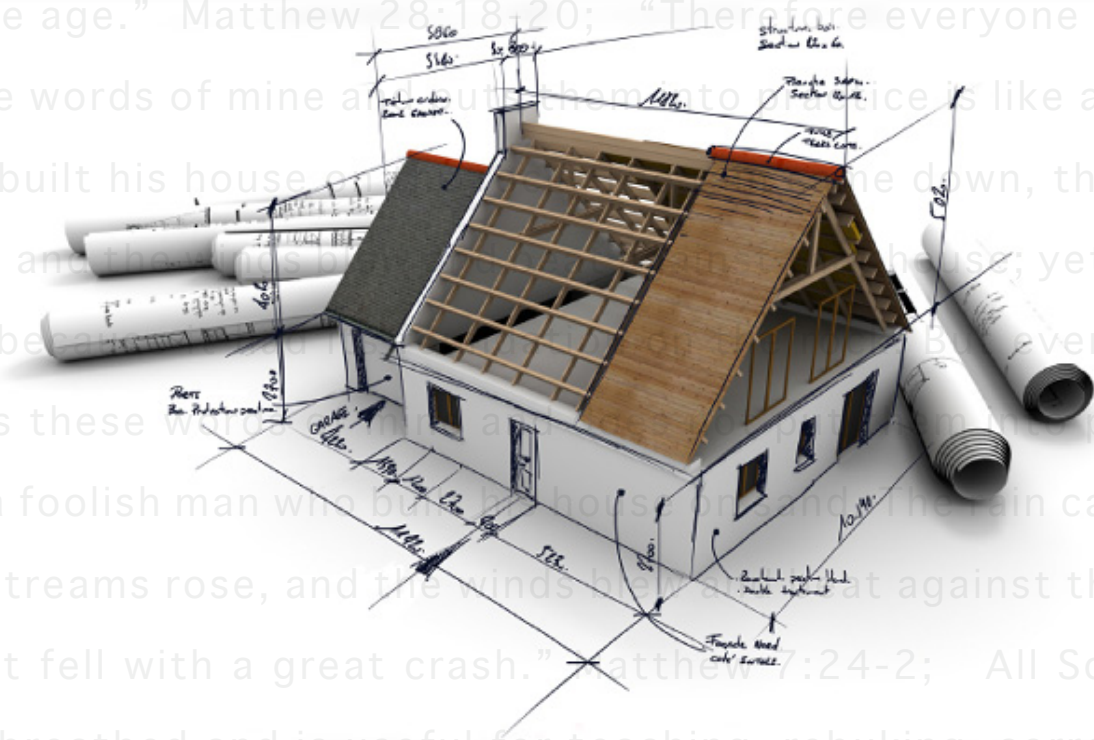


When Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." Matthew 28:18-20; "Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. When the streams rose, and the winds blew, and the rains fell, yet it did not fall, because it was founded on rock. But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. When the rains came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew against that house, and it fell with a great crash." Matthew 7:24-27; All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, 2 Timothy 3:16; For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit. 2 Peter 1:21; Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ. Romans 10:17. But what should we do to thank God for...

CALVARY CHAPEL

| SIERRA VISTA



FOUNDATIONS FOR CHRISTIAN LIVING

FOUNDATIONS FOR CHRISTIAN LIVING

The purpose of this series is threefold:

1. To give mature and new Christians alike, a firm Biblical foundation upon which to build your relationship with Jesus Christ.
2. To help you apply the principles you learn, so that you can experience an abundant and victorious life with Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior . . . Matthew 7:24-27.
3. To help you use that application to grow in your relationship with Jesus Christ in order to develop into the disciple that God wants you to be . . . Matthew 28:18-20.

To achieve this purpose, we will study the following topics, in the next six weeks:

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	Planning a Daily Quiet Time	page 6
Week 2:	Putting Christ First	page 8
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WEEK ONE

INTRODUCTION TO THE BIBLE AND ASSURANCE

1. INTRODUCTION:

- a. The Bible contains 66 books: 39 ~ Old Testament; 27 ~ New Testament.
- b. The books are divided into chapters and verses for reference.
 - a. These were added later for the sake of reference, and are not inspired by God.
- c. The Old Testament was written mostly in the Hebrew language.
- d. The New Testament was written the Greek language. Remember that our English Bible is a translation from these original languages.
- e. The word “*testament*” means “*covenant or agreement.*”
- f. The Old Testament, the covenant God made with Israel through the law— Exodus 20:1-17
- g. The New Testament, the covenant God made with man through Jesus and His Grace.
- h. Definition of biblical grace - the grace of God is nothing less than the unlimited love of God expressed in the gift of His son, our Savior. It is the undeserved love of God toward sinners. John 3:16; Ephesians 2:8-9
 - 1) Justice - getting what you deserve
 - 2) Mercy - not getting the punishment you deserve
 - 3) Grace - getting the good that you do not deserve

2. THE BIBLE IS A BOOK OF ONENESS, UNIQUE IN IT'S CONTINUITY

- a. The oneness or unity of the Bible is a miracle.
- b. The Bible is a library of 66 books, written over a period of approx. 1600 years, by at least 40 different authors.
- c. The authors had many occupations including, kings, fishermen, public officials, farmers, teachers and physicians.
- d. Subjects include religion, history, law, science, poetry, drama, biography and prophecy.
- e. Forty different authors with such varied backgrounds, writing on so many subjects over a period of 1600 years in absolute harmony is a mathematical impossibility. Then how do we account for the Bible?

3. THE BIBLE IS THE INSPIRED WORD OF GOD - 2 Timothy 3:16;
2 Peter 1:21. The Bible is called the Word of God in Romans 10:17;
1 Thessalonians 2:13.

4. BECAUSE THE BIBLE IS INSPIRED, 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. 1 Corinthians 2:14.
- b. The Holy Spirit (Grk - *parakletos*- "*one called alongside to help*") will teach us and help us to remember. - John 14:26.

ASSURANCE

Assurance (certainty) of salvation is based on the authority of God's Word. There are six (6) evidences proving that we can KNOW we are saved and have eternal life.

1. God says so in His Word. John 1:12; 3:16;5:24; 6:47; 10:27-28; 20:31
2. The internal witness of the Holy Spirit - Romans 8:16-17; Ephesians 1:13-14; 1 John 5:10
3. Changes lives - 2 Corinthians 5:17
4. We love our fellow Christians - 1 John 3:14
5. We want to share our Savior with others - Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15
6. We desire to live Godly lives - Titus 2:11-12; 1 John 3:3-7

We can know that we have eternal life - 1 John 5:11-13. As you evaluate your life in light of the above six evidences, can you honestly say, "*I know that I have eternal life because all of these evidences are present in my life?*" If not, then perhaps your lack of assurance is simply because Jesus Christ is not in your life. You can change that right now by receiving Him as your personal Lord.

PLANNING A QUIET TIME

A quiet time is a special time set aside EACH day, preferably in the morning, to spend time fellowshiping with God in The Word and in prayer.

1. A BIBLICAL EXAMPLE OF A QUIET TIME: Jesus in Mark 1:35; Mark 6:46 -evening; Luke 6:12- all night.

2. THE PLACE OF THE BIBLE FOR OUR QUIET TIME:

- a. So that we can be thoroughly equipped - 2 Timothy 3:14-17
 - 1) Spiritually - The Word is our food - I Peter 2:2
 - 2) For battle - The Bible is our weapon - Ephesians 6:17
 - a) It is living and active - Hebrews 4:12
 - b) We need to be familiar with it to use it effectively - Matthew 4:1-11
- b. Follow a plan - read consecutively.

3. THE PLACE OF PRAYER IN OUR QUIET TIME:

- a. The purpose - to communicate with God.
- b. The cost - time and effort
- c. Be intentional about the various ways you prayer, and the different things that you bring to the Lord. Some good suggestions come from the acrostic A - C - T - S
 - A = Adoration** (praise & worship) - 1 Chron. 29:10-13
 - C= Confession** - 2 Samuel 24:10
 - T= Thanksgiving** - Philippians 4:6-7; 1 Thess. 5:18
 - S= Supplication** - seeking earnestly for the needs of others and then our needs last.

4. OUR ATTITUDE IN OUR QUIET TIME:

- a. Let your heart be still - Psalm 46:10
- b. Wait expectantly to hear from God - Psalm 5:1-3

5. THREE ESSENTIALS FOR AN EFFECTIVE QUIET TIME: Daniel 6:10-11

a. You should **choose a consistent PLACE**. It should be quiet: a regular place where you feel at home with the Lord. (Perhaps the kitchen, car or office).

b. You should **set aside a regular TIME**. To give God 10 minutes more than you do, work back to when you get up. You would then get up 10 minutes earlier. Make an APPOINTMENT with God for a specific time, preferably in the mornings before you hit the pressures of the day. Stick to it on a daily basis. Make it a commitment between you and the Lord.

c. You should have a **various CONTENT** in prayer.

1). Pray a verse back to God; in your quiet time first read the Scriptures and then go to prayer, meditating on what you have just read. Take ideas and verses and echo them back to the Lord.

2). Don't be afraid to pray specifically; God knows the details of every situation, so be open, honest, and transparent before God. Trying to be overly general with God, to save time or to not be honest about things will hinder your prayer life. (See #3C above "A.C.T.S.").

WEEK TWO

PUTTING CHRIST FIRST

1. DEFINITION OF LORDSHIP—2 Corinthians 5:14-15. The Lordship of Jesus Christ is the daily submission and surrender of our entire self to the authority and leadership of Jesus, recognizing His sovereign right to rule over us—Colossians 1:18

2. JESUS PLAN FOR HIS DISCIPLES—

a. Luke 9:23

1) Deny yourself- denying ourselves of whatever stands between us and full commitment to Jesus as Lord (goals, possession, money etc)

Mark 10:17-22

2) Take up your cross daily - submitting our will to the will of God—
Luke 22:42

a) God wants us to submit to (or humbly obey) Jesus, just as Jesus was submitted to God. Remember, Jesus is our example -
John 4:34; 6:38

b) I no longer live, but Christ lives in me - Galatians 2:20

c) Submission of every area of our life - marriage, family, career, leisure time, ministry, etc.

3) Follow me — Matthew 4:19; I Peter 2:21

b. The whole principle of lordship is the removal of self from the throne of one's life, and the invitation to Jesus to sit on the throne and rule, trusting Him to do what is best for us.

This is not necessary for salvation, but it is imperative for your growth.

Another example is that of a car. Asking Jesus to sit in the front seat to take control of the wheel while I sit in the back yielded to His control, Yielded of my own free will.

c. The battle of submission—Two reasons why people do not acknowledge Jesus Christ as Lord of their life are:

1) God may ask us to do something we don't want to do; like spend time with someone we would not choose as a friend or move to another part of the U.S. or even a foreign country.

2) We are not sure that God has our best interest at heart....we need to trust God and know that He has our best interests at heart -
Jeremiah 29:11 and remember He knows everything, so He knows what is best for us better than we do.

3. THE PROOF THAT JESUS IS LORD; IS A LIFE OF OBEDIENCE TO HIM AND HIS WORD

- a. We are to obey
 - 1) God - Acts 5:29
 - 2) Jesus - Hebrews 5:9

- b. Obedience to Christ is a necessity if we are to stand and be victorious disciples in our daily walk with Jesus Christ- Luke 6:46-49.

- c. We show our love for Jesus by obeying His commands - John 14:15, 21, 23

- d. We must read the Word of God, see what God's will is for our lives and then we must do it—James 1:22-25

****The issue of lordship of Jesus Christ is the most critical of any Christian's life. We are all aware of those around us who are reaping in their lives the by-products of their lack of obedience. Christ has our very best interest at heart. We must give Him our entire life and we must live only for Him daily. Only then do we experience the full life He has promised. —John 10:10 ****

DISCOVERING GOD'S WILL

God has revealed to us the mystery of His will in His Word-Ephesians 1:9. He wants us to know and understand His revealed will (Ephesians 5:17) which is good, pleasing and perfect—Romans 12:1-2.

1. YOU CAN KNOW THE PERFECT WILL OF GOD FOR YOUR LIFE.

- a. You must sincerely desire to do His will. This is an act of faith.
- b. To discern what God's will is for your life, you must look at the "3 harbor lights"

1). THE BIBLE

- When God inspires us to do something, He will not contradict His Word.
- Don't flop and stop (handle the Word of God flippantly).
- Don't read into Scripture what we want to hear, but isn't there.
- An intimate knowledge of the Word of God is a basic avenue of guidance. All other guidance goes on from there, but without this foundation we can never fully enter into God's perfect Will and plan for our individual lives.

2. THE HOLY SPIRIT

- Will not contradict God's Word.
- Will speak to us through His still small voice.
- Will speak to us through someone else (for example - a friend or pastor).
- Will lead you to experience a peace inside about it. - Philippians 4:6-7
- We need to learn to recognize the stop and go signs
 - Go- Acts 8:26-40 (Phillip listening to God's voice)
 - Stop - Acts 16:6-10

3. THE CIRCUMSTANCES - (must never be taken alone as a sign)

- Don't misinterpret circumstances.
 - they might look like they aren't God's will but they are -Exodus 15:22-25.
 - they might look like they are God's Will but they aren't -Acts 16:16-18.
- Check them against the Word of God.
- Interpret them in light of what the Holy Spirit has told us - Acts 10:9-23.
 - God's Word speaking - Jeremiah 32:6
 - Circumstances confirming - Jeremiah 32:8
- Don't ignore or overlook them, they are some of the various things that factor in guidance. See them in the right perspective; they never override the Word and the peace of God.

2. SPIRITUAL GUIDELINES - (what is right and what is wrong?)

- a. Is it forbidden in the Bible? - Ephesians 5:18; I Thess. 4:3-8
- b. Does it bring glory to God? - 1 Corinthians 10:31
- c. Will it cause someone else to stumble? - Romans 14:13-21
- d. Does it harm the body or rob my freedom? - 1 Corinthians 3:16-17
- e. Would the Lord have you do it? - I Peter 2:21
- f. Does my conscience forbid it? - Romans 14:23
- g. Can I ask God's blessing on this? - Colossians 3:17
- h. Would I be ashamed if I was doing it and Jesus came back at this moment?-1John 2:18

****When the “*three harbor lights*” of guidance line up, God is making His Will evident. We can always rely on this; God's guidance is not a shadowy, haphazard thing. It is certain and can become working knowledge in our lives. ****

WEEK THREE

GOD THE FATHER

1. THE EXISTENCE OF GOD:

a. The Bible does not seek to prove the existence of God. The existence of God is assumed throughout the Scriptures. The first verse of the Bible, Genesis 1:1; is an example. *“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.”* God’s existence is presented as a fact that needs no proof. The man who says there is no God is called a fool in Psalm 14:1.

b. However, even apart from the Bible, there are certain evidences for the existence of God

- 1) Mankind has always believed in a universal being.
- 2) Creation must have a creator. The universe could not originate without a cause.
- 3) The wonderful design which we see in creation demands an infinite designer.
- 4) Man is an intelligent being, his creator must be of a much higher order.

2. THE NATURE OF GOD:

a. God is Spirit - John 4:24. This means that God does not have a body. He is invisible - John 1:18, however, He can reveal Himself to man in a visible form. In the person of Jesus Christ; God came into the world in a body of flesh - John 1:14,18.

b. God is a person. Personal names are used in reference to Him - Ex. 3:14; 6:3.

c. God has personal characteristics ascribed to Him.

- 1) Knowledge - Isaiah 55:8-10
- 2) Emotions - Genesis 6:6
- 3) Will - Joshua 3:9-10

3. THE ATTRIBUTES (CHARACTERISTICS) OF GOD:

a. Omnipresent (present everywhere) - Isaiah 66:1; Jeremiah 23:23,24

b. Omnipotent (All powerful) - Jeremiah 32:17, 27; Job 42:1-2

c. Omniscient (All knowing) - Job 31:4; Psalm 147:5

d. Eternal (everlasting) Genesis 21:33; Deut. 33:27

e. Holy - (free from all defilement, absolutely pure) - 1 Samuel 6:20; Psalm 99:9

f. Creator - Genesis 1:1; Nehemiah 9:6

4. THE LOVE OF GOD:

- a. God is love. Love is the very essence of His nature - 1 John 4:7-8, 16
- b. Whom does God Love?
 - 1) His Son - Matthew 3:17
 - 2) The world - John 3:16
- c. God demonstrated His own love for us by sending Jesus - Romans 5:8

5. GOD IS:

- a. Righteous or just (always does what is right) - Psalm 119:137; 145:17
- b. Merciful (not giving what we deserve) - 2 Samuel 24:14; Deut. 4:31
- c. Faithful (we can rely upon Him; He won't let us down) - Deut. 7:9; 1 Kings 8:56
- d. Immutable (He doesn't change) - Malachi 3:6
- e. Truthful (cannot lie) - Titus 1:1,2
- f. Awesome (inspiring awe which is reverent wonder tinged with fear) - Deut. 7:21
Daniel 9:3-5

**** The Father is recognized as God in 1 Peter 1:2 and is all the fullness of the Godhead invisible John 1:18 ****

JESUS THE SON

1. JESUS POSSESSES ALL OF THE ATTRIBUTES OF GOD, HE IS:

- a. Omnipresent - Matthew 18:20; 28:18-20
- b. Omnipotent - Matthew 28:18; Hebrews 1:3
- c. Omniscient - John 16:30; 21:17
- d. Eternal - John 1:1-2, 17:5, 17:24
- e. Holy - Acts 3:14; 4:27-30
- f. Creator - John 1:1-3; Colossians 1:16,17

2. JESUS IS CALLED GOD IN THE NEW TESTAMENT: John 1: 10-29-33; Romans 9:5; Titus 2:13; Hebrews 1:8; John 20:28

3. JESUS WAS UNIQUE: (Webster's definition of unique - being the only one.)

- a. in His virgin birth
 - 1) prophesied in Isaiah 7:14
 - 2) fulfilled in Matthew 1:18-25
- b. in His sinless life - 2 Corinthians 5:21; 1 John 3:5.
- c. in His death
 - 1) Why he died - 1 Corinthians 15:3; 1 Peter 3:18
 - 2) Matthew 27:46 - the agony was almost more than Jesus could bear. The sinless one was not only to bear the sins of the world (past, present, future) and the penalty (death) but He was to be separated from God for the first time. This makes the death of Jesus truly unique.
- d. in His resurrection from the dead - (cannot be disproved)
 - 1) recorded in the Bible - Matthew 28; Mark 16; Luke 24; John 20-21
 - 2) witnessed by over 500 believers - 1 Corinthians 15:1-8
 - 3) caused change in the disciples - compare Mark 14:26-31, 50 to Acts 4:8-22
 - 4) caused the disciples to rejoice in persecution - Acts 5:40-42
 - 5) transformed Paul from persecutor to disciple - Acts 9: 1-22
 - 6) enabled the disciples, despite persecution to preach about Jesus's resurrection until they died (all martyred, but one)
 - 7) authenticated by non-Christian, Jewish historian Flavius Josephus who wrote of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus in *Antiquities* x viii.33

4. JESUS IS OUR WAY TO GOD BECAUSE OF HIS UNIQUE LIFE,
DEATH, AND RESURRECTION:

John 10:7-9; 14:6; 16:23

**** The Son is recognized as God in Hebrew 1:8 and is all the fullness of Godhead
manifested in the flesh - John 1:14 ****

WEEK FOUR

THE HOLY SPIRIT

1. THE HOLY SPIRIT IS A PERSON: in Greek, personal pronouns are used. He, Him etc. Greek - *parakletos* - "one called alongside to help" - Helper, Comforter, Counselor

2. THE HOLY SPIRIT DOES THINGS ONLY A PERSON CAN DO:

- a. He teaches and helps us to remember - John 14:26
- b. He calls men to service (He speaks) - Acts 13:2
- c. He convicts us of sin - John 16:8
- d. He leads - Romans 8:13-14

3. BEING A PERSON, THE HOLY SPIRIT IS IMPACTED BY WHAT WE DO:

- a. We can lie to Him - Acts 5:1-3
- b. We can grieve Him - Ephesians 4:30
- c. We can quench Him - 1 Thessalonians 5:19
- d. We can insult Him - Hebrews 10:29

4. THE HOLY SPIRIT POSSESSES ALL THE ATTRIBUTES OF GOD:

- 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. Holy - Romans 1:4; His name is holy
- f. Creator - Job 33:4; Psalm 104:30

5. HE IS DISTINCT FROM THE FATHER AND SON: Matthew 28:19;
Luke 3:21-22

6. HOW HE HELPS US WHEN WE ARE SAVED:

- a. He regenerates us (makes us alive spiritually) - John 3:3-8; Titus 3:4-7
- b. He indwells us - 1 Corinthians 3:16; 6:19
- c. He brings satisfaction of our needs - John 4:13-14; 7:37-39
- d. He is the seal of our salvation (security of ownership) - Ephesians 1:13-14

**** The Holy Spirit is recognized as God in Acts 5:3-4 and is all the fullness of the Godhead acting upon man, convicting him of sin and guiding the believer into all truth - John 16:7-11.****

SUMMARY OF THE TRINITY

1. GENESIS 1:1 - THE WORD FOR GOD IN HEBREW IS ELOHIM:
 - a. A singular word for God - El.
 - b. Due dual tense - Elah.
 - c. Three (3) or more - Elohim (a uni-plural noun)
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. THE DOCTRINE OF THE TRINITY IS EXPLICIT IN THE NEW TESTAMENT: Matthew 3:16-17; 1 Peter 1:2; Jude 20-21
4. THE BIBLE TEACHES THERE IS ONLY ONE GOD: 1 Timothy 2:5; Psalm 86:10; 1 Chronicles 17:20
5. EVEN CREATION IMPLIES THE DOCTRINE AND NATURE OF THE TRINITY
6. Space - length, width, depth in 1 space; man - body , soul, spirit in 1 man.

**** in the Holy Trinity we have 1 God manifested (revealed) to us in 3 distinct persons, all having the same attributes and all being called God. It is difficult to understand totally; we must accept it by faith. ****

- A. $1 \times 1 \times 1 = 1$
- B. water - liquid, ice, steam
- C. remember - Deuteronomy 29:29

THE SPIRIT FILLED LIFE

1. THE PROMISE OF THE COMING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT:

a. prophesied in the Old Testament - Joel 2:28-32

b. promised by Jesus in the New Testament. - John 14:16-17, 26; 15:26-27

2. ACTS 1:4-5: Jesus told the disciples to wait for the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

3. ACTS 1:8:

a. the Word “power: comes from the greek word *dunamis* which also means “*dynamic*.” The Holy Spirit gives us the power (ability) to witness for Christ.

b. Before we were Christians the Holy Spirit was with (*para*) us convicting us of sin and drawing us to Christ - John 16:7-8.

c. When we became Christians the Holy Spirit indwells (*en*) us - John 14:16, 17; 20:22; 1 Corinthians 3:16

d. The 3rd experience of the Holy Spirit is when He comes on (*epi*) us and overflows out of our life - John 7:37-39. (flow - Greek - literally means to *gush forth*; baptize - Greek - *baptizo* - overflowed) by the Holy Spirit. We become a channel through which the Holy Spirit overflows to everyone around us.

4. THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT - WHAT HAPPENS AND WHEN:

a. We receive the power to witness for Jesus and to serve Him in whatever area He asks us to.

b. We receive increased power to overcome sin.

c. The Scripture comes alive to us.

d. Our relationship with God is more alive and vital.

d. We receive spiritual gifts - when we pray to God and ask for the baptism of the Holy Spirit we receive by faith (Luke 11:11-13; Galatians 3:2, 5, 13-14) just as we received Jesus Christ into our life by faith. At this time we will receive one or more spiritual gifts from God.

1) 1 Cor. 12:11 - the Holy Spirit gives to each one as He determines.

2) 1 Corinthians 12:28-31 - we are eagerly to desire the greater gifts.

3) Acts 9:17-19 - the evidence of the gifts may or may not be apparent immediately.

4) It is important for us to come before the Lord to desire (to pray for) the best of whatever He has for us and to receive them by faith.

5. 1 CORINTHIANS 13:1-2: If we lead the Spirit-filled life and use the gifts that God has given us without love, then we are nothing.

WEEK FIVE

SATAN

1. HIS NAME GIVES US INSIGHT INTO HIS EVIL CHARACTER

- a. Satan - Greek - Satanias (adversary or opponent) most common name used 52 times
- b. The devil - (slanderer) 35 times
- c. The serpent - Genesis 3:1
- d. Lucifer - (light bearer, shining one) - Isaiah 14:12
- e. Beelzebub - (prince of demons) - Matthew 12:24
- f. The wicked one and the enemy - Matthew 13:38-39
- g. A liar and murderer - John 8:44
- h. The prince of this world - John 14:30
- i. The god of this age - 2 Corinthians 4:4
- j. Belial - (ruthlessness) - 2 Corinthians 6:15
- k. An angel of light - 2 Corinthians 11:14-15
- l. Prince of the power of the air - Ephesians 2:2
- m. The tempter - 1 Thessalonians 3:5
- n. The dragon - Revelation 12:7
- o. The accuser of the brethren - Revelation 12:10

2. HIS ACTIVITIES - he operates as a schemer - Ephesians 6:11;
and as a lion - 1 Peter 5:8-9

3. Satan is a liar - Recognize that he wants to destroy you. Resist him and he will flee.
Draw close to God and Rely on Him to draw close to you - James 4:7-8. Rejoice in the
victory we have through His Son - 1 Corinthians 15:57

SPIRITUAL WARFARE - EPHESIANS 6:10-18

Vs 10 *strong in the Lord* and in the power of His might - not by ourselves.

Vs 11 *full armor* - not part of it or there will be a weak spot for Satan to attack.

Vs 12 not a physical battle - it is spiritual (IT IS WAR !!!).

Vs 13 the 2nd time we are told to ***take up the full armor*** so that we can stand.

Vs 14 THE BELT OF TRUTH - the belt of the armor is what held everything else in place and went on first. Truth, as mentioned here, refers to the truth of Jesus, the truth of His Word, and every part of His nature and character that flows from that truth. Jesus said "I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life. No one comes to the Father except through me." Thus a believer whose life is not founded on the truth of God's Word forfeits the very thing which holds all other pieces of his armor together.

Vs 14 THE BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS - this speaks of the righteousness received by faith in Jesus Christ. The breastplate was to protect the heart of the soldier. It is only by standing firm behind the finished work of Jesus on the cross, and trusting in His work and His ability that grants this vital protection of our spiritual heart to sin, Satan, and this world.

Vs 15 THE SANDALS OF THE GOSPEL - the Roman soldier wore sandals which were bound by thongs over the insteps and around the ankle. The soles were thickly studded with nails which gave him a firm footing in time of attack. This refers to the assurance and confidence which comes from the great doctrinal truths associated with the Word of God. The Word is our foundation for Christian growth.

Vs 16 above all, take up THE SHIELD OF FAITH - the shield of faith protects us from the attacks (those fiery darts) of Satan. (ex. temptations, impure thoughts etc.)

Vs 17 THE HELMET OF SALVATION - it protects our head and brain. It refers to the intake of the Word, knowledge and truths about Jesus, which will help protect our thoughts from doubt and the world, flesh and the devil. It will make us secure in our relationship with the Lord.

Vs 17 THE SWORD WHICH IS THE WORD OF GOD - the only offensive weapon. We must become familiar with it so we can use it effectively in this Spiritual war.

Vs 18 PRAYING ALWAYS - seeking God to draw closer to Him and having Him draw near to you. The key is to keep the Word, no matter what, and to keep the lines of communication open with God.

SIN

1. DEFINITION OF SIN:

- a. rebellion against God - Isaiah 1:2
- b. doing things our own way instead of God's way - (disobedience) - Isaiah 53:6

2. SIN ORIGINATED IN THE FALL OF SATAN. Isaiah 14:12-15; Ezekiel 28:12-19

3. THE FALL OF MAN:

- a. God told Adam not to eat the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good & evil -
Genesis 2:9, 16, 17
- b. Sin in the human race originated in Adam's free decision to disobey God's will
Genesis 3:1-6
- c. By one man sin entered into the world - Romans 5:12
- d. Salvation through Jesus Christ - Romans 5:19
- e. Adam's sin separated man from God - Genesis 3:22; Isaiah 59: 1, 2
- f. Adam's sin resulted in both physical and spiritual death for man.
 - 1) Physical death - separation of the soul from the body - Genesis 3:19
 - 2) Spiritual death - Separation of the soul from God for eternity -
Ezekiel 18:4; Romans 6:23

SALVATION

1. DEFINITION OF SALVATION: saved from the power and dominion of sin in our life and from eternity apart from God.

2. SALVATION:

- a. is a gift from God - John 3:16; Romans 6:23
- b. that comes only through Jesus Christ - John 10:7-10; 14:6
- c. by faith in Him - Ephesians 2:8-9; Romans 10:9-10, 13

FORGIVENESS

THE DEFINITION OF FORGIVENESS IS AN ACT OF PARDON:

- a. God promises to forgive us - 1 John 1:7-10
- b. but we must forgive others - Mark 11:25-26; Ephesians 4:32
- c. He will forgive and forget - Isaiah 43:25; Jeremiah 31:34

****Salvation is a free gift from God (2C). We have to RECOGNIZE our sin, RECEIVE Jesus Christ as our personal Lord and Savior and REJOICE that God has given us eternal life in His Son. ****

WEEK SIX

REPENTANCE

To repent means to change your mind and attitude about sin, so that you turn from your sin and you turn to God for the power to overcome it.

1. REPENTANCE PREACHED BY:

- a. John the Baptist - Matthew 3:2
- b. JESUS CHRIST - Matthew 4:17; Mark 1:15
- c. the other disciples - Mark 6:12
- d. Peter - Acts 2:38
- e. Paul - Acts 17:30; 20:21

2. IT IS TO BE OUR MESSAGE TO THE WORLD: LUKE 24:44-48

3. REPENTANCE IS MANIFESTED (REVEALED) BY:

- a. Godly sorrow - Joel 2:12-13; 2 Corinthians 7:9, 10
- b. confession of sin and prayer to God for mercy - Luke 18:9-14
- c. turning from our evil ways - Ezekiel 14:6; 18:30
- d. turning to God - Acts 3:19; 26:20

4. REPENTANCE IS A CHANGE OF 3 ELEMENTS:

- a. intellectual element - a change of mind
- b. emotional element - a change of heart
- c. volitional element - a change of will

FAITH

1. HOW DOES THE BIBLE DEFINE FAITH? - Hebrews 11:1

a. Living Bible - What is faith? It is the confident assurance that something we want is going to happen. It is the certainty that what we hope for is waiting for us, even though we cannot see it up ahead.

b. Faith is needed to please God - Hebrews 11:6

c. He is the author and finisher of our faith - Hebrews 12:2

2. HOW DO WE RECEIVE OUR FAITH? - Romans 10:17; for example; in Acts 16:25-34, they heard the Word and they were saved.

3. HOW DO WE INCREASE OUR FAITH? - Romans 10:17

a. Standing on God's promises (taking Him for His Word) - Ex. of Romans 8:28

b. Fellowship

c. Ask - Mark 9:23-24

4. THE IMPORTANCE OF FAITH

a. We should live by it - 2 Corinthians 5:7

b. We are saved by it - Ephesians 2:8, 9

c. It is our defense (shield) against the enemy - Ephesians 6:16

d. It never gives up - Hebrews 11:7, 30

e. It gives us victory over the world and its problems - 1 John 5:4

**** The principle element in repentance is a change of mind and attitude about Christ which is a change from an unbelieving and rejecting attitude to a believing and accepting attitude. True faith in Christ involves the confession and forsaking of sin. True repentance and faith are inseparable; they are mutually dependent upon each other. ****

FELLOWSHIP

1. DEFINITION OF FELLOWSHIP: Greek - *koinonia* - fellowship means companionship, sharing something in common. It is a time where believers in Jesus Christ gather together to read and study God's Word, share, pray, laugh, cry and encourage one another. This results in growing closer to each other as individuals and growing closer to Jesus as a body. Hebrews 10:24-25.

2. AS CHRISTIANS WE HAVE FELLOWSHIP WITH:

- a. The Father and Son - 1 John 1:3
- b. One another - 1 John 1:7
- c. The Holy Spirit - 2 Corinthians 13:14

3. THE BASIS OF CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP: The basis of Christian fellowship is the relationship that we individually have with God through Jesus Christ - 1 John 1:3

5. Love and unity are absolute necessities - Ephesians 4:1-3; Philippians 2:1-2.

6. CHRIST PRAYED THAT HIS PEOPLE MIGHT HAVE FELLOWSHIP WITH EACH OTHER: John 17:20-21

7. AN EXCELLENT EXAMPLE OF FELLOWSHIP IN THE EARLY CHURCH: Acts 2:42-47

8. FELLOWSHIP WITH CHRIST IS ESSENTIAL TO FRUITFULNESS: John 15:1-17

SHARING YOUR FAITH

1. BASIC POINTS THAT SHOULD BE COVERED:

- a. All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God - Romans 3:23
- b. The wages of sin is death - Romans 6:23
- c. God demonstrated His love for us by sending Jesus Christ to die - Romans 5:8
- d. We are saved by faith in Jesus Christ - Romans 10:9-10, 13
- e. Optional verses - Isaiah 59:1, 2; John 3:3, 16; Acts 3:19, 20; Ephesians 1:7; 2:8-9

2. TOOLS FOR WITNESSING:

- a. A Bible - big, little, or even on your phone.
- b. Memorize Scripture
The Romans road is a popular method for evangelism.
- c. Prayer...

3. REMEMBER.....

- a. The Holy Spirit is the one who will speak through you - Matthew 10:18-20.
- b. The Lord is the one who adds to the church daily - Acts 2:47.
- c. We are called to be faithful with what the Lord has put in front of us.
He has promised to take care of the rest.

When Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." Matthew 28:18-20; "Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash." Matthew 7:24-25; All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, 2 Timothy 3:16; For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit. 2 Peter 1:21; Consequently faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ. Romans 10:17; But we ought always to thank God for you, brothers loved by the Lord, because from the beginning God chose you to be saved through the sanctifying work of the Spirit and through belief in the truth. Thessalonians 2:13; The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned. 1 Corinthians 2:14; But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. John 14:26; For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died; 2Cor. 5:15 And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again. 2 Corinthians 5:14-15