

**New Beginnings:
A Sure Foundation**

by Dr. Stan DeKoven

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Forward

I overheard an evangelist relay the following:

“Several years ago I went to preach a three-day crusade in a western city. The Spirit of God moved in such a great measure that what started as a three-day crusade lasted for six weeks. During that time, there were several commitments to Christ made daily, that is, first-time decisions. The Spirit of revival was tremendous, as many people came into a personal knowledge of our precious Savior, Jesus.

“Approximately one year later I returned to visit the same church. I asked the pastor if I could meet some of the new converts who had been harvested during the crusade. The pastor stated, with some anger and discouragement in his heart, that from the dozens saved there were only three people that had been planted into the local church. I too was angered and sought the Lord as to why this situation had occurred. I believe the Lord gave me a key to be implemented if we are to stop this tremendous loss of precious souls.”

In this church, to no real fault of the local pastor, and much like most American churches, there was no structured follow-up program for new converts. The new Christians were left to their own devices, truly like sheep without a shepherd. Jesus commanded us to preach the gospel and to make disciples. A disciple-making follow-up program would have helped this church to retain the fish, initially gathered into the nets of revival, to build the Kingdom of God.

In this book, one-on-one discipleship in the rudimentary teaching of the word is presented. Through the proper utilization of Dr. DeKoven's guide, new converts can be adequately grounded in the precious Word of God. Further, as discipler and disciple work and share together, a necessary bond that links people into the local church will be formed. I strongly encourage the usage of this material to ground people in the things of God and to firmly establish their "New Beginnings."

A. L. Gill
World Evangelist and Teacher

Introduction

Several years ago I met with a group of Christians, all of whom had been saved and brought up within a local church. These people were from various denominational backgrounds and independent churches, and they all had a sincere desire to walk with God.

Our conversation revolved around our early experiences in the Lord. I asked this question: "If you could have had anything different, if anything could have been better for you in the beginning of your relationship with Jesus, what would it have been?" Though the responses varied, all included the need for a systematic, loving, and consistent training or discipleship program presented by the local church. I found that many, if not a majority of Christians, begin their walk in an almost haphazard manner. There seems to be little vision within the local church for bringing the new Christian to maturity.

Over the ensuing years, I experimented with many materials designed to train new believers in the Foundational Truths. However, I did not find a completeness in much of the material available, and the desire to develop a more complete program began to burn within my heart.

In April 1987, while visiting some dear friends in Slidell, Louisiana, I had the privilege of meeting Dr. Orfilia, a pastor in Slidell. He was beginning a series of studies that he had effectively used in his local church. The material he developed and taught from, with

modification, is the foundation for this book. I am most grateful for his permission to include his research material in this book.

As you read and study this material, do so with prayer and an open heart. Complete the homework assignments in obedience to God. This book is meant as a first step, subsequent to salvation, in your development of an understanding of the word of God, enabling you to grow in your knowledge of Him. If your pastor is teaching from this book, pray specifically that the Lord will anoint and empower him to share the word of truth clearly as you start your New Beginnings journey.

To The Disciple: How To Use This Book

Ideally, this manuscript should be used either one-on-one or in a small discipleship group. In either case, it is meant to be interactive. That is, after completing each section, dialogue is encouraged between the disciple and the discipler. With that in mind, the student should read each section and fill in the blanks. The New International Version of the Bible has been used throughout and is recommended because the number of blanks allowed in this workbook is keyed to the wording of the New International Version of the Bible.

Teacher and student should discuss each section upon completion. Questions which encourage discussion between the student and teacher have been provided. These are only suggestions, and the instructor may use them at his discretion.

Hopefully you will be able to fully appropriate the information in the book and allow the Holy Spirit to be your guide. By your willing submission to the Lord through the discipleship process, you can be assured that you will grow a foundation for faith that will be deep and solid. As a new believer or disciple, you will need to be aware of the following six points in order to best utilize the material in this book.

1. Discipleship is not an event, but a process. You must commit yourself to the entire process. Rome was not built in a day, and neither will your Christian character be transformed in a day.

2. Read each scripture completely, think about it, pray over it, and allow the word to sink into your heart. Fill in the blanks as you look up each scripture.
3. Pray every day, specifically for your discipler. He or she will need God's guidance in the process.
4. Answer each question at the end of the chapter in writing. Discuss your answers honestly with your discipler.
5. Work towards finding your place of faithful service within the local church.
6. Be willing to change.

Change can be very frightening to many people. However, the Lord wants to transform us into the image of His own, dear Son, Jesus. That takes time, commitment, trust, love, and patience. In due time, the Lord will help you to become fully grounded in the wonderful things of God.

Two roads diverged in a wood, and I

I took the one less traveled by,

And that has made all the difference.

The Road Not Taken, by Robert Frost

For the Discippler: How To Use This Book

The training and development of a new convert is an awesome and solemn responsibility. As a discipler you are used by God to influence another human being for the sake of the Gospel. This book is designed to help you be more effect in this regard.

The following helpful hints will assist you in your vital role with the new believer. Whether in one-on-one discipleship or in small groups (no more than 8-10 recommended) these points are germane.

1. As you utilize the material in this book, remember that the process of growth and change takes time. Those in your care will need small bites at first, which is why this book is broken down into small sections.
2. Meet on a consistent basis. This demonstrates to your new converts the importance you give their growth. If you do not think you can see the process through, do not begin.
3. During each session, you will want to answer general questions, assist with problems, and give biblical guidance. However, you do not have to have all the answers. Part of the growth comes through the mutual searching for answers from the word of God.

4. Encourage the development of a prayer journal to record needs and answers to prayer. Prayer should be a vital part of your time together. Remember, your life is a model. Your walk speaks louder than your talk.
5. Look for signs of leadership and let the pastoral staff know if you see potential. You should always be on the lookout for faithful men and women for future service.
6. When you minister in this fashion, you are actively involved in the fulfillment of Jesus' Great Commission. Dedication to the task, with joy, will bring positive results for the Kingdom.

Sources for additional study are listed the end of this book. All are available through Vision Publishing. (See order form at the back of the book).

Chapter I

Sharing Christ

You may wonder why this section would be first in a **basics** book, rather than last as is common. Simple. The new convert's time of greatest opportunity for winning the lost is the first 90 days after salvation. New converts are filled with zeal and need to learn to effectively share their newly found faith in Christ.

When I was first saved, my pastor had me stand and testify before the church of what Jesus had done for me. I did not know the right words to say, but I knew that Jesus was my friend and that He had saved me. That experience was the start of my witnessing for the Lord. It is vital for every believer to know how to share Christ. We are to win the lost and expand the Kingdom of Heaven here on earth.

Therefore, congratulations on your new beginning in Christ. Share the good news: Jesus has set you free!

Before Jesus left this earth, He gave His followers a great task which must be completed before He comes again. He said, *“And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come”* (Matthew 24:14). A little later, He explained how this must be done. He said, *“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" Matthew 28:19-20).

How can you help to complete this tremendous task?

Realize that Winning the Lost is Your Responsibility

The Great Commission quoted above was given to all Christians, not just to missionaries or preachers. Jesus told His disciples to teach their disciples to obey all the things He had commanded them. This included the command He had just given to go and make disciples. Thus, every Christian should be trained to fulfill the Great Commission until the task is completed. That includes you! Acts 4:31 declares,

*"They were _____ filled with the Holy Spirit, and _____
_____ boldly."*

According to Acts 8:1, *"All except the apostles were scattered throughout _____
_____."*

Now compare verse 4 . *"Those who had been scattered _____."*

Thus, it was not the apostles, but ordinary Christians who preached the Word.

Claim the Power of the Holy Spirit

Jesus did not send Christians out to evangelize the world just by their own efforts.

According to Acts 1:4, what did Jesus command the disciples to do before they departed from Jerusalem to begin the work of evangelism?

According to Acts 1:5, what would happen to them?

According to Acts 1:8, Jesus said, “*But you will receive _____ when the _____*”

*comes on you; and you will be _____
in _____, and in all _____ and _____
_____, and to the _____."*

Use Your Relationships with Other People as Bridges to Witness to Them

People are often won to Christ through someone with whom they already have a personal relationship, such as a spouse, son, daughter, parent, sibling, fellow worker, neighbor, or friend. Draw a line from each term below to the scriptural reference that tells how this relationship became a bridge to evangelism.

Brother	I Corinthians 7:16
Household (family)	John 1:40-42
Work	Mark 5:19
Friendship	Acts 18:2-3
Husband/Wife	Acts 16:31-34

Share Your Personal Testimony

You can tell what God has done for you, even if you do not know anything else. Write out your testimony of salvation so you can readily share it. It should be brief (three to five minutes) and should include these points:

- Your life before you were saved
- How you were saved

❑ The difference Christ has made in your life

Use God's Word

The Bible is God's word. When you use it to share the message of Christ, you have an authority that surpasses your own opinion. Here are some verses, known as "The Romans Road," you can use to share the plan of salvation. Get a pocket-sized New Testament, mark these verses, and carry it with you so you are always ready to win someone to Christ.

Romans 3:23 *"For all have _____, and fall short of the _____ of God."*

5:8 *" But God demonstrates His own _____ for us, in this; while we were still _____, Christ died for us."*

6:23 *"For the wages of _____ is _____; but the _____ of God is _____ in Christ Jesus our Lord."*

10:9, 10 *"That if you _____ with your _____ 'Jesus is Lord,' and _____ in your _____ that God _____ Him from the _____, you will be*

..... For it is with..... that
your believe and are, and it is with
your mouth..... confess and ----
.....”

10:13 “For will
call upon the of the Lord will be
.....”

Invite Those to Whom You Witness to Pray for Salvation

Prayer as a good deed within itself will not save anyone. But prayer is a natural expression to God of repentance and faith.

Romans 10:13 “For whoever will _____

_____ will be”

Encourage Those Who Confess Christ as Savior to Be Baptized and to Become Part of the Church

Acts 2:41 “ Those who accepted his message were _
_____ and about three thousand were
added to their number that day.”

Acts 2:47 “And the Lord _____
_____ those who were being saved.”

Help Send the Gospel

Of course, you cannot preach to the whole world personally. But you can give your time, talent, and treasure to your church to help in its outreach to the community and the world through missions.

Romans 10:13-15 gives God’s plan for world evangelism :

“For everyone _____ Lord will be _____
_____. How, then, _____ they call on the one they
have not _____? And how can they _____
_____ in the one of whom they have not _____
_____? And how can they _____ without
someone _____ to them? And how can they _____
_____ unless they are _____?”

DOING THE WORD

- Begin to give regularly for missions to reach those to whom you cannot go personally.
- Make a "hit list" of people for whom you will pray and to whom you will witness in order that they might be saved.
- Write out your testimony. Share it at your first opportunity.
- Memorize the Roman's Road.
- Share with the group (or your discipler) how you came to Christ (where, when, why, how).
- How has your life changed due to your relationship with Christ?

- Have you shared your testimony? How did you feel?

- What could you (your church) do to reach your world for Christ?

Ref: Miracle Evangelism, John Ezekiel. Powerhouse
Publishing
Strategies for Spiritual Harvest, Pat Hulsey.
Harvestime International.

Chapter II

The Godhead and the Doctrine of the Trinity

The Bible does not seek to “prove” the existence of God. It simply assumes His existence. Since the human authors of the Bible actually knew God from a personal and sometimes face-to-face interaction, they simply reported what they had both seen and heard. The following scripture is a primary one that shows clearly the triune nature of God.

Matthew 3:16 “As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the _____ like a dove and lighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, ‘This _____.’”

That God has revealed Himself as a plurality is not just a New Testament concept. The Old Testament clearly intimates this concept from the earliest portions and throughout. We can best know God by searching the Scriptures. There He reveals, in the names He uses for Himself, the various aspects of His nature. In the Old Testament there are three primary names that God has given us to reveal His deity.

Elohim, a Hebrew word that means *the strong one*, is a plural noun. This word alone indicates that even in the Old Testament times God revealed Himself to men

as a singular plurality. God understands that we are not intelligent enough to comprehend the concept of singular plurality, so He uses this name, *Elohim*, or compounds of it, over 2500 times in the Old Testament in order to get His point across.

Jehovah is a Hebrew word that means the *self-existent one*. Compound forms of this word demonstrate that God is able to meet your every need.

Jehovah Jireh	Genesis 22:13,14	Lord	will provide
Jehovah Rapha will heal	Exodus 15:26		Lord
Jehovah Nissi banner	Exodus 17:8-15	Lord	our
Jehovah Shalom our peace	Judges 6:24		Lord
Jehovah Ra'ah shepherd	Psalms 23	Lord	our
Jehovah Tsidhenu righteousness	Jeremiah 23:6	Our	
Jehovah Shammah is present	Ezekiel 48:35		Lord

Adonai is a Hebrew word meaning *master* or *husband*. As master, God has the right to demand our obedience. As husband, He expects our devotion and fidelity.

Luke 6:46-47 says, “*Why do you call me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say? I will show you*

what he is like who comes to me _____
_____.”

He also provides nurture and succor in times of need, much as a loving husband does for his beloved wife.

GOD’S ATTRIBUTES

Love

God does not merely possess love as an attribute; God *is* love, and from that intense love comes His desire for the delight and welfare of mankind. He loves us even when we are not exactly lovable. God has always shown mankind compassion as an aspect of His incredible love for us. First and foremost, He always desires to show mercy to His creation. His actions epitomize the very nature of love.

Romans 5:8 *“But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: _____ were still sinners, _____”*

I John 4:16 *“And so we _____ the love God has for us. God is love. _____ in God, and God in him.”*

Deuteronomy 4:31 *“For the LORD your God is a _____; he will not _____ or _____ you or _____ the covenant with your forefathers, which he confirmed to them by oath.”*

Eternal

In Scripture, God constantly reveals Himself to us as everlasting, indicating that we can trust Him to be around forever.

Genesis 21:33 *“And Abraham planted a tamarisk tree at Beersheba, and there he called on the name of the LORD, _____.”*

Psalms 90:2 *“Before the mountains were born or you brought forth the _____ and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.”*

Immutable

Some people love you when you are good (in their eyes) and dislike you when you displease them in some way, but it is not so with God. God is not fickle. He is

not subject to change. He will always love you. He does not change rules in the middle of the game. He will not change His mind about you. Although times and seasons may change, and although He may carry out His plans differently from person to person, His intent never changes in substance. Throughout Scripture and throughout human history, this fact is abundantly clear: He does not change. This divine attribute is called immutability. Many places in Scripture indicate His divine immutability. A few key verses appear below.

Hebrews 13:8 “*Jesus Christ is the same _____
_____ and _____, and _____
_____.*”

Malachi 3:6 “*For I, the LORD, _____;
therefore you, O sons of Jacob, are not consumed.*”

Hebrews 6:17 “*In the same way God, desiring
even more to show to the heirs of the promise the _____.*”

God is a Spirit

The book of John indicates that God is an invisible Spirit. He is present with us even when we do not see Him. This thought may comfort some and disturb others.

John 4:24 *“God is _____,
and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in
truth.”*

John 1:18 *“No one has ever seen God, _____
_____the One and Only, who
is at the Father's side, has made him known.”*

Omnipotent

God's power is unlimited. There is nothing that is beyond His capacity to perform. This unlimited power is referred to technically as omnipotence. It should comfort every believer that the God we serve is powerful enough to do whatever needs to be done. Even impossible circumstances are subject to change when the omnipotent God is involved. The Bible is filled with many different examples of this characteristic of God. Two important scriptures appear below.

Job 42:2 *“I know that _____
do all things; no plan of yours can be thwarted.”*

Matthew 19:26 *“Jesus looked at them and said,
‘With man this is impossible, but with _____
_____.’”*

Omniscient

Have you ever heard of someone referred to as being a “know it all”? Well God really does know it all! While you as a believer may have things occur in your life that you know nothing about, you can always take comfort in the fact that He knows it all. Nothing takes Him by surprise.

I John 3:20b *“For God is _____
_____ than our hearts, and he knows everything.”*

Psalm 147:5 *“Great is our Lord and _____
_____ his understanding has no
limit.”*

Omnipresent

When you have done a good job and no one notices, is it not disappointing? Have you ever wished someone important would walk in just while someone else was taking unfair advantage of you? In a unique way, God is just like that. Only He is always there to begin with. He has both heard and seen it all. You are not now and never will be totally alone. Below, a few key scriptures tell us about God’s “everywhere” presence.

Hebrews 13:5 *“Keep your lives free from the love
of money and be content with what you have,
because God has said, ‘ _____
_____.’”*

Jeremiah 23:23-24 “Am I only _____,’
declares the LORD, ‘and not a God far away? Can
anyone hide in secret places so that I cannot see
him?’ declares the LORD. ‘ _____
,’ declares the LORD.”

Psalm 139:7-10. “Where can I go from your Spirit?
Where can I flee from your presence? _____
_____; if I make my bed in the depths, you are
there. If I rise on the wings of the dawn, _____
_____,
even there your hand will guide me, your right
hand will hold me fast.”

Erroneous Concepts of God’s Nature

There have been many false concepts developed by man about the nature of God. *Pantheism* contends that God has no existence apart from His creation. God is impersonal. In this concept the tree, the rock, and the fire are all God. So too, is the pile of garbage at the local dump or the murderer who is in the act of performing his heinous acts of violence. In contrast is the scriptural view that we serve a living God who sees, hears, chastises, corrects, and teaches mankind. Look at Psalm 94:9-14 to see this truth.

*“Does he who implanted the ear not hear? Does he who formed the eye not see? Does he who disciplines nations not punish? Does he who teaches man lack knowledge? The LORD _____
_____ thoughts of man; he knows that they are futile. Blessed is the man you discipline, O LORD, the man you teach from your law; you grant him _____ days of trouble, till a pit is dug for the wicked. For the LORD _____
_____.”*

In another false concept, *Deism*, God created the visible universe and then abandoned it to itself. In Scripture we see that this is definitely not the case. We can see that God sustains and cares for the world and every creature within it.

Psalm 104:24-30 *“How many are your works, O LORD! In wisdom you made them all; _____
_____. There is the sea, vast and spacious, teeming with creatures beyond number-- living things both large and small. There the ships go to and fro, and*

*the leviathan, which you formed to frolic there. These all look to _____
_____. When you give it to them, they gather it up; when you open your hand, they are satisfied with good things. When you hide your face, _____
_____, they die _____
_____ to the dust. When you send your Spirit, they are created, and you renew the face of the earth. May the glory of the LORD _____; may the LORD rejoice in his works.”*

Matthew 10:29-31 “Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will _____
_____ And even the very hairs of your head are numbered. So don't be afraid; _____
_____.”

The Trinity

It is difficult at times to find human, finite, earthly expressions to fully describe so infinite a concept as the Godhead. This much we know: there is only one God, but He has revealed Himself as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. They are separate and distinct

personalities. If one would try to incorporate any other concept into the content of Scripture, it would quickly become a mass of confusing and largely useless material.

In Scripture we see the concept of a compound unity in both the Hebrew and Greek words used for God and referring to Him as one. The concept of a plurality of one begins very early in the word of God, and it continues through the New Testament. In Genesis 2:24 we see the same word for one God being used to describe the oneness of marriage where two become one.

*“For this reason a man _____

_____ and be _____,
and they will become one flesh.”*

We see this same word used in reference to people who unite together closely for a specific purpose. Apparently there is great power in unity. In Genesis 11:6 we read

*“The LORD said, ‘If as _____
_____ language they have begun to do this, then nothing
they plan
to do will _____.’”*

In the New Testament we see a similar use of the Greek word for one as a compound unity.

We can see it in I Corinthians 3:6-8.

*“I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, _____
_____. So neither _____
nor _____ is anything, but _____
_____. The
man _____ have
one purpose, and each will be rewarded according _
_____. For we are _____
_____; you are _____
_____, God's building.”*

And also in John 17:20-23.

*“My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those
who will believe in me through their message, That all
of them may _____, _____ just as you are in
me and I am in you. May they also _____
_____ that the world may believe that you have sent me.
I have given them the glory that you gave me, _____
_____: I in them
and you in me. May they be _____ to
let the world know that you sent me and _____
_____ even as you have loved
me.”*

And Galatians 3:27-28.

“For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.”

It is in this way that the Father, Son and Holy Spirit are one. In the Old Testament we see that the Hebrew word most frequently used for God is plural in its form. The word *“Elohim”* is a unified plural word meaning *strong one*, and it is used over 2500 times in the Old Testament. God specifically uses plural pronouns when He refers to Himself in the Scriptures.

Genesis 1:26 *“Then God said, ‘Let us _____
_____, in our
likeness, and _____ over the _____
_____ and the birds of the air, _____

_____, over all the earth, and over _____
_____ that move along the ground.’”*

Genesis 11:7 *“Come, let us go down _____
_____ so they
will not _____.”*

Isaiah 6:8 *“Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, ‘_____ and _____?’ And I said, ‘Here _____!’”*

While they are one, we see clearly the testimony of scripture that they are also three separate and distinct personalities.

Matthew 3:16-4:1-6 *“As soon as Jesus was baptized, _____ . At that moment heaven was opened, and _____ descending like a _____ and lighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, ‘_____ ; with him I am well pleased.’ Then Jesus was _____ into the _____ to be tempted by the devil.”*

Matthew 28:19 *“Therefore go, _____ baptizing them in the name of the _____ .”*

I Peter 1:2 *“Who have been chosen according _____
_____ the Father, through the _____
_____, for obedience to Jesus
Christ and _____ Grace
and peace be yours in abundance.”*

II Corinthians 13:14 *“May the _____
_____, and the love of _____
_____, and the fellowship of the _____
be with you all.”*

To summarize this aspect of God’s nature, we would say that there is one God existing eternally and manifesting Himself to us in three distinct persons: **Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.**

God has not left us without adequate examples in the testimony of His creation of this incomprehensible aspect of His nature. One such physical example would be that of water existing as solid, liquid and gas. The gas we call steam. The solid we call ice. The liquid we call water. The other triune being we run into is mankind himself. He is body, soul, and spirit. The three are distinct and able to be separated, but they are still part of a single being. Man himself is created in the image of God. We should not be surprised when we hear such statements as “I was just talking to myself.” Just as one part of our being communicates with other parts of our being without

encountering any confusion, so it is within the Godhead. Admittedly, these examples are oversimplifications of what is infinite in nature. However, they serve as patterns of understanding that can help diminish confusion about God Himself. If water can operate in this three-dimensional fashion, why cannot its creator. If humans are three-dimensional why cannot their creator be such?

Errors to be Avoided

There are two historical errors that believers have fallen into from time to time. Some people seek to minimize the oneness of God by promoting the three-Gods theory called *tritheism*, and others insist that there is no distinction between Father, Son and Holy Spirit in the Godhead, a teaching called Sabellianism or unity. The Bible teaches that we need to talk to the Father in Jesus' name. He prayed to the Father in the presence of His followers. He said He would send us the Holy Spirit. Failure to recognize the Father and the Son puts a person in danger of falling into the spirit of antichrist, as can be seen in I John 2:22,23.

*“Who is the liar? It is _____
_____. Such a man
is the _____--he denies the Father
and the Son. No one who _____ has the
Father; whoever _____ the Son
has the Father also.”*

As believers, we must never minimize the oneness of God to the point where we become *polytheistic* (many

Gods) or minimize the triune nature of God to the point we become *unity* oriented and end up denying both the Father and the Son. This is the spirit of anti-christ and is most dangerous.

Doing the Word

- ❑ Using your concordance or topical reference Bible, find other scriptures that help you understand the trinity of God.
- ❑ Start a file of references that deal in further depth on the subject of the trinity of God, the various aspects of Gods characteristics, the Names of God in both the Old Testament and the New Testament.

Questions for Discussion

1. How is the trinity of God and the triune nature of man similar?
2. What are some of the arguments that are used to refute the trinity of God?
3. What are some of the denominational groups and religious sects that do not accept the trinity of God?
4. Make a list of the strongest argument to support the trinity concept aside from the scripture.

Ref: *Dynamic Christian Foundations*. Ken Chant. Vision Publishing.

Chapter III

Repentance

When I asked Christ into my life, it was a new beginning for me. Up to this point in my life (I was only 12), I did not have major sin to turn from. However, I knew that I was angry, lonely and rebellious against God, and I needed to change. When I went to the altar to receive Christ as Savior, I was asked to confess all of my sins and repent. I did not fully understand the meaning of repentance. I told Jesus everything I could think of that I had done wrong, and I asked Him to forgive and cleanse me. Praise God He did! This new beginning began for me as a marvelous road. You too are on this road to eternal life which God has promised. The first and most important step in that process is the step of repentance.

The foundation of the Christian life begins with repentance. Hebrews 6:1-2 names six foundations upon which we are to build our growth as Christians. These are called "principles of the doctrine of Christ," and repentance comes first.

To help you understand repentance, look for the scriptural answers to these questions.

What Is Repentance?

Repentance is normally translated from the Greek word *metanoia*, which means "a change of mind." However, repentance always leads to a change of life; it is never used for a mere change of intellectual

opinions. Thus, we can define repentance as "a change of mind that results in a change of life."

This is illustrated in these Scripture references where "change of mind" is substituted for repentance.

Matthew 3:8 John the Baptist demands, "*Produce _____ in keeping with repentance.*"

Acts 26:20 Paul describes his preaching to the Jews and Gentiles "*that they should repent and _____*"

The test of true repentance is always a change of life. As we have already seen, John the Baptist commanded his hearers to "bring forth fruits in keeping with repentance" (Matthew 3:8), and Paul preached that they should "do works compatible with repentance" (Acts 28:20).

Repentance is sometimes confused with either penance or weeping. Penance refers to religious deeds done to absolve sin; it is unscriptural and has nothing to do with repentance. Weeping may accompany the godly sorrow that leads to repentance (II Corinthians 7:9-10), but the test of repentance is whether it produces a changed life, not whether it produces tears.

Why Is Repentance Foundational?

Repentance is foundational for two reasons:

1. Repentance is necessary for salvation. *“Repent, then, and turn to God, _____, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord. (Acts 3:19-20)*

2. Repentance is necessary for Christians who have erred.

Circle the correct answer. In Revelation 2:5, 16, 22 and 3:3, 19, Christ commands which of the following to repent?

- 1) Unbelieving Jews
- 2) People who have never been saved
- 3) Churches

James 5:19-20 speaks of Christians. *“_____ _____, if one of you _____ from the truth and _____ should bring him back, remember this: _____ turns a sinner from _____*

*way will save him from death and _____
_____ of sins.”*

Can a Person Be Saved without Repentance?

No. Some scriptures may seem to promise salvation without repentance (for example, John 3:16; Acts 16:31). However, repentance always precedes faith in Christ as savior, whether it is mentioned or not. Faith is not merely intellectual belief; it is a personal commitment. True faith is seen in obedience, for we have turned from our own way to God’s way. This is illustrated in the following scriptures.

*James 2:14 “ What good is it, my brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has _____
_____? Can such faith _____ him?”*

I John 5:5 “ Who is it that _____ the world? Only he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.”

The relationship between repentance and faith is summarized in Matthew 21:32, where Jesus says to the Pharisees,

“For John came to you to show you the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes did. And _____

_____, you did not repent and believe him.”

Some people teach that repentance was for another dispensation (age), and that it is no longer required. The Bible does not teach this. This age began with the teaching of Jesus (Luke 16:16), and He taught repentance. Repentance is also commanded repeatedly in scriptures pertaining to this age.

In addition to the scriptures already given in this lesson, look up Acts 17:30.

“In the past God _____, but now he commands all people _____ to repent.”

The last book of the Bible, speaking of this Christian age, commands repentance in Revelation 2:5, 16; 3:3, 19.

What Are Some Motives for Repentance?

Luke 13:3 “I tell you, no! But unless you _____, you too will all _____.”

Luke 13:5 “I tell you, no! But _____ you repent, you too will all _____.”

Acts 3:19 *“Repent, then, and _____, so that your sins may be wiped out, that _____ may come from the Lord.”*

Romans 2:4 *“ God's _____ you toward repentance?”*

II Corinthians 7:10 *“Godly sorrow brings _____ salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death.”*

Revelation 3:19 *“Those whom I love _____ . So be earnest, and repent.”*

DOING THE WORD

- Have you repented or turned from sin?
- Do you, as a Christian, repent when you realize you have sinned?
- Does your life show the fruits of repentance?
- Take time to reflect on your character (attitudes, beliefs, heart motivations, and behavior) in light of the

word of God. Do this as you go through your studies. When you find yourself in sin (missing the mark or falling short), repent before the Lord and pray with your spiritual leader. This creates accountability and assistance in your Christian walk and ensures your continued growth in the Word of God.

Ref: *Journey to Wholeness: Restoration of the Soul*, Stan DeKoven. Vision Publishing.

40 Days to the Promise. Stan DeKoven. Vision Publishing.

Chapter IV

Faith

Shortly after my salvation experience, I compulsively dove into the things of God. I had a hunger to know God and to be a victorious Christian like those I read about in the New Testament. However, after a bit of time, the initial excitement of my new life in Christ began to “wear off.” I thought there was something wrong with me!

My pastor related that this was really quite normal for most Christians. He stated that I must learn to live and walk by "faith" in God. Faith in our Lord and trust in Him and in His word is essential for our spiritual growth. In this section you will learn what faith is and how to walk in it as a new Christian.

Faith is the hand that reaches up to God to receive His blessings. The word of God declares, "without faith it is impossible to please God: because anyone who comes to Him must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that earnestly seek him" (Hebrews 11:6). Hebrews 6:1 lists "faith toward God" as one of the foundational principles of the doctrine of Christ.

Look up the answers in your Bible to these questions about faith.

What is Faith?

The New International Version gives a good definition of faith in its translation of Hebrews 11:1. "Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see." The faith that saves is a commitment, not just mental acceptance.

John 2:23, 24 illustrates the relationship between faith and commitment. *"Many believed in his name, when they saw the miracles which he did. But Jesus did not commit himself unto them, because he knew all men."*

The same Greek word (*pisteuo*) is translated "believed" (had faith) and "commit." This is the word Paul used to describe his faith in Christ in II Timothy 1:12.

"I know whom _____, and am convinced

that he is able to guard what _____ entrusted to

him for that day."

Many people consider themselves believers because they mentally accept the Bible, but they are unsaved because they have dead faith.

James 2:14 asks,

"What good is it, my brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has no _____?"

Can such faith _____ him?" We may call this dead faith, for James 2:17 declares, "In the same way, _____, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead."

In contrast, faith which involves a commitment of our lives and brings salvation may be called "living faith." Romans 1:16-17 states,

"I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of

God for the salvation _____

_____ : first for the Jew, then for the
Gentile.

For in the gospel a righteousness from God is
revealed, a

righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just
as it is

written: "The righteous will live by faith."

Read Hebrews 11, "Faith's Hall of Fame." Notice that every example of faith was a commitment that produced action by the heroes of faith.

Why is Faith Foundational?

As we have seen, faith is absolutely essential in our relationship with God. Here are some of God's blessings which come to us by faith.

Draw a line to the correct scripture reference:

Salvation

Galatians 3:2

Assurance of
Salvation

Ephesians 2:8

The Holy Spirit

I Peter 1:5

Answered Prayer

I John 5:10-13

Victorious Living	Mark 11:24, James 1:6-7
Healing	I John 5:4-5
God's Keeping Power	Acts 14:8-10, James 5:14-16

How Do We Receive Faith?

By now, you probably want more faith. Or maybe you are not a believer at all, but you would like to be. God will never force you to believe, but He offers plenty of reasons to believe, if you are willing to believe.

The creation of the world gives everyone enough reason to believe in God. Faith is not "blind"; it is not a leap in the dark. The Bible assumes the existence of God because the universe, which operates entirely by cause and effect, requires an eternal cause. So the Bible begins with God (Genesis 1:1) because His existence is evident to all.

Hebrews 11:3 declares, *“By faith we understand that _____ at _____ God's command, so that _____ was not made out of what was visible.”*

According to Romans 1:19-20, *“Since what may be known about God is plain to them, _____*

_____ to them. For since the creation of the world _____--his eternal power and divine nature--have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, _____
_____.”

The word of God brings faith. “Consequently, faith comes from _____ the message, and _____
_____ is heard through the word of Christ” (Romans 10:17).

Miracles inspire faith. According to John 20:31, the "signs" (miracles) recorded in the Gospel of John “ are written that _____ that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that _____
_____ you may have life in his name.”

God has given all Christians a "measure of faith" to enable them to exercise the gifts God wants them to have.

Romans 12:3-6 “For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of _____
_____ but rather _____

_____ , in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you. Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so _____ _____ form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have _____ gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man's gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith."

It does not mean that all Christians have the same measure of faith. In fact, that is the opposite of what the following verses (4-8) teach: "*Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us.*" God gives each of us a measure of faith for the gift God wants us to have.

Doing the Word

A true believer is committed to Christ. Are you a believer? If not, God's word promises, "*Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved*" (Acts 16:31). If you are a believer, you must continue to grow in faith in order to grow spiritually.

Can you remember a time that you had to exercise your faith in your daily life?

□ Discuss this with your group or teacher.

Ref: *Faith Dynamics*, Ken Chant. Vision Publishing.

Chapter V

Baptism

Often in our church we celebrate baptismal services. What an exciting time we have as we baptize believers in the way Jesus commanded.

When we baptize people, we believe that God the Holy Spirit will move through those doing the baptizing. Frequently He will manifest the gifts of the Spirit, especially prophecy and word of Knowledge. We believe this was a normal occurrence in the first century church.

Baptism, as commanded by Jesus, is an outward sign of an inward change in our life. Through it we identify ourselves with the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus, and celebrate His Spirit living in us.

Let us review the primary scriptures regarding the truth about baptism in water. Three questions must be answered.

Who is a Scriptural Candidate for Baptism?

Should infants be baptized, or should only believers be baptized? According to Acts 2:38, we must repent before we are baptized. According to Mark 16:16, we must believe before we are baptized. Infants can

neither believe nor repent. Salvation (believing and repenting) must precede baptism.

John 3:36 *“Whoever _____
_____ has
eternal life.”*

Acts 16:31 *“They replied, ‘ _____
_____, and you will be saved-- _____
_____.’”*

Acts 8:36-37 *“As they traveled along the road,
they came to some water and the eunuck said,
‘Look, here is water. Why shouldn’t I be baptized?’
Philip said, ‘If you believe with all your heart, you
may.’”*

Baptism in water is only for believers.

What is the Purpose of Baptism?

Although salvation comes before baptism, it is incomplete without baptism. Colossians 2:10-12 shows we are "complete in him" by being "buried with him in baptism."

Romans 6:4 reveals the purpose of baptism.

“We were therefore _____ through _____ into death in order that, just as _____ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may _____.”

We are saved by the answer of a good conscience toward God.

What is the Right Way to Baptize?

"Baptize" is from the Greek word **baptizo**, which means dip or immerse. Acts 8:38-39 illustrates baptism by immersion: *“Then both Philip and the eunuch went _____ and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the _____ suddenly took Philip away, and the eunuch did not see him again, but went on his way rejoicing.”*

Only immersion conveys the meaning of baptism, for Romans 6:4 declares, *“We were _____ through baptism into death.”*

DOING THE WORD

- Were you baptized in the likeness of Jesus' death by immersion?

❑ Did you repent of your sins and believe in Christ as your Lord and Savior before you were baptized?

❑ Have you been baptized as Jesus commanded?

❑ A group of men who had received the baptism of John the Baptist learned the truth about Jesus, and they were rebaptized (Acts 19:1-5). Should not you do the same? This passage both justifies/requires the rebaptism of those baptized into cults such as Jehovah's Witness and Mormonism. If you have been scripturally baptized, you can remember as long as you live that it means you are dead to sin and alive to God.

Ref: *The Church Triumphant*, A.L. Gill. Powerhouse Publishing.

Chapter VI

The Baptism In The Holy Spirit

When I was seventeen, a new hunger for the things of God began to develop in me. I hungered for something new and fresh, to give me power to live the Christian life.

I was raised in a church that did not believe in what the Bible calls the Baptism in the Holy Spirit. They even taught us that the gifts of the Spirit, especially speaking in tongues, were not for today. How terribly

mistaken they were. Nonetheless, in my exuberance for God, I began to search the Scriptures and pray for this new work of grace in me.

You see, in reality, when I accepted Christ as Savior, I had all of God that I could have. I was a new creation, seated in heavenly places with Christ, an adopted son with all rights and privileges. However, God did not have all of me.

The Lord led me to a fellowship of believers that He used to lead me into this marvelous experience. I received the fullness of His Spirit, spoke in tongues and experienced a new power for witness and ministry. This experience, which is for all believers, is vital in these last days. Let us look closely at this experience in God.

The Baptism in the Holy Spirit is so important that God's plan for world evangelism had to wait for it.

“On one occasion, while he was eating with them, _____: ‘Do not _____ Jerusalem, but wait for _____ my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. For John _____ with _____, but in a few days you will be _____ with the Holy Spirit’” (Acts 1:8).

The baptism in the Holy Spirit is one of the "baptisms" in Hebrews 6:1-2, which lists some foundational principles of the doctrine of Christ. Let us find out more about it. It will be helpful if we ask the following questions:

What Is the Holy Spirit?

The Holy Spirit is God in the form of spirit. In John 4:24, Jesus says, "God is spirit." The Holy Spirit is a personality, not an impersonal force. Jesus spoke of the Holy Spirit as a person when He used the personal pronouns "he" and "him" to refer to the Holy Spirit (John 16:7-15).

What Is the Baptism In the Holy Spirit?

Baptism, as mentioned in chapter 5, is from a Greek word meaning immersion. Baptism in the Holy Spirit is immersion in the Holy Spirit. Note these other expressions equivalent to "baptism in the Holy Spirit": *'endued'* (Luke 24:39); *'receive'* (Acts 8:17; 19:2); *'fell upon'* (Acts 10:44); *'the gift of'* (Acts 2:38; 10:45); *'poured out upon'* (Acts 10:45); *'came on them'* (Acts 19:6).

Is the Baptism In the Holy Spirit the Same as Salvation?

People are not always automatically baptized in the Holy Spirit when they are born again by the Holy Spirit. Every Christian who

is born again is indwelt by the Holy Spirit (John 3:1-8),
but the
baptism in the Holy Spirit is subsequent to and
separate from the
indwelling of the Holy Spirit at salvation.

Romans 8:9 *“You, however, are controlled not by the _____ but by the _____, if the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the _____, he does not belong to Christ.”*

Remember, in Acts 1:4-8, Jesus commanded the disciples to be baptized in the Holy Spirit, even though He had already breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit” (John 20:22).

The same can be seen in the case of some Samaritans in Acts 8:14-16.

“When the _____ in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent _____ and _____ to them. When they arrived, they _____ for them that they might _____, because the Holy Spirit had not yet come upon any of them; they had simply been baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus.”

These people in Samaria, having believed and been baptized in Jesus name, had been born again of the

indwelling Spirit of God, yet they did not experience the baptism in the Spirit until they were taught and were prayed over.

The Greek expression used for “receive the Holy Spirit” means to actively take or grasp. A Christian may be indwelt by the Holy Spirit without actively receiving the Spirit. When we are saved, the Holy Spirit is in us; when we are baptized in the Holy Spirit, He comes upon us, with power to be God’s witnesses (Acts 1:8).

What is the Immediate Evidence of the Baptism in the Holy Spirit?

There are four instances recorded in the book of Acts when people receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit. Let us look at these for an answer to this question.

Acts 2:1-4 *“When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a _____ like the blowing of a _____ came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be _____ that separated and came to rest on each of them. _____ were _____ with the _____ and _____ _____ as the Spirit enabled them.”*

Acts 8:18 “When Simon saw that the Spirit was given at the _____
_____ hands, he offered them money.”

Acts 10:44-46 “While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit came on all who heard the message. The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astonished _____
_____ had been poured out even on the Gentiles. For they heard them _____ in _____
_____ and _____ God.”

Acts 19:6 “When Paul placed his hands on them, the _____ came on them, and they _____
_____ and _____.”

In each of these instances, observers could see outward results of the baptism in the Holy Spirit. These results included exalting God, prophesying, and speaking in tongues, with speaking in tongues being the most common. Therefore, speaking in tongues is the major initial evidence of baptism in the Holy Spirit.

How Can You Receive the Baptism with the Holy Spirit?

Draw a line to the scripture reference for each of these steps.

- | | |
|---|------------|
| 1. You must be a Christian | Acts 2:4 |
| 2. Be in obedience to God | Acts 5:32 |
| 3. Ask for the Holy Spirit | John 7:39 |
| 4. Submit to laying on of hands | Luke 11:13 |
| 5. Believe God to give you the Spirit | Acts 19:6 |
| 6. Speak in other tongues as the Spirit gives ability | John 14:17 |

DOING THE WORD

- Have you received the Holy Spirit since you believed? (Acts 19:6). If not, ask your Pastor or another Spirit-filled Christian to pray with you and lay hands on you for the baptism with the Holy Spirit.
- After receiving the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, what changed in your life?

Ref: *Power For Living*, A.L. Gill.
Clothed With Power, Ken Chant.

Chapter VII

The Fruit of the Holy Spirit

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law”(Galatians5:22-23).

What a glorious listing of virtues we find in the Apostle Paul’s letter to the church at Galatia. Who could reasonably debate the value of any one of the aforementioned fruits of the Spirit? A great confusion is possible for new believers in understanding the difference between the fruit of the Spirit and a doctrine of works or legalistic behavior. New believers are frequently drawn into groups that place an unhealthy emphasis on works in order to become or stay saved. The fruit of the Spirit will be produced by

the Holy Spirit within the life of every believer who in partnership with God's Spirit properly cultivates such fruit. There is however a counterfeit to the fruit of the Spirit, and that counterfeit is revealed in Galatians 3:2 where Paul chastises those who think salvation depends upon following a set of rituals. (See also Colossians 2:16-23).

It is often true, both in the world and in the church, that we give praise to the powerful personalities rather than the good and noble in character. That is to say, we are greatly impressed with great performances. Could it be that our current cultural standards for greatness may not in fact be in harmony with God's standards for greatness? For example, many of America's greatest sports heroes in recent history have turned out in fact to be persons of very dubious character. Drug-addicted and spouse-abusing men and women have been idolized by the media and even by the church.

God, in fact, has considerably different standards for measuring a Christian's greatness than does our society or culture. The Lord is more interested in character than charisma, in godliness than greatness, in showing love rather than impressing people with religious accomplishments.

Jesus commented on the unhealthy preoccupation with size and statistics many times throughout his teaching ministry. One very clear and prominent example of this is found in Mark 12:41-44.

*“Jesus sat down opposite the place where the offerings were put and watched the crowd putting their money into the temple treasury. Many rich people threw in _____
_____.*

*But a poor widow came and put in two very small _____, worth only a fraction of a penny. Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, ‘I tell you the truth, this poor widow has put _____ than all the others. They all gave out of their _____
_____ but she, out of her _____
_____, put in everything--all she had to live on.’”*

God certainly looks upon the heart, while we as natural human beings have a real tendency to focus on the externals of life and its issues. What is God really after? What are His true standards for greatness, growth, and maturity? Scripture is not silent on this matter! Scripture places far greater value on the fruit of the Spirit than it does external displays of holiness and on large numbers. Even great feats of supernatural power are secondary to a transformed life (Matthew 7:21-28).

In John 15:4, Jesus said, “Abide in me and I in you...the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine.” Again in John 15:7: “If you abide in me and my words abide in you...ask...it shall be done unto you.” In Psalm 1:1-3, David states, “His delight is in the law of the Lord, and in his law he meditates both day and night.”

Fundamentally then, the fruit of the Holy Spirit would be that virtue which is produced in our lives by the Spirit of God as we cooperate with Him in cultivating that virtue.

Since cultivation of the fruit of the Spirit revolves around the word of God, it would assist us greatly to look briefly at God’s word as it relates to each of the differing fruits of the Spirit.

Love

Love involves our relationship with others and with God.

Love of God

I John 4:7-11 *“Dear friends, let us love _____
_____, for love _____.* Everyone who
loves has been born of God and knows God.
*Whoever _____ does not _____
_____, because God is love. This is how God
showed his love among us: He sent his one and only*

*Son into the world that we might _____
_____. This is love: not that
we loved God, but that _____ and
sent his Son as an _____ for our sins.
Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought
to _____.”*

By this passage and others like it we can readily see how God's love progressively moves from love of one's self, through God's love of us, to the love of God, to the loving of others created in His image. It is made readily apparent that our ability to love in all three realms, has its origin in the love of God for us.

Love of Others

The love of others is a primary expression of God's Spirit in our lives. Its importance is made clear by the words of Jesus Himself.

*Matthew 5:43-45 “You have heard that it was said,
'_____ your _____ and _____
your _____.' But I tell you: _____
your _____ and _____ for those who
persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father
in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and*

the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.”

To the Pharisees, *neighbor* was a narrowly defined term. Neighbors were to be loved, but enemies could be hated. Jesus expanded the definition of neighbor to include enemies. See especially the parable of the good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37).

Love of Self

When asked which is the greater commandment, in Matthew 22:37, Jesus’ response is recorded. “*Love _____ as yourself.*”

It is apparent from our Lord’s response that one must have a love of oneself as a foundation for loving others. We can truly love ourselves because God loves us. In I John chapter 4 we find “*we love him because _____.*” God both has loved us and continues to love us even when we are unlovely, with all of our imperfections and shortcomings. We can then be at liberty to love ourselves, even as God does, and subsequently we are free to love others.

Joy

Nehemiah 8:10 “*Nehemiah said, ‘Go and enjoy choice food and sweet drinks, and send some to those who have_____.* This day is

*sacred to our Lord. Do not grieve, for the _____
of the LORD is your strength.”*

*Romans 14:17 “For the kingdom of God is not a
matter of eating and drinking, but of
righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.”*

*Romans 15:13 “May the God of hope fill you with
all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you
may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy
Spirit.”*

Joy is the positive feeling of the whole man that the will of the Lord is being done. Such joy was demonstrated by our Lord Jesus Christ when He suffered and died for us. It was in fact the chief motivating factor and the apparent source of strength for His vicarious suffering.

*Hebrews 12:2 “Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the _____
_____of our faith, who **for the
joy** set before him_____cross, scorning its
shame, and sat down at the right hand of the
throne of God.”*

Joy produces the strength to obey and serve God with the understanding that it is worth it all both now and forever.

Peace

For an exercise in understanding God's commitment to bringing peace to our lives, just take a look at how many times this particular fruit of the Spirit is communicated to the saints by the apostles in the opening and closing statements of the New Testament epistles.

James and I John are the only New Testament epistles that do not either end or begin with a strong reference to blessing the saints with the peace that comes from God to the body of Christ. Of particular interest is a characteristic of peace that is non-typical to today's culture.

Romans 6:20 *"The God of _____ will soon _____
_____ Satan under your feet. The grace of our _____
_____ be with you."*

Hebrews 13:20-21 *"May the God of _____,
who...brought
back from the dead our Lord Jesus...work in us
what is pleasing to Him."*

Peace is not passive. It is associated directly with the very resurrection of Christ. It resurrects the life of God within us, and it crushes the power of Satan without.

Another scripture of interest on the peace of God as an important aspect of the fruit of the Spirit is Romans 8:6.

“The _____ of sinful man is _____, but the mind _____ is life and peace.”

Longsuffering

Longsuffering can be defined as long and patient endurance of offense.

Scripture speaks of this great virtue in several passages, and through our review of them we can learn of this work of the Spirit in our lives. In the New International Version of the Bible the word for longsuffering is translated *patience*.

1 Timothy 1:16 *“But for that very reason I was _____ so that in me, _____, Christ Jesus might display his unlimited _____ as an example for those who would believe on him and receive eternal life.”*

2 Timothy 3:10 “ You, however, know all about my teaching, my way of life, my _____, _____, endurance.”

2 Corinthians 6:6 “ In purity, understanding, _____; in the Holy Spirit and in sincere love.”

Colossians 1:11 “Being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great _____.”

Colossians 3:12 “Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with _____.”

2 Peter 3:15 “Bear in mind that our Lord's _____ means _____, just as our dear brother Paul also wrote you with the wisdom that God gave him.”

Gentleness

Gentleness is that which keeps us from being unkind or harsh to others. To be gentle is to be equitable and fair, not insisting on keeping the letter of the law, but before judging to look objectively and reasonably at the facts of the situation. Some versions of the Bible use the word *kindness* instead of *gentleness*.

Gentleness avoids causing pain whenever possible. Gentleness towards others is an attribute of great grace for the body of Christ.

Goodness

Goodness is love in action. It not only desires for the welfare of others but also acts to see that the welfare is realized. Being good is more than being righteous. The Bible makes a definite difference between the two in Romans 5:7.

Romans 5:7 *“Very rarely will anyone die for a _____
_____ man, though for a _____
someone might possibly dare to die.”*

A righteous person could evict a widow for not paying her rent, and would have the legal right to do so. Righteousness would keep the letter of the law, but goodness would assist her in times of need.

Faith

Faith emphasizes our relationship with God. When it refers to our belief in Christ or God, *faith* means “a firm persuasion.” However in Galatians 5:22, faith refers to a characteristic in those persons in whom the fruit of the Spirit is being produced. Therefore, it is the idea of “faithfulness, fidelity, or trustworthiness.” This faith is that characteristic which causes one to be true to his promise and faithful to his task.

Matthew 25:21 *“His master replied, ‘Well done, good and _____! You have been _____ with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!’”*

Meekness

Meekness is not weakness. It is not the opposite of courage, but it is strength under control. It is a spirit of humility that refuses to let pride rule one's life. Meekness means that we have the mind of Christ, that Jesus is in control of our lives. The meek person does not throw his weight around. Meekness is actually the proper use of authority and power.

Christ is our example of meekness.

Philippians 2:5 *“Your _____ should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being in _____, did not consider _____ with God something to be grasped, but made himself _____, taking the very nature of a _____, being made in human likeness. And being found in _____ as*

*a man, he humbled himself and became _____
_____ -- even death on a cross!"*

Temperance

To most of us the word *temperance* conveys the idea of abstinence from alcoholic beverages, but as a part of the fruit of the Spirit it refers to self-control. It is that virtue found in the life of one who masters his desires and passions, especially in regard to sensual appetites. Perhaps the best illustration of self-control is seen in Christ as he faced the cross in the Garden of Gethsemane.

Matthew 26:39 *"Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, 'My Father, if it is possible, may this _____
_____. Yet not as _____, but as _____
_____.'"*

In summary, the fruit of the Spirit is singular. It is like a pie that has been divided into nine pieces. Each one of the characteristics is required if there is to be a whole.

The list of the fruit of the Spirit ends with *against such there is no law*. The Law could not produce such fruit. Only the Holy Spirit can lift us out of legalistic law-keeping into fruitful discipleship.

DOING THE WORD

- ❑ Commit to memory Galations 5:22-23.

- ❑ Examine how these gifts are in operation in your life? Ask God to help you to surrender to the work of the Holy Spirit so that the gifts may be in operation in your life and ministry at all times.

Ref: *40 Days to the Promise*, Stan DeKoven. Vision Publishing

Chapter VIII

Praise and Worship

Originally, before Satan was cast down from heaven, he as the angel Lucifer was the leader of praise and worship before God. However, because of his rebellion, we have become God's chosen replacements to bring praise and worship to the King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

To praise is to express approval or admiration. Praise is one form of worship. To worship is to bow in reverence and submission.

What is worship?

Romans 12:1 reveals that we express true worship by offering our bodies in obedience as a living and holy sacrifice. To worship is to bow our wills in obedience to God as well as to adore God with our praise.

It is most important that we be in a church that believes in a biblical pattern of worship. Jesus said, "God is a spirit: and they that worship Him must worship Him in _____ and in _____." Truth is the word of God. Spirit refers to God's Holy Spirit.

How Do We Begin to Praise the Lord?

Psalm 100:4 says, "Enter His gates _____
_____, and His _____
_____. Give thanks to Him and praise His name."

What Types of Praise Are There?

Lifting your hands " I want men everywhere to ___
_____, without _____
or disputing" (I Timothy 2:8; Psalm 63:4).

Speaking " Through Jesus, therefore, let us
continually offer _____ a sacrifice of praise--__
_____ that confess his name"
(Hebrews 13:15, Revelation 19:1-6).

Singing "Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to
debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit. Speak
to one another with _____
_____. Sing and make music in your heart to the
Lord" (Ephesians 5:18-19, Colossians 3:16).

Playing musical instruments and dancing "
Praise him with the sounding of the _____,

praise him with the _____, praise him with _____ praise him with the _____, praise him with the clash of _____, praise him with resounding _____
(Psalms 150:3-5, Revelation 14:2).

Speaking in unison with one another " *When they heard this, _____ God. 'Sovereign Lord,' they said, 'you made the heaven and the earth and the sea, and everything in them'*"(Acts 4:24).

As we enter into praise and worship, two things begin to occur. First, we minister unto the Lord. He in turn will minister unto us and our needs. Praise and worship are very powerful tools that the Lord has given to us.

When should we praise and worship?

In all things give thanks. Praise should continually be upon our lips. We should praise the Lord when we feel gratitude to God, but also when we feel down and depressed. Isaiah 6:1 says that the Lord will give us a "garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness." We are lifted into the very presence of God as we praise Him. Colossians 3:17 says, "Whatever you do in work or

deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus.” Verse 23 adds, “Whatever you do, do your work heartily as for the Lord.” True joy is intensified in our lives as we worship God by doing only those things that can be done in His name and by doing all with a heart to honor and glorify Him. A life of worship and praise is a life of great joy and peace.

Where should praise and worship occur?

- At home
- In church
- With friends
- Spontaneously
- At work
- At all times "let all that is within us praise the Lord" (Psalm 150).

DOING THE WORD

- Think of three things that you are thankful for, and share them.
- Do you praise and worship each day, or only on Sunday?

❑ Make a commitment to be a praiser and worshiper,
not a murmurer and complainer.

Ref: *Praise and Worship*, A.L. Gill. Powerhouse
Publishing.

Celebrating God, John McGeorge. Vision
Publishing.

Chapter IX

Prayer

In Jesus' life, prayer held a prominent place. Before Jesus chose his disciples, before facing the cross, and many times in between, He would steal away to be alone with His Father. These were times of intense communication with God the Father. If Jesus needed this, how much more we.

The apostles, after the resurrection of Christ, continued to emphasize prayer as an important part of the development and maintenance of spiritual vitality. Let us look more closely at some of the key aspects of prayer.

What is prayer?

Prayer has been called the key to heaven. It is communication with God. Communication should be a vital part of any relationship, especially our relationship with God. But what is prayer anyway? In Matthew 7:7-8, we find that prayer is *“to_____ , and it will be given to you; _____ and you will find; _____ , and it will be opened to you.”* Simply, it is asking, knocking and seeking.

Why Pray?

In Luke 18:1, we read that Jesus told His disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up. Further, Paul tells us to "pray without

ceasing" (I Thessalonians 5:17). So we see that the Lord does not suggest that we pray, but He commands us to pray.

There is great power in prayer, especially the prayer of agreement. In Matthew 18:19, we read *"Again, I tell you that if two of you _____
_____ about anything you ask for, _____
_____ for you by my Father in heaven."*

How do we pray?

The disciples asked this same question of Jesus, who was a man of prayer. In Matthew 6:9-13, we find a pattern for prayer called the "Our Father."

Matthew 6:9-13 *"This, then, is how you should pray: 'Our Father in heaven, _____ be your name, your kingdom come, your _____ on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our _____ . Forgive us our _____, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into _____, but deliver us from the evil one.'"*

In very simplified terms, this pattern teaches us to do the following:

1. Acknowledge the greatness of God and give the praise due Him.
2. Seek His will to be done in our lives and in this world.
3. Make petition or request for our basic needs. (We are to ask even though God already knows.)
4. Acknowledge that we need forgiveness from God and for our fellow man. A lack of forgiveness can hinder our prayers (Psalm 66:18).
5. Seek assistance in resisting temptation and battling the devil.
6. Praise God for His provision.

Further, our prayer must be “in faith.” Matthew 21:22 says, “*If you believe, _____ you ask for in prayer.*” Our faith grows as we read and do the word of God (Romans 10:17). Faith pleases God (Hebrews 11:6). By faith we can come boldly unto God (Hebrews 4:16).

Where to Pray?

When we became born again, God gave us the right to have direct access to Him. Therefore, we can pray anywhere at any time. Acts 12:5 states that *“Peter was kept in prison, but _____ _____ to God for him.”* Peter prayed on a roof top (Acts 10:9). Jesus prayed in the desert (Luke 4:1) and in a solitary place (Mark 1:35). Paul and Silas prayed in prison (Acts 16:25). We can and should pray anywhere and everywhere.

Hindrance to Prayer

There may be times in your Christian experience when it feels as though God is far from you. As it were, the "skies are brass." However, God is there and does still hear and answer. Though God is always near, we can hinder God's moving on our behalf. We have already looked at forgiveness and faith above, which are necessary ingredients. Further, I Peter 3:7 says,

“Husbands, in the same way be _____ as you live with your wives, and treat them with _____ _____ as the weaker partner and as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life, so that nothing will _____.”

Keeping a good relationship with your spouse is very important. (See more under Marriage and Family.)

Does God Answer All Prayer?

This is a question that most Christians ask. Does God really care enough about me to answer my specific prayers? The answer is yes.

*"If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it _____
_____"(John 15:7).*

As we daily walk with the Lord, by faith in the fact of our salvation, and as we abide in and hold onto the word of God, we can be assured of God's answer to our prayers. However, the answer is not always yes or no. It can also be wait. Waiting on God builds Christian character.

Prayer is a vital exercise that is as important in one's life with God as communication is in one's life with a spouse. We must practice it many times a day and make it a priority in our life. Indeed, I Thessalonians 5:17 instructs us to pray without ceasing.

DOING THE WORD

- ❑ Share with at least one other believer a specific answer to a specific prayer from your experience.
- ❑ Begin a “prayer journal” of things being prayed for and answers received. Also, write down “nuggets” from the Holy Spirit that are revealed to you in prayer.
- ❑ Covenant with the group to pray specifically for them, and set aside a time daily for this service to God.

Ref: *Principles and Power of Prayer*, Gene Salisbury.
Intercessory Prayer, Pat Hulsey. Harvestime International.

Chapter X

The Word of God

What Is the Word of God?

The word of God, or the Bible, is actually a collection of “books,” 66 in all (39 Old Testament, or before Christ; and 27 New Testament, or from Christ to the end of the Apostolic Age) which make up the whole Bible. The Bible records the words of God spoken through men of God inspired by the Holy Spirit. In II Timothy 3:16-17, we read the following:

“All Scripture is _____ and is useful for _____, _____, _____ in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly _____ for every good work.”

The study of God's word, done in a systematic manner, will mold our character to become fully what God intends us to be. Some of the characteristics of the word of God include the following:

- It endures (I Peter 1:25)
- It is food for the soul (Jeremiah 15:16)
- It is written on the heart (Deuteronomy 11:18)

- It furnishes light (Psalm 119:105)
- It is loved by the saints (Psalm 119:97)
- It is mighty in influence (Jeremiah 5:14, 23:29; Ezekiel 37:7; Romans 1:16; Ephesians 6:17; Hebrews 4:12)
- It purifies the life (John 17:17; Ephesians 5:26)
- It is our standard of faith (Proverbs 29:18)
- It is to be studied (Deuteronomy 17:19; Isaiah 34:16; John 5:39; Romans 15:4)
- It is absolutely trustworthy (Matthew 5:18; Ezekiel 12:25)

The people of God should read, study, and cherish the word of God. It is God's communication with His people. The word of God reveals Jesus, the Word made flesh (John 1:1).

How Do We Study the Word of God?

- With an attitude of reverence.
- With a desire for wisdom and understanding.
- With a desire to be changed or transformed (Romans 12:1-2)

- With a plan for study (systematically), whether by topic, biography, or book by book.
- Memorize Scripture and hide it in your heart (Psalm 119:11)

The word of God must be:

Studied *“Do your best to _____ yourself to God as one approved, a _____ who does not need to be _____ and who correctly _____ the word of truth”* (II Timothy 2:15).

Meditated on *“My eyes stay open through the watches of the night, that I may _____ on your promises”*(Psalm 119:148).

Acted upon *“Do not merely _____ to the word, and so _____ yourselves. Do what it says* (James 1:22-23).

Where Do We Study the Word of God?

- Preferably in the same place each day.
- At the same time each day, especially first thing in the morning and just before going to bed.

- Carry a Bible to read while sitting and waiting for others.

DOING THE WORD

- Where in the Bible have you been reading lately?
Share with someone what you are learning.
- Commit with someone to read the same chapters and books,
and start a discussion of the passages on a regular basis.
- What are your most loved and important scripture references?
Are they memorized?

Ref: *How To Study The Word*, Joseph Bohac and Stan DeKoven. Vision Publishing.

The Bible, Ken Chant. Vision Publishing.

Chapter XI

Laying On Of Hands

The first time I "laid hands on" and prayed for something or someone was shortly after I was saved. Our family dog had become quite ill (tumor in the throat). You see, as a new believer, I didn't know enough "religion" to know that God doesn't heal animals. I just believed. I laid hands on my dog's head and commanded in the name of Jesus that she be healed, and she was!

I don't always know the mysteries of God, but I know that when we obey His commands, He will use us for His purposes. I have witnessed and participated in many such miracles of God, many of which have been accomplished by the laying on of hands.

Why "laying on of hands?" Laying on of hands seems no more than a ritual in the modern church. Therefore, it may be surprising that Hebrews 6:2 lists it as one of the foundational principles of the doctrine of Christ. However, as we shall see, the laying on of hands has biblical significance far beyond an empty ritual.

Let us search the Scriptures for answers to these questions about the laying on of hands.

What is the Purpose of Laying on of Hands?

The laying on of hands is a means of imparting divine blessings. It signifies a transfer between two parties.

The first mention of laying on of hands in Scripture indicates its significance throughout the rest of the Bible. Genesis 48 records that as old Jacob was about to die, his grandsons, the sons of Joseph, were brought to his sickbed. According to verse 9, they were brought to Jacob (Israel) in order that he might bless them.

Verse 14 states, *“But Israel reached out his right hand and _____, though he was the younger, and _____, he put his left hand on Manasseh's head, even though Manasseh _____.”*

The purpose of this is again indicated in verse 20: *“And he blessed them that day.”* However, this does not mean laying on of hands merely confers human approval, for the rest of verse 20 shows that Jacob pronounced God's blessing as he laid hands on them: *“In your name will Israel pronounce this blessing: May God make you like Ephraim and Manasseh.”*

The purpose of laying on of hands is also indicated by comparison of two New Testament passages. Acts 13:3 records that *“they laid their hands on”* Saul and Barnabas in the church at Antioch. The significance of this is implied in Acts 14:26, which states that Saul and Barnabas later returned *“to Antioch, where they*

had been committed to the grace of God for the work they had now completed."

What Blessings are Imparted by the Laying on of Hands?

- The laying on of hands can bring healing from God. According to Mark 6:4-5, He laid his hands upon a few sick people and healed them.

According to Mark 16:17-18, *"those who believe.....they will place their hands on sick people and they will get well."*

Again in Acts 28:8, *"Paul went in to see him and, after prayer, placed his hands on him and healed him."*

- The laying on of hands is used to confer God's blessing on a new ministry.

Acts 6:1-6 describes the selection of seven men by the church at Jerusalem as deacons. *"They presented these men to the apostles, who _____ and laid their hands on them."*

Acts 13:1-3 describes the sending out of Saul and Barnabas by the church at Antioch. According to verse 3, *"So after they had _____ and _____, they placed their _____ on them and sent them off."*

- The laying on of hands is used to impart the gift of the Holy Spirit.

According to Acts 8:1-17, Peter and John, *“When they arrived, they prayed for them that they might receive the _____.”*

According to Acts 19:6, *“When Paul placed _____ on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied.”*

- Laying on of hands is used to impart spiritual gifts.

In 1 Timothy 4:14, Paul wrote to Timothy, *“Do not neglect your gift, which was _____ message when the body of elders laid their hands on you.”*

Paul again wrote in II Timothy 1:6, *“Fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands.”*

The word *gift* in both of these passages is the Greek word *charisma*, which is used in the Bible elsewhere to

describe spiritual gifts (Romans 12:6; 1 Corinthians 12:4). The Bible uses a different word *dorea* for the gift of the Holy Spirit Himself. As Christians, we receive the Gift, the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is the keeper of the gifts or manifestations of the Holy Spirit, and gives them to and through believers as He will.

Laying on of hands is often an empty ritual in the church today. Laying on of hands is used in some churches for confirmation, but these were never connected in Scripture. To confirm is to establish, which is done by encouragement and instruction (exhortation - Acts 14:22; 15:32).

Laying on of hands is sometimes used indiscriminately to impart spiritual gifts without divine revelation. The distribution of spiritual gifts is determined by the Holy Spirit. *“He gives them to each one, just as He determines”* (I Corinthians 12:8-11).

Hands are sometimes laid on candidates for church offices without sufficient time to prove them. God's word warns against this in 1 Timothy 5:22.

“Do not be _____ in the laying on of hands, and do not share in the sins of others. Keep yourself pure.”

DOING THE WORD

Do you have a special need? Healing? The power of the Holy

Spirit? A spiritual gift for God's work? Get a spirit-filled man or woman to lay hands on you.

☐ Allow the Lord to use you to bless others.

Ref: *Prophetic Gatherings*, David Blomgren. Bible Temple Press.

Chapter XII

Resurrection Of The Dead

Mrs. Maxwell was a 72-year-old woman who had lived a long and fruitful life. She had been a dear and precious woman, a soul winner and teacher of children in the body of Christ. When she passed away, I was asked by the family to conduct the funeral.

In her family, half of her children and most of her grandchildren were also Christians. Half were not. What a difference between the two groups.

To the Christian family members, Mrs. Maxwell's death was a time of great rejoicing. They knew that she was with her Lord. But to her children who did not know Jesus, it was a time of great fear, sorrow, and uncertainty.

One of the beautiful aspects of being born again is that we have assurance of eternal life with our Lord. Resurrection of the dead is foundational to our walk with the Lord and should be understood by all true Christians.

We live in a time when people are quite self-oriented, or narcissistic. They say, "eat, drink, and be merry, for tomorrow we die!" This point of view seems reasonable to the "now" generation, and has permeated the church as well.

God's point of view is different. In God's word, the future is constantly held before us as an incentive for righteousness in this present world.

Two future events are included in the foundational principles of the doctrine of Christ:

- 1. Resurrection of the dead**
- 2. Eternal judgment**

The resurrection of the dead is the restoration of dead bodies to life, never spirits or souls. This will be obvious as we look at the four different bodily resurrections distinguished in the Bible.

Individuals Were Temporarily Resurrected

These include the following:

- The son of the widow of Zarephath (I Kings 17:17-24)
- The son of the Shunamite woman (II Kings 4:18-37)
- A man who was thrown in Elisha's grave (II Kings 13:20-21)
- Many saints who were raised after Jesus' resurrection (Matthew 27:52-53)
- The son of the widow of Nain (Luke 7:11-18)
- Lazarus (John 11)

- Tabitha (Acts 9:36-43)
- Eutychus (Acts 20:9-12)

Apparently other individuals have been raised, both in Biblical times (Matthew 10:8) and in this age. However, these resurrections have all been temporary, for I Corinthians 15:20 declares, *“Jesus called out with a loud voice, ‘Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.’ When he had said this, he breathed his last.”* According to John 5:28-29, the resurrection of life is still future.

These temporary resurrections are not part of the "resurrection of the dead," which is foundational for Christians, according to Hebrews 6:2. Any resurrection of the dead before Jesus comes is an isolated event, not based on a promise of God's Word.

Christ Was Resurrected

According to Luke 23:43, Christ said to the thief on the cross, *"I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise."* This referred to Christ's spirit, for verse 46 records, *“And when Jesus had cried with a loud voice, he said, ‘Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit:’ and having said this, he gave up the ghost (expired).”* In contrast, the body of Jesus was buried by Joseph of Arimathea, and arose three days later (Luke 23:50-24:7).

Luke 24:39 shows that the body of Christ was raised. Jesus said, *"Look at my hands and my feet. It is I*

myself! Touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have." Those who do not believe in the resurrection of the body do not believe in the resurrection at all; they are unsaved (I Corinthians 15:1-4).

Draw a line from each characteristic of Jesus' resurrection body to the scripture reference where it is found:

Flesh and bones	Luke 24:39
Ate food	John 20:24,27
Could be touched	Luke 24:42-43
Had scars of the crucifixion	Luke 24:39
Appeared in a locked room	Acts 1:9
Disappeared	John 20:19,26
Ascended	Luke 24:31

All Christianity depends on the resurrection of Christ. The apostles preached the resurrection (Acts 4:2). Look up the consequences of denial of the resurrection in I Corinthians 15:14-18.

1 Corinthians 15:14 *"If Christ has not been raised,our_____*

_____ is useless and so is your _____
_____.”

1 Corinthians 15:17 *“If Christ has not been _____,
_____,
your faith is _____; you are still in your
sins.”*

1 Corinthians 15:18 *“Then those also who have _____
_____ in Christ are lost.”*

Christians Who Have Died Will Be Resurrected at Christ's Coming

When a believer dies, his soul goes immediately to be with the Lord, but this is not his permanent condition. Our full salvation will include the resurrection of our physical bodies at Christ's coming.

Paul expected to go immediately into the presence of Christ when he died. Philippians 1:21, *“For me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.”* He is talking about death when he writes in verse 23, *“I am torn between the two: I desire to depart and be with _____ which is far better.”*

Yet Paul also looked for the resurrection of his body at the future time of Jesus' coming, for he wrote in Philippians 3:20-21, "*But our _____ is in heaven. And we eagerly await a _____, the Lord Jesus Christ, who, by the _____ _____ him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.*"

Thus we must avoid doctrines of both soul sleep and the denial of the resurrection of the body. Both are false doctrines.

The Unsaved Will Be Resurrected

At death, the unsaved immediately go into torment. Jesus told of a rich man who died and was "*in hell where he was in torment*" (Luke 16:22-23). This refers to his soul, since it took place immediately at death. The place where the unsaved go at death is *hades* in Greek, translated hell in the KJV.

The bodies of the unsaved dead will be resurrected and reunited with their souls to be sent into everlasting torment. According to Revelation 20, after Christ returns, the bodies of the unsaved will come out of the sea or death (the grave), and their souls will come out of hell (hades). They will then be judged and cast into

the lake of fire. Jesus used a different word (gehenna) for the lake of fire where soul and body will suffer everlasting torment (Matthew 10:28). Thus, there are two places called hell - hades, where the souls of the unsaved go at death, and gehenna, where the body and soul go after the resurrection and judgment.

DOING THE WORD

- You must believe in the bodily resurrection of Christ to be a Christian.
- What fears do you have, if any, of the resurrection?

Ref: *Grief Relief*, Stan DeKoven. Vision Publishing.

Chapter XIII

Eternal Judgment

Death will not be the end for you. What you do in this life will determine how you spend eternity. This is the doctrine of eternal judgment, named in Hebrews 6:2 as one of the foundational principles of the doctrine of Christ. The New Testament is futuristic, using the future as an incentive for the right choices in this present life. The Bible teaches only two possible results of eternal judgment. Unfortunately, many churches and pastors have gone away from preaching on eternal judgment. A balance is needed. Let's see what the Bible says about this subject.

THE UNSAVED WILL BE JUDGED WITH ETERNAL PUNISHMENT

Let us follow the destiny of an unsaved man:

At death, the unsaved go immediately to hell (hades).

Jesus tells about such a man in

Luke 16:22-24 *“The rich man also died and was buried. And in_____ he lifted up his eyes, being in_____, and saw Abraham far away and Lazarus in his bosom. And he cried out and said, Father Abraham, _____ on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger*

in water and _____ off my tongue; for I am in agony in this flame.”

The word translated hell is *hades*, the place of the dead.

This passage refers to his soul, since his body was buried and would not suffer torment in the grave. It cannot refer to the future time of the resurrection, for he still had brothers on earth who needed to repent so they could escape punishment in hell (verses 27-31).

The bodies of the unsaved will be resurrected to stand in judgment. Turn to Revelation 20:11-15 and look up these facts about the judgment of the unsaved.

The place of judgment *“I saw a _____
_____.”*

The people at the judgment *“And I saw the dead, the _____,
_____, standing before the throne.”*

The reference is clearly speaking of the believer in Jesus Christ, not of the unbeliever.

The basis of judgment

“And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the

throne, and _____. Another book
was
opened, which is the book of life. The _____
according to what they had done as recorded in the
books."

Verse 13 continues with *"And the sea gave up the
dead which were in it and death and (Hades)
gave up the dead which were in them; and
they were judged, every one of them
according to their deeds."*

The result of the judgment

*"And death (bodies) and Hades (souls) were thrown
into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the _____*
_____."

Thus, there are two hells in Scripture: hades, where the souls of the unsaved go after death; and the lake of fire, where their souls and bodies will go after judgment.

The unsaved will suffer eternal torment. Note these warnings, which "annihilate" the unscriptural doctrine of annihilation.

Matthew 25:46 *"Then they will go away _____
_____, but the righteous to
eternal life."*

Mark 9:43, 44 *"If your hand causes you to sin, cut
it off. It is better for you to enter life maimed than
with two hands to go into hell, _____ never
goes out."* This warning is repeated three times in
verses 43-48.

Revelation 14:10-11 *"He, too, will drink of the wine
of _____, which has been poured full strength
into the cup of his wrath. He will be _____
with burning sulfur in the presence of the holy
angels and of the Lamb. And the _____
_____ rises for ever and ever.*

*There is no rest day or night for those who worship
the beast and his image."*

THE SAVED WILL BE JUDGED FOR ETERNAL REWARDS

Let us now follow the destiny of a Christian.

At death, the Christian goes immediately into the presence of Christ.

"We are of good courage, I say, and prefer rather to be _____ and to be at home with the Lord" (I Corinthians 5:8).

When Christ returns, he will bring with him the souls of dead Christians.

"We believe that Jesus died and rose again and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him" (I Thessalonians 4:14). At that time the bodies of the dead Christians will be resurrected and the living will be raptured. "For the Lord himself will _____, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the _____. After that, we who are still _____ and are left _____ together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever"(I Thessalonians 4:16-17).

Christians will be rewarded at the judgment seat of Christ.

II Corinthians 5:10 *“For we must _____
_____ before the judgment seat of Christ, that each
one may _____ him for the things _____
_____, whether good or
bad.”*

Further, Christians will clearly receive different rewards (Matthew 16:27; I Corinthians 3:13-15).

The many activities by which we may receive rewards include the love we show (Matthew 25:36-46), the degree to which we fulfill our calling (Matthew 25:14-30), our commitment to God’s kingdom (Matthew 6:20-24), and our endurance under persecution (Matthew 5:10-12).

The saved will live and reign with Christ 1,000 years on this earth (Revelation 20:4-6).

The saved will live with God eternally in a new heaven and earth.

Revelation 21:2 *"I saw the Holy City, _____
_____, coming down out of heaven from
God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for
her husband."*

DOING THE WORD

- You must face eternal judgment. What difference does this fact make in the life you are now living?
- Are you ready? If not, turn from your sins and commit yourself to Christ.

Ref: *When the Trumpet Sounds*, Ken Chant. Vision Publishing.

Chapter XIV

Living the Christian Life

We have seen that salvation, becoming born again, is the beginning of a new life. The Lord desires for each of us to live life to its fullest to become all He created us to be. Living the Christian life effectively is something that concerns every Christian.

Our first stage in living the Christian life fully is to develop an intimate relationship with Jesus. In this section, you will see the basic essentials needed to live for Jesus day by day. We all must experience this intimate dependency, developed out of obedience to His word in order to be full in Him.

*“Let us also lay aside _____, and the _____
_____ which so easily entangles us, and let us _____
_____ the race that is set before us” (Hebrews 12:1).*

The Christian life is a race. You have to finish the course to win.

Eternal security (once saved, always saved) is a popular concept. However, the Bible teaches otherwise. The Bible is filled with warnings to Christians of the danger of damnation if having once experienced Jesus, they turn from Christ. The book of Hebrews especially warns of this danger.

Hebrews 10:26-29 gives a sober warning.

"If we deliberately keep on _____ after we have received the knowledge of the truth, _____, but only a fearful expectation of judgment and of raging fire that will consume the enemies of God. Anyone who rejected the law of Moses died without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. How _____ severely do you think a man deserves to be punished who has _____ the Son of God under foot, who has _____ as an unholy thing the blood of the covenant that sanctified him, and who has _____ the Spirit of grace?"

This does not mean that anyone who has willfully sinned can never be forgiven; that would be contrary to the rest of Scripture (James 5:19-20; I John 1:9). It means there is no sacrifice as long as we continue to willfully sin. The New International Version translates it, *"If we deliberately keep on sinning after we have received the knowledge of the truth."*

The book of Hebrews tells how we can overcome sin and live a life of holiness. Let us look at some of the help Hebrews offers for our Christian life.

Go To Jesus When You Need Help

Hebrews 4:14-16 reads, "Therefore, since we have a _____ who has gone through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us _____
_____to the faith we profess. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to _____with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are--_____
_____. Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need."

Hebrews 12:2 tells us to keep our eyes fixed on Jesus.

Notice two things for which we can come to Jesus and find help.

1. We can "*obtain mercy*" when we have sinned. Do not give up if you fail! Come to Jesus in prayer and be instantly forgiven, instantly, so that you do not experience condemnation.
2. We can "*find grace to help*" overcome temptation "*in time of need.*"

Live By Faith in Christ

This means that faith in Christ becomes the primary motivation for our life. Just as we are saved by faith, we are continually kept by faith (see 1 Peter 1:5). According to Hebrews 3:12, what is it that could cause departing from God? “A *sinful, _____.*”

If we were to scan Hebrews 11, we would see these great men and women of God are examples of living by faith.

Stay in Fellowship with The Church

We receive strength and encouragement from other Christians to help us live a Christian life. The church is the body of Christ. Dropping out of the church is like cutting off one’s hand.

Hebrews 10:25 states, “*Let us not give up _____, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us _____ one another--and all the more as you see the Day approaching.*”

Submit To God's Discipline

God does not cause all the troubles in our life, but He will use them for our good if we love Him and do His will (Romans 8:28; James 1:2-3). It is foolish to turn from God because trials come. That is when we need

Him the most. Examine the following scriptures thoroughly to see the wisdom and care of God for us.

Whom does God chasten? Hebrews 12:6 *"The Lord _____ those he _____, and he _____ everyone he _____ as a son."*

What response must we give to God's discipline? Hebrews 12:9 *"Moreover, we have all had _____ us and we respected them for it. How much more should we _____ of our spirits and live!"*

What is the purpose of discipline? Hebrews 12:10 *"Our fathers disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but _____, that we may _____."*

Beware of Bitterness

According to Hebrews 12:15, there is a type of trouble that can stumble us and cause many to be defiled. *"See to it that no one misses the grace of God and that _____ up to cause trouble and defile many."*

Rebellion against God's appointed leaders is actually rebellion against God himself.

Hebrews 13:7 exhorts, “Remember _____
_____, who spoke the word of God to you. _____
the outcome of _____ and imitate their
faith.”

DOING THE WORD

- Remember, it is not enough to start the Christian life; you must finish. Just keep on keeping on. If you stumble, get up again!
- In what areas of your Christian walk do you need assistance?
- How could you improve your walk, according to what you have learned in this chapter?

If you have questions about the topic of eternal security, you can look up these passages: Matthew 24:12-13; John 15:1-6; Acts 14:22; Romans 8:12-13; I Corinthians 9:27, 15:1-2; Galatians 5:4, 19-21; Colossians 1:21-23; Hebrews 3:12, 6:4-6, 10:26-29, 12:14-17; James 5:19-20; II Peter 2:20-22; I John 2:24; Revelation 3:5, 22:19.

Ref: *Christian Life*, Ken Chant. Vision Publishing

Chapter XIV

The Local Church

In 1970, at 17 years of age, I met my dear friend and fellow pastor, Dr. Bohac. He was my high school English teacher and an Assembly of God pastor. Not only did he assist me into the baptism of the Holy Spirit and perform the wedding ceremony for my wife and me, but I had the unique privilege of helping him restart a church in San Diego, California.

The little church (Logos Chapel) began with only ten people (of which five were members of a Christian singing group). We questioned many times, "did we truly hear from the Lord?" Yet we knew for certain that God's promises were true, that we were to become a strong church in the San Diego area. The Lord was gracious, and through His grace we steadily increased. I learned about church life from my pastor and my early church experiences, and have been in love with the church ever since.

The local church, especially one which has a strong vision for Christ, is essential for our Christian growth. We need to be willing to commit ourselves to the Lord and His work through the local church. Let's look at the local church and its importance for the believer as part of the larger body of Christ (church of the locality) in your city.

There have been many changes of late in the major ministries in our world. These changes have had a positive effect: they are driving some people back to

the local church. Since the church is the body of Christ, our spiritual life depends on the church, and Christ depends on the church to do His work on earth. Yet, there are so many churches, and they do not all teach the truth. Here are five questions to help you find your place within the body of Christ.

What is the True Church?

"*Church*" is translated from the Greek word *ekklesia*, which literally means "called out." Thus, the church consists of all the people whom God has called out from the world. When we are saved, we are baptized by the Holy Spirit into the church. Members of various church organizations may be part of the one true church, but the church is not identical with any organization.

Now let us search the Scriptures to identify the church as we have just described it. The church began with Christ's earthly ministry, and will continue throughout this age.

In Matthew 16:18 Jesus says, "*On this rock I will build my _____, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.*" Hades is the place of the dead, so this means that His church will endure forever.

All true Christians are part of the church.

Acts 2:47 *"The Lord added _____
daily those who were being saved."*

The true church is not identified by any particular name, for many names are used in Scripture, including "*church of God*" (Acts 20:28); "*churches of Christ*" (Romans 16:16); "*body of Christ*" (I Corinthians 12:27); "*the church of the living God*" (I Timothy 3:15); "*the general assembly and church of the firstborn*" (Hebrews 12:23); "*assembly*" (James 2:22).

Must I Become a Member of a Church?

Yes. You belong in a definite place within the church. Paul could write to the church in a locality and expect his letter to be delivered to a group of believers (I Corinthians 1:2; Galatians 1:2, etc.) These passages show our responsibility to be part of a local church.

Paul wrote to a local church (I Corinthians 12:27), "*Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.*" Just as a member of a body has a definite place, we each have a definite place in the body of Christ.

Which Church Should I Join?

Being a part of a strong local church is vital to our Christian walk. There are no perfect churches, but there are biblical characteristics of a church that describe what we should be a part of and what we should not be a part off.

We should not join a church that is not true to God's word.

II Corinthians 6:14 *“Do not be yoked together with unbelievers.”*

Our church must be one where the "new birth," born-again experience is a vital part.

We should not join a church that denies the power of God. II Timothy 3:5 warns, *“having a _____ but _____ . Have nothing to do with them.”* This includes liberals who deny miracles of the past, and any fundamentalists who deny miracles today.

We should become a part of a group of Christians wherever we are. According to Acts 9:26, *“When he came to Jerusalem, he tried to join the disciples.”*

God will give us a definite place where we can fit in and function as members of the body of Christ. Each of us is unique and has a definite part in the ministry of a local church (Romans 12:3-8).

I Corinthians 12:18 *“But in fact God _____ the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be.”* Look for relationships with other believers in a particular place (Ephesians 4:16).

How is the Church Governed?

The entire church is subject to Christ, its head (Ephesians 1:22; Colossians 1:1).

The churches appoint their leaders through the revelation of the Holy Spirit through the pastoral team. The apostles instructed the congregation,

Acts 6:3 “ *Brothers, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of _____
_____. We will turn this responsibility over to them.*”

The church is governed by elders in a city. Compare Acts 20:17 and 28. In verse 17, those Paul is speaking to are called elders. In verse 28, the same men are called overseers. In Titus 1:5 and 7, elders and bishop are used interchangeably.

Deacons serve the church, for deacon means **servant**. Read Acts 6:1-10 for the qualifications.

Local churches may cooperate in matters of common concern, such as agreement on doctrines and practices (Acts 15:1-29); pooling finances in a joint project (I Corinthians 16:1-4); setting churches in order (Titus 1:5-9). However, there is no single government over the church other than Christ, the head of the church, who leads through His delegated authority (see Ephesians 4:11: “The Five-Fold Ministry”).

What is my Responsibility to the Church?

We should be faithful in attendance.

Acts 2:42 *“They devoted themselves to the apostles’ _____ and to the _____, to the _____ of _____ and to _____.”*

We should support our church and its leaders with tithes and offerings. According to I Corinthians 9:14, *“The Lord has commanded that those who preach the gospel should receive their living from the gospel.”*

We should submit to the spiritual leaders of our church.

Hebrews 13:7 *“_____, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith.”*

We should serve and strengthen one another through our individual giftings (I Peter 4:10; Hebrews 3:15).

DOING THE WORD

❑ Commit yourself to Christ who plants you in His body, the church. The primary focus of the church is to win the lost, disciple people to maturity, equip and train them, and send them out to win the lost. This can occur only in the context of the local church. In becoming an active part, you too can "sow your life for something greater than yourself" building the Kingdom of God!

❑ Are you committed to a local church?

❑ How could you assist the church you are in?

Ref: *The Church*, Ken Chant. Vision Publishing.

Chapter XVI

Marriage And The Home

Marriage was originated by God. After He created the first man, God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him" (Genesis 2:18). Although some individuals are called to a celibate life for God's service (Matthew 19:10-12), marriage is undoubtedly best for most people (I Corinthians 7). God has a plan for marriage, and you need to know about it. Below is a brief outline of the biblical teaching that you can apply to your own situation.

What is Marriage?

We can define marriage as a covenant (binding agreement) of companionship consummated by sexual union between a man and woman. According to Genesis 2:18,

"The LORD God said, it is _____ for the man to be alone; I will make him a _____ suitable for him."

Genesis 2:24 records God's description of marriage.

"For this reason a man will _____ his father and mother and _____ to his wife, and they will become one flesh."

I Corinthians 6:16 shows that becoming one flesh refers to the sexual union.

What are some Violations of God's Plan for Marriage?

Since God's plan is for one man and one woman to be joined together as one flesh, anything else is a violation of God's plan. These violations may include the following:

1. Having more than one wife at a time (Genesis 4:19; I Kings 11:1-4).
2. Adultery in marriage (Exodus 20:14; James 4:4).
3. Homosexual relationships (Leviticus 18:22; Romans 1:26-27).
4. Divorce, except in certain special situations where it is allowed, not mandated, i.e., adultery, abandonment, sexual immorality (Matthew 5:31-32; 19:3-9).

What are Some Responsibilities of Husbands and Wives to Each Other?

1. Husbands and wives are responsible to be faithful to one another.

Exodus 20:14 “You _____ commit adultery.”

2. Husbands and wives are responsible to love one another .

Ephesians 5:25 “Husbands, _____ your wives, just as Christ _____ the church and gave himself up for her.”

Titus 2:4 says that older women should teach young women “to love their husbands.” Notice that married love is not an uncontrollable feeling: it is commanded and is therefore an act of the will and an attitude of the heart and mind. If nurtured, it will grow.

3. Husbands and wives are responsible to satisfy the sexual needs of one another.

I Corinthians 7:3-5 “The husband should fulfill his _____ to his wife, and likewise the wife to her husband. The wife's _____ _____ belong to her alone but _____ to her husband. In the same way, the husband's body _____ belong to him

alone but _____ to his wife. Do not _____
_____ each other except by _____
_____ and for a time. Then come together
again so that Satan _____
you because of your lack of self-control."

4. Husbands and wives are responsible to remain with one another. I Corinthians 7:10-11 states,

*"To the married I give this command (not I, but the Lord): A wife _____
from her husband. But if she does, she must remain unmarried or else be reconciled to her husband. And a husband _____
_____ his wife."*

What are the Special Responsibilities of Husbands?

1. Husbands are commanded to love unselfishly, beyond the degree of love required of wives

Ephesians 5:25 *“Husbands, _____,
just as Christ loved the church and gave himself
up for her.”*

2. Husbands are responsible for the material support of their families.

1 Timothy 5:8 *“If anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for his immediate family, he _____ and is worse than an unbeliever.”*

What are the Special Responsibilities of Wives?

1. Wives are responsible to submit to their husbands.

Ephesians 5:23-24 *“For the husband is the _____ of the wife _____ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. Now _____ submits to Christ, so also wives should _____ to their husbands in everything”.*

This does not mean a wife must obey even if her husband orders her to do something sinful. She is to

submit "as unto the Lord," and the Lord never commands us to do evil.

2. Wives are responsible to help their husbands, wherever possible. As we have seen, when God first created woman, He said, "I will make a helper suitable for him" (Genesis 2:18).

What Does the Bible Teach about Divorce?

In general, the Bible teaches that marriage is for life, as we have already seen in Matthew 5:31-32; 19:3-9.

Christ does allow for the right to divorce and remarry, in exceptional cases.

Matthew 5:32 says, "But I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, except for marital unfaithfulness, causes her to become an adulteress, and anyone who marries the divorced woman commits adultery."

1. Those who divorce in spite of this should remain unmarried.

I Corinthians 7:11 "But if she does, she must _____ or else be reconciled to her husband. And a husband must not divorce his wife."

2. Those who have divorced and remarried wrongfully should not try to return to former

companions (Deuteronomy 24:1-4). By remarriage, they have broken the former marriage (Matthew 19:9), and if they come to Christ, they will be forgiven. II Corinthians 5:17 *“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a _____; the old has gone, the new has come!”*

What are Some Responsibilities of Parents and Children?

1. Parents should not be overly harsh with their children.

Colossians 3:21 *“Fathers, do _____ your children, or they will become discouraged.”*

2. Parents should provide spiritual training for their children. In Ephesians 6:4, fathers are commanded to *“bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.”*

3. Children should honor their parents.

Ephesians 6:1-2 *“Children, _____ your parents in the Lord, for this is right. ‘_____”*

your father and mother'--which is the first commandment with a promise."

DOING THE WORD

I am most aware that this is a very brief synopsis of a Christian home. For more information see your pastor and refer to Dr. DeKoven's book **Marriage and Family Life**.

- How well am I doing as a husband/wife?
- If single, what changes might I need to make to insure that I am the kind of man/woman pleasing to God?

Ref: *Marriage and Family Life*, Stan DeKoven. Vision Publishing.

Chapter XVII

Handling Your Money

Over the past few years I have become increasingly aware of the need for money to extend the Kingdom of God. The word of God says a great deal about money and our attitude towards it. This is an important topic for the new believer.

In my counseling ministry, one of the primary stresses on individuals and couples is the inability to properly handle money. In my own family this was a primary area of conflict between my parents. There was never enough money to go around.

We serve a very practical God. He knows what we need and is concerned about every area of our lives. In this section we will examine the handling of our money from a biblical perspective.

According to Jesus, your attitude toward money is the test of what kind of person you are. He said, "Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much. So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches?" (Luke 16:10-11). According to verse 9, the "true riches" refer to the "eternal dwellings," or heaven. He further said, "Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also" (Matthew 6:21).

God's plan for your money is revealed throughout the Bible, but Proverbs especially covers a wide range of financial subjects. Therefore, we are going to use Proverbs as a basis for our study, along with some other passages that amplify Proverbs' teaching on money.

Learn God's Will for Your Finances

The handling of personal finances is summarized in Proverbs

30:8-9.

“Keep _____ and _____ far from me; give me neither _____ nor _____, but give me only my daily bread. Otherwise, I may have too much and _____ and say, 'Who is the LORD?' Or I may become _____ and _____, and so dishonor the name of my God.”

This warns of the danger of extremes. We should not prize poverty, which can tempt us to be dishonest or even resent God. The wisdom of this is evident when we realize the rate of crime is higher and the rate of Christianity is lower where there is abject poverty. On the other hand, the rich face the danger of prideful self-sufficiency. Of course, God may choose that some of his people be rich, like Abraham (Genesis 13:2), or that others may suffer for his sake, like Lazarus (Luke

16:19-23). But in general, we should expect that **all of our needs** will be met, though not necessarily all of our wants.

Do Not Waste What God Gives You

Proverbs 18:9 *“One who is _____ in his work is _____ to one who _____.”*

When Jesus fed the five thousand with five loaves and two fishes, He said, *“Gather up the fragments that remain that nothing be lost”* (John 6:12).

Proverbs 6:6, 8 exhorts,

“Go to the ant, _____; consider its ways and be wise!....it stores its provisions in _____ and gathers its _____ at harvest.”

Be Diligent in Your Work

Proverbs 21:5 *“The plans of the _____ lead to profit.”*

We should consider it a spiritual duty to excel in our work. Although Ephesians 6:5-8 was first addressed to slaves, they were the workers of that era, so it applies to employees of our day. Verse 8 shows that it applied to the free as well as to the slave.

Avoid Debt if Possible

Proverbs 22:7 declares, *“The rich rule over the poor, and the _____ is the _____ to the lender.”*

This is as true today as in biblical times. The borrower does not fully own his possessions, for the lender has a claim to them if the debt is not paid. Further, the borrower actually works for the lender, since part of his labor goes to pay the principle and interest. Not only does the borrower have a legal obligation, he has a divine obligation. Psalms 37:21 declares, "the wicked borrow and do not repay."

This raises a question. Does Romans 13:8 mean all debt is wrong when it says, "owe no man anything?" No, this verse does not mean all debt is wrong. In context, "owe" in Romans 13:8 refers to a **debt that is unpaid** (past due), for the passage is teaching that Christians must meet the obligations imposed by government (verses 1-7). The preceding verse (7) says, "Give everyone what you owe him." So debt is generally undesirable, but not totally prohibited.

Do Not Guarantee Debts for Others

Proverbs 22:26 warns, *“Do not be a man who _____
_____ or puts up _____ for
debts.”*

This often causes hard feelings as well as financial loss. Do not rescue someone, for dependency on you instead of on God might develop.

Share Your Goods with the Needy

Proverbs 19:17 *“He who is _____ to the _____
_____ lends to the LORD, and he will _____ him
for what he has done.”*

Proverbs 21:13 *“If a man shuts his ears to the _____
_____, he too will cry out and not be
answered.”*

Give To God

Proverbs 3:9-10 *“Honor the LORD with your _____
_____, with the _____ of all your crops;
then your barns will be _____ to
overflowing, and your vats will _____ with
new wine.”*

This verse summarizes the teaching on giving throughout the Bible: give to God even before your own needs, and God will supply your needs. Jesus said, “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” (Luke 6:38).

The minimal amount of giving is established throughout the Bible as a tithe, or tenth.

- A. Tithing was taught before the Law of Moses, for both Abraham and Jacob tithed (Genesis 14:20; 28:22).
- B. Tithing was commanded in the Law (Leviticus 27:30-34).
- C. Tithing was referred to by Jesus after the Law (Matthew 23:23).

DOING THE WORD

Following God's Word will help straighten out your financial affairs as well as the other areas of your life.

What areas of your financial life have you managed well/mismanaged?

Repent of your past failures, and determine to follow completely
God's will for your finances.

Ref: *Marriage and Family Life*, Stan DeKoven. Vision Publishing.

The Next Step

Now that your foundation has been laid, it is time to go deep. It is God's desire to conform us to the image of Christ. In order to have our character transformed, our minds must be renewed. This is not an event, but a process.

In order to assist the disciple and discipler to continue on their journey to wholeness, the book and study guide "40 Days to the Promise: A Way Through the Wilderness" was written. This dynamic book and journal will take you deeper into God's word as you learn the revelations of God's transforming power. The book and guide are available from Vision Publishing. Use the enclosed order sheet to order.

