



FUSION Fellowship
of EDMONTON

Discipleship 101

<i>Assurance of Salvation</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Your Identity in Christ.....</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>The Spirit-Filled Life.....</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>Worship.....</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>Prayer.....</i>	<i>13</i>
<i>The Bible.....</i>	<i>16</i>

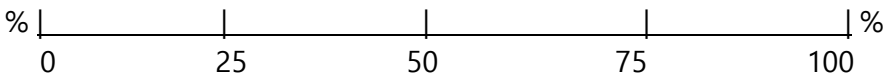
ASSURANCE OF SALVATION

The Good News

The good news about Jesus Christ is the greatest message ever. It is powerful and profound and yet quite simple. The message is that humankind was created by God in order to live in personal relationship with God. This close personal relationship has been interrupted by our sin, which is disobedience. All have sinned and are thus separated from God who is perfect, powerful, and holy. However, God in His wisdom and love for us bridged the gap of separation and made a way for all to come back to Him. This was done through the life and death of the one and only Son of God's inheritance, Jesus Christ. Jesus lived a blameless life, died to take the blame and penalty of sin for all who would believe in Him, and conquered death by rising from the grave. By faith, people come to God **through** Jesus Christ, receiving both the forgiveness of their sin and the promise of an eternal life in heaven.

How Certain are You?

How certain are you that if you were to die today that you would spend eternity in heaven? Mark the scale below:



3 Steps to Salvation.

If you have:

- A) Repented from your sin,
- B) Asked for forgiveness,
- C) Received Jesus Christ,

... you can have the complete assurance of your salvation.

Let's look at these three steps:

A) Repentance means not only an admission of our sin but a **wilful** turning away from it.

Read Acts 20:21.

Is repentance optional? _____

Repentance is turning from sin to _____?

Read Luke 18:9-14.

The tax collector admitted being a sinner.

Do you think that he showed repentance? _____

Have you by a decision of your will sincerely repented? _____

B) Asking for forgiveness of your sin follows repentance.

Read Matthew 9:1-8.

Who has authority on earth to forgive sin? _____

Have you come to Jesus for the forgiveness of your sins? _____

Jesus accepts **all** who come to Him in repentance and faith.

He said in John 6:37: "Whoever comes to me, I will never drive away." "Whoever" includes you.

C) In Ephesians 3:17, Paul writes "...so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith". The third step in salvation is to actually invite Jesus to come into your life.

Read John 1:10-13.

How does one become a child of God?

Being born of God: This is a spiritual birth (See John 3:5-8).

If you have repented from your sin, asked for forgiveness, and received Jesus Christ, you are a child of God, and you have eternal life. Read Romans 6:23, and Ephesians 2:8,9. The biblical sign that you identify with Jesus as a believer and a follower is water baptism. If you have not been baptised in water, make arrangements with your church to do so.

A Three-fold Confirmation

We should not base the assurance of our salvation on our feelings. Feelings can be subjective, and they fluctuate. We are saved by faith. Our faith is totally based on God's faithfulness. "Faith is just believing, what God said, He will do." Our faith is in God and His promises. His promises are sure and form the basis for the assurance of our salvation. A precept of the Christian life is to "walk by faith and not by sight" (2 Corinthians 5:7). However, God gives us a three-fold confirmation that Christ is in our lives:

God's Promise + Confirming Holy Spirit + Changed Life = Assurance

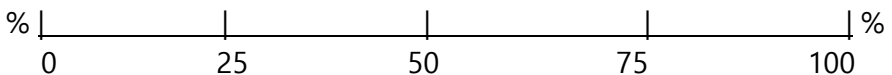
First, we have an external evidence of the Bible. Assurance is based on the authority of God's word. When you meet God's conditions as revealed in His word you can be assured that you are a child of God. Read 1 John 5:9-13.

Second, there is an internal witness of the Holy Spirit. Paul writes in Romans 8:16 "The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children".

Third, our changed lives are a witness to the fact that we are Christians. The proof that we have experienced a new birth and have become children of God will be demonstrated in our changed lives. Read Galatians 5:22,23.

Conclusion

God wants you to know **for sure** that you are his child, both now and in the future. After reviewing this lesson and where you stand with God in relation to his promises and conditions, mark the scale of the assurance of your salvation once more:



YOUR IDENTITY IN CHRIST

The Five Great Questions of Life

Ravi Zacharias has identified five great questions of life:

Origin: Where did we come from?

Meaning: Why are we here?

Morality: Who determines right and wrong?

Identity: Who am I?

Final Destiny: Is there life after death?

Let's explore the question of Identity

Jesus' Identity

Read Matthew 16:13-17

What were some of the things people were saying about the identity of Jesus? _____

Do you think Jesus knew who he was? _____

Why is the answer to this question important? _____

Where did Peter get his information regarding the identity of Jesus?

The Importance of Identity

Read Genesis 1:27, 1 John 3:1 and 2 Corinthians 5:17

Why is it important to know who you are? _____

Read Matthew 4:1-11

How did the devil try to attack Jesus' identity? _____

How did Jesus respond? _____

What are some of the lies the enemy wants to tell people?

What are some of the things that you have believed about yourself that have come from the enemy? _____

The Source of Identity

Read 1 John 3:1, John 1:12 and 1 Peter 2:9

What revelation do you gain about the source of your identity as you meditate on these scriptures?

Using Neil Anderson’s “Who I am in Christ” (next page), identify the three most important aspects regarding your identity in Christ.

- 1. _____
- 2. _____
- 3. _____

Embracing Your Identity in Christ

Read 2 Corinthians 5:17, Romans 8:37-39 and Ephesians 2:10

How do these truths affect your identity?

What would it mean for you to let go of the old and walk in the newness of your identity?

Who I Am In Christ

I Am Accepted in Christ

John 1:12	I am God's child
John 15:15	I am Christ's friend
Romans 5:1	I have been justified
I Corinthians 6:17	I am united with the Lord and one with Him in spirit
I Corinthians 6:20	I have been bought with a price, I belong to God
I Corinthians 12:27	I am a member of Christ's Body
Ephesians 1:1	I am a saint
Ephesians 1:5	I have been adopted as God's child
Colossians 1:14	I have been redeemed and forgiven of all my sins
Colossians 2:10	I am complete in Christ

I Am Secure in Christ

Romans 8:1,2	I am free forever from condemnation
Romans 8:28	I am assured that all things work together for good
Romans 8:33,34	I am free from any condemning charges against me
Romans 8:35	I cannot be separated from the love of God
2 Corinthians 1:21	I have been established, anointed and sealed by God
Colossians 3:3	I am hidden with Christ in God
Philippians 1:6	I am confident that the good work God has begun in me will be perfected
Philippians 3:20	I am a citizen of heaven
2 Timothy 1:7	I have not been given a spirit of fear, but of power, love and a sound mind
Hebrews 4:16	I can find grace and mercy in time of need
I John 5:18	I am born of God and the evil one cannot touch me

I Am Significant in Christ

Matthew 5:13, 14	I am the salt and light of the earth
John 15:1,5	I am a branch of the true vine, a channel of His life
John 15:16	I have been chosen and appointed to bear fruit
Acts 1:8	I am a personal witness of Christ's
I Corinthians 3:16	I am God's temple
2 Corinthians 5:17-20	I am a minister of reconciliation
2 Corinthians 6:1	I am God's coworker
Ephesians 2:6	I am seated with Christ in the heavenly realm
Ephesians 2:10	I am God's workmanship
Ephesians 3:12	I may approach God with freedom and confidence
Philippians 4:13	I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me

Taken from *Living Free in Christ*, by Neil Anderson, © 1993, Regal Books

THE SPIRIT-FILLED LIFE

Introduction

The Holy Spirit is none other than the active and creative Spirit of God Himself (Genesis 1:2), whereby the universe came into being and through whom God intervenes in the affairs of the earth.

While Jesus was a person who had the Holy Spirit without measure, the Holy Spirit works in some measure in the lives of everyone on the earth. The Holy Spirit is at work in non-Christians convicting them of sin and truth (John 6:18) and making them ready for the gospel message (John 4:35). Once the gospel message is heard and believed, the Holy Spirit brings to life a new Spirit by which the believer can intimately relate with God.

This bringing to life is described by Jesus as a spiritual birth (John 3:5-8), in which the Spirit of God is born in a believer's life (1 Corinthians 6:19; 2 Corinthians 1:22; Ephesians 2:22). The believer actually becomes a participant in God's divine nature (2 Peter 1:4) and has the treasure of God's Spirit in his or her mortal body (2 Corinthians 4:7).

The Holy Spirit brings new life to those who believe and trust in Jesus. The work of the Holy Spirit does not stop there however. He not only wants to bring new life, but He wants to bring power to the believer so that the Christian can live a life of holiness and effective service. To live this kind of life one must not only be born again by the Spirit of God, but also filled with and controlled by the Spirit.

Read Acts 19:1,2

What did Paul ask the disciples? _____

What was their response? _____

What happened next? _____

Read Ephesians 5:18.

What is Paul's command to the believers? _____

The Purpose of the Spirit-filled Life

The purpose of the filling of the Holy Spirit is not to give the believer a titillating experience, but rather to equip the believer for works of service to the church and to the world.

Read Acts 1:8

For what purpose were the disciples to receive power? _____

According to 1 Corinthians 12:7, why is the Holy Spirit given?

How To Be Filled With The Holy Spirit

A.W. Tozer, in his book "How to be Filled With The Holy Spirit", cites four pre-requisites for being filled with the Holy Spirit:

1. Present yourself to God

Read Romans 12:1

What are you to offer to God?

"God cannot fill what He cannot have."

Which of the following three frames best represents your life? (used with permission Power to Change)



Christ not in your life throne



Christ in life / Self on throne



Christ in life & on

Are you willing to give all of yourself to God? _____

2. Obey

Read Acts 5:32

Who does God give the Holy Spirit to? _____
God will give you the power to do what He tells you to do if you will do it.

3. Have faith

Read Galatians 3:2,5

Who does God give the Holy Spirit to? _____
Just as Jesus came into your life in response to faith, so too will God give the Holy Spirit.

4. Ask

James 4:2 says "You have not, because you ask not."

Read Luke 11:9-13

Is it appropriate to ask for the Holy Spirit? _____

Is God willing to give when we ask? _____

A definitive sign in the New Testament of the initial filling of the Holy Spirit was the release of the gifts of tongues and of prophecy (see Acts 2:4; Acts 10:44-46; Acts 19:6. See also Luke 1:41ff)

John 7:38-39 "Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow out of their innermost being." By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive.

Ask God to fill you with His Spirit-

Heavenly Father, I know that I cannot live a holy and effective Christian life without the power of your Spirit. I give myself to you to fill me with the presence and power of Jesus through your Spirit. I receive your gift so that I can serve, live and love in your strength and not mine. Baptize me with your Spirit now and let rivers of living water flow out of my innermost being.

WORSHIP

Introduction

Do you ever wonder what we will be doing in heaven? Although we don't know, and literally can't imagine, all that will take place in the life after this life, there are a few things we do know. We know that we will be with God (Revelation 21:3); we know that we will be like Jesus (1 John 3:2 & 1 Corinthians 15:52); and we know that we will worship.

There is not a whole lot that we know about what we will be doing, but we do know that we will worship. In fact, if we can gain any knowledge from biblical references about our activity in heaven, it appears that our #1 priority will be to worship God.

In Revelation 5:11-14, John the Apostle gets a glimpse into what heaven will be like.

Who is there? _____

What is happening? _____

Worship is not only a heavenly activity, but it is the highest calling for all those on earth. This is so because:

God is Worthy.

He is the All-Powerful, All-Knowing, Righteous, Benevolent, Creator and Sustainer of all things.

It is a Natural Instinct.

People everywhere have and instinctive knowledge that God exists and is to be worshipped. **All** cultures have some type of worshipping communities.

God Intends for us to Worship.

Read Isaiah 43:7

For what reason were we created? _____

Read John 4:23

What is God's intention for you personally? _____

Worshipping in Spirit and in Truth

What does it mean to worship God in spirit and in truth?

"Worship": Literally means "to bow down".

What did the Magi do in Matthew 2:11? _____

To worship is to pay homage to God, as God, in one form or another.

"In Spirit": This means to worship God by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. Philippians 3:3 says "We... worship by the Spirit of God".

"In Truth": Means to understand what is real and true about God. To worship God as he really is and not a false image of God. To worship God in the name and knowledge of Jesus is the means of worshipping God in truth. "In truth" could also mean to worship God in sincerity.

The Practice of Worship

Since God seeks us to worship Him we should make it a practice.

Worship can be:

1) PUBLIC OR PRIVATE

Private: Just you and the Lord (Matt. 6:6)

Small Group: An intimate group of two or three (Matt: 18:20)

Large Group: (or more) gathered to worship God (Rev. 7:9)

2) PLANNED OR SPONTANEOUS

- 3) DIRECTED TO JESUS AS WELL AS THE FATHER
The Father: John 4:23
Jesus: Luke 24:52

- 4) SPOKEN TO GOD (2ndPerson) OR SAID ABOUT GOD (3rdPerson)
See Psalm 145 for a beautiful example of this.

- 5) IN MANY FORMS
Singing, Speaking, Thinking, Shouting, Silence, Crying,
Laughing, Kneeling, Sitting, Standing, Lifting Hands, Dancing,
Jumping, With musical instruments (Psalm 150)

- 6) AT ANYTIME OR ANYPLACE

Conclusion

God is pleased when we make worship a practice. However, we must be careful not to let it become merely a practice or a formality. What lesson can we learn from Isaiah 29:13?

What is your spiritual act of worship according to Romans 12:1

Assignment

Do each of the following sometime this week:

- A) Sing to God: Use recorded music, videos, songbooks, memory of songs, the Psalms (songbook of the Bible), make up your own simple songs.
- B) Try a new body posture.
- C) Using the six "Attributes of God" found earlier in the lesson, speak praise to God in prayer concerning each one.
- D) Recite 1 Chronicles 29:10-13 out loud to the Lord.

PRAYER

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. Colossians 4:2

What Is Prayer?

St Theresa said, "Prayer is an aspiration of the heart, it is a simple glance directed to heaven, it is a cry of gratitude and love in the midst of trial as well as joy."

Prayer is communion and communication with God. What is the difference between talking with God, and talking to God?

Prayer is not only two-way communication. There is a third pattern of communication as well.

Three Patterns of Prayer Communication

1. The prayer of the human heart. Us → GOD

This kind of prayer emanates from the depths of the heart and is directed towards God.

Read 1 Samuel 1:10-15 & Mark 14:32-36

Find another example of this kind of prayer from the book of Psalms:

2. God's Initiation/Response to the Prayer God → Us

This pattern includes listening to, and receiving from, God.

What might God want to communicate to us as we pray?

What specific blessings might we receive as we pray, or because of prayer?

3. The Spirit Inspired Prayer GOD ↔ Us

Read Ephesians 6:18 & Romans 8:15, 26-27

What advantages are there to praying under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit? _____

Did Jesus Pray?

Prayer was a priority for Jesus. He often withdrew to places of prayer. He is our example. Jesus prayed alone: Mt 14:23; Mk 1:35; Lk 9:18; Lk 22:39-41. Jesus prayed in public: John 11:41-42; John 12:27-30. Jesus prayed before meals: Mt 26:26; Mk 8:6; Lk 24:30; John 6:11. Jesus prayed before important decisions: Lk 6:12-13. Jesus prayed before healing: Mk 7:34-35; and after healing: Lk 5:15-16. Jesus taught on the importance of prayer: Mk 11:25-26; John 15:7, 16; John 16:23-24; Mt 5:44. Jesus taught us to pray: Lk 11:2-4; Mt 6:5-15. Jesus prayed before and during his crucifixion: Mt 26:36-44; Lk 22:39-46, Mk 14:32-

42; Lk 23:34.

Does God Answer Prayer?

Read and Comment on

Matthew 7:7-11; Matthew 18:19; Mark 11:24; John 14:13-14; 1 John 5:14-15 _____

Corporate Prayer

The early church often met to pray together.

Read Matthew 18:19; Acts 1:14; Acts 2:42; Acts 4:24-31; Acts 12:5.

What are some of the reason why the church to gathers to pray together? _____

Your Practice of Prayer

On the average how much time do you devote each day to prayer?

How would you rate the quality of your prayer time?

How often do you get together with other Christians to pray?

What would you say is your greatest hindrance to prayer?

What could you do to improve the quantity and/or quality of your prayer time? _____

A pattern for prayer can be remembered by using this acrostic:

Adoration: *Start with praise and worship (Psalm 100:4)*

Confession: *Let God search your heart (Psalm 139:23-24)*

Thanksgiving: *Give thanks in all circumstances (1 Thess 5:18)*

Supplication: *Find help in your time of need (Hebrews 4:16)*

Try using this pattern every day this week.

The Bible

Introduction

The Bible is a most unique book. It is a divinely harmonious collection of various writings (history, biography, law, songs, poetry, prophecy, correspondence and more), written by over 40 authors, over a period of about 1400 years. It is the most widely distributed book in history and continues to be the world's best seller yearly. The text of both the Old and New Testaments have been remarkably preserved, so much so that the Scriptures are more verifiable as to its original text than are the works of Shakespeare. The Bible is God's written record of His revelation to men and women. It is the standard by which all teaching is to be measured and is the true guide for life and conduct. It is scripture that testifies of and foretells the life and ministry of Jesus Christ (in the Old Testament) and records His life and teachings (in the New Testament).

The Purpose of Scripture

The Bible itself talks about the purpose of scripture. What do the following verses say about the purpose and nature of scripture?

2 Timothy 3:15-17 _____

John 5:39 _____

Joshua 1:8 _____

How to Study the Bible

Obviously, to attain Christian spiritual growth, Bible study is a necessary and profitable undertaking. There are different methods of study (i.e. reading, meditating, memorizing, book study, chapter study, character study, topical study, etc...) that suit different purposes and personalities.

For a well-rounded Bible study, three things should happen:

Observation. In your initial encounter with a passage of scripture you'll want to see what it has to say. Let the passage "speak" to you. Be open to "hearing" anything that the Lord might want to convey to you through the scripture. One way to get the verses to speak to you is to ask questions of it. Questions like who, what, when, where, why, and how are helpful. Also, asking such things as "what is this passage saying about God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, salvation, faith, sin, etc..." can provide meaningful insight into scripture. Be willing to jot down your thoughts on paper, noting your insights, observations, and questions. Letting the scriptures speak to you without the aid of outside resources is called inductive Bible study. Practice it often.

Read John 4:4-26, writing down any thoughts or questions that come to mind.

Interpretation. The art of determining the intended meaning by the author of the verses that you are studying is called exegesis. In Bible study, we want to be able to correctly interpret what the passage meant to those for whom it was originally intended, and also what it means for us today. To understand all that the Lord wants us to know about the Bible will take Holy Spirit insight, as well as diligent study.

Write out 2 Timothy 2:15: _____

In Acts 17:11, what did the Bereans do with the scriptures?

Why? _____

Tools for Interpretation

Context & Cross-References. The best interpreter of the Bible is itself. Don't take a verse out of context. See it in the light of its immediate context as well as what the rest of the Bible has to say about the subject. Cross-references (other verses that speak on the same subject) are available in many Bibles .

Word Studies. One good way to know what a word or a phrase means is to find it in other places in the Bible, then compare. You'll need an Analytical Concordance for this work. If you learn to use one (it's easy) you will be using what is probably the best interpretive tool.

Reference Works. You can refer to an array of research and interpretation that others have already done. Commentaries, Bible Dictionaries, Bible Handbooks, various Translations, original language studies, and Bible Atlases can be very helpful. But always think for yourself before letting others do it for you.

Pick a word, phrase, verse, or section of John 4:4-26 and do some interpretive work using one of the tools outlined above.

Application. Whereas observation answers, "What does it say" and interpretation answers "What does it mean?", application answers "What does it mean for me?".

What is the correlation between John 13:17 and James 1:22-25?

Asking questions about a Bible passage can be helpful in making application, i.e. "Are there any commands to obey, promises to claim, errors to avoid, sins to confess etc...?". Also, memorizing Bible passages will help bring a scripture to mind in a crucial situation.

Make one application of John 4:4-26.

One Final Important Note

Always pray before you study your Bible and ask the Lord to guide and teach you by His Holy Spirit. Spiritual things are spiritually discerned (1 Corinthians 2:10-14).