

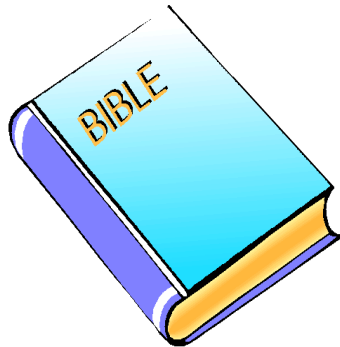
Discipleship

Foundations of the Word of God

An interactive study guide
for Bible study groups

*"Study to show yourself approved unto God a
workman that need not to be ashamed,
rightly dividing the word of truth." - II Timothy 2:15*

*Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him,
"If you continue in my word, then are you my
disciples indeed; "And you shall know the truth, and
the truth shall make you free. - John 8:31+32*



Disruptive Reality is an independent ministry on a mission to declare the Truth of God Almighty as revealed in his Word. Our desire is to be used by the Holy Spirit to lead the Christian Church back to the foundational truths of our faith and heritage. Truth is central to the Christian faith inasmuch as the enemies of God have been fighting against his people with lies since the Garden of Eden.

This study guide is part of a series of guides designed to give the student the knowledge required for spiritual maturity. What each one does with this knowledge is entirely up to the individual. But we know beyond all doubt that Biblical knowledge, combined with wisdom and application, will help us become all that God intends for us to be.

We hope that this study proves to be fruitful in your Christian walk. May God bless you richly as you study His Word.



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LESSON 1 - THE WORD OF GOD (part 1)

1. **Definition:** The Bible is God's revelation of Himself to man, His creation. The Bible forms one continuous story; the story of humanity in relation to God. From the beginning to the end, the Bible has one overriding theme: the person and work of Jesus Christ.

2. **Read Hebrews 1:1-3.** In these verses, we can see God's Word is a progressive revelation. Define the following terms:

- a) sundry times _____
- b) divers manners _____
- c) times past _____
- d) unto the fathers by the prophets _____
- e) in these last days _____
- f) unto us by his Son _____

(NOTE: It is important to understand that as a result of progressive revelation, any one Bible truth should be found consistently throughout Scripture.)

3. **Read II Timothy 3:16+17**

- a) What portion of Scripture is inspired by God?
- b) The word "inspired" in these verses means "God breathed". It's as if God spoke it Himself. *(see Gen 2:7)*
- c) What is God's Word profitable for?
 - 1) _____
 - 2) _____
 - 3) _____
 - 4) _____

4. Characteristics of the Word of God

- a) **I Peter 1:23-25** - The Word of God is:
- b) **Hebrews 4:12** - The Word is:
- c) **Luke 21:33** - The Word is:
- d) **Romans 1:16** - The Word is:

5. How do I know the Bible is reliable and without error?

- a) **II Peter 1:19-21** assures us that God's Word is true and reliable. *(NOTE: There are over 300 prophecies in the Old Testament fulfilled during the life and ministry of Jesus. If we analyze the probability of person fulfilling just eight, it would be 1 in 10 with 17 zeros after it! We can understand why Peter declares that the written word of prophecy is more sure.)*
- b) **II Timothy 3:16** tells us that all Scripture finds its origin in God.
- c) **Titus 1:2** tells us that God cannot lie.
- d) What does all this say about the reliability of God's Word?

NOTES:

Homework: Read Psalms 119:1-88, memorize Psalms 119:105, pray for one another.

LESSON 2 - THE WORD OF GOD (part 2)

1. An overview of the Bible:

- a) The Bible contains 66 books: 39 in the Old Testament and 27 in the New Testament.
- b) The books are divided into chapters and verses for reference.
- c) The Old Testament was written in the Hebrew language; the New Testament was written in the Greek language. *(Remember that our English Bible is a translation from these original languages.)*
- d) Did God make a mistake? Why the need for a New Testament? What's wrong with the Old one? **Read Hebrews 9:13-20**

1) The word "testament" means "contract" or "covenant". What is the new testament of vs. 15?

e) **Read Acts 3:25+26** - notice:

- 1) vs. 25 - OT covenant made through promises to Abraham
- 2) vs. 26 - NT covenant revealed through Jesus

God made no mistakes. The OT is the NT concealed; the NT is the OT revealed.

2. How to study the Scriptures: **Read Isaiah 28:9-13**

- a) Precept upon precept is an established fact of God's Word, i.e. "all have sinned", "God is love", "Jesus has risen".
- b) Line upon line: The systematic story line of Scripture that ties established facts of God together.
- c) Here a little, there a little: the use of foundation facts of Scripture to understand other portions of Scripture.

(Note: the New Testament is contained within the Old Testament, and the Old Testament is explained in the New Testament)

3. Because the Bible is a divine book, we need the Holy Spirit to help us understand it.

- a) The man without the Spirit does not understand the things that come from God. **(I Corinthians 2:12-14)**
- b) The Holy Spirit (Greek - Parakletos = one along side to help) will teach us and help us to remember. **(John 14:26)**

4. When we study Scripture, context is extremely important. To determine context, we use what's known as inductive (reasoning).

Read Mark 4:35-41, then answer the following questions:

- a) Who? - What is said about the person or people involved? What does the person (people) say?
- b) What? What is happening? What are the events; in what order?
- c) Where? Where is the event taking place? Where are the people going to or coming from?

- d) When? When did the event take place?
- e) Why? Why is the story included? Why here in the text? Why does one person say what he does? etc.
- f) How? So what? What difference would it make in my life if I were to apply this truth?

5. Basic divisions of Scripture

- a) Old Testament: Preparation for the Messiah
 1. Genesis to Deuteronomy (5 Books of Moses) - beginning history & law
 2. Joshua to Esther - Messiah preparation & history
 3. Job to Song of Solomon - poetic & wisdom
 4. Isaiah to Daniel - major prophets
 5. Hosea to Malachi - minor prophets
- b) New Testament: Revelation of the Messiah (Jesus Christ)
 1. The Gospels (Matthew to John) - the life and works of Jesus
 2. Acts - the further works of Jesus through the Apostles
 3. The Epistles (Corinthians to Jude) - church doctrine
 4. Revelation - Jesus' rule established

6. Basic Themes of Scripture

- a) God - Genesis 1:1, Heb 11:1-6, Psalm 103
- b) Man & Creation - Gen 2:1-7
- c) Sin - I John 2:15-17, Ro. 3:23
- d) Jesus - Jn 5:37-39, Luke 24:7, 44+45
- e) Salvation - Romans 1:16, 10:8-13, Ephesians 2:8+9
- f) Redemption - Romans 3:24, Ephesians 4:30
- g) Satan & Spirit World - Genesis 3:1+2, II Corinthians 4:4
- h) Prophecy & 2nd Coming of Christ - Revelation 19:11-16

7. Basic Types of Scripture

- a) Historical: narrative that lays the foundation for later Scripture; i.e. Genesis lays foundation for Gospels
- b) Poetic: song-like, worshipful or proverb-like; i.e. Psalms, Proverbs
- c) Prophetic: the Word describing future events; i.e. Isaiah, Revelation
- d) Instructional: practical application of doctrine and principles; i.e. Romans, Deuteronomy, Corinthians, Proverbs

NOTES:

Homework: Read Psalms 119:89-176, memorize Psalms 119:18, pray for one another.

LESSON 3 - Repentance & Faith

The word "repent" has two uses in Scripture. One in the OT, one in the NT.

- **nacham** [*naw-kham'*] to sigh, i.e. breathe strongly; to be sorry; to rue; or to avenge
- **metanoeo** [*met-an-o-eh'-o*] to think differently; to reconsider morally

(The OT definition is emotional while the NT is mental - both involve a change in course.)

Read Job 42:1-6. When you repent you change your mind and attitude about sin, so that you turn from it and instead turn to God (through Jesus) for forgiveness and cleansing. To truly repent one must acknowledge the truth of God's Word, agree with it, and trust His power to transform you.

1. Who preached repentance?

- a) Matthew 3:1-6 –
- b) Matthew 4:17 –
- c) Mark 6:7-12 –
- d) Acts 2:38 –
- e) Acts 17:29-31 –

(This is important because it wasn't just the message of one man.)

2. What are the characteristics of true repentance?

- a) II Corinthians 7:9+10 –
- b) Luke 18:9-14 –
- c) I Thessalonians 1:8-10 –

3. Repentance is a change of three elements.

- a) Intellectual - a change of mind; what we think
- b) Spiritual - a change of heart; what we desire
- c) Volitional - a change of will; what we do

4. Repentance is to be our message to:

- a) the unbeliever - Luke 24:44-48
- b) the believer II Timothy 2:24-26

The word "faith" as it pertains to belief & our relationship with God also has two slightly different meanings.

- **'emuwnah** [*em-oo-naw'*] firmness; security; moral fidelity or stability
- **pistis** [*pis'-tis*] persuasion; moral conviction; reliance on; constancy

Read Luke 7:1-10 Jesus proclaims that He has not seen so great a faith in all Israel. Explain:

2. Where does faith come from? (Hebrews 12:1+2) –

3. How do we receive faith? (Romans 10:17) –

4. **Read Hebrews 11:1** How does this reference define faith?

- a) The substance of things hoped for = it gives us a reason to live to live a life pleasing to God
- b) The evidence of things not seen = it proves the reality of God, the gospel, and our spiritual condition

5. The importance of faith.

- a) We are saved by it - Ephesians 2:8+9
- b) We should live by it - Hebrews 10:37-39
- c) It is our defense (shield) against our enemies - Ephesians 6:16
- d) It never allows us to quit - Hebrews 11:7
- e) It gives us victory over the world - I John 5:3-5

The principle element of repentance the confession and forsaking of sin. Real faith involves a change of mind and attitude; a change from unbelief and rebellion to a belief and submission. True repentance and faith are inseparable.

Question: Have you truly repented and trusted in Christ?

Explain:

NOTES:

LESSON 4 - Sin, Salvation, & Forgiveness

I. Sin

1. What is sin?

- a) Isaiah 1:2-4 –
- b) Isaiah 53:6 –
- c) I John 3:4 –

Read Romans 2:12-16 - The law of conscience: Adam and Eve had the potential to commit any sin, but their conscience was not active before the fall.

Read Romans 5:12+13 - Sin not imputed without knowledge of it

2. Who sins?

- a) Romans 3:23 –
- b) I John. 1:8 –

3. Where did sin start?

- a) Isaiah 14:12-15 –
- b) Romans 5:12+13 –

4. Why do I sin?

- a) Adam's decision in the Garden of Eden:
 - 1) God told Adam not to eat the fruit of the tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil - Genesis 2:9, 16+17
 - 2) Sin in the human race originated in Adam's free-will decision to disobey God's will - Genesis 3:22
- b) Adam's decision affects humanity by introducing death:
 - 1) physical - separation of the soul from the body (Genesis 3:19)
 - 2) spiritual - separation of the soul from God (Romans 6:23)
 - a) Both are seen in **Revelation 20:11-15**

5. There are two types of sin. What are they?

- a) John 8:34 –
- b) James 4:17 –

Read Psalm 51:1-5 - I sin because:

II. Salvation

Definition: (theologically) The redemption of man from the bondage of sin and liability to eternal death, and the conferring on him of everlasting happiness. (*Webster's Dictionary*)

1. What is God's gift to us? (John 3:16 and Romans 6:23)
2. How are we saved? (Ephesians 2:8+9)
3. How do we put our faith into action for salvation? (Romans 10:9-13)
4. What happens to a man at his conversion? (II Corinthians 5:17-21)

III. Forgiveness

Definition: Disposition to pardon. (*Webster's Dictionary*)

1. What does God want to do with your sin? (I John 1:7-10, Colossians 2:13+14)
2. What must we be willing to do? (Mark 11:25+26)
3. How does God see my sin now? (Isaiah 43:25, Psalms 103:12, Hebrews 10:17)
4. What should our response to God's gift of salvation be? (Romans 12:1+2)

NOTES:

Homework: Read Romans 6-8, memorize Romans 6:18, pray for one another

LESSON 5 - God the Father

1. The existence of God:

- a) The Bible does not seek to prove the existence of God. The fact that there is a God is assumed throughout the Scriptures. For example, Genesis 1:1 says, "*In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.*" God's existence is presented as a statement of fact that needs no further proof. The man who denies the reality of God is called a fool in Psalms 14:1.
- b) Even apart from the Bible, there are certain evidences for the existence of God.
 - 1) Mankind has always believed in a universal being. (Substantial doubts did not begin until the 1800s.)
 - 2) Creation must have a Creator. The universe could not originate without a "first cause".
 - 3) The wonderful design that we see in creation demands an infinite designer.
 - 4) Since man is an intelligent being, his Creator must have been of a much higher intelligence in order to create him.

2. The nature of God.

- a) John 4:22-24 - God is:
- b) John 1:18 - God is:
- c) Exodus 33:18-20 - Has anyone ever seen God's face?

This is one of the main criticisms of atheists - "*How can you believe in a God you've never seen?*" READ Hebrews 11:4-6 and answer that question.

3. The attributes (characteristics) of God. Look up the following references and list the various attributes of God.

- a) Psalms 139:7-10 –
- b) Jeremiah 32:17+27 –
- c) Job 34:21, I John 3:18-21 –
- d) Deuteronomy 33:27 –
- e) Psalms 145:17, Psalms 97:2 –
- f) Deuteronomy 4:31, Psalms 103:11, Lamentations 3:21+22 –
- g) Deuteronomy 7:9, I Corinthians 1:9 –
- h) Psalms 102:25-28, Malachi 3:6 –
- i) Titus 1:1+2, Hebrews 6:18 –
- j) Job 38:1-42:2 –

4. "Personal traits" are also applied to God.

- a) God has a mind that thinks - Isaiah 55:8-10
- b) God has emotions - Genesis 6:5-8
- c) God has a will - Matthew 26:37-44, John 5:30
- d) God is able to reason - Isaiah 1:16-20

God the Father is not "the universe"; He is an individual being with his own mind, thoughts, will, and emotions.

5. The love of God.

- a) I John 4:7-16 - What is the essence of God's nature?
- b) Whom does God love?
 - 1) John 3:35, 5:20 –
 - 2) John 3:16 –
- c) Romans 5:6-8 - How did God demonstrate His love for us?
- d) John 15:8-10 - How can I experience God's love each day?

6. The Father is God.

The Father holds the place of authority within the Godhead. He is not more important than the Son or Holy Spirit, but authorizes their ministries. It is a matter of function, not of rank. (John 6:37-40, 14:15-17)

NOTES:

Homework: Read John 8, memorize I John 1:3, pray for one another

LESSON 6 - God the Son (Jesus)

1. The most important thing about Jesus the Christian believer MUST accept without question is his deity; i.e., that Jesus is God, come to earth and living inside a fleshly body. A believer who does not accept this has no basis for the remission of sins and is, therefore, not a Christian believer at all.

2. The deity of Jesus is clear in the NT. Who is referenced in the following?

- a) John 10:27-30, John 20:26-28 –
- b) Hebrews 1:1-8 –

3. The attributes of Jesus.

- a) With his church at all times - Matthew 28:18-20
- b) Given all power by the Father - Matthew 28:18, John 17:1+2
- c) Given divine knowledge by the Father - John 8:25-30
- d) Eternal - I Timothy 1:15-17, Revelation 22:12+13
- e) Holy - Psalms 16:8-10, Acts 2:25-28
- f) Creator - Colossians 1:12-17, John 1:1-3, 14
- g) Faithful - II Thessalonians 3:1-3, II Timothy 2:11-13
- h) Merciful - Jude 20+21

4. The uniqueness of Jesus.

"unique" - *Being without a like or equal; unmatched; unequaled; unparalleled; single in kind or excellence.* (Webster's Dict.)

- a) Unique in His virgin birth:
 - 1. prophesied in Isaiah 7:13+14
 - 2. fulfilled in Matthew 1:18-25
- b) Unique in His sinless life - Hebrews 4:14-16
- c) Unique in His death:
 - 1. he died for sinners - I Peter 3:18+19, Romans 5:6-8
 - 2. his life was not taken, it was given - John 10:17+18
 - 3. it reconciled us to God - Romans 5:10
- d) Unique in His resurrection (which cannot be disproved):
 - 1. recorded in Scripture - Matthew 28, Mark 16, Luke 24, John 20,21
 - 2. witnessed by over 500 people - I Corinthians 15:1-8
 - 3. our faith rests on His resurrection - I Corinthians 15:15-19
 - 4. provides victory over sin and death - I Corinthians 15:55-57

4. The only person to live a life completely pleasing to the Father was Jesus:

"And he that sent me is with me: the Father hath not left me alone; for I do always those things that please him." (John 8:29)

- a) John 14:6 - The only way to the Father is through Jesus.
- b) Matthew 17:5 - We are to pay attention to Jesus example for our life.

5. Being disciples of Jesus. Read John 15:1-11

- a) As branches of the vine, what are we to do?
 - 1) abide - stay in a place, continue with
 - 2) abiding is what a disciple does - he is continuing with Jesus
- b) How do disciples reflect on the Father? (vs. 8)
- c) What do they bear? (vs. 8)
- d) What do they experience? (vs. 9)
- e) What else do they experience? (vs. 11)

NOTES:

LESSON 7 - The Holy Spirit & The Trinity

I. The Holy Spirit - His Deity and Person

We refer to the Holy Spirit as a “person” because we have no better word to describe him. He is an individual being with his own personality, will, and function.

1. We refer to the Holy Spirit as a person, because of the personal pronouns used in Scripture - He, Him, etc.

a) In John 14:16, who is the 1st "he" referring to?

1) the 2nd “he” is who?

b) Greek (parakletos) - "one called alongside to help", helper, comforter, counselor.

2. He does things only a person can do.

a) He teaches and helps us to remember - (John 14:26)

b) He calls men to service & sends them out - (Acts 13:1-4)

c) He reproves of sin, judgment, & righteousness - (John 16:7-11)

d) He leads God's people - (Romans 8:13+14, Acts 16:6-8)

3. Being a person, He can be affected by our actions and attitudes.

a) we can lie to Him - (Acts 5:1-3)

b) we can blaspheme Him - (Luke 12:8-10)

c) we can grieve Him - (Ephesians 4:25-30)

d) we can quench (stifle) His working - (I Thessalonians 5:19)

e) we can insult (do despite unto) Him - (Hebrews 10:29)

4. Attributes of the Holy Spirit.

(Note: some of the attributes are similar to those of the Father/Son, some are identical. Also, the first 3 are implied rather than explicit.)

a) omnipresent - (Psalms 139:7-10)

b) omnipotent – (Luke 1:35)

c) omniscient - (John 14:26, 16:12+13)

d) eternal - (Hebrews 9:14)

e) creator - (Job 33:4, Genesis 1:1-3)

5. He is distinct from the Father and Son - (Matthew 28:19, Luke 3:21+22)

6. When we are saved, the Holy Spirit:

a) regenerates us, making us spiritually alive - (John 3:3-8, Titus 3:4-7)

b) indwells us - (I Corinthians 3:16+17, 6:19+20)

c) brings satisfaction to our soul - (John 7:37-39)

d) seals us until the day of redemption - (Ephesians 1:13+14)

(Note: The Holy Spirit is recognized as God in Acts 5:3+4, and is active upon man, convicting him of sin and guiding the believer in all truth.)

II. The Trinity

1. Genesis 1:1 - The word for 'God' in Hebrew is "Elohim". In Hebrew:

- a) a singular God = El
- b) a dual God = Elah – used 70 times in Old Testament
- c) 3 or more = Elohim (uniplural noun) - used 2600 times in the Old Testament

2. The doctrine of the Trinity is not explicit in the Old Testament, but it is implied: (Genesis 1:26, 3:22, 11:7)

3. It is explicit in the New Testament: (Matthew 3:16+17, I Peter 1:1+2, Jude 20+21)

4. The Bible teaches that the plural God is one Lord: (Deuteronomy 6:4+5, Mark 12:29)

5. Even creation implies the doctrine of the Trinity:

- a) heavens - sun, moon, stars
- b) space - length, width, depth
- c) man - body, soul, spiritually

In the Holy Trinity we have God manifested to us in three distinct persons, all having similar attributes and all being called God. It is difficult to fully understand because of our limited mind. We must accept this by faith.

NOTES:

LESSON 8 - Our Three Enemies

Read Ephesians 2:1-3 - Our three enemies in this life are the flesh, the world, and the devil. Although they are listed in reverse order here, we will begin with the flesh as it is the most common and problematic of the three.

I. The Flesh

1. Ephesians 2:3 refers to the "lust of the flesh". Too many Christians fail to recognize their own flesh as an enemy. When the Bible says 'flesh', it is not speaking merely of the physical body, but also the lusts or desires of the sinful body as described in Ephesians 2:3 and Galatians 5:16-21. (notice "works")

a) According to Romans 7:18, what is the condition of the flesh?

b) Romans 7:17-25 speaks of a battle. Who are the combatants?

c) I John 2:15-17 - What are the three "categories" of sin?

II. The World

1. Go back and **read Ephesians 2:1-3**. The world system is perversely controlled by Satan to entice and entrap men to worship him, in rebellion to God.

- a) Matthew 13:22 - We are warned about the cares of this world. They choke off the working of the Word in us.
- b) John 7:1-8 - The world hates Jesus because it is evil by nature.
- c) John 15:18+19 - The world hates believers because we are not like the world.
- d) Romans 12:1+2 - We are instructed to "be not conformed to this world"
- e) I John 2:15-17 - We are not to love this world, nor the things in it.
- f) Galatians 1:3-5 - Jesus came to deliver us from his present evil world.

III. The Devil

1. We need to be careful to not become obsessed with Satan and satanic things. If we devote ourselves to the truth, the devil will be easy to spot.

2. There is a real adversary, a real angel called the devil or Satan. In Matthew 4, he tempts Jesus. In **John 8:44**, Jesus reveals that he is the father of lies and a murderer from the beginning.

3. Attributes and "character traits" of Satan.

- a) Satan - Greek is 'Satanas' = adversary or opponent; most common name, used 56 times. (in OT it means arch enemy)
- b) The devil - Greek is 'diablos' = slanderer; used 35 times.
- c) He is a liar and murderer - John 8:43+44
- d) He is a subtle deceiver - II Corinthians 11:1-3
- e) The god of this age - II Corinthians 4:3+4

- f) Ruler of the kingdom of the air - Ephesians 2:2
- g) Can disguise himself as angel of light - II Corinthians 11:12-15
- h) The tempter - I Thessalonians 3:1-5
- i) Apollyon (destroyer) - Revelation 9:11
- j) The accuser of the brethren - Revelation 12:9+10

IV. Spiritual Warfare

Read Ephesians 6:10-18. We used the word 'enemies' to describe the flesh, the world, and the devil. We are engaged in spiritual warfare, but how do we stand strong against the attacks of our three enemies?

1. Be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might (vs. 10). We do this by maintaining a life that is steady, faithful, and consistent in pursuit of Jesus.
2. Put on the full armor of God. Do not use just part of it, or you will have weak spots our enemies can exploit.
 - a) The girdle (belt) of truth - Truth overcomes deceit and lies and is key to every area of Christian life.
 - b) The breastplate of righteousness - This speaks of righteous acts as practiced by the believer. The breastplate was to protect the heart of the soldier.
 - c) The shoes of the gospel of peace - The shoes speak of mobility and preparedness. We are to be ready to use God's Word in spiritual battle.
 - d) The shield of faith - Above all, take this one. The shield of faith protects us from the attacks (the fiery darts) of the enemy; ie. temptations, impure thoughts, etc.
 - e) The helmet of salvation - The helmet is protection of our mind and thoughts. The fact of our salvation, and a meditation thereon, will keep our hearts and minds directed toward God.
 - f) The sword, which is the Word of God - It is the only offensive weapon in the armor.
3. Understand that it is not a physical battle, it is a spiritual one that sometimes has physical consequences (vs. 12).
 - a) II Corinthians 10:3-7 - What can spiritual weapons accomplish?
4. Pray without ceasing. (I Thessalonians 5:16).
5. **Read Matthew 4:1-11.** How did Jesus respond in battle?
 - a) What was Jesus physical condition?
 - b) What was His response to all three temptations?
 - c) What is our only offensive weapon?
 - d) What does this tell us about dealing with temptation or trial of any kind?
 - e) What is the promise of I John 4:4

Homework: Read Matthew 4:1-11 + Jude, memorize Ephesians 6:12, pray for one another

LESSON 9 - The Spirit Filled Life, pt. 1

The Holy Spirit is often a forgotten member of the Godhead, yet someone without whom we cannot reach our full potential as Christians. Scripture demonstrates that we are to live a Spirit filled life. But what does that mean, and how do we accomplish it?

Read I Corinthians 12:12-14. Every believer has been baptized into, or identified with the Body of Christ. There are three "baptisms", and it is important that we do not get them confused.

- a) water baptism (an outward sign of faith) - Acts 8:34-39
- b) baptism of the Holy Spirit (when we are regenerated, renewed, and sealed) - I Corinthians 12:12+13; Ephesians 4:30
- c) the "pouring out" or "falling on ", of the Holy Ghost (individual instances for a specific purpose) - Acts 2:1-4

1. The Holy Spirit places us into the church "body". **Turn To I Corinthians 12:12-27.**

- a) vs. 27 - Whose body is it?
- b) vs. 14-17 (also Romans 12:4+5) - Are all members in a church body the same?
- c) vs. 18 (also Ephesians 4:6-12) - Who gives us our place in the body?
- d) vs. 21-25 (also I Peter 4:7-11) - Are we all needed in the body?
- e) Do you need the other members of the body?
- f) Colossians 1:14-18 - Who is the head of the body?

2. When a man becomes a Christian, he immediately becomes a child of God, and is placed into a new spiritual family. This new family is what we refer to as the "Body of Christ".

"But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God." (John 1:12+13)

3. The Holy Spirit gives each person certain abilities (gifts). **Turn to I Corinthians 12: 4-12.**

- a) vs. 4-6 - Does everyone have the same gifts?
- b) vs. 7 - Is there anyone who does not have at least one gift?
- c) vs. 7 - For whose benefit are the gifts given?
- d) vs. 8-10 - What are some examples of gifts?
- e) vs. 11 - Who decides what gift(s) each person receives?
- f) vs. 31 - What should we desire?

g) "best gifts" - what's the best gift for:

1. the feet:

2. the hands:

3. the individual Christian:

Just as a human body functions best when each member does its job, the Body of Christ [the church] is healthiest and most productive, when each member is growing spiritually and fulfilling his/her specific function.

4. We need to make sure love is part of the equation. **Turn to I Corinthians 13:1-3.**

a) What should be accompanying our gifts?

b) According to this passage The Christian can personally "profit" from using his gifts. Yet what is required?

c) Why do you think that is so?

5. Each of us needs to know what our spiritual gifts are. There are two ways:

a) I Peter 4:10+11 - "natural", God-given abilities (what you're good at)

b) I Timothy 4:14 - direct prophecy/laying on of hands

c) Do you know what your spiritual gifts are? Use the space below to write them.

NOTES:

Homework: Read Galatians, memorize Phil. 1:6, pray for one another

LESSON 10 - The Spirit Filled Life, pt. 2

Now that we've learned what a Spirit filled life looks like, how do we get there? How do we live every day "filled with the Spirit" and always ready for the Spirit to fall on us for a given purpose? That's what we'll tackle in this lesson.

I. Being Filled with the Spirit

1. Being Spirit filled is a matter of choice. **Read Ephesians 5:14-21.**

- a) vs. 18 implies a choice. I can choose to drink (be filled with the excesses of the world) or choose the Spirit-filled life.
- b) How does one get drunk?
- c) How should one get Spirit filled?
- d) What are the evidences of a Spirit filled life in vs. 19-21?

2. Asking for the filling daily. **Read Luke 11:1-13.**

- a) What is the context of the first 5 verses?
- b) It's interesting that Jesus follows up the example of what a daily prayer should look like with the concept of asking/receiving.
- c) What is the lesson of vs. 5-8?
- d) vs. 13: What should we be asking for?
- e) According to James 4:1+2 why do we lack the things we need?

The filling of the Holy Spirit is accomplished daily by asking and being willing to accept what God does with you. Be persistent in asking every day.

I. The Falling On of the Spirit

1. The OT promise of the Holy Spirit being "poured out" can be found in Joel 2:28-32.

- a) Notice the phrase "before the great and the terrible day of the LORD come". That's anytime between the OT restoration of Israel and Jesus' 2nd coming.
- b) We see it fulfilled in Acts 2:14-16.

2. Jesus spoke to his disciples about it in Acts 1:4-9.

- a) What did Jesus tell His disciples to wait for?
- b) Before they did what?

Where the filling of the spirit is something we should be asking for every day, the "falling on" is something "extra" if you will, for those out-of-the-ordinary things. We can ask for it as needed. Sometimes it comes without us asking.

III. The Filling and Falling Combined

3. The word 'power' (vs. 8), is the Greek word 'dunamis', which also means: force (literally or figuratively); miraculous power; ability, abundance, meaning, strength, mighty (wonderful) work.' That same power is in us whether through filling (daily) or falling upon (as needed for "special" purposes).

- a) Where does the power (the ability) to exercise our Spiritual gifts come from?
- b) Before becoming Christians, the Holy Spirit was 'with' us [in our midst], convicting us of sin, and drawing us to Jesus. - John 16:7-11
- c) Upon becoming Christians, the Holy Spirit entered 'into ' us. - I Corinthians 3:16+17
- d) Now that we are Christians, the Holy Spirit wants to 'fill' and 'fall on' us, and flow out of our lives.

4. When we are filled with the Holy Spirit and when He decides to fall on us, what results?

- a) We have the ability to exercise our gift effectively.
- b) We have the ability to be a witness for Jesus (active OR passive).
- c) We receive ability to overcome sin.
- d) We receive ability to learn and understand Scripture.
- e) Our relationship with God becomes:
 - a) more faith, less sight
 - b) more leading of the eye, less pulling of the bridle
 - c) more mature, less needy

NOTES:

Homework: Read Acts, memorize Acts 1:8, pray for one another

LESSON 11 - Eternal Security

Eternal security -- the doctrine that states you can't lose the gift of salvation once you've received it -- is one that's troublesome to many Christians. It need not be. Assurance (certainty) of salvation is based on the authority of God's Word, not on how I "feel" at any particular time.

Why is it important to settle the issue in our hearts & minds? Because the fear of losing the gift prevents a believer from stepping out in faith; it is paralyzing. On the other hand, being confident in our position allows us to be free to walk by faith.

Thankfully, there are many Scriptural evidences we can look at to know that we are saved and have eternal life.

I. Eternal Life and Eternal Security Defined

1. It's important to define eternal life in order to grasp eternal security.

- a) Hebrews 9:27 makes it abundantly clear that every man will die a physical death.
- b) Read Revelation 20 - How many deaths are there, and what do they pertain to?

II. The triune Godhead Confirms Eternal Security

1. God specifically promises eternal life in His Word.

- a) John 1:11-13 - What is the promise associated with receiving Jesus?
- b) John 3:16 states that whoever believes in Christ will have what?
- c) John 5:24 says that the man who believes on God will not experience:
- d) John 10:27+28 tells us that we as believers will never what?
- e) Galatians 4:1-7 - As believers, what is our status in God's "family"?

2. The Holy Spirit gives us assurance of our salvation.

- a) According to Romans 8:14-17, what does the Holy Spirit bear witness (testify) of in our lives?
- b) Who is the guarantor of our future life as stated in Ephesians 1:13+14?
- c) What is the proof of his guarantee?

III. The Apostles Believed and taught Eternal Security

1. Read I John 5:11-13. What is the stated purpose for John writing this letter?

2. John uses the phrase "we know" 12 times throughout this letter to believers come to a place of assurance in eternal security.

- a) 'know' - [eido'] be aware, behold, consider, be sure, understand
- b) I John 2:3-5 - How do we know for sure that we know Him?
- c) I John 4:13 - What has God given to us to help bring assurance of salvation?
- d) Based on the previous 2 lessons, why do some people feel insecure or doubt the idea of Eternal Security?

3. Read Romans 8:35-39.

- a) vs. 39 - How do we become partakers of God's love?
- b) Once we become partakers, who or what can separate us from it?

IV. Eternal Security Frees us from Bondage

1. Some argue against Eternal Security saying it can't be real because it equals a license to sin. Such an argument is logical from a human standpoint, but we must BELIEVE the Word, not human understanding. Read Romans 8:1-4.

- a) vs. 2 - Explain the law of sin & death.
- b) Condemnation is the result of that law; condemnation is paralysis to Christians because they never know where they stand with God.
- c) vs. 1 - What does a Spirit filled life do for us in relation to condemnation?
- d) vs 4 - What does that enable us to do?

NOTES:

Homework: Read I John, memorize Philippians 2:12+13 and 1:6, pray for one another

LESSON 12 - Prayer

If you had to define prayer for someone who had never heard of the concept before, how would you do so? What words would you use?

Some of us would say "talking with God." Others might say prayer is "asking God for things." Yet it is so much more. If you don't pray because you feel like it doesn't "work", or you feel like your prayers never make it past the ceiling, this lesson will hopefully change that.

I. What is prayer?

1. Matthew 6:9 says: ***"After this manner therefore pray you: Our Father which are in heaven, Hallowed be your name."***

- 'pray' - *proseuchomai* [pros-yoo'-khom-ah-ee] to pray to God, that is, supplicate (ask for), worship

2. **Read Psalms 105:1-4** . Notice:

- vs. 1 ("call upon his name") - supplication
- vs. 2 ("sing psalms...talk you of all his wondrous works") - worship, praise
- vs. 3+4 - tell us to seek the LORD
- Prayer is a tool given to us by which we seek the Lord; we seek to know what he want, what he thinks, what his will Isaiah

3. **Read Romans 9:15-24.**

- What does this say about God?
- How does that relate to prayer?

II. What is the purpose of prayer?

1. It is NOT to make God aware of what's happening in our lives; it is NOT to let him know what we want so he can jump up and give it to us.

- Matthew 6:7+8 - What does God know before we pray?
- Romans 8:26 - What does this of our ability to pray?
- What solution does God provide?
- Luke 22:41+42 - If God already knows, and we don't, what is the purpose of prayer?

III. How, where and When do we pray?

1. There are three "categories" of prayer:
 - a) Matthew 6:6 - Private, personal prayer
 - b) Acts 1:12-14 - Corporate prayer as a congregation
 - c) John 11:41+42 - Spontaneous prayer dictated by circumstances

2. Read Luke 18:1 and I Thess. 5:17 - Is prayer optional?

- a) How often should we pray?

IV. Hindrances to Prayer (list them)

- a) James 4:3 –
- b) James 5:1-8 –
- c) Luke 18:11-14 –
- d) Matthew 6:5 –
- e) I Peter 3:6+7 –
- f) Matthew 5:23+24 (Note: Worship & praise are a sacrifice) –

V. Components for a Successful Prayer Life

1. A successful prayer life is one in which your prayer results in your will being lined up with God's, your prayers being heard by Him, and God answering them as He sees fit.

2. In order to experience that there are some things that are necessary part of our prayers:

- a) I John 5:14+15 - what we ask must line up with his will; that's why we need to be Spirit-led in our prayers
- b) John 14:12-14 - we ask in Jesus name (NOTE: the context here is doing the works of Jesus, and Jesus giving what we ask that we might accomplish those works)
- c) Hebrews 11:6 - belief that God reward's the seeker (never doubt God CAN do it if he wants to)
- d) Philippians 4:6 - thanksgiving
- e) Matthew 6:7 - no vain repetition

NOTES:

LESSON 13 - Being Disciples

Now that we're nearing the end of this study guide, we want to call your attention back to its title: "*Discipleship: Foundations of the Word of God*".

The whole point of this study guide is to lay the foundation of spiritual truth that will enable every Christian who believes and practices it to become true disciples of Christ. If that is not your goal as a child of God, it really should be. Don't be lukewarm. (Revelation 3:14-18)

I. The Discipleship Mandate

As you've probably learned by now, there's more to Christianity than merely being saved and going to church. God (in all three persons) expects more from us.

1. **Read John 15:1-8.** From this text we can conclude the following:

- a) The context here is fruit bearing NOT salvation. (vs. 3)
 - 1) the Greek word for 'clean' here means "pure". It is the same word Jesus used to describe the believers in John 13 (washing the feet of the apostles)
- b) Jesus is the vine, the Father is husbandman [vine dresser]. (vs. 1)
- c) We [Christians] are the branches of the vine (vs. 5)
- d) God wants us to bear fruit [be productive]. He prunes for that very reason. (vs. 2+6)
- e) We can only be fruitful by abiding [making our lives] IN Jesus. (vs. 5-7)
- f) If we are fruitful we glorify God AND we are counted as disciples. (vs. 8)

NOTE: Because part our "mission" is to glorify God, and he is glorified when we are fruitful disciples, it should be obvious that being a disciple is a mandate from Heaven.

2. Acts 10:36 declares that Jesus is "Lord of all. In addition, the phrase "Jesus Christ our Lord" occurs 9 times in the New Testament, 5 of which are found in Romans.

- a) What does it mean to be "Lord"?
- b) II Corinthians 5:14+15 - Who are we supposed to live for?

Why?

- c) Luke 6:46-49 - Is it enough just to call Jesus Lord?

What more are we to do?

Why?

II. Jesus' Plan for His Disciples

1. **Read Luke 9:57-62.** This text shows what practical discipleship looks like in everyday life. In order to be a true disciple, one's desire and willingness to follow Jesus must be greater than:

- a) vs. 58 –
- b) vs. 59+60 (hint: remember patriarchal structure) –
- c) vs. 61 –

d) vs. 62 – What does Jesus' conclusion tell us about those unwilling to do those things necessary to be a disciple?

2. Jesus instructed his disciples to take up their crosses and follow him. **Read Matthew 16:21-25.** Based on this text, what does it mean to take up your cross and follow him?

3. Explain Haggai 1:2-7 and make a personal application.

4. Many Christians refuse the role of the disciple. There are 3 primary reasons:

- a) We are unwilling to sacrifice what's important to us. (Luke 18:18-23)
- b) We're afraid Jesus isn't looking out for us. (Mark 4:37-41)
- c) We think we know better than God (Jonah 4:1-3)

III. Evidence that One is a Disciple

1. If you are a true disciple of Christ [not a "perfect" one] there will be certain evidences you should see:

- a) John 14:15+23 –
- b) James 1:22-25 –
- c) John 13:34+35 –

2. Rest assured there are promised blessings to those who choose to be disciples.

- a) Proverbs 3:5+6 –
- b) Isaiah 40:28-31 –
- c) Acts 2:1-4 –

NOTES:

LESSON 14 - Fellowship & Personal Impact

Now that we've reached the end of the study guide we must ask ourselves, "where do we go from here?" We cannot simply lock ourselves in a padded room and wait for Jesus to return; there is life to live.

What are the 2 great commandments (**Matthew 22:37-40**)? Both have to do with relationships. The first is our relationship with God, the second our relationships with others. Likewise, the first 13 lessons dealt with our relationship with God; lesson 14 is our relationship with others.

I. The Fellowship of Believers

1. The word "fellowship" occurs 17 times in Scripture. It means to "be in partnership with, join, deposit with, invest in, share company, and participate with" – all to mutual benefit.

2. Scripture makes a clear distinction between the saved and the lost. **Read I Peter 2:9-12.**

- a) vs. 9 - What words are used in vs. 9 to describe the saved?
- b) vs. 10 - Have we always been God's people?
- c) vs. 11 - What are we in this present world?
- d) vs. 12 - How are we to live before the world?

'honest' - kalos [*ka/-os'*] beautiful, good (literally or morally), virtuous, worthy

3. The hand of fellowship is not extended to everyone.

- a) I John 1:3-7 - Who are the three we are to have fellowship with?
- b) There are 2 exceptions to fellowshiping with our fellow saints:
 - 1. those engaged in open sin (I Corinthians 5:1-5)
 - 2. those who refuse to make amends (Matthew 18:5-17)
- c) II Corinthians 6:14-18 - Who are we NOT to fellowship with?
 - 1. What should be our course of action among the lost?

4. The motivation for fellowship is multi-faceted.

- a) God has called us to the fellowship of Christ - I Corinthians 1:9+10
- b) The need to exhort and love one another while we wait on Jesus - Hebrews 10:24+25
- c) That we might help one another bear the burdens of life. - Galatians 6:1+2

5. There are multiple avenues of fellowship.

- a) Acts 2:41+42 - What 4 activities did the new church continue to do regularly?
- b) Colossians 3:15+16 - What do the saints do for each other here?

6. **Read Hebrews 10:25+26.** What is the implication; should fellowship and assembly be taken lightly? Why or why not?

7. **Read Proverbs 1:10-18.** Explain why it's important to choose whom we fellowship wisely (remember Rehoboam - I Kings 12):

II. Impacting the World

1. None of us lives on an island. Therefore, everything we do influences other people. Jesus tells us in Matthew 5:13-16 that we are to be light and salt.

- a) Explain "light"
- b) Explain "salt"
- c) Why are we to be salt and light?

2. Read Luke 24:18-20. According to vs. 19, in what two ways did Jesus impact the world?

3. Colossians 3:17 - How are we to impact the world?

4. **Read I Peter 3:15.** Peter talks about testifying of the hope within us by speaking and answering questions.

- a) What must happen before then?
- b) Here 'sanctify' here means to "venerate" or "make holy". Before we can impact our world, what must be the attitude of our hearts and minds?

Homework: Read Philippians 2:1-4, memorize Hebrews 10:25, pray for one another

A note to teachers and study group leaders:

This study guide is a great resource to aid learning spiritual truth if used correctly. It is intended for small groups of 2-10 people, but can be adapted to larger ones.

The methodology employed in this study is to provoke thought and discussion within the framework of Scripture, thereby teaching the student how to learn and find the answer himself. We believe this is a far better approach to study groups than simply "spoon-feeding" Scripture.

Therefore, questions and discussion are both encouraged. Don't feel like you must complete one lesson per week to stay with the program. Take as long as needed to complete each lesson with understanding, because the next lesson will build on the previous one.

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May God bless you in your studies!

A final word to students:

We hope this study guide has been beneficial to you in your walk with Jesus. Discipleship is a journey that will take you to places and teach you things that you never thought possible. Should you make the decision to be a true disciple of Jesus, following Him will not be easy. But through the power of the Holy Spirit and the grace of God the Father, you will experience the ultimate Christian life that God intended for you. And that, you will never regret.

God bless you in your walk with our Lord!