

discipleship

A guide to learning the life, teaching and practices
of

JESUS CHRIST



ISRAEL MARRONE



Dear New Believer:

This is a very exciting time indeed and I am excited for you. I want to officially welcome you to the body of Christ and I am praying that the teaching and fellowship with other like-minded believers would satisfy your need in the Kingdom of God.

These next 8 weeks I am going to ask you for your undivided attention during your new member orientation class. These classes will give you the necessary foundation for you to excel in the body of Christ. Each class builds off the previous class and it is important for you to be in attendance and complete the assignments.

Once again it is a pleasure for you to be a member of this ministry and if there is anything I or the staff can do for you and your family please let me know.

God Bless

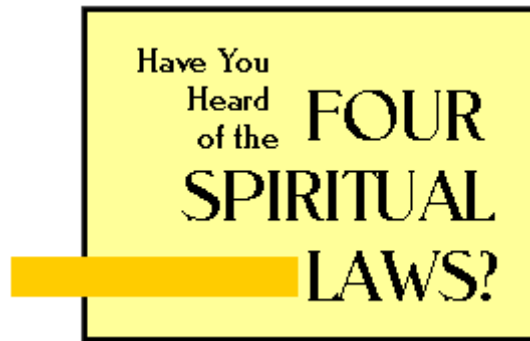
Bishop Israel Marrone

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Week 1

Learning the Four Spiritual Laws



Just as there are physical laws that govern the physical universe, so are there spiritual laws that govern your relationship with God.

Law I

Law 1

God loves you and offers a wonderful plan for your life. God's Love "God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16, NIV). God's Plan

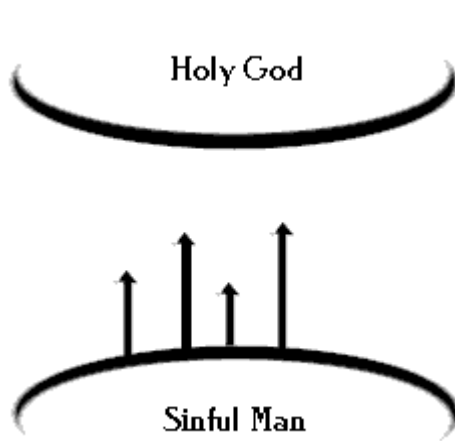
[Christ speaking] "I came that they might have life, and might have it abundantly" [that it might be full and meaningful] (John 10:10). Why is it that most people are not experiencing that abundant life? Because...

Law II

Law 2

Man is sinful and separated from God. Therefore, he cannot know and experience God's love and plan for his life. Man is Sinful "All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23). Man was created to have fellowship with God; but, because of his own stubborn self-will, he chose to go his own independent way and fellowship with God was broken. This self-will, characterized by an attitude of active rebellion or

passive indifference, is an evidence of what the Bible calls sin. Man Is Separated
"The wages of sin is death" [spiritual separation from God] (Romans 6:23).



This diagram illustrates that God is holy and man is sinful. A great gulf separates the two. The arrows illustrate that man is continually trying to reach God and the abundant life through his own efforts, such as a good life, philosophy, or religion -but he inevitably fails.

The third law explains the only way to bridge this gulf...

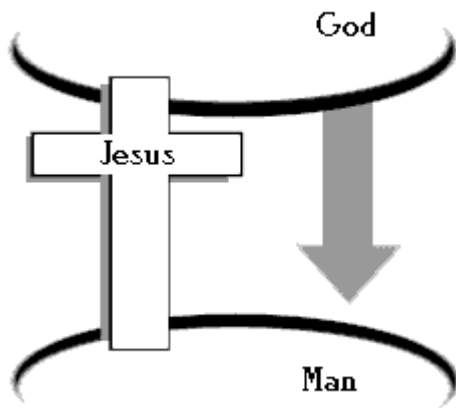
Law III

Law 3

Jesus Christ is God's only provision for man's sin. Through Him you can know and experience God's love and plan for your life. He Died In Our Place "God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8). He Rose from the Dead "Christ died for our sins... He was buried... He was raised on the third day, according to the Scriptures... He appeared to Peter, then to the twelve. After that He appeared to more than five hundred..." (1 Corinthians 15:3-6).

He Is the Only Way to God

"Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life, no one comes to the Father but through Me'" (John 14:6).



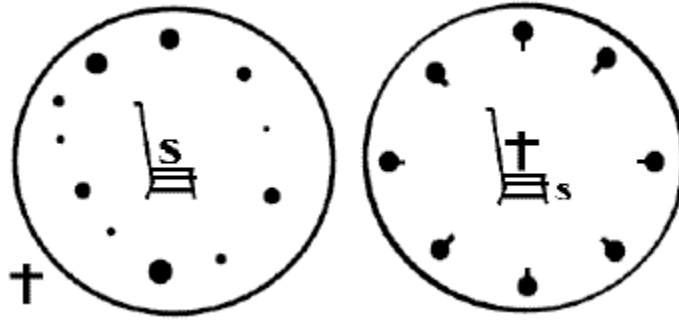
This diagram illustrates that God has bridged the gulf that separates us from Him by sending His Son, Jesus Christ, to die on the cross in our place to pay the penalty for our sins.

It is not enough just to know these three laws...

Law IV

Law 4

We must individually receive Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord; then we can know and experience God's love and plan for our lives. We Must Receive Christ "As many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name" (John 1:12). We Receive Christ Through Faith "By grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as result of works that no one should boast" (Ephesians 2:8,9). When We Receive Christ, We Experience a New Birth (Read John 3:1-8.) We Receive Christ through Personal Invitation [Christ speaking] "Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if any one hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him" (Revelation 3:20). Receiving Christ involves turning to God from self (repentance) and trusting Christ to come into our lives to forgive our sins and to make us what He wants us to be. Just to agree intellectually that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and that He died on the cross for our sins is not enough. Nor is it enough to have an emotional experience. We receive Jesus Christ by faith, as an act of the will. These two circles represent two kinds of lives:



Self-Directed Life

S-Self is on the throne

†-Christ is outside the life

●-Interests are directed by self, often resulting in discord and frustration

Christ-Directed Life

†-Christ is in the life and on the throne

S-Self is yielding to Christ, resulting in harmony with God's plan

●-Interests are directed by Christ, resulting in harmony with God's plan

Which circle best represents your life?

Which circle would you like to have represent your life?

The following explains how you can receive Christ:

You Can Receive Christ Right Now by Faith Through Prayer (Prayer is talking with God)

God knows your heart and is not so concerned with your words as He is with the attitude of your heart. The following is a suggested prayer:

Lord Jesus, I need You. Thank You for dying on the cross for my sins. I open the door of my life and receive You as my Savior and Lord. Thank You for forgiving my sins and giving me eternal life. Take control of the throne of my life. Make me the kind of person You want me to be.

Does this prayer express the desire of your heart? If it does, I invite you to pray this prayer right now, and Christ will come into your life, as He promised.

Week 2

How to develop a life of Holy Living

Now that you have received Christ and have an understanding of what it takes. The next steps will be to understand what being truly saved as a disciple of Christ actually means. There are certain prerequisites that we must adhere to as a disciple of Christ. The main thing is that we understand what God's word has to say about living a holy and separated life in Christ Jesus. The basic understanding of this is plain and simple once you accept Jesus Christ into your heart as savior you are a new creation.

2 Corinthians 5:14-15 (New International Version)

For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.

Living a dead life while alive in Christ

Galatians 2:20 (New International Version)

I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Romans 6:8-14 (New International Version)

Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him. The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus. Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires. Do not offer any part of yourself to sin as an instrument of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer every part of yourself to him as an instrument of righteousness. For sin shall no longer be your master, because you are not under the law, but under grace.

A true disciple of Christ is dead to sin and its works, now you are new.

2 Corinthians 5:17-18 (New International Version)

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation:

How do I go about developing this new person? You don't! Let the word work!

Romans 12:1-2 (New International Version)

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God-this is your true and proper worship (reverence offered a divine being or supernatural power; *also* : an act of expressing such reverence a form of religious practice with its creed and ritual)

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.

Life transformation happens spiritually. This means that your spirit man is developed first and then your natural man will follow. Notice the word of God says we are transformed by the renewing of the mind. Your mind is renewed by reading, studying and meditating on God's word. This must become a daily routine or practice in the life of a believer. Most people that are Christians fail in this area. They never allow the word of God to germinate in their heart to transform them.

This is why the first instruction that God gave to Joshua after he received the leadership role of the children of Israel was to not let the book of the law or word of God to depart out of his mouth. God told him to meditate on it day and night then he would have good success.

Read:

Joshua 1:8 (New International Version)

Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful.

Explain in your own words how important Romans 12:1-2 is to a believer or disciple of Christ.

How does, Joshua 1:8 relate to this?

Your assignment this week is to meditate on each scripture we have covered this week and be prepared to explain it to others. You may need to sacrifice some time that you would normally be watching TV or socializing with others to develop this technique. However you do it your success as a believer and disciple of Jesus Christ depends on it.

If you want the same results that you have been getting in your life continue to do what you have been doing. If you would like different results practice something new and exciting and watch the results.

For the next few weeks you may want to keep a personal journal or diary of your personal growth and successes. God bless you and I will see you next week.

Personal Notes

Week 3

You are a Disciple of Christ Jesus

What does it mean to be a Disciple of Christ?

I was reading ahead in Matthew and I was stirred by the words of Jesus as it relates to what it means to follow Him. Together let's explore what it means to be a Disciple of Christ.

Matthew 16:24-26 (New International Version)

Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will find it. What good will it be for a man if he gains the whole world, yet forfeits his soul? Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul?"

Do you consider yourself to be a disciple of Christ? As we read thru God's Word this, you may find yourself repeatedly thinking, "Am I in the faith? What does it take to follow Him? Am I truly a disciple of Christ?"

Time to Examine Ourselves

2 Corinthians 13:5 (New International Version)

"Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves. Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you—unless, of course, you fail the test?"

Because you are a new creation Christ actually lives now inside of you. Get used to this concept when you asked Christ to come into your heart guess what he actually did.

Colossians 1:27 (New International Version)

To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

You must now come into agreement with this truth that Christ is in you. Now its time to learn about what is inside you and what a disciple of Christ really means.

What is a Disciple?

According to the New Oxford American Dictionary, "disciple" means "follower, adherent, believer, student, and supporter." In Strong's Exhaustive Concordance, we find that the word used in the Greek New Testament for "disciple" is "mathetes." The definition is "learner, pupil, and disciple." Thus, a disciple is one who believes and follows the teachings of another, and desires to learn more of his master's will. Christ's words in the bible there are several statements attributed to Christ, and they inform readers how to best follow him. Be prepared to be shocked and amazed at the level of commitment that Jesus requires if you desire to become his disciple and to be saved.

Jesus is forever at the right hand of God now making intercession for us. You may be asking how Jesus can be at the right hand of God and living inside me at the same time. Let me explain this to you. God and his Kingdom is not somewhere else the Kingdom of God is inside of you and if the Kingdom of God is within you that makes it easy now to understand how this can be. The Kingdom of God is within your heart.

Luke 17:20-21 (King James Version)

And when he was demanded of the Pharisees, when the kingdom of God should come, he answered them and said the kingdom of God cometh not with observation: Neither shall they say, Lo here! Or, lo there! For, behold the Kingdom of God is within you.

Jesus is forever making intercession for us while inside and at the right hand of the father.

Romans 8:34 (New International Version)

Who then is the one who condemns? No one! Christ Jesus who died-more than that, who was raised to life-is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us.

Hebrews 7:25 (New International Version)

Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them.

The last command of Jesus Christ

Matthew 28:18-20 (New International Version)

Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Jesus explains how this is done.

1. Make disciples of all nations and nationalities.
2. By baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit
3. Finally teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.

As you can now see, the mission of the Church of God in Christ is to create disciples of all nationalities and by baptizing them and finally teaching them to obey everything Jesus commanded.

What scripture explains the last command of Jesus Christ?

If you answered in some manner and form his word you were right. In order to learn exactly what Jesus taught or commanded, you must go to the Gospel's (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John). You must learn to study and do exactly what Jesus taught his disciples. Let me give you a hint! In most Bibles what Jesus commanded is written in red.

Your assignment this week is to meditate on the scriptures in this lesson and start studying what Jesus taught. My recommendation to you is start in Matthew. Read a chapter each day. Come on you can do it!

Personal Notes

Week 4

The Cost of Discipleship

Counting the Cost of Discipleship:

Luke 14:25-33 (New International Version)

Large crowds were traveling with Jesus, and turning to them he said: "If anyone comes to me and does not hate his father and mother, his wife and children, his brothers and sisters—yes, even his own life—he cannot be my disciple. And anyone who does not carry his cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.

"Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Will he not first sit down and estimate the cost to see if he has enough money to complete it? For if he lays the foundation and is not able to finish it, everyone who sees it will ridicule him, saying, 'This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.'

"Or suppose a king is about to go to war against another king. Will he not first sit down and consider whether he is able with ten thousand men to oppose the one coming against him with twenty thousand? If he is not able, he will send a delegation while the other is still a long way off and will ask for terms of peace. In the same way, any of you who does not give up everything he has cannot be my disciple.

John 8:31 (New International Version)

To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples."

In Luke 14:26, Jesus is recorded as saying, "If you want to be my follower you must love me more than your own father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters--yes, more than your own life. Otherwise, you cannot be my disciple." He also told his followers, "You are truly my disciples if you keep obeying my teachings." That means everything that Jesus taught must be followed in our daily living. Jesus does not ask you to throw logic out the window. He advises to count the cost, tally up what you must give up versus what you will gain, and then decide. He holds back nothing and neither can you. It really is an all or nothing deal. The stakes are high.

Gain the World, Lose your Soul

Mark 8:34-38 (New International Version)

Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life[a] will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me and for the gospel will save it. What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, yet forfeit his soul? Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul? If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of him when he comes in his Father's glory with the holy angels."

What Did That Mean for Christ's Followers While He Was On Earth?

Christ's close followers while he was on earth had unusual challenges as they became his disciples. Their master was considered a rebel and a blasphemer by the religious and political leaders of the day. As an itinerant teacher, Christ had no permanent home, and many of his disciples chose to give up their homes and travel with him. Others opened their homes whenever he came by, incurring the displeasure of the authorities. Ultimately, many of Christ's disciples died violent deaths because they refused to disown their teacher or his doctrines.

What does that mean for the Christian today?

For a person to be a disciple of Christ today, he must take several things into account. Christ asks that his disciples give him first place in their lives. He asks that they follow the commands that he has prescribed in the Bible. For a Christian, the highest aim in life should be to follow Christ and to become more like him. It can mean giving up activities that the Bible states are distracting or harmful. It definitely means that we begin to change, with the help of the infilling of the Holy Spirit, to be conformed to the image of Christ. Only by putting time and effort into learning what Christ's commands are can Christians meet this goal. So how do we do this?

Conform to the likeness of Christ

Romans 8:29 (New International Version)

For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.

Study and Practice God's Word:

2 Peter 3:18 (New International Version)

But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen.

Living a Holy Life is Your Testimony:

2 Timothy 2:15 (New International Version)

Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.

Bring Forth Fruit:

John 15:8 (New International Version)

This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

Love One Another:

John 13:35 (New International Version)

By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

Disciples Help Feed the Sheep:

John 21:15-16 (New International Version)

When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you truly love me more than these?" "Yes, Lord," he said, "you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Feed my lambs." Again Jesus said, "Simon son of John, do you truly love me?" He answered, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Take care of my sheep."

You must give up Sin by Repenting:

2 Timothy 2:19 (New International Version)

Nevertheless, God's solid foundation stands firm, sealed with this inscription: "The Lord knows those who are his," and, "Everyone who confesses the name of the Lord must turn away from wickedness."

There is a rule that we must live by. This rule is live your life as if Christ was present in the flesh!

Study Notes and Scriptures

Explanation: Christians do sin, but not willfully so. Read 1 John 1:6 - 2:6. True disciples have the choice of continuing in that way of life or straying from it.

1 John 1:6-2:6 (New International Version)

If we claim to have fellowship with him yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live by the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin. If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. 9If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. 10If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word has no place in our lives.

My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have one who speaks to the Father in our defense—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world. We know that we have come to know him if we obey his commands. The man who says, "I know him," but does not do what he commands is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But if anyone obeys his word, God's love is truly made complete in him. This is how we know we are in him: Whoever claims to live in him must walk as Jesus did.

Disciple of Christ - What does it mean to Make Jesus our Sovereign Lord?

Week 5

A Disciple of Christ a Good Steward

Part of being a disciple of Christ is stewardship of our life, possessions and repentance from sin. If God is sovereign, He owns everything. If God owns everything, we own nothing. We don't so much as own the bodies we possess. The Bible says:

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 (New International Version)

Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; You were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body.

1 Peter 1:18-19 (New International Version)

For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.

Discipleship Includes Stewardship

You and I do not have ownership rights -- we have management responsibilities. It's important that we understand this basic realization which is the foundation for Christian stewardship. Good stewardship is the wise management of God's property; you, your health, your money, your time, everything.

One fundamental lesson we as Christians must learn is: God knows best! God knows everything! He loves us as children (adopted into the family through Christ) and has set principles for us to live by in His Word, the Bible. We must follow God's principles. They are for our own protection. We live in a hostile world that has willfully rejected its Creator God, and we, as His children, are not immune to the world's trials, tribulations and temptations. Once we learn this hard lesson, and we outgrow the childish notion that we know better than God, then it's easier to submit to Him and say, "Lord, forgive me, I was wrong... I've been living a life you disapprove of and I want to change. Help me to live the life you approve of." This is the essence of repentance. To repent is to regret your sin, denounce your sin, turn from your sin, and turn to God.

Savior and Sovereign LORD

We all need a Savior. But to truly be a disciple of Christ, we need a sovereign Lord. How do we accept Jesus Christ as sovereign Lord? We need to give Him the place in our lives that He deserves and requires, and repent of our old ways. We must be born-again. We all have a choice. We can either live our life the way we please, obeying God and disobeying God as we feel is best, or we can recognize that Christ alone offers salvation. Christ alone offers a relationship with God. Christ alone offers significance and purpose to life that we can never achieve by our own wisdom or might -- a significance and purpose the world cannot offer. Trust in Jesus Christ for your eternal salvation, and trust that He is truly worthy of first place in your life.

Meditate on this week's scripture, all this week and be prepared to explain them on next week.

Personal Notes

Week 6

Becoming a good steward over your money

Become a good steward over your finances

At Alllove Faith C.O.G.I.C we honor God with our first fruits. What does this mean? We understand that we do not generally have crops and herds but we do have jobs, businesses and money.

Proverbs 3:9-10 (New International Version)

Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the first fruits of all your crops; then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine.

Proverbs 3:9-10 (English Standard Version)

Honor the Lord with your wealth and with the first fruits of all your produce; then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will be bursting with wine.

Nehemiah 10:35 (English Standard Version)

We obligate ourselves to bring the first fruits of our ground and the first fruits of all fruit of every tree, year by year, to the house of the Lord;

Romans 11:16 (English Standard Version)

If the dough offered as first fruits is holy, so is the whole lump, and if the root is holy, so are the branches.

The Tithe is your seed

Malachi 3:8-12 (New International Version)

Will a mere mortal rob God? Yet you rob me. "But you ask, how are we robbing you? In tithes and offerings. You are under a curse-your whole nation-because you are robbing me. Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this, says the Lord Almighty, and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it. I will prevent pests from devouring your crops, and the vines in your fields will not drop

their fruit before it is ripe, says the Lord Almighty. Then all the nations will call you blessed, for yours will be a delightful land, says the Lord Almighty.

God is blessed by your tithe as an expression of your love and obedience to him, yet tithing is primarily for your own benefit so that God can bless you. There is a universal law that God has placed in both the natural and spiritual realms. This is the law of sowing and reaping.”...God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap” Galatians 6:7 The tithe is “seed” that you plant in God that will bring the harvest of prosperity.

Offerings

Luke 6:38 (New International Version)

Give and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.

2 Corinthians 9:6-8 (New International Version)

Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.

Homework

Please take this time to explain what each of these scriptures means to you in your own words.

What causes some people finances to be cursed in Malachi 3 chapter?

The principle of First Fruits is explained how?

What exactly does being a good steward over your finances mean?

Week 7

Water Baptism

Once again let us look at Matthew 28:19.

Matthew 28:19 (New International Version)

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. There is a baptism of water according to the scriptures.

Matthew 3:11 (New International Version)

I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me comes one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

John 1:26 (New International Version)

"I baptize with water, John replied, but among you stands one you do not know. He is the one who comes after me, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie.

It must be significant if Jesus was baptized

Matthew 3:13-16 (New International Version)

Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John. But John tried to deter him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" Jesus replied, "Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness." Then John consented. As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."

What is Water Baptism?

Water baptism is a symbolic burial, by which the new Christian publicly declares they have died, and are now beginning a new life, in Christ.

Baptize is the English form of a Greek word which means to immerse: to place something into something else.

In Christian water baptism, the believer is put completely under water, then immediately raised out of the water. Water baptism is a statement of faith: my old life is behind me -- I am a new person, with a new life. Water baptism is a sign of repentance -- repentance means change -- a change so drastic that the old person is "buried."

It does not make you acceptable to God. As a work of righteousness, trying to obtain a good standing with God, it is worthless. Water baptism is a way of giving testimony to what has happened inwardly, and a clear commitment to turn from the old life.

It is For Your Benefit

Water baptism outwardly demonstrates what has happened inwardly. Water baptism helps you to grasp the reality of the spiritual truth that the old "you" has died.

Water baptism is only as important as the participant believes it to be. Water baptism is their confession, and a public commitment. Unless the person really believes they died, there is no need for a burial. It is not something we must do to impress God, but something to impress on our mind what happened to us inwardly. *Water baptism is for our benefit -- not God's.*

Meaning Of The Word Baptize

T. J. Conant in his book, *The Meaning And Use Of Baptizein*,¹ after an exhaustive examination of the Greek word *baptizein* in Greek literature, concludes that the English word *immerse* is the best word to translate it.

Conant tells us, "The word 'baptize' is an Anglicized form of the Greek BAPTIZEIN."

He says *immerse* is the English word that "precisely" makes known to us the same meaning as BAPTIZEIN did "to those who first heard and read the Gospel in Greek."

In all the available Greek literature, both secular and religious, Conant found no example in which the word *baptizein* had any other meaning.

Conant reports that it was a common, secular word, used in the daily affairs of life, to express the most familiar acts and conditions.

Baptizein was a daily household word. Whenever the idea of total submergence was to be expressed, whether literally or metaphorically, *baptizein* was the word used.

As you read the Bible, mentally translating the word *baptize* to the word *immerse* will greatly help your understanding. Not every time the word *baptize* or *baptism* is used in the Bible refers to water baptism.

Burial After Death

Water baptism is about death -- your death. ("Death" is the end of something.) *Water baptism is your public declaration of your death.* It is a public confession of faith: I have died to my old life and my old ways. By being baptized in water you are saying that you have died to sin, selfishness, and the world's ways. Water baptism is a public burial of the old life. By asking for burial, you declare that you believe something has died. There is no need for a burial without a death. Burial is not absolutely required, but is recommended as the best course of action. So, generally, those who receive Jesus Christ should normally be baptized in water.

In the book of Acts, water baptism always seemed to be done without delay. Although burial can take place at any time, the best time is immediately after death has been confirmed.

Clean Break With The Past

As we are baptized in water, we are in effect saying goodbye to our old life (self), and saying hello to a new creation who is IN Christ Jesus.

Because of death you are free from your old master the devil; now you have a new Master, the Lord Jesus Christ.

A major benefit to the believer is the clean break that water baptism makes with their past. When the devil brings temptations and accusations concerning their old life -- the believer can reply, "That person is dead and buried. I am a new person in Christ."

Water baptism is a point of separation, dividing the old from the new. It says the past is dead and gone -- drawing a clear line between the old life and the new, graphically imprinted on the mind of the believer.

To you as a new member:

I know your lessons are getting more involved as we go further but this is for your spiritual enrichment. Let me remind you a Christian walk is a daily walk one day at a time. Please let me encourage you to continue to study this material daily at the same time.

Please make an appointment to be baptized after this lesson. You may do so by speaking with Pastor Georgia Peters or one of the other Elders.

Personal Notes

Week 8

Baptism of the Holy Spirit

I will show you exactly what this gift of Baptism of the Holy Spirit is and how to properly receive it. Many have tried to receive this gift at an altar call at their local churches, but they have failed to receive it. They then walk away thinking that maybe there was something wrong with them or they were not worthy enough to receive this gift from the Lord. I believe the number one reason why some Christians do not properly receive this gift when they try the above approach is because **they have not been properly prepared to receive it.**

To really receive this gift the first time you try asking and pressing in for it, you have to know exactly what it is you are receiving, and then you have to properly prepare yourself to receive it. Once those two things have been properly done, then it becomes very easy to receive this gift the first time you ask and press in for it. This is a gift that God wants all of His children to have, just like His gift of eternal salvation through His Son Jesus Christ.

I will first start off by explaining exactly what this gift is, and then I will show you how to properly prepare yourself to receive it. Once those two things have been done, I will then show you exactly how to receive it once you are ready for it.

What is the Baptism of the Holy Spirit?

The first thing that you will need to know is exactly what this gift is. The Bible tells us that we will all receive the Holy Spirit at the moment of our salvation with the Lord. The Bible also tells us that we are “**sealed**” with the Holy Spirit the minute we accept Jesus Christ as our personal Lord and Savior.

So if we have already received the Holy Spirit at the moment of our salvation with the Lord, then what is this “second” baptism of the Holy Spirit that the charismatics are talking about? The Bible tells us that there is only one bbaptism.

To fully understand what is meant by the baptism of the Holy Spirit – you have to know what the difference is between your body, soul, and spirit. The Bible tells us that we have three distinct parts to our being – body, soul, and spirit. Here is the verse specifically telling us this:

1 Thessalonians 5:23 (New King James Version)

“Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

Your body is your natural, physical, flesh body. Your soul is located on the inside of your body. Your soul is who you really are. It is your total personality – it is your mind, will, emotions, and intellect. Your soul is spirit in form, which means it cannot be seen by any natural means. It is completely invisible to the naked eye.

On the inside of your soul is your spirit. The Bible refers to our human spirit as being our **“innermost being.”** I believe another word for our human spirit is “heart.” When people refer to having had a broken heart in a romantic relationship that has been dissolved, a broken heart is really a “wounded spirit.”

I also believe Jesus gives us a clue as to where our human spirits may be located at in our beings in the following verse. The New King James Version uses the word **“heart”**, but the Original King James Version uses the word **“belly.”**

John 7:38 (New King James Version)

“He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart (BELLY) will flow rivers of living water. But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.”

When we receive Jesus Christ as our personal Lord and Savior, the Holy Spirit comes and enters into our human spirits. Our **spirits** are thus baptized with His actual presence at the exact moment of our salvation with the Lord. This is the baptism that the Bible is talking about when it says that there is only one baptism.

However, what the charismatics are referring to is a second experience where the Holy Spirit now comes up and enters into your **soul**. Your **spirit** has already been baptized with the Holy Spirit at the moment of your salvation with the Lord, but now God wants to take it one step further. He now wants to baptize your **soul** with his Holy Spirit.

Another word that can be used for the **“baptism”** of the Holy Spirit where He will now enter your soul area is the **“release”** of the Holy Spirit into your soul. **The Holy Spirit will release from your spirit to come up and enter into your soul.**

I believe this is what Paul was referring to when he commands us to be **“filled with the Spirit.”** If our spirits are already filled up with the Holy Spirit at the moment of our salvation with the Lord, then what else needs to be filled up? It is our souls.

When you have received the second gift of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, you are now considered **“Spirit-filled.”** Both your spirit and your soul are now filled with the presence of the Holy Spirit.

When Jesus tells us in the above verse that out of our **“belly”** will flow rivers of living water, I believe that He may be telling us that our human spirits are located in our belly areas.

For those of you who have ever felt any kind of heart pain in a broken love relationship – if you will recall, the pain you were feeling was in your belly area. It feels like there is a knife on the inside of your belly area just tearing you up. Again, a broken heart is really a wounded spirit, and when your heart or spirit has been wounded and hurt, you will literally feel physical pain in your belly area.

1. The House Analogy

Another way to try to understand all of the above is what I call the house analogy. When you buy a house, you will get two things – the house, and the front and back yards. The analogy is that your house is your soul, and your front yard is your spirit.

When you receive God’s free gift of salvation through accepting Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Savior, the Holy Spirit comes and enters into your front and back yards, which is your human spirit. However, He now wants to go one step further and come into your actual house, which is your soul area. Why? Because this is where you really live at. You spend most of your time in the house as versus being outside in the front and back yards. Jesus says in the following verse:

“Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come into him and dine with him, and he with Me.” (Revelation 3:20)

I believe Jesus is not only telling us that He is literally going to come into our human spirits at the moment of our salvation with Him, but that He can also enter into our souls through the Holy Spirit. Even though Jesus is in heaven, He now lives on the inside of us **“through”** the Holy Spirit.

Just as Jesus is living on the inside of us and making contact with us through the Holy Spirit, we likewise can make direct contact with both Him and God the Father through

the Holy Spirit. It is **“by, in, and through”** the Holy Spirit that we have direct access to both God and Jesus who live and dwell in heaven. Here are several good Scripture verses proving the above points:

- a) This first verse tells us that the Holy Spirit literally lives on the inside of each of us.

“Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?” (1 Corinthians 3:16)

- b) Now that we know that the Holy Spirit lives on the inside of each of us, and that both God and Jesus live in heaven – watch how we make direct contact with both God and Jesus in heaven, which is through the Holy Spirit:

- c)

“For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father.”

(Ephesians 2:18)

**“And by this we know that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us.”
(1 John 3:24)**

These two verses specifically tell us that we can make direct contact with both God and Jesus who live in heaven **“by the Spirit.”** The second verse tells us that Jesus literally lives and abides in us **“by the Spirit.”**

2. The Telephone Cord Analogy

Another analogy to fully understand how we can make direct contact with God and Jesus in heaven through the Holy Spirit is what I call the telephone cord analogy. We can pick up a telephone and call someone 800 miles away. Even though that person is physically far away from us, we can still hear their voice as if they were only two inches from our ears. It's as if that person is literally in our actual presence.

It is the same way with God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit. Even though God and Jesus dwell in heaven and do not live on this earth, we can still make direct contact with the both of Them through the Holy Spirit. It is by, in, and through the Holy Spirit that we can make direct contact with the both of Them – the same way we can make direct contact and talk to someone else 800 miles away because of the telephone wires that will connect us to the person that we are talking to.

The Holy Spirit is like the telephone wire that enables us to connect to and make contact with both God and Jesus in heaven. We can talk directly to God and Jesus as a result of

having the Holy Spirit living on the inside of us, and both God and Jesus can also talk directly to us through the Holy Spirit as well.

Once the Holy Spirit comes up and enters into your soul as a result of having received this gift – you will be able to hear God much better and much clearer because the Holy Spirit has now moved up into where you really live at – your soul. This is why this gift is so important for all Christians to have.

I will end this lesson with all of the incredible benefits and blessings that you can expect to receive if you decide you want to receive this gift. These benefits and blessings are extremely powerful and life changing, and they will all completely change and transform the quality of your life.

3. Final Note

If you have not been able to receive this gift at an altar call at your church, here is a very simple 5 step process that you can take that will help you to be able to properly receive this gift from the Lord. However, before I go into each one of these five steps and exactly what they will entail, I would like to state one more thing before leading you into this gift. In my opinion, this gift is the second greatest gift that you can receive this side of heaven. The first greatest gift is the gift of eternal salvation – where you accept and receive Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Savior. There is no greater gift than this one. With this gift you are truly born again into the kingdom of God and you will go straight to heaven when you die and cross over. This gift now gives you true eternal life with the Lord.

However, I believe that receiving the baptism or release of the Holy Spirit to come into your soul is the second greatest gift that anyone can receive while living down here on this earth. Just stop and think for a minute what is really happening when you do receive this gift.

You receive the Holy Spirit into your human spirit when you get saved. However, this gift will now take you one step further. This gift will now allow the Holy Spirit to release from your spirit to come up and enter into your soul. Your soul is who you really are. The Holy Spirit is the third Person of the Godhead. He is God and Lord Himself.

Once the Holy Spirit releases to come up into your soul, you are going to be as close to Him, God, and Jesus as you possibly can get while living down here on this earth.

Through the Holy Spirit, you will have direct access, a direct connection to both God and Jesus in heaven. This gift is just going to bring you that much closer to the Three of Them due to the fact that He will now be residing with you up in your soul area. You will be truly Spirit-filled when this happens.

For some Christians, this may be a bit too scary. Many Christians are afraid of God and they would prefer to keep Him at a safe distance. This gift is really only for the true seekers. This gift is only for the those who are willing to completely lay down and fully surrender every area of their lives over to God the Father for whatever His purposes and plans are going to be for their lives.

For those of you who do have this fear of God for whatever reason, I can tell you without any shadow of a doubt, that there is absolutely nothing to fear about either God, Jesus, or the Holy Spirit. Once you really make direct contact with the three of Them, once you really feel Their perfect and unconditional love, that They really have for you, any fears that you may have had in the past will completely melt away.

God will perfectly and gently handle you at your present level of spiritual development with Him if you decide that you do want to take this bold step and receive this gift. God will gradually work Himself and all of His ways into you so as not to scare you or overwhelm you. Remember – since God is totally perfect in His very nature and in all of His ways, this means you can completely and totally trust Him to perfectly handle you in your own personal relationship with Him. He has nothing but your best interests at heart.

Receive the Baptism of the Holy Spirit

To properly receive this gift, and to make sure that you really do receive it when you first ask for it, here is a simple five step process that you can take that will help you receive this gift the first time you ask for it. If you properly prepare yourself by going through these five steps, then you will definitely receive this gift the first time you ask and press in for it. Here are the five specific steps.

1. Right Motive

The first thing you must have before asking God for this gift is the right motive. This one right here is where many Christians miss getting it the first time around.

Some people may want this gift because some of their friends may have just received it, or they want the gift of tongues, or they want God's power to be able to do what their will is rather than what God's will is going to be for their lives. In other words, they want this gift for their own selfish purposes rather than for what God wants to do with their lives.

The two main reasons each Christian should want to have this gift for are the following:

To be able to draw closer to God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit in your own personal relationship with each One of Them. The number one thing that God wants from each one of us more than anything else is a one-on-one, intimate, personal relationship. Once you receive this gift, you will be able to draw that much closer to the Three of Them, and They will then become much more active in your personal life.

The second main reason that you will want this gift is so that you can have God's supernatural power flowing through you so you can fully accomplish whatever God's perfect will is going to be for you in this life. This is where you really enter into what is called the anointing. The anointing is the power of the Holy Spirit operating through you to accomplish whatever it is God wants you to do for Him.

If God calls you to be a policeman, then He will anoint you with His power to be a great policeman. If God calls you to be a doctor, then He will anoint you with His power to be a great doctor. In order for God's anointing to really be able to properly flow through you, you have to receive this gift. You will have much more of God's supernatural power flowing and operating through you if the Holy Spirit is residing up in your soul area rather than just down in your spirit.

Good case in point was an evangelist by the name of Bishop Charles Harrison Mason. Before Bishop Charles Harrison Mason received this gift, he was just a “good” evangelist in getting people saved and led to the Lord. However, two older ladies at one of his meetings told him one time that he would get many more souls saved if he would just receive this gift. They told him that he was lacking God’s full supernatural power – God’s full anointing when he was preaching.

After he found out what this gift was all about and then properly received it from the Lord, his ministry took off like a rocket! He led many more souls to the Lord than what he was doing before he had received this gift. I recall reading that after he had received this gift, he could not believe the difference in his preaching and the results he started to get. He said he was preaching the exact same messages that he had been preaching before he had received this gift, but many more people would come up to the altar to get saved after he had received this gift as compared to how many were people coming up before he had received the gift. He said that the power of the Holy Spirit operating through his ministry dramatically increased after having received this gift. As a result, he ended up becoming one of the greatest evangelists of all time.

The difference was the anointing – and what got the anointing on his ministry was receiving the Baptism of the Holy Spirit!

Many Christians, after studying what this gift is all about, and realizing that God can release this kind of supernatural power in their lives, will seek after this gift for the wrong reasons. They will seek after this gift to get the power of God operating through them so they can use it for their own selfish purposes and agendas.

So the first step you have to take is to make sure that your motives are right and pure with the Lord. If they are not, then God will not release this gift to you. He will not allow His anointing to be tampered with or to be used for one’s own selfish purposes. You have to really want this gift because you want to be able to enter into a much deeper, personal relationship with God – and that you will now need His power and anointing to be able to flow through you so that you can fully accomplish whatever His divine destiny is going to be for your life.

God will be able to read right through your thoughts and motives on all of this. If you are not sincere with Him as to why you are really wanting this gift, or you are seeking after this gift for all of the wrong reasons, God will then see right through your impure motives and withhold this gift from you until you can come to Him for the right reasons and the

right motive. So the first step is that you make sure that you properly examine your motives as to why you are seeking after this gift.

If you can honestly say that you really want this gift for the above right reasons, then you are now ready for step two.

2. Decide If You Really Want It

Once you have examined your motives and you know that you can approach God with the right reasons and right motives for wanting this gift – then the next step is to decide if you really want this gift. This may sound a bit redundant, but it isn't. This gift is only for those who want to go all out for God. It is only for those who are willing to put the pedal to the metal for God.

If God is going to allow the Holy Spirit to release up into your soul area, then He is going to want you to do something with it. God has a specific plan and destiny for each person's life. If God allows the Holy Spirit to release up into your soul area, then you are going to have God's power available to you to do what He wants you to do with your life. If you are not willing to be used by God for whatever He wants to use you for in this life, then His anointing is just going to be wasted and He will more than likely withhold this gift from you. Again, this is another reason why God may not release this gift the first time someone will ask for it. This person does not really understand the ramifications and responsibility that comes from receiving this gift.

If you are not willing to go all out for the Lord in this life, then you will be wasting both your time and His time by asking for this gift. Many Christians, after really realizing the responsibility and ramifications that come with this gift, really do decide not to press in for it because they know they cannot give God a full and unconditional commitment to fully serve Him.

Some Christians are also afraid to get too close to God in their own personal relationships with Him. This kind of unhealthy fear will also prevent you from being able to receive this gift.

These first two steps – having the right motive and really wanting this gift – will be the main determining factors as to whether or not you will receive this gift the first time you try asking for it. If your motives are not right, or if you are not sure that you really want this gift and the responsibility and ramifications that will go with it, then chances are, you will not receive it.

This is why many people do not initially receive this gift when they first go up for it at the altar calls at their church. They have not been properly prepared as to what this gift is really all about, nor have they been properly prepared as to what God will expect from them if He should release this gift to them.

If you decide that your motives are right and pure, and that you really do want this gift, and are willing to accept the responsibility and ramifications that will come with it – then you are now ready for step three.

3. The Full Surrender

Once you realize what this gift entails and that you will have to be willing to fully surrender to whatever God's perfect plan and destiny is going to be for your life – then the next step is to take that big leap of faith and fully surrender everything over to God the Father. What God wants from you are four specific things:

- your body
- your soul
- your spirit
- your entire life

He wants all three parts to your being – body, soul, and spirit. If you notice in the above verse at the top of this article, 1 Thessalonians 5:23, God wants to sanctify you completely in all three parts of your being – spirit, soul, and body.

The fourth thing that God will want from you is your entire life – and this will literally include everything. It will include who you will marry in this life if marriage will be in God's perfect will for your life, what your call or calls are going to be, and what jobs you will be taking in this life.

In the Bible Basics section of our site, we have another article titled "The Full Surrender." In this article, I give you all of the main Scripture verses proving and showing to you that this is something that God the Father really wants from each and everyone of us. If you are not willing to make a full and complete surrender of your body, soul, spirit, and your entire life over to the Lord – then He will probably not allow this gift to be released to you. The full surrender prayer will be included in the final step where you will pray and ask God to release this gift to you.

If you can now say that you really do want to receive this gift for all of the right reasons, that you have no fear in receiving it, and that you will now be willing to fully surrender every aspect of your life over to God the Father, then you are now ready for step four.

4. The Full Cleansing

Before asking God to allow this gift to be released in you, I feel every Christian should be willing to go through what I call a full cleansing. What this entails is that you simply confess any known sins that you may have on you that have not already been confessed and forgiven under the Blood of Jesus. For those of you with a Catholic background, it would be like going to confession before receiving communion.

Imagine if you got a message from God the Father and He told you that He was going to send Jesus down to visit you at your house on a specific date. What would be the first thing that you would want to do? You would want to clean your house from top to bottom. Why? Because you would want Jesus coming into a “clean house” to visit you.

The same analogy can now be used with the Holy Spirit. Since this gift is receiving the presence of the Holy Spirit up into your soul area – the first thing you are going to want to do is to make sure that you have a “clean house” for Him to come up into. Your soul is your house. So how do you clean your soul up in order to properly receive His presence up into your soul? By fully confessing every known sin that you have not already confessed yet. You want a “clean slate” in order to really be able to receive Him up into your soul.

There are two parts to properly do this and they are as follows:

1. The first thing that you will want to do is take about 4-7 days to really do this right. Get a pen and piece of paper and write down any known sin that you still have lingering on you that you know that has not been fully confessed before God the Father to receive His full forgiveness for. Once you write down everything you can think of, then ask God to show you any other sins that you may have in you that you may not be aware of that are sins in His sight.

Many of us have hidden sins that we are not fully aware of that really need to be confessed and washed clean under the Blood of Jesus. You may be holding unforgiveness towards someone and God is viewing this as a sin, but you are not. You are not fully aware that this is a sin in His sight. Be sensitive to any sins that the Holy Spirit may bring up to your mind’s attention over the course of about 4-7 days. Give God that long to reveal to you any hidden secret sins that you may have in you that you may not be aware of.

After you have written down everything that you feel is a sin in His sight, then simply go to God in prayer and confess each one of these sins as a sin, and then accept His full

forgiveness for each of these sins. Here is a sample prayer that you can use to make sure that you do this right: Pray this prayer

“Father,

I now come before You to fully confess my sins of (the name of each of your sins). I fully admit that what I have done was wrong and sinful in Your sight. Father, in Jesus name, I now ask that you please forgive me and wash away all of my sins by the blood that Your Son Jesus has personally shed for me on the cross. I also ask by the power of the Holy Spirit that you give me the power not to do any of these specific sins ever again.

Father, I now believe that I have been fully forgiven and that my sins will no longer be remembered by You.

Thank you Father.

Thank you Jesus.”

Here is the Scripture verse backing up the above prayer and confession:

“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” (1 John 1:9)

Notice that we have to first confess our sins directly to Him before He will forgive us on each one of our known sins.

2. The next and final step is to then deal with any type of heavier sin that you may have in your past. And here is where I need to give each of you a major warning.

Any previous “heavier” sins such as alcohol or drug abuse, any involvement in the occult, any involvement in a cult or false religion, or any involvement in a homosexual lifestyle – these types of heavier sins must not only be confessed – but they must also be renounced before God the Father.

When you fully renounce something before God the Father, you are telling Him that you will never, ever go back to that activity again. All of these heavier sins have one major thing in common – they are all major door openers to the dark side, to Satan’s realm where he and his demons roam.

Some people will get demons attached to them as a result of engaging in one or more of the above activities. If you do not confess and renounce these types of heavier sins before God the Father, then the demons who may have attached themselves to you as a

result of engaging in any of these activities will still have a legal right to stay attached to you.

If you do not confess and renounce these types of heavier sins before God the Father, then what could possibly happen is that a demon will enter into your soul area when you ask for the Baptism of the Holy Spirit rather than the Holy Spirit entering up into your soul area. There have been documented cases of this happening, and this was all because the person was not properly prepared before trying to receive this gift! And once that demon or demons enter into your soul area, then you are going to have to get them cast out of you by way of an actual deliverance!

So make sure that if you have had any past involvement in any of the above mentioned activities, that you both confess and renounce that sin before God the Father – and then go ahead and speak out loud to any demons who may have become attached to you to now leave you in the name of Jesus Christ, since their legal rights have now been fully taken away from them with you both confessing and renouncing this heavier sin before God the Father.

Here is a sample prayer and how to properly do this:

1. “Father, I now come before You to fully confess my involvement in (name the sin activity) as a sin. In addition to confessing this activity as a sin, I now wish to fully renounce my involvement in (name the sin). Father, in the name of Jesus, I now fully renounce my involvement in (name the sin) and I promise and vow to You that I will never, ever return back to it again.”

Now you will need to speak directly to any demons who may have become attached to you as a result of engaging in this past activity. This next part needs to be said out loud since demons cannot read your mind or your thoughts.

2. “I now come against any and all demonic spirits who may have become attached to me – either on the inside of me or on the outside of me as a result of my involvement in (name the activity). I have now fully confessed and fully renounced my involvement in (name the sin) to God the Father and my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

My past transgressions in this activity have now been fully forgiven under the blood of my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. You no longer have any more legal rights to stay attached to me in any way, shape, or form. My sin has now been fully forgiven and completely washed away by the blood of my Savior Jesus Christ.

I now plead the blood of Jesus Christ against each and every one of you. All of your legal rights have now been completely broken and taken away. You no longer have any more legal rights to stay attached to me.

Demons, I now command you, in the name of my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, to leave me right now and forever more – and you are to never, ever come back on me again. I repeat, each and everyone of you is to leave me right now in the name of Jesus Christ, and you are to never, ever come back on me – ever again! Go now in the name of Jesus Christ! I repeat, go now in the name of Jesus Christ!”

If you have drawn any demons in on you as a result of any participation in any of the above activities, then the above confession, renouncement, and engaging directly with the demons should take care of the problem.

One final note – when I say any involvement in the occult, I mean any involvement whatsoever. If you have played with a ouija board even one time – if you have gone to a fortuneteller even one time – if you have been hypnotized even so much as one time – you need to go ahead and go through the above cleansing just to make absolutely, positively sure that you are clean and free of any demonic spirits before asking for this gift. It is much better to be safe than sorry on this.

I am going to go ahead and list some of the occult activities that will need to be confessed and renounced before God the Father if you do want to press in for this gift. Any involvement in any of these occult activities need to be fully confessed and fully renounced before God the Father before attempting to receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Here is the list:

Fortunetelling of any kind

Tarot Cards

Ouija Boards

Séances and any involvements with mediums or spiritists

Astrology and any form of horoscopes

I Ching

Hypnotism

Transcendental or any type of far eastern meditation

Witchcraft

Satanism

Voodoo

Channeling of any kind

Astro projection

ESP

Dungeons and Dragons

Any New Age techniques or activities

Necromancy

If you are willing to pass all of the above four steps – then you are now ready to receive the baptism or release of the Holy Spirit so He can now release from your spirit to come up into your soul.

If your motives are right and pure, if you have decided that you really want this gift, if you are willing to make a full and complete surrender of your body, soul, spirit, and entire life over to God the Father, and are willing to properly go through the above cleansing process in order for the Holy Spirit to have a clean house in which to be able to enter into – you are now really ready to receive this gift and it will now become very easy for you to do so. The hard part is now over.

I really feel the reason many people do not receive this gift when trying to get it quickly at a church service is that they simply have not been properly prepared to receive it. The above four steps will properly prepare you to receive this gift if you are honest with yourself when you complete these four steps.

5. Prayer to Receive the Baptism of the Holy Spirit

If you have successfully completed steps 1-4, then the only thing left to do is simply to go to God the Father in prayer and ask Him to allow the Holy Spirit to release up into your soul. It really is that simple. You do not have to go into any type of major travailing or prevailing trying to get God to release this gift to you.

Any travailing or prevailing would have been done in steps 1-4 where you had to make a personal decision with yourself as to who is going to run your life – you or God. You may have also wrestled with the Lord on going through the cleansing process in reference to some past or hidden sins that He wanted you to confess as sins in order for your house to be clean enough to allow the Holy Spirit to enter into your soul.

If you have successfully passed those steps on the full surrender, having the right motives, and allowing God to clean you up on the inside with any sins that He wanted confessed, forgiven, and washed completely clean under the Blood of His Son, then the hard part is now over. This gift will then be released to you by way of just a simple prayer and request to God the Father. Simply ask God the Father in a simple prayer request

and you will then receive this mighty gift from Him. This gift is then accepted by simple faith and belief.

Here is a simple basic way that you can word your prayer to God the Father to receive this most glorious gift. Notice in the prayer that you are agreeing to make a full and complete surrender of your entire life over to Him.

“Father,

I believe that I am truly saved and born again. I believe that all of my sins have now been fully forgiven and washed clean under the Blood of Your Son, Jesus Christ.

Father, I now by an act of my free will, turn my entire life over to You. I now place my body, my soul, my spirit, and my entire life into Your hands. I now ask that You place and enter me into Your perfect will for my life. I now ask that You set me up on the perfect plan and destiny that you have set up for my life.

Father, I now want to go one step further. I now want to receive the Baptism of your Holy Spirit – the release of your Holy Spirit to come up and enter into my soul from my spirit.

Father, in the name of Your Son Jesus Christ, I now ask that you allow the Holy Spirit to enter into my soul. Father, from this moment on, by an act of strong faith and belief, I am now going to believe that the Holy Spirit has now entered into my soul – regardless of whether or not I feel anything.

Thank you Father.

Thank you Jesus.”

What completes this prayer request is your faith and belief that God has now granted it. If you have passed steps 1-4, then there is no reason for God to withhold this gift from you and you can now start walking believing that the Holy Spirit has now entered into your soul.

What you will need to do now is to start to establish a direct, personal, one-on-one relationship with the Holy Spirit Himself just like you have with God and Jesus. Seek to establish a Father-child relationship with God the Father, and a best friend relationship with both Jesus and the Holy Spirit.

The apostle Paul tells us that we can enter into a good personal relationship direct with the Holy Spirit Himself. Here are two good verses giving us this revelation:

“The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.” (2 Corinthians 13:14)

“Therefore if there is any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit ...” (Philippians 2:1)

These two words above –“fellowship and communion” – tell us that we can enter into a personal relationship direct with the Holy Spirit Himself!

The word “communion” means to have a direct partnership with someone, to share with someone, to have fellowship with someone. These two words spell one thing – personal relationship!

What will really kick this gift into full operation is for you to start to establish a direct, one-on-one, personal relationship with the Holy Spirit Himself. Simply start talking to Him like you would a best friend. He is right there on the inside of you.