

Christian Foundations



***“They continued steadfastly in the Apostle’s Doctrine”
Acts 2:42***

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The Apostle's Creed

I BELIEVE IN GOD, THE FATHER ALMIGHTY,
THE CREATOR OF HEAVEN AND EARTH,
AND IN JESUS CHRIST, HIS ONLY SON, OUR LORD:

WHO WAS CONCEIVED OF THE HOLY SPIRIT,
BORN OF THE VIRGIN MARY,
SUFFERED UNDER PONTIUS PILATE,
WAS CRUCIFIED, DIED AND WAS BURIED.

HE DESCENDED INTO HELL.
THE THIRD DAY HE AROSE AGAIN FROM THE DEAD.
HE ASCENDED INTO HEAVEN,
AND SITS AT THE RIGHT HAND OF GOD THE
FATHER ALMIGHTY, WHEN HE SHALL COME TO
JUDGE THE LIVING AND THE DEAD.

I BELIEVE IN THE HOLY SPIRIT, THE HOLY
UNIVERSAL CHURCH, THE COMMUNION OF SAINTS,
THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS, THE RESURRECTION
OF THE BODY, AND LIFE EVERLASTING.

AMEN.

Lesson 1. The Gospel of Jesus Christ

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes.” Rom. 1:18

THE NATURE OF GOD

There is a God who created all things. All around us, we can see the incredible complexity and design of nature and the Universe. An intelligent Being created us for a purpose: to know Him and to make Him known to others. God revealed Himself to Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Moses as “Yahweh”, which means “I AM”. The Bible gives the complete revelation of the nature and character of God. He is invisible and cannot be represented by idols, since He fills the Universe with His presence. He is all-knowing, almighty, and present everywhere. There is only One God, but He exists in 3 Persons: God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.

GOD IS HOLY. God is perfect in all His ways. He is holy (separate from sin), and completely righteous (clean from sin). Because of His holiness, He must punish all evil wherever it is found. No evildoer can get away from the justice of Almighty God. **GOD IS LOVE.** However, God is also love. He cares for every person that He has created. He gives them air, water, food, sunlight and sustains their lives, so that whether they love God in return or not, He cares and provides for them. The greatest demonstration of God’s love was when God the Father sent His only Son to die on the cross for our sins. But what is sin?

SIN

Do you remember the two stone tablets given to Moses at Mount Sinai? God gave us His law: The 10 commandments for everyone to obey. God even wrote His law on the hearts of all people on earth so that they would follow it. All people have a conscience that tells them when they have done something wrong. Everyone knows that it is wrong to steal, to lie and to murder. This is because our conscience follows the Law of God: The 10 Commandments.

THE 10 COMMANDMENTS

1. **You shall have no other gods before Me.**
2. **You shall not make for yourself a carved image.**
3. **You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain.**
4. **Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.**
5. **Honor your father and your mother.**
6. **You shall not murder.**
7. **You shall not commit adultery.**
8. **You shall not steal.**
9. **You shall not lie.**
10. **You shall not covet.**

Have you ever lied? Then you are a liar. Have you ever stolen something? Then you are a thief. Every time you break the commandments of God, you have sinned. Sin is defined as breaking the commandments of God. All of us are guilty of sin. As well, we all have a sinful nature that needs to be cleansed. Since all sin is ultimately against God, we need to ask God to forgive us for our sins and to receive God’s forgiveness. Even if you have sinned only once, and have lived a humanitarian life in the service of others, you still need God’s forgiveness.

RIGHTEOUSNESS

God wants people to obey His commandments and to be holy like Him. However, the problem is that everyone has broken the commandments of God and are guilty of sin. This keeps us hopelessly separated from God. Most people do not think that they are sinners and may say "Hey, I'm only human". We all attempt to justify ourselves before God and others. However, it is not those who justify themselves that are righteous before God, but only those whom God Himself justifies who become righteous (clean from sin).

We need righteousness (cleansing from sin) in order to know God, which is the purpose of our existence. The problem is that we are very sinful and incapable of becoming righteous on our own. God demands that we are righteous, or else on the Day of Judgment, we will be punished for our sins and cast out of His holy presence.

The most frightening thing in the Universe is to fall into the hands of God in a sinful state.

JUDGMENT

You only have one life to live, then you will face the Judge of all the earth. Judgment Day is coming for every person! God will judge everyone according to their own works. If you believe that God will judge murderers and rapists who have never been found by the police; then to be fair, you must believe that God will judge us as liars and thieves. The full cup of the wrath of God against sinners will be poured out on Judgment Day.

JUSTICE. Those who have been found guilty of breaking God's law will face terrible punishment in a place the Bible calls "Hell", where souls will be weeping and gnashing their teeth, and where the fire never goes out. Souls who go to hell will suffer eternal punishment. This place is real, and many people who have died and been resuscitated have confirmed this. Are you ready for judgment day? If you are still breaking the commandments of God and have not called out to God in repentance, then you should be very concerned for your eternal state.

MERCY. However, those who have received God's mercy and forgiveness will pass through judgment day cleared of all their offenses against God. They will be saved and enter into eternal life and be with God forever. *Do you want God's justice or God's mercy?*

SALVATION

God has provided a way so that you don't have to be punished for your sins. He saw that you could not obey His laws, and that you could not stop sinning. So He sent His Son, Jesus Christ, down to earth to take your sin upon Himself, and to pay the penalty for your sin and to rescue you. Now you can enjoy a personal relationship with God because you are given righteousness – not your own – but the very righteousness of Jesus Christ.

JESUS CHRIST. God came in human flesh. Jesus Christ came down from heaven as a little baby and was born to the Virgin Mary, and grew up until the age of 33, yet never sinned once. He was perfect and without any blemish before God, and yet was a simple man just like other humans. However, He was born for a very special purpose: to be the Only Way to God, and to become the sacrifice for us. He was the spotless sacrificial Lamb who would take our sins away.

CHRIST'S SACRIFICE. The sacrificial system began thousands of years ago. When men and women killed a sacrificial lamb, the death of the animal substituted the penalty that they should have received for their sin. The sin was transferred to the lamb. The lamb was the substitute, and the wrath of God against sin was covered by the sacrificial lamb. In the same way, when Jesus Christ died on the cross, He became the sacrifice for the sin of all those who trust in Him. By faith in His sacrifice, their sin is transferred onto Jesus Christ. Jesus took their penalty for sin as He suffered and died. Jesus was your substitute, taking the suffering that you should have received. Because God is holy, He must punish sin, but because of His love He sent His Son to take the punishment for us.

CHRIST'S RESURRECTION. After He died, he was buried, and rose again on the 3rd day. He overcame sin at the cross, and then overcame death at his resurrection. You also can be forgiven and live forever.

HOW TO BE TRULY SAVED

- 1. Realise that you have broken God's law and have sinned against Him.**
- 2. Confess your sins to God and ask for His forgiveness.**
- 3. Repent (turn away) from your sins and turn to God.**
- 4. Believe that God sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to pay the penalty for your sin.**
- 5. Believe that God raised Jesus Christ from the dead on the 3rd day.**
- 6. Receive Jesus Christ into your life as your Saviour, and receive the gift of forgiveness.**
- 7. Confess that Jesus Christ is Lord of your life and surrender your life to His control.**

GOD'S FREE GIFT. If you truly turn away from your sins, and believe that Jesus was your substitute, and that He took your sin on the cross and trust Jesus Christ to save you, then you will receive the gift of salvation. God has saved you through faith in Jesus Christ, and not by your own effort or good deeds. It is God's gift to you.

JUSTIFIED BY FAITH. Just imagine that you are in God's courtroom. God has just cleared you of your sins against Him. Case Dismissed! You are now justified, where God (as Judge) has now declared you "not guilty" of all your crimes against Him. You didn't deserve to be forgiven, but because of God's great mercy, and because of your faith in Jesus Christ and repentance, you are forgiven and saved! Now you have been adopted as God's child!

If you have repented of your sins and believed on Jesus Christ as your Saviour and received Him as your Lord, then you are now a Christian!

Welcome into the family of God!

CONFESSION OF FAITH

Romans 10:9-10

I confess publicly that Jesus Christ is Lord of my life.

I believe in my heart that Jesus is the Son of God and that He suffered and died on a cross to pay the penalty for my sin.

I believe in my heart that Jesus was buried, but 3 days later He arose from the dead. He now sits at the right hand of God the Father in heaven and total victory.

I repent from my heart and turn from my old ways of sin and breaking God's law. I completely turn to God.

I renounce Lucifer and all his manifestations, false religions and all his secret doctrines and beliefs that deceive man. I worship YAHWEH – God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit alone. Jesus Christ is now my Master, my Lord and my God.

I confess before God that I have sinned greatly against him. I have broken His commandments, but have asked for His forgiveness. By His grace, my sins are forgiven and removed from my account. I am now completely clean in God's sight, and the righteousness of Jesus Christ is now my own.

Having been cleansed from sin, I am now a child of God, and have been adopted into the family of God.

I am now a disciple and follower of Jesus Christ, and He is now my Lord and Saviour. No turning back. AMEN

Lesson 2. New Believer's Instruction

Welcome to the family of God! If you have truly repented of your sins (breaking God's law) and trusted Jesus Christ to save you, then you have been Born Again. You have just made the best decision of your life! Please read this letter now so that you can understand more about what it means to be a Christian.

What God has Done for You

1. YOU HAVE BEEN SAVED FROM SIN AND FORGIVEN BY GOD: Jesus took your sins away on the cross when he died. Jesus Christ has paid for the penalty for your sin. You have been completely forgiven by God. You now have a clean slate! **God has removed all of your sin and given you a clean and pure heart.**

2. YOU HAVE BEEN ADOPTED INTO GOD'S FAMILY: You are now a child of God, because you have been forgiven and adopted by Him into His family. **God the Father is now your Father. Your family is now God's children, other believers.**

3. YOU HAVE A NEW MASTER: You are no longer your own master. The Lord Jesus Christ is now your Master, the Lord of your life. He will now direct your life in a way that pleases Him. You are to obey what God says in His word. **Jesus Christ is now your Lord (Master) and Saviour (The One who saved you from your sins and God's punishment).**

4. YOU HAVE BEEN GIVEN THE HOLY SPIRIT: God has placed the Holy Spirit inside of you as proof that you are His child. The Holy Spirit will speak to you and teach you what you need to do as you grow as a Christian. Depend upon His leading. **The Holy Spirit is now your Comforter and Guide.**

5. YOU ARE A NEW CREATION: Because God is now in your life, you have been made alive when the Holy Spirit came into your life. You are now a totally new person on the inside – you must live like it. **If anyone is in Christ Jesus, they are a new creation.**

6. YOUR OLD LIFE IS DEAD AND GONE: Your old lifestyle and habits without God is now dead, and you are now alive in God. By reading the Bible, praying and by the power of the Holy Spirit living inside of you, you will begin to live the new life that God wants for you.

7. YOU HAVE GOD ALWAYS PRESENT WITH YOU: Jesus never promised that you would never have problems. In fact, He promised that we would have problems; but He also promised that He would never leave nor forsake us. God is with you in all the challenges you face, and He promises that He will work them all together for your good.

8. YOU WILL GO TO HEAVEN ONE DAY: Because you trusted Jesus to save you, you will go to heaven one day and be with Jesus forever. God will never leave you or forsake you. When you die, God promises to take you to be with Him forever. You will not go to hell for your sins, because Jesus has taken your sins and punishment away. Praise God!

What You Must Do for God

You are now saved through the work of Jesus Christ on the cross and nothing you do could possibly add to the work of Jesus Christ. Your salvation is a gift from God and cannot be earned. Now you must behave like a Christian, live for God and obey Him moment by moment.

1. BREATHE: PRAY THROUGHOUT THE DAY: Talk to God wherever you are. God is now your Father, Jesus is your Lord, and the Holy Spirit is your Comforter and Guide. Tell God how thankful you are for saving you, for helping you each day. Ask for His help and guidance. He will answer your prayers! As well, you should fast (go without food) and devote time to prayer.

2. EAT BREAD: READ THE BIBLE EVERY DAY: Start with the book of **Matthew**, and read a chapter a day, going through the entire New Testament then the entire Old Testament. As well, read a chapter of the book of **Proverbs or Psalms** every day. It will help give you wisdom for the journey of life. Read it like you would eat your breakfast, lunch and dinner.

3. DRINK WATER: KEEP FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT: Keep asking God to fill you with the Holy Spirit. Remember, He is in you, but He wants to fill you completely. You need the power of the Holy Spirit to be victorious over sin.

4. TAKE OFF YOUR OLD CLOTHES: STOP LIVING IN SIN: Say 'no' to evil. Sin in your life grieves the Holy Spirit within you. Keep away from corrupting influences in your life: Ungodly entertainment, drugs, smoking, alcohol abuse, spending time with people who turn you away from God, and people who try to discourage you from walking strong with God.

5. HAVE A DAILY SHOWER: WHEN YOU SIN (WE ALL DO EVERY DAY), ASK GOD TO FORGIVE YOU: When you realize that you have sinned against God, ask God to forgive you and ask for the strength of the Holy Spirit to overcome that sin. If you fall down, don't stay down, get back up, and God will give you strength to keep running.

6. PUT ON YOUR NEW CLOTHES: START LIVING LIKE JESUS: You have new clothes (the righteousness of Jesus Christ). You must wear them every day by speaking the truth to everyone, giving generously, being kind and forgiving to each other and let others know that you are a follower of Jesus Christ. Be an example of a Christian to others, showing them Jesus living inside you. Read what Jesus taught and start obeying each of His commandments.

7. HAVE A ONE-TIME BATH: GET BAPTIZED: Jesus commanded us to be baptized after we put our faith in Him to save us. It is important that you get baptized as soon as you can because it is a powerful symbol of your new faith in Christ, and the death of your old selfish ways.

8. STAY CLOSE TO YOUR NEW FAMILY: GO TO A GOOD CHURCH: Find a church where people love God, believe the Bible and live lives that truly reflect Jesus Christ. Go there and be around other Christians who have a vibrant faith. Spend time with people who are stronger than you in their faith in Christ, because it will challenge you to keep strong and challenged.

Lesson 3. The Bible

“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.”

2 Timothy 3:16-17 (NKJV)

1. **INSPIRATION.** We believe that the Bible is God’s written revelation to people inspired by the Holy Spirit as He moved Godly men to write. The 66 books of the Bible given to us by the Holy Spirit make up the plenary (inspired equally in all parts) Word of God. The Bible not only contains the Word of God; it is the Word of God! (Psalm 119:160, 1 Thessalonians 2:13, John 16:12-13)
2. **DUAL AUTHORSHIP.** God wrote the Bible through over 40 different men of God, using their individual personalities and styles of writing to compose and record God’s Word to humanity without error in the whole or in part. (2 Peter 1:20-21, Psalm 19:7, John 17:17)
3. **INERRANCY.** We believe that every word in the Bible (God’s Word) is inspired by the Holy Spirit, absolutely without error in the original documents, infallible, and God-breathed. As well, thousands of pieces of historical and archaeological evidence support the validity of the Bible, and not one of them has yet refuted God’s Word. (There have been some minor scribal errors in some of the copied manuscripts, however, which are very few.) (Psalm 119:89, 2 Timothy 3:16-17)
4. **LITERAL GRAMMATICAL AND HISTORICAL INTERPRETATION.** We believe the literal, grammatical-historical interpretation of Scripture, which affirms the belief that the opening chapters of Genesis present creation in six days. The Biblical text must be interpreted based on the type of text it is, and interpreted in light of its original meaning to the intended audience first, and then to us as believers, to be interpreted correctly. (Genesis 1:31, Exodus 31:17)
5. **OUR ONLY RULE OF FAITH & PRACTICE.** We believe that the Bible constitutes the only infallible rule of faith and practice. It is our guide as believers, and every spiritual revelation given to Christians must be in agreement with the Bible. We reject doctrines or practices which are not in agreement with the Bible and Biblical principles. (Psalm 119:105, Ezra 7:10, Hebrews 13:7)
6. **GOD PROTECTS HIS WORD.** The Bible has been under attack for thousands of years by those seeking to destroy it, yet it continues to be the best seller of all time every year. It has been protected through wars and persecution. However, those who seek to tamper with God’s Word and teach false doctrine will come under God’s judgment. (Isaiah 40:8, Isaiah 55:10-11, Jeremiah 23:29, Revelation 22:18-19, Galatians 1:8-9)

7. **REVEALS THE NATURE OF GOD.** We believe that the Bible contains the most accurate and complete testimony to the nature of God above any other book as it was written by God Himself. God has revealed Himself to humanity through His word. (1 Samuel 3:21)
8. **ALIVE AND POWERFUL.** We believe that God's Word is living and powerful and can change the heart and bring life wherever it goes. (Hebrews 4:12, Acts 12:24, John 6:63, 1 Peter 1:23)
9. **OUR SPIRITUAL FOOD.** We believe that believers are to "eat" the Word of God every day through study, meditation, memorization, devotion and application. They should also read through the Bible to understand it as a whole. (Luke 4:3, 1 Peter 2:2)

TYPES OF LITERATURE IN THE BIBLE

Old Testament

i. Historical Narrative

Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy, Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1 & 2 Samuel, 1 & 2 Kings, 1 & 2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther

ii. Poetry

Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs

iii. Prophecy – Major Prophets

Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, Daniel

iv. Prophecy – Minor Prophets

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

New Testament

i. Historical Narrative

Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Acts

ii. Letters

Romans, 1 & 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1 & 2 Thessalonians, 1 & 2 Timothy, Titus, Philemon, Hebrews, James, 1 & 2 Peter, 1, 2 & 3 John, Jude

iii. Prophecy

Revelation

Lesson 4. God the Father

“But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. “God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.” **John 4:23-24** (NKJV)

- 1. THE NATURE OF THE GODHEAD.** We believe that there is but one living and true God, eternally existing in three Persons—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit - each equally deserving of worship and obedience. The Trinity is composed of only One God yet three Persons. (Genesis 1:26; Deuteronomy 6:4; 1 Corinthians 8:4; Luke 3:21-22; Matthew 28:19; 2 Corinthians 13:14; Ephesians 4:4-6, 1 Peter 1:2; Jude 20-21)
- 2. THE CHARACTER OF THE GODHEAD.** We believe that God is infinite, all-powerful, all-knowing, eternal, everywhere and perfect in all of His attributes. The Bible says “God is Light, in Him there is no darkness at all”. He is Holy (Separate from evil), righteous (no evil in Him at all), and He is love as well. He loves justice and must punish sin, yet loves to be merciful to the repentant. (Genesis 18:14; Psalm 147:5; Psalm 139:7-12; Revelation 1:8; Isaiah 6:1-3; Habakkuk 1:13; 1 John 4:16; Deuteronomy 32:4; Psalm 89:14; 1 Peter 1:17; 1 John 5:7)

3. SOME NAMES OF GOD AND THEIR MEANINGS

Name	Meaning	Reference
1. YHWH (Yahweh, the LORD)	“I am that I am”	Ex. 3:14
2. Elohim	God (plural form)	Gen. 1:1-3
3. Adonai	Master	Hos. 2:16
4. El-Shaddai	Almighty God	Ex. 6:3
5. Yahweh Jireh	The Lord is My Provider	Gen. 22:14
6. Yahweh Rophe	The Lord is My Healer	Exo. 15:26
7. Yahweh M’Kaddesh	The Lord is My Sanctifier	Exo. 31:13
8. Yahweh Tsidkenu	The Lord is My Righteousness	Jer. 23:6
9. Yahweh Rohi	The Lord is My Shepherd	Psa. 23:1
10. Yahweh Nissi	The Lord is My Banner	Exo. 17:15
11. Yahweh Shalom	The Lord is My Peace	Judg. 6:24
12. Yahweh Shammah	The Lord is There	Ezek. 48:35

4. **COVENANT GOD.** The names of God are associated with His character and covenant. The Name "I am" refers to the fact that God is in covenant relationship with His people, and completely gives of Himself to His people, and expects for us also to give completely of ourselves to Him. This covenant is in Christ. (Genesis 6:17; Genesis 17:2; Exodus 6:4-5; Exodus 19:4; Deuteronomy 7:6-11;)
5. **GOD GAVE US 10 COMMANDMENTS.** God gave us the 10 commandments in order to show us the kind of life that He wants us to live. Humans, however, showed themselves incapable of obeying the Divine Law. (Romans 3:10-12; Romans 3:23; James 2:10). God's wrath is on those who break it. (Romans 1:18; Ephesians 5:6)

THE 10 COMMANDMENTS

Exodus 20:1-17

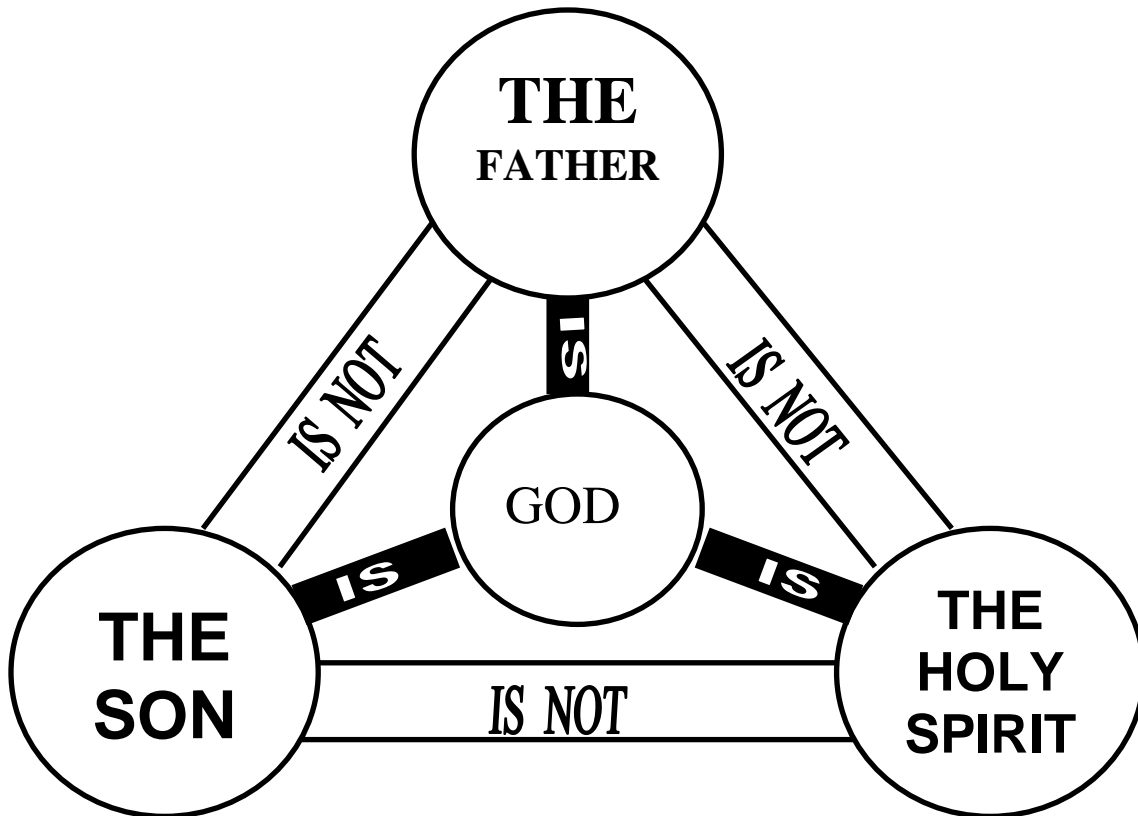
And God spoke all these words, saying: "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.

1. **"You shall have no other gods before Me.**
2. **"You shall not make for yourself a carved image--**any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me, but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments.
3. **"You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain,** for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain.
4. **"Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.** Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the LORD your God. In it you shall do no work: you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your male servant, nor your female servant, nor your cattle, nor your stranger who is within your gates. For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it.
5. **"Honor your father and your mother,** that your days may be long upon the land which the LORD your God is giving you.
6. **"You shall not murder.**
7. **"You shall not commit adultery.**
8. **"You shall not steal.**
9. **"You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.**
10. **"You shall not covet** your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, nor his male servant, nor his female servant, nor his ox, nor his donkey, nor anything that is your neighbor's." Exodus 20:1-17

God the Father

6. **HIS WILL IS SUPREME.** We believe that God the Father, the first person of the Trinity, orders and does all things according to His own purpose and grace. He has decreed for His own glory all things that come to pass. (Ephesians 1:11)
7. **HE IS THE CREATOR.** He is the Creator of all things, yet with the Son (the Word of God) and the Spirit did His work of creation. (Genesis 1:1-2; Psalm 148:5; John 1:1-3; John 17:5).
8. **HE IS THE SOVEREIGN RULER AND GIVES ORDER TO THE UNIVERSE.** As the only absolute and omnipotent Ruler in the universe, He is Sovereign in creation, providence, and redemption. Nothing can bypass His plan and purpose. He continually upholds, directs, and governs all creatures and events. Every atom is upheld by the Word of His power. (Psalm 97:9; Proverbs 21:30; Psalm 2:1-6; Isaiah 45:5-6; 1 Chronicles 29:11; Hebrews 1:3)
9. **HE IS OUR FATHER.** His fatherhood involves both His designation within the Trinity and His relationship with mankind. As Creator, He is Father to all men, and loves them, giving them life, breath and everything they need to live, but He is Spiritual Father only to believers. (Isaiah 64:8; John 8:44; John 20:17)
10. **HE GIVES FREEDOM OF CHOICE.** In His sovereignty, He is neither the author nor the approver of sin. However, He does not He take away the accountability of moral, intelligent creatures from choosing sin (angels and humans). (Genesis 2:16-17; Joshua 24:15; Deuteronomy 30:19)
11. **HE ADOPTS HIS CHILDREN.** He has graciously chosen from eternity past those whom He would have as His own; He saves from sin all those who come to Him through Jesus Christ; and He becomes, upon adoption, Father to His own children. Then to His children, God the Father lavishes His love upon them in Christ. (Ephesians 1:4-5; Galatians 4:5; John 1:12; Romans 8:15; Galatians 4:6; 1 John 3:1)
12. **HE TEACHES AND DISCIPLINES HIS CHILDREN.** As a wonderful Father, the Best in the Universe, God cares for us His children and disciplines us when we sin against Him, so that we might share in His holiness. (Psalm 32:8-9; John 15:1-2; Hebrews 12:5-9)

The Biblical Concept of the Trinity



“And when Jesus was baptized, he went up immediately from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting on him; and lo, a voice from heaven, saying, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.” *Matthew 3:16-17*

“The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit *be* with you all. Amen.”

2 Corinthians 13:14

Lesson 5. God the Son

“He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist. And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence.” **Colossians 1:15-18 (NKJV)**

1. **JESUS IS GOD:** He has always existed with the Father and the Holy Spirit in eternity past. He is the Creator of the Universe along with the Father and the Holy Spirit. He is also called the Word of God and proceeds from the Father. He is the Second Person of the Trinity: Father, Son, Holy Spirit. (John 1:1; John 8:58; John 10:30; 2 Corinthians 13:14)
2. **JESUS IS THE SON OF GOD:** Jesus was never created by God the Father, as He is God and is eternally existent. However, as far as His role in the Trinity, He is forever the Son of God and He completely submits Himself to the Father. (Matthew 27:43; Mark 1:1; Luke 1:35; Revelation 1:17; John 1:1)
3. **JESUS IS THE PROMISED MESSIAH:** The Old Testament prophesied that someone would come to earth and bear the sin of the world. This Messiah, or Anointed One, would bring in the New Covenant of God and His people where people can know God personally. This is made possible because all who put their faith in the Messiah and accept the sacrifice of Himself can be cleansed and forgiven in order that they can enter the presence of God. (Jeremiah 31:31-34; Daniel 9:24-27; John 1:41)
4. **HIS INCARNATION:** Although He always existed, Jesus came to earth around 4 BC and was born to a virgin named Mary of Nazareth. Jesus, as God, took on flesh from that time on and forever. He is 100% God and 100% man and always will be. The reason that He came to earth was to live a sinless life (defeat sin), die and become the sacrifice (sin-bearer) so that God could win back people for Himself from sin and death. (Colossians 1:19-20; 1 Peter 1:18-19)

5. **HIS HUMANITY:** Jesus humbled Himself by coming to earth and feeling the weaknesses that we feel: feeling tired, weak at times, and the challenge of bearing the wrath of God against sin on the cross. He felt all our human emotions of love, joy, anger and tears - all without sin. (Hebrews 4:14-15)
6. **HIS SINLESSNESS:** Jesus lived a sinless life and was and is perfect in righteousness. He was tempted in every way like we are, yet was without sin in any way. He conquered every temptation. (2 Corinthians 5:21; 1 Peter 2:22, 1 John 3:5)
7. **HIS MIRACULOUS POWER:** Jesus performed greater miracles than the world had ever seen. He cured lepers, opened blind eyes, turned water to wine, raised the dead, cured many diseases, healed paralytics and cast out thousands of demons. He also had power over the elements: the wind and waters. The greatest miracle of all was His miraculous resurrection. All these were demonstrations of His Deity: that He is God the Son. (Romans 1:4)
8. **SALVATION ONLY THROUGH HIM:** Jesus called all people to come to Him, and that as they look to Him in faith, their sins will be forgiven. He is the one and only way to God. There is no salvation apart from Jesus Christ. Only by His righteousness through Jesus Christ's shed blood on the cross can any person be redeemed from their sins. (John 14:6; Acts 4:12)
9. **HIS CLAIMS:** Jesus came to Israel as its' Redeemer, but many Jews rejected Him as Messiah, and accused Him of blasphemy. It was for this "crime" of calling Himself God, the Son of God and the Messiah, that He was killed. He said: "Before Abraham was born, I AM". He used the Holy Name of God to refer to Himself. (Matthew 27:43; John 8:58; John 10:31-33; John 20:28)
10. **HIS DEATH:** Jesus suffered at the hands of the chief priests and elders of the people of Israel. They handed him over to Pontius Pilate, who ordered him scourged and beaten. The soldiers placed a crown of thorns on His head and mocked Him and they crucified Him that day. Jesus lasted for 6 hours on the cross on a hill called Golgotha, where the wrath of God against sin fell upon Him. He bore our sin at that time although He had no sin of His own, and God the Father could not look on His Son because of His holiness. After 6 hours, He cried: "It is finished", and the sacrifice was complete - Jesus removed sin completely from His people and opened the door for them to come to a holy God.

11. **HIS RESURRECTION:** Jesus Christ completely defeated sin on the cross. On the basis of the death of our Lord Jesus Christ, the believing sinner is freed from the punishment, the penalty, the power, and one day the very presence of sin; and that he is declared righteous, given eternal life, and adopted into the family of God. Then, after 3 days, Jesus rose from the dead, and appeared to His disciples and to 500 people in Jerusalem and in Galilee. His physical resurrection was in the same body that He died in, however, it is a physical yet glorified body that will never wear down. He conquered death so that everyone who believes in Christ Jesus will live eternally. He stayed on earth for a period of about 40 days before He returned to heaven. (Revelation 1:18-19; John 20:24-29; 1 Corinthians 15:1-6; Acts 1:1-3; 1 Corinthians 15:50-54)
12. **HIS ABSOLUTE LORDSHIP:** Jesus sat down at the right hand of God the Father. God the Father gave Jesus, His Son, the Name above all Names. The Name of Jesus is the most mighty and excellent Name in the entire Universe. Demons are cast out in His Name, all the power of hell and Satan tremble at His mighty Name. By grace and through faith in Jesus Christ we are saved. If we believe that Jesus Christ took our sins on the cross and repent of our sins, we shall be saved. One day Jesus Christ will return to earth in glory with the Holy angels to take His people home to heaven and judge the earth. Jesus is Lord of All! (Acts 10:36; Philippians 2:5-11)

Lesson 6. God the Holy Spirit

“And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever—“the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.”

John 14:16-17 (NKJV)

1. **THE HOLY SPIRIT IS GOD:** He has always existed in eternity past and will always exist in eternity future, as He is uncreated. He has always existed as the 3rd person of the Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. He is equal in Divinity to the Father and the Son although His roles are different. The Holy Spirit possesses all the Divine qualities of being God: Omnipresence, omniscience, omnipotence and complete righteousness and holiness. As God, He is also worthy of worship and adoration as are the Father and Son. (Hebrews 9:14; Genesis 1:2; Psalm 139:7-10; Luke 4:14; 1 Corinthians 2:10-12)
2. **THE HOLY SPIRIT IS A PERSON:** The Holy Spirit also possesses all the qualities of Personhood including emotions, intellect and will. He is not a force, oil, wind or fire, but has been likened to these because He is a Spirit. The Holy Spirit, like the Father, does not have a body like the Lord Jesus. The Holy Spirit is a “He”, not an “it” as some mistakenly call Him. (John 16:12-15)
3. **THE HOLY SPIRIT IN CREATION:** The Holy Spirit moved upon the surface of the waters at the time of creation and together with the Father and Son created the universe. He is sovereign and can move upon anyone to bring life. (Genesis 1:2; John 3:5-8; 2 Corinthians 3:6; Matthew 1:18; Psalm 104:30)
4. **a) WHAT HE DOES IN SINNERS:** The Holy Spirit’s role in the life of an unbeliever is to bring conviction of sin, righteousness and judgment to their hearts and stir their conscience to repentance. He does not glorify Himself or His gifts, but glorifies Jesus Christ by saving sinners and building up believers in Christ. (John 16:7-15)

b) WHAT HE DOES IN BELIEVERS: The Holy Spirit's work involves:

- a. Saving us (Called "Regeneration"). (Titus 3:4-6)
- b. Sealing the believer for salvation. (Ephesians 1:13-14; Eph. 4:30)
- c. Indwelling the believer. (John 14:15-17; 2 Timothy 1:14)
- d. Directing and instructing the believer. (John 16:13; 1 Cor. 2:13)
- e. Sanctifying the believer. (2 Thessalonians 2:13; 1 Peter 1:2)
- f. Convicting the believer of sin. (Revelation 3:14-22)
- g. Filling the believer. (Ephesians 5:18; Acts 2:4; Acts 9:17)
- h. Empowering the believer. (Acts 1:8)

5. **BIBLE:** The Holy Spirit inspired the apostles and prophets as they wrote the Bible under His direction. The Bible is completely true and inspired by God. (1 Peter 1:20-21; 2 Timothy 3:16-17)
6. **INDWELLING:** The Holy Spirit indwelled believers following the resurrection of Christ when Jesus breathed on the disciples in the Upper Room and they received the Holy Spirit. **At the moment of salvation, all believers are indwelled by the Holy Spirit.** (John 20:22; Acts 10:44-48; Romans 8:15)
7. **FILLING:** The Holy Spirit filled believers and came upon them in power on the day of Pentecost following the ascension of Jesus Christ. God's Word commands us to be filled with the Holy Spirit. He is the Promise of the Father to all believers – not only to indwell them, but also to fill and empower them. (Acts 2:1-4; Ephesians 5:18)
8. **FRUIT:** The Holy Spirit gives the **9-Fold Fruit** or evidence in the Life of a Believer: (Galatians 5:22-23)

- | | | |
|---------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1. Love | 2. Joy | 3. Peace |
| 4. Patience | 5. Kindness | 6. Goodness |
| 7. Gentleness | 8. Faithfulness | 9. Self Control |

All believers (those truly saved) will show the fruit of the Spirit!

9. **GIFTS:** The Holy Spirit gives **9 Gifts** in the Life of believers: (1 Cor. 12:1-11)
- | | | |
|------------------------|-------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Prophecy | 2. Tongues | 3. Interpretation of Tongues |
| 4. Word of Knowledge | 5. Word of Wisdom | 6. Discerning of Spirits |
| 7. Working of Miracles | 8. Faith | 9. Gifts of Healing |

We are gifted!!!! When we are born physically, we are given natural gifts and abilities by God. When we are born again, we are given spiritual gifts by the Holy Spirit.

10. **SIN:** The Holy Spirit is grieved when Christians sin as He indwells us and cannot tolerate sin in our lives. Our body is the Temple of the Holy Spirit and we need to keep the temple clean! We must give the Holy Spirit control over our lives and let Him Sanctify us (make us holy). (Ephesians 4:30; 1 Corinthians 6:19; 2 Thessalonians 2:13)
11. **SIN AGAINST THE HOLY SPIRIT:** Blasphemy against the Holy Spirit (where one equates Him or His work to Satan) is the Unpardonable Sin where such a person will never come to salvation and will not desire to be forgiven and saved. It is very dangerous to speak against the Holy Spirit. If you don't know for sure, be quiet about criticizing a work of the Spirit! (Mark 3:28-30; Luke 12:10)
12. **HOW TO BE FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT:** We are also commanded to be filled with the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 5:18-20) by:
 - a. Speaking to one another in songs, hymns and spiritual songs.
 - b. Singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord.
 - c. Giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ.
 - d. Submitting to one another in the fear of God.
 - e. Praying in the Spirit at all times (Ephesians 6).

Lesson 7. Humanity

“Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.”

Genesis 1:26-27 (NKJV)

1. **HUMANS ARE A WONDERFUL CREATION OF GOD:** God created Humans on the 6th day of creation. The very first man was named Adam, and the very first woman was named Eve. We are all descendants of Adam and Eve. The theory of evolution of man from primates is false since it not only lacks evidence, but also denies the existence or purpose of a Creator. Those who deny the existence of God are what the Bible calls “fools”. (Romans 1:18-25; Psalm 14:1)
2. **HUMANS ARE IN THE IMAGE OF GOD:** Humans were created in the image and likeness of God – with God-like qualities of being able to choose righteousness, being a person (with emotions, intellect and will), and by having the ability to worship God. We were originally created without sin. (Genesis 1:26-31)
3. **HUMANS HAVE DOMINION OVER LIVING THINGS:** Humans were given dominion over all the creatures on earth by God. This is why so many animals are so frightened by humans – God has placed a fear of man into their instincts. This is because God wanted humans to have responsible dominion over His creation. At the beginning of creation, Adam and Eve governed the earth under God’s ownership. (Gen. 1:26-31)
4. **HUMANS COME IN DIFFERENT RACES:** Humans were created with different races (African, Caucasian, Asian, Latino, Arab, etc.) and each race is equal in God’s eyes. Each race is endowed with specific strengths given by God. God intended for humans to have various skin colors and physical characteristics. We are all fearfully and wonderfully made. God hates racism. (Psalm 139:13-16; Numbers 12:1-10)

5. **THE MEANING OF LIFE:** Humans exist for a higher purpose than other creatures made by God. They exist to know, love, worship and obey God first, then to love others and to take care of the earth and creation God gave us. As Christians, we are to preach the gospel, help see others come to Christ and disciple them, all in the context of love for God and others. (John 17:3; Ecclesiastes 12:13-14; Matthew 22:35-40, 28:18-20; Mark 16:25)
6. **HUMANS IN SIN:** Adam and Eve were placed in the Garden of Eden many thousands of years ago. They were told to obey God's commands and not eat of the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Instead of obeying, they disobeyed God. For this sin, humans lost their innocence and took on the penalty of spiritual and physical death. They became objects of God's wrath and were completely corrupted with sin. Now we, as descendants of Adam and Eve, are born into sin and have been corrupted by Adam's original sin. All men are thus sinners by nature, by choice, and by divine declaration. (Genesis 3:9-19; 1 Corinthians 15:22; Psalm 51:5)
7. **UNIVERSAL CORRUPTION:** We believe that because all men were in Adam, a nature corrupted by Adam's sin has been transmitted to all men of all ages, Jesus Christ being the only exception. (Romans 3:10-23; 1 John 1:8; 1 John 3:5)
8. **LEGAL GOVERNING OF EARTH GIVEN TO SATAN:** Humans were made and commissioned by God to govern the Earth, but because of their sin, they transferred the right to rule to Satan. Satan is now called the "god of this world". However, Jesus Christ stripped Satan of his power at the cross when He died for our sins and will completely overthrow Satan's throne one day. (John 12:31; 2 Corinthians 4:3-4; John 18:36; Revelation 11:15; 1 Corinthians 15:24-28)
9. **HUMAN NEED FOR SALVATION:** Humans have become objects of God's wrath and incapable of turning to God in repentance. They are helpless before God, and because of sin in their lives, they are hopelessly lost before a Holy God. They need to be rescued from the penalty of sin through the shed blood of Jesus Christ. (Eph. 2:1-3; 12-13; Rom. 2:5-9; 1 Peter 1:18-19)
10. **SALVATION:** Salvation is completely based on God's grace – Christ's work of redeeming us from sin through the cross. Through faith in Jesus Christ and repentance of sin, humans can be forgiven of sin and become clean in God's eyes. Salvation is open to all people on earth, yet some are chosen by God to respond to the gospel and be saved. (Ephesians 1:4-5; Ephesians 2:8-9; Romans 10:16-18; Acts 13:48)

Lesson 8. Our Salvation in Christ

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, ⁹not of works, lest anyone should boast. ¹⁰For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

Ephesians 2:8-9 (NKJV)

- 1. EVERYONE HAS BROKEN GOD'S LAW.** The Bible teaches that all people have sinned against God, and are guilty of breaking the commandments of God, and are thus responsible for their own sin and worthy of eternal punishment. All humans stand helplessly lost in their sin before a Holy God and God's wrath remains on them. (Exodus 20:1-17; Romans 3:23; 1 John 3:4; James 2:10; John 3:36, Colossians 3:6; Hebrews 10:29-31)
- 2. SALVATION NOT BY GOOD WORKS OR EFFORT.** We believe that our own good works or sacrifice cannot save us, because everything we do is tainted with sin and therefore unacceptable to God. The only sacrifice that is acceptable to God is the sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the cross. By His sacrifice alone we are saved. (Isaiah 64:6; 1 Peter 1:18-19)
- 2. SALVATION ONLY BY CHRIST'S SACRIFICE.** The only sacrifice acceptable to God the Father was when Jesus Christ, the spotless, sinless Lamb of God, laid down his life and was crucified. On the cross, God placed the sin of His people onto Jesus Christ, and then gave the righteousness of His only Begotten Son, Jesus Christ, to us. Jesus Christ was our substitute, taking our sins and the wrath of a Holy God against sin for us, so that we might be forgiven of our sins and enter into eternal life. (Isaiah 53:10-12; John 1:29; Hebrews 9:12; 10:19; Ephesians 2:11-13)
- 3. SALVATION ONLY BY GRACE.** We believe that only by God's grace – where God saves the unworthy – can we be saved, and not by our own worthiness. Salvation is 100% of God, 0% of us since God has made us alive in Christ when we were dead in sins (Ephesians 2:1-10).
- 4. SALVATION ONLY BY FAITH.** We believe that through faith we may be saved, by trusting in the sacrifice of Jesus to atone for our sins. It is not through a ritual or act of us, but through faith, which itself is a gift of God, not by works. (Ephesians 2:8-9; Romans 5:1-2)

5. **SALVATION ONLY BY REPENTANCE.** We believe that not only belief in Jesus Christ is sufficient, but also one must repent (turn away from sin and turn to God) in order to be saved. Faith in Jesus and repentance of sins are necessary to salvation. (Matthew 4:17; 11:20; Mark 1:15; Luke 13:5; Luke 18:9-14)
6. **GOD'S ELECTION.** The word election means choosing. It is the first phase of salvation where God chose His children to be adopted before the creation of the world. This happened because God took pleasure in doing it. He did not choose us because of any of our abilities, but because He loved us and wanted to show His grace to us in Christ. All whom God has chosen will come to Christ and be saved, and none can be lost out of God's hands. (Acts 13:48; Eph. 1:3-6; John 10:27-29; John 15:16; 1 Peter 1:2)
7. **MAN'S RESPONSIBILITY.** Although God has chosen those who are His children beforehand, we do not have the master list of who gets to go to heaven, and therefore must encourage everyone to come to faith in Christ. People are responsible to repent of their sins and trust in Jesus Christ to save them. Those who repent of their sins and trust Christ show that they are the ones whom God has chosen to be His children. (Acts 17:30-31; Romans 10:12-13)
8. **REGENERATION.** Regeneration is when the Holy Spirit makes a person alive who was dead in their sins. It is instantaneous and accomplished by the power of the Holy Spirit when a repentant sinner responds in faith to God's provision of salvation. (Titus 3:4-7; Ephesians 1:13-14; Acts 10:34-48)
9. **ADOPTION.** When a believer is regenerated, trusts in Jesus to save them and repents of their sins, they are immediately adopted into God's family. We are given the righteousness of Jesus, and are completely acceptable to God. God the Father loves us just as much as He loves Jesus! We are now God's children, able to enjoy the closest relationship with the Best Father in the Universe! (1 John 1:12; Romans 8:15-16; John 17:23; Romans 3:21-26)
10. **EVIDENCE OF SALVATION.** When someone is saved, they will give evidence of their salvation. This includes: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, gentleness, goodness, faithfulness and self-control. They will also evidence fruits worthy of repentance demonstrated by righteous attitudes and conduct. Good works will be its proper evidence and fruit. (Luke 3:8; 2 Timothy 2:9; Galatians 5:22-23)

- 11. PRODUCING CHRIST-LIKENESS.** This obedience causes the believer to be more and more conformed to the image of Jesus Christ. They will become increasingly more and more like Jesus and will be fully climaxed when believers are glorified at Christ's return. (Romans 8:29-30; 2 Corinthians 3:17-18; 1 John 3:2; Philippians 3:20-21)
- 12. STAGE ONE: JUSTIFICATION.** When someone receives salvation through Jesus Christ, they are immediately justified in God's sight. It is a legal term where the judge declares the accused "not guilty". At that moment, they are innocent of all sin against God and declared righteous by God. This righteousness is apart from any virtue or work of man, and involves the placing of our sins on Christ and the imputation of Christ's righteousness to us. No one can condemn those whom God Himself has justified! (Isaiah 53:11; Romans 5:1, 9; 1 Corinthians 6:10; 2 Cor. 5:21)
- 13. POSITIONAL SANCTIFICATION.** We believe that every Christian is sanctified (set apart) unto God by justification and is therefore declared to be a saint. This sanctification is instantaneous and happens when a believer is saved. (1 Corinthians 1:1-2)
- 14. PROGRESSIVE SANCTIFICATION.** We believe that there is a progressive work of the Holy Spirit by which a believer is brought closer and closer to the image of Jesus Christ through obedience to God's Word and the power of the Holy Spirit. This process takes time. (1 Thessalonians. 4:3; Romans 12:1-2; 1 Peter 1:22)
- 15. KNOWING CHRIST.** The goal of every believer is to know Christ more and more. For the Apostle Paul, this was his lifelong goal, and he called knowing Christ "surpassing greatness". We must know this "surpassing greatness" as well – the Lord Jesus Christ. (John 17:3; Philippians 3:8-11)
- 16. THE BATTLE AND VICTORY.** When a believer is saved, they are a new creation in Christ Jesus, yet there is a battle with the flesh, their old sinful nature. By the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit, believers are able to overcome the fleshly desires and to put them to death. The struggle however, stays with the believer all through this earthly life. When one sin is overcome, often the Holy Spirit will show another area that needs work. However, we will be completely free from all sin when we appear before Christ. (Romans 7:13-25; Romans 8:13; 1 John 1:5-10)

- 17. ETERNAL SECURITY.** We believe that all the redeemed people of God, once truly saved, are kept by God's power and are thus secure in Christ forever. However, it is their responsibility to live in obedience to Christ, and demonstrate through their lives that they know Jesus Christ. (1 Peter 1:3-5; Philippians 2:12)
- 18. SEPARATION FROM SIN.** Although believers are kept by God's power, God forbids that we use His salvation as an excuse for sinful living. We are called as believers to be separate from sin and worldly pleasures. (Romans 6:1-2; 2 Corinthians 6:11-18)
- 19. DEVOTION TO RIGHTEOUSNESS.** We believe that out of our deep gratitude for what God has done for us, and because He is worthy of our total consecration, believers are to live a life in such a way to bring God honour. Believers are separated unto the Lord Jesus Christ and are to live a life of obedient righteousness demonstrated by a Christ-like attitude and a continual pursuit of holiness. They demonstrate a lifestyle of prayer, Bible reading, fellowship, sharing Christ with others and worship. (2 Corinthians 5:15; 1 Peter 2:2; Matthew 28:19-20; 1 Thessalonians 5:17)
- 20. GLORIFICATION.** We believe that our salvation will be finally complete when we see our Lord Jesus Christ. Either we will die and meet Jesus Christ, or if we are alive on His return, we will meet Jesus Christ in the clouds. On that day, we will be completely free from the presence of sin and appear with Christ and share in His glory. We will be like Christ, and we shall see Him as He is. We will live with God and His people forever! (Romans 8:30; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; 1 John 3:2; Revelation 21:1-4)

Lesson 9. The Church

“But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.”

1 Peter 2:9-10 (NKJV)

1. **ALL BELIEVERS A PART.** We believe that everyone who has placed their faith in Jesus Christ and have repented of their sins are immediately placed by the Holy Spirit into one spiritual Body, the church, the Bride of Christ, of which Christ is the Head. The church is the people of God who are Holy unto God and called to be saints. (Ephesians 1:22-23; Colossians 1:24; Ephesians 5:31-32)
2. **OUR HISTORY.** We believe that the church began on the day of Pentecost and will be perfected at the coming of Jesus Christ for His own people at the Rapture. We believe that the church is made up of born-again believers past, present and future, including Old-Testament saints as well. (Matthew 8:11; John 17:20-21)
3. **LOCAL CHURCHES.** We believe that the establishment and continuation of the local church is clearly taught and defined in the New Testament, and that the members of the Body of Christ are to associate together regularly in local assemblies. (Acts 2:46; Romans 16:3-4; Hebrews 10:24-25; Revelation 3:1)
4. **CHRIST IS HEAD.** We believe that there is one supreme authority for the church – the Living Lord Jesus Christ. The church leadership, gifts, order, discipline and worship are all appointed through His sovereignty as found in the Scriptures. (Col. 1:18)
5. **BODY AND BRIDE.** The church is called the Body of Christ in that Christ, as Head, directs the church, and the body is made of many parts. The church is also called the Bride of Christ, and Jesus is the

Bridegroom, and the church lovingly submits to His leadership. (Ephesians 5:23-24; 1 Corinthians 12:12-31)

6. **FIVE-FOLD MINISTRY.** We believe that the Biblically designated officers serving under Christ and over the assembly are Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Pastors, Teachers and Deacons, all of whom must meet Biblical qualifications. We believe that God gives his church these ministries to help equip believers for works of service. Miraculous gifts of divine healing, revelation and ministry gifts are given to equip and edify believers. (Ephesians 4:11-16; 1 Corinthians 12:7-12)
7. **CHURCH AUTHORITY.** We believe that these leaders lead or rule as servants of Christ and have His authority in directing the church. The congregation is to submit to their leadership. (1 Timothy 5:17; 1 Thessalonians 5:12)
8. **GODLY STANDARDS.** We believe in the importance of discipleship, mutual accountability of all believers to God's Word and to each other. We believe that the leadership of the church should conduct themselves according to God's word. We also believe in the need for discipline for sinning members of the congregation according to the standards of God's Word. (Titus 1:5-9; 1 Timothy 3:1-7; 1 Timothy 1:20; 1 Corinthians 5:1-8; Revelation 2:20-23)
9. **LOCAL AUTONOMY.** We believe in the autonomy of the local church, free from any unbiblical external authority or control, with the right of self-government. However, church leaders should be accountable in submission to Godly authority. (Revelation 2-3)
10. **COOPERATION.** We believe that it is scriptural for true churches, who agree on the essentials of the Christian faith, to cooperate with each other for the presentation and propagation of the faith. (Philippians 4:15-17)
11. **SPIRITUAL GIFTS.** We believe that God gives unique spiritual gifts to every member of the church by the Holy Spirit for the building up of other believers and for their encouragement and to bring the lost to Christ. (Ephesians 4:11-16; Corinthians 12:7-12)

12. **MAKING DISCIPLES.** We believe that the purpose of the church is to glorify God by building itself up in the faith, by instruction in God's Word, by fellowship, by obedience, and by advancing and communicating the gospel to the whole world. (Mark 16:15-18; Matthew 28:18-20)
13. **SERVICE IN CHURCH & COMMUNITY.** We believe that all the saints are called to the work of serving others in the church and outside the church following Christ's example. (Matthew 25:31-46)
14. **A BEACON IN THE DARKNESS.** We believe that God's plan is to demonstrate His "manifold wisdom" through the church to everyone in society. That people will see Christ walking among the churches and be drawn to Him. (Ephesians 3:8-11; Revelation 2:1)
15. **TWO ORDINANCES.** We believe that there are 2 ordinances that are given in the church: Baptism and the Lord's Supper.
16. **BAPTISM – SYMBOL OF OUR UNION WITH CHRIST.** Baptism by immersion is a solemn and beautiful testimony of a believer showing their faith in the crucified, buried and risen Savior, and their union with Him in death to sin and resurrection to a new life. It is also a sign of fellowship and identification with the visible Body of Christ. (Romans 6:3-4; Colossians 2:11-12)
17. **BAPTISM ONLY FOR BELIEVERS.** Baptism is for those who have put their faith in Christ. It follows conversion experience, and is not valid if it precedes it. If people have been baptized as a baby, then following conversion, they should be baptized in true faith in Christ. (Acts 8:34-40)
18. **THE LORD'S SUPPER.** The Lord's Supper is a commemoration and proclamation of the death of Jesus until He comes again, and should be taken very seriously. People should examine themselves before partaking of it. As a believer partakes of the Lord's Supper, the risen Christ is actually having communion and fellowshiping with his people. (1 Corinthians 11:23-30)

Lesson 10. Angels, Satan & Demons

“Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne, the living creatures, and the elders; and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands, saying with a loud voice: “Worthy is the Lamb who was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom, And strength and honor and glory and blessing!” **Revelation 5:11-12 (NKJV)**

Angels

1. **ANGELS ARE A HIGHER CREATION OF GOD THAN HUMANS.** We believe that angels are created beings and are therefore not to be worshiped. Although they are a higher order of creation than humans, they are created to serve God and worship Him. However, Christ came to redeem humans from sin, not angels. (Hebrews 2:9, 16; Revelation 22:8-9)
2. **ANGELS MINISTER TO SAINTS.** We believe that angels also minister to the saints (angels in wilderness – Matthew 4:11, Gethsemane – Luke 22:43), can deliver them from trials and protect them (Psalm 91:11; Acts 12:5-11), can be entertained as strangers without us knowing it (Hebrews 13:2). There is evidence in the Bible that each believer may have an angel that is assigned to them (Acts 12:15). Children also have angels that look after them. (Matthew 18:10) We believe that each time a sinner repents, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels - a heavenly party! (Luke 15:8-10)
3. **FOUR DIFFERENT TYPES.** There are 3 types of angels described in the Bible:
 1. **Cherubim** (mighty warring angels – in garden of Eden – Gen. 3:24).
 2. **Seraphim** (“burning ones” – 6 winged angels that worship God – Isaiah 6:2-3).
 3. **Archangels** (Michael). A very powerful angel. Michael watches over the nation of Israel. (Daniel 12:1) Gabriel is another powerful angel (not an archangel) who brought news of Jesus’ birth to Mary the mother of Jesus.
 4. As well, there are the “**Living Creatures**” in heaven, about which little is known. (Revelation 4:6-11)
4. **ANGELS TOTALLY WORSHIPFUL AND OBEDIENT.** All the angels worship God and obey Him immediately. They do not have a sinful nature, except Satan and his angels who were cast out. (Psalm 103:20)
5. **PRAYER CAN CAUSE ANGELS TO BE DISPATCHED.** Angels are very powerful and able to conquer the powers of evil. Through prayer, God can release angels to do His bidding, who will overcome the powers of darkness. (Daniel 10:1-14; Revelation 20:1-3)

Satan & His Angels

6. **SATAN’S ORIGIN AND DEMISE.** Satan was an anointed guardian cherub (Ezekiel 28:11-19) who involved in worship to God in heaven. By being puffed up with pride, he

wanted to take worship for himself. God judged him for his pride and cast him out of heaven to the earth. When he fell from his place, he took 1/3 of the angels with him in rebellion against God. (Revelation 12:3-4; Luke 10:18; John 17:5; 2 Peter 2:4)

7. **SATAN GIVEN AUTHORITY TO GOVERN THE EARTH.** After this, Satan tempted Eve to also rebel against God in disobedience in the Garden of Eden. When Adam and Eve followed Satan in his rebellion against God, sin came into the world and into the nature of humanity. God gave humans dominion over creation, but at that point, it was transferred to Satan. (Romans 5:12; Luke 4:6; Ephesians 2:2)
8. **SATAN'S PLAN.** Satan has been constantly working to turn the hearts of humans against God by using religions, wars, governments, media, and other influences of evil. His main tactic is deception. He is called an "Angel of Light" (2 Corinthians 11:14) who masquerades as a "good" power, when really it is full of darkness and death. He can even indwell people to do his wicked work (John 13:27; Acts 5:3) As believers, we have 3 enemies: the flesh, the world and the devil. We can overcome the flesh by the power of the Holy Spirit and through daily choosing obedience to God. We can overcome the world through our faith in Jesus Christ, and by avoiding worldliness. Therefore, we must separate ourselves from ungodly music, movies (containing swearing - taking God's name in vain especially), books, occult and demonic symbols. (2 Corinthians 4:3-4, 6:14-18; Psalm 101:3)
9. **GOD'S ULTIMATE PLAN OF REDEMPTION.** In the Garden of Eden, Satan was cursed by God, and a Deliverer was promised who would crush the head of Satan. From that time until now, Satan is reigning on earth as the god of this world, blinding the minds of humans and inciting their rebellion against God. (Genesis 3:14-15; 2 Corinthians 4:4)
10. **SATAN'S ASSISTANTS.** Satan works together with his fallen angels (Principalities, powers, demons and forces of evil in the spiritual realm) in order to oppose God and to slander the Lord Jesus Christ, and turn people against God. Demons are able to possess people and to influence their behavior. They can also oppress Christians, but not possess them. The plan of Satan is to aid people's rebellion against God. Since he is not able to completely turn Christians away from God, his plan is to stop them from being strong in their faith and from knowing their authority in Christ and overcoming him. (1 Peter 5:8-9)
11. **JESUS CRUSHED SATAN'S HEAD.** At the cross, Jesus Christ totally defeated Satan, stripping him of his power and authority. (Colossians 2:14-15) Although Satan still has power, it is completely overcome by the Lord Jesus Christ, by believers over their own lives, and by believers who exercise the authority of Jesus over Satan. He is a formidable yet defeated foe. (Genesis 3:15; John 12:31; James 4:7; Ephesians 6:11; Luke 10:18-20; Romans 16:20)
12. **SATAN'S FUTURE.** Satan and his angels will never repent of their rebellion against God and God's people. They will be judged one day and be cast into the lake of fire and be tormented forever. (Revelation 20:7-10) Jesus' triumph over Satan will be complete. (Revelation 11:15) As glorified believers, we will judge the fallen angels and personally witness Satan's complete defeat and judgment that wonderful day! (1 Corinthians 6:3) Praise God!

Lesson 11. Death, Rapture & Tribulation

“For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive *and* remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words.”

1 Thessalonians 4:15-18 (NKJV)

The Death of Believers vs. Unbelievers

1. **DEATH FOR BELIEVERS.** We believe that when we die, we are still conscious, but our spirit/soul and body separate. As believers, our soul and spirit passes immediately into joyful fellowship with Jesus Christ. At that point, we will be completely freed from sin’s presence. (2 Corinthians 5:8; Luke 23:43)
2. **AWAITING RAPTURE.** The separation of our spirit/soul and body will continue until the rapture, when our bodies will be resurrected and then our spirit/soul and body will be reunited and be glorified forever with our Lord. (2 Corinthians 4:14; John 6:39)
3. **RAPTURE OF BELIEVERS.** Believers who have died will be resurrected first and meet the Lord in the air, then believers who are alive at that time will be raised up and also meet the Lord in the air. We will then have a glorified body like the one Jesus was raised with. Our spirit/soul and body will be reunited. (1 Corinthians 15:50-54; 1 Corinthians 15:35-44; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-17)
4. **DEATH FOR SINNERS.** We believe that the souls (whose spirits are dead in sin) of the unsaved at death are kept under punishment, conscious of their condemnation, until the second resurrection, when the soul and resurrection body will be united. (John 5:28-29; Revelation 20:13-15)

5. **RESURRECTION.** We believe in the bodily resurrection of all people: The saved to eternal life, and the unsaved to judgment and everlasting punishment. (Daniel 12:2-3; John 5:28-29)
6. **JUDGMENT OF SINNERS.** We believe that the unsaved will ultimately appear at the Great White Throne Judgment, be judged according to their works, and be cast into hell, the lake of fire, cut off from God forever. (Revelation 20:13-15)

The Rapture of the Church

7. **JESUS COMING IN THE CLOUDS.** We believe in the personal, bodily return of our Lord Jesus Christ in the air to take His church away from the earth. The rapture is the believer's blessed hope. (1 Thessalonians 4:13-17; Matthew 24:27-31; Titus 2:13)
8. **JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST.** Following the rapture, believers will then stand before the judgment seat of Christ to be judged according to their works in Christ. The work of believers will be tested by fire, and those who have served Jesus Christ faithfully will receive great rewards. (2 Corinthians 5:10; 1 Corinthians 3:9-15)

The Tribulation Period

9. **GREAT TRIBULATION.** We believe that immediately following the removal of the church from the earth, the righteous judgments and wrath of God will be poured out upon an unbelieving world, called the "tribulation period". Believers have many different views on the tribulation. (Matthew 24:15-28; Rev. 6:14-17; Rev. 14:9-11)
10. **THE ANTICHRIST.** During this period, the Antichrist will emerge to offer false hope to the nations, and many will follow him as the "peacemaker" for the earth. He will set Himself up as god, and will be connected to a global system. (2 Thessalonians 2:1-4; Daniel 7:17-27)
11. **THE SECOND COMING.** The tribulation period will be climaxed by the return of Christ in glory to the earth. Every person shall see him on that day. (Matthew 24:29-34)

Lesson 12. The Second Coming, Judgment & Eternity

“Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is *the Book of Life*. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books. The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works”

Revelation 20:11-13 (NKJV)

The Second Coming and the Millennial Reign

1. **SECOND COMING.** The return of Christ to earth in power and great glory will conclude the great tribulation period with the victory at Armageddon, the defeat of the Antichrist, and the binding of Satan for 1000 years (millennium).
2. **THE MILLENNIUM.** The Lord Jesus Christ will introduce the millennial age, where Satan is bound for a thousand years, restoring Israel to her own land, break the curse which now rests upon the whole creation, and bring the whole world to the knowledge of God. During this time the resurrected saints will reign with Him over Israel and all the nations of the earth. (Believers have many different views on the millennium.) (Revelation 20:1-6; Ezekiel 37:21-28; Romans 11:25-29)
3. **MILLENNIAL PERIOD.** We believe that this time of our Lord’s reign will be characterized by harmony, justice, peace, righteousness, long life, and will be brought to an end with the release of Satan.

Judgment of the Lost

4. **RELEASE OF SATAN.** We believe that following the release of Satan after the thousand year reign of Christ, Satan will deceive the nations of the earth and gather them to battle against the saints and the beloved city, at which time Satan and his army will be devoured by fire from heaven. Satan will be cast into the lake of fire and be tormented forever. (Revelation 20:7-10)

5. **GREAT WHITE THRONE JUDGMENT.** Then our Lord Jesus Christ, who is the Judge of all men, will resurrect and judge the great and small at the Great White Throne judgment. (Matthew 25:31-32)
6. **ETERNAL JUDGMENT.** We believe that this resurrection of the unsaved dead to judgment will be a physical resurrection, whereupon receiving their judgment (if their names are not written in the Lamb's book of life), they will be committed to an eternal conscious punishment in the lake of fire. (Revelation 20:13-15; Matthew 25:41; Jude 1:7)

Eternity

7. **THE NEW HEAVEN & NEW EARTH.** We believe that after the closing of the Millennium, the temporary release, defeat and punishment of Satan, and the judgment of unbelievers, the saved will enter the eternal state of glory with God. After this time, the elements of this earth are to be dissolved and replaced with a new heaven and a new earth wherein only righteousness dwells. (2 Peter 3:7,12-13; Revelation 21:1)
8. **THE NEW JERUSALEM.** Following this, the heavenly city will come down out of heaven and will be the dwelling place of the saints, where they will enjoy fellowship with God and one another forever. Saints of all time will be there, Abraham, Moses, Elijah, Paul, Peter, you, me and believers to come in the future. Millions and millions of believers will be there. We will never die. (Luke 20:36; Rev. 21:9-27)
9. **THE BEGINNING OF ETERNITY.** Our Lord Jesus Christ, having fulfilled His redemptive mission, will then deliver up the kingdom to God the Father that in all spheres the Triune God may reign forever and ever. (1 Corinthians 15:28)

Alphabet Memory Verses

A

As for me and my house we will serve the Lord. Joshua 24:15

B

Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved. Acts 16:31

C

Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Matthew 11:28

D

Delight yourself in the Lord and He will give you the desires of your heart. Psalm 37:4

E

Everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved. Joel 2:32

F

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. John 3:16

G

God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God. 2 Corinthians 5:21

H

Honor your father and mother, so that you may live long in the land the Lord your God is giving you. Exodus 20:12

I

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

J

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these. Matthew 19:14

K

Know that the Lord is God! It is he that made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pastures. Psalm 100:3

L

Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the Author and Perfecter of our faith. Heb.12:2

M

Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God. Matthew 4:4

N

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us. Ephesians 3:20

O

O give thanks to the Lord: for He is good; His love endures forever.
Psalm 118:1

P

Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. Ephesians 6:11

Q

Quench not the Spirit. 1 Thessalonians 5:19

R

Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a disgrace to any people.
Proverbs 14:34

S

Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you. Matthew 6:33

T

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! 2 Corinthians 5:17

U

Unto thee, O LORD, do I lift up my soul. Psalm 25:1

V

Verily, verily I say unto you, He that believeth on me has everlasting life.
John 6:47

W

What shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Mark 8:36

X

eXcept a man be born again, he cannot see the Kingdom of God. John 3:36

Y

You are the light of the world. Matthew 5:14

Z

Zacchaeus, hurry and come down, for today I must come to your house.
Luke 19:5