



# STARTING POINT

A DISCIPLE'S FIRST STEPS



DISCIPLESHIP COACHING WITH **DR. RON JONES**



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**Starting Point: A Disciple's First Steps**

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SESSION 1 NOTES

## GROWING UP TO BE LIKE JESUS

The assumption in the Christian life is that we would grow from spiritual \_\_\_\_\_ to spiritual \_\_\_\_\_.

*But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. 2 Peter 3:18*

*Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation—if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good. 1 Peter 2:2; Hebrews 5:12-6:2*

*We are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ. Ephesians 4:15*

1. Growing up to be like Jesus is called \_\_\_\_\_.

*What is a disciple?*

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2. Growing up to be like Jesus starts with \_\_\_\_\_.

*Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. Ephesians 5:1*

3. Growing up to be like Jesus requires a \_\_\_\_\_.

*As Jesus passed on from there, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth, and he said to him, "Follow me." And he rose and followed him. Matthew 9:9*

"I have decided to follow Jesus; no turning back, no turning back."

4. Growing up to be like Jesus demands \_\_\_\_\_.

*Discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness; for bodily discipline is only of little profit, but godliness is profitable for all things, since it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come. 1 Timothy 4:7-8 NAS*

"Discipline" = *gymnazo* (Greek)

*Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. Philippians 2:12*

5. Growing up to be like Jesus avoids \_\_\_\_\_.

- The \_\_\_\_\_

*Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world. 1 John 2:15-16 NAS*

- The \_\_\_\_\_

*For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. Galatians 5:17*

*For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out. For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing. Romans 7:18-19*

- The \_\_\_\_\_

*Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. 1 Peter 5:8*



SESSION 1 STUDY GUIDE  
**GROWING UP TO BE LIKE JESUS**

**READ THE ARTICLE**

Cathryn and I remember fondly the days when our two kids were newborns and we brought them home from the hospital. Each was truly a bundle of joy. There is nothing like an angel-faced baby to touch a parent's heart deeply.

Like all parents, we expected our kids to grow up and not to remain infants. Over the years, we noticed slow and gradual changes in our children. Only when we look through old family photos do we realize how much they have grown up and, I must admit, how much we have changed, too.

What is true physically is also true spiritually. God expects His children, born into His family by faith in Jesus Christ, to grow up. Frankly, we are much like babies when we are first born again. The apostle Peter acknowledges this state of spiritual infancy when he encourages believers to, "like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation" (1 Peter 2:2). The writer of Hebrews also encourages us to "leave the elementary doctrine of Christ and go on to maturity" (6:1).

Growing up to be like Jesus is more than mere childhood development, although that is not a bad place to start in our thinking. The Bible gives us glimpses into the early years of Jesus from His life in Bethlehem and Nazareth. For example, Luke 2:52 says of Him as a boy, "And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man." At the very least, this verse describes a young Jesus that developed intellectually, physically, spiritually, and socially. He was balanced in mind, body, soul, and spirit. Parents do well to follow this pattern in rearing their own children. However, growing up to be like Jesus through the process of discipleship involves so much more.

Jesus commissioned His followers to “go and make disciples of all nations” (Matthew 28:19-20). However, many believers, let alone the churches they attend, do not have a clear plan for how to implement this command. What is a disciple, anyway?

A disciple is first and foremost a learner that follows a leader or teacher. *The Baker Encyclopedia of the Bible* defines a disciple as “someone who follows another person or another way of life and who submits himself to the discipline (teaching) of that leader or way.” It goes on to make the point, “Wherever there is a teacher and those taught, the idea of discipleship is present.”<sup>1</sup>

A disciple is a learner with the goal of also becoming a leader, one who eventually leads others to follow Jesus, a disciple that multiplies by making more disciples. The apostle Paul certainly had multiplication in mind when he urged the Corinthians to follow his example as he followed Christ’s. He also urged Timothy, “What you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also” (1 Corinthians 11:1; 2 Timothy 2:2).

Age and maturity are not the same. Being born into the family of God by faith in Jesus Christ does not guarantee that anyone will advance into spiritual maturity. The Bible does say “he who began a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ” (Philippians 1:6). However, how much of that work God completes in this life depends on our cooperation with the Holy Spirit in sanctifying us, and on how willing we are to follow Jesus fully. This is why some children of God advance in maturity and, sadly, others remain in spiritual diapers.

Jesus was not afraid to set high standards for His followers. He expected His disciples to prioritize Him over the members of their own family, give up everything, and be willing to carry their own cross. Or, He said pointedly, you “cannot be my disciple” (Luke 14:25-33). He compared following Him to building a tower. “Won’t you first sit down and estimate the cost to see if you have enough money to complete it?” The answer to Jesus’s rhetorical question is obviously yes. The clear implication is that while salvation is free of charge, discipleship comes at a mighty high cost. That’s why some people stopped following Jesus and others said, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life” (John 6:68).



Discipleship is active not passive spirituality, a life marked by personal sacrifice, self-denial, and surrendering to the will of God. It requires a daily and determined decision to follow hard after Jesus, fueled by a deep desire to know Him and be like Him. Disciples must also walk in the Spirit and resist the daily distractions of the world, the flesh, and the devil.

Needless to say, following Jesus is not for spiritual wimps. But the life Jesus lays out for us is the most exhilarating and exciting we can ever imagine. So, are you ready to grow up to be like Jesus? Grab your cross and let's follow Him.

**REFLECT BY ANSWERING QUESTIONS**

1. What is your biggest takeaway from the video? What did God show or teach you?

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2. List some ways the gospel has changed you since you placed your faith in Jesus? Consider attitudes and actions. What areas of your life still need to change?

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3. The old hymn says, "I have decided to follow Jesus; no turning back, no turning back." What part of your life before you met Jesus tempts you to turn back?

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4. Read Luke 9:57-62. What excuses did these men give before they could follow Jesus? What did Jesus say to them?

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5. Read Luke 14:25-33. When Jesus used the word “hate,” He was speaking in hyperbole (exaggeration). What point was He making about right priorities in our relationships?

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6. Read Mark 10:17-31. What did Jesus tell the rich ruler to do and why? What does money have to do with following Jesus?

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7. Read Luke 9:23-27. What does it mean to “take up your cross” daily and follow Jesus?

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- Jesus really didn't mean what He said
- 5. A disciple is a disciplined learner. T F
- 6. How often you attend church is an indication of your spiritual maturity. T F
- 7. Jesus expects everyone who is serious about following Him to liquidate all of their assets and give the proceeds to the poor. T F
- 8. Jesus is looking for enthusiastic disciples, like the man who said to Him, "I will follow you wherever you go." T F

### **RECALL THE MEMORY VERSE**

*And [Jesus] said to all, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it." Luke 9:23-24*



## SESSION 2 NOTES

### WHAT IS THE GOSPEL?

The word "gospel" means \_\_\_\_\_.

The gospel of Jesus Christ is first bad news about \_\_\_\_\_ and then good news about what God has done \_\_\_\_\_.

- All have sinned. Romans 3:23; 3:10-18
- The penalty of sin is death. Romans 6:23a
- Christ died on the cross for your sins and rose from the dead. Romans 5:8, 6:23b
- Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved. Romans 10:9-10

A \_\_\_\_\_ embraced by the early church and recorded in First Corinthians 15:3-4 summarizes the \_\_\_\_\_ of the gospel:

*For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures.*

Biblical salvation is ...

- By \_\_\_\_\_
- Through \_\_\_\_\_
- In \_\_\_\_\_

See also John 3:16; Ephesians 2:8-9; Acts 4:12; Titus 2:11-14, 3:4-7

### **What Does the Gospel Mean to Me?**

The New Testament speaks of salvation in three tenses: \_\_\_\_\_,  
\_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_.

1. You \_\_\_\_\_ saved. [\_\_\_\_\_]

*For by grace you have been saved through faith ... Ephesians 2:8*

*For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from the works of the law. Romans 3:28*

Justification is the \_\_\_\_\_ whereby he \_\_\_\_\_ the  
guilty sinner \_\_\_\_\_.

Justification is \_\_\_\_\_.

*For all ... are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ  
Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith.*

*This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had  
passed over former sins. Romans 3:24-25*

“Redemption” = Deliverance from sin based on a \_\_\_\_\_.

“Propitiation” = God is \_\_\_\_\_ with the payment that was made for our redemption. 1 John 2:2

2. You \_\_\_\_\_ saved. [\_\_\_\_\_]

*For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. 1 Corinthians 1:18*

*We are the aroma of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing. 2 Corinthians 2:15*

Sanctification is the process whereby the believer is \_\_\_\_\_ to God and from sin.

Sanctification is \_\_\_\_\_.

See also John 17:17; Ephesians 5:26; 1 Thessalonians 4:3; 2 Thessalonians 2:13; 1 Peter 1:2

3. You \_\_\_\_\_ saved. [\_\_\_\_\_]

*Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. Romans 5:9*

*For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified. Romans 8:29-30*



## Salvation Summary

- Justification = delivered from the \_\_\_\_\_ of sin.
- Sanctification = delivered from the \_\_\_\_\_ of sin.
- Glorification = delivered from the \_\_\_\_\_ of sin.



## SESSION 2 STUDY GUIDE

### WHAT IS THE GOSPEL?

#### READ THE ARTICLE

*“Extra! Extra! Read all about it!”*

A generation ago, news arrived slowly via daily newspapers, radio, and half-hour nightly news broadcasts aired by only three television networks. Then came the era of 24-hour cable news, followed by social media and other digital platforms delivering news at the speed of one’s fingertips. *Tweet* and *text* are new words in our vocabulary, and now everyone is a journalist with an opinion! These days, we can find out what is happening in the world anytime and anywhere. But these days, most news is bad news, and it weighs heavily upon us.

By contrast, the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ is always good news. It always has been and always will be good news. By itself, that is good news in an increasingly dark and despairing world. However, the gospel is good news for reasons you might not be aware.

The word *gospel* means “good news” and appears nearly one hundred times in the New Testament, translated from the Greek word *euangelion*, from which we get our English words *evangelist*, *evangel*, and *evangelical*. The gospel is refreshingly good news in a world full of toxic, unrelenting bad news. But it is also good news in light of the bad news about us found in the pages of Scripture. The Bible says “all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” and that “the wages of sin is death” (Romans 3:23, 6:23a). Furthermore, “the heart is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked; who can understand it?” (Jeremiah 17:9).

The biblical diagnosis of the human heart and, thus, our spiritual condition is not good. Reading the Bible with any measure of honesty is like receiving news from an oncologist that we have stage four cancer. However, we are not sick and in need of self-

help medication; we are sinners – “dead in your trespasses and sins” (Ephesians 2:1) – and in need of a Savior who can resurrect us to new life.

Thankfully, God did not leave us without a remedy for our sins. Having planned our redemption before the foundation of the world and out of His great love for us, God sent His one and only Son, Jesus, to purchase our salvation through His death on the cross so that we would not perish but have eternal life (John 3:16; Romans 6:23b). The facts of the gospel are indisputable. In his first letter to the Corinthians, Paul writes, “For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures” (1 Corinthians 15:3-4).

The impact of the gospel on our lives individually and upon the world globally is unmatched. The apostle Paul declared, “For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek” (Romans 1:16). That means the gospel is a *bold* message in which we have confidence, a *powerful* message because it is God’s, and a *saving* message because it is the only one that can rescue us from the penalty of sin and truly transform the human heart. The gospel is also a *universal* message because it is available to all who believe and a *unifying* message because it brings together otherwise hostile ethnicities.

Every generation must fight for the purity of the gospel. Jude says we must “contend for the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints.” He warns that some people creep into the church to pervert the grace of God and deny the Lord Jesus Christ. For this reason, the church must always stand ready to defend the gospel like a heavyweight champion contenting for another boxing title. Though the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ is at least two thousand years old, and allusions to it date back to the third chapter of Genesis, there is no guarantee, humanly speaking, that the gospel will survive to the next generation.

A period of time in church history known as the Dark Ages proves this. Therefore, the church must believe the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. Furthermore, we must proclaim, protect, and live the gospel in our daily lives. As disciples of Jesus, carefully transferring the stewardship of the gospel to the next generation is also our

responsibility, while remembering that Jesus said, “I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it” (Matthew 16:18).

The gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ is enough to save us from the penalty, power, and presence of sin. It makes me want to shout, *“Extra! Extra! Read all about it! Read, believe, and respond by faith to the gospel today.*

### **REFLECT BY ANSWERING QUESTIONS**

1. What is your biggest takeaway from the video? What did God show or teach you?

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2. List some ways the gospel is “good news” to you and to all who believe.

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3. From the list below, place a check next to the Christian doctrines that are essential to gospel salvation and, therefore, non-negotiable. In other words, what must a person believe to be saved?

- The deity of Jesus Christ
- The substitutionary atonement of Jesus Christ
- Salvation by God’s grace and faith in Jesus Christ alone
- The bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ
- The second coming of Jesus Christ
- All of the above

4. Read Romans 5:1-11 and list some of the benefits of the gospel?

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5. Read Galatians 1:6-9. What does Paul mean by a “different gospel?” How can you avoid being seduced by a different gospel?

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6. Read Romans 1:16 and Luke 9:26. Why is Paul not ashamed of the gospel? What did Jesus say would happen to those who are ashamed of Him? What does it look like to be ashamed of the gospel?

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7. Read Luke 5:32, 13:3, 5; Matthew 4:17, Matthew 12:41, 1 Thessalonians 1:9, and Psalm 51:17. What does it mean to repent? How does repentance relate to the gospel in salvation? How does it relate to our daily walk with Jesus?

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**RECORD YOUR THOUGHTS**



5. Everyone who is truly saved and justified will be glorified in heaven. T F
6. The doctrine of the second coming of Jesus Christ is essential to our understanding of the gospel? T F
7. Jesus died on the cross to pay the penalty for our sins and to satisfy the holy and righteous demands of God's law. T F
8. Repentance is characterized by
  - A change of mind
  - A 180 degree change in direction
  - True brokenness for sin
  - Agreement with God about sin with a commitment to change
  - All of the above

### **RECALL THE MEMORY VERSE**

*For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast, For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them. Ephesians 2:8-10*



### SESSION 3 NOTES

## THE ASSURANCE OF YOUR SALVATION

*“Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine. O what a foretaste of glory divine.”*

The reason you can be \_\_\_\_\_ of your salvation is because the believer in Jesus Christ is \_\_\_\_\_.

- The doctrine of eternal security<sup>ii</sup>
- “Once saved, always saved!”
- Perseverance of the saints

The assurance of your salvation is based on the \_\_\_\_\_ not your \_\_\_\_\_.

### Reasons Your Salvation Is Secure

1. Eternal life is a \_\_\_\_\_ made by God to those who believe in Jesus, and God \_\_\_\_\_!

*“Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life.” John 3:36*



*“All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out.” John 6:37*

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

*And this is the testimony, that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life. I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life. 1 John 5:11-13*

*... in the hope of eternal life, which God, who cannot lie, promised long ages ago. Titus 1:2*

2. God \_\_\_\_\_ you righteous by faith in Jesus.

*Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Romans 5:1*

3. God says you are no longer \_\_\_\_\_.

*“Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life.” John 5:24*

*There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. Romans 8:1*

4. The Holy Spirit \_\_\_\_\_ the believer in Jesus.

*In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit. Ephesians 1:13*

5. The Holy Spirit \_\_\_\_\_ that you are a child of God.

*The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God. Romans 8:16*

6. You are in the \_\_\_\_\_ of God's grace.

*"I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand." John 10:28-29*

### **But Can the Believer in Jesus Fall Away?<sup>iii</sup>**

*For it is impossible, in the case of those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, and have shared in the Holy Spirit, and have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the age to come, and then have fallen away, to restore them again to repentance, since they are crucifying once again the Son of God to their own harm and holding him up to contempt. Hebrews 6:4-6*

*Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy, to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time, and now and forever. Amen. Jude 24-25*

*And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. Philippians 1:6*

### **Can A Person Be Falsely Assured?**

*"Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and*

*do many mighty works in your name?’ And then will I declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.’” Matthew 7:21-23*

False \_\_\_\_\_ can lead to a false \_\_\_\_\_.

**Because Your Salvation Is Secure ...**

1. \_\_\_\_\_ your \_\_\_\_\_.

2. \_\_\_\_\_ to God with confidence.

*And since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. Hebrews 10:21-23*

*Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. Hebrews 4:6*

3. Live like the \_\_\_\_\_ you are.



## SESSION 3 STUDY GUIDE

# THE ASSURANCE OF YOUR SALVATION

### READ THE ARTICLE

Unilever is an Australian consumer products company that makes a deodorant and antiperspirant called Sure. During the 1980s, they advertised their product by showing images of confident people raising their hand high into the air, including a student asking a question, a bridesmaid catching a bouquet, and a policewoman directing traffic. The snappy ad jingle closed by saying, “Confident, confident, dry and secure. Raise your hand, raise your hand if you're sure!”

As a believer in Jesus Christ, you can and should be able to raise your hand with confidence that you are sure of your salvation. The apostle John says assuredly, “I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life” (1 John 5:13). As a belief system, Christianity teaches there are some things we can know for sure.

Philosophy, on the other hand, begins with the basic assumption that we cannot know anything for sure. Socrates famously said, “The only thing I know is that I know nothing.” However, this is where human philosophy and biblical truth part ways. Colossians 2:8 warns, “See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ.”

Philosophy is right about one thing. We cannot know anything unless someone or something with knowledge reveals truth to us. That’s exactly what the Bible says God has most certainly done in creation, in our conscience, through His written Word, and in the Living Word who is Jesus Christ. For that reason, we can raise our hand and be sure of so much, including that we possess eternal life through faith in Jesus.

Theologically, the assurance of our salvation flows out of the doctrine of eternal security, which points to the Holy Spirit's role in securing our salvation. The Holy Spirit is God's unbreakable seal on His people (Ephesians 4:30). The presence of the Holy Spirit in us from the moment of saving faith is also God's guarantee of our spiritual inheritance (Ephesians 1:13-14; 2 Corinthians 1:21-22). Think of the Spirit as like an earnest money deposit in a real estate transaction. The buyer's indication of good faith is the deposit he gives to the seller. He is saying, "I am good for the rest of the purchase price at closing." In the same way, the Holy Spirit is the first installment of the salvation inheritance God promises to give us in Christ.

A Trinitarian view of salvation helps to understand our assurance (Ephesians 1:3-14). God the Father planned our salvation, God the Son purchased our salvation, and God the Holy Spirit promises, secures, seals, and guarantees our salvation. Salvation is all about what God has done for us by His own gracious action. Because God is the One who guarantees our salvation by His Spirit, we should never doubt that He has saved us (1 Peter 1:4-5).

Why is the assurance of our salvation so important? Generally speaking, psychologists tell us that insecure people develop unhealthy relationships. They are self-obsessed and present false exteriors. They put other people down to make themselves feel good. I could go on but I think you get the idea.

Likewise, insecure Christians have a difficult time accepting the fullness of God's grace and forgiveness. Because they worry they might lose their salvation, they are always seeking God's approval rather than embracing the righteousness of Christ applied to them by faith. They often feel more rejected than redeemed, and certainly not pleasing in the eyes of God. An insecure believer may feel unworthy to come boldly before the throne of grace in prayer for help in time of need. Eternal insecurity can also lead to legalism, the measuring of one's spirituality by a list of arbitrary externals and the placing of those demands on others in the body of Christ.

For all of these reasons and more, the assurance of your salvation is essential to your healthy growth and development in Christ. This is why the devil, the accuser of God's people, will do everything he can to cast doubt on what God has declared to be true about you in Christ.

The phrase “once saved, always saved” is not found anywhere in the Bible, but the concept certainly is. As a believer in Jesus Christ, therefore, remember this: Confident, confident, saved and secure. Raise your hand, raise your hand because you’re sure.

**REFLECT BY ANSWERING QUESTIONS**

1. What is your biggest takeaway from the video? What did God show or teach you?

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2. Of the six reasons Ron shared in the video about why your salvation is secure, which one impacted you the most and why?

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3. On the scale below, circle the number that describes how much you depend on your feelings (1) or faith (5) in your daily walk with Jesus.

1 2 3 4 5

4. Check all the reasons below for why you can be assured of your salvation.

- Eternal life is a promise made by God to those who believe in Jesus.
- The Holy Spirit guarantees my salvation.
- God declared me righteous by faith in Jesus.
- I am getting better everyday at obeying the Lord’s commands.
- All of the above

5. Read 1 John 5:11-13. Who or what is the source of eternal life? Can we know with certainty that we possess eternal life? Why or why not?

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6. Read Matthew 7:21-23. List three reasons why a person might be falsely assured of salvation.

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7. Describe how the doctrine of eternal security and the assurance of your salvation motivates your daily walk with Jesus?

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**RECORD YOUR THOUGHTS**

Use this space to journal your thoughts or verbalize a prayer to God.

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## REVIEW BY TAKING A QUIZ

This quiz draws from content delivered in the video plus this study guide.

1. The doctrine of eternal security says that once saved I must work hard to keep from losing my salvation. T F
2. The reason you can be assured of your salvation is because you are doing better everyday to obey the Lord's commands. T F
3. Which member of the Holy Trinity specifically guarantees your salvation?
  - God the Father
  - God the Son
  - God the Holy Spirit
  - All of the above
6. Read Hebrews 10:21-23. We can draw near to God with confidence because ...
  - We are fully assured of our salvation.
  - We have a clean conscience.
  - God who promised salvation is faithful.
  - All of the above
5. The doctrine of eternal security is widely accepted throughout the body of Christ without controversy. T F
6. If you doubt your salvation, you are not truly saved. T F
7. Philosophy and biblical theology are at odds when it comes to knowing anything for sure. T F
8. As children of the living God by faith, we should always draw near to God with confidence. T F



**RECALL THE MEMORY VERSE**

*I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life. 1 John 5:13*



SESSION 4 NOTES

## GOING PUBLIC WITH YOUR FAITH

The Bible mentions two baptisms:

1. \_\_\_\_\_ baptism
2. \_\_\_\_\_ baptism

### Who Should Be Baptized in Water?

Water baptism is not required for \_\_\_\_\_, but \_\_\_\_\_ is required for water baptism.

### Why Should You Be Baptized in Water?

1. To follow the \_\_\_\_\_ set by Jesus.

*At that time Jesus came from Nazareth and was baptized by John. Mark 1:9*

*As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. Matthew 3:16*

2. Because Christ \_\_\_\_\_ it.

*“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.” Matthew 28:19*

*We know that we have come to know him, if we obey his commands. 1 John 2:3*

*And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.” Acts 2:38*

3. My baptism says to the world, “I have decided to \_\_\_\_\_!”

*Many people who heard him were baptized. Acts 18:8*

### **What Is the Meaning of Water Baptism?**

1. Water baptism is a \_\_\_\_\_ not a \_\_\_\_\_.

*For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, that no one should boast. Ephesians 2:8-9<sup>v</sup>*

2. Water baptism is a \_\_\_\_\_ to God.

*Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, 22 who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers having been subjected to him. 1 Peter 3:21-22*

3. Water baptism is a \_\_\_\_\_.

*For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. 1 Corinthians 15:3-4*

*For when you were baptized, you were buried with Christ, and in baptism you were also raised with Christ. Colossians 2:12*

4. Water baptism \_\_\_\_\_ us with Jesus Christ.

*We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. Romans 6:4*

*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. 2 Corinthians 5:17*

5. Water baptism is \_\_\_\_\_.

*“Baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.”*

*Matthew 28:19-20*

### **How Should You Be Baptized?**

1.

2.

3.

For the first 1200 years of Christian history, \_\_\_\_\_ was the universally accepted mode of baptism.

*As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. Matthew 3:16*

*Then both Phillip and the eunuch went down into the water and Phillip baptized him.*

*When they came up out of the water . . . Acts 8:38-39*

The Greek word \_\_\_\_\_ means “to dip, to sink, to submerge, to immerse, or to bury.”

### **When Should You Be Baptized?**

When you become a \_\_\_\_\_ in Jesus Christ and as a \_\_\_\_\_ of obedience in the Christian life.

*Those who had received his word were baptized. Acts 2:41*

*But when they believed . . . they were being baptized. Acts 8:12*

See also Acts 8:35-38; 9:18; 10:48; 16:14-15, 32-33, 18:8

### **What About Infant Baptism?**

Infant baptism began as early as 200 AD because of the distortion of two doctrines.

- The doctrine of \_\_\_\_\_
- The doctrine of \_\_\_\_\_

Out of that debate came something called **the sacramental view of baptism**. As a sacrament, baptism was viewed as a means of receiving God’s grace. The Bible teaches that baptism is a symbol not a sacrament and that God’s grace results from faith not something we do (Ephesians 2:8-9). Therefore, baptism is an **ordinance** of the church not a sacrament.

So, what happens to an infant or child that dies before he or she is old enough to make a faith decision? God receives that child into His presence.<sup>v</sup>



SESSION 4 STUDY GUIDE  
**GOING PUBLIC WITH YOUR FAITH**

**READ THE ARTICLE**

When I was a seminary student, I took a class in pastoral ministries that included a one-day lecture and lab on the theology and practice of New Testament baptism. The lecture from the professor who was also a pastor suggested the following verbiage to use with a baptism candidate while enacting the ordinance.

*Pastor: "Have you placed your faith in Jesus Christ alone for the forgiveness of your sins?"*

*Candidate: "Yes"*

*Pastor: "Based on your profession of faith in Jesus Christ, and in obedience to His divine command, I baptize you, my brother, in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.*

*Then place the candidate under the water while saying, "Buried with Christ unto death." Immediately raise the candidate up out of the water while saying, "Rise again to new life."*

For the lab, we traveled to a local church, filled the baptistery with water, and practiced on our fellow students. Facilitating a baptism by full immersion is not as easy as it looks. It's one thing to bury the candidate by placing him under water; it's another thing to raise him from the dead without the pastor going under himself. Sprinkling candidates with water or pouring it over their head sounds a lot easier. But the Greek word *baptizo*, which means "to dip, sink, submerge or immerse," compels me to perform baptisms by full immersion.

The lecture and lab provided me with the opportunity to closely examine the sacred symbol that Jesus ordained for practice in the church. Since then, I have baptized hundreds of people in various places, including the church baptistery,

swimming pools, Jacuzzis, and the ocean. I have even traveled to Israel and baptized people in the Jordan River. What a joy! In the Christian faith, baptism is one of two practices ordained by Jesus Christ who Himself was baptized by John the Baptizer (Mark 1:9); the other ordinance is communion or the Lord's Supper.

Debate about the holy ordinance of baptism litters church history. The Catholic Church still views baptism as one of seven sacraments that confer God's grace. Protestants, of course, protest such theology, rejecting it on the basis that eternal salvation is a gift of God's grace and "not by works" (Ephesians 2:8-9; Titus 3:5-7), not even the work of baptism.

So what exactly is Christian baptism? First, baptism is a *symbol not a sacrament*. Like a wedding ring, baptism outwardly pictures an inward reality made possible by a pledge of faith or commitment. Baptism by immersion under water best pictures this spiritual reality and identifies us with the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ (Romans 6:4; Colossians 2:12).

Baptism does not accomplish our salvation any more than a wedding ring makes a single person married. Likewise, a person does not need to be baptized to be saved and go to heaven. Jesus assured the thief on the cross of paradise even though the thief was never baptized (Luke 23:39-43).

Second, baptism is an *act of obedience*. Jesus mandated baptism in the Great Commission when He said, "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them ..." (Matthew 28:19). This is a command not a suggestion. For this reason, baptism is a first step of obedience in the Christian life. Jesus said, "If you love me, you will keep my commandments" (John 14:15). Have you been baptized?

Third, baptism is a *public profession of faith*; it is the way we say unashamedly, "I have decided to follow Jesus!" Therefore, baptism is a celebration and proclamation of one's faith in Jesus Christ. In the early church, it cost a disciple something, perhaps his or her own life, to publicly identify with Jesus Christ through baptism. Therefore, only true believers were baptized, but when they believed they were baptized immediately.

Are you ready to go public with your faith?

**REFLECT BY ANSWERING QUESTIONS**

1. What is your biggest takeaway from the video? What did God show or teach you?

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2. Have you been baptized in water as a believer in Jesus Christ? Where and when? Why or why not?

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3. Explain how you would encourage someone who had been baptized as an infant to be baptized again as a believer in Jesus.

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4. Read Matthew 28:19-20. What role does baptism play in the Great Commission Jesus gave to His disciples?

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5. What happens to the believer in Jesus Christ that dies having never been baptized?





## REVIEW BY TAKING A QUIZ

This quiz draws from content delivered in the video plus this study guide.

1. What best describes New Testament water baptism?
  - Symbol of the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ
  - Sermon
  - Pledge to God of a good conscience
  - Trinitarian
  - All of the above
2. For the first 1200 years of Christian history, immersion under water was the universally accepted mode of baptism. T F
3. From the following list, mark the best and most biblical way to be baptized.
  - Sprinkled with water
  - Water poured on your head
  - By full immersion into water
  - By taking a shower in your bathroom
7. Why should a believer in Jesus be baptized?
  - To follow the example set by Jesus
  - Because Jesus commanded us to be baptized.
  - Baptism is my public profession of faith in Jesus
  - All of the above
5. Water baptism by full immersion happens in the name of the twelve apostles. T F
6. When should you be baptized?
  - As an infant
  - As last rights before you die
  - When you join the church
  - As soon as you believe in Jesus
7. The Greek word *baptizo* means to shower water upon the head. T F
8. Protestants view baptism as a sacrament that confers the grace of God. T F

## **RECALL THE MEMORY VERSE**

We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. Romans 6:4



## SESSION 5 NOTES

### THE DISCIPLINES OF A DISCIPLE

*Discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness; for bodily discipline is only of little profit, but godliness is profitable for all things, since it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come. 1 Timothy 4:7-8 NAS*

“Discipline” = *gymnazo* (Greek)

*Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. Philippians 2:12*

*Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it. Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. So I do not run aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air. But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified. 1 Corinthians 9:24-27 NAS*

“The successful Christian life is a sweaty affair! No discipline, no discipleship. No sweat, no sainthood.” R. Kent Hughes, *Disciplines of a Godly Man*

1. Discipline your MIND by \_\_\_\_\_.

*“You shall love the Lord your God with all your ... mind.” Luke 10:27*

*“For who has understood the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?” But we have the mind of Christ. 1 Corinthians 2:16*

*Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect. Romans 12:2*

- \_\_\_\_\_ God’s word daily.
- \_\_\_\_\_ God’s word regularly. 2 Timothy 2:15
- \_\_\_\_\_ upon God’s word deeply. Joshua 1:8; Psalm 119:97
- \_\_\_\_\_ God’s word strategically. Psalm 119:11
- \_\_\_\_\_ to the preaching of God’s word intently.  
2 Timothy 4:2; Romans 10:14

2. Discipline your BODY by \_\_\_\_\_.

*But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified. 1 Corinthians 9:27*

*Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body. Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.*

*1 Corinthians 6:18-20*

*For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality; that each one of you know how to control his own body in holiness and honor, not in the passion of lust like the Gentiles who do not know God. 1 Thessalonians 4:3-5*

3. Discipline your HEART through \_\_\_\_\_.

True Christian worship happens when we \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_,  
\_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ God above all else.

*Oh come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker! Psalm 95:6*

*Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe, for our God is a consuming fire. Hebrews 12:28-29*

*“This people honors me with their lips, but their heart is far from me; in vain do they worship me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.” Matthew 15:8-9*

- Worship God in \_\_\_\_\_.  
John 4:21-24
- Worship God in \_\_\_\_\_.  
Colossians 3:16; Hebrews 13:15-16
- Worship God in \_\_\_\_\_.  
Psalm 150:1-6; Ephesians 5:19
- Worship God in \_\_\_\_\_.  
Hebrews 13:15-1; Romans 12:1

4. Discipline your SOUL through \_\_\_\_\_ and  
\_\_\_\_\_.

*He said to them, “It is written, ‘My house shall be called a house of prayer,’ but you make it a den of robbers.” Matthew 21:13*

*And rising very early in the morning, while it was still dark, he departed and went out to a desolate place, and there he prayed. Mark 1:35*

*“Pray then like this: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name ... Matthew 6:5-15*

*Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. And after fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. Matthew 4:1-2*

*“And when you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. <sup>17</sup> But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, that your fasting may not be seen by others but by your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.” Matthew 6:16-18*



## SESSION 5 STUDY GUIDE

# THE DISCIPLINES OF A DISCIPLE

### READ THE ARTICLE

Like most young boys growing up in Indiana, I collected baseball cards and dreamed about one day playing for my favorite professional team. I remember cherishing a specialty card in my collection with a picture of one major league baseball player teaching others how to hit a baseball. The words “Ted Shows How” appeared across the top of the card. That’s “Ted” as in Ted Williams.

Ted Williams is still one of the best hitters the game of baseball has ever produced. Aspiring players marvel at his lifetime batting average of .344 and 521 home runs. To this day, he remains one of few players to hit .400 for a full single season, finishing at .406 to be exact. Williams literally wrote the book called *The Science of Hitting* after he retired from baseball and had time to think about why he was so successful.

People like Ted Williams know there is no such thing as an overnight success. The modern celebrity culture makes us think otherwise by confusing fame with the kind of achievement that only comes by hard work over a long period of time. Athletes, artists, musicians, businesspeople, and the like all know that it takes discipline and a long determination in the same direction to accomplish anything worthwhile in this life. The same is true in the Christian life. The sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit in making disciples of us requires a “long obedience in the same direction.”<sup>1</sup>

I am not suggesting that we must work hard to achieve salvation and possess eternal life. On the contrary, we are not saved *by* good works but *for* good works (Ephesians 2:8-10). The Bible also says, “Work out your own salvation with fear and

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<sup>1</sup> Eugene Peterson uses this phrase to describe the Christian life in his book by the same title.



trembling, for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure” (Philippians 2:12-13).

The working out of your salvation happens as you cooperate with the sanctifying grace of the Holy Spirit in what is also called discipleship. Work out your faith in the good times and in the bad times, when God feels close and when He seems far away. Work it out, knowing that God is also at work in you.

The journey is short from the word “disciple” to the word “discipline.” A disciple of Jesus Christ is a disciplined person. In fact, the apostle Paul encourages his young protégé in the ministry named Timothy by saying, “Discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness; for bodily discipline is only of little profit, but godliness is profitable for all things, since it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come” (1 Timothy 4:7-8 NAS).

Like Ted Williams who showed others how to hit a baseball, Jesus shows us how to live the Christian life successfully by inviting us to follow Him and learn from Him (Matthew 4:19, 11:29). Today, I wish I still had that Ted Williams baseball card in my possession. Unfortunately, my mother sold my entire box of baseball cards in a garage sale when I was in college. I know, I know. Don't get me started. Fortunately, Jesus promised to always be with us even to the end of the age (Matthew 28:20).

### **REFLECT BY ANSWERING QUESTIONS**

1. What is your biggest takeaway from the video? What did God show or teach you?

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2. How disciplined of a person are you? Think through the answer to this question intellectually, physically, emotionally, and spiritually.

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3. Read 1 Corinthians 9:24-27. How does the discipline an athlete must bring to a game compare to the discipline of a disciple of Jesus? According to Paul, what is the consequence of an undisciplined life?

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4. In what area of your life do you need to exercise more spiritual discipline, and why? How does this relate to loving God and the Great Commandment in Matthew 22:36-40?

- Mind
- Body
- Heart
- Soul

5. Read Galatians 5:22-23. What role does the Holy Spirit play in forming the disciplines of a disciple in us?

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6. What steps will you take this week to become a more disciplined follower of Jesus with your mind, body, heart, and soul?

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### **RECORD YOUR THOUGHTS**

Use this space to journal your thoughts or verbalize a prayer to God.

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### **REVIEW BY TAKING A QUIZ**

This quiz draws from content delivered in the video plus this study guide.

1. Real transformation happens first by changing the way we think. T F
  
2. How does a disciple of Jesus renew his or her mind?
  - Read God's word daily.
  - Study God's word regularly.
  - Meditate upon God's word deeply.
  - Memorize God's word strategically.
  - All of the above
  
3. One of the consequences of an undisciplined spiritual life is the loss of your salvation. T F
  
4. In the spiritual life, it really doesn't matter how you treat your body. T F

5. Check all the ways a person can worship the Lord.
- In Spirit and in truth
  - In word
  - In song
  - In deed
  - All of the above
6. As a believer in Jesus Christ, your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit. T F
7. True Christian worship only happens when we have a good self-esteem. T F
8. You begin your walk with Christ the same way you grow in Christ, by grace and through faith. T F
9. The way Jesus taught His disciples to pray was with a model not a mandate to use exact words. T F
10. A disciple of Jesus is a disciplined person in mind, body, heart, and soul. T F

### **RECALL THE MEMORY VERSE**

Discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness; for bodily discipline is only of little profit, but godliness is profitable for all things, since it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come. 1 Timothy 4:7-8 NAS



## SESSION 6 NOTES

### MORE DISCIPLINES OF A DISCIPLE

*Discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness; for bodily discipline is only of little profit, but godliness is profitable for all things, since it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come. 1 Timothy 4:7-8 NAS*

1. Discipline your MIND by the word of God.
2. Discipline your BODY by pursuing purity.
3. Discipline your HEART through worship.
4. Discipline your SOUL through prayer and fasting.
5. Discipline your TIME by \_\_\_\_\_.

“Time is a fragment of eternity given by God to man as a solemn stewardship.”  
Dr. Stephen Olford

*So teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom. Psalm 90:12*

*Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. Ephesians 5:16-17*

*Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, making the best use of the time. Colossians 4:5*

*Ways to Redeem the Time*

- Set \_\_\_\_\_ . Matthew 6:33
- Stop \_\_\_\_\_ . Haggai 1:3-4; Proverbs 6:9-11
- Start \_\_\_\_\_ . Exodus 18:13-27
- \_\_\_\_\_ your day. Pames 16:9; James 4:13-17
- Learn to say \_\_\_\_\_ !
- Work with your \_\_\_\_\_ .

6. Discipline your MONEY by \_\_\_\_\_ .

*“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for your-selves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light, but if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness! No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.” Matthew 6:19-24*

- Giving is an \_\_\_\_\_ in eternity. 19-20
- Giving moves my \_\_\_\_\_ closer to God. 21
- Giving clarifies my \_\_\_\_\_. 22-23
- Giving focuses my \_\_\_\_\_. 24

- Giving activates God's \_\_\_\_\_.  
Luke 6:38; Malachi 3:10; 1 Corinthians 9:6
- Giving makes me \_\_\_\_\_. John 3:16

7. Discipline your WILL by \_\_\_\_\_.

*“My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will.” Matthew 26:39*

*“Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.” Matthew 6:10*

*For whoever does the will of God, he is my brother and sister and mother.” Mark 3:35*

*Instead you ought to say, “If the Lord wills, we will do this or that.” James 4:15*

*I delight to do your will, O my God; your law is within my heart. Psalm 40:8*

*If you are willing and obedient, you shall eat the good of the land. Isaiah 1:19*

8. Discipline your RELATIONSHIPS through \_\_\_\_\_.

*So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. Genesis 1:26-27*

*Then the Lord God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him.” Genesis 2:18*

More than 50 “one another” references in the New Testament point to how we need each other. Here are a few:

- ✓ Love one another
- ✓ Be devoted to one another
- ✓ Give preference to one another
- ✓ Accept one another
- ✓ Admonish one another
- ✓ Greet one another
- ✓ Serve one another
- ✓ Bear one another's burdens
- ✓ Be kind to one another
- ✓ Regard one another
- ✓ Comfort one another
- ✓ Be hospitable to one another

*They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved. Acts 2:42-47*





## SESSION 6 STUDY GUIDE

### MORE DISCIPLINES OF A DISCIPLE

#### READ THE ARTICLE

The list of spiritual disciplines we could talk about seems endless. For example, in his best-selling book *Celebration of Discipline*, Richard Foster lists no less than twelve spiritual disciplines we can and should practice. He categorizes them as inward, outward, and corporate disciplines. In the previous session, I offered a different way of thinking by listing the mind, body, heart, and soul as the first areas of life that require the kind of spiritual training that leads to godliness (1 Timothy 4:7-8). Other areas that require the same include our time, money, will, and relationships. How we discipline these last four areas of life is a worthy discussion.

Imagine someone depositing \$1,440 into your bank account every day. The catch is you must spend it at a rate of \$1 per minute or the money will transfer back out of your account. That's what time is like. Each day contains 24 hours or 1,440 minutes.

Time, of course, is a non-reusable resource. We cannot save time or store it in a retrieval system. As the old saying goes, we must use it or lose it. Truly, time is of the essence because we never get back the time we waste. According to the Bible, we can only redeem it (Ephesians 5:15-16). But what exactly is time?

The famous physicist Dr. Stephen Hawking wrote a book titled *A Brief History of Time*. Honestly, reading it left me still scratching my head about time. In my opinion, Dr. Stephen Olford, a pastor, offers the best definition of time and certainly one that is less scientific. He says, "Time is a fragment of eternity given by God to man as a solemn stewardship." In other words, time is a sacred trust for which we will give an account. Time is also a creation concept and the rhythm of life ordained by God (Genesis 1:3, Ecclesiastes 3:1).

We can spend a lot of time and money learning time management techniques. However, nothing motivates me to spend my time wisely more than the thought of one day standing before God and hearing Him ask, "What did you do with the time I gave you on earth?"

A conversation about the discipline of our time leads to the same about money because some people say time is money. As followers of Jesus, the most important question we must answer about money is this: Whose money is it, anyway? Jesus talked more about money than He did heaven and hell combined. He knew that money could easily become the god we worship. That's why He said point blank, "You cannot serve God and money" (Matthew 6:24). He also got to the heart of the money matter by saying, "Where your treasure is that's where your heart is also" (Matthew 6:21).

Transitioning our worldview of money and property from ownership to stewardship is not easy. The material things we possess in life threaten to possess us, and they die a slow death. They are some of the last things to come under the Lordship of Jesus Christ. Once we resolve the money matter and accept the fact that all we have belongs to God (Psalm 24:1), and that we are merely His money and property managers (Luke 16:1-14), then we can begin talking about the biblical way to discipline and manage the wealth God has entrusted to us.

Our will also requires discipline and must be brought under the Lordship of Jesus Christ. Jesus famously prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane, "My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will" (Matthew 26:39). Even Jesus, the sinless Son of God, learned obedience and submission to the Father's will through suffering (Hebrews 5:8).

Picture a wild stallion that runs freely in the open range but also has the potential to become a thoroughbred racehorse that wins the Kentucky Derby. Horse trainers talk about "breaking" such a horse. In other words, the horses' will must be brought into compliance with the rider's will. That's the only way he will become a champion. In the same way, God who redeemed us also sees great potential in us. But our wild and stubbornly sinful will must be broken and brought in submission to the Lordship of Jesus Christ. Only then will we glorify God and fulfill the purpose for which He created us.

Finally, our relationships require healthy discipline. We were created for community, hard-wired for connection in human relationships. That shouldn't surprise us because perfect fellowship exists in the triune Godhead between the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Also, more than 50 "one another" passages in the New Testament bears witness to the fact that we need each other, whether we are willing to admit it or not. The best place for us to experience authentic, biblical community is in the church, a body of assembled believers in Jesus who, like a family, brings comfort to people in a harsh and sinful world (Acts 2:42-47).

**REFLECT BY ANSWERING QUESTIONS**

1. What is your biggest takeaway from the video? What did God show or teach you?

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2. On a scale of 1 to 5, indicate whether you manage your time, talent, and treasure according to an ownership (1) or a stewardship (5) worldview.

1 2 3 4 5

3. Read Psalm 90. How does Moses reflect on the brevity of life? How should the way you prioritize your time change because you are a follower of Jesus?

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4. Check the statement below that best describes the way you think about money and material things.

- "What's mine is mine and I'm going to keep it."
- "What's yours is mine and I'm going to take it."

- “What’s mine is God’s and I’m going to share it.”
- “What’s ours is God’s and we’re going to share it.”

5. Read Matthew 6:33 and Proverbs 3:9-10 and then honestly reflect on your personal financial life and budget. Check all the statements below that describe you.

- “I give to God as a first priority in my budget.”
- “I give to God after all my bills are paid.”
- “Giving to God is not a priority in my financial life.”
- “I’m selfish and have a hard time giving my money away.”
- “Generosity is a way of life for me.”

6. Read Isaiah 1:19 and John 14:15. What is the connection between the will and obedience? In what area of your life do you have the greatest difficulty walking in obedience to God’s commands?

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7. Read Hebrews 10:24-25. Why is it important to get connected in a local church that preaches the gospel?

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8. Read Acts 2:42-47 and list three benefits of being connected in authentic biblical community.

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## RECORD YOUR THOUGHTS

Use this space to journal your thoughts or verbalize a prayer to God.

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## REVIEW BY TAKING A QUIZ

This quiz draws from content delivered in the video plus this study guide.

1. How should a Christian view his or her time on earth?
  - Sacred trust
  - Fragment of eternity
  - Non-reusable resource
  - Something to redeem
  - All of the above
  
2. Jesus taught his disciples to invest their treasure (money) in earthly things. T F
  
3. The discipline of giving my money back to God ...
  - Makes me more like God
  - Moves my heart closer to God
  - Activates God's economic plan
  - All of the above
  
8. Where is the best place to experience the authentic biblical community for which we were created?

- Neighborhood bar
  - Local church
  - VFW lodge
  - Rotary club
  - Little League baseball games
5. The free exercise of my will according to what feels good at the moment is the best way to follow Jesus and grow spiritually. T F
6. When Jesus prayed to the Father, “Not as I will, but as you will,” He was showing signs of moral weakness. T F
7. God created us for relationships of integrity. T F
8. My financial life and my spiritual life have nothing to do with each other. T F

### **RECALL THE MEMORY VERSE**

Honor the Lord with your wealth and with the firstfruits of all your produce; then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will be bursting with wine. Proverbs 3:9-10



SESSION 7 NOTES  
**THE HOLY SPIRIT IN YOU**

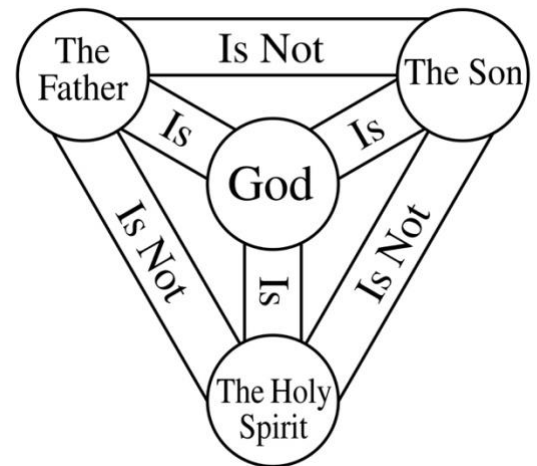
The Christian life can either be an exciting adventure or drudgery depending on your relationship to the \_\_\_\_\_.

You can live in \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_.

*“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you.” Acts 1:8*

**Who Is the Holy Spirit?**

1. The Holy Spirit is a \_\_\_\_\_.
2. The Holy Spirit is \_\_\_\_\_.



## What Does the Holy Spirit Do?

- Conviction / John 16:7-11
- Regeneration / John 3:1-21
- Inspiration / 2 Tim. 3:16; 1 Pet. 1:23
- Illumination / 1 Corinthians 2:9-12
- Sanctification / 2 Thess. 2:13, 4:3-4
- Down Payment / Ephesians 1:13-14
- Restrain / 2 Thessalonians 2:6-8
- Indwell / 1 Cor. 1:21; 1 John 2:20, 27
- Baptize / 1 Corinthians 12:13
- Empower (Fill) / Eph. 5:18; Acts 1:8
- Secure / Ephesians 1:13, 4:30

## Three Kinds of People

1. \_\_\_\_\_ person

*The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. 1 Corinthians 2:14*

2. \_\_\_\_\_ person

*The spiritual person judges all things, but is himself to be judged by no one. . . . But we have the mind of Christ. 1 Corinthians 2:15-16*

3. \_\_\_\_\_ person

*But I, brothers, could not address you as spiritual people, but as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ. I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for it. And even now you are not yet ready, for you are still of the flesh. For while there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not of the flesh and behaving only in a human way? 1 Corinthians 3:1-3*

*But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these*



are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. Galatians 5:16-17

<b>WORKS OF THE FLESH</b>	<b>FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT</b>
<p><i>Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. Galatians 5:19-21</i></p>	<p><i>But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. Galatians 5:22-24</i></p>

### Three Negative Commands

1. Do not \_\_\_\_\_ the Spirit. Ephesians 4:30
2. Do not \_\_\_\_\_ the Spirit. 1 Thessalonians 5:19
3. Do not \_\_\_\_\_ the Spirit. Acts 7:51

Instead . . .

“Abide in Me” / John 15:1-11

“Be filled with the Spirit” / Ephesians 5:18

“Walk in the Spirit” / Galatians 5:16

“Live by the Spirit” / Galatians 5:25

“Keep in step with the Spirit” / Galatians 5:25

This happens by \_\_\_\_\_.

*Exhale* by \_\_\_\_\_ to God in prayer. 1 John 1:9

*Inhale* by \_\_\_\_\_ to God's and by asking him to fill you with his Holy Spirit. Ephesians 5:18; 1 John 5:14-15

*Father in heaven, I am helpless to live the Christian life in my own strength. I need you to enable me by the power of your Holy Spirit to be a strong witness for you and to live a holy life. Thank you for forgiving my sins through the cross of Christ [confess any known sins since the last time you spoke to God]. I repent of my sin. I ask you to fill me right now with your Holy Spirit and take control of my mind, mouth, eyes, hands, feet, and feelings. Amen.*



## SESSION 7 STUDY GUIDE

### THE HOLY SPIRIT IN YOU

#### READ THE ARTICLE

*I Am Third* is the title of a famous sports autobiography written by Gale Sayers, a first-round draft choice of the Chicago Bears and one of the greatest running backs to ever play the game of football. Sayers set numerous NFL records and was easily inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame. Gale Sayers always insisted, “God is first, others are second, and I am third.”

The Holy Spirit is often thought of as the third member of the Godhead after God the Father and God the Son. Frankly, the Holy Spirit would be just fine saying, “I am third” because His role is to point others to Jesus and bring glory to the Father. For that reason, He could also be called the shy member of the Holy Trinity.

For some, the Holy Spirit is a tad spooky because He is also called the Holy *Ghost*. I have actually heard some people who are unfamiliar with the Spirit’s ministry laugh sheepishly and say, “He’s sort of like Casper the Friendly Ghost, right?” For others, the Holy Spirit represents extremes in Christian theology that they would rather avoid. For many others that attend church regularly, the Holy Spirit is simply the forgotten member of the Trinity. He is a distant third in their understanding of one God who reveals Himself in three distinct persons and personalities.

Before the Holy Spirit came on the day of Pentecost, Jesus gave hints about His future ministry in the church, describing the Spirit in ways that might make institutional Christianity cringe a bit. The Holy Spirit is closer than the air we breathe (John 20:22), as mysterious as the wind (John 3:6-8), and like a stream of living water (John 7:37-39).

Consider the Spirit of God as a stream of living water and then picture a water log ride at the amusement park, or a white water rafting trip down the Snake River. Picture anything but a boring ride through life so many people have sadly come to accept as

normal in the Christian life. As a stream of living water, the Holy Spirit is like a gentle brook one minute and like a rush of white-capped holy water the next. According to pastor and author Mark Batterson, Celtic Christians actually refer to the Holy Spirit as *An Geadh-Glas* or the “Wild Goose.”

It does not take long to discover how impossible it is to live the Christian life. I am not talking about the challenges of persecution from a world that is mostly hostile to the Christian faith. Rather, I am referring to the daily and personal struggle to live by a new standard, value system, and set of ethics which the Christian life demands. For that reason, and until you learn how to yield to and draw upon the Holy Spirit, the Christian life can lead to defeat, frustration, and real spiritual fatigue.

Let’s assume you are a new creation in Christ and that your desires have truly changed. For example, you really want to discard the bitterness in your heart and forgive, live a sexually pure life, and clean up what comes out of your mouth. But you have tried and failed more than once. You have decided that Christianity is just too hard to live. Honestly, you are ready to throw in the towel and quit. Sound familiar?

In Romans chapter 7, the apostle Paul expressed his personal struggle to live the Christian life. “For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing” (v. 19). Paul concludes, “Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!” (v. 24-25). Then comes Romans chapter 8 where Paul talks about the essential purpose and role of the Holy Spirit in the Christian life.

The same Jesus who invited you to follow Him also provided the resources to do so successfully. He promised and then sent the glorious and powerful Holy Spirit to enable you to live a victorious life with supernatural results. That and more is now possible because of the Holy Spirit in you.

### **REFLECT BY ANSWERING THE QUESTIONS**

1. What is your biggest takeaway from the video? What did God show or teach you?

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2. Read 1 Corinthians 2:14-3:3. Are you a natural, spiritual, or carnal person? Explain.

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3. Read John 16:4-15. List everything Jesus said the Holy Spirit would do when He comes.

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4. Read Galatians 5:16-26 and examine yourself honestly. Do the works of the flesh or the fruit of the Spirit characterize your life more

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5. Read Galatians 5:16-26. Find and underline the following phrases in your Bible and then describe what they mean.

- "Walk by the Spirit"

- “Led by the Spirit”
- “Live by the Spirit”
- “Keep in step with the Spirit”

6. Read Galatians 5:16-26. What does it mean to “crucify the flesh with its passions and desires” (v. 24)?

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7. Read Ephesians 4:30. What does it mean to grieve the Holy Spirit? List some of the ways you might be grieving the Holy Spirit? How does that impact your daily walk with Jesus?

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### **RECORD YOUR THOUGHTS**

Use this space to journal your thoughts or verbalize a prayer to God.

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## REVIEW BY TAKING A QUIZ

This quiz draws from content delivered in the video plus this study guide.

1. Carnal people make some of the best leaders in the church. T F
  
2. The Holy Spirit is a ...
  - Person
  - Friendly ghost
  - Impersonal force
  - All of the above
  
5. The Holy Spirit indwells believers in Jesus ...
  - Some of the time
  - Most of the time
  - All of the time
  - Never
  
6. What evidence points to the Spirit's work in a person's life?
  - The fruit of the Spirit
  - The works of the flesh
  - An overwhelming feeling He is present
  - We don't always know how the Spirit is working
  
5. What role does the Holy Spirit play in salvation?
  - Plans our salvation
  - Purchased our salvation
  - Powers, secures, and seals our salvation
  - All of the above
  
6. The Holy Spirit played the lead role in the cartoon Casper the Friendly Ghost. T F
  
7. The Christian life is impossible to live apart from the power of the Holy Spirit who lives inside of you by faith in Jesus Christ. T F

### **RECALL THE MEMORY VERSE**

But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. Galatians 5:16-17





## ANSWERS TO FILL-INS AND QUIZZES

### Session 1: Growing Up to Be Like Jesus

#### Answers to fill-ins

infancy, maturity, discipleship, learn, love, lead, last, desire, decision, discipline, distractions, world, flesh, devil

#### Answers to Quiz

1. T
2. F
3. All of the above
4. Embrace a life of self-denial and sacrifice
5. T
6. F
7. F
8. F

### Session 2: What Is the Gospel?

#### Answers to Fill-ins

good news, you, for you, creed, facts, grace alone, faith alone, Christ alone, past, present, future, have been, justification, act of God, declares, righteous, positional, price paid, satisfied, are being, sanctification, set apart, progressive, will be, glorification, penalty, power, presence

#### Answers to Quiz

1. T
2. F
3. Propitiation
4. Progressive

5. T
6. F
7. T
8. All of the above

### **Session 3: The Assurance of Your Salvation**

#### **Answers to Fill-ins**

assured, eternally secure, facts of Scripture, feelings, promise, cannot lie, declared, condemned, seals, testifies, strong grip, beliefs, assurance, doubt, doubts, draw near, child of God

#### **Answers to Quiz**

1. F
2. F
3. God the Holy Spirit
4. All of the above
5. F
6. F
7. T
8. T

### **Session 4: Going Public with Your Faith**

#### **Answers to Fill-Ins**

water, Spirit, example, commands, follow Jesus, salvation, baptism, symbol, sacrament, pledge, sermon, identifies, Trinitarian, pouring, sprinkling, immersion, immersion, *baptizo*, believer, first step, baptismal regeneration, original sin,

#### **Answers to Quiz**

1. All of the above
2. T
3. By full immersion into water
4. All of the above
5. F
6. As soon as you believe in Jesus

- 7. F
- 8. F

### **Session 5: The Disciplines of a Disciple**

#### **Answers to Fill-ins**

reading the Bible, read, study, meditate, memorize, listen, pursuing purity, worship, value, treasure, esteem, revere, Spirit and in truth, word, song, deed, prayer, fasting,

#### **Answers to Quiz**

- 1. T
- 2. All of the above
- 3. F
- 4. F
- 5. All of the above
- 6. T
- 7. F
- 8. T
- 9. T
- 10. T

### **Session 6: More Disciplines of a Disciple**

#### **Answers to Fill-ins**

setting biblical priorities, biblical priorities, procrastinating, delegating, plan, no, natural rhythms, giving, investment, heart, vision, priorities, economic plan, more like God, obedience, will, Word, biblical community

#### **Answers to Quiz**

- 1. All of the above
- 2. F
- 3. All of the above
- 4. Local church
- 5. F
- 6. F
- 7. T

8. F

### **Session 7: The Holy Spirit in You**

#### **Answers to Fill-ins**

Holy Spirit, victory, defeat, person, God, natural, spiritual, carnal, grieve, quench, resist, spiritual breathing, confessing your sins, yielding your will

#### **Answers to Quiz**

1. F
2. Person
3. All of the time
4. The fruit of the Spirit
5. Powers, secures, and seals our salvation
6. F
7. T



## GLOSSARY OF TERMS

### **Apostle Paul**

A convert from Judaism (the religion of Israel), whom God used to write two-thirds of the New Testament.

### **Baptismal regeneration**

The false teaching that states that a person must be baptized in order to receive salvation.

### **Bethlehem**

The city in the nation of Israel where Jesus was born.

### **Born again**

The term used to describe an individual's conversion to becoming a Jesus follower, a Christian.

### **Carnal**

A term that means "of the flesh" and, when applied to a person, describes an immature believer in Jesus, a spiritual infant, and/or someone given over to human passions (1 Corinthians 3:1-3).

### **Corinthians**

The term used to describe an individual who lives in the city of Corinth, located in Greece.

### **Day of Pentecost**

Originally, a Jewish festival celebrated fifty days after Passover. In Christian observance, it is considered the birthday of the church.

### **Discipleship**

The process of training (formally/informally) an individual goes through after becoming a Christian.

**Disciple**

An alternate term for a Christian, a believer in Jesus Christ. The actual word means a “learner.”

**Eternal security**

The teaching that once a person is genuinely saved (has confessed Jesus as their Savior), their salvation is secured such that salvation cannot be lost.

**Fasting**

The practice of denying yourself something (food typically) to pursue the spiritual discipline of prayer, time alone with God, meditation, etc.

**Godliness**

The word denotes that piety or behavior which is well pleasing to God.

**Glorification**

The final stage of salvation, concerning the resurrection of the body of the believer being raised in perfection and immortality at the second coming of Christ.

**Holiness**

The basic meaning is “to be set apart.” It signifies separation unto God, the resulting state of a person so separated by their conversion to Christ.

**Illumination**

The ongoing work of the Holy Spirit in the Christian person and community in assisting believers to interpret, understand, and obey the Scriptures.

**Inspiration**

A term used by many theologians to designate the work of the Holy Spirit in enabling the human authors of the Bible to record what God desired to have written in the Scriptures. The Greek word translated “inspired” in 2 Timothy 3:16, for example, literally means “God-breathed.”

**Justification**

The work and act of God to declare a sinner as righteous before Him due to the sacrificial work of Jesus on the cross and through His powerful resurrection from the dead.

**Natural Person**

In the Christian faith, this term is synonymous to an unbeliever.

**Nazareth**

The city in the nation of Israel where Jesus grew up.

**New Testament**

The last 27 books of the Bible, recognized by the Christian church containing everything necessary for faith and practice.

**Ordinance**

An alternate word for sacrament without the connotation of conveying grace but only representative as a symbol. The two primary ordinances in the church are baptism and the Lord's Supper.

**Original sin**

The sin of rebellion/disobedience committed by Adam & Eve passed down through the generations.

**Propitiation**

An offering made to God to appease or satisfy His wrath against mankind's sin. This offering was accomplished by Jesus's death on the cross.

**Protestants**

A branch of Christianity which separated from the Roman Catholic Church during the 1500's, due to disagreements about certain teachings and practices held by the church of that day.

**Prayer**

The term used for communicating/communing/fellowship with God.

**Redemption**

The supreme act of love by God, to provide man the only way to come back into a right relationship with Him, through the sacrificial death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, His Son, and our Savior.

**Regeneration**

A biblical term for referencing salvation of the individual who places their faith in Christ for salvation. It emphasizes the rebirth or re-creation of fallen human beings by the indwelling Holy Spirit.

**Sacrament**

When viewed within non-protestant churches, sacraments are understood as a means of conveying grace (God's unmerited favor) to the individual. Within Catholicism, the seven sacraments are Baptism, Confirmation or Chrismation, Eucharist, Penance, Anointing of the Sick, Holy Orders, and Matrimony.

**Sanctify**

To be set apart or make holy for the work of God.

**Sanctification**

The lifelong process where the Holy Spirit separates us from the world and separates us unto God through our "growing up" in a spiritual sense, which will show itself through our lifestyle pattern and choices.

**Sexual immorality**

It means "a surrendering of sexual purity," and is primarily used for premarital sexual relations. It involves any type of sexual expression outside the boundaries of a biblically defined marriage relationship (Matthew 19:4-5).

**Sin**

The term the Bible uses to describe falling short of keeping the standard of God's righteousness.

**Spirit baptism**

The work and ministry of the Holy Spirit at the moment of salvation to place (baptize) the believer in Jesus into the spiritual body of Christ here on earth.

**Spiritual Person (I.e., a spiritual Christian)**

Is a person who abides in Christ, has had their thinking shaped by the Word of God (Romans 12:2), allows the Spirit of God who lives inside them to guide them instead of them relying on natural wisdom and understanding as their sole source. In other words, a mature believer.

**Stewardship**

In basic terms, it conveys the meaning of "a manager of a household or an estate." Christians therefore, are stewards of all that God has given to them regarding time, talents, and financial resources.



**Trinity**

A description of the God of Christian Scripture revealed and understood as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; a fundamental doctrine of Christian theology.

**Trinitarian**

A person who believes in the biblical teaching that God exists as a triune being.

**Timothy**

A convert to Christianity who became Paul's disciple and later pastor of the church at Ephesus.

**Water baptism**

The outward symbol of an inward transformation (having become a Christian), following our Lord's example, our first or next step of obedience.

**Worship**

The act of adoring and praising God that is, ascribing worth to God as the one who deserves homage and service. There is both an individual and corporate aspect to this practice.

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Ron Jones is a pastor, author, discipleship coach, and radio Bible teacher. For more than two decades, he has devoted his life to leading and preaching in the local church. He currently serves as lead pastor of Atlantic Shores Baptist Church in Virginia Beach, Virginia, where he delivers his Bible teaching for everyday life.

Ron's ministry extends beyond the local church he serves through a daily radio broadcast heard around the world called Something Good with Dr. Ron Jones. Something Good Radio (est. 2011) exists to share the gospel of Jesus Christ, make disciples, and strengthen the body of Christ through life-changing Bible teaching.

A lifelong learner, Dr. Jones earned degrees from Purdue University, Dallas Theological Seminary, and The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. He is the author of *Mysteries of the Afterlife: Exploring Its Amazing Secrets* (Harvest House Publishers, Eugene, OR) and multiple eBooks.

Through Something Good Travel, Ron and his wife Cathryn lead spiritual tours to biblical sites in Israel, Italy, Greece, Turkey, Egypt, and Jordan. They have been married for 26 years and live five minutes from their happy place, the beach. They have two adult children.

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## NOTES

<sup>1</sup> Helm, P. (1988). Disciple. In *Baker Encyclopedia of the Bible* (Vol. 1, p. 629). Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House.

<sup>ii</sup> R.C. Sproul says, "What [the doctrine of eternal security] means is that once a person has become quickened by the Holy Spirit, born of the Spirit, and justified through faith in Christ and therefore placed in a state of salvation, that person will, in fact, never lose his salvation. That is a very controversial point within the context of historic Christianity."

<sup>iii</sup> Some point to Hebrews 6:4-6 (along with 10:26-39) as evidence that a believer in Jesus can lose his or her salvation by "falling away." Keep in mind that the writer's purpose in the larger context is not to instill fear but to assure. Bible students have come up with several approaches to interpreting this passage. The best is to see the presentation of a hypothetical case that says, in effect, "Let's suppose that you do not go on to maturity. Does this mean that you will go back to condemnation, that you will lose your salvation? Impossible! If you *could* lose your salvation, it would be impossible to get it back again; and this would disgrace Jesus Christ. He would have to be crucified again for you, and this could never happen" (Wiersbe, *The Bible Exposition Commentary*, Vol. II, pp. 296-297). It is always best to interpret difficult Scripture in light of the plain and obvious. There are plenty of passages that plainly support the believer's eternal security, including Jude 24-25, Philippians 1:6, and others already mentioned.

<sup>iv</sup> Baptism doesn't accomplish our salvation; it merely illustrates it. In other words, baptism doesn't make you a believer; it only shows that you have already believed. In that way, baptism is like a wedding ring. A wedding ring is an outward symbol of an inward commitment.

<sup>v</sup> For further reading on this subject, read chapter 22 of Ron's book *Mysteries of the Afterlife: Exploring Its Amazing Secrets*, titled "Eternity for Those Who Cannot Believe."