

# The DISCOVERY CLASS

- you will never discover  
anything,  
if you don't  
explore!





# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND RESOURCES

## Acknowledgements

The Discovery Class has been a work in process over the last 19 years. Much of the information in this Bible study has been gathered over the years through notes taken during anointed preaching and teaching by Pastors H.T. Wilson, Arthur Scalf, Fred Edwards, and James Hinkle. In addition, listening to recorded debates by great men like Rev. N.A. Urshan and Marvin Hicks has been instrumental. Years of being a Pastor and building sermons, as well as teaching personal Bible Studies, has helped to gather many useful thoughts in this Discovery Class. I would like to say a special thank you to Tami Barrick and Phil Wabbe for their work in editing. Also, special thanks to Heather Foster for her art work in graphic design and editing. Without those mentioned above, this Bible study would not be possible.

## Resources

### Lesson #1

*“Search for Truth” (Bible Study) –Wilhoite*

*“Starting Point” (Bible Study) –Andy Stanley*

### Lesson #2

*“Bible Study in a Bag” –Bill Hobson*

*“The Purpose of Christmas” –Rick Warren*

### Lesson#3

*“Pentecostal Herald” (article) –N.A. Urshan*

*“Starting Point” (Bible Study) – Andy Stanley*

### Lesson#4

*“Search for Truth” (Bible Study) -Wilhoite*

### Lesson #5

*“Oneness of God” – David Bernard*

*“Starting Point” (Bible Study) – Andy Stanley*

### Lesson#6

*“Affirmation Covenant” (Bible Study) –Eugene Wilson*

*“The Purpose Driven Church” – Rick Warren*



# *Did you know?* DID YOU KNOW?

- There were seven sheep on Noah's ark, not two.
- The gallows that Haman wanted to hang Mordecai on was not a ninety foot long rope, but a long wooden stake with a sharpened end. It was placed in a hole in the ground similar to the cross.
- The saying "The Lord works in mysterious ways" is not in your Bible.
- The words Trinity, Rapture, and Shekinah are not found in your Bible.
- Even the word Bible is not in your Bible!

You will never discover anything if you don't explore! Every mountain climber has an inward desire to explore their world. Their ultimate desire is to reach the top.

Our goal in the six lessons of Discovery Class is to explore God's word, and to reach our full potential. We want to personally explore and experience what it means to be saved. We also want to discover the plan God has for our life.

Anything you discipline yourself to do for six weeks will profit you. If you diet for two months, you will get results. If you exercise for two months, without a doubt, there will be noticeable results. We believe if we apply ourselves to these six weeks of the Discovery Class that there will be a great spiritual payback.

I look forward to this journey with you!

God Bless You!

Pastor Mark Barrick

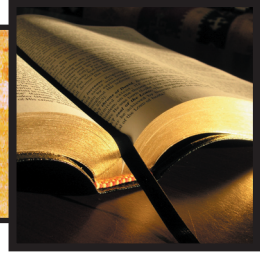
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# LESSON 1

## "AN INTRODUCTION TO THE BIBLE"



## INTRODUCTION

The Bible is the infallible Word of God. We can not add to it, nor can we take away from it. God has given us His instruction for our lives within these 66 books. There are 39 Old Testament Books and 27 New Testament Books. We have the Old Testament or the old covenant, and the New Testament or the new covenant. God fulfilled His redemptive plan and displayed His plan for Salvation in this special book.

2 Timothy 3:16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

Inspiration is the breath of God. These Holy men did not write what they personally chose, but as God breathed on them, they penned His words. Our Bibles are the inspired word of God.

No scripture is for private interpretation. Scripture must be used to interpret scripture. God chose that every word would be established at the mouth of two or three witnesses.

For this reason the Bible will be our only textbook for these Discovery Lessons. The next six weeks will be life changing. When a person disciplines himself to being taught on a consistent basis, he can not help but to gain something.

# A BRIEF OVERVIEW OF THE BIBLE

## OLD TESTAMENT

**Pentateuch:** Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy. (*Pentateuch means “five volumes”. These books include mostly narrative stories, as well as the Law that God gave Israel.*) Moses is the writer.

**Historical Books:** Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1 & 2 Samuel, 1 & 2 Kings, 1 & 2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther. (*These books contained narratives that follow Israel’s ups and downs in history*)

**Poetry & Wisdom:** Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon. (*These works incorporate poetic elements into our faith.*)

**Prophets:** Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, Daniel, Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zachariah, Malachi. (*These prophets lived during Israel’s history. They were God’s spokespersons who challenged the rebellious people to turn back to God.*)

## NEW TESTAMENT

**The Gospels & Acts:** Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Acts. (*These historical books followed the life and times of Jesus Christ and the growth of the early church.*)

**Pauline Letters:** Romans, 1 & 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1 & 2 Thessalonians, 1 & 2 Timothy, Titus, Philemon. (*These letters were written by the Apostle Paul to individuals or Churches explaining how to live a Christian life.*)

**General Letters:** Hebrews, James, 1 & 2 Peter, 1, 2, & 3 John, Jude. (*These letters were written by others and also explained how to live a Christian life.*)

**Apocalyptic (or Prophetic):** Revelation  
(*This book gives vivid images of God’s vision of the future that gives hope to this present world.*)

# HOW WAS THE BIBLE FORMED?

The Bible is a collection of ancient writings, but there is something special about these works because God orchestrated their formations. God inspired these writers and their writings unlike any other works in literature. The Bible provides a unique and accurate picture of the life and history of God and His people.

How do we know we have the right books? What if God inspired someone, but we have not seen their book? What if we got the wrong book? Fortunately, there is plenty of historical documentation about the formation of the Bible that can help us greatly when we face these questions. In A.D. 367, respected church leader Athanasius listed the 27 accepted New Testaments books, the same as our Bible today. At the decision making process, several important criteria guided early church leaders. These guidelines gradually emerged into the Christian community. It is important to note that bishops did not vote a book in or out. The three primary criteria for evaluating the works are:

**Apostolic Authorship.** It is important that the work was authored or associated with an apostolic witness. An apostolic witness is one of the first generations of people who actually saw the risen Savior, Jesus Christ. Second and third century Christians understood that the first apostles could convey the truth about Jesus' life and His significance.

**Widespread Usage & Acceptance.** The early church grew quickly and broadly. As a result, Christians of different backgrounds and nationalities developed. The text maintained or gained universal usage or acceptance among the majority of diverse groups. This attested to its authenticity.

**Conformity to the Rule of Faith.** Perhaps the most significant factor to the value of these writings was their consistency with the general beliefs and practices in the early churches. Therefore, writings with questionable theology or different practices that were passed down from the apostles were intensely scrutinized.



Ultimately, we believe that God guided the process of the Bible’s formation. God can reveal Himself in many different ways. The Bible remains one of the most important ways God reveals Himself. The Bible is an anchor for our faith that tells of the creation, the separation, the redemption, and the hope.

**Matthew 4:4 / Matthew 6:11**

# THE LIFE & TIMES OF JESUS CHRIST

We want to take a look at the life and times of Jesus Christ found in the synoptic Gospels (Good News). These writers tell of the 33 1/2 years Jesus was on this earth. Matthew told of His birth and then, there was not much information until He was about 12 years old. Then at 30 years of age, He began His public Ministry after He was baptized by John in the River Jordan.

*Jesus in the Beginning.....Matthew 1:18 – 25 / John 1:1 - 14*

*Jesus Baptized by John at age 30 ....Mark 1:6 – 12 / John 1:32 - 33*

# THE MIRACLES OF JESUS

It is impossible to talk about Jesus Christ without talking about His Miracles! He healed blind eyes, He made the lame to walk, He cleansed the leper, and He fed the multitude. Many books could not contain all of the miracles performed by Jesus Christ. John 21:25. The miracles which Jesus performed revealed His Deity. Jesus was not just a prophet; He was not just a preacher doing good works. These miracles prove He was God manifest in the flesh. Who else but God Almighty Himself could do so much that there could not be enough books written to contain all of His works?

*Jesus Feeds 5,000.....John 6:1 - 14*

*Jesus Walks on Water..... John 6:15 - 22*

*Jesus Forgives Sins.....Mark 2:1 - 12*

*His Resurrection Power.....John 11:38 - 45*

# THE TEACHINGS OF JESUS

Jesus often used parables as a way to give instruction to His disciples. A parable is an earthly story with a heavenly meaning. The New Testament records one of Jesus most famous messages, we call it “The Sermon on the Mount”. It gives us instruction on how to live. Jesus taught that a man must be born again. This is one of the most important doctrines Jesus would teach. Jesus also taught that He would return as the Comforter or Holy Spirit.

*Jesus taught on “Spiritual Hunger” .....Matthew 5:1 - 11*

*Jesus taught “Ye Must Be Born Again” .....John 3:1 - 8*

*Jesus taught on “The Holy Spirit” .....John 14:15 – 18 /  
Romans 8:11*

Today He invites us to follow Him. Get ready for the adventure!

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# LESSON 2

"THE GREAT COMMISSION"



## INTRODUCTION

Previously our lesson was an introduction to the Bible and the life and times of Jesus Christ. We have yet to cover His crucifixion. Divinity was robed in flesh and made atonement (at one with God) for our sins as the Lamb of God.

## THE BLOOD

God chose the shedding of blood for the remission of sins. Why did God choose blood? We must remember that God is sovereign. He chooses what He wishes, but it could be He chose blood because it requires the ultimate sacrifice. Maybe the reason is blood brings out emotion in us. It could even be because blood leaves a stain that is difficult to remove. Whatever the reason, God is supreme and He chose the blood.

**Leviticus 17:11**

**Hebrews 9:22**

**Revelation 1:5**

**Mathew 26:28**

## THE CRUCIFIXION

God chose the cross as His place for the ultimate sacrifice for mankind. “Greater love hath no man than this that a man would lay down his life for his friends”. On the cross He cried out “it is finished”; He was referring to the blood work. He did not say He was finished, but that the payment for sin was made. The Greek word He used was “Telestia”. It was a banker’s term meaning that the last payment had been made. He was buried by His friends and family and as He foretold, rose from the dead on the third day.

**John 19:16 - 30**

## THE RESURRECTION

He is not on the cross and no longer in a tomb. He is alive and still living today! His resurrection proves that there is life after death. The Gospel is the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ. (1Corinthians 15:1-4) His death represents repentance, His burial represents water baptism and His resurrection represents the outpouring of the Holy Ghost.

**Matthew 28:1 - 6**

## THE ASCENSION

After the resurrection of Jesus Christ, He remained on this earth for 40 days. During this time He was seen by the disciples at least five different times; He was also seen by hundreds in Jerusalem. While traveling on the road to Bethany he paused at Mount Olivet where He gave the disciples His commission and then ascended into heaven. The Gospels record these last words of Christ to His followers. There must be great meaning placed on these words.



# THE COMMISSION

There are four different records told by three different disciples. Two of the writers were Jewish and one was a Gentile. They all tell the same event with each story having the same details written in a way which is unique to each writer.

There are some key words I will ask you to circle or underline in each text. They play an important role in what the Church would preach and practice.

## Matthew 28:16 - 20 (KJV)

<sup>16</sup>Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, into a mountain where Jesus had appointed them. <sup>17</sup>And when they saw him, they worshipped him: but some doubted. <sup>18</sup>And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, *All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.* <sup>19</sup>*Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:* <sup>20</sup>*Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.*

## Mark 16:15 - 18 (KJV)

<sup>15</sup>And he said unto them, *Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.* <sup>16</sup>*He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.* <sup>17</sup>*And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues;* <sup>18</sup>*They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.*

## Luke 24:46 - 49 (KJV)

<sup>46</sup>And said unto them, *Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day:* <sup>47</sup>*And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.* <sup>48</sup>*And ye are witnesses of these things.* <sup>49</sup>*And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high.*

## Acts 1:4 - 8 (KJV)

<sup>4</sup>And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but *wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me.* <sup>5</sup>*For John truly*

*baptized with water; but ye shall be **baptized with the Holy Ghost** not many days hence.* <sup>6</sup>When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel? <sup>7</sup>And he said unto them, *It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power.* <sup>8</sup>*But ye shall receive **power**, after that the **Holy Ghost** is come upon you: and ye shall be **witnesses** unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.*

## THE DAY OF PENTECOST

Pentecost is a Greek word that means fifty; the day of Pentecost was fifty days after the Passover. Jesus was in the grave for three days, there were forty days till His ascension, and the followers waited seven days in an upper room in Jerusalem. This was the fiftieth day. The number fifty was symbolic to Israel. It was on the fiftieth year they celebrated the year of Jubilee; prisons were opened, debts were forgiven.

**Acts 2:1 - 4**

## APOSTLE PETER HAS THE KEYS TO THE KINGDOM

Peter was often the mouthpiece for all of the disciples. He was ordained by God to preach this message and unlock the people's hearts with the keys to the kingdom.

**Matthew 16:13 - 19**

There were three ethnicities of people in the known world. Peter used the keys to open the door of salvation to these three groups. They were:

1. Jews – **Acts 2**

2. Gentiles – **Acts 10**

3. Samaritans, a mixed race of Jews and Gentiles – **Acts 8**

## APOSTLE PETER PREACHES ON THE DAY OF PENTECOST

Peter did not just choose his own words for the plan of salvation. When the people were convicted and asked what to do, he used the great commission that Christ gave to the Church. He told them they must repent of their sin, and be baptized in the Name of Jesus Christ, for the forgiveness of sin, and they would receive the Holy Ghost.

**Acts 2:14 - 24**

**Acts 2:37 - 41**

While preaching, Peter used these important expressions as part of the Plan of Salvation. Notice that these words were used by Jesus Christ in the Great Commission. Please write the verses from the great commission that had this vocabulary used in them.

1. Repent \_\_\_\_\_
2. Baptize \_\_\_\_\_
3. Name of Jesus \_\_\_\_\_
4. Remission \_\_\_\_\_
5. Promise \_\_\_\_\_
6. Holy Ghost \_\_\_\_\_

## REPENTANCE, WATER BAPTISM IN JESUS NAME, THE HOLY SPIRIT

The early believers all repented of their sin, were baptized in the Name of Jesus Christ and received the Holy Spirit. In Acts the eighth chapter, the people of Samaria repented, were baptized in Jesus' Name and filled with the Holy Spirit.

**Acts 8:5 – 17**

## A MORE PERFECT WAY

If you have ever felt there must be something more to salvation than shaking a preachers hand or signing a church roll, you are right! Following and believing in Jesus is a great start, but we must also totally obey his word.

Cornelius was a religious man who prayed and gave much. He certainly worshiped God and had some form of a relationship with Him, but God wanted to show him more. God would reveal His complete plan of salvation to Cornelius and his household.

**Acts 10:1 – 6**  
**Acts 10:44 - 48**

A preacher named Apollos was not reluctant to receive instruction. Apollos wanted to get everything the Lord had for him.

**Acts 18:24 - 26**

The followers of John the Baptist had not heard about the Holy Ghost, but were quick to receive this truth. They were baptized again, this time in Jesus Name, and they received His Holy Spirit.

**Acts 19:1 - 6**

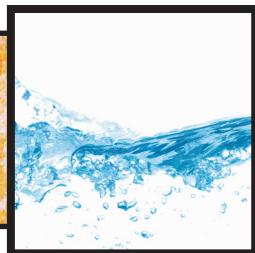
We should pursue all that God has for us. Our desire should be for more. When God gives us new revelation, we have an obligation to receive it, just like Cornelius, Apollos and John's disciples at Ephesus.

When the Apostle Paul spoke before King Agrippa in Acts 26, he said that his calling from Jesus Christ was “to open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and inheritance, among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me”.

Our desire is for our eyes to be opened, to be turned from darkness to light and turn from the power of Satan to God, to be given forgiveness and a Holy Ghost inheritance!

# LESSON 3

## "WATER BAPTISM IN JESUS NAME"



### INTRODUCTION

Are you ready to explore what the scriptures say about water baptism? Why is a 2000 year old ordinance still important to us today? There is a need for us to connect with this ancient faith for our future. We will explore the method of New Testament water baptism. We will discover the New Testament formula for water baptism. Baptism is related to personal faith and repentance. When a person has faith in God and has repented of their sins, they are a candidate for baptism. Matthew 24:4 And Jesus answered and said unto them, "Take heed that no man deceive you." His warning is to remind us that we must discover what His Word says concerning our Salvation.

### THE IMPORTANCE OF REPENTANCE

It is crucial that we speak of repentance. Every believer must repent, as it is a vital step towards true salvation. Repentance is an about-face, a radical transformation. It is the foundation for spiritual change. The spirit you repent in is as important as the words you use. When you repent, you are sorry for ALL of your sins. However, there are some transgressions that require more consideration than others.

**Matthew 3:1 -3 / Matthew 4:17 / Luke 24:47**  
**2 Corinthians 7:9-10 / Acts 3:19-20**



## THE IMPORTANCE OF WATER BAPTISM

What is the big deal about baptism? The subject can become emotional. Almost everyone has an opinion on how it should be done. Baptism is so important that you can get baptized, but no one ever gets unbaptized! We know it is important because Jesus established water baptism. What He ordains we must consider significant. He walked 70 miles Himself to be baptized by John in the Jordan River.

**Matthew 3:13 - 16 / Mark 16:16**

## REMISSION OF SINS

Remission of sins is more than just forgiveness. It is as if the sin never happened. The old school teacher would erase what was written on the chalk board, but the residue would remain and you could still make out the words that were written. At the end of the day, the chalk board was washed and cleaned and you could no longer see any remains. Remission of sin can be described as a clean slate. Imagine that you can be reborn with all previous sins forgiven and taken off of your record. You are completely clean.

**Revelation 1:5 / Matthew 26:28 / Acts 22:16 / Luke 24:47**

## BELIEVERS MUST BE BAPTIZED

Every believer who has repented has an obligation to be baptized in Jesus Name. Inspired by the Holy Ghost, Peter confirmed the importance when he commanded believers to be baptized.

**Acts 2:38**

**Acts 10:44 - 48**

# THE METHOD OF WATER BAPTISM

According to the Scriptures, the proper method of baptism is immersion. The definition of the word baptize is to dip, plunge or submerge. The Greeks used the term to describe a sunken ship. Baptiso was a common household word.

**John 3:23 / Matthew 3:16 / Acts 8:38**

The World Book Encyclopedia states, “At first all baptism was by complete immersion” (vol. 1, p.651). The Catholic Encyclopedia states, “In the early centuries, all were baptized by immersion in streams, pools, and baptisteries” (vol. 2, p.263). Immersion was not convenient after the Catholic Church instituted infant baptism; thus the mode was changed to sprinkling. (See Encyclopedia Britannica, 11th ed., vol. 3, pp.365-66.)

# THE BLUEPRINT FOR WATER BAPTISM

The only formula used by the New Testament church was the Name of Jesus.

**Acts 4:12**

*“Neither is there salvation in any other; for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved”*

**Acts 2:38 / Acts 8:16 / Acts 10:47 - 48 / Acts 19:4 - 5 / Acts 22:16**

The reason that we are baptized in Jesus’ name is that we are being baptized into Jesus. We are taking on His name, similar to the way a woman takes on her husband’s name. We are saying that we **belong to Jesus and we are identifying with Him in His death and burial**. Jesus is the one who died for us and He is the one who the Christians at Rome were buried with.

**Romans 6:3 -5 / Colossians 2:11-12**

## INFORMATION GATHERED FROM DIFFERENT RESOURCES

It is important to note that many writings confirm what we believe about water baptism.

### **BRITANICA ENCYCLOPEDIA**

The baptismal formula was changed from the name of Jesus Christ to the words Father, Son & Holy Ghost by the Catholic Church in the Second Century. – 11th Edit., Vol. 3, pg. 365-366.

### **CANNEY ENCYCLOPEDIA OF RELIGION**

The early church always baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus until development of the Trinity Doctrine in the Second Century.

### **CATHOLIC ENCYCLOPEDIA**

Catholics acknowledged that baptism was changed by the Catholic Church. – Vol. 2, pg. 263.

### **HASTINGS ENCYCLOPEDIA OF RELIGION**

Christian baptism was administered using the words, “in the name of Jesus.” – Vol. 2, pg. 377. Baptism was always in the name of Lord Jesus until time of Justin Martyr when the Triune formula was used. – Vol. 2, pg. 389. NAME was an ancient synonym for “person.” Payment was always made in the name of some person referring to ownership. Therefore one being baptized in Jesus’ name became His personal property. “Ye are Christ’s.” – Vol. 2, pg. 377 on Acts 2:38

## THE EPISTLES CONFIRM BAPTISM IN JESUS NAME

### **1 Corinthians 1:13**

His implication is “no, Christ was the one crucified for you and so you were baptized in the name of Christ” So the believers at Corinth as well as those in Rome were baptized in Jesus’ name. The Christians in Colosse and those in the region of Galatia were all baptized in Jesus’ name.

**Galatians 3:27 / Colossians 2:11-12 / Colossians 3:17 / Philippians 2:10**

## WE ARE CHANGED

### **Acts 16:14-15**

There is no purple wool. It must be dipped into a pool of dye to get it to change. Lydia had an insider's idea of what Baptism represented. When she dipped the wool or clothe into the dye, it went in white and came out purple. When we are baptized calling on the name of the Lord, our sins that were scarlet become white as snow. We are changed!

## LET'S BE CLEAR

In the great commission Jesus instructed His followers to make disciples and to baptize them.

### **Mark 16:16**

Baptism is a commandment from Jesus Christ. It must be followed by His believers. The sense of urgency that is attached to baptism shows us how significant it is.

**Acts 10:44 – 48 / Acts 16:14 – 15 / Acts 16:33 / Acts 18:8 / Acts 19:1 – 5**

## THE BATTLE FOR BAPTISM

There is a white Cross on the Swiss Flag. During the Reformation, Huldrych Zwingli compared baptism to the white cross sewn onto the uniform of a Swiss soldier. They wore this symbol to identify with the Swiss cause. Baptism marks us as militia Christi, or soldiers of Christ.

When you are baptized you must get ready for the fight. Have you ever wondered why baptism doesn't seem to stick with some people? They get baptized, but they do not continue to serve God. They may not understand that their faith will be tested.

## **Mark 1:9-12**

Jesus was “cast out” from the warmth of home and friends, from comforts of town. He was denied moral and spiritual support—the Torah, the synagogue, the wisdom of the town elders. Jesus goes from hearing things like, “Beloved,” and “With you I am well pleased” to being driven into the wilderness, deserted by love, to face a hostile adversary alone.

Some don't handle it well when they go from an accepting, loving, kind church, to the atmosphere of this world. We are “baptized” into the spiritual dimension, but we live in a carnal dimension.

It says He was with wild beasts. Don't many temptations take such forms? Don't we hear the roar of condemnation for past sins?

The reason some don't make it? They don't wait for the messenger.

“And the angels ministered unto him.” **Mark 1:13**

God will minister to us and will make a way of escape for every temptation known to man. He will fight our battles.

## NOTES

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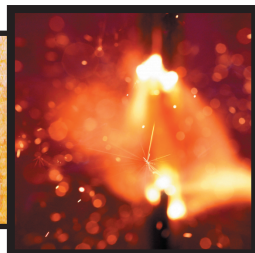
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# LESSON 4

"THE GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT"



## INTRODUCTION

One of the greatest experiences in life is receiving the gift of the Holy Ghost. It is a part of the plan of salvation. It is for everyone who believes. Your New Birth experience is not complete without it!

## WHAT IS THE HOLY GHOST?

The Holy Spirit would be His very presence.

**John 14:16-18 / Rom 8:11**

The Holy Spirit would refresh us.

**Isaiah 28:11-12 / Acts 3:18-20**

The Holy Spirit is for those who seek Him.

**Luke 11:9-13**

The Holy Spirit is a promise of the Father.

**Luke 24:49 / Acts 1:4**

The Holy Spirit is empowerment.

**Acts 1:8 / Acts 6:5 & Acts 6:8**

## A MAN MUST BE BORN AGAIN

This doctrine was introduced by Jesus Christ and is one of the most significant doctrines in the Bible.

God ask for such a dramatic change that He refers to it as a New Birth. You're adopting a new way of life, a new family, your learning new habits, living by new values and you are acquiring a new name.

**John 3:1-8**

## THE NEW BIRTH INVOLVES

1. Believing and Repentance
2. Water Baptism In the Name Of Jesus Christ
3. Holy Spirit Baptism

## IT IS A PROMISE

Our Heavenly Father gave us the promise of the Holy Ghost. This promise is for all people. The Father's promise was not removed from us or diluted as years passed by and is still for every believer today!

**Luke 24:49 / Acts 2:38 - 39**

## THIS WAS ALWAYS GOD'S PLAN

The Old Testament prophets pointed to the Holy Ghost outpouring in their writings. It has always been God's plan to live on the inside of a person's heart. These are just a sample of scriptures that

prophesy of the Holy Ghost outpouring. The church age began on the day of Pentecost. The 120 who obeyed and tarried in Jerusalem received the promise. Included in this number of people were Mary, the mother of Jesus and the apostle Peter.

**Zechariah 12:10 / Joel 2:28 / Ezekiel 36:27 / Jeremiah 31:33**

A New Testament Prophet named John also prophesied about this experience.

**Matthew 3:11**

## THE CHURCH AGE BEGAN ON THE DAY OF PENTECOST

Pentecost is the Greek word used for the Festival of Weeks. This was a celebration of the harvest and a day of first fruits. After the captivity the Shavuot fell at the time Moses received the 10 commandments. The celebration then focused on the celebration of the law. On the Day of Pentecost (50 Days after the Passover) Peter preached a new law given by God. “Repent and be baptized every one in the name of Jesus Christ, and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.”

It was only 9 am but it was already being noised abroad what was taking place in an upper room in Jerusalem. God had poured out His spirit just like in Joel’s prophecy. The 120 who obeyed and had tarried in Jerusalem had received the promise.

**Acts 2:1 - 4**

## THE INITIAL EVIDENCE, GLOSSILAYLIA OR TONGUES WERE GIVEN BY GOD

When someone is baptized with the Holy Ghost as in Acts 2:1- 4; 10: 44-46; 19:2-7, they speak in new tongues. This was the one

evidence that was present in all early believers who received the Holy Ghost. Receiving the Holy Ghost is a supernatural move of God and requires a supernatural sign. The early Church recognized when someone received the Holy Ghost; they spoke in tongues.

Some believe this experience is not for us today. The Bible refers to a time when tongues shall cease (1 Corinthians 13:8). The same passage also tells us when this will happen: when perfection comes, when we see face to face, and when we know, even as we are known. We must also note that knowledge has not vanished.

## BELIEVERS SPEAK IN TONGUES

God chose tongues as a sign to believers of His New Covenant. In the Old Testament the rainbow was a sign to Noah. God chose circumcision of the flesh as a sign to Moses. Today's symbol of receiving the Holy Spirit is speaking in a language that we receive from God. It is never a language that we have been taught.

We must approach the act of speaking in tongues with an open mind. Speaking in tongues is Holy Spirit-inspired speech. So we must not overlook its place in the scripture and in our lives today.

We need to ask ourselves how intimate with Jesus do we want to be. Do you want the full experience God has for you?

**Mark 16:16 - 17 / Isaiah 28:11- 12**

## WHY DID GOD CHOSE TONGUES?

God is sovereign and will choose what He wants to, but it may be because God is no respecter of persons. What He requires of one, He requires of another. We must have a universal sign, just as a McDonalds sign is recognized anywhere and everywhere. Tongues were the evidence recognized by all of the early Church. The Holy Ghost outpouring was a powerful event. The Greek word for power is Doonamis, from

where we get the word “Dynamite”! It is a specific miraculous power, usually a miracle itself. It is also a mighty deed, ability or strength. One writer has called the Holy Ghost experience the miracle of all miracles.

1. Tongues are a World Wide Symbol.  
**Acts 10:44 - 48 / John 3:8 / 1 Corinthians 12:13**
2. Tongues show Absolute Control.  
**James 3:2 - 8 / Matthew 12:29**
3. Tongues are an External Confirmation.  
**Acts 2:1 - 4**
4. Tongues are a Grand Demonstration.  
**Acts 1:8 / Acts 19:1 - 7**

## THE GIFT OF TONGUES

The Gift of Tongues is the God given inspiration to pray in other language, or in the Spirit. God gave to us a Heavenly dialect that takes us beyond our infirmities and helps us to pray with the Spirit, making intercession through us with groaning which cannot be uttered (Romans 8:26.) These are vocalizations we cannot understand, but God does.

**Ephesians 6:18 / Jude 1:20**

## AZUSA STREET REVIVAL / MODERN DAY PENTECOSTALS

Revival began in 1901 in Topeka, Kansas. A Methodist preacher, Charles Fox Parnaham, had a Bible College at a place called Stone’s Folly in Topeka. Agnes Ozman, a student, received the Holy Ghost a little after midnight on January 1st 1901.

It was at the prayer meetings on Azusa Street, beginning in April 1906, that the movement blossomed into a full-blown revival. Worshipers met daily in a 40- by 60-foot wood-frame structure called a “tumbledown shack” by one Los Angeles newspaper. Led by William Joseph Seymour, the African American son of former slaves from Louisiana, the extended prayer sessions were attended by between 300 and 350 people, with many others forced to stand outside. Observers noted that attendees included immigrants, prostitutes, and the poor.

William J. Seymour believed that he and the other Azusa Street worshipers had received the promised gift poured out on the early church; Seymour knew they must share this gift with the world. From behind his pulpit of shoebox shipping crates, a new standard for the 20th century emerged.

Cecil M. Robeck Jr., a Pentecostal historian at Fuller Theological Seminary, used the word “centrifugal” (away from center) to define the core of the Azusa Street revival. Those who were touched by it shared their experiences and touched the lives of others. One newspaper reported Pentecostals’ pervasive presence in public evangelism “on street corners and trolley cars.

The believers came from the ranks of the powerless. Most of its outstanding pastors, evangelists, and missionaries were laymen from the ranks of the working classes, with little or no education. They were often met with scorn by both the press and professional clergy.

If they lacked the education to speak with authority on matters of doctrine, they certainly did not lack the power to cast out devils and heal the sick. The motto of the Azusa Street Mission was best summed up by Seymour’s constant pastoral admonition, *“Now do not go from this meeting and talk about tongues, but try to get people saved.”*

All modern day Pentecostals trace their roots to the Azusa Street Revival.

## PENTECOST FUTURE

This is our finest hour! We must experience Pentecost. While most churches acknowledge Pentecost, most do not experience it.

There were only a handful of Pentecostals in 1900. Today there are several hundred million. This is the most successful group movement of the past century. Pentecostals have endured the ecclesiastical curse of adversaries. Many early pioneers were ridiculed; some were physically harmed for preaching the Gospel. We are not the church on the wrong side of the tracks.

More than 580 million call themselves Pentecostal. This number is growing by 19 million per year and 54,000 per day. At the current rate of growth, some researchers predict there will be 1 billion Pentecostals by 2025, most located in Asia, Africa, and Latin America.



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# LESSON 5

"MONOTHEISM"



## INTRODUCTION

This lesson is on the subject of Monotheism, the belief in one God. The first of all commandments is, "Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is one Lord:" **Deuteronomy 6:4** and **Mark 12:29**

There are those that cast away things that helped save them (holiness, doctrine, prayer, and monotheism). When Samson slew 1,000 Philistines with a jawbone, he threw it away, but God sent him back to it for a drink. It not only saved him, it also sustained him. The contemporary church must return to the doctrine of One God. This Doctrine saves us and sustains us.

## IS THERE A GOD?

### **Psalm 14:1**

The "fool" hath said in his heart, there is no God. They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none that doeth good.

The meaning of the word fool in Hebrew is evil, wicked, moral deficient. Some people deny God's existence because of their wicked lifestyle. They don't have doubt; they have denial.

### **Psalm 10:13 / John 3:19-20**

Most unbelievers fall into two categories: agnostics and atheist.

An Agnostic's basic theory is: It is not possible to know whether

God exists. We cannot know how the world began. You might hear one say something like, “I don’t know if there is a God or not.”

An Atheist’s basic theory is: There is no need for a God. The gods of the Greeks and the God of the Bible are the same. You might hear one say, “I know that there is no God.”

We are Monotheist and believe: There is one God. He created the universe and you can know Him. You might hear us say “There is a God and His name is Jesus.”

## THERE IS ONE GOD OF THE OLD AND NEW TESTAMENT

The scriptures are clear. There is only one God and He is Lord of all, or He is not Lord at all.

**Isaiah 44:8 / Deuteronomy 6:4-9 / Ephesians 4:5-6 / 1 Timothy 2:5-6**

## HOLY ONE

The title says it all. Can there be more than one Holy One?

**Psalms 71:22 / Isaiah 57:15 / Mark 1:24 / Acts 3:14**

## ONE SAVIOR

The Old Testament declares the God of Israel as the Savior.

**Isaiah 43:11 / Isaiah 45:21 / Hosea 13:4**

The New Testament declares Jesus is salvation. The Savior of the New Testament is the Savior of the Old Testament.

**Luke 2:11 / Luke 19:9 / Acts 4:12**

## TO KNOW JESUS CHRIST IS TO KNOW GOD

To know Him, see Him, believe in Him, receive Him, hate Him, or honor Him was to do the same to God.

To know Him was to Know God.

**John 14:7-9 / John 8:19**

To see Him was to see God.

**John 12:45 / John 14:9**

To believe in Him was to believe in God.

**John 12:44**

To receive Him was to receive God.

**Mark 9:37**

To hate him was to hate God.

**John 15:23**

To honor Him was to honor God.

**John 5:23**

## EXPLICIT SPEECH

Many of the titles given to Jesus (Son of God, Messiah, Lord, and Son of Man) have Divine implications. There are many times Jesus spoke explicitly that He was God.

In the Old Testament metaphors were used to describe God: Bridegroom, Sower, Shepherd, Father, Vineyard owner, and King. When Jesus taught He applied these metaphors to Himself.

**Titus 2:13-14 / Philippians 2:6-11 / Isaiah 9:6**

# IMPLICIT SPEECH

As well as speaking explicitly about being God, He also spoke implicitly. Jesus taught with the Amen, or in other words, when Jesus said it, it was so.

The prophets said, "Thus says the Lord" **Exodus 5:1**

Jesus said, "Truly I tell you..." **Matthew 5:18-20**

Jesus also implied that in His presence was "Something Greater." In doing so, He was implying that He was God.

1. Greater than the Temple. Matthew 12:6
2. Greater than Jonah. Matthew 12:41
3. Greater than Solomon Matthew 12:42

Shouldn't God be the agent to bring end time judgment to the world? Jesus is the agent of end time judgment in the scripture, thus conveying He is God.

**Luke 12:8-9 / Matthew 25:31-46**

Jesus went into the temple of God, and then quoted the scripture, "My House shall be called a house of prayer". This implies that it is His house.

**Matthew 21:12-14**

If walking on the water, feeding the 5000, healing the sick, raising the dead and forgiving sins are not enough to convince us that Jesus is God manifest in the flesh, then maybe the fact that Only God is to be worshiped (Revelation 19:10 and Matthew 4:10) Jesus did not refuse worship!

**Matthew 2:11** The wise men worshiped Jesus.

**John 9:38** The blind man worshiped Jesus.

**Matthew 14:33** The disciples in the boat worshiped Jesus.

**John 20:28** Thomas worshiped Jesus.

## THE IMAGE OF GOD

Jesus is the image of the invisible God. In Christ Jesus, all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form.

Jesus is the Firstborn. The Firstborn is number one in rank. He is not a part of creation and all creation is the object of the firstborn.

**Colossians 2:9 / Colossians 1:15 - 17**

## GOD, JESUS, THE HOLY GHOST ARE THE SAME PERSON

The first Christians believed that the Father, Son and Holy Ghost were the same person.

**John 14:9** (Calls Himself the Father)

**John 14:26** (Father will send a comforter)

**John 14:18** (Jesus says, “I will come unto you”)

**John 16:7** (I will send the comforter)

Paul speaks of the power that works in him. He interchanges the words God, Christ and Holy Spirit. He is referring to One power and not many.

**2 Corinthians 4:7** (Power of God)

**2 Corinthians 12:9** (Power of Christ)

**Romans 15:19** (Power of the Holy Spirit)

Also see **1 Corinthians 12:6 & 11**

**Acts 5:3-4**

When two disciples lied about the ground they had sold, Peter uses Holy Ghost and God as interchangeable words.

**Acts 16:31-34**

The jailor in Philippi had a revelation of one God. He was told to believe in Jesus Christ for Salvation. The Bible says he believed in God. The jailor equates Jesus as God.

**Revelation 1:11 and Revelation 21:6**

The Bible does not contradict itself. There can only be one Alpha and Omega. If Jesus and the Father is the same person, then there is no contradiction.

**John 8:24**

In John Chapter eight Jesus makes it clear that we must believe He is God. Notice in verse 24 *He* is in italics, which means it was not in the original text. The text would have read, “Except ye believe that I am, ye shall die in your sins.” Jesus is that **I am** of the Old Testament.

**John 8:27**

Jesus was not referring to being the Messiah or Anointed One. He was saying that He is the Father. (Also See **Isaiah 9:6**)



# LESSON 6

## "MEMBERSHIP"



### INTRODUCTION

You are born again, into the church. The experience is much more than just shaking a preachers hand or saying you have accepted the Lord as your savior. True membership in the body of Christ begins with the new birth experience. We do not sign up for a church membership; we are born again into the Church. John 3:5 Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

We are all called to the born again experience. Your membership matters! God wants to do great things in you and through you! In this lesson we should discover that there is a difference between attending a church and being a member!

### COMMITMENT

The church should not be ashamed to ask for commitment; commitment is asked in everything from little league baseball to the Olympics. True Christianity is based on our commitment to the Lord and our commitment to others. It is like the difference between couples who just “live together” and those who get married.

Your commitments define your life. You are what you are committed to. It tells what direction you are headed and where you will end

up. Because you went fishing one time a few years ago does not make you a fisherman; neither can you be a Christian just because you have been to a church. It takes a commitment.

### **2 Chronicles 16:9 (NLT)**

The eyes of the LORD search the whole earth in order to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to him.

## **CONTINUING WHEN YOU DON'T FEEL LIKE IT**

Everyone should desire to have a lifelong experience in God. He not only has the power to save us, He has the power to keep us. As a Christian, we can never give up!

### **Philippians 1:6 / Hebrews 10:25**

When you study Church dropouts there is a long list of reasons why people quit.

1. Stress/burnout.
2. Conflict.
3. No depth
4. Insufficient leadership.
5. Poor prayer habits.
6. Unhappiness.
7. Moral failure.

Our thoughts have to be guarded. Temptation usually comes in through a door that has deliberately been left open. We need to slam the door shut on any offense that would keep us from continuing to serve God.

### **2 Timothy 2: 22 / Psalm 119:11**

## OBEYING WHEN I DON'T UNDERSTAND

We are called to believe even if we don't see. Our walk is by faith and not by sight. We must trust God completely, no matter what the situation. God is faithful!

**Hebrews 11:8 / Romans 4:19 - 21**

## TRUSTING GOD WHEN I DON'T GET WHAT I WANT

We will not understand every situation in our lives and should not need to. That is where the faith steps in, trusting God in any situation. Keeping a teachable spirit will help us in trusting Him.

**1 Peter 4:12 - 16 / 1 Peter 1:7 - 9**

## RESPONSIBILITY

Every commitment that you make in your life has a cost, a price tag. It has a benefit and a cost. And you have to look at that commitment and say, "Is the benefit worth the cost?" Every time you make and keep a commitment, you're growing character.

1. We have a responsibility to Jesus Christ.

**Mark 1:17**

2. We have a responsibility to be a good witness.

**Luke 14:23 / Romans 15:7 / II Corinthians 5:19-20**

3. We have a responsibility to support.

**Romans 12:1 / 1 Corinthians 16:2 / Leviticus 27:30**

# COVENANT COMMITMENT WITH GOD

I believe in Jesus Christ and that He is the only true God. Therefore, I believe in repenting of my sins, being baptized in Jesus Name, and receiving the Holy Ghost with the evidence of speaking in other tongues, and being in agreement with my pastoral leadership and structure, I now feel led by the Holy Ghost, to unite with the church family. In doing so, I commit myself to God and to the other members to do the following:

## 1. I Will Protect the Unity of my church

I will operate in love toward other members of the Church.

I will not gossip or listen to gossip.

I will follow the Pastor and all the doctrine in the Word of God.

**Romans 14:19 / 1 Peter 1:22 / Ephesians 4:29 / Hebrews 13:17**

## 2. I Will Share in the Responsibilities at my church

I will pray for the growth of the Church.

I will evangelize by inviting others to the Church.

I will be friendly and warmly welcome those who visit.

I will worship in spirit and truth.

**1 Thessalonians 1:2 / Luke 14:23 / Romans 15:7 / John 4: 23 - 24**

## 3. I Will Serve the Ministry at my church

I will discover what gifts the Lord has blessed me with.

I will become established so that I might be used by the Lord.

I will work in humility and always have the heart of a servant.

**1 Peter 4:10 / Ephesians 4:11 – 12 / Philippians 2:3 - 7**

## 4. I Will Support the Testimony of my church

I will attend the Church faithfully. I will be at as many services as possible.

I will live a Godly life; I will follow after Holiness.

I will Tithe and give in offerings to support the work of the Lord.

**Hebrews 10:25 / Philippians 1:27**

**1 Corinthians 16:2 / Leviticus 27:30**

I affirm my commitment that I believe in Jesus Christ and He is the only true God. I believe in repenting of my sins, baptism in Jesus Name, and receiving the Holy Ghost with the evidence of speaking in other tongues. I do feel led by the Holy Ghost to unite with this church family. In doing so, I submit myself to God and the Pastor's leadership.

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Signature

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Date





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