

## APPOINTMENT I: ASSURANCE

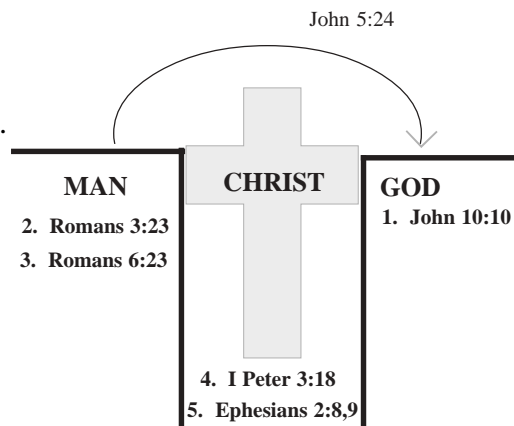
### Objectives:

1. To review the plan of salvation and make sure the person understands it.
2. To assure him/her of the permanence of his/her relationship with Christ.
3. To maintain or develop a natural relationship with the person being followed up
4. To answer any questions he/she might have.

### I. REVIEW PLAN OF SALVATION

#### A. Bridge

1. God loves you and offers a wonderful plan for your life.
2. However, man is sinful and separated from God.  
Thus, he cannot know and experience God's love and plan for his life. This results in eternal death.
3. Jesus Christ is God's only provision for man's sin.  
Through Him we can know and experience God's love and plan for our lives.
4. And our response to this knowledge is receiving Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. It is a decision of our wills.

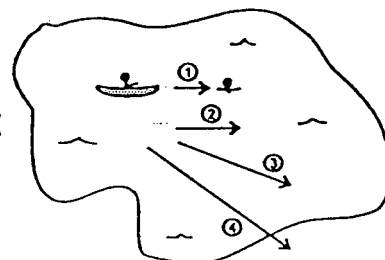


*Stress the fact that our relationship with God is based on His faithfulness and His work on our behalf, and our acceptance of what He has done for us. Also emphasize that Christ came all the way down to us. We didn't meet Him part way.*

#### B. Canoe (alternate illustration)

1. Because of the many misconceptions regarding Christianity, let's define Christianity. Would you say that Christ is central to Christianity? Obviously Christ is the purpose or center of Christianity. "Christ" means Savior. What is a Savior?" (One who saves.)
2. Let's say that you and I are out on a lake canoeing. Your canoe tips over and you can't swim. I look at the situation and see that you are in trouble. Unless I do something, you are going to drown.

- a. So, I throw some little booklets to you that explain how to swim in 10 easy steps. Am I your savior? (No) Likewise, many people think that Christianity is a lot of rules or code of ethics. That's a false Savior.



- b. Well, I see that that doesn't work, so I jump out of my canoe and show you how to swim by doing the crawl, sidestroke, backstroke, etc. Am I your savior? (No)

In the same way, believing that Christ was just a good teacher (or example), here to show us how to live a good life doesn't make Him your Savior.

- c. OK. I can see that you are getting desperate, going down for the third time. So, I pull you into my canoe, and we head for shore. About two-thirds of the way there, I start thinking that you aren't grateful for what I've done. So, I push you out and make you swim the rest of the way to shore. Am I your savior? (No)
- d. But if I take you all the way to shore and place you on dry land, am I your savior? (yes) Christ plus nothing else is Savior.

### C. Eternal Life Equation

1. Which equation is correct and why?

CHRIST + GOOD WORKS = ETERNAL LIFE

CHRIST + NOTHING = ETERNAL LIFE + GOOD WORKS

2. The second equation is correct, because Christ did everything when He died on the cross for us. We can do nothing to earn or inherit eternal life. The good works come as a result of our love for God because of what he did for us through Christ.

## II. ASSURANCE OF SALVATION

### A. Train illustration

1. The Christian life is much like a train: locomotive, coal car and caboose. They correspond to *fact, faith and feeling*.
2. Define "fact" by asking: "Is a fact true?" (Yes)  
"Does a fact change?" (No)
3. "Do your feelings change?" (Yes)



4. Suppose thing go wrong. What does that do to your feelings?  
In other words, what determines whether our feelings are up or down?
5. Add a car to the train and label it *circumstances*.
6. Suppose your faith is in your feelings, and your feelings are going up and down?  
What will your faith do? (Go up and down, too.)
7. If your faith is in your feelings, and your feelings are determined by your circumstances, what really determines your faith? (Circumstances)
8. Suppose your faith or trust or confidence that Christ is in your life is based on how you feel, and your feelings change. What would that do to your faith? (Cause it to waver)
9. Now, suppose you go the other way. Suppose you place your faith in the fact. We said that a fact is true, and that it never changes. Jesus said, "Your Word is Truth: (John 17:17) and "My Words will never pass away." (Matthew 24:35).  
In other words, you can trust completely what Jesus says because it will never change. It is Truth."
10. One problem Christians have in learning to trust God's Word is not knowing it. Let's quickly see some of the things God says are true of you—things that you can count on as fact.

## B. Verses on Eternal Life, God's love and our security in Him

Begin by explaining that he/she should always check the context of verses that you give him/her. This is to make sure that you (or anyone else) are not taking verses out of context.

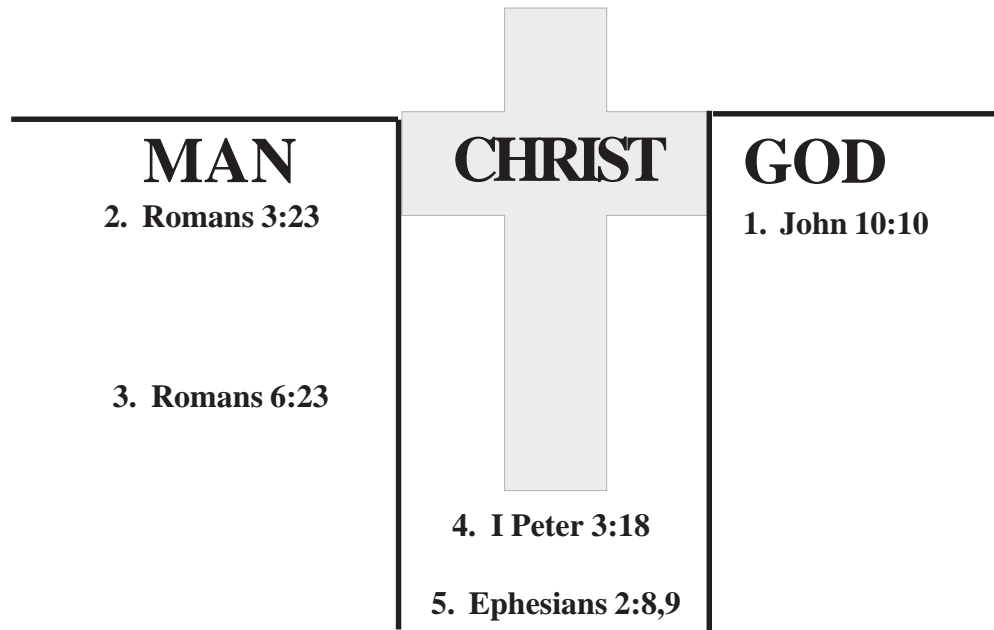
1. I John 5:9-13
  - a. Who has eternal life?
  - b. Who doesn't
  - c. Do you have the Son?
  - d. What kind of life do you have?
  - e. When did eternal life start for you?
  - f. Is it possible to have eternal life today and not have it tomorrow?
  - g. Reread the passage and without warning, change "may know" to "might know" in verse 13.  
Is that what the verse says? (No)  
What is the difference between "may know" and "might know"?
  
2. John 10:1-10, 27-30
  - a. Read vs 1-10. Who are His sheep?
  - b. Read vs. 27-30. What are some characteristics of His sheep?
  - c. What do they have? (Eternal life)

### God's Hands illustration

- a. "This ring (pen cap, coin, etc.) is a symbol of His sheep, or you and me."
  - b. Read vs. 28. "This is you in Christ's Hand" (Close your hand over the object.)
  - c. Read vs. 29. Place other hand over the first and say, "This is the Father's Hand."
  - d. Read vs. 30. "That means that all the cracks between my fingers are sealed together."
  - e. "Can the (object) fall out of my hands? That's how secure you are in the Hands of God!"
  - f. Write on the paper: *John 10:27-30*  
*Never perish*  
*Double bond*
  - g. "This theme of being secure in God is seen throughout the Bible. Let's look at other examples."
3. *Romans 8:35, 38-39*
    - a. What do these verses say to you?
    - b. Write on the paper: *Who shall separate us from the Love of Christ? Romans 8:35, 38-39*
    - c. Nothing, nothing can separate you from the love of God—not troubles, the devil, stuff you do wrong, pain, death, or anything else you can think of. That's how much God loves you.
  
  4. *Hebrews 13:1-5*
    - a. This paragraph (vs. 1-5) is interesting because it begins by listing qualities that should be true of our lives. It then addresses things that people chase after – sex, money.
    - b. Then, it says the reason we can be pure and content is because God Himself has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you."
    - c. "Never leave" in the original Greek is a double negative. Thus, the verse is really saying, "Never no never will I leave you."
    - d. "'Never forsake' is actually a triple negative. Hence, Jesus is really saying here, "Never no never no never will I forsake you."

Ask the person you are following-up if he/she has any questions about the material you have just gone over. Give them a piece of paper you drew and wrote on. Ask them to look it over during the week, and bring any questions they might have to your next meeting. Close in prayer.

(Review the Bridge)



1. God loves you and offers a wonderful plan.
2. Man is sinful and separated from God.
3. Sin = death, but God offers life.
4. Through Jesus, we can experience God's love.
5. By receiving Christ as Savior and Lord, we can experience God's love.

## Lesson One

### SALVATION ASSURANCE

1. Do you believe Jesus Christ died on the cross for your sins and that He rose again from the dead?  
I Peter 2:24 \_\_\_\_\_
2. Did you sincerely repent and ask Jesus Christ to come into your life? I John 1:8-10, Romans 10:8-11,  
John 1:12 \_\_\_\_\_
3. Is He in your life right now? John 3:16-18, II Peter 3:9, I John 5:14-15, Revelation 3:20  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. How do you know? I John 5:11-13 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



1. Is a fact true?
2. Does a fact change?
3. Suppose your faith is in your feelings, and your feelings are going up and down. What will your faith do?
4. Now, suppose you place your faith in the fact. We said a fact is true and that it never changes.

John 17:17 “Thy Word is truth”

Matthew 24:35 “Heaven and earth will pass away, but my Words will remain.”

In other words, we can trust completely what Jesus says because it will never change; it is truth.

5. In order to trust God’s Word as fact, we need to know it.

#### WHAT GOD SAYS ABOUT ME - THINGS I CAN COUNT ON AS FACT

1. Read I John 5:9-13

- a. Who has eternal life? \_\_\_\_\_
- b. Do you have the Son? \_\_\_\_\_
- c. When did eternal life start for you? \_\_\_\_\_
- d. Can you have eternal life today and not tomorrow? \_\_\_\_\_

2. Read John 10:27-30

- a. Who are His sheep? \_\_\_\_\_
- b. What are 2 characteristics of His sheep? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- c. What do they have? \_\_\_\_\_

We are secure in the hands of God!

3. Read Romans 8:35, 38, 39

What can separate us from God? \_\_\_\_\_

4. Read Hebrews 13:5

What is God's promise to us? \_\_\_\_\_

### ACTION PLAN

1. Write out God's promises to you.

2. Be able to explain the bridge to me next week.

3. Share the bridge with one other person - either Christian or non-Christian

4. List your strengths and weaknesses.

Strengths:

1) \_\_\_\_\_

2) \_\_\_\_\_

3) \_\_\_\_\_

4) \_\_\_\_\_

5) \_\_\_\_\_

Weakness:

1) \_\_\_\_\_

2) \_\_\_\_\_

3) \_\_\_\_\_

4) \_\_\_\_\_

5) \_\_\_\_\_

## APPOINTMENT II: GOD TALKS TO US THROUGH SCRIPTURE

Objectives:

1. To show that Scripture is God's Word
2. To show that Scripture is essential for our growth and development
3. That God speaking to us is one of four talks in our growth with Christ.

### I. Mathew 4:3-11

#### **4:4**

- It is written. Christ confirmed the authority of Scripture
- It is equal to what God has said
- We need to respond to life through Scripture
- Scripture is our spiritual food

Questions:

1. Based on Jesus' example, what is an effective method to battle temptation?
2. In verse 4, what phrase does Jesus use to describe Scripture?
3. How is Scripture like bread? Consider how often and how much we need food.

#### **4:6-7**

- Discern what is accurate and correct when people quote Scripture like Christ does in this situation.
- Context is always to be obedient to God's Word (that's the gist of Christ's response).
- **To illustrate point, here is a possible example of not respecting the context. Only use if the person is well along, otherwise skip these points and go on to 4:10.**

Questions:

1. A Christian quotes Romans 12:17-19 and concludes that the U.S. should not retaliate against terrorism. Do you agree? Why or why not?  
Then point out Romans 13:1-5. This gives clearer instruction about government responsibility.
2. Give another example of taking Scripture out of context. Then use another Scripture correctly to refute this.
3. "Falsehood is never so false as when it is very nearly true."-G.K. Chesterton  
Discuss this statement, specifically whether it applies to what cults do.

#### **4:10**

- From Scripture we get our focus and priorities of life.

Questions:

1. Look at the nature of the three temptations. How did they progress?

Was each one an invitation to do something obviously *wrong*?

2. Think of and discuss common temptations you face.

## II. I Peter 2:2

- Milk means to start with the basics and grow.
- Long for the Word.
- Keep the correct order - start with milk first.

Questions:

1. What is *milk* in Christianity? What are the first things, the most elementary parts, that a new Christian should begin with?
  
2. What does Scripture indicate is *milk*? See Acts 2:37-47, 16:31-34, Acts 20:32-35, I Cor. 3:1-2, Hebrews 5:11-14, 6:1-2. Compare your list to what you answered in #1.
  
3. Are you drinking milk or eating solid food? Do you know and/or practice the things listed in #2.

## III. I Thessalonians 2:13

- Scripture is God's Word, not the word of men
- Scripture performs its works in us. I Thess. 1:5. It comes in:
  1. Power
  2. the Holy Spirit
  3. in a convincing manner

Questions:

1. Compare liberal arts subjects (education, humanities, literature, history, etc.) to mathematic and science (physics, chemistry, engineering). Is there only one right answer, one absolute correct answer in these subjects? Why or why not?

Does what you think about the answer change the correctness of the answer? What about the Bible? Is there a correct answer? Does the answer change depending on what people think?

2. Consider a radio talk-show, where there is a moderator, and people call in and give their opinions. Often the moderator treats his opinions and all the peoples' opinions as equally valid. Do people today treat the Bible like a radio talk-show? How can you avoid this in your Bible study?

IV. Hebrews 4:12

- God changes us from the inside out.
- Scripture is the food God uses.

Questions:

1. How “sharp” is Scripture? In Hebrews 4:12 what are the things that Scripture can divide?
  
2. Discuss why the author uses these terms:
  - soul and spirit
  - joints and marrow
  - thoughts and intentions

(This shows us that God uses the Word to change us from the inside out.)

V. John 17:17

- The Word sanctifies (sets apart for special use)
- Scripture is truth

Question:

1. “All truth is God’s truth.” (Augustine). Discuss what this means. Relate it to what you study in the university as well.

VI. II Timothy 3:16-17

- Scripture is God-breathed
- Scripture equips to cause growth

Question:

1. Where does the authority of Scripture come from?

VII. II Peter 1:17-21

- Men were led by God
- Vs. 19 Scripture confirms
- Vs. 17 - Christ was confirmed by the Father (Matt. 17)
- Scripture has priority over experience

Question:

1. Many non-Christians talk about near-death experiences that were positive. How should we view these in light of Scripture?

VIII. Romans 12:2

- Conformed versus transformed

Question:

1. Conformed/transformed. What can conform you? How can you instead be transformed?

IV. Ezra 7:10

- Prepared his heart
- Studied
- Observed
- Taught

Questions:

1. Is the sequence of Ezra's activities important?
2. How effective is a person who teaches before doing?
3. What foundation should a teacher have built before he/she teaches?

X. II Timothy 2:15

- Approved lifestyle
- Study correctly

Questions:

1. Why should we study the Bible if we have Bible teachers?
2. How does one rightly divide the Word of truth?
3. Whose approval should we seek primarily in our work for the Lord?
4. How do we balance agreement with fellow Christians and agreement with God?

SEE ASSIGNMENT ON NEXT PAGE

ASSIGNMENT: Psalm 19:7-11

Notice the different synonyms for Scripture.

Notice its character

Notice its impact or affect

APPOINTMENT III: WE COMMUNICATE WITH GOD THROUGH PRAYER  
(Talking with God)

Objectives:

1. Talking with God is sharing our life thoughts, dreams, sorrows, passions, frustrations, joys, priorities, and concerns.
2. Prayer is talking with God about our spiritual growth, eternal purposes, and inner issues, as well as praying for others and their concerns, spiritual needs, and burdens.
3. To show that the best instruction and examples on prayer are in Scripture. Work through each of the sections on prayer.

## MODEL PRAYERS

1. Consider the prayer Jesus taught the disciples in Matthew 6:9-13 as a model prayer. According to this model, notice the special relationship we are to have with God, "Father". (Father means addressing someone who knows us well and implies a very special and personal relationship.) Romans 8:14-16, Galatians 4:4-7. Next, find what kinds of things Jesus' disciples are to ask for:

Verse 9 \_\_\_\_\_

Verse 10 \_\_\_\_\_

Verse 11 \_\_\_\_\_

Verse 12 \_\_\_\_\_

Verse 13 \_\_\_\_\_

2. Read the prayer of Jesus to the Father in John 17. Not all the verses contain requests. In verse 5 Jesus made a personal request: "Glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was." This was a unique request that only He could pray. What did Jesus request for His disciples?

Verse 11 \_\_\_\_\_

Verse 15 \_\_\_\_\_

Verse 17 \_\_\_\_\_

Verse 21 \_\_\_\_\_

Verse 24 \_\_\_\_\_

3. Pray Ephesians 3:14-19 for a friend so that:

He/she be strengthened in the inner man (v. 16).

Christ would dwell in his/her heart through faith (v. 17).

He/she be able to comprehend the love of Christ.

He/she be filled to all the fullness of God (vv. 18-19).

4. Read another of Paul's prayers in Ephesians 1:15-23 and list at least four things he asked for:

Verse 17 \_\_\_\_\_

Verse 18 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Verse 19 \_\_\_\_\_

5. In the prayer for the Christians in Colossians 1:9-12, what did Paul ask for?

Verse 9 \_\_\_\_\_

Verse 10 \_\_\_\_\_

Verse 11 \_\_\_\_\_

6. In Philippians 1:9-11 Paul Prayed what? That . . .

Verse 9 \_\_\_\_\_

Verse 10 \_\_\_\_\_

Verse 11 \_\_\_\_\_

### Emphasize the Spiritual

Look over the topics listed in the model prayers above.

How many were for spiritual matters? \_\_\_\_\_

How many were for material needs or changes? \_\_\_\_\_

The prayers of Jesus and of Paul show they gave prayer for spiritual change first place. Their prayers show their concern for spiritual matters far exceeded requests for material needs. Of the twenty-five or more requests in these prayers, only one is for material or physical concerns - the request for daily bread. This is not to say that we should not pray about physical or material concerns. It does indicate, however, that the emphasis of our praying ought to be on spiritual concerns. Our prayers should ask first for the glory of God and for His purposes. Jesus taught us to begin our prayers by asking that God's name be hallowed, that His kingdom come, and that His will be done on earth. This takes precedence over all else we might ask.

Much of our praying is crisis praying. In His great prayer in John 17, Jesus is at the most somber and difficult moment of His life. His prayer is a majestic monument of untroubled love. He asked for only a few things, but He repeated again and again their importance. He prayed for great sweeping issues - issues whose weight and importance could not even be perceived by those who were with Him.

### Walking in Fellowship with God Today

Today make a point to increase the number of spiritual petitions you present to the Lord. Pray about your role in the kingdom. What about the kingdom, to your knowledge, needs prayer? Pray for leaders in the work of the kingdom. Pray for unity in the body of Christ.

Look again at Paul's prayers for believers at Ephesus, Colossae, and Philippi. Single out four Christians in your Disciple's Prayer Life group and pray as Paul did for those spiritual changes in their lives. Write their names on a separate sheet of paper.

## PERSONAL PRAYER REQUESTS

### Today's Learning Goal

You will be able to list your personal prayer needs, after studying Bible examples, of personal petitions.

### Three Areas of Personal Requests

You should petition God for your own personal needs. Jesus taught this to His disciples. In the model prayer, after the prayer for God's honor and kingdom, Jesus authorized a series of personal requests:

- for daily food,
- for forgiveness of sins, and
- for deliverance from temptation (Matt. 6:11-13).

These indicate three large areas God is interested in - our physical needs, the restoration to fellowship with Him if we break it, and protection from forces beyond our control. "Temptation" can refer either to an enticement to sin or to a trial. We are specifically promised deliverance from anything God allows us to be tempted with

(I Cor. 10:13), and so we can and should ask God for that deliverance.

Yesterday, you reviewed the model prayer in Matthew 6:9-13 for yourself. Pray according to these principles.

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### Ask for Guidance

Jesus not only told us to ask about personal needs, but He Himself did just that. He often prayed for guidance. The night before He chose the twelve disciples, He spent the entire night in prayer (Luke 6:12-13). When the time came to expand His Galilean ministry beyond Capernaum, Jesus arose early in the morning and prayed in a "solitary place" (Mark 1:35-39). Jesus' prayers demonstrate that divine guidance is available through prayer.

We have other examples of Biblical characters seeking God's guidance.

1. What guidance did David seek in I Samuel 23:2-4?

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2. Read Genesis 24:12-14. What guidance did Abraham's servant, Eliezer seek in prayer?

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In what areas are you personally needing guidance at the present time?

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### Ask for Wisdom

Another similar personal petition found often in Scripture is for wisdom. Asking for wisdom is appropriate. "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him" (James 1:5)

1. In I Kings 3:9-12 who asked for wisdom? \_\_\_\_\_

2. In Romans 16:19 who wanted the Romans to be wise? \_\_\_\_\_

3. In Matthew 10:16 who wanted wisdom for those sent out? \_\_\_\_\_

What special need for wisdom do you have at this time?

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### Other Personal Requests

In the Bible, most personal requests turn out to bring great benefit for the work of God, even if they seem to pertain only to the one asking. Look at the following Scriptures and write what each person petitioned.

Genesis 15:2-6 (Abram) \_\_\_\_\_

I Samuel 1:10-11 (Hannah) \_\_\_\_\_

Luke 1:13 (Zacharias) \_\_\_\_\_

2 Kings 20:1-3 (Hezekiah) \_\_\_\_\_

Acts 9:36-42 (Peter) \_\_\_\_\_

All the above requests were for material or physical changes, but each answer had great spiritual results. Abram prayed for a son, and the answer to that prayer, Isaac, became a very important ingredient in God's creation of the chosen people. Hannah's prayer for a son produced one of the pivotal figures of Israel's history, Samuel. He became the last of the judges and also a prophet prefiguring many of the later great prophets of Israel. Zacharias' prayer for a son was answered with the birth of John the Baptist, the forerunner of Christ. Although these prayers seem to be personal and private, God was guiding their utterance because of what each of these prayers ultimately produced for His purposes.

Other seemingly personal requests in the Bible follow the same pattern of producing unexpected benefits for the purposes of God. In a mortal sickness, Hezekiah prayed to live. He survived, and later Manasseh was born to him. Although Manasseh was a very wicked king, his succession to the throne preserved the royal Davidic line for the coming of the Messiah.

Peter's prayer for the resurrection of Dorcas brought about the conversion of many people in Joppa so that the church grew. No doubt Dorcas continued to minister to the needs of others as she had prior to her death. Personal, private prayers of godly people are likely to yield great results for the kingdom of God

To list all the personal prayers you might make would be pointless. Different people and different circumstances call for different specific requests. Remember, however, the Bible commends personal prayer. The tone of the whole Bible is that God uses the personal prayers of godly people to accomplish greater ends than the pray-er might expect.

#### Walking in Fellowship with God Today

Personal requests should grow out of a personal relationship to the Lord. Today, try to envision how God sees your personal requests. Think of two personal requests you have recently made or could make today. Prayerfully trace out what would happen in the kingdom or to the honor of God if those requests were granted. Learn to say:

“Thy kingdom come in the granting of (*personal request*).”

## ASKING FOR OTHERS

### Today's Learning Goal

You will understand and begin to follow the pattern of people in Scripture by praying for friends, enemies, civil authorities, your nation, and the sick. Prayer of Intercession is a form of prayer. Make a list of Biblical examples of people who prayed for others. Write the name of the pray-er, the one(s) prayed for, and a Scripture reference.

Pray-er	Prayed For	Scripture Reference

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement and why: Write your response on the lines below.

*“Intercessory prayer...reaches its highest power and its highest goal when it is intended to bring the kingdom and accomplish the will of God.”*

Matthew 6:19-34

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John 15:7

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Romans 8:27

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James 4:3

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### Intercessory Prayer

Praying for others often is referred to as intercessory prayer. **If we are to love others as ourselves, we should pray for others as ourselves.** We have seen that Jesus prayed for His disciples in John 17. An especially poignant prayer is His prayer for Simon at the Lord's Supper. After telling the disciples that Satan had asked permission to sift them like wheat, Jesus then told Simon, “But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren” (Luke 22:32). This prayer made possible Peter's great courage before the Sanhedrin in Acts 4:8-12. The Sanhedrin “saw the boldness of Peter and John” and “took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus” (Acts 4:13)!

Other examples you should have listed include Jesus' prayers for us (Heb. 9:24; Heb. 7:25; Rom. 8:33-34), the Jerusalem church's prayer for Peter (Acts 12:5), and Paul's prayers for the churches of his day (Eph. 1:15-20; Col. 1:9-11; Phil. 1:9; I Thess. 3:10-13; 2 Thess. 1:11). You may have also noticed the prayers implied by Paul's requests of the churches at Thessalonica, Rome, Ephesus, Colossae, and Philippi.

Intercessory prayer reaches its highest potential when it is intended to further the kingdom of God and accomplish His will.

## PRAYING FOR THE LOST

### Today's Learning Goal

You will understand five steps in praying for the lost and demonstrate your compassion for the lost through prayer.

### Your Heart's Desire

How frequently do you pray specifically for a lost person by name? (Check your response and be honest.)

\_\_\_ At least daily

\_\_\_ Twice or more per week

\_\_\_ Once per week

\_\_\_ Less than once each week

**The amount you pray for the lost may indicate one or more things about your thinking. It may indicate how much compassion you have for the lost. It may indicate whether or not you believe prayer can have an effect on the lost person's life. It may indicate what you believe about hell and the lost person's destiny.**

Paul's "heart's desire and prayer" for his fellow Jews was for their salvation (Rom. 10:1). He so reflected the mind of Christ that his heart became like God's heart. The essence of all prayer is agreeing with God, and God does not want any person to die without accepting the generous sacrifice of His Son for the purpose of salvation. God desires that all come to repentance (2 Pet. 3:9). The more we pray, the more we think like God thinks. As a faithful prayer warrior, you will want to cultivate a compassion for the lost that wants "all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth" (I Tim. 2:4), just as God does.

Praying for the lost will involve not only beseeching God for their initial acceptance of Christ's salvation, but also the larger prayer request that an atmosphere for spiritual growth will be available to new converts.

### Visualizing

Sometimes visualizing helps us to see God's point of view. If we are submitting to the Lordship of Christ, filled and guided by the Holy Spirit, and are earnestly seeking the mind and heart of God, He will prompt our prayer by helping us mentally "see" what He sees. We then apply our faith and action to bring into reality the God-given vision. We ask God for what He wants to give, and rejoice in the vision of the completed answer to our request.

A helpful prayer exercise is to visualize a lost person receiving Christ, being baptized, and finally becoming a glorious light for the Lord by contributing notably to the life of the church.

Close your eyes and visualize yourself presenting to God at His judgment seat some lost person you know as one you yourself brought to Christ. Think of what you would say to God and what He would say to you.

### Five Steps in Praying for the Lost

A helpful progression in praying for the lost is:

1. Cultivate a genuine concern and love for the lost.
2. Discover specific people in your concentric circles of relationship who are lost.
3. Pray appropriately and in detail for these specific persons.
4. Persist in prayer.
5. Thank God for each step He takes in moving them to salvation.

#### Step One: Cultivate a Genuine Concern

Christian history is replete with men and women whose burning heart so yearned for the salvation of the lost that they sacrificed health, comfort, and even family to gain for God those Christ-less souls He longed for. David Brainerd agonized so intensely in prayer for the Indians in New England that he is described as one who “wept himself to death.” He had to leave his missionary work because of tuberculosis. John Knox prayed, “Give me Scotland or I die!” As a missionary to India, William Carey agonized for seven years before he saw his first convert.

Ask God to impress on you the dread penalty of being lost. As Christians grow older, their security in the hands of God sometimes does the opposite of what it should do; it leads to a comfortable indifference to the awesome eternity of hell, instead of a grateful acknowledgement of our salvation in the form of witnessing. Ask God to increase your horror of hell and to give you a renewed vision of Christ suffering your own judgment.

#### Step Two: Discover Specific People

Prayer for the lost should be specific prayer. It should include prayer for specific individuals and specific requests for those individuals.

In the blanks below write the names of lost persons in the relationships named. Select persons that are closest to you at this time.

Neighbor/Suite-mate: \_\_\_\_\_

Friend: \_\_\_\_\_

Acquaintance (classmate, social, or work with): \_\_\_\_\_

Add them to your prayer list. Which of these three individuals do you think is closest to making a decision for Christ? \_\_\_\_\_

Which do you think is furthest from being ready to accept Christ?

\_\_\_\_\_

Step Three: Pray

In your prayer for these persons, remember that you can only impact God's side of the relationship; you cannot touch anything God would not touch. God leaves the will free. Anyone who accepts salvation must decide to do so. God will not force them.

Pray the following requests for each of the persons you listed above. Check below when you have prayed as indicated.

\_\_\_ Lord, bring effective witnesses, including me, across their path.

\_\_\_ Savior, arrange circumstances in their life in such a way that the very details of their living will point them to Christ.

\_\_\_ Lord, send your Holy Spirit in great power to convict them of their sin and their lost condition.

\_\_\_ Father, cause them to understand, through Your Holy Spirit, that Jesus is adequate for their salvation from sin.

Step Four: Persist in Prayer

Remember that God honors importunity, or persistence. Keep in mind that delayed answers are sometimes a test of your faith. Ask God to reveal new ways to pray for them, such as using their needs as pointers to Christ's sufficiency, or prodding their memory with Scripture they may have heard. Pray for specific individuals that may be able to impact their lives for Christ. Pray without wavering.

Step Five: Thank God

Ask God to sensitize you to the progress your target person is making toward salvation.

## APPOINTMENT IV: TALKING WITH OTHERS WHO KNOW GOD

### DEVELOPING OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD THROUGH FELLOWSHIP WITH OTHER BELIEVERS

#### Objectives:

1. To emphasize again that the Christian life is not a code of rules (religion) but a relationship with Jesus Christ
2. To identify the basic purposes of fellowship and set the ground work for the church, which will be expanded upon later.
3. To provide guidelines for healthy and positive interaction between believers.

#### Term Defined:

Fellowship - *Koinonia*, which means participation together, to share together, to fellowship, have in common

#### I. I John 1:3-7

- A. Fellowship is with other believers, with the Father, and with the Son.
- B. People who share in this fellowship don't walk in darkness (sin) but walk in the light, in purity and holiness. (that is, a growing maturity)

#### II. I Corinthians 1:9

God calls us into fellowship with His Son. (Later we will explain how sin interferes with our fellowship with Christ and how to deal with sin.)

#### III. II Corinthians 13:14

Talks about the fellowship of the Holy Spirit and how it is desired to be a part of our life. (Later we will talk about the Holy Spirit and His role in our life.)

#### IN SUMMARY

Fellowship is with the Father, the Son, the Holy Spirit, and with other believers who are walking in the Light.

#### IV. Hebrews 10:24-25

- A. Fellowship is helping one another and others live Godly lives.  
Verse 24 - Take time to consider a plan to help each other grow in love and good deeds or living out our faith.

It is important for us to take time to think and be intentional on how we can encourage each other in our walks.

Hebrews 10:25

1. We need each other, we are interdependent as a body, so don't forsake coming together (as is the habit of some - bad habit. Don't be independent apart from the body).
2. We must make the most of every day.

B. Hebrews 3:13

1. Fellowship is to be a daily activity (more than just Sunday)
2. It is much easier for a Christian to fall or give in to temptation when apart from the support of believers.

V. Romans 12:3-18

- A. Verse 3 Every believer has the same importance  
(You and I are not a big deal.)
- B. Vs. 4-5 God created us to work together. If a believer is not an active part of the body, that person's function must be performed by a different part of the body...not its proper function.
- C. Vs. 6-8 God has equipped every believer with talents, abilities, gifts for the purpose of ministry to and with the other parts of the body.
- D. Vs. 9-18 Standards for fellowship and treating one another properly.  
vs. 18 A Christian cannot control all aspects of a relationship, but he/she can make sure that his/her side of the relationship is being handled in a Godly manner.

SCRIPTURE MOST FREQUENTLY TALKS AND TEACHES ABOUT  
FELLOWSHIP IN THE CONTEXT OF THE LOCAL CHURCH

(Like Romans 12, the following passages are in the context of a local church.)

VI. Ephesians 4:11-16 - A Picture and Description of the Effects of a Healthy Local Fellowship (church)

- A. Vs. 11-15 God provides for our growth and maturing in the context of the fellowship of a local church.
- B. Vs. 15 Christ is the head of a healthy fellowship. (Church leadership must always be sensitive to His leadership.)
- C. Vs. 16 A healthy fellowship is a team, and every individual plays an important part or role.

VII. Philippians 1:3-11 - A Portrait of Healthy Growth

- Vs. 3            Thanking God for everyone
- Vs. 4            Praying for each other (with joy)
- Vs. 5            Everyone helping to reach the lost
- Vs. 6            Everyone mature together as a team
- Vs. 7-8         A healthy fellowship is close and caring.
- Vs. 9-11        A healthy fellowship is becoming more and more like Christ everyday.

VIII. Colossians 3:12-17 - Living in Harmony

- Vs. 12            God sees Christians as a people, not just many individuals.
- Vs. 12b-15      Our inner personal relationship with each other should display these traits.
- Vs. 16-17        Christ is always at the center of our fellowship.

IV. 1Thessalonians 2:17-3:10 - Fellowship Should be Like a Family, Close and Caring

- 2:17             Having been orphaned from you and eager to see your face
- 2:18-19         Our joy, our exultation ,etc.
- 3:1                Endure it no longer
- 3:2-8            Going though hard times together
- 3:9-10          Rejoicing, praying, and helping in one another's growth

V. Romans 15:5-7 and John 17:20-21

God's desire and prayer for unity in the fellowship of believers.

## APPOINTMENT V: TALKING WITH THOSE WHO DON'T KNOW THE LORD

### SHARING ABOUT CHRIST - WITNESSING

#### Objectives:

1. Show that outreach is an essential part of a healthy, balanced walk and lifestyle.
2. Explain the importance of evangelism from a Biblical perspective.
3. Explain that evangelism should be a natural outflow of our walk with the Lord.
4. Help them understand that evangelism is an essential part of making disciples.
5. Point out that prayer and dependence on the Holy Spirit are essential elements of evangelism.
6. Help them see how important it is for believers to be building significant relationships and healthy friendships with non-believers, while still maintaining a godly lifestyle.
7. Get them started on putting together their personal testimonies.

Evangelism is a natural response of wanting to tell others about the most important, exciting, and life changing relationship in our life.

Example: When one gets engaged, notice how excited they get in telling others about their fiancé.

#### Scriptural Explanations:

##### Luke 1:1-4, John 20:30-31

The Gospels are written records telling others about Jesus Christ. Gospel literally means “Good News”.

##### Luke 24:45-49

Christ instructs the apostles that repentance and the forgiveness of sins is to be preached to all the nations.

##### Luke 19:10

Explains “Son of Man”, Christ’s purpose for coming.

##### II Corinthians 5:14-15

Explains that the love of Christ is our motivation and that our purpose for living is no longer for our self but for Him, Christ.

##### Matthew 28:19-20 - The Great Commission

This passage explains God’s or Christ’s command to all of us to make disciples.

Note: Evangelism is a major aspect of the process. (Baptizing is a public testimony of our trusting Christ. The major command (an imperative) is to “make disciples”, and the aspects of this process, baptizing and teaching (to obey), are participles or aspects of the command.

\*Note the promise that follows. (I am with you always.)

Romans 10:13-17

Explain the passage, or have them read and explain it to you.

II Timothy 4:1-5

Explain the passage or have them read and explain it to you.

I Corinthians 15:1-5

(Have them read and explain)

Paul summarizes the main points of the Gospel.

Romans 9:1-3

Notice: Paul's burden for the Israelites.

Ask them if they have a burden for any individual or group of people they would like to see come to Christ.

Romans 10:1-4

Paul's prayer and desire for the lost.

Ask them if God has put anyone on their heart to pray for. (Share who you're praying for.)

Ephesians 6:19-20

Explain that many times we, too, need to pray for boldness. Share with them your personal experience as you explain this passage.

Colossians 4:2-6

Explain passage. Show how important:

1. Prayer is
2. God opening opportunities
3. Wisdom on what to say
4. Our personal conduct
5. How to respond to each person

I Peter 3:15

Explain:

1. Sanctify Christ as Lord
2. Always being ready
3. With gentleness and respect

II Corinthians 5:14-21

Explain this passage via discussion and questions and have them explain what it means to be an ambassador for Christ.

Acts 26

Note that Paul shares how he came to Christ in his defense before Agrippa.

1. Share your story (testimony)
- b. Help them get started in putting their story or testimony together.

## APPOINTMENT VI: BALANCING OUR WALK OR PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER

### Objectives:

1. To clarify that the Christian life is more a relationship with Jesus Christ than a bunch of religious activities
2. To demonstrate how to maintain balance in the Christian life and put together the four talk appointments through the wheel diagram
3. To provide practical principles for growing in Christ
4. To show how God changes us from the inside out
5. To provide tools and motivation for a daily quiet time

### I. Your relationship with God is like any relationship (4 spokes of the wheel)

#### Introduction

1. Think about the relationship you have with your girlfriend/boyfriend, best friend, mom dad, etc.
2. What would your relationship be like if you never talked with each other for a whole year?
3. What would your relationship be like if \_\_\_\_\_ did all the talking when you got together?"
4. How would it be if you did all the talking?
5. Communication is important in any relationship. It is a two-way street. The same is true of our relationship with Christ. We need to let Him communicate with us, and we need to communicate with Him. How is this done?

#### A. God communicates with us - the Bible (Appt. II)

#### B. We communicate with God - Prayer (Appt. III)

Two-way communication was essential for you and \_\_\_\_\_ (name of friend) to develop a relationship.

If boyfriend/girlfriend: Let's now assume that you and \_\_\_\_\_ are getting fairly serious and are seeing each other quite often. Do you think it would be safe to assume that after a while you would get to know \_\_\_\_\_'s friends and family? As you spend time with \_\_\_\_\_'s friends and family, you will learn more about \_\_\_\_\_.

This is also true in our relationship with Christ. As we spend time with others who know Christ, we learn more about Christ through them. This is called fellowship.

#### C. Spending time with fellow Christians - fellowship (Appt. IV)

After seeing \_\_\_\_\_ a lot and realizing that you're excited about this relationship, do you think that you would tell others about this special friend and your relationship? In the same way, as we grow closer to Christ and are excited about our relationship with Him, we tell other so that they can know Christ personally.

#### D. Sharing about Christ - witnessing (Appt. V)

## PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER-- THE WHEEL

II. A. “Let’s put this all together and see how it develops practically in our lives through what I call the wheel diagram.”

B. Draw the hub of a wheel. “Just as the driving force in a wheel comes from the hub, so the power to live the Christian life comes from Jesus Christ, the center. He lives in us in the person of the Holy Spirit, whose expressed purpose is to glorify Christ.” Write “Christ” in the hub of the wheel as you explain the wheel diagram to the person. Do the same for each part of the wheel as you explain it.

C. The rim represents the Christian responding to Christ through wholehearted, day-by-day obedience to Him. Put “The Obedient Christian in Action” in the rim.

D. Review briefly the earlier appointments through the wheel diagram, filling in each spoke as you cover each point.

1. Christ is in the center of our life. Our relationship is developed with Him through, first of all, God speaking to us, and that comes through studying God’s Word as we reviewed earlier in Matt. 4:4-11. The Word is our spiritual food, as well as our sword for spiritual battle. It is the foundational spoke for effective Christian living (e.g. Matt. 4:4 and II Timothy 3:15-17).

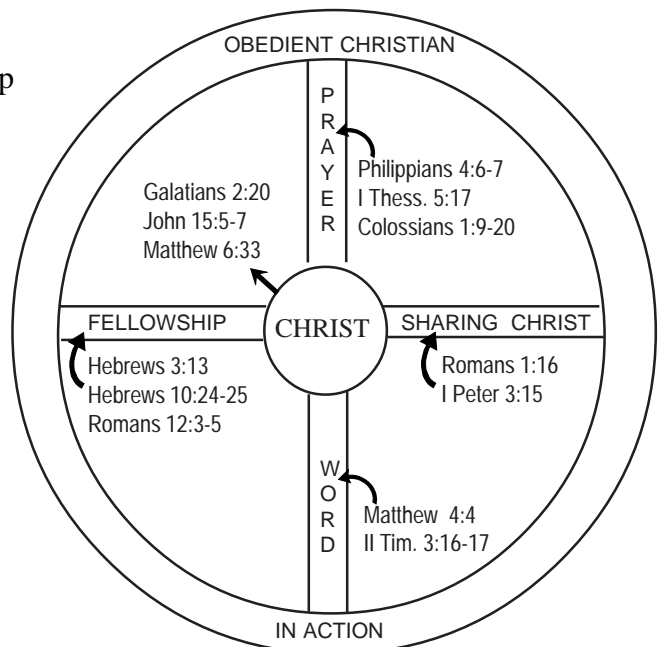
2. Prayer is our second important talk or spoke. It is us talking to God, sharing about the lives to Him. Through this direct communication, we acknowledge our dependence, telling Him about our needs, our life, and interceding for others, as we grow and trust in Him.(e.g. Phil. 4:6-7, I Thess. 5:17, Col. 1:9-10)

3. The *vertical spokes* point to our relationship with God. As a result of these, we also have *horizontal spokes* in our lives: Our relationships with people - believers through Christian fellowship, and non-believers, through sharing with them about Christ.

4. Our left spoke might be labeled fellowship, the gathering together of Christians to encourage each other as described in Heb.10:24-25, Heb.3:13, Romans 12:3-5.

5. Our right spoke might be labeled sharing about Christ. The first three spokes prepare us for passing on to others all that we have received from the Lord. Remember I Peter 3:15.

E. Discuss what would happen to the wheel and its operation if one of the components were missing or uneven (hub, rim spokes). Relate that to the Christian life and how smooth/well it would go without full spokes, rim, and hub in action.



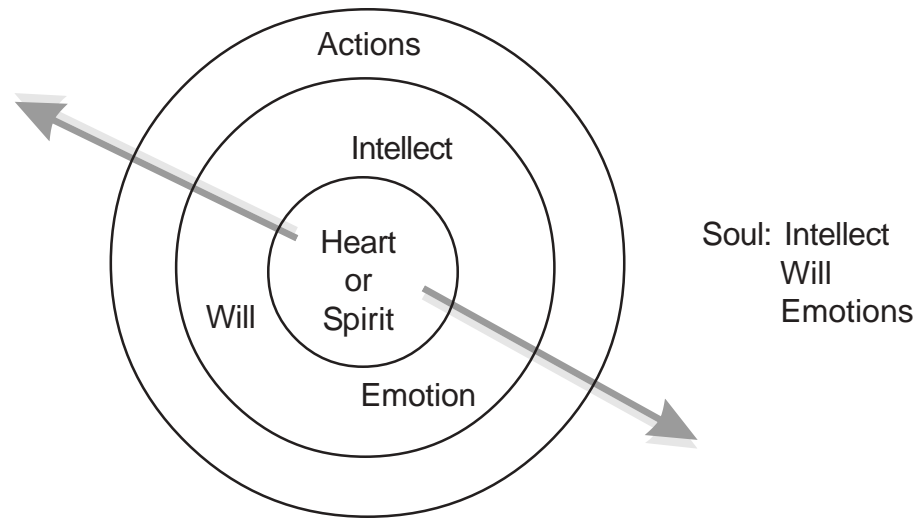
### III. TIME, ADVERSITY, AND SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD (See Adsit p. 204-208)

- A. Write Time, Adversity and Sovereignty of God on the paper.
- B. “There is something else you should know. Spiritual growth is just like physical growth in many ways. Spiritual growth takes *time*, is enhanced by *adversity*, and is *sovereignly* directed by God.”
  - 1. Time
    - a. There are no short cuts.
    - b. God takes His time.
    - c. Quality requires time.
    - d. Complexity requires time.
    - e. Be patient. Time will pass
  - 2. Adversity
    - a. Adversity enhances growth.
    - b. Expect both good and bad.
    - c. No pain - no gain.
  - 3. Sovereignty of God
    - a. God is always in control (Jeremiah 29:11, I Corinthians 10:13)
    - b. God knows, even if we don't.

### IV. GOD CHANGES US FROM THE INSIDE OUT

- A. Explain that when we receive Christ, John 1:12, Christ comes into the core of our being, often referred to as our heart or spirit.
- B. Philippians 2:13  
Christ then works in our heart, in concert with the Holy Spirit working in our spirit.
- C. Ephesians 3:16-17  
Paul prays here for the internal work of god through the Holy Spirit and the love of Christ.
- D. Hebrews 4:12 talks about how God uses the Word to change us from the inside out, “it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit”.

The illustration on the next page is an attempt to show how God works from the inside out. He starts at the core of our being, “heart or spirit”, and as we respond to His work through our inner workings, (the soul-ish part of mankind made up of intellect, will, and emotion, which is our second layer) it is manifested in our third layer, our actions.



God changes us from the inside out.

Matthew 23:25-26, Psalm 51:10, Psalm 119:9-11, I Samuel 16:7, Romans 8:26-27

## V. REVIEW

- A. "In closing, remember that Christianity is a *relationship with the person of Christ* - being a child of His as described in John 1:12, and responding to His love for us demonstrated to us by His death, as described for us in I Corinthians 13:4-7".
- B. "Christianity is a love relationship with Jesus Christ and not a religion with a bunch of do's and don'ts. God does, however, desire us to be obedient to Him, but it comes from our response to His love, trusting Him that He want our best (i.e., faith)."
- C. God changes us from the inside out.

## VI. DAILY QUIET TIME

- A. When finishing this appointment, suggest and encourage the individual to have a time with the Lord each day. Tell him this is often called a "quiet time".
- B. Suggest a time slot of about 20 minutes. Spend this time partly in prayer (talking to God) and partly in Bible study (God talks back).

- C. Encourage him/her to start in the book of John. Explain that it focuses on Christ and is easy to understand. Suggest a chapter or two a day and look for applications to him/her personally—e.g., “How does this apply to my life?” or “What does this mean to me?”
- D. Next, suggest the importance of finding a place where he/she won’t be distracted, like a dorm room or quiet lounge.
- E. Hand him/her the worksheet, explaining that it will be helpful in reviewing what was discussed. Put down a specific time that you two will meet again.

## VI. CLOSING

- A. Thank him/her for the time and get feedback on your time together. Ask him/her if he/she has any questions. Don’t be afraid to express excitement and enthusiasm as long as it is natural, not artificial.

## DEVELOPING OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

Communication is important in any relationship. It is a two-way street.

**BIBLE - God Communicates With Us**

Read II Timothy 3:15-17

1. What can the Bible do for us?
2. God uses the Bible to speak specially to us. What does Romans 8:28 say?
3. What does God say about the bad things that happen to us?

**PRAYER - How I talk to God**

Read Philippians 4:6-7

1. What does the phrase "be anxious for nothing" mean?
2. What's the result if we talk to God about everything in our lives? (vs. 7)

Prayer is a personal, casual conversation with God about all that goes on in our lives, both good and bad.

**FELLOWSHIP - Spending Time With Fellow Christians**

As we spend more time with others who know Christ, we learn more about Christ through them.

Hebrews 10:24-25

SHARE CHRIST - As you grow close to Christ, you are excited about him and want to tell others

1. What does I Peter 3:15 say?

- a. Set apart Christ in your hearts (refers to our walk)
- b. Be prepared to give an answer (able to share about our faith)
- c. With gentleness and respect (refers to our attitude toward people)

2. Luke 15:8-10

Notice God's great joy when someone comes to Christ.

Christianity is a love relationship with Jesus and not a religion with a bunch of do's and don'ts.

Read II Corinthians 5:14

## ACTION PLAN

1. Develop a Prayer List
2. Begin reading John
3. Set aside time each day  
to pray and learn more  
about God through the Bible

## APPOINTMENT VII: EXPERIENCING GOD'S LOVE & FORGIVENESS

### Objectives:

1. To show we can have daily fellowship with God
2. To show how to maintain daily fellowship with God
3. To establish a foundation for later explaining the ministry of the Holy Spirit

### I. THREE KINDS OF PEOPLE (I Corinthians 2:14-3:3)

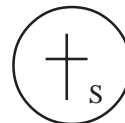
A. Ask the person you're following-up to read I Corinthians 2:14-3:3 and pick Out 3 people. Diagram and label each "man".

1. Natural man (vs. 14): *"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."* This is a person in his natural state—

without Christ. His own nature or Self is "on the throne", ruling his/her decisions, desires, etc. Christ is on the outside of his/her life.



natural man



spiritual man



carnal man

2. Spiritual man (vs. 15-16): *"The spiritual man makes judgments about all things, but he himself is not subject to any man's judgment...but we have the mind of Christ."* This is the person who has asked Christ into his/her life and has Him on the throne, ruling his/her desires, decisions, etc. The old sinful nature or Self is still present but not in control.

3. Carnal man (vs. 3:1-3): *"Brothers, I could not address you as spiritual but as worldly—mere infants in Christ..."* the word "carnal" means "flesh" just as "carnivorous" means "flesh-eating". This person is a carnal/worldly/fleshly Christian—i.e., he or she has asked Christ into his or her life, but he or she is not allowing Christ to rule. Christ is still present in this person's life, but He is not on the throne. Decisions, desires, etc. are based on Self. (Note that "flesh" spelled backwards without the "h" is "self").

B. Spend time talking about the characteristics (outward & inward) of each man. For example, the "carnal man"

1. may be immoral
2. may be trying to live the Christian life in his own efforts
3. may be going against what he knows God wants him to do in less obvious areas.
4. may only be partially yielded to Christ
5. may "grieve the Holy Spirit" (Eph. 4:30) by doing things he knows God doesn't want him to do

C. Compare and contrast the three types of "man". For example, outwardly, the natural and carnal man may be identical.

## II. HOUSE DIAGRAM (Also see booklet called “My Heart Christ’s Home”)

The purpose of this illustration is to show that God wants to be a part of every aspect of our lives.

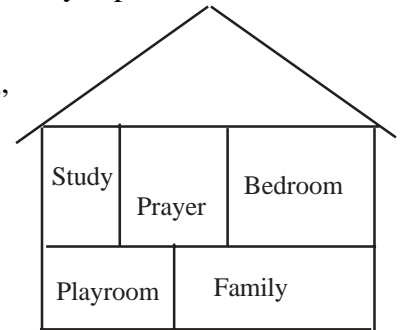
A. Draw a house with several rooms. Label them family room, study, bedroom, kitchen, etc. Be sure to call one room the “party” or “play” room, and one room “prayer room” or “prayer closet”.

B. Explain that this home represents our lives, with each room being a different aspect. For example, the “family room” represents one’s relationship with one’s family. The “play room” is one’s leisure time. The “study” is one’s study and class time. The “prayer room” represents one’s spiritual activities—i.e., prayer life, church, Sunday School, etc.

C. Tell your young Christian that God wants to be a part of everything we do, every aspect of our lives. He wants and loves to help us.

D. Explain that the carnal man has Christ in his house but has shut him into the prayer room. He isn’t allowing Christ into the other rooms or areas of his or her life.

E. Explain that there are some rooms that you are not allowing Christ to be in – that is, areas of your life that you are not entrusting to Him. You may not realize this at first. As you grow closer to Him, He makes you aware of these parts of your life. When He does, let Him have access to those rooms, or trust those areas of your life to His care and control.



## III. SIN CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

A. Definition of sin – Go over these verses on sin.

1. Romans 14:23 – Whatever is not of faith is sin.
2. Hebrews 11:6 – Without faith, it is impossible to please God.
3. Isaiah 64:6

B. Sin is doing what we want instead of what God wants, in both attitude and action.

C. Basis for forgiveness of sin

1. Read John 1:29. Ask “Why did Jesus come?” (to take away sin)
2. Read Colossians 2:13.
  - a. How many of your sins did Christ forgive when He died for you? (all)
  - b. What about those sins you haven’t done yet, like those you will do next year? (He died for those, too.)
3. Has He forgiven you for those already? (yes)
4. Point out that if He hadn’t, then He would have to continue to come back to die.
5. Read 2 Corinthians 5:21. Christ had no sin of His own, so He is able to pay for ours.

6. Hebrews 10:10-17
  - a. First explain that Jews gave yearly sacrifices for sin as a sign of the coming Messiah. (The offering of sacrifices is explained more in vs. 1-10.) In vs. 10-17, we see that Christ came to take away our sins.
  - b. Explain what “sanctify” means. (to set apart for Holy use)
  - c. Ask “By whose sacrifice are we sanctified?” (vs. 10 – Jesus’)
  - d. “By this sacrifice, what did He do?” (vs. 14 – took away all sin)
  - e. “How long did the sacrifice cover sin?” (vs. 14 – for all time)
  
7. *Transition to next topic:* Now the question arises, “Why can’t I go out and sin all I want? I am already forgiven, aren’t I?” How would you answer that?

D. Why we can’t sin habitually

1. Read 2 Corinthians 5:17 – We are new creatures.
2. I Corinthians 2:16 – We have the mind of Christ
3. Because we have a new nature.
  - a. “Husband-wife” analogy: If a wife says she’ll love her husband no matter what he does, what would be his reaction? Because of her love, he would *want to please her*. Our reaction towards God should be the same. Since He loves us so much, we will not want to sin against Him because of our love for Him.
4. Because we don’t want to break fellowship with Him.
  - a. We don’t want to sin so we can enjoy fellowship with God and experience the abundant life.
  - b. We are eternally forgiven, but we may not be experiencing the forgiveness on a day-by-day basis. We may feel guilty in some way.
5. *Transition:* God loves us so much that He wants us to enjoy constant fellowship with Him. So, He has provided a way for us to deal with sin and guilt.
  - a. Ask, “How do we remedy the problem of being out of fellowship with God?” “How do we deal with sin?” “What do you do?”

E. Confession – Confession is how we maintain fellowship with God.

1. I John 1:9
  - a. We need to confess sin to God. The context is fellowship, and thus, this verse is describing experiential forgiveness. We are already totally, legally forgiven before God.
  - b. “What does confess mean?” (It means to agree or say the same thing that God says about sin.)
  - c. “What does God say about sin?” (It is displeasing to Him although it is forgiven already.)
  - d. Thus, confession is a sincere heart expression of these two elements to God. Real confession involves:
    - i. Agreeing with God that what you did was sin and displeasing to Him
    - ii. Repentance – a change in attitude and action toward that sin

2. Are we forgiven because we confess? (no)
3. Then why confess?
  - a. To restore fellowship with God from our side
  - b. To remind us of our forgiveness so we can experience what is already true of us in God's sight
4. God isn't interested in special words, but in sincerity of heart.

## EXPERIENCING GOD'S LOVE AND FORGIVENESS

### I. THREE KINDS OF PEOPLE (I Corinthians 2:14-3:3)

#### A. Read I Corinthians 2:14-3:3 and notice the three kinds of people:

1. Natural Man (vs. 14): *“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.”* This is a person in his natural state—without Christ. His own nature of Self is “on the throne,” ruling his/her decisions, desires, etc. Christ is on the outside of his/her life.
  
2. Spiritual Man (vs. 15-16): *“The spiritual man makes judgment...but we have the mind of Christ.”* This is the person who has asked Christ into his/her life and has Him on the throne, ruling his/her desires, decisions, etc. The old sinful nature or Self is still present but not in control.
  
3. Carnal Man (vs. 3:1-3): *“Brothers, I could not address you as spiritual but as worldly - mere infants in Christ...”* The word “carnal” means “flesh” just as “carnivorous” means “flesh-eating”. This person is a carnal/worldly/fleshly Christian-i.e., he or she has asked Christ into his or her life, but he or she is not allowing Christ to rule. Christ is still present in this person’s life, but He is not on the throne. Decisions, desires, etc. are based on Self.

#### B. Think about the characteristics (outward & inward) of each man. For example, the “carnal man.”

1. may be immoral
2. may be trying to live the Christian life in his own efforts
3. may be going against what he knows God wants him to do in less obvious areas
4. may be only partially yielded to Christ
5. may “grieve the Holy Spirit” (Ephesians 4:30) by doing things he knows God doesn’t want him to do

Now write down 3 or 4 characteristics that describe the “natural man” and the “spiritual man.”

Natural Man

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_

### Spiritual Man

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_

Compare and contrast the three types of “man”. For example, outwardly the natural man and the carnal man may be identical.

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## II. HOUSE DIAGRAM

The purpose of this illustration is to show that God wants to be a part of every aspect of our lives.

- A. Draw a house with several rooms. Label them family room, study, bedroom, kitchen, etc. Be sure to call one room the “party” or “play” room, and one room the “prayer” room or “prayer closet”.
- B. Understand that this home represents our lives, with each room being a different aspect. For example, the “family” room represents one’s relationship with one’s family. The “play” room is one’s leisure time. The “study” is one’s study and class time. The “prayer” room represents one’s spiritual activities – e.g., prayer life, church, Sunday school, etc.
- C. God wants to be a part of *everything* we do, every aspect of our lives. He loves us and wants to help us.
- D. The Carnal man has Christ in his house but has shut him into the prayer room. He isn’t allowing Christ into the other rooms or areas of his or her life.
- E. There are some rooms that you are not allowing Christ to be in – that is, areas of your life that you are not entrusting to Him. You may not realize this at first. As you grow closer to Him, He makes you aware of these parts of your life. When He does, let Him have access to those rooms, or trust those areas of your life to His care and control.

### III. SIN, CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

#### A. **Definition of Sin** – Read and summarize the following verses:

1. Romans 14:23

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2. Hebrews 11:6

---

3. Isaiah 64:6

---

Sin is doing what we want instead of what God wants, in both attitude and action.

#### B. **Basis for Forgiveness of Sin**

1. Read John 1:29. Why did Jesus come?

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2. Read Colossians 2:13

a. How many of your sins did Christ forgive when He died for you?

---

b. What about those sins you haven't done yet, like those you will do next year? Has He forgiven you for those?

---

3. If He hadn't, then He would have to continue to come back to die.

4. Read II Corinthians 5:21. Christ had no sin of His own, so He was able to pay for ours.

5. Hebrews 10:10-17

a. Jews gave yearly sacrifices for sin as a sign of the coming Messiah (the offering of sacrifices is explained more in vs. 1-10). In vs. 10-17 we see that Christ came to take away our sins.

b. In verse 10 it states that "we have been made holy", which means to set apart for holy use.

c. By whose sacrifice are we made holy? (vs.10)

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d. By this sacrifice, what did He do? (vs.14) \_\_\_\_\_

e. How long did the sacrifice cover sin? (vs.14)

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#### C. **Now the question arises, Why can't I go out and sin all I want?**

1. Read II Corinthians 5:17

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2. I Corinthians 2:16

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3. Romans 8:4

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# ACTION PLAN

## Lesson Three

1. List all your life activities in the house model.
2. List things that may distract your walk.
3. Pray for your five friends that don't know God.
4. Invite one person to a church activity this week or set aside time to spend with them.
5. Make a date with God. Set aside a special time to get away with God.

# HOW TO BE FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

## I. Who is the Holy Spirit?

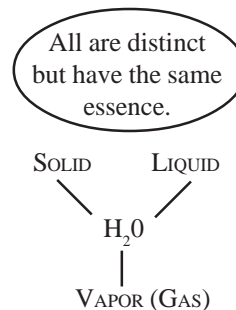
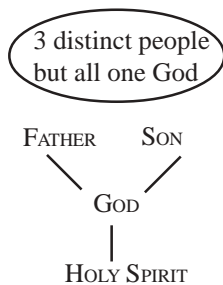
### A. The Holy Spirit is a person with a personality

1. Intellect - I Corinthians 2:11 \_\_\_\_\_
2. Emotion - Ephesians 4:30 \_\_\_\_\_
3. Will - I Corinthians 12:11 \_\_\_\_\_

### B. The Holy Spirit is God, equal with God the Father and God the Son

- Matthew 28:19 \_\_\_\_\_
1. Eternal - Hebrews 9:14 \_\_\_\_\_
  2. Omniscient - John 16:13-14 \_\_\_\_\_
  3. Omnipotent - Genesis 1:2 \_\_\_\_\_

### C. Trinity



## II. Holy Spirit's Role in our lives

Why did the Holy Spirit come? How can we allow the Spirit to empower us to live the Christian life?

A. **FLESH** Galatians 5:19-21

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Man has a basic sinful nature:

**SPIRIT** Galatians 5:22-23

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It's the Holy Spirit's job to produce our fruit.

## NOW THE PROBLEM





B.

Galatians 5:17

1. What does the flesh do? \_\_\_\_\_
2. What does the spirit do? \_\_\_\_\_
3. What is the result? \_\_\_\_\_

Galatians 5:16

1. What is the solution? \_\_\_\_\_
2. What is the result? \_\_\_\_\_

This does not mean you will not have temptation, but you will have the power to resist it.

C. Holy Spirit's job

1. One becomes a Christian through the ministry of the Holy Spirit.  
Summarize John 3:1-8

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2. The Holy Spirit dwells with the new Christian.

John 1:12 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Colossians 2:9,10 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

John 14: 16,17 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**THOUGH THE HOLY SPIRIT DWELLS IN ALL CHRISTIANS, NOT ALL ARE FILLED, DIRECTED AND EMPOWERED BY THE SPIRIT.**

3. Source of the overflowing life - John 7: 37-39

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4. Holy Spirit glorifies Christ - John 16:5-15

---

5. Holy Spirit allows us to be witnesses for him - Acts 1:1-9

---

D. How can I be filled with the Holy Spirit?

1. By faith (entrusting ourselves to God's purposes and direction)
2. Sincerely desire to be directed and empowered by the Holy Spirit

Matthew 5:6 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

John 7:37-39 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. Confess your sins.
4. Present all areas of your life to God.
5. By faith, claim the fullness of the Holy Spirit according to scripture.

Ephesians 5:17,18 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

I John 5:14,15 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

# ACTION PLAN

1. Develop your personal testimony
2. Share your faith with one person this week
3. Pick out one Bible verse that you want to live by and make your “life verse”.
4. Pray that you will be filled with the Holy Spirit.

## APPOINTMENT VIII: HOW TO BE FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

### Objectives:

1. To answer the following questions:
  - a. Who is the Holy Spirit?
  - b. Why did He come?
  - c. How can a person be filled with the Holy Spirit?
2. To give the person an opportunity to pray to be filled with the Holy Spirit
3. To help the person to know how he can be sure that he/she is filled

### I. INTRODUCING THE HOLY SPIRIT

- A. Do you remember that last time we talked about confession? Today I want to talk about the third person of the Trinity—the Holy Spirit.
- B. In spite of the fact that the Holy Spirit is said to play an important role in the life of the Christian, most Christians don't understand:
  1. Who the Holy Spirit is
  2. Why the Holy Spirit came
  3. How we can allow the Holy Spirit to empower us to live the Christian life

### II. WHO IS THE HOLY SPIRIT?

(For the sake of time, you may want to list these verses rather than look them up together.)

#### A. The Holy Spirit is a person.

1. Not an "it"
2. He possesses the attributes of personality.
  - a. *Intellect*
    - i. I Corinthians 2:11 – knows the thoughts of God
    - ii. Acts 13:2 – Holy Spirit said
  - b. *Emotion* (Ephesians 4:30 – Holy Spirit can be grieved.)
  - c. *Will* (I Corinthians 12:11 – Holy Spirit determines.)
3. Every human person has these attributes. The Holy Spirit has them, too.

#### B. The Holy Spirit is God.

1. Co-equal with God the Father and God the Son (Matthew 28:19)
2. He is called God (1 Corinthians 3:16-17, Acts 5:3-4, John 15)

#### C. The Holy Spirit has the attributes of Deity.

1. *Eternal* (Hebrews 9:14)
2. *Omniscient – All knowing* (John 16:13-14)
3. *Omnipresent – All present* (Genesis 1:2)

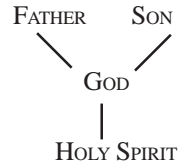
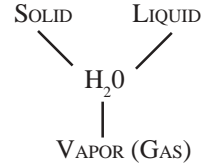
#### D. The Trinity

*The Trinity can never be fully explained because of our finite brains, but give your new Christian a basic grasp of the concept.*

1. Read Genesis 1:26. Here God is referred to in plural form.
2. Draw the diagram at the right.

Explain that although there are 3 distinct persons, they are all one God.

3. Use the following analogy to clarify.
  - a. What forms does water exist in?
  - b. Which of these is water?
  - c. All are water. They are distinct, but have the same *essence or essential nature*.



4. The 3 parts of an egg (shell, yolk and white/albumen) is another analogy for the Trinity.

### III. HOLY SPIRIT'S ROLE IN OUR LIVES

A. Now we're going to answer the questions:

1. Why did the Holy Spirit come?
2. How we can allow the Holy Spirit to empower us to live the Christian life?

B. Review

1. Do you remember the last time we talked about three kinds of people?
2. Do you remember what they were?
3. Do you think that you can draw the circles that describe each type of person?
4. On what basis does the *natural* man make decisions?
5. On what basis does the *spiritual* man make decisions?
6. On what basis does the *carnal* man make decisions?



C. Conflict of the flesh and the Spirit

*This is a very important section. Go over it slowly.*

1. Remember that 'carnal' means "fleshly". Carnal has the same root that makes up the word "carnivorous" or flesh-eating."

2. *The Flesh*

- a. Write FLESH inside of a box
- b. Read Galatians 5:19-21
- c. Not a pretty picture, huh? Man has a basic selfish nature, and he tries to hide it by building around it a façade of social acceptability or responsibility."

FLESH

3. *The Spirit*

- a. Next to the Flesh box, draw a SPIRIT box.
- b. Read Galatians 5:22-23
- c. What are these qualities called?
- d. Why is fruit singular?
- e. One way to tell if you are in the Spirit or Flesh is to look at the fruit of the Spirit. If one of the characteristics is not in your life at that moment, you are operating in the flesh.
- f. Whose job is it to produce the fruit? (The Holy Spirit's)
- g. There is a problem, however. Even though we have the Holy Spirit, the Flesh is not automatically canceled out."

SPIRIT

#### 4. *The Spirit vs. the Flesh*

- a. Read Galatians 5:17
- b. Draw arrows between the 2 boxes.
- c. What does the Flesh do? (Wars against the Spirit)
- d. What does the Spirit do? (Wars against the Flesh)
- e. What is the result? (We don't do the things that we want to do)
- f. Read Romans 7:15-25. Talk about how Paul had the same struggle inside of him.



#### 5. *The Solution*

- a. Read Galatians 5:16
- b. What is the solution to all of this? (Walk in the Spirit)
- c. We need to be dependent on God. We must entrust ourselves to the Holy Spirit.
- d. What is the result of walking in the Spirit? (We don't carry out the desires of the Flesh.)
- e. We either walk in the Flesh or in the Spirit. There is no middle ground.
- f. This doesn't mean that you won't have temptation, but you'll have power to not carry it out.

### IV. HOLY SPIRIT'S FUNCTION

- A. One becomes a Christian through the ministry of the Holy Spirit according to John 3:1-8.
  1. From the moment of spiritual birth, the Christian is indwelt by the Holy Spirit at all times (John 1:12, Colossians 2:9-10, John 14:16-17).
  2. However, although all Christians are indwelt by the Holy Spirit, not all Christians are filled (directed & empowered) by the Holy Spirit.
- B. The Holy Spirit is the source of the overflowing life (John 7:37-39).
- C. The Holy Spirit came to glorify Christ and exemplify Christ's character (John 16:5-15). When one is filled with the Holy Spirit, he is a true disciple of Christ.
- D. In His last command before His ascension, Christ promised the power of the Holy Spirit to enable us to be witnesses for Him (Acts 1:1-9).

### V. HOW CAN ONE BE FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT?

- A. We are filled (directed & empowered) by the Holy Spirit by faith (entrusting ourselves to God's purposes and direction).
- B. You can appropriate the filling or control of the Holy Spirit now or at any time by:
  1. Sincerely desiring to be directed and empowered by the Holy Spirit (Matthew 5:6, John 7:37-39).
  2. Confessing your sins. By faith, thank God that He has forgiven all of your sins—past, present and future because Christ died for you (Colossians 2:13-15, I John 1, I John 2:1-3, Hebrews 10:1-17).
  3. Present all areas of your life to God (Romans 12:1-2).

4. By faith, claim the fullness of the Holy Spirit according to the command and Promise of Scripture.
  - a. His command – *Be filled with the Spirit* (Ephesians 5:17-18)
  - b. His promise – *This is the confidence we have in approaching God: That if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us—whatever we ask—We know that we have what we asked of him. (1 John 5:14-15)*
    - i. He will always answer when we pray according to His Will. His command to be filled is His Will. Thus, when we pray to filled, we're filled!
5. Our faith is often expressed through prayer (talking to God).  
When we desire or recognize the need to give control of our life to God (the Holy Spirit), all we need to do is express this through prayer by simply asking Him to take control and direct our lives.
6. Asking the Lord to fill you with the Holy Spirit is something every Christian needs to do every day, all the time.
7. Review Steps 1-4.

## VI. MAKING SURE THAT YOU HAVE COMMUNICATED ACCURATELY.

- A. “Can you say *right now* that you are filled with the Spirit?”
  1. If they say “yes”, ask them how they know for sure. Review if they can’t answer clearly.
  2. If they say that they are not, ask them if they’d like to be. Then both of you pray to be filled.
  3. If they say that they are unsure, ask them if they’d like to be sure. Then show them how.
  4. Remind them not to depend upon feelings, but the promises of God’s Word to know that they are filled.
    - a. Our confidence is based on our trustworthiness of God Himself and His Word (Hebrews 11:6).
    - b. Remind them of the “train” illustration: You might not *feel* different, but trust in the fact that you are filled.
    - c. Remember, being filled is a *volitional choice*, not some emotional experience.

## PNEUMATOLOGY

(The Doctrine of the Holy Spirit)

In his book, *The Holy Spirit*, Edward Bickersteth writes, “No one can read the Old and New Testaments without being aware of the indications of a mighty mysterious Being called the Spirit of God or the Spirit of Jehovah.” The use of symbols such as breath, wind, power, fire, oil and water would tend to suggest that this Being is impersonal – but it is the evidence of the word of God that He is a Person, a member of the Godhead, and distinguished from the Father and the Son.

### 1. The Personality of the Holy Spirit

#### a. He possesses such qualities as only a person can possess (intelligence, affection, will)

His knowledge - I Corinthians 2:10-11  
His love - Romans 15:30  
His mind - Romans 8:27  
His will - I Corinthians 12:11  
His grief - Ephesians 4:30

#### b. He performs such actions as only a person can perform

He creates - Job 33:4; Isaiah 40:13; John 3:5  
He strives - Genesis 6:3  
He convicts the world - John 16:8  
He performs miracles - Ezekiel 3:12-14; Acts 2:4  
He caused Mary  
to conceive - Luke 1:35  
He inspired the  
sacred writers - II Peter 1:21  
He speaks expressly - I Timothy 4:1; Revelation 2:7  
He appoints - Acts 20:28  
He commands and  
forbids - Acts 8:29; 11:12  
He teaches, comforts  
guides - John 14:26  
He bears witness - Romans 8:15

#### c. The Holy Spirit is capable of suffering as only a person can suffer.

He can be vexed - Isaiah 63:10  
He can be grieved - Ephesians 4:30  
He can be blasphemed – Mark 3:29  
He can be lied against - Acts 5:3,9  
He can be insulted - Hebrews 10:29; Acts 7:51

#### d. The Holy Spirit is called another Comforter and is designated by the use of personal pronouns – another Comforter (of the same kind) – John 14:16; 14:26; 15:26

## 1. The Old Testament History of the Holy Spirit.

He is involved in creation (Genesis 1:2; Psalm 104:30), and in the flood He strives with man. He comes upon Moses (Numbers 11:17), Bezaleel (Exodus 31:2-3), Balaam (Numbers 24:2. He instructed Israel (Nehemiah 9:19-20); came upon Joshua, the son of Nun (Numbers 27:18); ministered through the prophets (II Chronicles 24:20), and they prophesied of the coming Messiah who will be anointed by the same Spirit (Isaiah 61:1).

## 2. The Holy Spirit's Relationship to Christ:

Jesus was born of the Spirit (Matthew 1:18-20)

Jesus grew and waxed strong in the Spirit (Luke 2:40)

Jesus was baptized by the Spirit (Matthew 3:16-17; Mark 1:10-11; Luke 3:21-22;  
John 1:32-33)

Jesus was sealed by the Spirit (John 6:27)

Jesus was led into the wilderness (Matthew 4:1)

Jesus was anointed by the Spirit (Acts 10:38; Luke 4:16-21)

Jesus ministered in the Spirit – evangelist, teacher, physician, Savior

Jesus offered Himself by the Spirit (Hebrews 9:14)

Jesus was raised by the Spirit (Romans 1:4, 8:11; I Peter 3:18-19)

Jesus gives gifts through the Spirit (Ephesians 4:8-12)

## 3. The Deity of the Holy Spirit

a. Divine names are given to Him (Acts 5:3,4; II Corinthians 3:18)

b. Divine attributes are ascribed to Him:

Eternality - Hebrews 9:14

Omnipresence - Psalm 139:7-10

Omnipotence - Luke 1:35

Omniscience - I Corinthians 2:10-11; John 14:26

c. Divine works are performed by Him:

Creation - Psalm 104:30; Job 33:4

Imparting of

life - Romans 8:11; John 3:3-8

Author of the Scriptures

- II Peter 1:21; Ephesians 6:17; Hebrews 1:1

d. He is associated with the Godhead:

In the divine commission (Matthew 28:19)

In the administration of the Church (I Corinthians 12:4-6)

In the apostolic benediction (II Corinthians 13:14)

## 4. The Promise and Advent of the Holy Spirit

a. The Promise:

Old Testament - Joel 2:28-32

New Testament - John 7:37-39; 14:16-26; 15:26; 16:7-15; Acts 1:4-8

- a. The Advent: Acts 2:1-21  
Feast of Pentecost (Leviticus 23:17)
2. The Ministry of the Holy Spirit to the Christian:
- a. To regenerate - John 3:3-8; Titus 3:5; Ephesians 2:1; I Peter 1:23;  
John 6:63; James 1:18
  - b. To indwell - John 14:16-17; I Corinthians 3:16; Galatians 4:6;  
Romans 8:9-11
  - c. To seal - Ephesians 1:13
  - d. To intercede - Romans 8:26-27
  - e. To teach - John 14:26; 16:13-14
  - f. To comfort and abide - John 14: 16-17
  - g. To empower - Acts 1:8; John 15: 26-27
  - h. To minister in gifts - I Corinthians 12:14
  - i. To baptize - I Corinthians 12:13  
Note: This baptism has to do with our being identified with the body of Christ. It is positional.
  - j. To fill - Ephesians 5:17-18

We are not commanded to seek the baptism of the Holy Spirit; we are told to seek His filling. We are exhorted to live in the Spirit and walk in the Spirit, i.e., to be controlled by the Spirit of God. The filling of God's Spirit may be a sovereign act of God, or the result of our yieldedness and obedience.

3. The Ministry of the Holy Spirit to the Unbeliever. John 16:7-11 – “when He is come, (unto you) He will...”
- a. Convict the world of sin (the sin of unbelief) Acts 2:36-38
  - b. Convict the world of their need of righteousness, which is Christ alone (Romans 10:1-13)
  - c. Convict the world that the prince of this world has been judged.

“The Comforter in every part of his threefold work glorifies Christ. In convincing us of the sin of not believing on Christ. In convincing us of righteousness, he convinces us of the righteousness of Christ, of that righteousness which was made manifest in Christ going to the Father, and which he received to bestow on all such as should believe in him. And, lastly, in convincing of judgment, he convinces us that the prince of the world was judged in the life and death of Christ. Thus, throughout, Christ is glorified; and that which the Comforter shows to us relates in all parts to the life and work of the Incarnate Son of God.”

Julius C. Hare



# ACTION PLAN

1. Share the bridge with a non-Christian this week.
2. Involve yourself in something new this week that will allow you to meet a new person. Who have you met this week?
3. List two or three people who have significantly influenced your life and why.

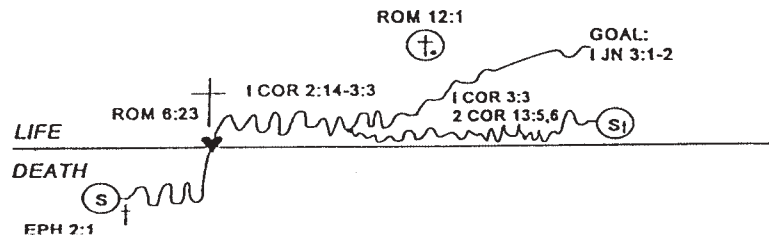
## APPOINTMENT IX: WALKING IN THE SPIRIT

### Objectives:

1. To explain to the person the challenge of growing in the Lordship of Christ.
2. To stress the place of maturity in the Christian life.
3. To solidify the concept of “spiritual breathing”.

### I. CHRISTIAN LIFE DIAGRAM

- A. Explain that you will be trying a lot of things together today, especially the two aspects of confession and being filled with the Spirit that you hit upon the last two weeks.
- B. Show your new Christian the diagram below, explaining it and looking up the verses as you go.

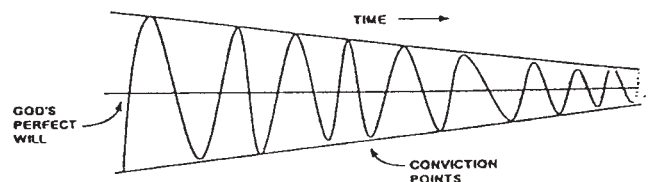


1. Refer to the line dividing spiritual life and death. Draw the “natural man” below the line, and read Ephesians 2:1, which talks about existing death.
2. Draw the person’s “life line”, crossing into life at the point of the cross. Read Romans 6:23.
3. Read I Corinthians 2:14-3:3 stressing that after a “natural man” crosses into life, he has two choices.
  - a. Draw out the carnal “life line”, explaining that although Christ (represented by the cross) is in the life, Christ is not empowering it.
  - b. Read Romans 12:1-2 and Galatians 2:20. Paul, in these two passages, is instructing us how we continually need to entrust our life to the Lord. Explain that our life inevitably will bring us to the point of confrontation between the Lord’s will and purpose and our own. This is not a one-time decision but a series of decisions through all of life that we will need to make, in whatever area the Holy Spirit is convicting us about. Romans chapters 6 and 7 makes it clear that this is an ongoing process and not a perfected state (See also I John 1:8). A Christian’s growth, in other words, won’t be a matter of perfect development but of dealing with personal weakness and sin throughout our lives.

### II. GOD’S PERFECT WILL

A. Draw the following diagram for your new Christian.

B. Explain that the middle line represents God’s perfect will for our lives, and the outer lines are “conviction points”. A Spirit-filled Christian will not always live according to the perfect will of God, but through faith, he will be able to stay within the “conviction points”. It is at these points that God impresses us with the need to turn back to Him. Failure to do so results in disobedience and carnality. As we mature, the convictions points get closer to God’s will.



- C. Explain that the Christian walk is a maturing process based on faith and that maturity doesn’t come immediately. Two analogies may help on this:
  1. Everybody is born with the same number of muscles, but the greatest athletes have theirs more fully developed. We Christians have all the faith that we need, but like our muscles, we need to develop it more fully.

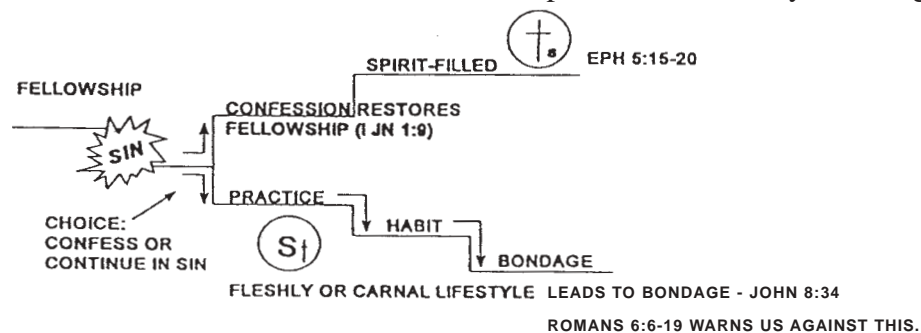
2. Just as a 3 year old shouldn't feel badly if he/she can't run as fast as a 10 year old, so a younger Christian shouldn't feel badly if he/she isn't as mature as Christians who have been experiencing the Spirit-filled life for a longer period. As with the 3 year old, the important thing is that there is healthy development.

D. Finally, explain how dealing with sin immediately through confession is necessary for healthy growth in the Christian life.

1. *Spiritual Breathing*: Go over a personal example of "spiritual breathing":
  - a. A sincere desire to restore fellowship with God.
  - b. Confession which is:
    - i. "A" = Agreeing with God concerning your sin  
"B" = Not begging for forgiveness, but thanking Him for His forgiveness  
"C" = Change - an attitude of repentance
    - ii. Surrendering control to Christ.

2. *Consequences and pattern of unconfessed sin in our life.*

- a. Using the following diagram, explain that sin breaks fellowship with God. Unconfessed sin leads from a simple act to eventually a bondage to sin.



### III. BACK TO CHRISTIAN LIFE DIAGRAM

- A. Reread Romans 12:1-2 and Galatians 2:20.
- B. Stress again that Paul is talking about a continual presentation of our bodies and that he is talking to people ("brothers") who already know Christ.
- C. Ask the new Christian what he thinks this means. Explain that this is a description of a man (Paul) growing in the Lordship of Christ. In short, it's a commitment to make Christ his #1 priority in life (to go anywhere, do or say anything, give away anything God wants them to)
- D. Ask them if they've made the decision.
  1. If they say "yes", ask them to tell you about it.
  2. If they say "no", ask them if they think that they are ready. If so, encourage them to do so--silently, later that day, out loud, or however they feel most comfortable.
  3. If they say that they're not ready, look at Romans 12:2, stressing the idea that "renewing their minds" is the way to get to that point of commitment. Review spending time with God.
- E. Regardless of their previous answers, if they are open, challenge them to something you feel will be most beneficial to them, like a Bible Study or attending Sunday School and the morning service on a regular basis. (You need to know what you plan on challenging them to before you meet.)

## APPOINTMENT X: THE CHURCH

### Objectives:

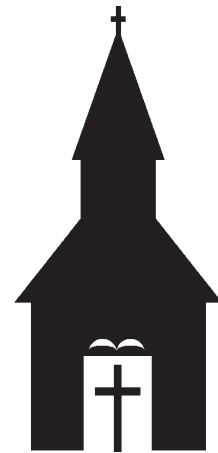
1. To define the church Biblically ((local and universal)
2. To describe the essential relationships of an effective body, according to the New Testament
3. To outline the basic responsibilities of the church

*To learn more about what a Biblical church is, refer to the Acts of the Apostles and Paul's letters.*

### I. FOUNDATION - The Church (local and universal) is...



- A. Not a building! It is the “called-out ones”. Those set apart by God. (I Cor. 1:1-3)
- B. People from that area who are involved with the church versus people being sent in for “a season”. The people are rooted in the community (Philippians. 1:1, Acts 20:17)
- C. Christ is the Head (Ephesians 4:15-16) and the “called-out ones” are the Body of Jesus
- D. Led by the Power of the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:8)
- E. Under proven leadership (I Timothy 3 and Titus 1)
  1. ALL men – I don’t know why, but I am not going to question God or think that He means “something different” because of the changes in our culture. Cultures change but God doesn’t, and these are very clear passages on how to set up a church and what the people in leadership of overseers are to “look like or be”. (Think about it – all the apostles were men)
  2. Definition of an Elder or Overseer: (I Timothy 3 and Titus 1)
    - a. Overseer (I Tim. 3:1) – 2175 episkopos = anyone who seeks the office of overseer; exercising ones duties. (T Tim. 3:2 & Titus 1:7) = episkopos = to look or watch over
    - b. Elder (Titus 1:5&6) – 4565 presbyteros = another term for the same person as bishop or overseer (Acts 20:17, 28). The term elder indicates the mature spiritual experience and understanding of those so described; the term bishop or overseer indicates the character of the work undertaken.
  3. Characteristics of an Elder or Overseer (I Timothy 3, Titus 1)
    - a. Above reproach
    - b. Husband of one wife
    - c. Temperate
    - d. Self-controlled
    - e. Respectable
    - f. Hospitable
    - g. Able to Teach (not a responsibility of a deacon)
    - h. Not given to much wine
    - i. Not violent but gentle
    - j. Not quarrelsome
    - k. Not a lover of money
    - l. Manage his family well
    - m. Not a recent convert
    - n. Good reputation with outsiders
  4. Summary: In the Christian churches, those who, being raised up and qualified by the work of the Holy Spirit, were appointed to have the spiritual care of and to exercise oversight over the churches. The New Testament shows that these were to be set up in a plurality in each church. (Acts 14:23, 20:17, Phil. 1:1, I Tim. 5:17, Titus 1:5) \*The duty of the Elders is described by the verb “episkope” (overseer). Elder and Overseer are the same with the elder being the name and overseer stating what they do.



5. Think about how a church is set up. We should be seeking “plurality of Godly leadership-run” churches and not a one person “Pastor-Run” or a “Congregational Run” church.
6. Definition of a Deacon (I Tim. 3:8-12) – 1356 diakonos = servant. Those who serve in churches. Views a servant in relationship to his work. (See I Timothy 3 for characteristics)

## II. Family

- A. All members are to be involved (Romans 12:3-8, I Peter 4:10-11, I Corinthians 12:4-7). All have at least one spiritual gift and needs to be exercising it within the body.
- B. Cross-generational – Older Christians (men and women) teach younger Christians by word and deed (I Peter 5:5, Titus 2:3-8, I Timothy 5:1-2)
- C. Family Unit (Colossians 3:18-21, Ephesians 5:22-6:4): Striving for spiritual unity among the believers of the church.
- D. Importance of meeting together to encourage each other and keep our focus on Christ (Hebrews 12:24-25). Do not forsake the assemble of meeting together and think that you don’t need to be involved with a church. We are a body, and the body needs to work together as such.

## III. Function of the Church

- A. GLORIFY GOD!!!! God doesn’t exist for our ends. We were created for His purposes. Do not desire all the benefits with none of the responsibility.
  1. Ephesians 1:3-14 – the praise of His Glory (I Peter 4:10-11)
  2. I Corinthians 10:31 – Do all to glorify God
  3. Example of a Biblically purpose driven church:
 

“This church shall seek to glorify God by making disciples who love God, serve one another, and reach the world for Christ. We commit ourselves to five priorities: 1) **The Bible**, mastering God’s truth, thus living distinctively Christian lives (II Timothy 2:15). 2) **Prayer**, daily communication with our Father, which is an expression of our love for Him, and dependence upon Him for everything in our lives (Philippians 4:6-7). 3) **Worship**, honoring God as we sacrificially serve Him with our time and money, as well as worshipping Him in our private devotions and corporate life in the Body (Romans 12:1). 4) **Community**, building an authentic family that meets the needs of others by actively serving each other with our God-given gifts (Acts 2:42-47). 5) **Outreach**, actively sharing Jesus Christ with family, friends, neighbors, and co-workers in such a way as to bring people to Christ (Acts 1:8)
- B. Witness to the World
  1. Redemptive – Make disciples of all nations (Matthew 28:18-20, Luke 24:46-49, Acts 1:8)
  2. Characterized by:
    - a. Love for one another (John 15:13 and 13:34-35, I John 3:14-18 and 4:20)
 

(Ex: boy giving for his sister)

A little boy spent his days romping with his sister, whom he dearly loved. They rolled in the grass, climbed trees together, and made great Western adventures together. One day the little girl became very sick. The whole family went to the hospital in a big city for the first time. After a few tests, the doctor said, “She will need a blood transfusion if she is going to make it. Little boy, your blood will work. Are you willing to give it?” The boy was so upset that he left crying for a long time. Finally he came back and agreed. The doctor prepared the needles and said, “Don’t worry. It will only hurt a little. It will be over quickly.” (Remember, the boy knew nothing about hospitals.) With tears streaming down his face, the boy looked up from the table where he lay and stuttered, “Doctor, ...wh...wh...when do I die?”

- b. Compassion for the needy (James 1:27, 2:15-16) “Don’t tell them Jesus loves them till you are ready to love them too...” by Steve Camp

### C. Toward the Church

1. Equip the saints (Ephesians 4:7-17) – Stimulate growth in Christian living through the exercise of the gifts. This includes both leadership and laity. Equipping by
  - a. Teaching – Public (formal) and private (informal)
  - b. Example (Philippians 4:9)
  - c. Exhortation, consultation, encouragement, admonition, reproach, and rebuke (II Timothy 4:2, I Thessalonians 2:11-12 and 5:14-15)
  
2. Edification
  - a. To present the bride pure (2 Corinthians 11:2) – It is essential for the believer to reflect accurately the character of Christ as we carry out the commission of Christ. No cheap imitations! A.W. Tozer said:

“The popular notion that the first obligation of the Church is to spread the Gospel to the uttermost parts of the earth is false. Her first obligation is to be spiritually worthy to spread it.”
  - b. Preventative measures
    - i. John 17:17 – Sanctify by the Word
    - ii. Colossians 3:16 – Allow Christ’s Word to live in us.
  - c. Remedial action (Matthew 18:15-20, I Corinthians 5:1-13, I Thessalonians 3:6-15)

George Veerwer in “No Turning Back” said:

“To rebuke and exhort another Christian is one of the hardest things to do properly. It is easier to overlook the fault, but love must correct at all times.”

### IV. Reasons why we should be an active part or member of a local church

#### A. It’s a strategic aspect of three parts of the Christian life.

1. Believing - “Believe on the Lord Jesus and you will be saved.” Acts 16:31; Acts 4:10-12
2. Belonging - You are a member of God’s very own family...and you belong in God’s household with every other Christian! (Ephesians 1:19 LB)
3. Becoming - From the very beginning God decided that those who came to Him should become like His Son. (Romans 8:29)

#### B. It’s the primary Biblical model for ministry in the New Testament (Benefits of being a parts of a local body)

1. It identifies me as a genuine believer. (Ephesians 2:19, Romans 12:5)
2. It provides me a spiritual family to support, encourage, and hold accountable. (Galatians 6:1-2; Hebrews 10:24-25; Matthew 18:15-17)
3. It gives me a place to discover and use my gifts in ministry. (I Cor. 12:4-7)
4. It places me under the spiritual protection of godly leaders. (Heb. 13:17; Acts 20:28-29)
5. It gives me the accountability and need to grow. (Eph. 4:11-16)

- V. How Do I Choose a Church? (Some things to consider)
- A. Remember the purpose of the church is always to glorify God and the Lord Jesus Christ.
  - B. Are people vitally growing and contributing to the growth of one another? (serving others and not just looking for their personal needs to be met)
  - C. What are the teachings on God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit? Are they in line with Scripture? (which implies you need to study to have some ideas of what they say)
  - D. Does the church have an understanding and passion for discipleship that is resulting in a healthy, growing, multiplying ministry?
  - E. Is God's Word being accurately represented? (Is it being represented at all?)
  - F. Is the church led by the power of the Holy Spirit? Acts 1:8 (Not just human agenda or talent)  
CAUTION: I'm not referencing "spirit-filled" in the occasional misguided charismatic understanding of Spirit-filled (which puts an over emphasis on tongues and other dramatic manifestations), but a more Biblical centered and Holy Spirit guided empowerment, manifested by the character of the fruit of the Spirit – Galatians 5:22,23 – that always glorifies Christ.  
(See Matthew 7:21-23)
  - G. Does the teaching challenge me to be more like Christ, as well as encourage me to be grounded in the Word of God?
  - H. Are the people being equipped to do the work of ministry?
  - I. Is the church committed to reaching the lost in its community and throughout the world? (Are there a healthy number of new believers coming to Christ and growing in their faith?)
  - J. Does the church have a well thought through understanding and active role in reaching the world (other cultures and countries) for Christ? (Matthew 28 :19-20)