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# YOUR NEW LIFE DISCIPLESHIP COURSE 3

## *ABOUT THE METHOD*

### **The Course**

This course is called "YOUR NEW LIFE" and is intended to be studied with a new Christian who has gone through the "Your Story" discipleship course already. **The goal is to get each student of Christ to: 1) Look closely at the Word of God, 2) Understand and Remember what is going on in the text, and 3) Do what the text teaches (James 1:21-25).** It is intended primarily as a part of the new Christian's "primer" study that not only opens the Word of God to the new Christian, but also teaches him or her how to study the Bible and implement its timeless teachings. As one author says, "we want to become architects of passion and purpose." This course is to continue the journey which was begun in "God's Story and Your Story" of helping your friend understand their purpose and become passionate about fulfilling it. My experience teaches that if the facilitator can lead the student to rely upon the Word of God and their reasoning ability, the student will not only continue to fall in love with God, but will be eager to obey His teachings with a willing heart!

This study is designed to be self-directed and requires little reliance upon the "teacher" or discussion leader. Rather than relying upon the teacher for expertise, the seeker is taught to rely upon the Word of God. The facilitator is there to help them find answers to any additional questions and to keep the conversation moving. The facilitator also functions as someone to help hold the new disciple of Christ accountable to the actions the student finds needing to be changed in his or her life from week-to-week as pointed out in the scriptures. While this is usually contrary to what we have been taught, part of being architects of passion and purpose involves letting go of control and learning how to release people. We must help each of our new brothers and sisters learn how to stand on their own and "work out their own salvation" while we offer them guidance and correction. This study is designed to use 1 John as a template for early Christian learning in order to help the student understand how one continually changes their life even after the act of immersion.

### **The Method**

As previously stated, this is a primarily evangelistic study leading each student of Christ to: 1) Look closely at the Word of God, 2) Understand and Remember what is going on in the text, and 3) Do what the text teaches (James 1:21-25). In the very nature of the study, it becomes obvious that a facilitator is there to guide the discussion while the student dives into the Word in search for precious gems of applicable wisdom and understanding. It must be understood that this is not a lecture format and should not be treated

as such. Following I will give general guidance as to how one might carry out a session.

#### Items Needed:

1. The study book.
2. Pen or pencil.
3. Two Bibles (although by now the new Christian should have received one at immersion).
4. An observer (it's always good to take someone with you who can learn how to study with a friend).

#### Parts of the Study Guide:

1. The overview. At the top of each guide, you will see the series name and lesson title followed by the objectives stated, scriptures covered, and homework assigned.
  - The facilitator will discuss only those passages labeled under “Scriptures” while those labeled “homework” are to be done by the student on their own to encourage further growth outside of your meeting. This results in helping establish a personal Bible Study habit.
2. On Your Own. These sections usually contain many of the questions discussed with the group as well as additional questions to be considered at home. Often times, it is helpful for the facilitator to have these sheets in hand to help guide the discussion. These questions are to be answered on the sheet and brought back at the next meeting time.
3. Next Meeting. At the end of each sheet there is a place to write when the group will meet next including the time, date, and place. It is very important to fill this out before anyone leaves.
4. Prayer and Share. At the end of each lesson, find out any need that you can pray for to help the new Christian learn how to pray. Also, pray that God will bring people into their life that they can share the good news with and that they will be given the words to do so.

#### Beginning the Study:<sup>1</sup>

1. Group Interaction—Begin by “checking in” on your group members by asking questions like “What are you thankful for this week?”, “What needs do you or others have?”, or “How was your week?” This helps get everyone comfortable and leads to a time of Prayer and thanksgiving.

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<sup>1</sup> Note that many of these suggestions are found in David L. Watson’s introduction to the “Discovery Bible Method.”

2. Prayer—Begin in prayer and specifically mention any thanksgivings, concerns, and struggles that came up in discussion. If others are comfortable, allow them to say their prayer as well.
3. Review Last Lesson (if applicable)—Find out what they learned last week and how they are doing at being accountable to God. Express the expectation of change by asking what changes in behavior or thought last week brought about in their life. Make sure to encourage them that they are not alone and we are all here to help each other get closer to God and love Him as He loves us!
4. Sharing Reports—Ask how it went throughout the week telling their friends about the study and what they are learning from the Word of God. Sharing these experiences provides support, accountability, expectation, new ideas, and encouragement.
5. Dive into the Word—It's now time to explain the study of the week. Begin by having them turn to the selected passage and move through the facilitator guide/homework guide.
6. Homework—Hand out the homework sheets if applicable and encourage them to do it and bring it completed to the next meeting.
7. End with plans for sharing the study throughout the next week and set up the place, time, and date of your next meeting *before* anyone leaves.

I pray this study will bless you and your students as much as it has ours. Remember that we sow and God grows. It's important to allow God's Word to change and empower the individual and not only our lecturing. May God be with you as you seek people of peace to share the power of His Word with!

For further studies and information go to [www.lakewoodlight.org](http://www.lakewoodlight.org) or email Josh at [joshfreeman01@gmail.com](mailto:joshfreeman01@gmail.com).

## **“YOUR NEW LIFE”: SERIES 3 COURSE OVERVIEW**

### **LESSON 1: YOUR LIFE OF FELLOWSHIP**

- ❖ Objectives:
  - To review the need for community.
  - To understand the need of fellowship in order to stay faithful.
  - To understand the interdependence of our new life in the community of faith.
- ❖ Scripture:
  - Hebrews 10:23-25
  - Hebrews 3:12-14
- ❖ Homework:
  - Acts 2:44-46

### **LESSON 2: YOUR LIFE OF REMEMBRANCE**

- ❖ Objectives:
  - To understand the importance of breaking bread together.
  - To understand the purpose of communion.
- ❖ Scriptures:
  - Matthew 26:26-29
  - 1 Corinthians 10:16-17
- ❖ Homework:
  - 1 Corinthians 11:23-29

### **LESSON 3: YOUR LIFE OF PRAYER**

- ❖ Objectives:
  - To view examples of prayer and its characteristics.
  - To understand prayer is our communication with God.
- ❖ Scriptures:
  - Luke 11:1-4
  - Matthew 6:5-15
  - James 5:13-19
- ❖ Homework:
  - 1 John 5:13-15

### **LESSON 4: YOUR LIFE OF NEW PERSPECTIVE**

- ❖ Objectives:
  - To understand how to view difficulties.
  - To understand how Christ's love influences our relationships with other people.
- ❖ Scriptures:
  - Romans 5:1-5
  - James 1:2-15
  - 1 Peter 2:9
- ❖ Homework:
  - Philippians 2:3-18

### **LESSON 5: YOUR LIFE OF COMMITMENT**

- ❖ Objectives:
  - To understand the Holy Spirit gives you the power to change your life.
  - To understand the characteristics of those needed changes.
  - To understand we all fall short but God helps us to overcome.
- ❖ Scriptures:
  - Romans 8:5-14
  - Galatians 5:22-23
  - 1 John 1:5-2:6
- ❖ Homework:
  - Colossians 3:5-17

# **YOUR NEW LIFE STUDY**

Charting sheets for each exercise can be found in the Appendix beginning on page 17.

**“YOUR NEW LIFE”:  
LESSON 1: YOUR LIFE OF FELLOWSHIP**

- ❖ *Objectives:*
  - To review the need for Christian community.
  - To understand the need of fellowship in order to remain faithful.
  - To realize the interdependence of ones new life in the community of faith.
- ❖ *Scripture:*
  - Hebrews 10:19-27
  - Hebrews 3:12-14
- ❖ *Digging In:*
  - Acts 2:44-47

**ON YOUR OWN:**

**Read Hebrews 10:19-27**

1. On this sheet, think about and answer the following questions:
  - a. Why do you think it's important that the entire congregation draw near to God together?
  - b. According to verses 24 and 25, when do we stir up one another in love and good works?
  - c. According to verse 25, what does the Bible teach us that we should not do?
  - d. What does it mean to neglect to meet together with the saints?
  - e. When do Christians collectively draw near to God and why is it so important that they regularly attend [the meeting together]?
2. What does this passage teach you to do?

**Read Hebrews 3:12-14**

1. On this sheet, think about and answer the following questions:
  - a. Notice this warning is given to baptized believers concerning falling away. What does it mean to fall away?
  - b. How does regularly meeting with other Christians help one to stay faithful and not fall away?

- c. What are ways you can encourage others to meet with other Christians regularly?
  - d. What is stopping you from worshipping God on Sundays with other believers and meeting with them off and on during the week? How will you overcome the obstacles?
2. What does this passage teach you to do?

**Read Acts 2:44-47**

1. On this sheet, think about and answer the following questions:
- a. How did the early church, according to this selection, show their trust for each other?
  - b. How did the early church, according to this scripture, encourage each other?
  - c. What was it about this community in Acts 2, do you think, that brought many others to also be immersed and give their life to Christ?
  - d. What can you do in your life to live in such a way that others want to know Christ and what He has done in you?
2. What does this passage teach you to do?

In reviewing your action items, what must you do *this* week in order to make those a reality and obey Scripture?

Next Meeting Day, Time, and Place: \_\_\_\_\_

Please review this lesson between now and the next time we meet together. Bring this sheet back with you so that we can discuss any further questions or insight you might have!

**“YOUR NEW LIFE”:  
LESSON 2: YOUR LIFE OF REMEMBRANCE**

- ❖ *Objectives:*
  - To understand the importance of breaking bread together.
  - To understand the purpose of communion.
- ❖ *Scripture:*
  - Matthew 26:26-29
  - 1 Corinthians 10:16-17
- ❖ *Digging In:*
  - 1 Corinthians 11:23-29

**ON YOUR OWN:**

**Read Matthew 26:26-29**

1. On this sheet, think about and answer the following questions:
  - a. What were Jesus and His disciples doing when He instituted the Lord's Supper (Communion)?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - b. This was created in order to act as something to help them recall what Jesus is about to do for them (die on a cross and have His blood shed for our sins). Why do you think it was important for this event to be remembered?

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*“Jesus knew that we would need a constant reminder of the price of our salvation. He took the bread and wine of the Passover Feast (the Jewish feast reminding the Jews of their release from Egyptian bondage) and made it a memorial for His disciples to remember Him.”<sup>2</sup>*

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2. What does this passage teach you to do?

**Read 1 Corinthians 10:16-17**

1. On this sheet, think about and answer the following questions:
  - a. What does Paul mean when he says that the cup of blessing (the wine which symbolizes Christ's blood) helps us to participate in Christ's blood?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - b. What does the bread represent according to Paul?

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<sup>2</sup> Jerry Tallman, *His Eternal Plan: Becoming a New Testament Christian*, 66.

- c. Why is it important to take communion and what does it symbolize?

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*It may be of interest to note that the wine and bread do not literally become blood and flesh; these are only symbolic but still necessary to partake of. Paul told the Christians in Corinth what the Lord's Supper (communion) was all about. By our mutual participation in this simple meal, we are reminding each other of Jesus' sacrifice. This is to be done on the first day of each week (as a minimum) as the early Christians did (Acts 20:7).*

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2. What does this passage teach you to do?

**Read 1 Corinthians 11:23-29**

1. On this sheet, think about and answer the following questions:
- a. According to this Scripture (and the previous two), explain what the Lord's Supper (communion) is about and what the two elements used during this time are.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - b. Why is it important to take communion (Lord's Supper) in a "worthy" manner?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - c. According to verse 26, what happens when we collectively gather together to take communion?
2. What does this passage teach you to do?

In reviewing your action items, what must you do *this week* in order to make those a reality and obey Scripture?

Next Meeting Day, Time, and Place: \_\_\_\_\_

Please review this lesson between now and the next time we meet together. Bring this sheet back with you so that we can discuss any further questions or insight you might have!

**“YOUR NEW LIFE”:  
LESSON 3: YOUR LIFE OF PRAYER**

- ❖ *Objectives:*
  - To view examples of prayer and its characteristics.
  - To understand prayer is our communication with God.
- ❖ *Scripture:*
  - Luke 11:1-4
  - Matthew 6:5-15
  - James 5:13-19
- ❖ *Digging In:*
  - 1 John 5:13-15

**ON YOUR OWN:**

**Read Luke 11:1-4**

1. On this sheet, think about and answer the following questions:
  - a. What were the requests Christ made of God when He taught the disciples to pray?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - b. Were these requests self-centered or focused on God and doing what God wanted in their lives?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. What did you learn from this scripture?

**Read Matthew 6:5-15**

1. On this sheet, think about and answer the following questions:
  - a. What was wrong with the prayer of the “hypocrites” according to verse 5?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - b. What does Jesus mean by verse 7-8?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - c. How does Christ praise God in the prayer and acknowledge the plans of God (verses 9-10)?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - d. What are the three requests Christ asks of God (verses 11-13)?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - e. In verse 12, what must we do before we ask God to forgive our debts (sins against others)? See also verse 14.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - f. What will happen, according to verse 15, if we do not forgive others when they do us wrong?

2. What does this passage teach you to do?

**Read James 5:13-19**

1. On this sheet, think about and answer the following questions:
  - a. What should be our first response in times of trouble and suffering according to this selection?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - b. Who should a Christian call in times of sickness?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - c. According to verse 16, who should we confess sins to and what is the response to confessed sin?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - d. According to James 5:13-19, why is it important to know and be involved with a community of believers on a regular basis?

2. What does this passage teach you to do?

**Read 1 John 5:13-15**

1. On this sheet, think about and answer the following questions:
  - a. What does it mean to ask for something according to the Will of God?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - b. What reassurance does this passage give you about praying to God?

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*“Prayer is not coming to God with a long list of our requests and asking Him to agree with us. Rather, prayer is seeking to understand and submit to the will of God. Prayer is our expression of dependence on God. He knows what we need even before we ask, yet He still wants us to open our hearts to Him through prayer.”<sup>3</sup>*

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2. What does this passage teach you to do?

In reviewing your action items, what must you do *this* week in order to make those a reality and obey Scripture?

Next Meeting Day, Time, and Place: \_\_\_\_\_

Please review this lesson between now and the next time we meet together. Bring this sheet back with you so that we can discuss any further questions or insight you might have!

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<sup>3</sup> Jerry Tallman, *His Eternal Plan: Becoming a New Testament Christian*, 68.

**“YOUR NEW LIFE”:  
LESSON 4: YOUR LIFE OF NEW PERSPECTIVE**

- ❖ *Objectives:*
  - To understand how to view difficulties.
  - To understand how Christ’s love influences our relationships with other people and the world around us.
- ❖ *Scripture:*
  - Romans 5:1-5
  - James 1:2-15
  - 1 Peter 2:9
- ❖ *Digging In:*
  - Philippians 2:3-18

**ON YOUR OWN:**

**Read Romans 5:1-5**

1. On this sheet, think about and answer the following questions:
  - a. While we are to rejoice in the hope found in God’s glory, why are we encouraged by Paul to rejoice also in sufferings?
  - b. What are ways we can be encouraged and encourage others when going through trials and suffering?
  - c. Verse 5 says that hope “does not shame (disappoint) us.” According to this verse, what has God given us instead?
  - d. How might this Scripture impact your outlook on life?
2. What did you learn from this scripture?

**Read James 1:2-15**

1. On this sheet, think about and answer the following questions:
  - a. God also wants you to look at problems in a different way, how are we to look at problems according to James?
  - b. In verse 5 we read that God grants wisdom to those who ask, what is it contingent upon?
2. What does this passage teach you to do?



**“YOUR NEW LIFE”:  
LESSON 5: YOUR LIFE OF COMMITMENT**

- ❖ *Objectives:*
  - To understand the Holy Spirit gives you the power to change.
  - To understand the characteristics of those needed changes.
  - To understand we all fall short but God will help us overcome.
- ❖ *Scripture:*
  - Romans 8:5-14
  - Galatians 5:22-23
  - 1 John 1:5-2:6
- ❖ *Digging In:*
  - Colossians 3:5-17

**ON YOUR OWN:**

**Read Romans 8:5-14**

1. On this sheet, think about and answer the following questions:
  - a. What stuck out to you in this passage?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - b. What does this selection teach you about the Holy Spirit you received through baptism?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - c. What are those led by the Spirit of God called?

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*“When God’s Spirit lives in you, you are able to live differently from the rest of the world. He provides the power to do so. There is no limit in what you are able to do with the power He provides. You cannot even imagine what He might be able to do through you. You are now tapped into a tremendous resource of great power to change you life.”<sup>4</sup>*

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2. What did you learn from this scripture?

**Read Galatians 5:22-23**

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*When God’s Spirit is living in you it will help you transform into a new person with new characteristics.*

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1. On this sheet, think about and answer the following questions:
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<sup>4</sup> Jerry Tallman, *His Eternal Plan: Becoming a New Testament Christian*, 75.

- a. According to this passage, what are the new characteristics the Holy Spirit will help you have?
  - b. While you have the Spirit of God in you, you must still make changes to you life. Review the list of spiritual fruits, which ones do you need to work on?
  - c. What questions do you have?
2. What does this passage teach you to do?

**Read 1 John 1:5-2:6**

1. On this sheet, think about and answer the following questions:
  - a. What sticks out as interesting in this section?
  - b. What happens if we confess our sins to God?
  - c. Who is our advocate to God, the Father—even when we fail at times?
2. What does this passage teach you to do?

**Read Colossians 3:5-17**

1. On this sheet, think about and answer the following questions:
  - a. From this list, what must you still put to death (get rid of) in your life?
  - b. What attitudes/characteristics must we put on?
  - c. What is “above” everything else?
2. What does this passage teach you to do?

In reviewing your action items, what must you do *this* week in order to make those a reality and obey Scripture?

Next Meeting Day, Time, and Place: \_\_\_\_\_

Please review this lesson between now and the next time we meet together. Bring this sheet back with you so that we can discuss any further questions or insight you might have!

# APPENDIX

## RESOURCES

Following you will find more resources that will help you as you live your new Christian life. These will introduce you to the Bible and concepts it teaches concerning living a new life in Christ Jesus. It will also provide a resource to refer to as you share with your friends and families about your journey.

## GOSPEL OF THE SECOND CHANCE

Published in “No Wonder They Call Him Savior”

Written by Max Lucado

I know I'd read that passage a hundred times. But I'd never seen it. Maybe I'd passed over it in the excitement of the resurrection.

But I won't miss it again. It's highlighted in yellow and underlined in red. You might want to do the same. Look in Mark, chapter 16. Read the first five verses about the women's surprise when they find the stone moved to the side. Then feast on that beautiful phrase spoken by the angel, “He is not here, he is risen,” but don't pause for too long. Go a bit further. Get your pencil ready and enjoy this jewel in the seventh verse (here it comes). The verse reads like this: “But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going before you to Galilee.”

Did you see it? Read it again. (This time I italicized the words.)

*“But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going before you to Galilee.”*

Now tell me if that's not a hidden treasure.

What a line. It's as if all of heaven had watched Peter fall—and it's as if all of heaven wanted to help him back up again. “Be sure and tell Peter that he's not left out. Tell him that one failure doesn't make a flop.”

Whew! No wonder they call it the gospel of the second chance. Not many second chances exist in the world today. Just ask the kid who didn't make the little league team or the fellow who got the pink slip or the mother of three who got dumped for a “pretty little thing.”

Not many second chances. Nowadays it's more like, “It's now or never.” “Around here we don't tolerate incompetence.” “Not much room at the top.” “Three strikes and you're out.” “It's a dog-eat-dog world!”

Jesus has a simple answer to our masochistic mania. “It's a dog-eat-dog world?” he would say. “Then don't live with the dogs.” That makes sense doesn't it? Why let a bunch of other failures tell you how much of a failure you are? Sure you can have a second chance.

Just ask Peter. The message came loud and clear from the celestial Throne Room through the divine courier. “Be sure and tell Peter that he gets to bat again.” It's not every day that you get a second chance. Peter must have known that. The next time he saw Jesus, he got so excited that he barely got his britches on before he jumped into the cold water of the Sea of Galilee. It was also enough, so they say, to cause this backwoods Galilean to carry the gospel of the second chance all the way to Rome where they killed him. If you've ever wondered what would cause a man to be willing to be crucified upside down, maybe now you know.

It's not every day that you find someone who will give you a second chance—much less someone who will give you a second chance every day. But in Jesus, Peter found both.

## **CHRISTIAN RESPONSIBILITIES**

Written by Thomas Hackett  
Adapted by Joshua Freeman

Now that you are saved and have this assurance from the Word of God, God wants you to continue on in your Christian life. Remember that Ephesians 2:8 and 9 tell you that you were saved "by grace through faith" and not by good works you have done or ever will do. After a person is saved, he becomes a new creature in Christ (2 Cor. 5:17) and all things become new. You now have a desire to do what is right and the spiritual ability to live a godly life because you have God's Spirit or new nature. When we obey and allow the Holy Spirit to direct us we are being obedient to God's Word. Ephesians 5:18 tells the Christian "*And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit.*" Being filled with the Spirit means that we allow Him to direct and be the guiding influence in our lives. As a new Christian you will want to do things that please the Lord. Let's look at several of the first things we need to do as a new Christian. We have responsibilities to the Lord.

### **PUBLIC PROFESSION OF YOUR FAITH**

It is okay, even encouraged, that Christians let other people know that they have been saved. Let your friends know what has happened to you. We should not be ashamed of Christ (Romans 1:16-17). Just as you did when you stood before the ones present at your baptism making a public confession of your faith and belief that Jesus is Lord and the Son of the Living God don't be ashamed to confess this to others. This is being obedient to what the Bible instructs us to do. It will also strengthen you in the Lord, because as you obey and do what the Bible instructs you grow and mature as a Christian. It is like a child who begins to attend school in the first grade. The teacher instructs the child in learning the alphabet. If the child obeys and learns them, then soon he is beginning to read. Maturing in Christ is similar. God's Word is our textbook to teach us how we should live. It tells us how to live the best life we possibly can. As we obey the commandments of the Lord, we learn them and then go on to learn other lessons. As a new Christian you should seek to obey the Bible, which is God's instruction book on life. The more obedient you are the faster you will mature in Christ.

### **BAPTISM AND CHURCH MEMBERSHIP**

Jesus gave the disciples some instructions just before He ascended back to heaven as recorded in Matthew 28:16-20.

"Make" in Matthew 28:19 means to disciple or win the lost to Christ. When we turn to Jesus in faith, repentance, confession, and baptism we are saved. Baptism is the point at which we are saved and the point at which we begin the process of Spiritual growth.

Since the beginning of the first church, believers have given evidence of their faith in Christ by being baptized in water. We mean a person is to be immersed under the water as a picture or symbol of the death, burial and resurrection of Christ.

In the Bible, baptism describes our union with Christ as seen in Romans 6:3-5. In Acts 2:41 we find that when a person was baptized he was added to the church. This baptism identifies you with other Christians and the church. The church is God's place for Christians to be taught the Bible, to have fellowship with other Christians, and a place to

pray and worship the Lord. It is a time when you are encouraged and equipped; a recharge for living the Christian life over the next week. Nothing can replace the church, and that is why it is so important for Christians to attend—after all, Jesus had a habit of going to church (Luke 4:16) and the Bible encourages Christians not to make a habit of missing the opportunity to gather with other Christians (Hebrews 10:19-27).

We realize things happen. It is understandable that if a person is working or sick they cannot attend. However, otherwise you should attend church as it will not only encourage you but your presence will encourage others. It basically comes down to your habit. Is your habit to worship with other Christians or to avoid worship on Sundays and growing with others in Bible studies and classes?

## **THE LORD'S SUPPER**

1 Corinthians 11:23-26 tells us what the Lord's Supper (also called communion) represents. The bread represents Christ's body and the grape juice represents His blood that was shed for us. This is a reminder of what Christ has done for us until He comes back. This is also a time when we are to reflect upon the fellowship we have with other believers because of Jesus' sacrifice. Because of his death, we have a family and support group.

## **GIVING TO THE LORD**

### **I. Giving Yourself**

Paul says in Romans 12:1, we should present our bodies as living sacrifices, holy and acceptable to God. The Lord wants YOU more than anything else you might give to Him...Surrender yourself totally to Him and determine to follow Him and be obedient to Him. Let Him have control of your life.

### **II. Giving Your Praise and Thanksgiving.**

Hebrews 13:15 tells us to offer to God our praise for all that He has done for us. We praise Him with our lips through prayer and telling others about what Christ has done for us. We also praise him when we gather together to worship and sing to and about him with other brothers and sisters in Christ.

### **III. Giving of our Money & Possessions.**

Money is a hard issue to discuss. However, it is one of the most discussed issues in the Bible and by Jesus. We are called to give of our lives, our time, our possessions, and our finances. Really, if you think about it, these are all blessings given to us by God, so we are only returning a portion of what He has given freely to us. Following are thoughts and scriptures that relate to contributing financially to the work of God.

2 Corinthians 9:7, tells us that God loves a cheerful giver. God told His people in the Old Testament to bring their tithes into God's storehouse. A tithe is 10% of what you earn or receive. God promised to bless those who tithed in the Old Testament (Malachi 3). In the New Testament, His faithful consistent giving in cheerfulness is confirmed. 1 Corinthians 16:2 teaches us to set money aside from our pay that we can give to the work of the congregation (God's storehouse), as God has prospered us. Read 2 Corinthians 9:6-8.

Believe what God says about His blessing for you and then obey Him every Sunday. This also is another way of expressing to the Lord your love and thanks.

God wants you to grow spiritually and become a mature Christian. Many Christians have a real struggle with making the commitment to give to the Lord. Christians who have been obedient understand the value of regular giving to the Lord. Note that as you read 2 Cor. 9:7, it says, *"Each should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."* You should make it a matter of prayer as to how much you are to give the Lord. You must work this out in your own heart. Remember what verse 6, says *"Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly and whoever sows generously will also reap generously."* (2 Corinthians 9:6) This is a matter between you and the Lord. A husband and wife should discuss the matter and prayer about it together. If a wife has a husband that is lost, and has no regular income, she should give from what she receives. The same applies to children who are saved. It is a good idea for the parent to instruct the child in Scriptural giving from their allowance or money they earn from chores. Remember, this is a matter between you and the Lord. It is a matter of exercising faith in the Lord to supply your needs.

God has promised to meet your needs and to bless you when you faithfully give. Read Philippians 4:10-19.

David understood this principle as he wrote Psalms 37:25.

*"Give and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you."* (Luke 6:38)

The money you give to the church pays the utility bills, buys literature, maintains the building, supports our missionaries and pays for the ministry of the church including the preachers' financial support. When some of the members of the church do not give and regularly give these material expenses of the church are neglected. A church will not have to pinch pennies, neglect missions, scrimp on purchasing literature or not properly support their preachers' if all the members will give as they should. God will supply the need but only through those who faithfully give and let themselves be used as a channel to carry out God's work in the local church.

## WHO CAN HELP ME NOW?

Written by Thomas Hackett  
Adapted by Joshua Freeman

A few things in life may be "easy as falling off a log," but spiritual growth is *not* one of them! Going on to maturity in Christ is a daily struggle, a constant challenge.

For one thing, there are the constant attacks that Satan mounts against our faith. He is, after all, "...Satan prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour." (1 Peter 5:8) Because of his skill as a deceiver, we have to be on our guard constantly. "For we are not fighting against flesh-and- blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places." (Ephesians 6:12)

Then there are our own internal weaknesses and evil desires to contend with. "Temptation comes from our own desires, which entice us and drag us away." (James 1:14). Have you ever lamented the fact that, whereas you want to do right and determine within yourself to follow the path of righteousness, you still yield to some chronic temptation? Paul acknowledged the same thing in his own experience when he wrote: "I love God's law with all my heart. But there is another power within me that is at war with my mind. This power makes me a slave to the sin that is still within me. Oh, what a miserable person I am! Who will free me from this life that is dominated by sin and death?" (Romans 7:22-24).

Then, of course, there are false teachings that can cause one to turn from the truth.

It seems that so many things are working against us. Is there any hope of making it home to heaven?

Yes, there is hope! There is the sure and confident promise of God to the effect that *Christians are not alone in our struggle against sin.*

There would be no reasonable prospect of success in the Christian life if we were left to fight Satan in our own strength. I am no match for him! If I must do battle with him in my unaided strength, he will destroy me. But God is on my side, and His Spirit lives in me to strengthen me and give me the victory. Thank God for such a confidence!

1 John 4 is a warning to Christians of the late first century about Satan and his attacks against them and the gospel they had embraced. The apostle warned his readers about the "spirit of the antichrist" (v.3) and the "spirit of error" (v.6). At the same time, he assured them of victory. Please read his statement of assurance closely, and pay particular attention to the reason underlying it. "But you belong to God, my dear children. You have already won a victory over those people, because the Spirit who lives in you is greater than the spirit who lives in the world." (v.4). The victory was theirs not by virtue of their strength but by the power of the Holy Spirit (i.e., "the spirit of truth," v.6) in them.

The confidence that John engendered in his readers by this great truth of the indwelling Spirit of God is the sort of confidence Christians need now. As we attempt to grow into the likeness of Christ, it will make all the difference to realize that we are not alone in the struggle. The wonderful truth of God's presence with us gives comfort, challenge, and incentive to holiness. In this discussion, we turn to Scripture to learn this comforting and

challenging teaching.

### **The Holy Spirit Dwells in Christians**

Many passages of Scripture affirm that the Holy Spirit indwells the saved individual.

"But you are not controlled by your sinful nature. You are controlled by the Spirit if you have *the Spirit of God living in you*. (And remember that those who do not have the Spirit of Christ living in them do not belong to him at all.) And *Christ lives within you*, so even though your body will die because of sin, the Spirit gives you life because you have been made right with God. *The Spirit of God*, who raised Jesus from the dead, *lives in you*. And just as God raised Christ Jesus from the dead, he will give life to your mortal bodies by *this same Spirit living within you*." (Romans 8:9-11).

"Don't you realize that your body is the temple of *the Holy Spirit, who lives in you* and was given to you by God? You do not belong to yourself" (1 Corinthians 6:19).

"Through the power of *the Holy Spirit who lives within us*, carefully guard the precious truth that has been entrusted to you." (2 Timothy 1:14).

"No one has ever seen God. But if we love each other, *God lives in us*, and his love is brought to full expression in us. And *God has given us his Spirit* as proof that we live in him and he in us." (1 John 4:12-13).

We accept the fact of this indwelling by faith (i.e., taking God at his word). We do not presume to understand or explain the nature of such an indwelling—any more than we can understand or explain how our own spirits indwell our bodies.

The Spirit takes up his abode in an individual at the point of their salvation from sin. Look closely at Acts 2:38. "Peter replied, "Each of you must repent of your sins and turn to God, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. Then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."

All those who obeyed the gospel on that occasion were promised the Holy Spirit. Furthermore, Acts 2:39 makes it clear that the same gift would be given to all men of every race and time who would repent and be baptized for the remission of their sins. This is simply his coming to take up an abode in the saved person for the purpose of strengthening him for spiritual life and struggles. It occurs in connection with one's obedience to Christ in baptism (cf. Acts 5:32). One does not receive this gift in order to make him a son of God but because he has become of child of God through the new birth of water and the Spirit. As Paul expressed it: " And because we are his children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, prompting us to call out, 'Abba, Father.'" (Galatians 4:6)

So long as a Christian is attempting to walk in the light of God's truth, the Holy Spirit continues to dwell within him to bring him to eternal life. If he begins to walk contrary to the truth, he brings "sorrow" to the Spirit (cf. Ephesians 4:30). If he continues to engage in deliberate and unrepented sin, that person will fall from grace and "stifle" the power of the Spirit of God in his life (cf. 1 Thessalonians 5:19). The Holy Spirit is not anxious to leave us nor is he looking for an excuse to do so. His interest is in helping us become spiritually mature, and he continues to strive for that goal until such time as we refuse the truth and turn away from our commitment to Christ.

## What He Will Do For You

As to the function of the Holy Spirit as he indwells the Christian, several observations have been made already. But the spirit does even more in your life!

### The Holy Spirit:

1. **Gives Strength.** The Holy Spirit *strengthens the Christian* to help him in overcoming sin. The Bible makes it plain that the Christian's ultimate salvation depends on achieving victory over Satan and the flesh. It lists the things which must be "put to death" (Colossians 3:5ff). By what power are the children of God able to accomplish this great task?

All of us tell non-Christians who are struggling with alcohol, drugs, or some other vice that "God will help you overcome this if you will obey the gospel and become his child." How will he do so? The believer who does his part in diligent watchfulness and prayer will receive strength from the indwelling Spirit to overcome sin. This is the promise of the Word of God. "For if you live by its dictates, you will die. But if through the power of the Spirit you put to death the deeds of your sinful nature, you will live." (Romans 8:13). It is not that we will feel his powers moving mysteriously in our beings. Rather, we know that we have his assistance in our spiritual strivings because the promise of such help is clear in the inspired Word.

The Apostle Paul prayed for the Christians at Ephesus stating "I pray that from his glorious, unlimited resources he will empower you with inner strength through his Spirit." (Ephesians 3:16). This was not a prayer for them to receive miraculous powers; it was a petition for their growth and strengthening. This same request can be made of heaven on behalf of children of God today, for this activity of the Holy Spirit did not end with the close of the first century.

2. **Seals God's Children.** The presence of the Holy Spirit is *God's seal* (i.e., branding mark) on his children. In ancient times, a seal was used to authenticate an object or to indicate its ownership. A ruler might press his seal into soft wax on the bottom of a decree; an artisan would affix his to the soft clay of his sculpture. The modern equivalent of such things would be a university's seal at the bottom of a diploma or a company's trademark stamped on its products. In a similar way, heaven has put a seal of identification and ownership on every saved man and woman. "You are identified as His own" (Ephesians 1:13; cf. 4:30).

The imagery of this concept is quite beautiful. Special promises are made to the children of God in many places. They cannot be tempted above their ability to withstand (1 Corinthians 10:13); all things will work together for their good (Romans 8:28); angels minister for their sake (Hebrews 1:14), etc. How are these special people identified? Is there some mark by means of which God's agents and heavenly ministers can distinguish Christians from other people? Indeed there is. The called and chosen people of God bear his seal in the presence of the Holy Spirit in them. "And remember that those who do not have the Spirit of Christ living in them do not belong to him at all." (Rom. 8:9b).

3. **Assists in Prayer.** The Holy Spirit also *assists the Christian in prayer.*

"And the Holy Spirit helps us in our weakness. For example, we don't know what God wants us to pray for. But the Holy Spirit prays for us with groaning's that cannot be expressed in words." (Romans 8:26)

There are many things that we know to ask for, because we feel a need for them or because the Bible instructs us to pray for them. These conscious and clearly expressed desires of the heart are offered in prayer, and Jesus intercedes and mediates for us in these matters. Sometimes our requests are not so articulate and go up to the Father in the form of sighs and groans from our burdened spirits.

Then there are the distresses and groaning's of our hearts which are deeper still — so deep that they "cannot be uttered." The indwelling Spirit knows the situations and needs of that heart, and he makes intercession on its behalf.

"And the Father who knows all hearts knows what the Spirit is saying, for the Spirit pleads for us believers in harmony with God's own will." (Romans 8:27).

4. **Pledge of Salvation.** The Spirit's indwelling is also an *earnest* (i.e., deposit, pledge) of our final salvation.

"While we live in these earthly bodies, we groan and sigh, but it's not that we want to die and get rid of these bodies that clothe us. Rather, we want to put on our new bodies so that these dying bodies will be swallowed up by life. God himself has prepared us for this, and as a guarantee he has given us his Holy Spirit." (2 Corinthians 5:4-5). His presence with us is a guarantee that all of heaven's promises to the Christian will be fulfilled.

The word translated "earnest" here was used of a down payment given on the receipt of merchandise as a guarantee that the rest of the amount promised would be forthcoming. It was also used of an engagement ring which served as a promise that a marriage would take place. The symbolism here is unmistakable. God's indwelling Spirit is his sure promise to us that we will share in a divine inheritance.

There may be many other things which are accomplished through the agency of the Holy Spirit as he indwells the saints and acts on our behalf. These four functions are specifically attributed to him in the written Word.

As to specific methods and means by which he accomplishes his works, we have no certain knowledge and speculation would be pointless. We accept the fact of their accomplishment by virtue of the promises contained in the Scripture and because of the fruit of the Spirit which is borne in the lives of God's people (cf. Galatians 5:22-23).

Of one thing we may be certain: *the Spirit of God will do nothing which is contrary to his revealed will contained in the written Word.* Thus we may dismiss as false the claims and teachings of those who — while claiming the guidance of the Spirit — clearly walk in contradiction to the teachings of the Bible.

## **Comfort And Challenge**

Great *comfort* comes to us in the knowledge that we are not left to our own devices in coming into sanctification and eternal life. We are not alone!

Satan is the bully of the human race. Because we are so weak and spiritually helpless, he can break and defeat us at will. But we are not alone! The Spirit of God is our friend, companion, and defender, and "the Spirit who lives in you is greater than the spirit who lives in the world." (1 John 4:4b). We don't have to be defeated, for he is with us to help, strengthen, and protect us.

There is also great *challenge* and incentive to personal holiness in the knowledge that we are indwelt by deity.

Our bodies are sacred and must not be defiled by sin (1 Corinthians 6:18-19a). The appeal of this passage is more profound than fear of disease, pregnancy, or disgracing one's family. Paul pleads for moral purity on the basis of the fact that our bodies belong to God and serve as temples for the Holy Spirit. "You do not belong to yourself, for God bought you with a high price. So you must honor God with your body." (1 Corinthians 6:19b-20). What greater challenge to personal purity could there be?

## **Conclusion**

It is a bit frightening to realize what is expected of the people of God. The past must be put behind you. Your life must conform to that of the Son of God. You must face temptations on every hand and overcome them. You must serve the Lord and your fellow human beings, etc.

Is it possible to live this high and holy life? Can you do it? To be sure, you cannot do it by yourself. *But look who's on your side!* The Spirit of God is within you to strengthen, comfort, and aid you. He is willing to help you, and you can go on to maturity by his power in you.

This lesson closes with an appeal from Paul: "Don't be drunk with wine, because that will ruin your life. Instead, be filled with the Holy Spirit, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, and making music to the Lord in your hearts. And give thanks for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. And further, submit to one another out of reverence for Christ." (Ephesians 5:18-21). The use of wine may make a man giddy, foolish, and irresponsible; the presence of the Holy Spirit has no such effect on an individual. To the contrary, the Holy Spirit's presence makes us strong, stable, and dependable in spiritual things. He enables us to become the people God calls us to be.

## ***Some Things To Think About***

1. How does one's attitude toward a contest (e.g., baseball game) affect his performance in that contest? Is it reasonable to think that one's attitude toward living the Christian life will affect his performance in this spiritual contest? Examine the first several verses of 1 John 4 in this connection.

2. How do we know that the Spirit of God dwells in Christians? When does he take up his abode in the children of God? Under what circumstances will he leave a Christian?
3. Human beings are spiritually weak, and Satan has had the power to tempt and defeat us prior to conversion. Why are things different following our salvation? What does the indwelling Spirit accomplish on our behalf?
4. The Holy Spirit "seals" the children of God. Explain this beautiful concept. What function does such a sealing serve?
5. Although Christ is our only *mediator* with the Father in heaven (cf. 1 Timothy 2:5), the Bible teaches that the Holy Spirit is an intercessor on our behalf. Study Romans 8:26-27 carefully.
6. What is the significance of the Holy Spirit as heaven's "earnest" to the Christian?
7. What *comfort* and *challenge* do you see in the doctrine of the indwelling Spirit of God? How does your knowledge of this truth encourage you in your efforts to go on to maturity?

# THE BIBLE (INTRODUCTION)

Written by Thomas Hackett  
Adapted by Joshua Freeman

The Bible is your guidebook to a victorious Christian life. It is God's revelation to you. To you and all Christians it is a book of life that provides guidance and hope. The Bible was given to us over a period of many hundreds of years. The Old Testament was written between 1447 BC and 445 BC. The New Testament was written between 30 AD and 95 AD. These dates are approximate but if you round up the time frame it comes out to about 1100 years. You may hear that the Bible was written over a period of 1500 years, this is because they include the 400 years of silence between Malachi and the New Testament. They are just generalizing.

The Bible consists of 39 books in the Old Testament and 27 books in the New Testament. There are none of the original manuscripts existing today. There are fragments available going back to the first century but there is no way to tell if they are copies or fragments of the originals. Before the Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered in 1947, the earliest manuscripts we had for the Old Testament were dated about 900 AD.

The earliest New Testament manuscripts available today date back to about 150 AD. It is known as the "Syrian Bible or the Peshitta" and it is a translation which was copied from the original manuscripts. The Peshitta is in approximately 177 manuscripts which are in a British Museum.

## The Books of the Bible

The Bible has two (2) main divisions:

### Old Testament

Contains 39 books, which may be grouped into five (5) classifications

1. Law—5 Books
2. History—12 Books
3. Poetry—5 Books
4. Major Prophets—5 Books
5. Minor Prophets—12 Books

#### Books of Law

Genesis  
Exodus  
Leviticus  
Numbers  
Deuteronomy

#### Books of History

Joshua  
Judges  
Ruth  
1 & 2 Samuel  
1 & 2 Kings

### New Testament

Contains 27 books, which may be grouped into five (5) classifications

1. Gospels—4 Books
2. History—1 Book
3. Paul's Letters—13 Books
4. Other Letters—8 Books
5. Prophecy—1 Book

#### Gospels

Matthew  
Mark  
Luke  
John

#### Paul's Letters

Romans  
1 & 2 Corinthians  
Galatians  
Ephesians  
Philippians  
Colossians

1 & 2 Chronicles  
Ezra  
Nehemiah  
Esther

**Books of Poetry  
(Wisdom Literature)**

Job  
Psalms  
Proverbs  
Ecclesiastes  
Song of Solomon

**Books of Major Prophets**

Isaiah  
Jeremiah  
Lamentations  
Ezekiel  
Daniel

**Books of Minor Prophets**

Hosea  
Joel  
Amos  
Obadiah  
Jonah  
Micah  
Nahum  
Habakkuk  
Zephaniah  
Haggai  
Zechariah  
Malachi

1 & 2 Thessalonians  
1 & 2 Timothy  
Titus  
Philemon

**Other Writings**

Hebrews  
James  
1 & 2 Peter  
1, 2, & 3 John

**Book of Prophecy**

Revelation

**Understanding The Bible**

In 2 Timothy 3:15-17, Paul teaches us the usefulness of Bible study. Another way of summarizing this passage is explaining it as “God wants to equip you for every good work that He has planned for you. This equipping is done in a variety of ways but study of the Bible is a main source.”

A minister named Robert Cox points out four things every person must do in order to insure God’s Word will benefit his or her life:

1. Allow God’s Word to be the standard they live by (read John 12:47-50).

The goal of a Christian’s life and study is transformation and not just learning information. We study in order to allow more change for the better in our lives! John 12:49 is important because it introduces the idea that God has already given us what to say. He didn’t just give it to the Apostle John, but also to us.

Because God has given us his teaching, we must allow that to be the standard that we live by. Jesus came to earth in order to save people. His Word (the Bible) leads to eternal life (not the pope's word or that of any man or tradition). The Bible is the ultimate and final standard.

2. Examine what you believe and what you do (read 1 Timothy 4:16).

As Christians, we must keep a close watch on what we believe, teach, and do. People are watching and our actions will tell them if we truly "practice what we preach." This also has to do with our beliefs. Even though we have been given the Holy Spirit, we are all still learning. Never stop examining why you believe what you believe as you study. Make sure what you hear from the preacher, teachers, leaders, friends, family, etc. is found in the Bible.

3. Choose God's Word over traditions and man-made rules (Mark 7:5-13).

Why did Jesus call these people hypocrites? According to this passage, what does following traditions above God do to God's Word? Not all traditions are bad. They become bad if they are against what God teaches or become a measure for "faithfulness to God" when God never indicated it as measuring ones faithfulness. God desires sincerity and He desires you to honor His teachings above everything else.

4. Avoid twisting and distorting God's Word (2 Peter 3:16).

According to 2 Peter 3:16, unstable and ignorant people distort the Word of God. Often times this is done intentionally to promote an agenda somebody wants to teach that they cannot correctly back up with Scripture. Other times, this is done unintentionally (in ignorance) because the person may not have fully studied the passage or did not fully understand it. Because a perverted Gospel leads to condemnation and turns the good news to bad news, Paul encourages the Galatians (Galatians 1:6-8) and us today to stay with the original message (that found in the Bible).

### **Goals of Bible Study**

Read James 1:21-25. According to this passage, there are three goals Christians should keep in mind as they approach the study of the Bible. These goals are to:

1. Look closely at the word of God
2. Understand and Remember what is going on in the text
3. Do what the text teaches (put it into practice immediately)

By keeping these goals in mind and fulfilling them, James tells the reader that they will be blessed by God (verse 25). A good example of people following this pattern of goals can be found in Acts 17:11-12. They are from the area of Berea. Not only did they do the four necessities pointed out by Robert Cox (see above), they also practiced the teaching of James. I want to encourage you to be like the Berean's who were eager to study and look closely at the Word of God, careful to check the accuracy of the message through understanding of the text, and quick to obey newly discovered truth.

## **How God Spoke to People**

- Revelation
- Inspiration
- Illumination

### **Revelation**

1. God used angels to deliver messages (Matthew 28:5-7; Luke 1:26)
2. Before the Bible was completed, God spoke audibly (Genesis 6:13-21; 1 Samuel 3:1-10; 1 Kings 19:11-12)
3. God uses the designed creation to speak to us (Romans 1:20)
4. God even used a donkey to bring His message to a disobedient servant (Numbers 22:27-31)
5. Before the completion of the Bible God spoke in dreams (Genesis 28:10-17)
6. Before the Bible was completed, God spoke in visions (Isaiah 6:1-8)
7. God spoke through Christophanies (Judges 6:11)
  - a. A Christophany was a pre-Bethlehem and post ascension meeting with Christ.

In reference to dreams, voices, and visions, God used these methods up to the time the Bible was completed with the last book. There was to be no more new revelation by means of voices, dreams, or visions because we now have the completed Word of God. God states that no more revelation will be given. (Revelation 22:18-19; Proverbs 30:6) We must be very careful if we believe that we are receiving revelation from God in any form because of the warning in 2 Corinthians 11:14-15 as Satan and his demons are allowed to break the silence barrier.

### **Inspiration**

When we talk about the inspiration of the Scriptures, we are discussing the teaching that God authored the scriptures through humans. We use the term in relation to the legitimacy of the Scriptures as God's Word. The Bible points us to understandings about inspiration

Scripture Verses on Inspiration:

1. Not by human will (2 Peter 1:20-21)
2. Fragmented Writings (Hebrews 1:1)
3. It is Final (John 10:35)
4. Spoken beforehand (2 Peter 3:2)
5. It is the Word of God (1 Thessalonians 2:13)
6. Given directly to men (Jeremiah 36:1-2; Ezekiel 1:3; Acts 1:16)

### **Illumination**

Since there will be no more inspiration in the manner we have been discussing, the way which God communicates His spiritual truth to the heart of His children is by the third method of divine communication which is called Illumination. Illumination is the method whereby the Holy Spirit uses to bring divine light to the Scriptures when someone is studying. Illumination allows us to understand the message of Scripture which unsaved man sees as confusing. I have heard illumination described many times in the following manner. "I have read that passage for years but last night it jumped out at me like a lion out of a jungle." When we are praying for guidance, sometimes God will give us the

answer by illuminating a Scripture and we will see something in there we never saw before. God will use other Christians to illuminate scriptures as well.

1. He used Philip (Acts 8:31)
2. He used Paul (Acts 17:2)
3. He used Priscilla and Aquila (Acts 18:26)
4. He used Apollos (Acts 18:28)

The Old Testament refers to itself as the Word of God about 3800 times. Here are two examples: Amos 3:1 and Joel 3:1.

### **Jesus Endorsed the Old Testament**

He referred to:

1. Creation (Mark 10:6)
2. Lot's Wife (Luke 17:32)
3. Jonah (Matthew 12:40)

As you read and study the Scriptures, you will begin to see many quotes from the Old Testament in the New Testament. This is so because the Word of God is one cohesive whole and is not to be thought of as two separate halves. The Old and New Testament are deeply enmeshed in each other, which mean you can't have one without the other, because they help interpret one another.

This lesson contained a LOT of information. Don't get discouraged. Refer back to this from time to time. Many stories and books of the Bible were brought up. Many of these you may have heard and some you may have never read. Take it a step at a time and realize that we all are still learning every day and finding things, even the most experienced Christian. In the next Discipleship course (number 4), you will spend time reading and learning about some of the major stories in the Bible that appear the most frequently in classes and lessons.