

# Kingdom Life

## DISCIPLESHIP PATH

A Firm Foundation for Life

## Teaching Notes

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# FOUNDATIONS

<b>201</b>	THE BODY OF CHRIST
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*“All the parts of the body, though they are many, are still one body - so it also is with Christ. For by one Spirit, we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free. And we were all made to drink of one Spirit, for the body is not one member, but many.”*

Paul the Apostle | 1st Corinthians 12:13-14

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These companion teaching notes may be edited or modified to accommodate various teaching styles and methods, provided the original message, meaning, and intent of the work remain unaltered.

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Free downloads are available at [www.KingdomLifeDiscipleshipPath.org](http://www.KingdomLifeDiscipleshipPath.org)

## Introduction and Purpose

This Instructor Manual is given as an aid in teaching the Foundations materials. It is especially helpful for those who do not have the time every week to develop their own lesson plan. It is designed to assist in leading the group of participants through a weekly discussion of the materials. It includes the study questions, many of the scriptures, as well as other questions that can be asked to encourage discussion during the classes. There are also commentary statements that can be used to emphasize or summarize the main points. It is all organized in the form of a linear script that can be followed to help stay on track and get through all of the material in 60 to 90 minutes. Everyone has their own teaching style, so please consider this as a tool and general outline to help you cover the materials, not to confine you.

Teaching the holy scriptures is a great honor, but it is also a great responsibility. God has entrusted His word to us - to you and me as teachers. But as we teach, we must also be students – learners. As leaders, we must also be followers. And as Paul encouraged Timothy, we should always, **“Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, handling accurately the word of truth.”** Our goal with this material has been to honestly present the whole counsel of God’s word on our salvation, without ignoring the “narrow road” passages that sometimes make people uncomfortable. These passages are essential in bringing us to repentance. We can be certain God did not put these passages in His word so we would ignore them, but to learn from them. And we are still learning.

People today have a lot of differing views about salvation and the Christian experience. You never know what people have heard or what they’ve been taught, and whether it lines up with the scriptures or not. So, as you teach through these lessons, you may encounter some scripture passages that do not fit within the theological views of some of your students. If this happens, you can say something like this: “People believe a lot of different things about salvation, but let’s go back to what Jesus says here and see what He is trying to teach us about it.” We always want to encourage the students to let the scriptures be their authority on matters of truth. This must always be done with respect, gentleness, and kindness. But it is important that we let these scriptures stand without apology. We should always remember that God has called us to present the whole counsel of His word, not to be editors of it. If we become editors, we become judges of the word, exalting ourselves above God.

So, as you go forth, please know that we are thankful for the work you do. We pray that you will have the mind of Christ, abounding in all wisdom and knowledge, that you will know His presence and be filled with His Spirit to overflowing, that you will be rooted and grounded in the fullness of His love, and that you will be kept safe at all times until He gathers us unto Himself. To Him be the glory and honor forever and ever, Amen.

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TEACHING NOTES	FOUNDATIONS 201   WEEK ONE	YOU SHALL RECEIVE POWER
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## Week 1 – “You Shall Receive Power”

Teaching Notes v2.8.5

**General Summary** - In these lessons, we present God’s plan for empowering those of us who are followers of Jesus. We explore a number of prophetic promises that were fulfilled in the lives of the earliest Christians. Jesus desires that we take hold of these same promises by faith so He may fulfill them through the Holy Spirit in our lives today.

**1-1 – “Wait for the Promise of the Father”** - In this lesson, we make the point that the only way we can succeed in the Christian life is through the promised empowerment that comes through God’s Holy Spirit. Education, training, organization, knowledge, and intellect will never be enough to succeed in our Christian experience or accomplish the mission God has given us. Without His strength within us, we will eventually grow weary, wear out, and fail.

**1-2 – “I Will Pour Out My Spirit”** - Presents the first Christian Pentecost and the pouring out of the Spirit upon the first believers, as well as the explosive growth of the church through the power of the Holy Spirit.

**1-3 – “My Spirit Within You”** - In this section, we explore several Old Testament prophecies that reveal God's design and purposes for giving us the Holy Spirit. These prophecies outline the different aspects of the Holy Spirit lifestyle that we should expect to experience in our lives.

**1-4 – “The Fruit of the Spirit”** - Details the fruit that will be produced in our hearts when we are submitted and surrendered to the Holy Spirit. Through this fruit, we are internally empowered to experience and express God's righteous nature - which is love. Through this loving heart, our actions are changed so that we fulfill the righteous requirement of the law.

**Preparation Notes** - When teaching these lessons, it is beneficial to use a white board or some other visual medium to display the answers the students offer during the discussions. When teaching online classes, the screen share of a word processor can be used. These visual aids are very helpful in promoting discussion and reinforcing the points made in the scriptures as you teach.

When you begin your Week 1 Class, your board or screen share could look something like this.

<u>The Promise of the Spirit</u>	<u>The Fruit of the Holy Spirit</u>	<u>The Outward Evidences</u>

As you conclude your Week 1 Class, your board or screen share will probably look something like this, depending on the wording of the answers given in the class. This provides a helpful visual aid for the student to learn, as well as to take notes during the class.

<u>The Promise of the Spirit</u>	<u>The Fruit of the Holy Spirit</u>	<u>The Outward Evidences</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Raises us from death to life</li> <li>• Puts His Spirit within us</li> <li>• Gives us our own land</li> <li>• Gives us a new heart</li> <li>• Puts a new Spirit within us</li> <li>• Removes our heart of stone</li> <li>• Gives us a soft heart</li> <li>• Empowers us to live in obedience</li> <li>• I will put MY SPIRIT within you</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Love, Joy</li> <li>• Peace</li> <li>• Patience</li> <li>• Kindness</li> <li>• Goodness</li> <li>• Faithfulness</li> <li>• Gentleness</li> <li>• Self Control</li> <li>• Compassion</li> <li>• Humility</li> <li>• Unity</li> <li>• Forgiveness</li> <li>• Thankfulness, Meekness</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Selling their stuff</li> <li>• Sharing with others to fulfill needs</li> <li>• They were unified and worshiping together</li> <li>• They ate meals together</li> <li>• Expressing thankfulness, sincerity, and praise</li> </ul>

# Week 1 – “You Shall Receive Power” Teaching Notes

## Lesson 1-1 – “Wait for the Promise of the Father”

- Tonight, we're going to talk about the empowerment God promises to us as believers.
- Taking hold of these promises is the key to a successful and fulfilling Christian experience.
- These promises are the key to successful marriages, successful families, and successful ministries, and successful careers
- These promises open the door to the miraculous in our lives
- But it also seems that this empowerment is an elusive mystery in the Church today, primarily because of unbelief
- So, this will be your challenge - to take God at His word and believe Him for what He has promised
- Let's start by reading the Isaiah 40 passage from your workbook - page 5, Someone please read it.

ISA 40:28 Have you not known? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable.

ISA 40:29 He gives power to the faint and strengthens the powerless. <sup>30</sup> Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted; <sup>31</sup> but those who wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint. NRSV

- Here is your 1a. study question.

1a. What is the conditional promise given to us in the Isaiah 40 passage?

If we will wait upon the Lord, He will empower us with His strength

- But there is also a flip-side to this.

Q. And what is the promise to those who choose to go forward in their own strength?

They will struggle, run out of energy, falter, they will burnout

- Would someone please read the Mark 16:15 passage on page 5?

MK 16:15 And he said to them, “Go into all the world and proclaim the good news to the whole creation.” NRSV

- That is a pretty tall order, isn't it?



Q. What happens when we attempt to fulfill this commandment in our own strength?

The work will eventually consume us, burn us out, and we will fail

- One of the most alarming statistics in the Church today is the number of young pastors that leave the ministry within their first 5 years - 70 to 80%
- God never intended that we live this Christian life in our own strength, but with His strength and ability
- Someone please read the Acts 1:4 passage, just verses 4 and 5, page 6

AC 1:4 On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. <sup>5</sup> For John baptized with water, but in a few days, you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit." NIV

- Here is your 1b. study question.

1b. In Acts 1:4-5, what did Jesus instruct His disciples to do?

To wait for the gift the Father had promised – the Holy Spirit.

Q. And what did Jesus say would happen if they waited in Jerusalem?

They would be baptized with the Holy Spirit

- In your workbook page 6, would someone please read Acts 1:6-8?

AC 1:6 So when they met together, they asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?" <sup>7</sup> He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. <sup>8</sup> But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." NIV

- Here is your 1c. study question.

1c. What is the promise Jesus has given us in Acts 1:8?

If we will wait upon the Lord, He will empower us through His Spirit to live the Christian life and do the work of the ministry.

- Here is something to consider.
- For three years, Jesus had been personally teaching and preparing these men to carry on His earthly ministry.
- Three years in the University of Jesus - If anyone could be ready, it would be them

Q. With all that experience and first-hand preparation, why didn't He just send them out?

Without the empowerment of the Holy Spirit, they would fail

Q. How does this apply to us today?

Without the empowerment of the Holy Spirit, we will fail in our Christian experience

- No matter how smart we are, how much knowledge we have attained, or how much training we have received, or how organized we may be - we cannot succeed in the Christian experience or ministry without the empowerment of the Holy Spirit.
- This is God's promise and plan for us
- Any attempts to live the Christian life or do the work of the ministry without God's empowerment will eventually wear us out.

Lesson 1-2 – "I Will Pour Out My Spirit"

- At the time that Jesus told them to wait for the Spirit, the number of His followers had dwindled down to about 120.
- But 10 days after Jesus ascended to the Father, here is what happened
- Someone please read the Acts 2:1-4 passage on page 8 of your workbook.

AC 2:1 When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. <sup>2</sup> And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. <sup>3</sup> Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. <sup>4</sup> All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability. NRSV

- Everyone please close your eyes and imagine that you are in that room praying.
- Suddenly, it sounds like a tornado is coming through the room
- And you look up and in the middle of the room, there is a huge ball of fire hanging in the air.
- Suddenly that fire begins to divide into flames that move over each person, and one of them settles right above you and begins to envelop you
- And your heart is filled with a deep supernatural love and peace you never imagined possible.
- You finally open your mouth to speak, and out comes some language you've never spoken before. Please open your eyes.

Q. What do you think it would have been like to be in that room and experience that event?

Sensory overload, mind blowing, rush of emotion, perplexity

- As you might imagine, all this commotion drew a crowd.

- Peter preached a sermon explaining what had happened, and he quoted this prophetic promise from Joel.
- Someone please read the Joel 2:28-29 passage on page 8 of your workbook.

JOEL 2:28 Then afterward I will pour out my spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions. <sup>29</sup> Even on the male and female slaves, in those days, I will pour out my spirit. NRSV

- This prophetic promise was given more than 500 years before its fulfillment at Pentecost.

Q. Who does God say He is going to pour His Spirit upon?

Everyone, the young the old, even the slaves

- Would someone please read the Acts 2:40-41 passage for us - page 8 in your workbook?

AC 2:40 With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation." <sup>41</sup> Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day. NIV

- So, the Church grew from around 120 people, to around 3,000 in one day!
- And in a few weeks, it had grown to over 5,000.

Q. How does something like that happen?

It happens only by the power of the Holy Spirit

- Was this the result of a slick mass marketing campaign?
- Or a well-planned strategic church growth initiative?
- Here is something revealed through the prophet Zechariah. Instructor reads

ZEC 4:6 Then he answered and said to me, "This is the word of the LORD..., 'Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,' says the LORD of hosts. NASB

- All of this happened because they were obedient to wait for God's gift of the Holy Spirit, then they flowed with the Holy Spirit's moving.
- They didn't attempt to fulfill the ministry of Jesus in their own strength – but with His power.
- Would someone please read Acts 2:43-47? Page 9 in your workbook.

AC 2:43 And everyone kept feeling a sense of awe; and many wonders and signs were taking place through the apostles. <sup>44</sup> And all those who had believed were together and had all things in common; <sup>45</sup> and they began selling their property and possessions, and

were sharing them with all, as anyone might have need. <sup>46</sup> And day by day continuing with one mind in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they were taking their meals together with gladness and sincerity of heart, <sup>47</sup> praising God, and having favor with all the people. NASB

- Here is your 2a. study question.

2a. From Acts, 2:43-47, what were some of the outward actions that showed the people's hearts were being transformed by the Holy Spirit?

Add these to the board under the heading "The Outward Evidences"

They were sharing their possessions

They were meeting one another's needs

They were unified

They were eating meals together

They were expressing thankfulness, sincerity, and praise.

- The Holy Spirit was transforming their hearts, and that transformation created a community that functioned like a family unit.
- The Apostle Paul talked about this Holy Spirit transformation in Romans 5.
- Someone please read that Romans 5 passage - page 10 of your workbook

RO 5:3 And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, <sup>4</sup> and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, <sup>5</sup> and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us. NRSV

- Here is your 2b. study question.

2b. From Romans 5:3-5, what does the Holy Spirit pour into our hearts?

The Holy Spirit brings many things into our lives, but the most defining attribute is God's loving nature being poured into our hearts.

- More than anything else, the Holy Spirit baptism is a baptism that empowers us to love one another.

### Lesson 1-3 – "My Spirit Within You"

- Over and over in the Old Testament, the Jewish prophets spoke of the promise that God would pour out the Holy Spirit.
- A couple of the most powerful of the prophetic promises were delivered through Ezekiel.
- Someone please read the Ezekiel 37:13-14 passage, page 12 of your workbook.

EZE 37:13 "Then you will know that I am the LORD, when I have opened your graves and caused you to come up out of your graves, My people. <sup>14</sup> "And I will put My Spirit within you, and you will come to life, and I will place you on your own land. Then you will know that I, the LORD, have spoken and done it," declares the LORD.'" NASB

- Those are interesting promises, aren't they?
- And now, would someone read the Ezekiel 36 passage on page 12 of your workbook?

EZE 36:26 "Moreover, I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. <sup>27</sup> "And I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will be careful to observe My ordinances. NASB

- This gives us deeper insight into God's purposes for implanting His Holy Spirit into our lives.
- Here is your 3a. study question.

3a. What are the prophetic promises revealed in the Ezekiel 37:13-14 and Ezekiel 36:26-27 scripture passages? In other words, what does God say He will do in our lives?

Write these on the board, left side under the heading – "The Promises of God"...

I will open your graves, and bring you back to life  
I will give you a new heart  
I will put a new spirit in you  
I will take away your hard heart of stone  
I will give you a soft heart of flesh  
I will put My Spirit within you  
I will empower you to obey Me

- These promises from God outline the radical work He intends to accomplish in our lives through the Holy Spirit.
- Think about the implications of these promises for a moment, and what God is offering to us.
- This prophecy is not calling for spiritual heart surgery, but for a spiritual heart transplant.
- Here is your 3b. study question

3b. And why are these promises so important in our Christian experience?

Apart from the heart change offered in these promises, we cannot succeed. This word from God reveals where our biggest problem lies - our heart.

- God diagnoses the diseased part of us that is killing us - it is our own hard heart.
- God wants to implant His own holy nature in us, and to impart to us the power to live in alignment with His own heart

### Lesson 1-4 – "The Fruit of the Spirit"

- So, let's look for a moment at what this new nature looks like.
- Someone please read the Galatians 5:22-24 scripture, page 14 of your workbook.

**GAL 5:22** But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup> gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. <sup>24</sup> Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. NASB

- Here is your 4a. study question

**4a. From the Galatians 5 and Colossians 3 passages, what is the evidence of life that is being controlled by the Holy Spirit?**

- In the Galatians passage, what do you see?

Write these on the board under the heading - "The Fruit of the Spirit"

Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness,  
Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, Self-control

- Would someone now read the Colossians passage, page 14 of your book.

**COL 3:12** And so, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience; <sup>13</sup> bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you. <sup>14</sup> And beyond all these things put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity. <sup>15</sup> And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body; and be thankful. NASB

- In the Colossians passage, what do you see?

Add these to the board under the heading - "The Fruit of the Spirit"

Compassion, Humility, Forgiveness, Unity, Thankfulness

- So, when the Holy Spirit is in control of our lives, this is what we will experience?
- This fruit is the evidence of the nature of God within us?

Q. When you look at this list, where are most of these attributes sourced - in the intellect of our brains, or in the emotion of our hearts?

Most people say that these are primarily issues of the heart.

- In fact, Paul said it right there in Colossians - that these are issues of the heart.
- Would someone please read that Ezekiel 36 passage on page 15?

EZE 36:26 "Moreover, I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. NASB

Q. Can you see how the Holy Spirit fulfills this Ezekiel prophecy within us?

- Would someone please read that 1st Corinthians passage on page 15?

1CO 13:4 Love is patient, love is kind, and is not jealous; love does not brag and is not arrogant, <sup>5</sup> does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered, <sup>6</sup> does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; <sup>7</sup> bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

<sup>8</sup> Love never fails... NASB

Q. What does this scripture passage teach us about the relationship between love and the other spiritual fruit?

Love is the core, and all the others emanate from love

Q. So, if I'm having trouble with being patient, what does this tell me?

An absence of patience points to an absence of love.

Q. If I'm having trouble with my temper, what does that tell me?

An absence of self-control reveals a deficit of love.

- Someone please read the Romans 13 passage on page 15.

RO 13:8 Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. <sup>9</sup> The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet"; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, "Love your neighbor as yourself." <sup>10</sup> Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfillment of the law. NRSV

Q. What does this show us about the relationship between love and the law?

Love is the fulfillment of the law

- Here is your 4b. study question

4b. From Romans 13:8-10, in what ways does walking in love fulfill the righteous requirement of the law in us?

When we truly love people, we do not try to harm them at all  
We're not going to steal from them or kill them  
We're not going to talk behind their back, or undermine them  
We literally don't sin against them, because we want them to  
succeed in Christ.

- Everyone, please write this in your notes - "Love fulfills the law." "I can walk in righteousness to the degree that I walk in love."
- Please look at the 1st John 4:7 passage on page 16 - Instructor reads

1JN 4:7 Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup> Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. <sup>9</sup> God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. <sup>10</sup> In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. <sup>11</sup> Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. <sup>12</sup> No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us, and his love is perfected in us. NRSV

- He continues with this same line of thinking in verse 16.

1JN 4:16 So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. <sup>17</sup> Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. <sup>18</sup> There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. NRSV

- Love is the perfecting influence of the Holy Spirit in our lives.
- When we embrace love in our hearts, we are embracing God himself.
- Love in our hearts is how we know when we are abiding in Christ or not.
- We have one last scripture for tonight - Ephesians 3, page 16, Instructor reads

EPH 3:14 For this reason, I bow my knees before the Father, <sup>15</sup> from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name, <sup>16</sup> that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man; <sup>17</sup> so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; and that you, being rooted and grounded in love, <sup>18</sup> may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, <sup>19</sup> and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God. NASB

Q. How are we filled up with all the fullness of God?

By being firmly rooted and grounded in love

- Amen, and Glory to God.



**TEACHING NOTES**

<b>FOUNDATIONS 201</b>	<b>WEEK TWO</b>	<b>WHAT SHALL WE DO?</b>
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## Week 2 – “What Shall We Do?”

### Teaching Notes v2.8.5

**General Summary** - These lessons present the message of Peter on the Day of Pentecost as a basic outline of God's biblical design for the starting point of a successful Christian experience. It gives us direction in what God expects from us and what we can expect from Him.

**2-1 – “They Were Cut to the Heart”** - This lesson shows the basic elements of Peter's salvation message – repent, be baptized, the forgiveness of sins, and the gift of the Holy Spirit. These basic steps reveal God's design and the things He sees as necessary as we enter relationship with Him. Following this pattern leads to an authentic, successful, and refreshing relationship with Christ.

**2-2 – “Repent and Return...”** – Focuses on repentance - what repentance is, what we are repenting from, and what we are repenting to. It also lists the actions that come out of the fallen sinful nature, the source of these actions, and the ultimate outcome for those who continue in this lifestyle.

**2-3 – “And Be Baptized...”** - Explores the scriptures that link water baptism with repentance, showing baptism to be an essential public expression of our repentance and our turning to Christ. This explains significance and necessity of water baptism in the early church and in the lives of believers today.

**2-4 – “The Forgiveness of Your Sins”** – This lesson shows faith in the atoning blood of Jesus as being the only way through which our sins can be forgiven. If there were any other ways for our sins to be cleansed, Jesus would not have had to die. Therefore, our dependence in faith on His blood is the only way we can be forgiven, both at our initial conversion and ongoing in our lives.

**2-5 – “The Gift”** – Presents the blood of Jesus and the gift of the Holy Spirit as the two expressions of grace through which God saves us. The blood of Jesus justifies us through the forgiveness of our sins and the Holy Spirit sanctifies our behavior by providing God's loving nature which sets us free from our bent toward sinning.

**Preparation Notes** - Before the class, prepare the white board with three sections - Peter's Gospel Message, The Fallen Sinful Nature, and The Fruit of the Holy Spirit. populate the Spirit Fruit section for review from Week 1's lesson. The other sections will be filled in throughout this class. This visual

aid will be very helpful in promoting discussion and reinforcing the points made in the scriptures as you teach.

When you begin your Week 2 Class, your white board or screen share could look something like this.

<u>Peter's Gospel Message</u>	<u>The Fallen Sinful Nature</u>	<u>The Fruit of the Holy Spirit</u>
•	•	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Love, Joy</li> <li>• Peace</li> <li>• Patience</li> <li>• Kindness</li> <li>• Goodness</li> <li>• Faithfulness</li> <li>• Gentleness</li> <li>• Self Control</li> <li>• Compassion</li> <li>• Humility</li> <li>• Unity</li> <li>• Forgiveness</li> <li>• Thankfulness, Meekness</li> </ul>

As you conclude your Week 2 Class, your white board or screen share will probably look something like this, depending on the wording of the answers given in the class. This provides a helpful visual aid for the student to learn, as well as to take notes during the class.

<u>Peter's Gospel Message</u>	<u>The Fallen Sinful Nature</u>	<u>The Fruit of the Holy Spirit</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Repent</li> <li>• Be Baptized in Jesus' Name</li> <li>• Forgiveness of Sins</li> <li>• Gift of the Holy Spirit</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sexual immorality - adultery, fornication, homosexuality, pornography, LGBTQ, etc...</li> <li>• Greed, manipulation, hatred</li> <li>• Bickering, jealousy, envy</li> <li>• Fits of temper, selfishness</li> <li>• Divisiveness, factions, lying</li> <li>• Drunkenness, evil desires</li> <li>• anger, wrath, malice slander</li> <li>• slander, verbal abuse</li> <li>• profanity, sexual innuendo</li> <li>• dirty jokes</li> <li>• <u>These actions lead to death</u></li> <li>• <u>We repent from these things</u></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Love, Joy, Peace</li> <li>• Patience, Kindness</li> <li>• Goodness</li> <li>• Faithfulness</li> <li>• Gentleness</li> <li>• Self Control</li> <li>• Compassion</li> <li>• Humility</li> <li>• Unity</li> <li>• Forgiveness</li> <li>• Thankfulness</li> <li>• Meekness</li> <li>• <u>These actions lead to life</u></li> <li>• <u>We turn to this lifestyle</u></li> </ul>

## Week 2 – “What Shall We Do?”

### Lesson 2-1 – “They Were Cut to the Heart....”

Review from last week - Covenant Promises - Fruit of the Spirit - Evidence of Change

- Please turn to page 18 in your study books
- On the Day of Pentecost, right after the Holy Spirit had been poured out, Peter preached a sermon to the crowd that had gathered.
- Someone please read the Acts 2:36-37 passage, page 18

AC 2:36 "Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ." <sup>37</sup> When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?" NIV

Q. It says here that they were "cut to the heart". What do you think it means "to be cut to the heart"?

Conviction of the Holy Spirit, they saw the truth in what Peter had said about Jesus - their hearts were opening up

- And they asked this question - What should we do?
- When they asked this question, Peter gave them an answer.
- Would someone please read the Acts 2:38-39 passage? page 18

AC 2:38 And Peter said to them, "Repent, and let each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. <sup>39</sup> The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off--for all whom the Lord our God will call." NIV

- Here is your 1a. study question

1a. In Acts 2:36-39, when the people asked Peter what they should do, what did he tell them?

Write these on the board under the heading - "Peter's Gospel Message"

Repent

Be baptized in Jesus' name

- And now your 1b. study question

1b. And what does Peter say would happen if they followed his instructions?

Write these on the board under the heading - "Peter's Gospel Message"

God will forgive our sins

## God will give us the gift of the Holy Spirit

- And your 1c. study question

1c. Also, what do you think would happen if they did not follow Peter's instructions?

- In other words, what happens if we do not repent?

### Our sins will not be forgiven, and we will not receive the Holy Spirit

- At another time, Peter gave a similar message to another group of people.
- Someone please read the Acts 3:17-19 passage also on page 18

AC 3:17 "And now, brethren, I know that you acted in ignorance, just as your rulers did also. <sup>18</sup> "But the things which God announced beforehand by the mouth of all the prophets, that His Christ should suffer, He has thus fulfilled. <sup>19</sup> "Repent therefore and return, that your sins may be wiped away, in order that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord. NASB

- Does everyone see the conditional nature of repentance for the forgiveness of our sins?
- These are probably the most concise presentations of the Gospel you will ever hear, yet they are so rich with fundamental truth.
- They serve as basic outline of truth that when followed, opens the door to a refreshing and flourishing relationship with Christ.
- Repent, be baptized, the forgiveness of sins, and the gift of the Holy Spirit.

## Lesson 2-2 – "Repent and Return..."

- Since there is a conditional nature to the forgiveness of our sins, it is essential we understand what repentance is, and what it means to repent and return.
- The Greek word is "metanoia", which means to change from one mindset and heart attitude to another.
- The writer of Hebrews mentions this repentance as being one of the foundational aspects of our faith.
- Someone please read that Hebrews 6 passage on page 20 of your workbook

HEB 6:1 Therefore let us leave the elementary teachings about Christ and go on to maturity, not laying again the foundation of repentance from acts that lead to death, and of faith in God. NIV

Q. What are we supposed to repent from?

## We are repenting from a lifestyle that leads to death

- To help us to understand what we are supposed to be repenting from, the New Testament writers have given us some lists - so we will know.
- Would someone please read the Galatians 5:19-21 passage for us? Page 20

GAL 5:19 The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; <sup>20</sup> idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions <sup>21</sup> and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God. NIV

- Here is your 2a. study question

2a. From the Galatians, Colossians, and Ephesians passages, list the attitudes and actions that come out of the sinful nature of man.

Write these on the board under the heading - "The Fallen Sinful Nature"

Sexual immorality, impurity, debauchery - adultery, fornication, homosexuality, pornography, LGBTQ?

Greed, manipulation, hatred, bickering, jealousy, fits of temper, selfishness, arguing, divisiveness, factions, envy, drunkenness, orgies, etc...

- Here is the 2b. question.

2b. Where does this lifestyle ultimately lead if we do not turn from it and embrace the life of the Holy Spirit?

Those who practice this lifestyle will not inherit the kingdom of God

- Does everyone see that?
- Would someone please read the Colossians 3 passage on page 21?

COL 3:5 Therefore consider the members of your earthly body as dead to immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed, which amounts to idolatry. <sup>6</sup> For it is on account of these things that the wrath of God will come, <sup>7</sup> and in them you also once walked, when you were living in them. <sup>8</sup> But now you also, put them all aside: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive speech from your mouth. <sup>9</sup> Do not lie to one another, since you laid aside the old self with its evil practices, <sup>10</sup> and have put on the new self who is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him. NASB

- Once again here is question 2a.

2a. From the Galatians, Colossians, and Ephesians passages, list the actions that come out of a selfish, unrepentant heart.

Add these to the list on the board under the heading - "The Fallen Sinful Nature"

Inordinate passion, evil desires, greed, anger wrath, malice, slander, abusive speech, lying.

- Here is the 2b. again.

2b. Where does this lifestyle lead?

It leads to the wrath of God

- Does everyone see that? Not blessings, but wrath?
- In Ephesians there is another similar list. On page 21 Someone please read

EPH 5:3 But do not let immorality or any impurity or greed even be named among you, as is proper among saints; <sup>4</sup> and there must be no filthiness and silly talk, or coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks. <sup>5</sup> For this you know with certainty, that no immoral or impure person or covetous man, who is an idolater, has an inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. NASB

Q. What does he say that we can know with all certainty?

No one living this lifestyle has any inheritance in the kingdom of God

- Is there anywhere in any of these passages where he says this does not apply to us as Christians?
- And here is what he said in verse 6 – Instructor reads.

EPH 5:6 Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience NASB

Q. Why do you think Paul warns us not to be deceived about this?

Because this is something we can easily be deceived about.

- But not in this group, right? Because you see it in the scriptures, and you know.
- That is what we are repenting from, now let's see what we are repenting to.
- Look at the Romans 12 passage on page 22 Instructor reads

RO 12:9 Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; <sup>10</sup> love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. <sup>11</sup> Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. <sup>12</sup> Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. <sup>13</sup> Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

RO 12:14 Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. <sup>15</sup> Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. <sup>16</sup> Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. <sup>17</sup> Do

not repay anyone evil for evil but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all.<sup>18</sup> If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.<sup>19</sup> Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord."<sup>20</sup> No, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads."<sup>21</sup> Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good. NRSV

- Would it be fair to say this is the life we are turning to when we repent?
- This is the heart and mindset that proceed from the Spirit and nature of God, and when we live this way, our hearts are washed clean and refreshed.

### Lesson2-3 – “And Be Baptized...”

- Now, we are going to touch on water baptism.
- There are many different opinions on the purpose of baptism
- Much of the modern church sees baptism as a purely symbolic act, but it was not that way in the early church.
- Here is something Peter said about it in his epistle - on page 24 Instructor reads.

<sup>IPE 3:18</sup> For Christ also died for sins once for all, the just for the unjust, in order that He might bring us to God, having been put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit;<sup>19</sup> in which also He went and made proclamation to the spirits now in prison,<sup>20</sup> who once were disobedient, when the patience of God kept waiting in the days of Noah, during the construction of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through the water.<sup>21</sup> And corresponding to that, baptism now saves you--not the removal of dirt from the flesh, but an appeal to God for a good conscience--through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,<sup>22</sup> who is at the right hand of God, having gone into heaven, after angels and authorities and powers had been subjected to Him. NASB

Q. According to Peter in verse 21, what role does baptism play in our salvation?

He says baptism saves us

- This has been a point of doctrinal argument for centuries – whether baptism is required for salvation, or whether it is a symbolic act of obedience.
- Peter's statement seems to indicate there is more to it than just symbolism.
- And there are some other scriptures that help in understanding Peter's statement.
- Would someone please read the Matthew 3:1-2 passage page 24?

<sup>MT 3:1</sup> Now in those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea, saying,<sup>2</sup> "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." NASB



Q. Here is a question. What was the core message of John the Baptist?  
To repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand

- Someone please read the Matthew 3:5-6 passage on page 24?

MT 3:5 Then Jerusalem was going out to him, and all Judea, and all the district around the Jordan; <sup>6</sup> and they were being baptized by him in the Jordan River, as they confessed their sins. NASB

- Here is your 3a. study question.

3a. In Matthew 3, what were the people doing when they came to John to be baptized?

Confessing their sins.

- Then something else happened in verse 7.
- Would someone please read the Matthew 3:7-8 passage on page 24?

MT 3:7 But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers, who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?"  
<sup>8</sup> "Therefore bring forth fruit in keeping with repentance. NASB

- Here is your 3b. study question

3b. When the Pharisees and Sadducees came to John for baptism, why did he refuse them?

By their lifestyle, it was obvious they were not repentant.

- Then John said this to them. This is Matthew 3:9-11 - Pg. 25 - Instructor reads

MT 3:9 and do not suppose that you can say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham for our father'; for I say to you, that God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. <sup>10</sup> "And the axe is already laid at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. <sup>11</sup> "As for me, I baptize you with water for repentance. NASB

- Here is your 3c. study question

3c. What reason did John give for water baptizing people?

For Repentance

Q. So, what do we see consistently associated with water baptism?

Repentance

- For a 1<sup>st</sup> Century Jewish Christian, water baptism was a public proclamation of their repentance - an integral part of their repentance
- That is why Peter linked them together on the on the day of Pentecost, saying... "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins." NASB

- For some reason today, baptism and repentance have been disjoined, but it was not that way in the beginning.
- Would someone please read the 1<sup>st</sup> Peter 3:21 passage on page 25?

1PE 3:21 And corresponding to that, baptism now saves you--not the removal of dirt from the flesh, but an appeal to God for a good conscience... NASB

- It is not the "getting wet" part of baptism that saves us, but the "repentance" part of baptism is necessary for salvation.
- First and foremost, water baptism is a baptism of repentance.

## Lesson 2-4 – “The Forgiveness of Your Sins”

- Okay, now we will talk about the mechanics through which our sins are forgiven.
- Would someone please read the Luke 2:42-44 passage on page 26?

LK 22:42 "Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done." <sup>43</sup> An angel from heaven appeared to him and strengthened him. <sup>44</sup> And being in anguish, he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground. NIV

**Q. Why do you think God didn't answer this prayer to spare Jesus the agony of the cross?**

- Was there no other way for our sins to be forgiven?
- Couldn't God have just pardoned us and declared us forgiven and righteous as an act of His sovereign will?
- Would someone please read the Luke 2:25-27 passage on page 26?

LK 24:25 And He said to them, "O foolish men and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! <sup>26</sup> "Was it not necessary for the Christ to suffer these things and to enter into His glory?" <sup>27</sup> And beginning with Moses and with all the prophets, He explained to them the things concerning Himself in all the Scriptures. NASB

- Jesus said that it was necessary for Him to suffer and die, and if it was necessary, that means there was no other way for our sins to be forgiven.
- Would someone please read the Hebrews 9 passage on page 26?

HEB 9:22 Indeed, under the law almost everything is purified with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins. NRSV

- Would someone please read the Ephesians 1 passage on page 26?

EPH 1:7 In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace <sup>8</sup> that he lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding. NIV

- Would someone please read the Revelation 1 passage on page 27?

REV 1:5 and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the first-born of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To Him who loves us, and released us from our sins by His blood... NASB

- Here is your 4a. study question.

4a. What is the main point of the Hebrews 9, Ephesians 1, Colossians 1, and Revelation 1 passages?

The forgiveness of our sins comes through the shed blood of Jesus - only.

Q. Why is it important we understand that forgiveness is through the blood?

Because it is through faith in His blood that our sins are forgiven.

- There are teachers in the church today who teach a righteousness and a forgiveness of sins that essentially bypass the atonement and repentance.
- But His blood is the only mechanism and remedy for the forgiveness of our sins, either at our initial conversion or ongoing in our lives.
- If there was any other way, Christ would not have had to die
- Please look at the 1st John passage on page 27 of your book. Instructor reads

1JN 1:5 This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. <sup>6</sup> If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; <sup>7</sup> but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. <sup>8</sup> If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. <sup>9</sup> If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. <sup>10</sup> If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

1JN 2:1 My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; <sup>2</sup> and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world. NRSV

- Here is your 4b. study question

4b. What are the promises given to us in 1st John 1:7 and 1st John 1:9?

The blood of Jesus will cleanse us, and all our sins will be forgiven.

4c. In what ways could these be considered conditional promises?

He says we must walk in the light and confess our sins - with faith in His atonement.

- Repentance and faith in His blood are the only way for our sins to be forgiven. If there were any other way, Jesus would not have had to die.

## Lesson 2-5 – "The Gift"

- Someone please read the Ephesians 1:7-8 passage on page 29.

EPH 1:7 In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace<sup>8</sup> that he lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding. NIV

- Here is your 5a. study question

5a. From Ephesians 1:7-8, what role does the blood of Jesus play in our salvation?

Through the blood, we receive the forgiveness of our sins

- Someone please read the 2nd Thessalonians 2:13-15 passage on page 30.

2TH 2:13 But we ought always to thank God for you, brothers loved by the Lord, because from the beginning God chose you to be saved through the sanctifying work of the Spirit and through belief in the truth.<sup>14</sup> He called you to this through our gospel, that you might share in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.<sup>15</sup> So then, brothers, stand firm and hold to the teachings we passed on to you, whether by word of mouth or by letter. NIV

- Here is your 5b. study question

5b. From 2nd Thessalonians 2:13-15, What role does the Holy Spirit play in our salvation?

Through the Spirit, our hearts are sanctified, changing our behavior.

- Someone please read the Ephesians 2:8-10 on page 30.

EPH 2:8 For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God;<sup>9</sup> not as a result of works, that no one should boast.<sup>10</sup> For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them. NASB

- Here is your 5c. study question

5c. And what must we do to receive these two? We receive both through faith

- The blood and the Spirit are the focus of our faith in Jesus. This is the grace by which we are saved.
- Amen and glory to God

**TEACHING NOTES**

<b>FOUNDATIONS 201</b>	<b>WEEK THREE</b>	<b>CONTINUALLY DEVOTING THEMSELVES</b>
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## Week 3 – “Continually Devoting Themselves...”

Teaching Notes v2.8.5

**General Summary** - These lessons detail different practices of the early-Church and how the Holy Spirit redefined their lifestyle and culture. These practices are documented in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Chapter of Acts and provide a blueprint which supports a growing and dynamic community of Jesus followers.

**3-1 – “Suddenly from Heaven”**- outlines the basic ways through which the Church became relationally connected through the Apostolic leadership and the Holy Spirit’s work in their hearts.

**3-2 – “In the Temple and House to House”** – focuses on the worship locations used by the early church, utilizing large corporate settings and small groups for individual discipleship. This emphasizes the need for regular fellowship among Christians, not just on Sunday morning.

**3-3 – “Fellowship and the Breaking of Bread”** – this section shows the benefits of eating regular meals together to build relationships and create a sense of covenant unity within the Church.

**3-4 – “Practice Hospitality”** – speaks of the importance of hospitality among believers, as well as the special blessings that come to those who practice hospitality.

**3-5 – “Not of this World”**- encourages believers to resist letting the secular culture define our Christian community, but rather to recognize that we are not of this world and should embrace a culture defined by the scriptures and the Holy Spirit as it was among the first Jesus followers.

**Preparation notes** - Use a white board with the “Fruit of the Spirit” on the left side top, and the “Fallen Sinful Nature” on the left side bottom. This will be used for review of the last two lessons and for reference in this lesson. Make a column on the right side with the heading “Early Church Culture” at the top. Then divide it halfway down to list the “Cultural Obstacles” that make it difficult to do these things today.

When you begin your Week 3 Class, your white board or screen share could look something like this.

<p><u>The Fruit of the Holy Spirit</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness</li> <li>• Goodness, Unity, Humility, Faithfulness</li> <li>• Gentleness, Self-Control, Compassion</li> <li>• Forgiveness, Thankfulness, Meekness</li> <li>• <u>Leads to eternal life</u></li> </ul> <p><u>The Fallen Sinful Nature</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Self-centeredness, Envy, Greed, Divisiveness</li> <li>• Manipulation, Lying, Cheating, Stealing</li> <li>• Gossip, Jealousy, Revenge, Hatred, Factions</li> <li>• Malice, Verbal Abusive, Profanity, Idolatry</li> <li>• Argumentative, Debauchery, Drunkenness,</li> <li>• Sexual Immoralities - Adultery, Fornication, LGBTQ, Porn, Inordinate passion, etc...</li> <li>• <u>Will not inherit the kingdom of God, leads to the wrath of God</u></li> </ul>	<p><u>Early-Church Culture</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul> <p><u>Our Cultural Obstacles</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>
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As you conclude your Week 3 Class, your white board or screen share will probably look something like this, depending on the wording of the answers given in the class. This provides a helpful visual aid for the student to learn, as well as to take notes during the class.

<p><u>The Fruit of the Holy Spirit</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness</li> <li>• Goodness, Unity, Humility, Faithfulness</li> <li>• Gentleness, Self-Control, Compassion</li> <li>• Forgiveness, Thankfulness, Meekness</li> <li>• <u>Leads to eternal life</u></li> </ul> <p><u>The Fallen Sinful Nature</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Self-centeredness, Envy, Greed, Divisiveness</li> <li>• Manipulation, Lying, Cheating, Stealing</li> <li>• Gossip, Jealousy, Revenge, Hatred, Factions</li> <li>• Malice, Verbal Abusive, Profanity, Idolatry</li> <li>• Argumentative, Debauchery, Drunkenness,</li> <li>• Sexual Immoralities - Adultery, Fornication, LGBTQ, Porn, Inordinate passion, etc...</li> <li>• <u>Will not inherit the kingdom of God, leads to the wrath of God</u></li> </ul>	<p><u>Early-Church Culture</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Devoted to the Apostles' teaching of the word</li> <li>• Had regular fellowship in homes and the temple</li> <li>• Sharing meals together</li> <li>• They were devoted to praying together</li> <li>• Considered material possessions as common property - practiced extreme generosity</li> <li>• Praising God, unified, thankfulness, of one mind</li> <li>• Grew in numbers daily</li> </ul> <p><u>Our Cultural Obstacles</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• People are busy and stressed for time already</li> <li>• People are geographically scattered and no longer have physical community</li> <li>• People tend to cocoon in their own homes</li> <li>• People are not willing to invest in relationships</li> <li>• People tend to gather around technology - arm's length relationships</li> </ul>
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## Week 3 – “Continually Devoting Themselves...”

### Review

#### The Fruit of the Holy Spirit

- Two weeks ago, we talked about the Holy Spirit and how God imparts His own loving nature to us through the Holy Spirit.
- We talked about how the Fruit of the Spirit is the practical experience and expression of God’s nature in us.
- Love is the core fruit of the Holy Spirit out of which all the others flow
- God uses the Holy Spirit to work out His own righteousness in us through love

#### The Deeds of the Fallen Flesh Nature

- Last week, we talked about the fallen nature of man and who we are apart from Christ in us.
- And we saw that the fallen nature is basically a selfish and self-centered nature, that acts out in several ways to get what it wants
- We also saw that this is Satan’s nature, and when we give ourselves over to live this way, we are inviting Satan to control us.
- We also saw several places in the scriptures where it said that no one who lives this flesh lifestyle will receive an inheritance in the kingdom of God. It leads to the wrath of God.

#### Repentance

- This selfish life is the life we are called to "repent from" - to crucify it, kill it.
- The life of the Holy Spirit is the life we are called to "repent to" - to embrace
- When we embrace the Spirit life, we are embracing God Himself

#### The Atonement

- God's only mechanism for forgiving our sins is the blood of Jesus, both at our initial conversion, and in our lives ongoing.
- In this life, we will always be dependent on His blood for cleansing
- Repentance is a prerequisite to forgiveness

#### These are the two areas of Grace through which God saves us

- The blood of Jesus cleanses us of the sins we have committed, and to cleanse our conscience
- The indwelling presence of Christ in our hearts through the Holy Spirit imparts God's righteous nature to us to sanctify our hearts in love, changing our behavior.



## Lesson 3-1 - "Suddenly from Heaven"

- Tonight, we will look at some aspects of the early-Church culture to see what we can learn about how the Holy Spirit impacted their community and lifestyle.
- Would someone please read the Acts 2:42-47 passage on page 33-34 of your book

AC 2:42 And they were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. <sup>43</sup> And everyone kept feeling a sense of awe; and many wonders and signs were taking place through the apostles.

AC 2:44 And all those who had believed were together, and had all things in common; <sup>45</sup> and they began selling their property and possessions, and were sharing them with all, as anyone might have need.

AC 2:46 And day by day continuing with one mind in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they were taking their meals together with gladness and sincerity of heart, <sup>47</sup> praising God, and having favor with all the people. And the Lord was adding to their number day by day those who were being saved. NASB

- Okay, there were some interesting things happening in that community
- Here is your 1a study question from your workbook.

1a. From the Acts 2:42-47 passage of scripture, list the activities and experiences Luke mentions as being part of the early-Church culture, lifestyle, and devotion.

Write these on the board under the heading - "Early-Church Culture"

They were devoted to the teaching of the word and to prayer,

They were devoted to fellowship, hospitality, and sharing meals together

They functioned as a community, practicing generosity, meeting one another's needs

They were unified, expressing thankfulness, sincere in heart

They saw regular miracles, and continually added new believers

- Here is another question

Q. Would it be fair to say this is good example a healthy Christian community? Yes

- And here is your 1b. study question.

1b. How does this 1st Century Church culture compare with what we see broadly in our society today?

It is almost a complete opposite of what we see happening in society today

- It was radically different from the society of their day, as well. That is why Luke pointed it out.

Q. So, what happened that would have caused them to abandon the cultural norm of their day and embrace this kind of culture and community?

The cultural change was brought about by the change in their hearts through the Holy Spirit.

- So, this is what a Holy Spirit filled community and culture looks like?
- When Jesus' spirit is in control, He produces a community that acts like Him, a culture that has His heart - functioning like a colony of Heaven on earth

Q. What kind of culture does the fallen sinful nature of man produce?

Bickering, infighting, power struggles, immoralities of all kinds, gunshots, sirens, overflowing prisons, greed, - Washington DC

- This fallen nature culture consumes its own citizens
- But a community built on the Fruit of the Holy Spirit is a culture of love and fellowship full of life and purpose
- Unfortunately, even the Church has drifted from this design – so, there is a lot we can learn from God's original blueprint and design

### Lesson 3-2 - "In the Temple and House to House"

- Here the first attribute of this early-Church culture
- Would someone please read the Acts 2:46 passage on page 36 of your book

AC 2:46 And day by day continuing with one mind in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house... NASB

- Here is your 2a. study question.

2a. From the Acts 2:46 passage, where did the Christians meet in the early days of the Church?

Add this on the board under the heading - "Early-Church Culture"

They met in the temple and in their homes

- So, from the very beginning, we see their meeting structure included both a large corporate setting, as well as smaller group settings.

- And here is your 2b. question

## 2b. And what can we gain by following their example today?

- In other words, what do we gain by pursuing both types of group fellowship experiences?

### Q. What are some advantages of large group meetings?

The big corporate setting can be exciting and dynamic

You get the big picture of what is going on

God often moves in powerful ways

Can get an inspiring message from a very anointed Pastor

### Q. What about the disadvantages of large groups?

It is very easy to get lost in the crowd, and never connect with people

It is difficult to get personal attention as it may be needed

It can be difficult to get to know people and build relationships

- And that is where the small groups fill in those gaps

### Q. What are some advantages of small group meetings?

Much better for in-depth teaching, asking questions

Better for getting personal attention and ministry

Better for building personal relationships

- This was especially necessary in the early days because they had become a congregation of 3,000 baby Christians.
- The larger the congregation, the greater the need for smaller groups within the congregation.

### Q. What are some disadvantages of small group meetings?

Small groups can become factions and cliques

They can become closed communities – “us four and no more”

Small groups can be relationally hazardous

- Getting close to people creates vulnerability
- So, we go into it knowing the risks, but that the upside is infinitely greater
- With small groups, we prepare ourselves to walk in love and forgiveness

## Lesson 3-3 - "Fellowship and the Breaking of Bread"

- Sometimes, things that do not appear to be spiritual, can be very spiritual.

- So, I would like to read that passage again for you – Acts 2:42 page 38

AC 2:42 And they were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

AC 2:46 And day by day continuing with one mind in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they were taking their meals together with gladness and sincerity of heart,  
47 praising God, and having favor with all the people. And the Lord was adding to their number day by day those who were being saved. NASB

- Let's talk about the spiritual activity known as "eating together".
- Is eating one of your spiritual gifts?
- And here are your number 3a. and 3b. study questions

3a. In the Acts 2:42-47 passage, Luke mentions not once, but twice, that sharing meals together was an integral part of the early-Church culture. What is special about eating together in someone's home?

3b. Also, what are some good things that can happen in relationships when a meal is shared?

Eating together is a part of the covenant relationship

Sharing a meal creates a sense of community and family.

Conversation happens around the table

This is how we really get to know people - what they think and feel, their needs

A meal is a time to express thankfulness together

We can invite Jesus in

- It may sound weird, but in the Bible, Jude refers to these events as "love feasts"
- It is a time to come together to share in God's provision
- Whenever we started doing snacks, it changed the whole dynamic of our groups
- We did not do it because we like to eat, but it is by design for a greater purpose
- I would like to share something that I found in Baker's Evangelical Dictionary

*"The hospitable act of the communal meal possesses great symbolic significance. In the ancient world, to share food with someone was to share life. Such a gesture of intimacy created a bond of fellowship. Hence, Jesus' meals with tax collectors and sinners, Peter's meal with Gentiles, and the common meal of the early Christians in Acts 2 communicated a powerful message of intimacy and unity."*

- In their day, sharing a meal with someone was a symbol of acceptance, and of assigning great value to the person.

- Someone please read the Mark 2:13-17 passage on page 39 of your workbook.

MK 2:13 Once again Jesus went out beside the lake. A large crowd came to him, and he began to teach them. <sup>14</sup> As he walked along, he saw Levi, son of Alphaeus sitting at the tax collector's booth. "Follow me," Jesus told him, and Levi got up and followed him.

MK 2:15 While Jesus was having dinner at Levi's house, many tax collectors and "sinners" were eating with him and his disciples, for there were many who followed him. <sup>16</sup> When the teachers of the law who were Pharisees saw him eating with the "sinners" and tax collectors, they asked his disciples: "Why does he eat with tax collectors and 'sinners'?"

MK 2:17 On hearing this, Jesus said to them, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners." NIV

- Now, here is a question for you

Q. Why were the religious leaders upset with Jesus about his eating with these people?

Because they saw them as unclean people that should be avoided.

Q. But how did Jesus see these people differently?

Despite their condition, Jesus still loved them  
Jesus had compassion on them  
He saw it as a good opportunity for evangelism  
For Jesus, they did not all have to be perfectly sanctified - not PLUs (people like us)

- Jesus did not seem to be at all worried that He might be soiled by hanging out with these "sinners".
- He loved them, He had compassion for them, and saw it as an opportunity for them to be saved.

Q. How is this relevant for us? What are some things we can learn from Jesus' example in eating with others?

We need to be like Jesus and do what He did

- Do we need to use wisdom? Absolutely. Do we always open our front door to anyone who knocks? No way. We always use the wisdom of the Holy Spirit.

## Lesson 3-4 – "Practice Hospitality"

- Someone please read the Romans 12:9-13 passage on page 41

RO 12:9 Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. <sup>10</sup> Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves. <sup>11</sup> Never be lacking

in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. <sup>12</sup> Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. <sup>13</sup> Share with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality. NIV

Q. When you read this list, what other list does it sound like?

The fruit of the Holy Spirit

Q. Is hospitality a fruit of the Holy Spirit?

Just by its association with the other fruit - Yes

- Hospitality is a fruit of the Holy Spirit, rooted in love just like any of the others
- Hospitality originates in the heart of God, and it should be coming forth as an expression of our Spirit-filled Christian experience.

Q. What is hospitality?

Dictionary definition

1. The friendly and generous reception and entertainment of guests, visitors, or strangers.
  2. The quality or disposition of receiving and treating guests and strangers in a warm, friendly, generous way.
- At its core, hospitality is a form of generosity toward guests, visitors, and strangers
  - Someone please read the Hebrews 13:1-3 passage on page 42 of your workbook

HEB 13:1 Let love of the brethren continue. <sup>2</sup> Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by this some have entertained angels without knowing it. <sup>3</sup> Remember the prisoners, as though in prison with them, and those who are ill-treated, since you yourselves also are in the body. NASB

- And here is your number 4a. study question

4a. In the Hebrews 13:1-3 passage, what are the different things we are encouraged to do?

Continue to love, show hospitality, remember the prisoners and the persecuted

4b. And what is the reason given for practicing hospitality to strangers?

Some have entertained angels without knowing it.

Q. Why do you think that angels might come to visit you?

To bring a message from God

### To bestow a blessing from God

- Whether an angel or not, practicing hospitality is an opportunity to be blessed by God

Q. So, if practicing hospitality is an opportunity to be blessed by God, what will happen if we fail to practice hospitality?

### We will miss those opportunities to be blessed

Q. When you look at all these things on the board, what do you see as of the cultural challenges and obstacles that could hinder this from happening in our Church today?

Write these on the board under the heading - "Our Cultural Obstacles"

People are busy and stressed for time already

People are scattered and do not have physical community

People tend to cocoon in their own homes

People are not willing to invest in relationships

People tend to gather around technology - arm's length relationships

Q. And how can we begin to overcome these hindrances?

To overcome these cultural issues, we must be intentional about it.

It must become a priority

We must become devoted to it.

We must find a starting place - a first step

- We should not let our secular culture squeeze hospitality out of our Christian DNA, because we all need to give it and to receive it

### Lesson 3-5 - "Not of this World"

- Someone please read the John 17:14-19 passage on page 45 of your workbook

JN 17:14 I have given them your word and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world. <sup>15</sup> My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. <sup>16</sup> They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. <sup>17</sup> Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. <sup>18</sup> As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world. <sup>19</sup> For them I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified. NIV

- And here is your number 5a study question

5a. In the John 17:16-18 passage, Jesus said that we are not of this world. If we are not of the world, then what are we?

We are of the Kingdom of God, the family of God, the Spirit of God, and the culture of God

5b. What does this mean to you personally in your relationship with God?

If I am not of this world, then I am not going to function the way this world functions

My life, relationships, and personal culture are not to be defined by this world, but by Kingdom realities.

- First and foremost, we are citizens of the Kingdom of God and that is where our heart and allegiance must be.
- Now for the second part of that question.

Q. And how should this affect our relationships with one another?

My relationships with other people will not be defined on the terms of this world but by the Spirit of God and kingdom principles.

- We must break away from this system we are living in.
- Someone please read the Romans 12 passage on page 45 of your workbook

RO 12:1 I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. <sup>2</sup> Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God--what is good and acceptable and perfect. NRSV

- Now for your 5c. study question.

5c. In Romans 12:1-3, what direction does Paul give us to help us avoid being conformed to the world?

We must get off the hamster wheel and allow the Holy Spirit to transform our minds, so we think in Jesus terms, rather than the culture in which we live.

- We are not of this world – right?
- We are not going to be molded by this world - right?
- Amen and glory to God.



**TEACHING NOTES**

**FOUNDATIONS 201**   WEEK FOUR

NOT A NEEDY PERSON AMONG THEM

## Week 4 – “Not a Needy Person Among Them”

### Teaching Notes v2.8.5

**General Summary** – This set of lessons presents several facets of the extreme generosity expressed in the early Church, along with some of the checks and balances that were implemented in their community.

**4-1 – “Everything in Common”**- This lesson explores how the early church viewed their community as a family, which explains why they practiced extreme generosity and considered personal possessions to be a resource for meeting community needs.

**4-2 – “You’ve Done it unto Me”** - Explores the practice of compassionate generosity through the eyes of Jesus, and the high value that He places on it. It also shows a compassionate heart as being a primary trait that separates Jesus' sheep from the goats of the world in the coming judgment.

**4-3 – “As He Has Decided in His Heart”** – This lesson encourages the student to seek to be led by the Holy Spirit in their giving rather than through being manipulated by guilt and legalism. This leads to cheerful generosity instead of obligatory giving.

**4-4 – “Neither Should They Eat”** – This lesson discusses the necessity of restorative church discipline toward those who seek to take advantage of the generosity of others rather than working to provide their own basic needs.

**4-5 – “Do Not Muzzle the Ox”** - Shows the importance of financially supporting our church leaders who are teaching the word and working to bring spiritual growth to our lives.

Preparation notes – Other than the white board from the last lesson for review purposes, there is very little to be presented on a white board or otherwise. This is last week's completed white board for review.

#### The Fruit of the Holy Spirit

- Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness
- Goodness, Unity, Humility, Faithfulness
- Gentleness, Self-Control, Compassion
- Forgiveness, Thankfulness, Meekness
- Leads to eternal life

#### The Fallen Sinful Nature

- Self-centeredness, Envy, Greed, Divisiveness
- Manipulation, Lying, Cheating, Stealing
- Gossip, Jealousy, Revenge, Hatred, Factions
- Malice, Verbal Abusive, Profanity, Idolatry
- Argumentative, Debauchery, Drunkenness,
- Sexual Immoralities - Adultery, Fornication, LGBTQ, Porn, Inordinate passion, etc...
- Will not inherit the kingdom of God, leads to the wrath of God

#### Early-Church Culture

- Devoted to the Apostles' teaching of the word
- Had regular fellowship in homes and the temple
- Sharing meals together
- They were devoted to praying together
- Considered material possessions as common property - practiced extreme generosity
- Praising God, unified, thankfulness, of one mind
- Grew in numbers daily

#### Our Cultural Obstacles

- People are busy and stressed for time already
- People are geographically scattered and no longer have physical community
- People tend to cocoon in their own homes
- People are not willing to invest in relationships
- People tend to gather around technology - arm's length relationships

## Week 4 – “Not a Needy Person Among Them”

### Lesson 4-1 - “Everything in Common”

Review of last week

- In the past few lessons, we have seen the unique Holy Spirit-led Christian culture that developed in the earliest days of the Church.
- From Acts 2:42-47 this passage, we identified several core values that defined the culture of the Church

Review these from the board - right side

The teaching of the word

Regular fellowship

Sharing meals together

Praying together

Having everything in common

Sharing and Generosity

Thankfulness and sincerity, Praise and Worship

- This is the lifestyle and culture that developed as the Holy Spirit worked through this community of Jesus followers.
- Last week, we focused primarily on hospitality as it was practiced among the earliest believers.
- Tonight, we are going to focus on a different aspect of the early church culture.
- Would someone please read the Acts 4:32 passage on page 49 of your workbook?

AC 4:32 And the congregation of those who believed were of one heart and soul; and not one of them claimed that anything belonging to him was his own; but all things were common property to them. <sup>33</sup> And with great power the apostles were giving witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and abundant grace was upon them all. <sup>34</sup> For there was not a needy person among them, for all who were owners of land or houses would sell them and bring the proceeds of the sales, <sup>35</sup> and lay them at the apostles' feet; and they would be distributed to each, as any had need. NRSV

- Would you please read verse 32 again?

AC 4:32 And the congregation of those who believed were of one heart and soul; and not one of them claimed that anything belonging to him was his own; but all things were common property to them. NRSV

- Here is a question for you.

Q. What type of social system does this seem to be?

Communism? Socialism?

- You may have heard the early-Church being described as an early form of socialism or communism.
- On the surface, it does sound a lot like a commune situation
- But there are some other things in Acts that lead us to a different conclusion.
- Would someone please read the Acts 5:4 passage on page 49 of your workbook?

AC 5:4 While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, were not the proceeds at your disposal? NRSV

Q. Does that sound like a commune? No

- The early Christians did view material possessions as being for the common benefit.
- But they still retained individual ownership and control of their property.
- They were not common property commune
- But their actions do reveal something significant about how they viewed one another in this community of believers
- Would someone please read the Mark 3:31 passage on page 50 of your workbook?

MK 3:31 Then his mother and his brothers came; and standing outside, they sent to him and called him. <sup>32</sup> A crowd was sitting around him; and they said to him, "Your mother and your brothers and sisters are outside, asking for you." <sup>33</sup> And he replied, "Who are my mother and my brothers?" <sup>34</sup> And looking at those who sat around him, he said, "Here are my mother and my brothers!" <sup>35</sup> Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother." NRSV

- Here is your 1a. study question.

1a. from Mark 3:31-35, in what way does Jesus redefine the concept of family?

Jesus defined family as those being in the family of God, rather than in biological terms

- Here is your 1b. study question

1b. And how should Jesus' definition of family affect the way that we relate to one another within the Church?

If God sees us as being family, then we should see one another as family

- We have a physical family, and we have a spiritual family
- One comes from our biological fathers; the other comes from our Heavenly Father

Q. So, which has the deeper bond, the physical or the spiritual?

The spiritual

Q. How do you think Jesus sees it?

- Look at the things the early Christians were doing together.
- Isn't this what a family looks like?
- Isn't this what families do?
- As I see it, the best word to describe this culture is FAMILY

#### Lesson 4-2 – “You’ve Done it Unto Me”

- Please turn to page 51 in your workbook.
- This is the Matthew 25 passage - Instructor reads

MT 25:31 "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. <sup>32</sup> All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, <sup>33</sup> and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left.

MT 25:34 Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; <sup>35</sup> for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, <sup>36</sup> I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.'

MT 25:37 Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? <sup>38</sup> And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? <sup>39</sup> And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' <sup>40</sup> And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.'

MT 25:41 Then he will say to those at his left hand, 'You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; <sup>42</sup> for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, <sup>43</sup> I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.'

MT 25:44 Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?' <sup>45</sup> Then he will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' <sup>46</sup> And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life." NRSV

- Here is your number 2 study question.

## 2. What point is Jesus making to us in this passage?

Jesus places a high value on a compassionate and generous heart.

In the coming judgment, a compassionate heart is one of the things that reveals the difference between the sheep and goats.

- When we express compassionate generosity toward our fellow Christians who are in need, Jesus says we are pouring the same blessing on Him.
- This passage is all about having a compassionate heart and acting on it.
- Please look at page 53 in your workbook.
- This is the James 2 passage - Instructor reads

JAS 2:14 What good is it, my brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save him? <sup>15</sup> Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. <sup>16</sup> If one of you says to him, "Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it? <sup>17</sup> In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead. NIV

- And we'll stop there.
- Here is your number 2 study question, again.

## 2. What point is James trying to make to us here?

If our faith does not produce a compassionate heart and a generous spirit in us, then it is not a true saving faith. It is only dead religion.

- All our religious trappings are useless if we do not have a loving and compassionate heart.
- Would someone please read the Proverbs passage on page 53 of your workbook?

PR 19:17 He who is kind to the poor lends to the LORD,  
and he will reward him for what he has done. NIV

- Once again, here is your number 2 study question.

## 2. What point is God trying to make to us here?

When we are compassionate and generous toward others, God sees it as a debt that He is responsible to pay back himself.

- When we take notice of others who are in need, God takes notice of us.
- Isn't it good to be reminded of these things occasionally?

## Lesson 4-3 - "As He Has Decided in His Heart"

- Would someone please read the 2nd Corinthians 9:6-7 passage on page 55 of your workbook?

<sup>2CO 9:6</sup> Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. <sup>7</sup> Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.  
NASB

- Here is your 3a study question

## 3a. What does the 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 9:6-7 passage teach us about the proper and improper motivations for giving?

Our giving should come from a cheerful heart, not a reluctant heart.

## Q. What does it mean to give out of compulsion?

To be manipulated or guilted

- Have you ever felt like you were manipulated or guilted into giving?
- How does that make you feel?

## Q. What happens in the heart of a person who gives out of manipulation or legalism?

It produces reluctance and resentment – not cheerfulness.

- This is not the way God designed it to work in our lives
- The Lord wants to lead us and orchestrate our giving by His Holy Spirit
- That way we can give out of joy, not obligation

## Q. How can we know the difference between Spirit-led generosity and gifts that driven by manipulation or legalism?



The Holy Spirit puts a passion in our hearts for the work of that ministry

But legalism is based on guilt and obligation

- He will give you a passion for what you are supposed to support
- And He may give me a passion for something different from you
- That way God get resources to everything He wants funded

Q. Why is it important that we let the Holy Spirit be our guide in our giving?

Because God sees the big picture, and we do not.

- If we ask Him about it, He may say do not give to that ministry or person
- We do not need to know why; we just need to be obedient.
- Would someone please read the 2nd Corinthians 9:8-11 passage on page 56 of your workbook?
- This is the continuation of the cheerful giver passage we just read

<sup>2CO 9:8</sup> And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. <sup>9</sup> As it is written: "He has scattered abroad his gifts to the poor; his righteousness endures forever." NIV

<sup>2CO 9:10</sup> Now he who supplies seed to the Sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. <sup>11</sup> You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God. NIV

- Here is your number 3b. study question.

3b. From the 2nd Corinthians 9:8-11 passage, what are the promises given to those who give out of a generous heart?

God will supply our every need, including that which He leads us to give away.

He will cause spiritual blessings to abound in our lives.

- So, let's ask God to put into our hearts what we should give and to whom, then follow through cheerfully.
- But whatever you do, let the Holy Spirit be your guide.

#### Lesson 4-4 - "Neither Should They Eat"

- This is the 2nd Thessalonians 3:6-14 passage on page 57 - instructor reads

<sup>2TH 3:6</sup> Now we command you, beloved, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to keep away from believers who are living in idleness and not according to the tradition that they

received from us. <sup>7</sup> For you yourselves know how you ought to imitate us; we were not idle when we were with you, <sup>8</sup> and we did not eat anyone's bread without paying for it; but with toil and labor we worked night and day, so that we might not burden any of you. <sup>9</sup> This was not because we do not have that right, but in order to give you an example to imitate.

<sup>2TH 3:10</sup> For even when we were with you, we gave you this command: Anyone unwilling to work should not eat. <sup>11</sup> For we hear that some of you are living in idleness, mere busybodies, not doing any work. <sup>12</sup> Now such persons we command and exhort in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living. <sup>13</sup> Brothers and sisters do not be weary in doing what is right. <sup>14</sup> Take note of those who do not obey what we say in this letter; have nothing to do with them, so that they may be ashamed.

NRSV

4a. From the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thessalonians 3:6-14 passage, what problem was Paul attempting to correct?

There were some people who were not working to support themselves, but instead taking advantage of the Church meal system.

- They had become freeloaders.

Q. What happens to peoples' sense of generosity when they see this going on?

People stop being generous – which is not good.

- It offends your sense of fairness and justice
- And if we are not careful, people are damaged by becoming jaded and they shut down the tenderness of their hearts.

4b. What instruction did Paul give the Church? No work, no food.

- The early Christians were very generous
- But they also had to have those checks and balances in the system to prevent abuses.
- Someone please read the 2nd Thessalonians 3:15 passage on page 58.

<sup>2TH 3:15</sup> And yet do not regard him as an enemy but admonish him as a brother. NASB

4c. From 2<sup>nd</sup> Thessalonians 3:16, what is the proper way to implement this kind of church discipline? In love

- "Brother, we love you, but what you are doing here is not right, it is not good for you, and it is not good for the fellowship."
- "You are able to work, so you must pull your own weight."

- "You are family to us, but if you continue to abuse the generosity of other people, you will no longer be welcomed here in this fellowship."
- It takes love and humility to have that difficult conversation.
- Even in this benevolence ministry, there were checks and balances in the system to prevent abuse

## Lesson 4-5 - "Do Not Muzzle the Ox"

- Would someone please read the Deuteronomy 25:4 passage on page 60 of your workbook?

DT 25:4 **Do not muzzle an ox while it is treading out the grain.** NIV

- This is an Old Testament commandment to farmers
- And this leads us to our 5a. study question.

**5a. From the Deuteronomy 25:4 passage, why do you think God would give this kind of commandment to a farmer?**

The ox is toiling for the farmer's benefit. The farmer should show appreciation and reward that labor by allowing the ox to share in the harvest as he is working.

- Look at the 1st Corinthians 9 passages on page 61. Instructor reads

1CO 9:1 **Am I not free? Am I not an apostle? Have I not seen Jesus our Lord? Are you not the result of my work in the Lord? <sup>2</sup> Even though I may not be an apostle to others, surely, I am to you! For you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord.** NIV

- Now verse 3.

1CO 9:3 **This is my defense to those who sit in judgment on me. <sup>4</sup> Don't we have the right to food and drink? <sup>5</sup> Don't we have the right to take a believing wife along with us, as do the other apostles and the Lord's brothers and Cephas? <sup>6</sup> Or is it only I and Barnabas who must work for a living?** NIV

1CO 9:7 **Who at any time serves as a soldier at his own expense? Who plants a vineyard, and does not eat the fruit of it? Or who tends a flock and does not use the milk of the flock? <sup>8</sup> I am not speaking these things according to human judgment, am I? Or does not the Law also say these things? <sup>9</sup> For it is written in the Law of Moses, "You shall not muzzle the ox while he is threshing." God is not concerned about oxen, is He? <sup>10</sup> Or is He speaking altogether for our sake? Yes, for our sake it was written, because the plowman ought to plow in hope, and the thresher to thresh in hope of sharing the crops. <sup>11</sup> If we sowed spiritual things in you, is it too much if we should reap material things from you?** NASB

- Now verse 12.

1CO 9:12 **If others have this right of support from you, shouldn't we have it all the more?**

But we did not use this right. On the contrary, we put up with anything rather than hinder the gospel of Christ. <sup>13</sup> Don't you know that those who work in the temple get their food from the temple, and those who serve at the altar share in what is offered on the altar?

<sup>14</sup> In the same way, the Lord has commanded that those who preach the gospel should receive their living from the gospel. <sup>15</sup> But I have not used any of these rights. And I am not writing this in the hope that you will do such things for me. I would rather die than have anyone deprive me of this boast. NIV

- Here is your number 5b. study question.

5b. From the 1st Corinthians 9:1-15 passages, how does the “do not muzzle the ox” principle apply to us in the Church today, and why should we never do it?

This is about appreciating the labors of those who are working to bring the word of God to us.

It is about being generous toward them in material ways and making sure that they have provision. It is about financially supporting the work of the ministry

- That is what we're going to do, right? - be generous to support the Church?
- When we fail to support our Church and leadership financially, it is like muzzling the ox when it is threshing, with no appreciation for the spiritual life that we receive through the ministry.
- Let's not be the kind of people who show up on Sunday morning to soak up the worship, soak up the ministry, soak up the preaching, and soak up the air conditioning - then muzzle the ox by not financially supporting the Church even to help cover the ongoing expenses of the ministry.
- Amen and Glory to God.

<b>TEACHING NOTES</b>	<b>FOUNDATIONS 201</b> WEEK FIVE
CONTINUALLY DEVOTED TO PRAYER	

## Week 5 – “Continually Devoted to Prayer”

### Teaching Notes v2.8.5

**General Summary** – In this series of lessons, we discuss several different aspects of prayer as they are taught in the scriptures and practiced among the early Jesus followers.

**5-1 – “The Prayers”** - presents the fact that a corporate devotion to prayer was an integral element of the early-Church culture. It asks the question of what it means to be devoted to prayer and seeks to point out some of the things that hinder us from continually living in an attitude of prayer.

**5-2 – “Pray in Secret”** - explores the advantages of having a regular time alone with God in prayer in which we can be totally honest, without the temptation to tailor our prayers to the ears of other people.

**5-3 – “Pray for Your Enemies”** – focuses on the teaching of Jesus in which He expresses the importance of blessing and forgiving our enemies and those who have hurt us. It reveals another way we can emulate Jesus in this world.

**5-4 – “Pray in the Spirit”** – presents the concept and practice of connecting with God spirit-to-spirit rather than always trying to use words. There are times when words are inadequate, so we learn to allow the Spirit to pray though our hearts without words.

**5-5 – “Lord, Teach Us to Pray”** - highlights the principles of the Lord’s Prayer as a basic outline of elements that should be incorporated into our personal prayer times.

**Preparation notes** - Use a white board with “Continually Devoted to Prayer” on the left side top, and the “The Lord's Prayer” on the left side bottom. This will be used for review of the last two lessons and for reference in this lesson. Make a column on the right side with the heading “Hindrances” at the top.

When you begin your Week 5 Class, your white board or screen share could look something like this.

<p><u>Continually Devoted to Prayer</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul> <p><u>The Lord's Prayer</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>	<p><u>Hindrances</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>
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As you conclude your Week 5 Class, your white board or screen share will probably look something like this, depending on the wording of the answers given in the class. This provides a helpful visual aid for the student to learn, as well as to take notes during the class.

<p><u>Continually Devoted to Prayer</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Earnest in prayer, regular times</li> <li>• Intentionality, planning, priority</li> <li>• Make it a habit, or a custom</li> <li>• <u>Shacharit</u> - Sunrise Prayers</li> <li>• <u>Mincha</u> - Afternoon Prayers</li> <li>• <u>Ma'ariv</u> - Evening Prayers</li> </ul> <p><u>The Lord's Prayer</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reverence, respect, praise worship</li> <li>• Surrender to His will</li> <li>• Request for provision, thankfulness</li> <li>• Request for forgiveness</li> <li>• Request for protection, guidance and strength, deliverance</li> </ul>	<p><u>Hindrances</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Busyness, Work, Lack of time,</li> <li>• Distractions</li> <li>• Culture - rat race</li> <li>• Television</li> <li>• Ignorance - lack of knowledge</li> <li>• We don't know what we are missing</li> <li>• Not a habit</li> <li>• Not intentional or a priority</li> <li>• Lack of training</li> </ul>
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## Week 5 – “Continually Devoted to Prayer”

### Lesson 5-1 – “The Prayers”

#### Review Last week

- We have been talking about how the Holy Spirit impacted the hearts of the early believers, and how this defined their culture
- One aspect was the practice of compassionate generosity in the early Church
- Sacrificial generosity was practiced helping to meet the needs of the impoverished

#### This week

- This week, we are going to explore another key element in the lifestyle of early Christians.
- Please turn in your workbook to page 65
- Before Jesus ascended to the Father, He told His disciples to wait in Jerusalem for the Holy Spirit
- Would someone please read the Act 1:12-14 passage?

AC 1:12 Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey away. <sup>13</sup> And when they had entered, they went up to the upper room, where they were staying; that is, Peter and John and James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas the son of James. <sup>14</sup> These all with one mind were continually devoting themselves to prayer, along with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers. NASB

Q. As they were waiting for God to pour out the Holy Spirit, what did they do?

They devoted themselves to prayer.

- And we see a similar thing happening among the new believers after the day of Pentecost.
- Someone please read the Acts 2:41-42 passage on page 65

AC 2:41 So then, those who had received his word were baptized; and there were added that day about three thousand souls. <sup>42</sup> And they were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. NASB

Q. What is the last thing listed here? Prayer

- They were continually devoting themselves to prayer.
- Someone please read the 1st Thessalonians 5:16-18 passage on page 66.



<sup>1TH 5:16</sup> Rejoice always; <sup>17</sup> pray without ceasing; <sup>18</sup> in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. NASB

- Here is your 1a. study question

1a. In 1st Thessalonians 5:16-18, we are encouraged to pray without ceasing. To you, what does it mean for someone to be continually devoted to prayer in this way?

Write these on the board under the heading - "Continually Devoted to Prayer"

It means that prayer has become a regular and integral part of our daily lives to the point that we are continually in an attitude of prayer

1b. And what do you see as some obstacles that might hinder this kind of lifestyle?

Write these on the board under the heading - "Hindrances"

We are too busy

We are too distracted

Our culture interferes

We have not formed the habit

Q. And what are some things we can do to overcome these obstacles?

Write these on the board under the heading - "Continually Devoted to Prayer"

Intentionally create a prayer habit

- In Jesus' day, the Jewish custom was to stop and pray three times a day, not counting the prayers before and after meals.
- Here is one of the things that I do - I have an alarm set for 3PM every day to pray

Write these on the board under the heading - "Continually Devoted to Prayer"

Shacharit - Sunrise prayers

Mincha - Afternoon prayers

Ma'ariv - Evening prayers

- Let's look back to page 64 in your workbook
- Someone please read the Acts 3:1 passage.

AC 3:1 One day Peter and John were going up to the temple at the time of prayer--at three in the afternoon. NIV

- Why were they going up to the temple at three in the afternoon?
- It was for the Mincha - the afternoon prayers.
- This is the Jewish prayer framework that would have been the custom of Jesus, His disciples, and the early Jewish believers.
- These prayers would include psalms, hymns, and verses structured to constantly remind them of certain truths and principles about God and their relationship with Him.
- An early-Church handbook, the Didache, instructs us to pray the Lord's prayer three times a day
- There is strong evidence that this was the prayer framework of the Church for at least the first 100 years
- Someone please read the Colossians 4:2 passage on page 66

COL 4:2 Devote yourselves to prayer, keeping alert in it with an attitude of thanksgiving; NASB

1c. What is it about thankfulness that makes it an important part of our prayers?

A thankful heart sets the proper tone for our prayers. It is the thankful heart that gets God's ear.

## Lesson 5-2 - "Pray in Secret"

- Now we are going to explore some specific aspects of prayer
- Someone please read the Matthew 6:5-6 passage on page 67
- This is part of Jesus' teachings on prayer

MT 6:5 "And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. <sup>6</sup> But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. NRSV

- Here is your 2a. study question

2a. What do you see as some of the benefits of praying in secret?

We can focus on God - less distractions  
We do not have to worry about what other people think  
We do not have to try to do everything perfectly  
We can truly be honest and vulnerable

- Even if we do not intend to, it is so easy to tailor our prayers for the ears of the people around us
- And here is your 2b. question

2b. And why is it important we come to God in prayer with pure motives and an honest heart?

God knows our hearts and He sees right through us when we are self-serving

But an honest and sincere heart gets God's attention

- Someone please read the Luke 5:15-16 passage on page 68

LK 5:15 But the news about Him was spreading even farther, and great multitudes were gathering to hear Him and to be healed of their sicknesses. <sup>16</sup> But He Himself would often slip away to the wilderness and pray. NASB

Q. Why do you think Jesus felt the need to do this?

Even Jesus needed privacy in prayer

- Jesus encouraged us to pray in secret because it is a powerful thing for us, but also because it was His own practice.
- If Jesus needed to pray in secret, how much more do we need to do it?

### Lesson 5-3 - "Pray for your Enemies"

- Now we are going to look at another aspect of prayer from Jesus' teachings
- Someone please read the Luke 6:27-29 passage on page 69 of your workbook

LK 6:27 "But I say to you that listen, love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, <sup>28</sup> bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. <sup>29</sup> If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. NRSV

- And here is your 3a. question

3a. In Luke 6:27-29, what specific instructions does Jesus give us about how we should view and treat people who make themselves our enemies?

He said to love them, to do good to them, to bless them, to pray for them, to not seek retribution or revenge against them

- I believe this is one of the most difficult things Jesus calls us to do.
- Here is your number 3b. study question

### 3b. And why is this so difficult to do sincerely?

From a human perspective, this is completely counterintuitive – it is not the natural human thing to do

Q. In those situations, what does our flesh nature want God to do to them?

We want God to slap them around for a while, and maybe rain fire down from heaven on them.

- We want God to judge them because we are not seeing them through His heart
- Someone please read the 1st Timothy 2:1-4 passage on page 70 of your workbook

<sup>1</sup>TI 2:1 First of all, then, I urge that entreaties and prayers, petitions and thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all men, <sup>2</sup> for kings and all who are in authority, in order that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity. <sup>3</sup> This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, <sup>4</sup> who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. NASB

### 3c. What does 1<sup>st</sup> Timothy 2:1-4 reveal about God's heart?

God desires that everyone would come to the knowledge of the truth and be saved – even the worst of sinners

- Is that how we feel about them? Do we want them to be saved?
- We say that we want to be like Jesus, right?
- Well, this is one of the ways we get to be like Jesus.
- We must do the internal warfare to bring our heart into alignment with His

Read this in total

- Feeling love for our enemies, expressing that love to them, and praying loving prayers to God on their behalf, is the best evidence of God's love working to perfect our hearts.
- Forgiveness is quite possibly the greatest expression of God's love.

### Lesson 5-4 - "Pray in the Spirit"

- This next section has to do with how to pray when we know we need to pray, but we do not know how to pray
- Someone please read the Romans 8:26-27 passage on page 71 of your workbook

<sup>RO 8:26</sup> Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. <sup>27</sup> And God, who

searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. NRSV

- This is a whole different level of prayer, isn't it?
- Here is your number 4a. study question.

4a. From the Romans 8:26-27 passage, in what ways does the Holy Spirit help us to pray?

The Spirit intercedes for us with prayers that are beyond words, beyond the ability of our human intellect to comprehend

- In essence, this is God praying through us and for us in the Spirit.
- It is a mystery of the Spirit.
- It produces perfect prayers that are in complete harmony with God's will and purposes.
- In verse 26 it says, "but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words." NRSV

4b. Is it possible to pray without using words?

Sure, in the same way that we can express thankfulness to God without saying or even thinking the words "thank you"

4c. How do we do pray without words?

We so this by expressing the feelings in our hearts to God, without attempting to attach words to that feeling.

- A non-verbal communication through which our hearts reach out to God, without words being formed on our lips or even in our minds.
- It is a spirit-to-spirit communication in which our heart reaches out to be connected to His heart.
- Here is something from page 72 of your workbook - second paragraph

How can we begin to practice this? Praying in the spirit can be a difficult discipline because our natural tendency is to process everything in our minds into language. In the beginning, we might find it hard to express thanks to God, without forming the words "thank you" in our minds. But isn't the true expression of thankfulness much more than saying and thinking the words? Should thanksgiving not start in our hearts first? If it does not emanate from our hearts, the words are empty. But if thanksgiving is offered from the heart without the words, is it not still an offering of thankfulness? Is love not the same way? Is love not much more than saying the words "I love you"?

What is the point of this? The spiritual is higher than the natural. God speaks in spirit, and when we lean into Him with our hearts alone, we are speaking in His language. We are connecting spirit to spirit without the processing limitations of our natural intellect getting in the way. We start by expressing the intent of our hearts to God, without trying to attach words to the prayer. It opens a whole new dimension of conversation. And just like riding a bicycle, we learn to do this by regular practice until it become second nature.

- Any questions about this?

### Lesson 5-5 - "Lord, Teach Us to Pray"

- Someone please read the Luke 11:1 passage on page 73 of your workbook

**LK 11:1** And it came about that while He was praying in a certain place, after He had finished, one of His disciples said to Him, "Lord, teach us to pray just as John also taught his disciples." NASB

- When Jesus' disciples listened to Jesus pray, they observed a relational depth in His prayers they did not have
- They knew how to pray the ritual Jewish prayers, but they didn't know how to pray like Jesus prayed – Here is what He taught them.
- Someone please read the Matthew 6:7-14 passage the middle of page 73

**MT 6:7** And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. <sup>8</sup> Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him. <sup>9</sup> "This, then, is how you should pray:

" `Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.

<sup>10</sup> your kingdom come; your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

<sup>11</sup> Give us today our daily bread.

<sup>12</sup> Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.

<sup>13</sup> And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. '

<sup>14</sup> For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. <sup>15</sup> But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins. NIV

- There is evidence the early Jesus followers would pray this three times a day
- It is not only a prayer that we can pray; it is also a model prayer that teaches us how to pray.
- It is an outline of basic prayer principles
- Here is your number 5a. study question.

**5a. What do you see as some of the fundamental elements in the model prayer and the surrounding verses? For example, verse 11 is a "request for God's provision".**

Write these on the board under the heading - "The Lord's Prayer"

Praise and reverence - MT 6:9 "This, then, is how you should pray:  
" `Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. NIV

Q. Why would it be important to enter God's presence with praise and reverence?

It is essential that we show respect to our creator, understanding that He is God, and we are not.

Surrender to His will - MT 6:10 your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. NIV

Q. How do we do this - surrender to His will?

We die to our own will and we submit ourselves in our heart to Him - this can be a difficult process

Request for provision - MT 6:11 Give us today our daily bread. NIV

Q. If we have money in the bank, why is this important?

Because God is the one who gave us the bank account. He is the one who causes the food to grow. He holds all things together.

Request for forgiveness - MT 6:12 Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. NIV

Q. Why is it important that we forgive others?

Because Jesus teaches us our forgiveness is conditional based on how we forgive others.

- Someone please read the Matthew 6:14-15 passage on page 75

MT 6:14 For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. <sup>15</sup> But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins. NIV

- In this prayer, we are instructed to ask God to forgive our sins in the same way that we forgive others.

Request for protection MT 6:13 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. ' NIV

Q. Why do you think this part of the prayer is important?

We have an enemy intent on deceiving and destroying us.

- We are in a war that we are not powerful or smart enough to win apart from Christ leading us.

5b. And why is it important that we learn to incorporate these concepts into our own prayer life?

These are the basic needs that we have in life - our areas of dependence on God

- We do not have to pray this specific prayer, but we do need to learn to incorporate these elements into our daily prayer lives.
- This is how Jesus taught us to pray, amen?
- Glory to God!



**TEACHING NOTES**

**FOUNDATIONS 201**   WEEK SIX

**YOU ARE THE BODY OF CHRIST**

## Week 6 – “You Are the Body of Christ”

Teaching Notes v2.8.5

**General Summary** – In this series of lessons, we study the mystery of Christ’s body and the spiritual connection we have with Him, as well as with one another through being grafted into Christ.

**6-1 – “One Body, Many Parts”**- shows how our physical bodies have been designed and created in the image of Christ’s body. The different parts of our physical human bodies have been specifically designed and interconnected by God to reflect the spiritual nature of our interconnectedness in the body of Christ.

**6-2 – “Christ as the Head”**- emphasizes the importance of each of us being submitted to Christ. In the body of Christ, Jesus is the head, the leader, the one in charge. If we are properly submitted to Christ, each part of the body will work together in a coordinated way to accomplish the goals of Christ. But when we operate with our own self-serving agendas, chaos and confusion will frustrate our efforts.

**6-3 – “Honoring Every Part”** – reveals how God has given each of us specific gifts that are needed within the body of Christ. And since none of us has all the gifts, we need each other in the body. It is essential that each of us expresses our gifts for the good of the body and that we recognize and appreciate the gifts that others offer.

**6-4 – “Every Supporting Ligament”** – focuses on love as being the attribute that binds us together so we can work effectively together in the body of Christ. Without love, we become painfully disjointed just like broken ligaments would cause our joints to dislocate in our physical bodies.

Preparation notes – There is no white board or screen share for Week 6.

## Week 6 – “You Are the Body of Christ”

### Lesson 6-1 – “One Body, Many Parts”

#### Review of last week

- Last week we talked about several different aspects of prayer
1. Making prayer a priority to have a consistent prayer life
  2. The value of praying in secret
  3. Praying for our enemies - those people who irritate us
  4. Praying in the Spirit - without words
  5. The Lord's prayer as an outline
- This week, we are going to talk about God's design for us in the Church.
  - Someone please read the Genesis 1:26-27 passage on page 77

GE 1:26 Then God said, "Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth." 27 So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. NRSV

Q. What does this reveal about the pattern God used to design us?

#### In His own image

- From the very beginning, God intended that in some way or another, we would reflect His own image.
- Someone please read the 1st Corinthians 12:12-14 passage on page 78

1CO 12:12 For even as the body is one and yet has many members, and all the members of the body, though they are many, are one body, so also is Christ. 13 For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. 14 For the body is not one member, but many. NASB

- Here is the 1st Corinthians 12:14-20 passage on page 78 – Instructor reads

1CO 12:14 Now the body is not made up of one part but of many. 15 If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason cease to be part of the body. 16 And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason cease to be part of the body. 17 If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be? 18 But in fact God has arranged the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. 19 If they were all one part, where would the body be? 20 As it is, there are many parts, but one body. NIV

- And later in verse 27 - Instructor reads.

1CO 12:27 Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it. NIV

- Here is your 1a. study question

1a. In the 1st Corinthians 12 passages, what analogy does Paul use to describe the Church corporately?

He compares the Church to a human body

- Here is your 1b. study question

1b. And in what way does he describe us individually?

He compares us to body parts - hands, feet, ears, noses, eyes, etc...

- Look at your neighbor and say - "I'm a body part" and "You're a body part"
- None of us is the whole body, just a part of it.

1c. Also, what does this passage reveal about our relationships with one another?

We are supposed to be connected and working together just like the parts of our physical bodies work together.

- We are dependent upon one another because God has designed it to be that way.
- I believe God originally designed our physical bodies as a prophetic foreshadow of the spiritual body of Christ – interconnected and interdependent
- When we realize and embrace the idea that we need one another, and each of us is an integral part of the body, then we can begin to work together as God has intended.

## Lesson 6-2 – “Christ as the Head”

- Someone please read the Ephesians 4:15-16 passage on page 80

EPH 4:15 but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him, who is the head, even Christ, <sup>16</sup> from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by that which every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love. NASB

- Here is your 2a. study question

2a. What does Ephesians 4:15-16 reveal about the relationship between Christ and the rest of us in the body of Christ?

He is the Head, and we are the body

- Here is your 2b. study question

2b. In the human body, what role does the head play?

In the Human body, the head is the brains of the whole operation

- Now the 2c. study question

## 2c. And what does this analogy teach us about how we are all supposed to function in the Church?

Each of us is supposed to be submitted to the leadership of Christ through the Holy Spirit

- Jesus gets to be in charge, He calls the shots, and He gets to run the show
- He is the orchestrator, the maestro, the director, the leader.
- Someone please read the Colossians 2:18-19 passage on page 80

COL 2:18 Do not let anyone who delights in false humility and the worship of angels disqualify you for the prize. Such a person goes into great detail about what he has seen, and his unspiritual mind puffs him up with idle notions. <sup>19</sup> He has lost connection with the Head, from whom the whole body, supported and held together by its ligaments and sinews, grows as God causes it to grow. NIV

Q. And what happens when the body parts do not submit to the leadership of the head?

Chaos, dysfunction, confusion, futility, a big mess, etc...

- When we are not properly submitted to the head, we will either be doing damage, or doing nothing at all

Q. But what happens when the body parts do submit to the leadership of the head?

You get something that is effective, fulfilling, world changing, etc...

- You get the same effectiveness in ministry that Jesus had when He was here on earth
- He works through the body parts to the degree that we are submitted to Him.
- Through this submission, we find our true calling in Christ
- Someone please read the Ephesians 1:18-22 passage on page 81

EPH 1:18 I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, <sup>19</sup> and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe. These are in accordance with the working of the strength of His might <sup>20</sup> which He brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead, and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, <sup>21</sup> far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age, but also in the one to come. <sup>22</sup> And He put all things in subjection under His feet and gave Him as head over all things to the church, <sup>23</sup> which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all. NASB

- Submitting ourselves to Christ as our head is the beginning of an enlightened existence.
- Having our heart, our mind, and our will subjected to Christ brings our lives into proper alignment with the whole creation as God has designed it to be.
- But for this to happen, we must let go of our own agendas

### Lesson 6-3 – “Honoring Every Part”

- We want to look at the 1st Corinthians 12 passage again.
- Instructor reads the 1st Corinthians 12: 14-19 passage on page 82

<sup>1CO 12:14</sup> Now the body is not made up of one part but of many. <sup>15</sup> If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason cease to be part of the body. <sup>16</sup> And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason cease to be part of the body. <sup>17</sup> If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be? <sup>18</sup> But in fact God has arranged the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. <sup>19</sup> If they were all one part, where would the body be? <sup>20</sup> As it is, there are many parts, but one body. NIV

- So, in God's design, each of us has a necessary function as a body part.
- And we also have a dependency on the other body parts.

Q. But what happens in the body of Christ when we as individuals don't fulfill our function?

The body is crippled, and it suffers.

Q. What happens if those with the gift of encouragement, don't step out to encourage people?

The body continues without emotional healing

Q. What happens if those with the gift of evangelism don't evangelize?

People do not come to the Lord

Q. What happens if those with the gift of teaching don't teach?

People do not grow to maturity

Q. What happens if those with the gift of organization don't organize?

You end up with organizational chaos

- God has designed the Church to function as an interdependent organism.
- So, it is crucial we fulfill our calling and function in the body
- Here is an example.
- Someone please read the Ephesians 4:11-13 passage on page 83

EPH 4:11 It was He who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, <sup>12</sup> to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up <sup>13</sup> until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. NIV

- This is what is known as the five-fold ministry.
- Each of these is a distinct gift for a specific purpose that the Church needs to be healthy and functional.
- Each one has a specific role in the Church

Q. What is the role of a pastor?

They shepherd and nurture the flock, paying close attention to the spiritual health and growth of the congregation.

- It is a very relational gift and occupation.

Q. Now, what is the role of the evangelist?

They are gifted in leading people to Christ

Q. What happens if someone with a pure evangelist gift fills the position of a pastor?

They will tend to preach a salvation message every single Sunday

- The congregation does not mature because they never get beyond John 3:16
- Whereas the pastors and teachers disciple people into maturity
- But it is equally important that we do not try to fill a role for which we are not gifted
- So, all these gifts are needed for a congregation to flourish
- Someone please read the 1st Corinthians 12:21-27 passage on page 83

1CO 12:21 The eye cannot say to the hand, "I don't need you!" And the head cannot say to the feet, "I don't need you!" <sup>22</sup> On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, <sup>23</sup> and the parts that we think are less honorable we treat with special honor. And the parts that are unpresentable are treated with special modesty, <sup>24</sup> while our presentable parts need no special treatment. But God has combined the members of the body and has given greater honor to the parts that lacked it, <sup>25</sup> so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. <sup>26</sup> If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it. <sup>27</sup> Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it. NIV

- Here is your number 3 study question



3. What do you consider to be the main point that is being made in the 1st Corinthians 12:21-27 passage of scripture?

All the members of the body are necessary, not just the ones on the stage

Q. Why is it important that we in the Church be diligent to recognize and appreciate the special gifts that are given by God to others in the body?

God has given those gifts and abilities for a reason. I need others in the body because they have natural and spiritual abilities that I do not have.

- I must realize that apart from you, I don't have everything I need – and God designed it that way.

Q. And why is it important that each of us as individual members share our God-given gifts and abilities with the Church?

Because if we do not share our gift, then the body will not receive the benefit of that gift

- I would like to read something for you out of that passage again - verse 24

1CO 12:24 ...But God has combined the members of the body and has given greater honor to the parts that lacked it, <sup>25</sup> so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. NIV

Q. What is the point that he is trying to make to us here in this passage?

The people and gifts that seem insignificant in the eyes of man are necessary in the eyes of God.

- Whether it is a gift within us, or a gift within another person, we should never ignore it as being insignificant to the body.
- There are certain parts of our physical bodies that we pay absolutely no mind to - until they stop functioning properly – then it becomes a big deal
- He gives those people and gifts for a necessary reason within the body of Christ

Q. What are some ways we can begin to give honor to those parts that do not always get honor?

We can go out of our way to recognize and verbally appreciate that service

## Lesson 6-4 – “Every Supporting Ligament”

- Someone please read the Ephesians 4:15-16 passage on page 85

EPH 4:15 Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is

the Head, that is, Christ. <sup>16</sup> From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work. NIV

- Here is your number 4a. question

4a. In Ephesians 4:15-16 Paul speaks about "joints" and "ligaments". What purpose do "joints" and "ligaments" serve in the human body?

Bones connect at the joints; ligaments hold the joints together.

- Tendons connect the muscles to the bones

Q. How well would our physical bodies functions without ligaments?

Without ligaments, our joints would not hold together.

- We would not have any mobility at all, we could not walk or even stand, we could not hold a fork or chew food
- There is also a parallel to this in the spirit realm
- Here is your number 4b. question

4b. And how does this apply to us members of the body of Christ?

Each of us functions as a bone, connected by spiritual ligaments.

- So, what are these ligaments that hold us together when we are working together for the good of the Kingdom?
- Someone please read the Colossians 3:12-15 passage on page 86

COL 3:12 And so, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience; <sup>13</sup> bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you. <sup>14</sup> And beyond all these things put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity. <sup>15</sup> And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body, and be thankful. NASB

- Here is your number 4c. study question

4c. Also, in Colossians 3:12-15, passage, what does God use to bind us together in unity? He uses love. Love is the perfect bond of unity

- The love of God acts as ligaments to bind His people together so we can function as the body of Christ.
- When we fail to love, we become painfully disjointed.
- When we lovingly work together, we grow stronger together
- Paul finished up with these words – Colossians 3:14-15

COL 3:14 And beyond all these things put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity. <sup>15</sup> And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body: and be thankful. NASB

- And this we will do, right? Amen, and glory to God.



## Week 7 – “He Gave Gifts to His People”

Teaching Notes v2.8.5

**General Summary** – This series of lessons is intended as an introduction to spiritual gifts, in which a scriptural foundation is laid for the historical and present-day reality of Holy Spirit gifts. This is intended to build faith and expectation in the hearts and minds of the students to seek God for these blessings which are intended to strengthen the individual and the whole body of Christ.

**7-1 – “On All Mankind”** – presents prophecies from the Old Testament predicting a time when spiritual gifts would be poured out through the Holy Spirit upon people of all ethnic groups and social ranks. We also show New Testament passages documenting the fulfillment of those prophecies in the early Church. We also raise the question as to whether the gifts are still valid for today.

**7-2 – “When the Perfect Comes”** - in this lesson, we explore the scriptures that answer the question as to whether the gifts of the Spirit have ceased or if God intends for them to still be expressed today.

**7-3 – “For the Common Good”** – reveals the basic reason why God distributes the spiritual gifts in the Church. Gifts are for the common good of the whole body of believers, which also shows the expression of our gifts should not be as much for ourselves, as for others.

**7-4 – “Eagerly Desire Spiritual Gifts”** – encourages the student to value and pursue their spiritual gifts and calling because they are given by our loving Father for our benefit and the benefit of others. We should eagerly desire spiritual gifts because God wants us to do so. Trusting God and asking Him for the gifts are the central themes of this lesson.

**Preparation notes** - Use a white board with “Prophetic Promises” on the left side top. Make a column on the right side with the heading “Five-fold Ministry Gifts” at the top, and the “Benefits to the Body of Christ” on the right-side bottom.

When you begin your Week 7 Class, your white board or screen share could look something like this.

<p><u><b>The Prophetic Promises</b></u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> <li>•</li> <li>•</li> <li>•</li> <li>•</li> </ul>	<p><u><b>Five-fold Ministry Gifts</b></u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> <li>•</li> <li>•</li> <li>•</li> <li>•</li> </ul> <p><u><b>Benefits to the Body of Christ</b></u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> <li>•</li> <li>•</li> <li>•</li> <li>•</li> </ul>
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As you conclude your Week 7 Class, your white board or screen share will probably look something like this, depending on the wording of the answers given in the class. This provides a helpful visual aid for the student to learn, as well as to take notes during the class.

<p><u><b>The Prophetic Promises</b></u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Your sons and daughters will prophesy</i></li> <li>• <i>Old men will dream dreams</i></li> <li>• <i>Young men will see visions</i></li> <li>• <i>Even on the male and female slaves</i></li> <li>• <i>I will pour out My Spirit on all mankind</i></li> </ul>	<p><u><b>Five-fold Ministry Gifts</b></u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Apostles - <i>missionary, church planter, overseer</i></li> <li>• Prophets - <i>speaks the word of God</i></li> <li>• Evangelists - <i>gifted to lead the lost to Christ</i></li> <li>• Pastors - <i>shepherd the flock</i></li> <li>• Teachers - <u><i>disciplining</i></u></li> </ul> <p><u><b>Benefits to the Body of Christ</b></u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Equips us for doing ministry</i></li> <li>• <i>Strengthen the body of Christ</i></li> <li>• <i>Unity of faith</i></li> <li>• <i>Intimate knowledge of Christ</i></li> <li>• <i>Mature us to the image of Jesus</i></li> </ul>
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## Week 7 – “He Gave Gifts to His People”

### Lesson 7-1 – “On All Mankind”

#### Review of last week

- Last week we talked about how our physical bodies have been designed by God to reflect the spiritual functioning of Christ's body
- And we talked about how Christ is the Head, and we are the individual body parts
- Just like the different parts of our physical bodies have different functions, God has given all of us different spiritual gifts within the Church.
- In doing so, He has intentionally designed it so that we will be dependent upon one another and work together
- And when we are all following Christ as our Head, we will naturally flow together in doing the work of the ministry
- Tonight, we are going to study how Christ manifests Himself in the body through spiritual gifts.
- Someone please read the Ephesians 4:4-7 passage on page 88

EPH 4:4 There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, <sup>5</sup> one Lord, one faith, one baptism, <sup>6</sup> one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all. <sup>7</sup> But each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ's gift. <sup>8</sup> Therefore it is said, "When he ascended on high, he made captivity itself a captive; he gave gifts to his people." NRSV

Q. Who does He give gifts to? To His people

Q. What does he say about each of us in verse 7?

Each of us has been given grace gifts

- Even the Old Testament prophets spoke of spiritual gifts being imparted through the Holy Spirit.
- Someone please read the Joel 2:28-29 passage on page 88

JOEL 2:28 "And it will come about after this that I will pour out My Spirit on all mankind. And your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions. <sup>29</sup> "And even on the male and female servants I will pour out My Spirit in those days. NASB

- Here is your 1a. study question

1a. Through the prophet Joel, what did God promise would happen in the lives of those upon whom the Holy Spirit is poured out?

Write these on the board under the heading - "The Prophetic Promises"

I will pour out My Spirit on all mankind - not just the Jews, religious elites?

Your sons and daughters will prophesy - not just the adults, but the kids, too?

Your old men will dream dreams - I can get revelation while I'm taking a nap?

Your young men will see visions - teenage boys?

Even on the male and female slaves - even on the slaves?

- This prophecy promises that through the Holy Spirit, we will receive supernatural revelation through prophecies, visions, and spiritual dreams.
- Someone please read the Acts 2:1-8 passage on page 89

AC 2:1 And when the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. <sup>2</sup> And suddenly there came from heaven a noise like a violent, rushing wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. <sup>3</sup> And there appeared to them tongues as of fire distributing themselves, and they rested on each one of them. <sup>4</sup> And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit was giving them utterance.

AC 2:5 Now there were Jews living in Jerusalem, devout men, from every nation under heaven. <sup>6</sup> And when this sound occurred, the multitude came together, and were bewildered, because they were each one hearing them speak in his own language. <sup>7</sup> And they were amazed and marveled, saying, "Why, are not all these who are speaking Galileans?" <sup>8</sup> "And how is it that we each hear *them* in our own language to which we were born?" NASB

- Here your 1b. study question

1b. And on the day of Pentecost, what special ability did the Apostles receive through the Holy Spirit?

They received the ability to speak in other languages as a sign to the crowd.

- In this case, the spiritual gift was expressed for the purpose of evangelism.
- But in 1st Corinthians 12, Paul talks about gifts that were not used for evangelism, but for ministry within the Church.
- It is on page 90 of your book - Instructor reads

1CO 12:4 Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit. <sup>5</sup> And there are varieties of ministries, and the same Lord. <sup>6</sup> And there are varieties of effects, but the same God who works all things in all persons. <sup>7</sup> But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. <sup>8</sup> For to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, and to another the word of knowledge according to the same Spirit; <sup>9</sup> to another faith by the same Spirit, and to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, <sup>10</sup> and to another the effecting of miracles, and to another prophecy, and to another the distinguishing of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, and to another the interpretation of tongues. <sup>11</sup> But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually just as He wills. NASB

- So, at least during the time of the Apostles, the spiritual gifts were widely practiced among Christians in the Church.
- Some people believe there was a point in time when God did away with certain spiritual gifts in the church, and that they are no longer functional today.
- Others contend that spiritual gifts are all still available and operating in the church just as they were in the beginning.

## Lesson 7-2 – “When the Perfect Comes”

- Someone please read the 1st Corinthians 13:8-11 passage on page 92

1CO 13:8 Love never fails; but if there are gifts of prophecy, they will be done away; if there are tongues, they will cease; if there is knowledge, it will be done away. <sup>9</sup> For we know in part, and we prophesy in part; <sup>10</sup> but when the perfect comes, the partial will be done away. <sup>11</sup> When I was a child, I used to speak as a child, think as a child, reason as a child; when I became a man, I did away with childish things. NASB

Q. What does Paul say would eventually happen to these spiritual gifts?

They will cease and be done away with

- Some people believe this has already happened, and some believe it is yet to come.
- Fortunately for us, we do not have to depend on the opinions of men, because the scriptures speak directly to us about whether the gifts have ceased or not.
- Someone please read verses 9-10 again page 92

1CO 13:9 For we know in part, and we prophesy in part; <sup>10</sup> but when the perfect comes, the partial will be done away. NASB

Q. What does he say in verse 10 about why these spiritual gifts will cease?



Because the "perfect" knowledge will have come, rendering the partial obsolete

- I grew up in a church that taught "the perfect" refers to the completion of the canon of scripture.
- And we used this scripture in an attempt to prove that the gifts of the spirit had ceased and should therefore be rejected as being false.
- Has anyone ever heard that teaching before?
- But there are a couple of problems with that interpretation.
- First, Paul does not indicate that "the perfect" has anything to do with the canon of scripture, nor is that idea implied anywhere else in the scriptures.
- The second problem is that we failed to read the very next verse in which Paul explains what he means by "the perfect".
- Look at the 1st Corinthians 13:12 passage on page 93 - Instructor reads

1CO 13:12 For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face; now I know in part, but then I shall know fully just as I also have been fully known. NASB

- Here is your number 2a. study question

2a. In 1st Corinthians 13:8-12, Paul speaks of a time when spiritual gifts would cease because they would no longer be needed. What is this event that renders spiritual gifts obsolete?

When Jesus returns and we see Him face to face

- Here is your number 2b. study question

2b. And why will spiritual gifts no longer be needed? (prophecy, tongues, knowledge)

Because we will be in His presence, with perfect knowledge of Him.

- But for now, we don't have that face-to-face communication.

Q. What would Satan have to gain from subverting the gifts of the Holy Spirit today?

To prevent the partial knowledge and revelation God gives through the gifts

- If Satan can convince us that the spiritual gifts have ceased, he can cut us off from the partial knowledge that comes through these gifts
- So, a big part of his strategy is to prevent or pervert the spiritual gifts.
- Please look back at page 91 - 1st Corinthians 2:11-14 passage – Instructor reads

1CO 2:11 ...no one comprehends what is truly God's except the Spirit of God. <sup>12</sup> Now we have not received the spirit of the world, but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God. <sup>13</sup> And we speak of these things in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual things to those who are spiritual.

1CO 2:14 Those who are unspiritual do not receive the gifts of God's Spirit, for they are foolishness to them, and they are unable to understand them because they (the gifts) are spiritually discerned. NRSV

- This is the real reason people reject the spiritual gifts – because they live their lives according to human intellect, not the spirit.
- Spiritual gifts are only understandable to those who walk by the Spirit

### Lesson 7-3 – “For the Common Good”

- Here is something out of 1st Corinthians 12, page 94 - Instructor reads

1CO 12:4 Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit. <sup>5</sup> And there are varieties of ministries, and the same Lord. <sup>6</sup> And there are varieties of effects, but the same God who works all things in all persons. NASB

Q. Where do the spiritual gifts come from? They come from God

- Here is verse 7.

1CO 12:7 But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. NASB

- Here is your number 3b. study question

3a. From 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 12:7, for what reason does God impart these spiritual gifts?

In one way or another, each spiritual gift works for the common good of the body

- The gifts you have been given are not just for you, but for the common good of the body of Christ.

Q. What if my gifts are lying dormant within me?

They are of no benefit to the body

- The body of Christ suffers.
- We must learn to exercise our gifts and ministries - for the common good
- Someone please read the Ephesians 4:11-13 passage on page 95

EPH 4:11 The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, <sup>12</sup> to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, <sup>13</sup> until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ. NRSV

- Here is your number 3b. study question

3b. What are the five-fold ministry gifts listed in Ephesians 4:11-13?

Write these on the board under the heading "Five-fold Ministry Gifts"

Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Pastors, Teachers

- Here is your number 3c. study question

3c. And in what ways does the Church benefit from these spiritual gifts?

Add these to the board under the heading - "Benefits to the Body of Christ"

Equipping the saints for ministry

Strengthening the body of Christ

Unity of the Faith

Intimate Knowledge of Christ

Mature to be like Jesus

- So, this is a great benefit for the common good of the body of Christ

Q. What role does each of these ministry gifts fill?

Add these definitions to the board

Apostle - "One who is sent", gifted as a missionary, or church planter

Prophet - "One who speaks the word of God" It could be about the future or the present, often conditional in nature.

Evangelist - "One gifted to lead the lost to Christ"

Pastor - "An overseer, one gifted to shepherd the flock"

Teacher - "One gifted to teach the scriptures", often for discipleship

- All these gifts are given through the Holy Spirit for the benefit of the whole body of believers.
- Each of these has a unique purpose, but they also have a purpose collectively.

Q. What if those with the evangelist gift do not evangelize?

Q. What if those with the pastor gift do not pastor?

Q. What if those with the teacher gift do not teach?

- The Church is weakened.

Q. If you were the enemy of the Church, what would you do? What strategy would you employ?

He does anything he can to distract or discourage us from stepping into our calling

- He tries to sidetrack people so they would not step into their gifts and calling.
- He tries to discourage them.
- He tries to convince them they have nothing to offer.
- He tries to convince them the spiritual gifts have ceased.
- Satan whispers all these lies in our ears to attempt to prevent the full operation of the spiritual gifts in our lives.
- Some of his most effective strategies are fear and apathy

Lesson 7-4 – “Eagerly Desire Spiritual Gifts”

- Someone please read the 1st Corinthians 14:1 passage on page 96

**1CO 14:1** Follow the way of love and eagerly desire spiritual gifts, especially the gift of prophecy. NIV

Q. In a general sense, what typically causes us to eagerly desire things?

We eagerly desire things because we place a high value on them

- Now let's bring this into the context of spiritual gifts

Q. If God wants us to eagerly desire the spiritual gifts, what does that tell us about what kind of value that God places on them?

He places a high value on them, as we should as well

- Here is your number 4a. study question

4a. What does it mean to "eagerly desire" the spiritual gifts?

It means to place a high value on them and pursue them

- The spiritual gifts come from God and He uses them to bless the Church.
- When we eagerly desire and pursue the spiritual gifts, we are aligning ourselves with God

4b. And what are some things that can hinder us from desiring and pursuing spiritual gifts?

Busyness, distraction, fear, lack of knowledge, apathy, bad teaching, bad experiences, etc...

- Someone please read the Luke 11:11-13 passage on page 96

**LK 11:11** "Which of you fathers, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead?  
<sup>12</sup> Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? <sup>13</sup> If you then, though you are evil,

know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!" NIV

Q. What is the basic message in this passage regarding the things of the Spirit?

God loves us, so as we ask God for these spiritual gifts, there is no reason for us to be fearful - we can trust Him.

- Someone please read the James 1:17 passage on page 97

JAS 1:17 Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. NIV

Q. What is the basic message in this passage regarding the things of the Spirit?

The gifts of God are good and perfect - because in Him there is no darkness

- Someone please read the Luke 11:5-8 passage on page 97

LK 11:5 And He said to them, "Suppose one of you shall have a friend, and shall go to him at midnight, and say to him, 'Friend, lend me three loaves; <sup>6</sup> for a friend of mine has come to me from a journey, and I have nothing to set before him'; <sup>7</sup> and from inside he shall answer and say, 'Do not bother me; the door has already been shut and my children and I are in bed; I cannot get up and give you anything.'

LK 11:8 "I tell you, even though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, yet because of his persistence he will get up and give him as much as he needs.  
NASB

Q. What is the basic message in this passage regarding the things of the Spirit?

We should be persistent in our asking

- And He followed with this famous passage on page 98 - Instructor reads
- And remember the context of asking with persistence

LK 11:9 "And I say to you, ask, (and keep asking) and it shall be given to you; seek, (and keep seeking) and you shall find; knock, (and keep knocking) and it shall be opened to you. <sup>10</sup> "For everyone who asks (and keeps asking), receives; and he who seeks (and keeps seeking), finds; and to him who knocks (and keeps knocking), it shall be opened.  
NASB

- Then He immediately follows with this Luke 11:11 passage page 98 - Instructor reads

LK 11:11 "Which of you fathers, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead?  
<sup>12</sup> Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? <sup>13</sup> If you then, though you are evil,  
know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven  
give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!" NIV

- Can you see all this instruction on asking, seeking, and knocking is about the Holy Spirit and the things of the Holy Spirit?
- When it comes to spiritual gifts – we do not have because we do not ask
- We do not ask because we do not eagerly desire spiritual gifts
- We do not eagerly desire spiritual gifts because we do not place the value on them that God does
- So, what should we do? – begin to value spiritual gifts as God values them.
- Amen and glory to God

TEACHING NOTES	FOUNDATIONS 201    WEEK EIGHT	A VARIETY OF GIFTS, MINISTRIES AND EFFECTS
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## Week 8 – “He Gave Gifts to His People”

Teaching Notes v2.8.5

**General Summary** – In this series of lessons, we explore a variety of spiritual gifts, and God's purpose for these manifestations of the Spirit to strengthen the body of Christ.

**8-1 – “We Have Different Gifts”** - presents a long list of spiritual gifts listed in the scriptures that God manifests in the body of Christ. It makes the point that some of the spiritual gifts may not seem to be spectacular or super-spiritual, but they are equally important to the health of the body - and should be recognized as such.

**8-2 – “The Gifts of the Spirit”** - gives practical applications of several of the Holy Spirit gifts. This is intended to help the student to recognize their own gifts in operation, as well as identifying the gifts working in other members of the body of Christ.

**8-3 – “Especially that You Might Prophecy”** – focuses on the purpose and useful expression of prophecy, tongues, and the interpretation of tongues in church assemblies. It reemphasizes the need to excel in gifts for the purpose of strengthening the body and its individual members.

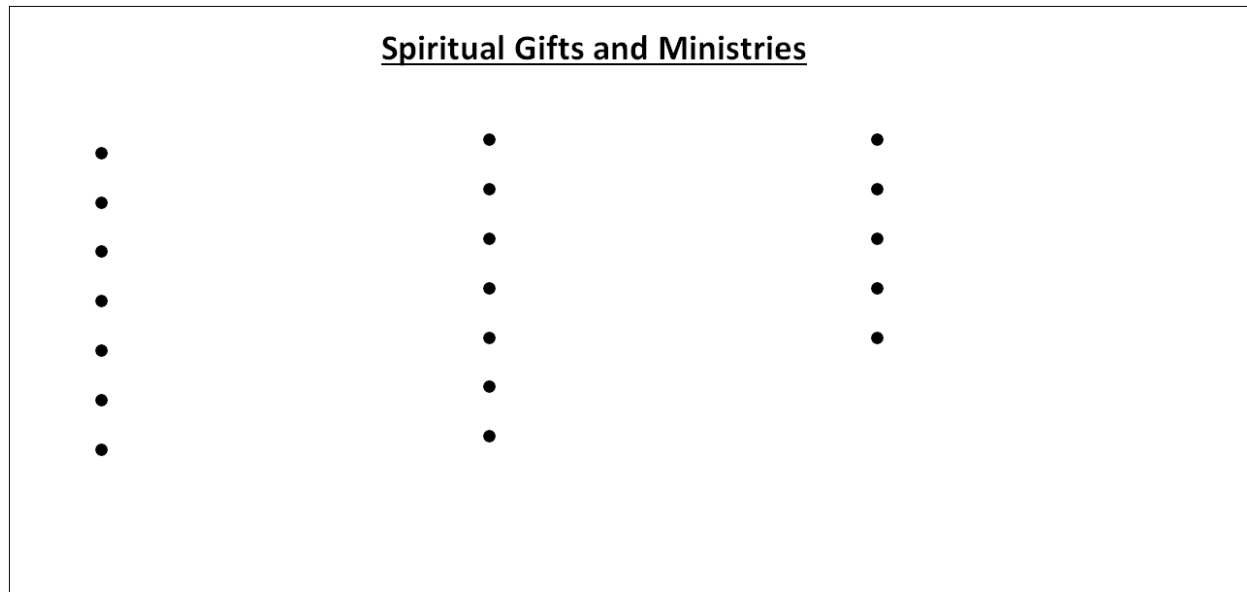
**8-4 – “Do not Neglect the Gift”** – provides scriptural encouragement for the student to nurture the gifts God has placed within them, by intentionally and regularly exercising their gifts.

**8-5 – “Without Love, I Am Nothing”** – in this lesson, we look to the teachings of Paul in which he explains the need for love to be our primary motivation when exercising spiritual gifts. The power of spiritual gifts is made safe through abiding in God's love.

**Preparation notes** - Use a white board with “Spiritual Gifts and Ministries” at the center top.



When you begin your Week 8 Class, your white board or screen share could look something like this.



As you conclude your Week 8 Class, your white board or screen share will probably look something like this, depending on the wording of the answers given in the class. This provides a helpful visual aid for the student to learn, as well as to take notes during the class.



## Week 8 – “A Variety of Gifts, Ministries, and Effects”

### Lesson 8-1 – “We Have Different Gifts”

#### Review last week

- Last week, we looked at the scriptural evidence that God intends for the spiritual gifts to continue to be manifested in the Church until Jesus returns
- Right now, our knowledge is not perfect, so the gifts give us partial knowledge in bits and pieces
- When Jesus does return, these gifts will no longer be necessary because we will see Him face to face and our knowledge will be perfect
- But until that happens, the gifts play a major role in providing knowledge and empowerment for the church to advance God's kingdom in the earth
- The gifts are given for the common good of the Church, for the strengthening of the body of Christ.
- Knowing this, Satan will do whatever he can to attempt to prevent this from happening.
- One of Satan's strategies is to attempt to rob the Church of the gifts in order to keep the Church as powerless as possible.
- He does this by convincing people that Gifts of the Spirit are no longer valid, or no longer needed
- His most powerful weapons are deception and apathy.
- But 1st Corinthians 14:1 tells us we should -

1CO 14:1 [Follow the way of love and eagerly desire spiritual gifts](#) NIV

- So tonight, we are going to look at each of these gifts, so we will know what we should be seeking God for – and what He wants to do in our lives
- Someone please read the Romans 12:6-8 passage on page 100

RO 12:6 [We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man's gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith. <sup>7</sup> If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; <sup>8</sup> if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully.](#) NIV

- Here is your first study question

1. In the 1st Corinthians and Romans passages, Paul speaks of the various spiritual gifts, ministries, effects, and manifestations that were broadly experienced and practiced in the early-Church. Make a list of as many as you can find.

- What do you see here in this passage from Romans?

List these on board under "Spiritual Gifts and Ministries"

Apostleship, Prophecy, Pastoring, Evangelism, Teaching, Service, Encouraging, Generosity, Leadership, Mercy,

- Have you ever thought of “serving” as being a gift of the Holy Spirit?
- And what about “encouraging”, is that a spiritual gift?
- Both are incredibly important gifts within the body of Christ, and many times people do these things without even realizing that they are manifesting a gift of the Holy Spirit.
- Someone please read the 1st Corinthians 12:27-28 passage on page 100

<sup>1CO 12:27</sup> Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it. <sup>28</sup> And in the church, God has appointed first of all apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then workers of miracles, also those having gifts of healing, those able to help others, those with gifts of administration, and those speaking in different kinds of tongues. <sup>NIV</sup>

- So once again, we see more of the spiritual gifts. Call them out.

Add these to the board under "Spiritual Gifts and Ministries"

Miracles, Healing, Helps, Administration, Tongues

Q. Is the gift of tongues any more spiritual than the gift of administration? No.

- Some people are supernaturally gifted by the Holy Spirit to organize and administer the work of the Church for the furtherance of the Gospel.
- It is just as much a spiritual gift and is just as necessary in the body of Christ as prophecy and healing.
- Someone please read the 1st Corinthians 12:17-23 passage on page 100

<sup>1CO 12:17</sup> If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be? <sup>18</sup> But in fact God has arranged the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. <sup>19</sup> If they were all one part, where would the body be? <sup>20</sup> As it is, there are many parts, but one body. <sup>21</sup> The eye cannot say to the hand, "I don't need you!" And the head cannot say to the feet, "I don't need you!" <sup>22</sup> On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be

weaker are indispensable, <sup>23</sup> and the parts that we think are less honorable we treat with special honor. NIV

Q. Which of the gifts on the are more spiritual than others?

None - they are all the same

- Someone please read the 1st Corinthians 12:4-11 passage on page 101

1CO 12:4 Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit. <sup>5</sup> And there are varieties of ministries, and the same Lord. <sup>6</sup> And there are varieties of effects, but the same God who works all things in all persons. <sup>7</sup> But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. <sup>8</sup> For to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, and to another the word of knowledge according to the same Spirit; <sup>9</sup> to another faith by the same Spirit, and to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, <sup>10</sup> and to another the effecting of miracles, and to another prophecy, and to another the distinguishing of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, and to another the interpretation of tongues. <sup>11</sup> But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually just as He wills. NASB

- So once again, we see more of the spiritual gifts. Call them out.

Add these to the board under "Spiritual Gifts and Ministries"

Word of Wisdom, Word of Knowledge, Faith, Distinguishing of Spirits, Interpretation of Tongues

- So, we see this long list of spiritual gifts and ministries that come through the empowerment of the Holy Spirit
- Some of these things we might not consider to be spiritual gifts – but they are from God and have an important purpose in the body of Christ.

## Lesson 8-2 – “Gifts of the Spirit”

- Let me read one of the verses from 1st Corinthians 12 again. This is verse 8

1CO 12:8 For to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, and to another the word of knowledge according to the same Spirit. NASB

- Here is your 2a. study question

2a. What is the difference between the “Word of Knowledge” and the “Word of Wisdom” spiritual gifts?

Word of Knowledge- divine revelation that provides information pertinent to a given circumstance or situation

Word of Wisdom- divine understanding for successful decision-making for a given circumstance or situation. Often includes scriptural principles to be applied in a practical way.

- These two often work together, providing both the information and the understanding – the knowledge and the wisdom.
- We must be very careful with the word of knowledge, because sometimes the information given is only for the purpose of intercessory prayer.

Q. Why do you think things like “Servers”, “Helpers”, “Administrators”, and “Leaders” should be considered as spiritual gifts?

Just like any of the others, they are ministries that benefit the whole body of believers

- Even though they do not seem “mystical” in nature, if they are spirit-led, they are no less spiritual than any of the other gifts

Q. What do you see as the difference between “faith” and the “spiritual gift of faith”?

A person can have saving faith without having the gift of faith for supernatural events.

- The gift of faith will often be associated with the gifts of miracles and healings.
- Sometimes this gift is bestowed for specific purposes and at specific times
- And there are those who are gifted encouragers, gifted in generosity, and mercy
- There is also the gift of “discerning of spirits”

2b. What is the purpose of the “Discerning of Spirits” spiritual gift?

The ability to spiritually discern falsehood, right and wrong motives, and subtle demonic activity that would not otherwise be obvious.

### Lesson 8-3 – “Especially that You Might Prophecy”

- Let's look at the 1st Corinthians 14:1-6 passage, page 105, Instructor reads.

1CO 14:1 Follow the way of love and eagerly desire spiritual gifts, especially the gift of prophecy. <sup>2</sup> For anyone who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God. Indeed, no one understands him; he utters mysteries with his spirit. NIV

Q. So, in this instance, what manifestation of tongues is Paul talking about here?

Praying in tongues, or prayer language - just between us and God

- He continues in verse 3.

1CO 14:3 But everyone who prophesies speaks to men for their strengthening, encouragement and comfort. <sup>4</sup> He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself, but he who

prophecies edifies the church. NIV

Q. Why do we need to prophesy? Because it strengthens others

Q. And why do we need to pray in tongues?

Because it strengthens us individually

- Then Paul continues by saying this in verse 5

1CO 14:5 I would like every one of you to speak in tongues NIV

Q. And why does he want us all to speak in tongues?

Because it strengthens us individually

1CO 14:5 I would like every one of you to speak in tongues, but I would rather have you prophesy. He who prophesies is greater than one who speaks in tongues, unless he interprets, so that the church may be edified. <sup>6</sup> Now, brothers, if I come to you and speak in tongues, what good will I be to you, unless I bring you some revelation or knowledge or prophecy or word of instruction? NIV

- Prophecy is for the body; tongues is for the individual - unless there is an interpretation
- Then Paul gives these words of encouragement
- Someone please read the 1st Corinthians 14:12-17 passage on page 105

1CO 14:12 So it is with you. Since you are eager to have spiritual gifts, try to excel in gifts that build up the church. <sup>13</sup> For this reason anyone who speaks in a tongue should pray that he may interpret what he says. <sup>14</sup> For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my mind is unfruitful. <sup>15</sup> So what shall I do? I will pray with my spirit, but I will also pray with my mind, I will sing with my spirit, but I will also sing with my mind. <sup>16</sup> If you are praising God with your spirit, how can one who finds himself among those who do not understand say "Amen" to your thanksgiving, since he does not know what you are saying? <sup>17</sup> You may be giving thanks well enough, but the other man is not edified. NIV

- Here is your number 3 study question

3. In the 1st Corinthians 14 passages, what does Paul express as his desire concerning the exercise of the gifts of tongues and prophecy in the Church, as well as in the lives of the individual believers?

We need to speak native tongue for the strengthening of others.  
We need to pray in the spirit for our own strengthening  
If tongues are used in a large corporate setting, there should be an interpretation

- If you do not know anything about praying in tongues, let us know and we can spend some time praying with you to ask God to activate that in you.

## Lesson 8-4 – “Do not Neglect the Gift”

- Someone please read the 2nd Timothy 1:6-7 scripture on page 108

2TI 1:6 And for this reason I remind you to rekindle the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands. <sup>7</sup> For God has not given us a spirit of timidity, but of power and love and discipline. NASB

Q. What do you have to do to rekindle a fire that is beginning to die down?

We must add fuel to the fire to build it into a bigger fire

- We might need to add small dry kindling to it
- We might need to nurture and fan it to add oxygen
- Here is your number 4a. study question

4a. In the 2nd Timothy 1:6-7 passage, Paul encourages Timothy to "rekindle" the gift that had been given to him. What are some things that we can do to rekindle the spiritual gifts God has placed within us?

1. We nurture the gift.
2. We look for opportunities to use the gift.
3. We pray for God to increase it in us.
4. Keep our hearts in God's love

4b. And what tends to happen when we neglect our spiritual gifts?

The manifestation of the gifts in us will subside

- If we do not keep active in the gift, it will go dormant
- The key is that we start small, but look for opportunities to use our gifts
- Eventually, walking in our gifts will become second nature to us

## Lesson 8-5 – “Without Love, I Am Nothing”

- Someone please read the 1st Corinthians 13:1-3 passage, page 110

1CO 13:1 If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but do not have love, I have become a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. <sup>2</sup> And if I have the gift of prophecy and know all mysteries and all knowledge; and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. <sup>3</sup> And if I give all my possessions to feed the poor, and if I deliver my body to be burned, but do not have love, it profits me nothing. NASB

- So, right in the middle of his teaching on spiritual gifts, Paul abruptly starts teaching on love
- This is your number 5a. study question

5a. Why do you think that Paul felt the need to talk about love right in the middle of his teaching on spiritual gifts?

Because love makes power safe, love makes the gifts safe and pure

- When the power begins to flow, we must be careful about pride and jealousy
- If we begin to view the gifts with selfishness or pride, Satan can come right in and pervert our expression so that it harms the body instead of helping
- So, it is imperative that we walk in the mature fruit of the Holy Spirit before attempting to express the gifts of the Holy Spirit
- Someone please read the 1st Corinthians 13:4-7 passage, page 111

1CO 13:4 Love is patient, love is kind, and is not jealous; love does not brag and is not arrogant, <sup>5</sup> does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered, <sup>6</sup> does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; <sup>7</sup> bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.  
NASB

5b. And what are some of the things that he says about love that might be directly related to the expression of gifts in the Church?

Gifts should always be accompanied by patience and kindness

Gifts should never be accompanied by jealousy, pride, arrogance, self-seeking

- So, when we operate in our gifts, we always walk in love
- We will close with this passage from 1st Peter 4:10-11 page 112, Instructor reads

IPE 4:10 Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received. <sup>11</sup> Whoever speaks must do so as one speaking the very words of God; whoever serves must do so with the strength that God supplies, so that God may be glorified in all things through Jesus Christ. To him belong the glory and the power forever and ever. Amen. NRSV

- And that is what we are going to do - right?
- Amen and glory to God!