore be on the alert, for you do not know which day your Lord is coming."*

*1 Thessalonians 5:23, "May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ."*

*Hebrews 9:28, "so Christ also, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time for salvation without reference to sin, to those who eagerly await Him."*

*James 5:7, "Be patient, then, brothers and sisters, until the Lord's coming."*

We are to be ready for the return of the Lord Jesus Christ. With patience we are to eagerly wait for his return.



*1Thessalonians 1:10, "and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, that is Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath to come."*

Jesus tells us that He is coming again and He is going to reward those who are faithful.

*Revelation 22:12 "Behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to render to every man according to what he has done."*

*Revelation 1:7 BEHOLD, HE IS COMING WITH THE CLOUDS, and every eye will see Him, even those who pierced Him; and all the tribes of the earth will mourn over Him. So it is to be. Amen.*

Paul the Apostle wrote that today we are citizens of heaven and are to wait eagerly for Jesus' return.

*Philippians 3:20 "For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ"*

As we saw in the lesson on heaven, one of the great promises that Jesus gave us is that he was going to heaven to prepare a place for us. In that same verse He also promises that He is coming back again.

*John 14:3, "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."*

Jesus also tells us that He is coming back with all of his angels!

*Matthew 25:31, "But when the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, then He will sit on His glorious throne."*

*Mark 8:38, "For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will also be ashamed of him when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels."*

Jesus is coming back!

What do we learn from this fact?

**A. We should be waiting and watching for Him.**

*Luke 12:37, "It will be good for those servants whose master finds them **watching** when he comes. Truly I tell you, he will dress himself to serve, will have them recline at the table and will come and wait on them."*

Since Jesus is coming to take us to heaven, we should not be consumed with the things of this world. Rather we should be watching for His return. We are only here on this earth for a short time. The Bible says this life is like a vapor.

*James 4:14, "Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes."*

Every day we should seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness.

We should store up treasures in heaven and not on this earth.

*Matthew 6:33, "But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."*

*Matthew 6:20-21, "But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. <sup>21</sup> For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."*

## **B. We should be ready to go!**

If Christ came back today would you be ready?

Would you be ashamed of the things you are doing?

If you are living in a way that is not pleasing to God, today is the day to repent of all your sins.

*1 John 1:9, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness."*

## **C. The Bible says that the Second Coming should make us want to live a holy life.**

*2 Peter 3:11-14, “Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming.<sup>[a]</sup> That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat. <sup>13</sup> But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, where righteousness dwells.”*

*<sup>14</sup> So then, dear friends, since you are looking forward to this, make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with him.*

*1 John 3:2-3 Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears,<sup>[a]</sup> we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. <sup>3</sup> All who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.*

#### **D. Finally, we should be working for the Lord!**

In Luke chapter 12 Jesus told His disciples to be ready for the Second Coming and to be working when He returns.

*Luke 12:35-44*

*35 Be dressed ready for service and keep your lamps burning,*

*36 like servants waiting for their master to return from a wedding banquet, so that when he comes and knocks they can immediately open the door for him.*

*37 It will be good for those servants whose master finds them watching when he comes. Truly I tell you, he will dress himself to serve, will have them recline at the table and will come and wait on them.*

*38 It will be good for those servants whose master finds them ready, even if he comes in the middle of the night or toward daybreak.*

*39 But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into.*

*40 You also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.”*

*41 Peter asked, “Lord, are you telling this parable to us, or to everyone?”*

*42 The Lord answered, “Who then is the faithful and wise manager, whom the master puts in charge of his servants to give them their food allowance at the proper time?*

*43 It will be good for that servant whom the master finds doing so when he returns.*

*44 Truly I tell you, he will put him in charge of all his possessions.*

Jesus is coming back. We should be ready for His return.

**Section Four The truth shall set you free!**