

Footsteps for New Believers



Come follow me, Jesus

FOOTSTEPS FOR NEW BELIEVERS

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Welcome to the Kingdom of God!

This booklet is designed for people who want to begin that journey of friendship with God and following Jesus.

It is designed to take 10 minutes a day for 16 days. Five of those minutes would be in reading a chapter of the Gospel of Mark, available in the New Testament (Bible). The other five minutes is to be spent on the chapter of this booklet.

A small icon with the appropriate chapter of Mark is at the top left of each of the following chapters.

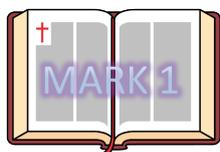
At the end of the booklet there is a Bible in a Year Plan as a next step in that journey of listening to Gods voice.

There is two sections to this booklet, The first is *Foundations* which is there to help you understand who God is, how His Kingdom works and who you are now that you have received Jesus and become born again (a Christian). The second is *Growth* which focuses on how to get to know Him and the first steps one should take in developing a lifestyle of knowing God.

All these teachings aside, I pray that you would KNOW GOD and encounter His power and love.

WHO IS GOD?

Foundations



OUR CREATOR

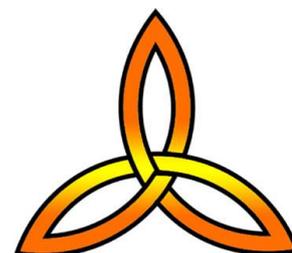
When we talk about God, we are speaking of Him who created the universe. He also made you and I. He exists outside of time, because He made time. There was nothing before God, nor can there be anything after God. He is all and He is in all¹.

Who is like God?

Throughout history God has revealed Himself to people and God has revealed more of His character. Also throughout history the Deceiver (Satan) has tried to imitate God and has fooled many. Jesus shows us that we can tell who someone is from, by their fruit².

THE TRIUNE GOD WHO IS ONE

To Adam and Eve God revealed Himself as the Creator but also as a *plural* God that is One. In the first few chapters of Genesis, God four times referred to Himself as **Us** or **Our**³. Today we understand that God is a triune being called the Trinity. **This means that He presents Himself as three characters, even though He is One God. These three are the Father, Son (Jesus Christ) and the Holy Spirit**⁴.



This subject is both controversial and hard to comprehend. The truth is that God presents Himself to humanity in a way that we can understand, though barely. To contemplate God should leave one slightly bewildered, amazed and awe-filled. Yet through his various names, God shows us His nature.

GOD ALMIGHTY - EL SHADDAI

To Abraham God revealed Himself as Almighty God.

I am Almighty God; walk before Me and be blameless GENESIS 17:1

Almighty God comes from the Hebrew word *El Shaddai* which means "all sufficient One". This reference to God is normally talking about His power and His might in being able to provide, nourish and sustain. God will look after you quite capably.

THE LORD - YAHWEH (YHWH)

To Moses God revealed Himself as YHWH or Yahweh⁵. Hebrew tradition is to not verbally say this name out, of a sense of utter respect. Instead they will verbally replace YHWH with *Adonai*, from which we get LORD or Master. Because YHWH is never spoken the translation is not really known, it may be Yahweh or Jehovah.

The name LORD is often used in conjunction with a particular area that is relevant for the context. Some of these names are; the LORD of the Armies, the LORD our Healer, the LORD who Sees and Provides, the LORD who is With Us, the LORD who is Peace, the Lord who Saves, etc.

ABBA FATHER

Through Jesus Christ, God became known to us as Abba Father⁶. The term Abba is the Jewish term that a small child would normally use for their Dad. The English equivalent would be Daddy, Dada,

Papa or just Dad. This simplifies all our theology and doctrine about the many names of God and brings Him close, make Him real and relatable. Jesus says that He is our perfect Father, and if you could imagine the best father, that father is still evil compared with Our Heavenly Dad⁷.

The Love of our Heavenly Dada is both the greatest mystery and the strongest force in the known universe. This great Love was demonstrated for us on the cross. The very extent our Heavenly Dad would go to so that you would know how much He cares for you.

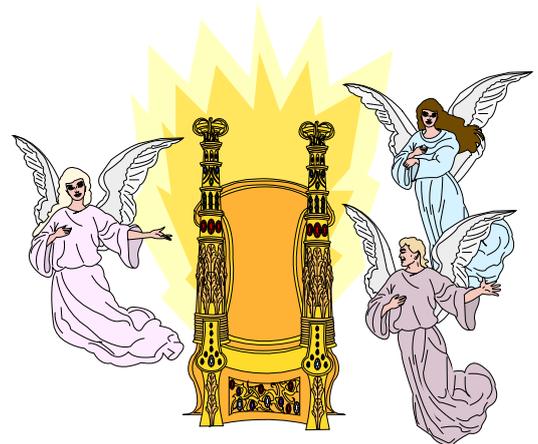
For God loved the world so much that He gave His one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life JOHN 3:16

ABBA'S LOVE

God is Love and we can only love God because He first loved us⁸. In order to be able to love others the way God wants us to and to be filled with all His fullness, we first need to experience and know His love in a deep and personal way that is beyond knowledge and words. For instance, I can read a book about someone famous and gain a knowledge about that person, but if I was to go stay in their house for a few years then I would get to *know* the person. In that same way, God wants us to know Him, not just have a knowledge about Him.

A GOOD FATHER

God is a good and perfect father. Good fathers will spend time with their children, teaching them and preparing them for the world, they will play with them, provide for them, protect them from harm and just do life with them, being with them through the journey of life. A good father will help them through the difficult times and correct them when they are on a destructive path. This is the same with our Heavenly Father, but even more so. He guides, teaches, protects, provides, corrects, blesses, completes, comforts, heals, saves, empowers and glorifies His children.



The main reason this grace rests on His children, isn't actually for the children but for those around them, because as He is so we are. The new commandment Jesus gave us was to love one another as He has loved us⁹.

A CLOSE FATHER

The way we will get to know God is like any earthly son/daughter relationship with their parent; as you spend time with one another this relationship is built.

Come close to God, and God will come close to you. Wash your hands, you sinners; purify your hearts, for your loyalty is divided between God and the world. JAMES 4:8

God desires intimacy with us and as we take time to bond with Him and fall in love with Him then it is in that place that real Life flows and all healing and blessings take place. It is like you get a taste of Heaven before you even get there.

God wants us to have a simple child-like love for Him, just as a baby might have for their Mama or Dada.

Prayer

Ask God to help your understanding with the concept of the Trinity and that you would know Him, not just have a knowledge about Him.

Activity

Sit and ask Abba Father to make Himself known to you. Then try the following breathing exercise for a time; breathe in saying "I love you Abba" and breathe out saying "I belong to you".

Pop Quiz

God is ...

- a) triune, that is three persons; Father, Son & Holy Spirit.
- b) three parts; Father, Son & Holy Spirit.
- c) actually three Gods; Father, Son & Holy Spirit.
- d) All of the above.

Through Jesus God revealed Himself as

- a) the Creator & Judge.
- b) the all-seeing, all-knowing, all-powerful God.
- c) Jehovah or Yahweh.
- d) Abba Father (Daddy God).

¹ ACTS 17:22-31

² MATTHEW 7:15-20

³ GENESIS 1:26 & 3:22

⁴ 1 JOHN 5:7

⁵ EXODUS 6:2-3

⁶ MARK 14:36 & MATTHEW 6:8

⁷ MATTHEW 7:7-11

⁸ 1 JOHN 4:16-19

⁹ JOHN 15:12

JESUS CHRIST - THE SON OF GOD

Foundations



JESUS IS THE SON OF GOD

Jesus is God's Son, therefore He existed before the foundations of the universe and time. The universe was made through Him. After some time, Jesus came to earth and was conceived by the Holy Spirit in the virgin Mary. Jesus is also known as the Word.

In the beginning was the Word, the Word was with God and the Word was God. God created everything through Him, and nothing was created except through Him... So the Word became human and made His home among us JOHN 1:1,3,14

SAVIOUR OF THE WORLD

The main reason Jesus came was to reveal God's love and power. **Jesus came to show us the Way and model being a son/daughter of God.** He taught us about God and His Kingdom. God's great love saves us from our sins, heals our sicknesses and diseases, and destroys the works of the evil one¹.

Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. 1 TIMOTHY 1:15b

DIED & ROSE AGAIN FOR SINNERS

Then after He had taught and demonstrated the Kingdom of God, *He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day He rose again* APOSTLES CREED 4&5

Forty days after He was resurrected He ascended into Heaven and now Jesus is seated at the right hand of the Father². Jesus Has now been given *the Name that is above every name* PHILLIPIANS 2:9-11



CAME TO EARTH AS A MAN TO SHOW US THE WAY

Jesus came to show us Gods true character and to model how God wants us to live. He was baptised when He didn't need to be as He never sinned, but He showed us the Way³. He received the Holy Spirit and then went about preaching the Good News of the Kingdom of Heaven, and demonstrating it by healing the sick, raising the dead and casting out demons; the demonstration of Gods great Love towards mankind. This is what Jesus wants you and me to do, to spread the Light in a dark world⁴.

WALKED IN AMAZING LOVE

Jesus love for people was amazing. **He stated that no man can show greater love than by laying down his life for another.** Jesus amazing love was summed up in one final act as He laid down His life for you and me. Jesus was merciful to sinners and He loved those whom society rejected like the tax collectors and prostitutes⁵.

Jesus showed that being great is serving others – He washed His disciples feet. He asks us to love even our enemies⁶. To demonstrate this love, He asked His Father to forgive those who were crucifying Him, *“as they know not what they do”* LUKE 23:34.

DEMONSTRATED GODS LOVE THROUGH GODS POWER



God confirmed the message Jesus was preaching with supernatural miracles, signs and wonders. Jesus healed all sicknesses and diseases in an act of compassion and love⁷.

God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him ACTS 10:38

Jesus could command winds and waves, walk on water and turn water into wine. He multiplied 5 loaves of bread and 2 fish into enough to feed 5000 men plus women and children⁸.

SHOWED US THE WAY

Jesus primary message was “Repent (change the way you think and ultimately act) and turn back to God for the Kingdom of Heaven is here” MATT 4:17. He taught in the churches as one who knew what He was talking about, which seemed like a new thing.

Jesus also spoke in parables (metaphorical stories) about the Kingdom of Heaven (MATT 13, 21, 25; MARK 4, 12, 13; LUKE 10, 12, 15, 16). These parables revealed truth about Heaven, the importance of one lost person, the Word of God, love and compassion, mercy and forgiveness, faithfulness, gratitude, words and faith, prayer and knowing God, obedience, deceitfulness of riches, wisdom and Hell.

WALKED IN WISDOM

Jesus had amazing supernatural wisdom and understanding/revelation because He had the Holy Spirit who is the Spirit of wisdom and revelation. When religious people tried to trick Him, He answered them with such wisdom that they were left speechless. Through the Holy Spirit He knew things about people that only they or those close to them would have known. He was also able to tell what people were thinking while they were in His presence⁹.

JESUS DID NOT LIKE RELIGION

Jesus never came to the earth to start a religion, man has done that. He came to the earth and payed our debt for sin so that we could enter into a relationship with Him and thus start eternal life whilst still on earth. *And this is life eternal, that they might know You the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom You have sent* JOHN 17:3

Religion is when tradition and ritual take place of genuine heart-felt love and faith upon which relationship is based. *Thus you nullify the word of God by your tradition that you have handed down. And you do many things like that* JOHN 7:13. He often rebuked the religious leaders because of their hypocrisy and legalistic view on God. They majored on minor things and neglected the important things, *but you ignore the more important aspects of the law--justice, mercy, and faith* MATT 23:23

JESUS DID ONLY HIS FATHERS WILL

Jesus did only what His Father wanted Him too. *So Jesus explained, “I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by himself. He does only what he sees the Father doing. Whatever the Father does, the Son also does* JOHN 5:19

Jesus was obedient to God unto the point of death, even such a humiliating death as crucifixion. In the Garden of Gethsemane the night before His death Jesus was praying to God asking God if there was any other way, but then He prayed and said *"Yet I want your will to be done, not mine."* LUKE 22:42

Prayer

Paul prays that we would know the grace (Gods favour) that comes through Jesus. Pray and ask God to know this favour and that it would be seen on you.

Activity

Tell someone what Jesus has done for you. Ask them if they want to know Him. If so pray with them for Jesus to become their God too.

Pop Quiz

Jesus was ...

- a) one of Gods sons.
- b) Gods begotten Son.
- c) conceived by Joseph, his earthly father.
- d) All of the above.

Jesus came because he wanted to ...

- a) Demonstrate Gods love.
- b) Build His Fathers Kingdom.
- c) Show us the way to live and love.
- d) All of the above.

¹ 1 JOHN 3:8b

² MARK 16:19

³ MATTHEW 3:15

⁴ MATT 5:14-16

⁵ JOHN 15:13; JOHN 8:1-11; MATT 21:31-32

⁶ JOHN 13:1-17; MATT 5:43-48

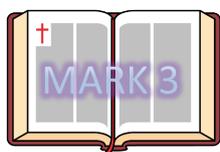
⁷ HEBREWS 2:4; MATT 4:23 & 8:16 & 14:13,36

⁸ MARK 4:35-41; MATT 14:14-35; JOHN 2:1-11

⁹ MATT 22; JOHN 4:18; LUKE 5:22

THE HOLY SPIRIT

Foundations



HS - GOD'S SALVATION GUARANTEE

The Holy Spirit is the third person of the Godhead Trinity. He is often associated with symbols such as fire, water, oil, wind, a dove etc. It is the Holy Spirit that we receive when we first believe that Jesus is the Son of God. **The Holy Spirit becomes our seal for Heaven; Gods personal guarantee that we are approved¹.**

HELPER

Jesus said that when He left He would send another Helper, this is the Holy Spirit². He becomes our personal assistant. He is the best PA one could ever hope for. He will tell you things that you don't even know (better than Siri) and things from the future you could not possibly know.

SPIRIT OF TRUTH

He will guide you and give you wisdom through any situation or for any decision. He often reveals things through visions, dreams, a still small voice, intuition (knowledge), our senses and many other ways.

When the Spirit of Truth comes, He will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on His own but will tell you what He has heard. He will tell you about the future. JOHN 16:13



COMFORTER

He will also comfort you when you are discouraged or give you strength when you are about to collapse or quit. Not just physical strength, but also mental and emotional.

FRIEND

Perhaps the most amazing bonus of having the Holy Spirit is that it is through Him that we experience the Love of God deep in our hearts³. It is through the Holy Spirit that we have fellowship/friendship with God. That friendship is built on a strong foundation of love that was first demonstrated on the cross. Another word for this friendship is communion. Communion is deeper than just friendship as it refers to union, or act of becoming one with. So through the Holy Spirit we are united with the Creator of the Universe, bonded by love through faith.

TEACHER

The Holy Spirit will teach us all things that we need for our journey with the Lord in life. The wisdom God will impart can help you better handle the journey because you are prepared. Jesus says the Words that He speaks are Spirit and they are life⁴.

LIFE GIVER

Another word for Spirit is breath. When Jesus rose from the dead He breathed on them to give them the Holy Spirit⁵. It was also by the Holy Spirit that Jesus resurrected the dead. Father God also used the Holy Spirit to resurrect Jesus. Now this same Spirit of Life lives in you and will heal you.

HEALER

It is by the Spirit of God that we are healed of sicknesses and diseases. *The Spirit of God, who raised Jesus from the dead, lives in you. And just as God raised Christ Jesus from the dead, He will give life to your mortal bodies by this same Spirit living within you.* ROMANS 8-11



DELIVERER

It is also by the Spirit of God, the Spirit of Truth, that we are set free from all lies and any evil spirits⁶. The devil is a liar, thief, destroyer and murderer.

CONSECRATOR

To be holy means to consecrate or be set apart. The Holy Spirit will set you apart from being common and make you special unto God. He will also purify us from all unrighteousness as He transforms us into the

image of Jesus. He will convict you that you are righteous and as you embrace surrender you will do the right thing.

CONVICTOR

Jesus says that the Holy Spirit convicts the world of sin because they do not believe in Him.

It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you. And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: of sin, because they do not believe in Me; of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more; of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged. JOHN 16:7-11

REVEALER

The Spirit of Wisdom and Revelation wants to show us who God really is and who you are in Him.

This is also referred to as spiritual wisdom and understanding, because He is now one with you. As that understanding comes, we will also actually start to understand who God made us to be, as His sons and daughters. And the greatness of His power in us⁷.

TRANSFORMER

It is by the Spirit that we are transformed into Jesus image. This happens as we abide in Him or behold Him. As we see Him we become more like Him⁸. We can see Him in scripture or when we go to Him in prayer, all by faith⁹.

GIFT & GIVER

The Holy Spirit is God's greatest gift to man, after Jesus. However the Holy Spirit also gives good gifts to those who ask. Paul lists some of these gifts as words of wisdom, words of knowledge, faith, healings, miracles, prophecy, discernment, tongues and interpretation¹⁰. These gifts are for our journey, but also to help others in their journey.

Prayer

Try communing with the Holy Spirit. Invite Him to come, and sit and be with Him. As you do this He will come and pour out Gods love. You will grow in wonder and fall deeper in love with Him.

Activity

In a conversation today, ask someone if they have ever had the Holy Spirit reveal the love of God to them. If they haven't, lay hands on them and pray for the Holy Spirit to come and show them how much God loves them.

Pop Quiz

Is the Holy Spirit?

- a) A Helper, Comforter, Guide.
- b) A Life Giver, Healer, Deliverer.
- c) A Revealer & Transformer.
- d) All of the above.

The Holy Spirit ...

- a) binds our spirit with the Creator.
- b) binds our spirit, mind and body together.
- c) binds our spirit with the spirit of this world.
- d) does none of the above.

The Holy Spirit will condemn you every time you do something wrong?

- a) True
- b) False



¹ 2 CORINTHIANS 1:22

² JOHN 14:15-21

³ ROMANS 5:5

⁴ JOHN 6:63

⁵ JOHN 20:22

⁶ MATTHEW 12:28; JOHN 8:32

⁷ EPEHSIANS 1:15-23

⁸ 2 CORINTHIANS 3:18

⁹ HEBREWS 12:6

¹⁰ 1 CORINTHIANS 12

THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN

Foundations



JESUS MESSAGE

The main message of Jesus was, "*repent for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand*" MATTHEW 4:17. Jesus was saying that if we change our thinking and turn back to God then He would give us His entire Kingdom. Imagine having access to all of Heaven while you were still alive.

Jesus died for a whole lot more than you going to Heaven when you die. He died so that you could access Heaven while you were still alive and then go there in its fullness. **Jesus said that eternal life is to know God.** He also said that the Kingdom of Heaven is within you, and if we open the door of our hearts to Him, then He will come and dine with us¹. As we dine with God we get to know Him. Knowing Him is tasting Heaven on earth.



Jesus said that He came to give life and life to its fullest. He also said that He is the Way, the Truth and the Life². Jesus is the way to true life. In building this relationship with Him you will access Life that is so full, it is literally Heaven on Earth. It is not necessarily any easier, just richer and more abundant.

JESUS IS ...

He is water to the thirsty, bread to the hungry and breath to those drowning. Without Him nothing would exist and through Him all things exist. He is light in a dark place and life to those who are dead. He is the beginning and the end. There was nothing before Him, nor will there be anything after Him. He is all in all³.

HEAVEN IS ...

The Kingdom of God is joy, peace and righteousness in the Holy Spirit⁴. As there is no sin in Heaven there is also no death, sickness, disease, famine, poverty or suffering. As Jesus preached the Kingdom of Heaven, He released it on the Earth. He said it was at hand (readily available) and then He laid hands on the sick and bought Heaven down to Earth as He healed them.

He raised the dead, fed the poor, defied natural laws (like walking on water) because although He was on the Earth, He lived under Heaven's rule. You and I have access to this same grace. In fact Jesus goes on and says that we will do even greater works than He did⁵.

With great authority comes great responsibility and accountability for stewarding what we have been given.

HOW DO WE ACCESS HEAVEN?

Faith - Jesus said *I can guarantee this truth: Unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven* MATTHEW 18:3. A small child does not try to reason and figure out

everything like adults do - they simply believe. Sometimes the reason we are not accessing Heaven is because we have too much doubt and unbelief.

Another way to access Heaven is to seek after it with all your heart and strength.

Since the days of John the Baptist, the kingdom of heaven has been advancing with force. And forceful people are taking hold of it. MATTHEW 11:12

So which is it? That is why it is called a relationship, not a recipe. I am different with my wife than I am with a friend. This is why it is important to take the time to get to know Him and to learn to follow Him.

WHAT ELSE IS HEAVEN?

Jesus taught us many things about Heaven which showed it operates totally differently to Earth. For instance in Heaven ...

- † The first are last and the last are first.
- † In order to receive we need to become generous.
- † God confounds the wise with foolish things.
- † To be great you must learn to serve.
- † Gods favours the humble.
- † One lost person is of more importance than ninety-nine who are not lost.

LIVE FOR ETERNITY

As Heaven starts to become our reality we will transition from building a life for ourselves here on Earth into **living for eternity**⁶. This means that our focus shifts from planning for the 70 or so years we get here to planning as if we live forever, because we do. And as we are perfected in love, we will also start to care about the eternal destinies of those around us.

The other type of Heavenly sense we should start to develop is our spiritual sight or discernment. As the supernatural realm of God is more real (in that it lasts forever) we should start to grow in sensitivity to the angels and demons that are all around us. Simultaneously growing in understanding about our authority and assignment whilst still here on the earth.

Prayer

Ask God to open your eyes to see and understand the Kingdom of Heaven. If Jesus died so we could access Heaven, then we need to know much more about it. Ask for this knowledge and understanding and the wisdom that is needed so you can apply it

Activity

Imagine what Heaven is like. Walk up to the Door (Jesus) and ask Him if you can come in and if He would show you around. There are many places in Heaven.

Pop Quiz

Heaven is

- a) a place on Earth.
- b) a place you go when you die if you were good.
- c) a place you can taste here on earth, but access in its fullness when you die if you follow Jesus.
- d) all of the above.

We should focus our lives on ...

- a) planning and building a good life while we are live.
- b) getting to know God and His Son Jesus.
- c) preparing for eternity whilst still alive.
- d) both b & c.

¹ JOHN 17:3; LUKE 17:21; REVELATIONS 3:20

² JOHN 10:10 & 14:6

³ JOHN 4:14 & 6:35; JOHN 1:1-13

⁴ ROMANS 14:17

⁵ JOHN 14:12

⁶ 2 CORINTHIANS 4:18

THE NEW YOU

Foundations



THE NEW CREATION

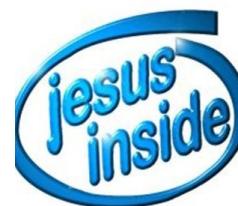
After you made a decision to follow Jesus you became a whole new person. We are going to lightly investigate who this new person is.

Anyone who believes in Christ is a new creation. The old is gone! The new has come! 2 CORINTHIANS 5:17

My old self has been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me. So I live in this earthly body by trusting in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. GALATIANS 2:20

BORN AGAIN - HIM IN YOU

Jesus says that we need to become *born again* to access heaven¹. **When we believe Jesus is the Son of God, and make Him our God then the Holy Spirit enters our spirit and it comes alive for the first time.** Because of sin our spirits were previously *dead* in that we were disconnected from the source of all life, God. Now that we are forgiven and connected to God, through His Spirit He will start to fill us with His Life, teach us things, speak to us, prepare us, make us holy, gift us supernaturally etc.



YOUR INHERITANCE

His Inheritance now becomes your inheritance, because you are in Him you become a co-heir.

For His Spirit joins with our spirit to affirm that we are God's children. And since we are His children, we are His heirs. In fact, together with Christ we are heirs of God's glory. But if we are to share His glory, we must also share His suffering ROMANS 8:16-17

SONS/DAUGHTERS

You are His beloved and adopted, treasured and precious. You received the Spirit of Adoption which means God took us as spiritual *orphans* and adopted us into His family. Now we can call our Heavenly Father, *Daddy*².

You didn't receive a spirit that makes you a slave to fear once again. Instead you received the Holy Spirit, who makes you God's child. By the Spirit's power we call God "Papa" ROMANS 8:15

FRIENDS

God also now calls us friends. This friendship we have with Him is the foundation of Christianity. One of the bonuses of having the Creator of the Universe as your friend is that He will tell you things you do not know and things that will happen in the future.

Call to Me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know JEREMIAH 33:3

I no longer call you slaves, because a master doesn't confide in His slaves. Now you are My friends, since I have told you everything the Father told Me JOHN 15:15



YOU ARE NOW FREE

Because you are now a heavenly being, you are no longer subject to earthly limitations. For instance, in Heaven there is no sickness, suffering, disease, famine, poverty etc. We have access to these same rights whilst on the earth. **God is able and willing to heal us in all the areas of our lives**; physically, spiritually, mentally, emotionally, financially, relationally and even addictions. Some healings are instantaneous while others take patience, but they ALL happen. The keys to healing are faith and persistence³.

So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed JOHN 8:36

And these signs will accompany those who believe: ...they will place their hands on sick people, and they will get well MARK 16:17-18

RIGHTEOUSNESS THROUGH FAITH

We are made right in the sight of God because we believe in Jesus. Because we believe we become one with Him. Then what God sees is Jesus' righteousness, not ours⁴. The product of this righteousness is peace. However faith has an action; because we believe we follow Him; because we believe Him we obey Him. It is an expression of our love for God.

If you keep My commands, you will remain in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commands and remain in His love JOHN 15:10

TRANSFORMATION OF OUR MIND

We need to renew our minds so that we think and act the way God does. Because we are now one with Him we are to imitate Him⁵.

Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—His good, pleasing and perfect will ROMANS 12:2

Transformation occurs through the Word and the Spirit. We need to read the Bible and change the way we think to align with the way God thinks, views us and views this world. There are limitations in this world but with God all things are possible⁶. As we encounter God and have fellowship with His Spirit daily, He will begin to transform us, taking us through a *metamorphosis* (what butterflies undergo) until we emerge in the image of His Son Jesus.

A baby may be born *complete* but still needs to grow and mature.

Prayer

Ask God to show you the new you. Ask for wisdom and revelation about Christ in you, the hope of glory. Paul suggests that the key to being filled with the fullness of God is to know how much He loves you; make this the central theme of your daily prayer life.

Activity

Whenever you read your bible and you see the words 'in Him', 'in whom', 'through whom' etc.; highlight and collate these passages as they are telling you who you are now and what you have access to.

Pop Quiz

Who is born again?

- a) One who has become One with Christ.
- b) One who has access to God through His Spirit.
- c) A son/daughter or friend of God.
- d) All of the above.

We are saved because ...

- a) we do only good things.
- b) we believe Jesus is the Son of God.
- c) we stop sinning.
- d) we are better than other people.

¹ JOHN 3:1-8

² EXODUS 19:5; EPHESIANS 3:18-19; JOHN 1:12-13

³ MATTHEW 17:14-20; LUKE 18:1-8

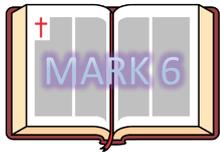
⁴ ROMANS 3:22

⁵ 1 CORINTHIANS 2:16; EPHESIANS 5:1

⁶ MATTHEW 19:26

LOVE

Foundations



THE GREATEST COMMANDMENT

What is the most important thing, the very essence of Jesus' message?

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind”; and, ‘Love your neighbour as yourself.’ LUKE 10:27

This is to just love Jesus from the very deepest part of your heart, with everything you are and have. No pressure, no performance, no walls, no boundaries, NO FEAR. You and Him.



BUT FIRST...

In order to be able to love God and others we need to experience and know how much God loves us¹. Paul says that this is the greatest mystery of all the ages, to know just how much/big Gods love for us is. He also says that this is the key to being filled with the fullness of God.

And may you have the power to understand, as all God's people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep His love is. May you experience the love of Christ, though it is too great to understand fully. Then you will be made complete with all the fullness of life and power that comes from God. EPHESIANS 3:18-19



The whole reason Jesus died on the cross was to demonstrate how great His love for us².

Greater love has no one than this, that He lay down his life for his friends. JOHN 15:13

Nothing you can do, can ever cut Gods love off. No sin is too big that God cannot forgive, if asked.

For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. ROMANS 8:38-39

This awesome and majestic love is nothing the mind can understand, we need the Holy Spirit to show us how much God loves us.

HOW DO WE LOVE GOD?

Once we experience His love for us, it is easier to love Him back. We are told to love God with all our heart (spirit), soul (feelings), mind (thoughts) and strength (body). Apart from these obvious ways, we also express this through obedience.

He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. JOHN 14:21

In the another passage He says that His new commandment to us is to love other people the way He loved us, that was to lay down His life for us our love for God is to love others, the second part of the greatest commandment³.



WHAT IS LOVE? HOW TO LOVE OTHERS

God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him. 1 JOHN 4:16b

Essentially love looks like what Jesus did for us – **THE CROSS**. We are called to imitate God, which means that true love self sacrifices. Feelings can come and go, but real love lasts forever.



LOVE
never gives up.

LOVE CARES MORE FOR OTHERS THAN FOR SELF.

Love doesn't want what it doesn't have.

LOVE DOESN'T STRUT,

Doesn't have a swelled head,

Doesn't force itself on others, I'm not always "me first"

DOESN'T FLY OFF THE HANDLE

doesn't keep score of the sins of others.

Doesn't revel when others grovel,

TAKES PLEASURE IN THE FLOWERING OF TRUTH

Put's up with anything, Trusts God always,

Always looks for the best,

NEVER LOOKS BACK. BUT KEEPS GOING TO THE END.

HEART OF A FATHER

In the parable of the prodigal son we get a glimpse of our Father's great love for us⁴.

But while he was still a long way off, his Father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; He ran to His son, threw His arms around him and kissed him. LUKE 15:20b



See God is a family God. The whole point of the New Covenant (the new promise given through Jesus, told in the New Testament) is prophesied in the last verse of the Old Testament. And that is that God wants to heal families. *He will turn the hearts of the parents to their children, and the hearts of the children to their parents* MALACHI 4:6a

Through Jesus, Gods Father Heart is revealed to mankind. That God is good, merciful and for us, not against us. Abba was a term of endearment used for a father, much like

Daddy or Papa, today. Paul shows us that Gods act of giving us His Holy Spirit was Him adopting us into His Family, so that we are no longer orphans and fatherless (spiritually)⁵.

I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. JOHN 14:18

And because we are His children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, prompting us to call out, "Abba, Father." GALATIANS 4:6

Prayer

Father I ask that you would show me how much You love me; that I might experience and know Your overwhelming love. Heal my heart, that I might know the perfect love of my heavenly Dad. Take away any pains and scars from earthly parents and relationships. Fill me with Your love now, I pray. I love You. Amen (PAUSE AND PONDER)

Activity

Step out and do an act of random kindness (ARK). Now that we know how much God cares and how special we are to Him, this empowers us to love others in that same way. Even those who are not nice to us. So find someone who has been giving you a hard time lately and instead of retaliating or just ignoring them, purposefully do a kind act for them

Pop Quiz

In order to love God we need to ...

- a) die for Him.
- b) love others.
- c) first know how much He loves us.
- d) all of the above.

Love is ...

- a) a feeling.
- b) a decision.

By loving others ...

- a) we please God.
- b) we become one with God, because God is love.
- c) we demonstrate Gods love in us and through us.
- d) All of the above.



¹ 1 JOHN 4:19

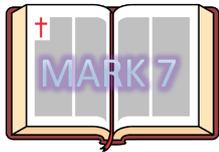
² JOHN 3:16

³ JOHN 15:10-13

⁴ LUKE 15:11-32

⁵ ROMANS 8:15

FAITH



WHAT JESUS SAYS ABOUT FAITH

Jesus challenged us, 'When the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on the Earth?' LUKE 18:8

Jesus taught us that when you pray, if you believe God is good enough (both willing and able) to give it to you then you will receive it¹.

Faith is very important to God because He has faith. He believed the words He spoke when He said 'Let there be Light'. The result was the Universe.

The thing Jesus corrected His disciples on the most, was their apparent lack of faith². These were the men who raised the dead, healed the sick, walked on water.

Have
Faith
in
GOD

WHAT IS FAITH?

Faith is summed up simply in two words - **JUST BELIEVE**. God encourages us to have faith like a little child. Other times we need to contend for the faith, to have a violent faith, faith like a bulldog, faith that just doesn't



let go no matter what³.

We walk (live) by faith not by sight 2 CORINTHIANS 5:17

This means that no matter what things look like, sound like feel like, you just trust God. He is good, He is Faithful and He will deliver and save you.

THE REFINING OF OUR FAITH

Peter likens the refining of our faith, to the purification of gold⁴. When gold is purified, flux is added and it is placed into extremely hot fires. As the heat increases all the impurities come to the surface. Goldsmiths of old would keep removing these surfaced impurities until they could see their own reflection. Not only do these impurities devalue the gold, but they cause the gold to break during the rolling process.

Peter says that it is through the trials and hard times in our life that our faith is purified. **When we continue to believe in God's goodness and trust Him, despite the difficult circumstances, all the impurities of unbelief, doubt and fear will surface so we can ask our Goldsmith to remove them.** As He removes these impurities our faith is purified and hardens, then God comes with His reward. The reason why the Lord allows this to happen to us is that many others without faith are going through really hard times. When we tell them about how God came and saved us in our situation, this will cause hope to rise in their hearts for their own situation. That hope will release faith which welcomes God into their situation, to see that same breakthrough.

They have defeated him (Satan) by the blood of the Lamb (Jesus) and by their testimony. REVELATIONS 12:11

For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy. REVELATIONS 19:10b

STORIES OF FAITH

JONATHAN

The Bible is filled with awesome stories of faith in God (read Hebrews 11). Perhaps one of the greatest biblical stories of faith is when Jonathon and his armour bearer took on the entire Philistine army (hundreds of thousands). He trusted that *“the LORD will help us defeat them!”* because *“God can win a battle whether He has many warriors or only a few!”*. The result was God showed up and the enemy got confused and started killing one another and then ran away terrified⁵.

SHADRACH MESHACH AND ABEDNEGO

Another great story is of three young Israelites, Shadrach Meshach and Abednego, who are in a foreign country. The king demands that they bow down and worship his statue or be burned in a furnace. Because they worship the One True God they refuse to bow to an idol. Their response to the kings threat is *“O Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you. If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God whom we serve is able to save us. He will rescue us from your power, Your Majesty. But even if He doesn’t, we want to make it clear to you, Your Majesty, that we will never serve your gods or worship the gold statue you have set up.”* DANIEL 3:16-18. The result is that the king furiously heats the fire seven times hotter; so hot even the soldiers throwing them in the fire die. But God comes and saves them so that they are not harmed and do not even smell of smoke.



HOW TO INCREASE OUR FAITH



When the apostles ask Jesus to increase their faith, Jesus tells a story about humility and dedication. God gives grace to the humble and faith accesses grace⁶. Faith grows through the awareness of the reality of God and Heaven, resulting in a reprioritising of our lives to reflect this eternal reality. As God becomes more real to us, our focus and drive change from temporal earthly things to lasting eternal riches.

It is not so much about our faith, but rather a simple trust in Gods Faithfulness

SCRIPTURAL POINTERS ON INCREASING FAITH

- † *So then, faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God (read the Bible)* ROMANS 10:17
- † *It is a gift from God... therefore ask* 1 CORINTHIANS 12:9; JAMES 4:1-3
- † *Be faithful in the little, and God will give you more* MATTHEW 25:14-30
- † *Prayer* HEBREWS 11:6; MATTHEW 7:7-11
- † *Fasting (accelerated prayer)* MATTHEW 17:21
- † *Praying in the Spirit* JUDE 1:20
- † *Abiding in Jesus (the Vine of Life)* JOHN 15:1-10

FAITH OPENS HEAVEN AND OBTAINS GODS PROMISES

The Bible tells us that is our faith in Jesus that overcomes the world⁷. The heroes of the Bible were able to ...

Through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, became

valiant in battle, turned to flight the armies of the aliens. Women received their dead raised to life again.
HEBREWS 11:33-35

It also says that others chose not to be saved in order to attain a better resurrection.

It is our faith that releases Heaven into Earth. These *heroes of the faith* that saved nations and stopped lions and quenched furnaces, all stepped *out of the boat* and risked everything by putting their hope and trust in God. Many modern day apostles have said that **faith is actually spelt r.i.s.k.**

Remember that God will use you to do even greater things because this is how we bring Him glory⁸.

LOVE-BASED FAITH

True faith achieves breakthrough for others. Of course you will benefit from your faith, but a greater authority is released when our motives are purified and love drives our actions. In this place humility releases a greater grace.

So therefore real faith operates through love, and true faith is selfless⁹.

SOME OTHER FAITH FACTS...

- † Acts, works and 'steps out' (walks on water) JAMES 2:14-26; MATTHEW 14:22-33
- † Is confident, bold and courageous PROVERBS 28:1; EPHESIANS 3:12
- † Is strong and strengthens others ROMANS 14
- † Is eternal and speaks through the ages 1 CORINTHIANS 13:13; HEBREWS 11:2

Prayer

Ask God for more faith, a greater gift of faith, not just for us, but so that we can truly help others. Also ask Him to show us where we can be more faithful with what He has given us. Ultimately asking for the humility, dedication, and perseverance that release faith that helps others.

Activity

Step out and do something that would be impossible to finish without God. It is not testing Him, it is making room in your life for Him to become more involved and therefore it increases our intimacy and closeness with the Lord. It is partnering with God for the sake of helping someone.

Pop Quiz

What is faith?

- a) Hoping and trusting that it will be ok.
- b) Hoping, trusting and believing.
- c) A positive attitude in a bad situation.
- d) Hoping, trusting and believing in God.

God helps those who help themselves.

- a) False
- b) True

Faith opens heaven because ...

- a) God likes us to have faith, because He has faith.
- b) God is good, cares for us and therefore wants to help us.
- c) God likes to show others how awesome He is.
- d) All of the above

¹ MARK 11:24

² MATT 8:26 & 14:31 & 16:8 & 17:20

³ LUKE 8:50; MATTHEW 18:3; MATTHEW 11:12

⁴ 1 PETER 1:7

⁵ 1 SAMUEL 14:1-23

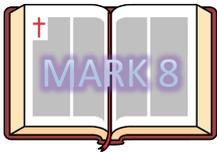
⁶ LUKE 17:7-10; JAMES 4:6; EPHESIANS 2:8-9

⁷ 1 JOHN 5:4

⁸ JOHN 14:12 & 15:8

⁹ GALATIANS 5:6

GRACE (FAVOUR)



A NEW COVENANT OF GRACE AND TRUTH

God made a new covenant with man for those who follow Jesus. This was sealed in His blood, a bond as strong as death. This new covenant God made doesn't mean He changed, but that He revealed more of Himself to us. Through Jesus and this new covenant we now come to see God as our Father, Papa, Dad, Daddy.

“The day is coming,” says the LORD, “when I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel and Judah. This covenant will not be like the one I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand and brought them out of the land of Egypt. They broke that covenant, though I loved them as a husband loves his wife,” says the LORD. JEREMIAH 31:31-32

In the Old Testament prophets would continually tell us about the new covenant that would be established with the coming of the Messiah (Christ - Anointed One - Son of God). In speaking of this new covenant through Jesus, John calls it *a glory filled with grace and truth* JOHN 1:14b

OUR NEW HEART

Under the old covenant man was consistently rebelling against God, turning away from Him and His laws and worshipping other Gods. Whenever Israel did this, God would punish them by sending invaders, they would repent and turn back to God. God would deliver them from their enemies but soon their hearts again grew cold and they rebelled. This cycle kept repeating.



But in speaking about what would come through Jesus, God said that He would give us a new heart.

I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them. Then you shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers; you shall be My people, and I will be your God. EZEKIEL 36:26-28

“But this is the new covenant I will make with the people of Israel on that day,” says the Lord. “I will put my instructions deep within them, and I will write them on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. JEREMIAH 31:33



FORGIVEN AND CLEANSED BY GRACE

As previously discussed, after believing in and choosing to follow Jesus, God gives us His Spirit of Holiness, it is His righteousness placed within us.

He forgives our sin and then cuts off its consequence/punishment and chooses to bless us instead¹.

I will deliver you from all your uncleanness. I will call for the grain and multiply it, and bring no famine upon you. EZEKIEL 36:29

Not only does God forgive the sins which we were enslaved to, but He frees us from its power over us. For instance, addictions and unhealthy habits can be broken as if they were never there. His gives us a brand new slate. Instead of being a slave to sin, we are now empowered to do the right thing².

EMPOWERED BY GRACE

As we learnt in THE NEW YOU, it is Him in us that is now doing the right thing through us, empowering us to keep a much higher standard than what was set under the old covenant. This is not more things you have to do, but rather God Himself doing these good works in you, through you, for you and others sake.

God Himself gives us the power to do the right thing.

Let's take a look at the Old Covenant Vs the New Covenant

Old Covenant	Compared and Contrasted	New Covenant
Expectation		Realization
Shadow		Substance
Type		Anti-Type
Anticipation		Accomplishment
Moses		Christ
Prophetic		Fulfillment
Human Insufficiency		Divine Sufficiency
Veil on Heart		Veil Removed
Law		Grace
Written on Tablets of Stone		Written on The Hearts of Men
Temporary		Permanent
Perfect Standard (Law)		Perfect Person (Jesus Christ)
External / Outward		Internal / Inward
Temporal / Worldly		Eternal / Heavenly
Ministry of Death		Ministry of Life
Flesh		Spirit
Demanding Performance		Demanding Transformation
Physical		Spiritual
Circumcision of Flesh		Circumcision of Heart
Condemnation		Righteousness

Old Covenant (Exodus 20/21)	New Covenant (Matthew 5)
Don't sleep with another man's wife	Don't look at another woman in lust
Don't murder	Don't even get angry with anyone
An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth	Turn the other cheek
Love your neighbour	Love your enemies
Only keep your oaths	Do whatever you say

THE KEY TO THIS IS ABIDING IN CHRIST (JOHN 15)

We have access to this empowering grace through faith.

God saved you by His grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it. For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.

EPHESIANS 2:8-9

The Holy Spirit (God) in us is the picture of a seed, the fruit that will come out of having Him in us is listed as: *love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things!* GAL 5:22-23

The sins we did are likened unto darkness. Darkness itself doesn't actually exist but is rather defined as an absence of light. Therefore the sin in our life exists only because of the absence of these spiritual fruit. The presence of this spiritual fruit will mean we are doing the things listed in the second column of the covenant comparison table.



Jesus himself says that in order to bear lots of fruit we must remain in Him. Remaining can occur through many different means; believing, listening/reading His words, through prayer or fellowship with His Spirit.

“I am the True Grapevine, and My Father is the Gardener. He cuts off every branch of Mine that doesn’t produce fruit, and He prunes the branches that do bear fruit so they will produce even more. You have already been pruned and purified by the message I have given you. Remain in Me, and I will remain in you. For a branch cannot produce fruit if it is severed from the vine, and you cannot be fruitful unless you remain in Me.

“Yes, I am the Vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in Me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from Me you can do nothing. Anyone who does not remain in Me is thrown away like a useless branch and withers. Such branches are gathered into a pile to be burned. But if you remain in Me and My Words remain in you, you may ask for anything you want, and it will be granted! When you produce much fruit, you are My true disciples. This brings great glory to My Father JOHN 15:1-8

Another take on this that Paul uses is that we become what we behold. If we are daily beholding the Lord through the scriptures or by faith through prayer and worship, then we are being transformed into His likeness.

All of us, with no covering on our faces, show the shining-greatness of the Lord as in a mirror. All the time we are being changed to look like Him, with more and more of His shining-greatness. This change is from the Lord Who is the Spirit. 2 CORINTHIANS 3:18

Can you spot the difference?

OLD COVENANT	NEW COVENANT
If you do...	It is done...
If you listen (Ex 23:22)	You are forgiven! (Col 2:13)
If you look (Deu 4:29)	You are healed! (1 Pe 2:24)
If you bring (Lev 2:4)	You are blessed! (Eph 1:3)
If you follow (Lev 26:3)	You are righteous! (2 Co 5:21)
If you pay attention (Deu 7:12)	You are holy! (Heb 10:10)
If you make (Deu 23:21)	You are mighty! (Eph 1:19)
If you obey (Deu 28:2)	You are accepted! (Rm 15:7)
If you disobey (Deu 28:15)	You are loved! (Rm 8:39)

Answer: Old Covenant preachers focus on you and what you must do. New Covenant preachers focus on Christ and what He has done. Under law, God requires. Under grace, God provides. Which do you prefer?

More tricky puzzles at escapetoreality.org



A MISCONCEPTION

One of the things that hold people back from God is they think they have to do all this good stuff in order to get to heaven, come to God or become a Christian. What you have to do is believe, as anyone can do that it is then fair for all. All the good works in the world will not get you to heaven or get Gods approval. You have that freely given to you. This is Grace. Now that you know you are saved (through believing it) and approved/accepted, you can go about doing good works free from striving for acceptance, but resting in His assurance of your salvation. You will soon realise that it is now God's Spirit in you doing these good works.

Prayer

Thank your Father for forgiving you, washing you, and putting His empowering Spirit within you. Ask Him for a greater revelation of His grace to *love selflessly, remain joyful and calm, be kind and good to all, prefer others, remain patient and to trust Him more.*

Activity

Put on grace glasses, which is to change our view to see others the way Gods sees them.

Pop Quiz

The New Covenant is ...

- a) having your sins forgiven.
- b) power promised to do what is right.
- c) filled with grace and truth.
- d) all of the above.

Grace is ...

- a) easier than the old covenant
- b) a much higher standard than the old covenant.
- c) being empowered to do what is right.
- d) all of the above.

The key to grace is ...

- a) having your sins forgiven.
- b) needing your sins forgiven.
- c) remaining in Jesus
- d) do what is right

¹ EZEKIEL 36:25

² ROMANS 6:18

FOLLOWING JESUS- THE WORD!

Growth



"COME, FOLLOW ME"

Jesus asked His disciples to "Come, follow Me". A disciple is a student.

Jesus taught His followers about the Kingdom of God mostly in *parables*. These are metaphorical imagery used to paint a picture of Gods Kingdom. They are mysterious and require a seeking heart to understand the message. The deeper you dig, through meditation, the more that God reveals.



He also showed them how to live by living with them. Not only did He teach about God's Kingdom, but He displayed the culture of His Kingdom by doing miracles, signs and wonders. He revealed Gods love through demonstrating His power to help those in need.

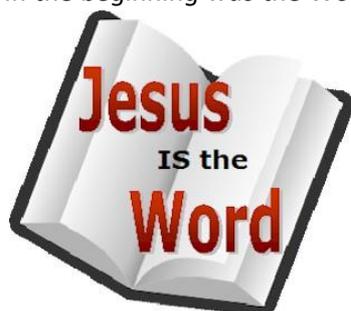
If we are to follow Him then we walk in His footsteps. We need to watch and imitate Him. We can see (understand) Jesus through regular reading of the bible. These words becomes food for our spirit man.

JESUS IS THE WORD WHICH GIVES LIFE

The scriptures will give your inner man/woman (spirit man/woman) strength like bread strengthens your body. As Jesus taught them He said, "*The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life.*" JOHN 6:63

The disciples were literally eating Life by listening to Him. He said, "*I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst.*" JOHN 6:35

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. JOHN 1:1, 3, 4, 14



If you remain in Me and My words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. JOHN 15:7

Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the Truth, and the Truth shall make you free." JOHN 8:31, 32

Since you started this course, hopefully you have been doing the Bible readings that are at the beginning of each study. If not purpose in your heart to start a Bible reading plan today. These plans are available from the internet or in various Bible apps. They will cause the reading of the word to become a habit in your spiritual life, much like eating breakfast has become a habit.

THE COST OF FOLLOWING JESUS - TAKING UP OUR CROSS

There is a cost to following Jesus, He tells a story in Luke 14:15-35. It is about a feast that the Master puts on, but people are too busy to come. As we have just learnt, the feast God puts on is Jesus. But then Jesus goes on from this parable to discuss the cost of following Him. He says that unless we take up our cross we are not worthy of Him. Foremost, the cross demonstrates the extravagance of God's love for us. It also demonstrates the radicalness of Jesus' obedience to the Father and thus also His great love for His Father. But now He asks us to take up our cross and follow Him. See there is also the way of the cross.

The truth is that following God will cost you everything. Just like it cost Jesus everything, even His life. But what you get back in return so exceeding outweighs the things you gave up, that it was as if there was no cost whatsoever. Thus in all reality, salvation is a free gift.

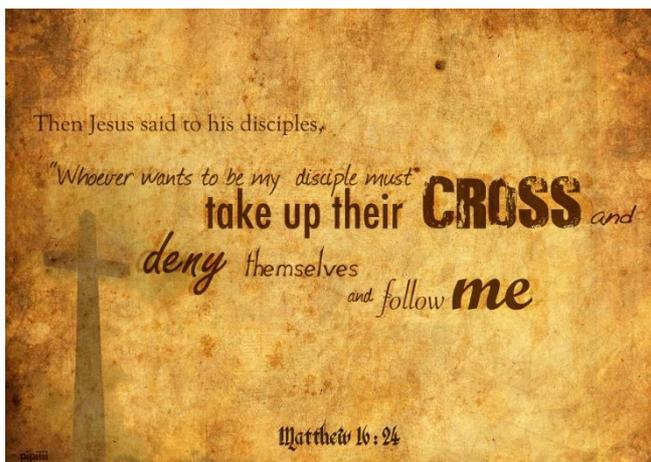
Following Jesus will cost you time whenever you sit down to read the word, pray or go to church, but the Life that comes from the Word will so enrich your life, you will soon realise that this was the best thing you could have done with your time. It will cost you money when God asks you to share with the poor, but the harvest of true Joy that comes when you bless another, couldn't be bought with all the money in the world. Following Jesus may even cost you relationships with friends or family, but the peace that comes from that Relationship you now have with your Creator will far outweigh any anguish from a lost loved one. Sometimes these costs hurt a lot, but if we endure in faith then we reap the reward. He is the reward.

For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things? Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. ROMANS 8:18, 31, 32, 34, 35, 37-39

Prayer

Ask God to show you the areas in your life that need His guidance and intervention. Make a commitment to follow Him in surrender, trusting in His Goodness.

Activity



Begin a Bible reading plan. You can download them through the internet if there is one at the end of this booklet. Hunger and desire are always the best motivation for reading the word, but if it doesn't come naturally then it will over time if you discipline yourself to read the Bible daily. You may have to see the benefits first.

Pop Quiz

In order to become Jesus disciple we need to ...

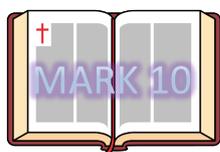
- a) become His student and listen to the Teacher.
- b) follow Jesus in all the various areas of our life.
- c) see what He does and how He reacts so we can do likewise.
- d) All of the above.

If we love God then we will follow His example

- a) and get crucified on a cross.
- b) and take up our cross.
- c) and become born again of a virgin.
- d) all of the above.

FRIENDS WITH GOD! TALKING WITH HIM

Growth



FRIENDSHIP COMES FROM THE HEART

I'm no longer calling you servants because servants don't understand what their master is thinking and planning. No, I've named you friends because I've let you in on everything I've heard from the Father. JOHN 15:15

Jesus invites us into this friendship with our divine Creator. All friendships are built over time through love, trust and by communicating with one another. It is this same principle that brings us into a place of knowing God.



With God it becomes more than just communication but rather communion. Because He lives inside us and we are One with Him, this bond grows stronger and infuses us with real life, His Spirit.

HOW TO TALK TO GOD

One way to talk to God is to acknowledge and invite Him into your situation. This is taken from the first two lines of the Lord's Prayer. This acknowledgement is a form of praise we look at in the next study. As we invite Him and His Kingdom to come, we are asking for wrong things to be made right. This is His will, to make the sad things untrue.

In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. MATTHEW 6:9, 10



"Help" is one of the best prayers we can pray, because He is the Saviour who loves to help us when circumstances are beyond us or even our emotions are racing. In that emotional or mental *hard place* Jesus brings peace and clarity.

Ask the Lord for what you need. He is a good Father who gives good gifts to His children. These needs can be physical (health), spiritual, career, financial, relationships etc. He is a powerful God that loves to show His love for His children. It may be you even need forgiveness for some mistake you have made.

Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank Him for all He has done. Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus. PHILIPPIANS 4:6, 7

A thankful heart pleases God. In this place we become more grateful and cheerful. We recognise God is answering our prayers and at work in our lives.

Whatever is good and perfect comes down to us from God our Father, who created all the lights in the heavens. He never changes or casts a shifting shadow. JAMES 1:17

PRAYING FOR OTHERS

As our prayers are answered our faith will grow. As our faith grows we will start to see that not only can God help us, but also our friends, family, country etc. In fact, God can fix anything, however He chooses to partner with us to do it.

We know that He is able but because of the world we live in, the question we sometimes struggle with is, "is He willing?" Matthew tells the story of another man who was struggling with this. He had leprosy and wanted to be healed. Because of the stories he had heard about Jesus he knew the Lord was capable of giving him his miracle, but the leper didn't know if God *would* do it for him. He said to the Lord "*if you are willing, you can make me clean*". Jesus response to him and us is "*I am willing*" MATTHEW 8:3b



FAITH FILLED PRAYERS

Jesus repeats many times that God wants to give us what we desire, particularly if our motives are pure and we trust Him to do it.



I tell you, you can pray for anything, and if you believe that you've received it, it will be yours. MARK 11:24

Through faith and patience we inherit the promises. Sometimes persistence is the key. Jesus tells the story of the persistent widow (found in Luke 18) that tells us to never give up praying for others, because God is good and will answer.

One day Jesus told his disciples a story to show that they should always pray and never give up. LUKE 18:1

A HIGHER FORM OF PRAYER

There is conversing with God and then there is communion with Him. **Communion takes us deeper into Him on the journey of becoming One with Him.** It can even be a silent meditation, an awareness of Him and love for Him expressed from the heart that is beyond words. Jesus says that He lives in one who loves Him. As we activate this expression we enter into communion or fellowship with God.



Be still, and know that I am God! PSALMS 46:10

And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him. JOHN 14:21b

Prayer

Ask God to give you eye salve to see Him as He really is so that you can relate to Him. Thank the Lord for all that He has shown you so far, but deeply desire more.

Activity

Try the various forms of prayer mentioned; gratitude and requests, praying for others, being still and knowing, falling in love and longing.

Pop Quiz

Prayer is about religiously reciting the words that others have penned

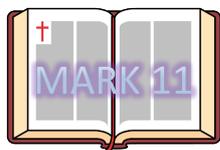
- a) True.
- b) False.

Prayer at its highest form is ...

- a) asking for everything you need..
- b) thanking God for all He has done.
- c) praying for other people.
- d) becoming one with God through consciously being with Him.

GOING DEEPER

Growth



PRAISE AS A FORM OF PRAYER

In the Lord's prayer, Jesus says to open prayer by acknowledging and praising God.

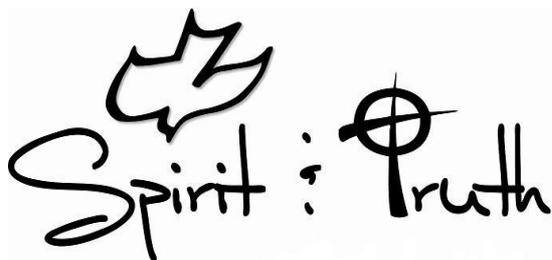
In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. MATTHEW 6:9

To praise God is to declare Him and His goodness. David tells us that God inhabits the praises of His people. In this place of turning our attention to God, He reveals himself to us and in us. Praise may start out by reciting someone else's words about God with heartfelt sincerity, however the highest form of praise is a song that comes from within one's own heart - this is called the spirit song.



TWO TYPES OF WORSHIP

If praise is *about* God then worship is *to* God. David says that we *enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him, and bless His name.* PSALMS 100:4a



But when we worship, that is like going up and giving God a big hug or even a kiss. Jesus says that *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.* JOHN 4:23

Worship is a verb meaning to make oneself humble before, bow down to, or kiss the hand of.

WORSHIP IN SPIRIT

'True worshiper's will worship in spirit' is a form of that communion discussed in our last study. **Worship is a heartfelt adoration for God expressed to Him through a love song.** Just like our praises, it often starts being expressed through the words of someone else's songs. Over time, a heart of worship develops where we are able to express our love and adoration to God directly with words from our own heart.



WORSHIP IN TRUTH

To worship in truth goes beyond just words into our actions. It is love expressed through obedience. Jesus says *If you love me, show it by doing what I've told you.* JOHN 14:15-17

King David, who penned most of the Psalms, was a worshipper. He is often described as having a heart of worship. God deeply loved David and said this about him;



'I have found David son of Jesse, a man after my own heart. He will do everything I want him to do.' ACTS 13:22

Worship is a continual 'I love You' yearning from our inner most being to God. In that place, His love is multiplied back, through the manifestation of His Presence.

If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him. JOHN 14:23

LIVING SACRIFICES

A life of worship goes beyond words and is about becoming a living sacrifice. A life devoted to your Creator. The apostle Paul explains that this is the very least we could do, when we consider the price Christ paid for us.

And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all He has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind He will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship Him. Don't copy the behaviour and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect. ROMANS 12:1-2



Prayer

Ask God to teach you how to worship in Spirit and in Truth. Ask the Lord for a heart like David's, to do all He wants us to. It is in the place that you will experience fullness of Joy

Activity

Get a Christian CD or go on YouTube and find some good songs you like. Then try singing along with the lyrics, from your heart.

Pop Quiz

We worship God through

- a) singing about what God has done and who He is.
- b) obeying Him.
- c) falling more in love with Jesus as we get to know Him.
- d) All of the above.

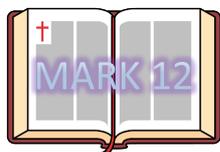
A living sacrifice ...

- a) is a lifestyle of worship.
- b) is doing all the Lord wants us to.

- c) the very least we could do for God after what He did for us.
- d) all of the above.

FINDING A FAMILY - CHURCH

Growth



GOD IS OUR FATHER

God's Son is Jesus, but He also has around 7 billion sons and daughters on the Earth today. Of these 7 billion sons and daughters, there is some growing percentage that have accepted adoption into His family. The rest are like orphans, having never met their Heavenly Father. This adoption makes all believers brothers and sisters in Christ.

Our Heavenly Father gave us families as we are made in His image. The Bible says that our Spirit cries out to God *Abba*, which in English would be *Daddy* (not a Swedish pop band).

God is doing an amazing thing with His church, taking us from being a religious organisation into becoming a family. This is happening as we encounter the Father's Love in the *secret place* - the place of our own personal pursuit of God. The secret place may be a room or time of the day where we draw aside to be alone with the Lord. But more than this, it is a place within our hearts where that deep communion takes place. After we encounter His love, the transformation it brings flows into our relationships with each other. Thus the Father's Love actually empowers us to love one another more deeply.



CHURCH IS FAMILY

Going to church is an awesome idea for someone new in the faith, as there you will find 'older' brothers and sisters that have walked with God a bit longer. They are great to draw alongside and soak up their wisdom whilst on your new journey. Jesus describes becoming a child of God as like being born again. All new babies need a mother, love and milk. The word is described as being like milk; the love comes from our *Daddy* in heaven, so this makes the church kind of like our mother.



Most churches have got special courses they run for new believers. These are specifically oriented towards discipleship. There is usually connect or home groups, these midweek meetings and are usually aimed at building relationships and fellowshiping with one another. However, they will also study the bible and have time for praise and worship. In the main meeting (usually a Sunday) there will be a time of communal praise and worship as well as a teaching from the bible. These are all good ways to establish a new believer with God.

SOME MISNOMERS ABOUT CHURCH

The first trap some people may get caught in, is to think they do not have time for church. The truth is you can't afford to miss church. But on the other hand, church should not be the only place or time that you connect with God. If we do fall into this trap then it would typically take longer to grow into all that God has for us.



Another mistake that one may make once someone has a strong relationship with God, is to quit church because they are not getting anything from church. This is most likely because God himself speaks to you and reveals things to you. It may be true that you no longer need the church, but now you are in a position where the church needs you. If you are this closely connected with the Lord, then seek Him as to where you can start serving in your church or in the Kingdom. There is a fulfillment that God releases when we demonstrate love through serving

others.

Other people sometimes have a problem with a particular pastor, teaching or person from some church. This seems to be a thing with families, we sometimes get on each other's nerves. However, God wants us to learn to forgive one another and to put people before doctrines and egos. Thus the Christlike nature is formed within us.

DON'T GIVE UP

Paul encourages us not to give up on meeting with one another

And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near. HEBREWS 10:25

On occasion God may lead us out into the broader body, to connect with other brothers and sisters, but we should never leave a church on a negative note, resolve any differences first.

If you have been serving in your church but truly feel there is no room for you to grow anymore, than you may be ready to start discipling by starting a home/connect group or some type of outreach, talk to your leader about this and try to work with them. Jesus disciples only followed Him for three years, then He sent them to teach others all things they had taught Him.



Prayer

Ask God to show you the right church you should attend.

Activity

Once you have one in your heart that you think/feel God wants you to go to - try it and give it a decent run. If there isn't one you feel led to go to. Just do it by faith. Go because the Bible says to.

Pop Quiz

The best thing about Church is it is a good place to

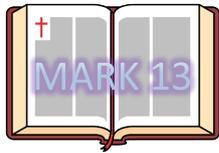
- a) meet your new family.
- b) get some counselling.
- c) advance your career.
- d) serve God and others.

Paul says to ...

- a) only leave church if they are not nice to you.
- b) not give up on meeting with other Christians.
- c) find a church where you feel comfortable.
- d) stay in one Church your whole life.

BAPTISMS

Growth



WATER BAPTISM

As followers of Jesus, we follow Him through the waters of baptism. The water represents a *cleansing* from the sinful nature that happens when we turn away from sin (repentance). When the sinful nature is removed so are its consequences and power over us. John the Baptist baptised people and told them to change their thinking and do what was right.

Jesus was baptised because God asked Him to do it. We follow Jesus and also are baptised because God wants us to be as well. Jesus went to John and asked John to baptise Him. John did not think that this was right because Jesus was not a sinner. *But Jesus said, "It should be done, for we must carry out all that God requires."* So John agreed to baptise him. MATTHEW 3:15



There is also a powerful symbolic picture painted through the act of being baptised with water that Paul reveals in Romans 6. Just as Christ was crucified and buried in the ground, this immersion into the water represents our old sinful nature being co-crucified and buried with Christ. And just as Christ was raised after three days, when we emerge from the waters, we are symbolically co-rising with Him as a new creation, now One with Him.

BAPTISM OF THE SPIRIT

The Holy Spirit baptism is another immersion, but into the Power and Presence of the Lord. It is a supernatural phenomena that is an experience. This divine grace will empower you to get rid of some of the sin issues that may still have you trapped.



The main point of it is to turn you into a bright shining lamp, a disciple maker. In Acts 1, just before Jesus ascends into Heaven, He leaves this instruction;

*"Do not leave Jerusalem until the Father sends you the gift He promised, as I told you before. John baptised with water, but in just a few days you will be baptised with the Holy Spirit. **You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be My witnesses, telling people about Me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.**"* ACTS 1:4, 5, 8

There will be evidence that you have been baptised in the Spirit of the Living God. Acts 1 goes onto explain some interesting supernatural phenomena that happened; fire, wind and speaking in tongues. When you receive the Holy Spirit Baptism there will be some kind of

encounter with God or gift of the Spirit released. The fruit will be a closer with God, sin issues being dissolved quickly and people becoming saved or disciplined and healed around you.

When Jesus was baptised in water, He was simultaneously baptised in the Spirit. A dove (the form the Holy Spirit chose) descended from Heaven and settled on Him. The Father's audible voice was also heard, expressing the great Joy His Son gave Him. The gifts of the Spirit are explored a little deeper in our next study.

Prayer

Ask God to show you when you are ready to be baptised.

Activity

Talk to a leader from your Church or another strong Christian about their views on baptism.

Pop Quiz

Water Baptism ...

- a) washes away our sins.
- b) will get you into heaven.
- c) represents Christ's blood washing away our sins.
- d) is all of the above.

The main reason for the Baptism of the Holy Spirit is it ...

- a) is an awesome experience.
- b) cleanses you of your sins.
- c) empowers you to be a bold witness for Jesus.
- d) will bring you into your giftings.

FRUIT & GIFTS FROM THE SPIRIT

Growth



FRUITS OF THE SPIRIT

There are two types of results that will come through remaining in Christ (John 15). These are character fruits and spiritual offspring (becoming fruitful). Character fruits are changes Christ makes to our person and being, that transform us into the image of Jesus. Spiritual offspring are a form of multiplication that are conceived and grow as we start to disciple those God puts in our life. **These results are changes in us and changes through us. Both of these fruits are evidence that Christ is in us, and we are in Him.**

PERSONALITY TRANSFORMATION

On speaking about character fruits the Apostle Paul states;

The Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things! Those who belong to Christ Jesus have nailed the passions and desires of their sinful nature to his cross and crucified them there. GALATIANS 5:22-24

In order for these virtues to be flourishing in our life, we need to actively be filled with the Spirit of God. Often times, the reason there are sin issues is because there is a lack of these fruits. Darkness is only an absence of light and cold is an absence of heat. The fruit itself is not for the tree but for others to enjoy. Fruit takes time to mature and ripen.

Apart from these famous nine, there are three other virtues which are highlighted in Colossians 3; these are compassion (tender mercies), humility and gratitude (thankfulness). Other virtues mentioned throughout the scriptures are perseverance (endurance/strength), courage (confidence), truth, justice and righteousness. Each of these really require an individual study.

THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

While the fruits of the Spirit make us more like Jesus, the gifts of the Spirit are given to build and encourage each other. They are like tools that enable a builder or mechanic to complete their work. The spiritual gifts empower us to complete the particular mission God has got for us.

God gives gifts to men freely. The Greek word (what the New Testament is originally written in) for gift is *charisma* which is very closely related to the word for grace, *charis*. Fruit matures as we abide, however gifts are freely given. But like any tool, the more experience the user has, the more effective the tool becomes. We grow in authority with the gift as we steward what the Lord has given. **The gifts are freely available because God is a kind Dad, he is very generous.** If you would like tools to build His House and help people, then just ask in faith.

The Fruit of God's Spirit



The main passages that mention the various gifts God gives out, are:

We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully. ROMANS 12:6-8



Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. To one there is given through the Spirit a message of wisdom, to another a message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that One Spirit, to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues. All these are the work of One and the same Spirit, and He distributes them to each one, just as He determines. 1 CORINTHIANS 12:7-11

GIFT'S ARE PERFECTED IN LOVE

All the fruits are aspects of love. **An extremely gifted person without love is worth nothing** as Paul advises:

If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing. 1 CORINTHIANS 13:1-3

Although our drive and motive should always be love, we are greatly encouraged to desire and pursue the gifts from the Holy Spirit.

Let love be your highest goal! But you should also desire the special abilities the Spirit gives—especially the ability to prophesy. 1 CORINTHIANS 14:1

GRACE GIFTS - THE FIVE-FOLD MINISTRIES



There is a third type of gift given to minister or help people in relation to their adventure with Jesus. These are also called the grace gifts or termed the five-fold ministries, in the modern church.

So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. EPHESIANS 4:11-13

Each of these five graces are ministered within different areas of society named the seven mountains. These are the media, government, education, business, church, arts and entertainment, and family.

In trying to figure out where God has called you, the best advice is to seek Him. However often times (not always) our mountain and our grace gift are where our desires are.

Prayer

Ask God to give you the spiritual fruits you need in your character. Also ask Him for any of the gifts that could help others; healing, prophecy, etc. Now trust in His goodness and try to exercise these gifts through faith

Activity

Pray for someone that needs some kind of healing (physical, emotional, mental or relational). Also ask the Lord for a *message* for someone and then go give it to them. If these things are done in love in a way that honours the recipient and doesn't go against the Bible you can't go wrong even if you make a mistake. Do this only as your faith permits.

Pop Quiz

Character fruits make us more like Jesus ...

- a) as we abide in Him.
- b) because they are all aspects of Love and God is Love.
- c) through the inner working of the Holy Spirit.
- d) All of the above.

Spiritual gifts are given ...

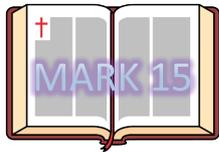
- a) to those who ask.
- b) to those who help ourselves.
- c) if we are good enough.
- d) all of the above.

Grace gifts (Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Pastors and Teachers) are given to ...

- a) build up the body
- b) teach his people how to serve
- c) mature and unite us in the faith
- d) all of the above.

THE GREATEST COMMANDMENT AND COMMISSION

Growth



THE GREATEST COMMANDMENT

Jesus was asked what the most important commandment from God was.

“The most important one,” answered Jesus, “is this: ‘Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is One. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ The second is this: ‘Love your neighbour as yourself.’ There is no commandment greater than these.”

MARK 12:29-3



When asked who our neighbours are, Jesus tells the story of the Good Samaritan. It is a story about a man who went out of his way to help someone that normally would have treated him like dirt. At the end of it Jesus instructs us to *Go and do likewise.* LUKE 10:37b

John tells us that Jesus actually gave us a new commandment, even greater.

*“A new command I give you: **Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.** By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”* JOHN 13:34, 35

Wow, Jesus loved us to the point of betrayal, rejection, torture, suffering and death. Now He asks us to love each other just as radically.



Paul goes onto explain that the only thing that matters is faith being expressed through love.

The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love. GALATIANS 5:6b

THE GREAT COMMISSION

The last task Jesus gave His disciples is called the Great Commission. It is the same mission the Father gave Jesus, He then passed it on to us. Jesus sends His Holy Spirit to co-labour with us to complete the mission.

And then He told them, “Go into all the world and preach the Good News to everyone. Anyone who believes and is baptized will be saved. But anyone who refuses to believe will be condemned. These miraculous signs will accompany those who believe: They will cast out demons in My name, and they will speak in new languages. They will be able to handle snakes with safety, and if they drink anything poisonous, it won’t hurt them. They will be able to place their hands on the sick, and they will be healed.” MARK 16:15-18

Jesus came and told his disciples, “I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” MATTHEW 28:18-20

In the account told by Luke, they are first told to go to Jerusalem and wait for Power from on High (the Holy Spirit) in order to be able to complete this mission. God wants to supernaturally empower



you with His Spirit and gift you with supernatural *tools* to make disciples, by teaching them everything He has taught us. We are to immerse His creation in God and His identity, as well as baptising them physically. As we do this God will be with us and will confirm the Word by His Power.

The ultimate expression of the Greatest Commandment looks like the Great Commission. Once you are baptised by the Spirit of God, and Heaven becomes your reality, the real way to express the new found love is to tell people the Truth. Many in this world are blinded by the devil, and because of this, countless millions are slipping away to hell. It will take real love to lay your life down and take up the cross of the great commission. But as you lose your life, Jesus says you will find real life. The resulting Heavenly reward is priceless.

Prayer

Ask God to give you this same revolution starting love that Jesus had. Ask the Lord to show you how you can express His love to those around you.

Activity

Radical Love looks like what Jesus did for us. Express this radical love through an act of kindness toward someone who has not been kind to you lately.

Pop Quiz

The Greatest Commandment is ...

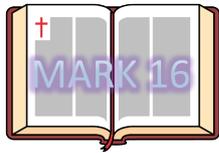
- a) to believe God.
- b) to fight the Devil.
- c) love God and others.
- d) all of the above.

The Great Commission is ...

- a) teaching others about Jesus.
- b) loving people through Jesus message.
- c) laying down your life for God, the gospel and others.
- d) all of the above.

BECOMING FRUITFUL

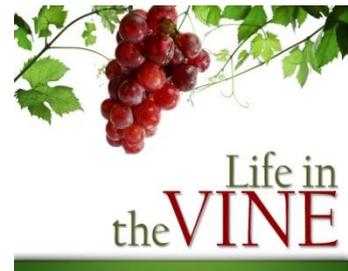
Growth



SPIRITUAL OFFSPRING

In our Spiritual Fruits and Gifts study, we learnt that one *fruit* from being with Jesus is spiritual multiplication. Jesus says that the key to becoming fruitful is to remain/abide in Him. Thus ministry or spiritual service is really just an overflow of the Life of Christ that is within us. A direct fruit that comes from that deep communion with the Lord.

"I am the True Grapevine, and my Father is the Gardener. He cuts off every branch of Mine that doesn't produce fruit, and He prunes the branches that do bear fruit so they will produce even more. You have already been pruned and purified by the message I have given you. Remain in Me, and I will remain in you. For a branch cannot produce fruit if it is severed from the vine, and you cannot be fruitful unless you remain in Me.



"Yes, I am the Vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in Me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from Me you can do nothing. Anyone who does not remain in Me is thrown away like a useless branch and withers. Such branches are gathered into a pile to be burned. But if you remain in Me and My words remain in you, you may ask for anything you want, and it will be granted! When you produce much fruit, you are my true disciples. This brings great glory to my Father. JOHN 15:1-8

God deeply desires you to become fruitful and make a real impact in your generation and throughout history. In fact, He says that this fruitfulness shows you are His disciples and it brings Him glory. He also states that if you want that, all you have to do is ask and remain in Him - the best place in the world anyway.

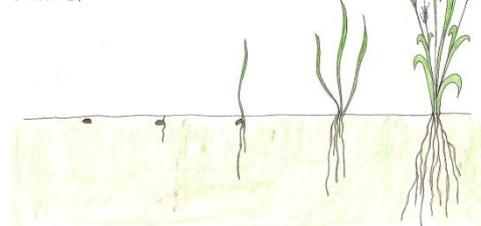
THE CROSS IS THE MULTIPLIER

In another passage, Jesus has this to say about how He would multiply Himself;

"The hour has come that the Son of Man should be glorified. Most assuredly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain. He who loves his life will lose it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. JOHN 12:23-25

Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain, but if it dies, it bears much fruit.

John 12:24



Jesus is saying He has to die just like a grain of wheat that

falls to the ground, but in doing so, many more sons will come forth. Just like that grain of wheat will produce many more grains as it is buried. It was this demonstration of radical extravagant love that was the catalyst for the multiplication process. In that place of obedient love, God honoured His Son.

This is the way of the cross. Just as it was true for Jesus, it is true for you and I. There is something about becoming a living sacrifice, that draws the fire of God. There is something about a crucifixion

that releases resurrection power. There is something about a momentary light suffering that releases an eternally bright/rich/weighty glory. If the price sounds expensive, get your eyes on the prize, or even on the price that was already paid 2000 years ago on Calvary (the hill Jesus was crucified on).

Prayer

Ask the Lord, "Where can I bear fruit today Lord?"

Activity

Go through your music and movie collection and ask the Lord what should go and what should stay, purpose in your heart to do the right thing trusting that God has something way better for you.

Pop Quiz

If we abide in Christ ...

- a) we become fruitful.
- b) we show we are His disciples.
- c) God gets much glory.
- d) all of the above.

The key to becoming fruitful is ...

- a) dying on a cross.
- b) getting planted in the ground.
- c) becoming a living sacrifice.
- d) all of the above.

MULTIPLE CHOICE ANSWERS

FOUNDATION SERIES

Who is God?	a	d	
Jesus Christ - the Son of God	b	d	
The Holy Spirit	d	a	b
The Kingdom of Heaven	c	d	
The New You	d	b	
Love	c	b	d
Faith	d	a	d
Grace (Favour)	d	d	c

GROWTH SERIES

Following Jesus- the Word	d	b	
Friends with God! Talking with Him	b	d	
Going Deeper	d	d	
Finding a Family - Church	a	b	
Baptisms	c	c	
Fruit & Gifts from the Spirit	d	a	d
The Greatest Commandment and Commission	c	d	
Becoming Fruitful	d	c	

BIBLE IN A YEAR PLAN

1. Genesis 1-3; Romans 1
2. Genesis 4-6; Romans 2
3. Genesis 7-9; Romans 3
4. Genesis 10-12; Romans 4
5. Genesis 13-15; Romans 5
6. Genesis 16-17; Romans 6
7. Genesis 18-19; Romans 7
8. Genesis 20-22; Romans 8
9. Genesis 23-24
10. Genesis 25-26; Romans 9
11. Genesis 27-28
12. Genesis 29-30; Romans 10
13. Genesis 31-32
14. Genesis 33-35; Romans 11
15. Genesis 36-38; Romans 12
16. Genesis 39-40; Romans 13
17. Genesis 41-42; Romans 14
18. Genesis 43-45
19. Genesis 46-48; Romans 15
20. Genesis 49-50; Romans 16
21. Isaiah 1-2
22. Isaiah 3-4; Mark 1
23. Isaiah 5-6; Mark 2
24. Isaiah 7-8; Mark 3
25. Isaiah 9-10
26. Isaiah 11-13; Mark 4
27. Isaiah 14-16
28. Isaiah 17-19; Mark 5
29. Isaiah 20-22
30. Isaiah 23-25
31. Isaiah 26-27; Mark 6
32. Isaiah 28-29
33. Isaiah 30-31; Mark 7
34. Isaiah 32-33; Mark 8
35. Isaiah 34-36
36. Isaiah 37-38; Mark 9
37. Isaiah 39-40; Mark 10
38. Isaiah 41-42
39. Isaiah 43-44
40. Isaiah 45-46; Mark 11
41. Isaiah 47-49
42. Isaiah 50-52; Mark 12
43. Isaiah 53-55; Mark 13
44. Isaiah 56-58
45. Isaiah 59-61
46. Isaiah 62-64
47. Isaiah 65-66; Mark 14
48. Exodus 1-3; Mark 15
49. Exodus 4-6
50. Exodus 7-8; Mark 16
51. Exodus 9-11; 1 Thessalonians 1
52. Exodus 12-13; 1 Thessalonians 2
53. Exodus 14-15; 1 Thessalonians 3
54. Exodus 16-18; 1 Thessalonians 4
55. Exodus 19-20; 1 Thessalonians 5
56. Exodus 21-22; 2 Thessalonians 1
57. Exodus 23-24; 2 Thessalonians 2
58. Exodus 25-26; 2 Thessalonians 3
59. Exodus 27-28; Philemon 1
60. Exodus 29-30; James 1
61. Exodus 31-33; James 2
62. Exodus 34-35; James 3
63. Exodus 36-38; James 4
64. Exodus 39-40; James 5
65. Job 1-2; 1 Corinthians 1
66. Job 3-4; 1 Corinthians 2
67. Job 5-7; 1 Corinthians 3
68. Job 8-10; 1 Corinthians 4
69. Job 11-13; 1 Corinthians 5
70. Job 14-16; 1 Corinthians 6
71. Job 17-19
72. Job 20-21; 1 Corinthians 7
73. Job 22-24; 1 Corinthians 8
74. Job 25-27; 1 Corinthians 9
75. Job 28-29; 1 Corinthians 10
76. Job 30-31
77. Job 32-33; 1 Corinthians 11
78. Job 34-35
79. Job 36-37; 1 Corinthians 12
80. Job 38-40; 1 Corinthians 13
81. Job 41-42
82. Proverbs 1-2; 1 Corinthians 14
83. Proverbs 3-5
84. Proverbs 6-7; 1 Corinthians 15
85. Proverbs 8-9; 1 Corinthians 16
86. Proverbs 10-12; Titus 1
87. Proverbs 13-15; Titus 2
88. Proverbs 16-18; Titus 3
89. Proverbs 19-21; Hebrews 1
90. Proverbs 22-24; Hebrews 2
91. Proverbs 25-26; Hebrews 3
92. Proverbs 27-29; Hebrews 4
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97. Leviticus 8-10; Hebrews 9
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100. Leviticus 14; Hebrews 11
101. Leviticus 15-16
102. Leviticus 17-18; Hebrews 12
103. Leviticus 19-20; Hebrews 13
104. Leviticus 21-22; Revelation 1
105. Leviticus 23-24; Revelation 2
106. Leviticus 25; Revelation 3
107. Leviticus 26-27; Revelation 4
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110. Daniel 5-7; Revelation 7
111. Daniel 8-10; Revelation 8
112. Daniel 11-12; Revelation 9
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114. Ecclesiastes 4-6; Revelation 11
115. Ecclesiastes 7-9; Revelation 12
116. Ecclesiastes 10-12; Revelation 13
117. Numbers 1-2; Revelation 14
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124. Numbers 17-19; Revelation 21
125. Numbers 20-22; Revelation 22
126. Numbers 23-25; Matthew 1
127. Numbers 26-28; Matthew 2
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129. Numbers 32-34; Matthew 4
130. Numbers 35-36; Matthew 5
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132. 1 Kings 1-2; Matthew 6
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148. 2 Kings 17-18; Matthew 15
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163. Jeremiah 20-21; Matthew 24
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168. Jeremiah 33; Matthew 26
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172. Jeremiah 43-45; Matthew 27
173. Jeremiah 46-47; Matthew 28
174. Jeremiah 48-49; Philippians 1
175. Jeremiah 50; Philippians 2
176. Jeremiah 51-52; Philippians 3
177. Joel 1-3; Philippians 4
178. Deuteronomy 1-3; Acts 1
179. Deuteronomy 4-6
180. Deuteronomy 7-9; Acts 2
181. Deuteronomy 10-12; Acts 3
182. Deuteronomy 13-15; Acts 4
183. Deuteronomy 16-18
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185. Deuteronomy 22-24
186. Deuteronomy 25-27; Acts 6
187. Deuteronomy 28-30
188. Deuteronomy 31; Acts 7
189. Deuteronomy 32-34
190. Obadiah 1; Acts 8
191. Ruth 1-4
192. Psalms 1-3
193. Psalms 4-6; Acts 9
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195. Psalms 10-12; Acts 10
196. Psalms 13-15; Acts 11
197. Psalms 16-17; Acts 12

198. Psalms 18-19; Acts 13
199. Psalms 20-22
200. Psalms 23-25; Acts 14
201. Psalms 26-28
202. Psalms 29-30; Acts 15
203. Psalms 31-32; Acts 16
204. Psalms 33-34
205. Psalms 35-36; Acts 17
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207. Psalms 40-42; Acts 18
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295. 1 Samuel 25-26; 1 Timothy 2
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298. 2 Samuel 1-2; 1 Timothy 5
299. 2 Samuel 3-5; 1 Timothy 6
300. 2 Samuel 6-8; 1 John 1
301. 2 Samuel 9-11; 1 John 2
302. 2 Samuel 12-13; 1 John 3
303. 2 Samuel 14-15; 1 John 4
304. 2 Samuel 16-18; 1 John 5
305. 2 Samuel 19-20; 2 John 1
306. 2 Samuel 21-22; 3 John 1
307. 2 Samuel 23-24; Colossians 1
308. Nahum 1-3; Colossians 2
309. Habakkuk 1-3; Colossians 3
310. Zephaniah 1-3; Colossians 4
311. Ezra 1-2; 2 Timothy 1
312. Ezra 3-5; 2 Timothy 2
313. Ezra 6-8; 2 Timothy 3
314. Ezra 9-10; 2 Timothy 4
315. 1 Chronicles 1-3; Jude 1
316. 1 Chronicles 4-6
317. 1 Chronicles 7-9
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320. 1 Chronicles 16-18
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322. 1 Chronicles 22-24; Luke 3
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325. 2 Chronicles 1-3; Luke 5
326. 2 Chronicles 4-6
327. 2 Chronicles 7-9
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332. 2 Chronicles 19-20; Luke 8
333. 2 Chronicles 21-22; Luke 9
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344. Haggai 1-2; Luke 14
345. Joshua 1-3
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347. Joshua 7-9
348. Joshua 10-12; Luke 16
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351. Joshua 19-21
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355. Nehemiah 7-9
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357. Nehemiah 12-13; Luke 21
358. Micah 1-3
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364. Zechariah 13-14; Luke 24
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