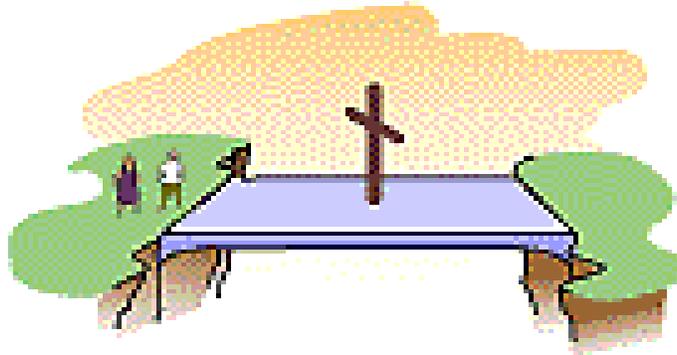


NEW LIFE IN CHRIST



**TREE OF LIFE INTERNATIONAL
CHURCHES**

LESSON 1

God's Assurance

Memory verse: *"Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." John 14:6*

Introduction

If you died today, how sure are you that you have Eternal Life? **There are many people who have attended church for years who are still not absolutely certain. *Being sure you have Eternal Life*** involves being certain of your Decision to trust in Jesus Christ as Savior! The following Four Truths explain this important decision.

Four Truths

1. **God, Our Creator, Loves Us! God's Love: Love is translated from the Greek word Agape which describes a Love that is Spiritual more than Emotional. Where as emotional love is often selfcentered, Agape Love values the thing loved, and seeks its best no matter the cost to the one loving it.**
2. **Our Sin Has Separated Us From God! *"for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God," Romans 3:23 "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." Romans 6:23. Spiritual Death :The penalty for our Sin is Death. This death is more than just our bodies dying; it is spiritual separation from God. At our physical death, this separation becomes eternal. The separation between Sinful Man and God is so vast that, no matter how "good" we may be, we are powerless to bridge it. Doing so would be like swimming from Hawaii to Los Angeles, a distance of 2000 miles over open ocean. No matter how good a swimmer one might be, even the best will fail. How many people have sinned according to Romans 3:23. What is the result of sin according to Romans 3:23 & 6:23.***
3. **Jesus Christ, God's Son, Died On the Cross for Our Sins! *"Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me" John 14:6. What are the three things Jesus claims for Himself in John 14:6.14:6. Who is able to come to God apart from Christ. What does Jesus mean when He claims to be the Way, the Truth and the Life. "But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us" Romans 5:8. What condition we were in when God loved us. How did God demonstrate His love for us in Romans 5:8. Jesus Christ ~ God's Gift: God offers His Son, Jesus Christ, as payment for our sin. When Christ died on the cross, His death paid the penalty for our sin. This is why Eternal Life can only be found through Christ. Other possible references: 2 Corinthians 5:15 & 21, Ephesians 1:7, 1 Peter 3:18 Romans 10:9-10.***
4. **We Must Receive Jesus Christ As Savior and Lord! *"Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God" John 1:12. What are the two things we must do to become Children of God (John 1:12).***

"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God not by works, so that no one can boast" Ephesians 2:8-9. How are we are saved according to Ephesians 2:8-9. Explain why God chose to save us through faith instead of by works. Receiving Christ The phrase 'Receive Christ' is used to describe the act of believing

in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, and trusting in all He has done on the Cross to purchase our forgiveness.

Receiving Christ: Ask the class whether they have personally received Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior and trusted in Him to forgive their Sins? If not, tell those who need to to indicate by raising their hands and lead them in a prayer of commitment.

Prayer: “Dear Lord Jesus, I confess that I have sinned against You and need your forgiveness. Thank-You for dying on the cross in my place for my sins. I receive you into my life and trust in You alone as my Savior and God. In Your name I pray. Amen!

Assurance of Eternal Life

Help the convert to be sure of their salvation by getting them to read Bible passage and answer the questions below .

How you can be certain you have Eternal Life in Jesus Christ. *“And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life.”* 1 John 5:11-13

What God has given to us according to 1 John 5:11-13.

Where is Eternal Life found.

what does a person have if he has Jesus Christ.

what does a person not have if he does not have Jesus Christ.

According to this passage, can a person *know for sure* he has Eternal Life?

Basis for Our Assurance :

Eternal Life is not based on how good we are, or how we feel. It is based on our faith in Jesus Christ. Notice that the teaching in 1 John 5:11-13 is written to those who “believe in the Name of the Son of God”!

Application:

Ask- “If you died today, are you sure you have Eternal life?” Their answer should be Yes, “I am absolutely sure I have Eternal Life through Jesus Christ, God’s Son.If I were to die today, I KNOW I will be in Heaven with God.”

Affirmation

1.Christ died on the cross for me.

2.God will receive me in heaven when I die because He promised He would. I have Eternal Life because I have Christ!

LESSON 2

The Word

Memory Verse: *“Do not merely listen to the Word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.”*

James 1:22

How to Grow as a Christian: As a result of receiving Christ as Savior and Lord, you have experienced a new birth and begun a new life (John 1:12-14, II Corinthians 5:17). Your physical life did not begin as a full-grown adult, and neither will your spiritual life. When a person is first saved, he is a spiritual infant (I Peter 2:2). You need spiritual food and nourishment to grow spiritually.

Introduction: How long do you think we can survive without eating? If you checked ‘*1 day*’, I can see *you’ve never missed a meal in your life!* No, it’s not even 10 or 20 days. We can survive **40 days** without food, but after that, our bodies begin to starve and death is not far off. Just as our physical bodies need food to grow and survive, even so, *our spirits need to be fed* as well. Notice how the metaphor of “*milk*” and “*solid food*” are used in Scripture.

“In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God’s word all over again. You need milk, not solid food!” Hebrews 5:12

“Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation,” 1 Peter 2:2

What does Hebrews 5:12 mean by the metaphor milk.

The Source of the Word

“All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.” 2 Timothy 3:16-17

What is the source of Scripture according to 2 Timothy 3:16-17. The Greek word translated God-breathed is used nowhere else in the New Testament. Though the word does not explain *how* Scripture was given to us, it does indicate the *supernatural* and *divine origin* of it!

How *much* of Scripture is from God. This verse teaches that *every* Scripture in the Bible *originates from God!*

The Purpose of the Word

Read 2 Timothy 3:16-17 and ask what are the four ways Scripture is useful to us.

A instructing us in the truth of God

A convicting us of the truth of God

A restoring us to the truth of God

A teaching us how to live the truth of God

How many good works we will be equipped for.

The Power of the Word

“Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.” Ephesians 6:17

The “*word of God*” is the only *offensive* weapon listed in Ephesians 6:10-17 which describes the Armor of God. The Christian who learns how to *wield* it can defeat his *spiritual enemies*. Unfortunately, many Christians, *ignorant of God’s Word*, wield something more like *a pocket knife* than *a sword!*

The Application of the Word

Memorization: “I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.” Psalm 119:11

Psalm 119 is the great anthem to the Word of God, containing exhortations every Christian should read! The word “hidden” means “to hide or to treasure”. God’s Word should be hidden in our hearts because it is something treasured! The word “heart” refers to our “mind, soul, conscience, emotions, passions, will and desires”. In other words, memorizing the Word is not just an intellectual exercise, but one that includes the entire person.

Memorization is simple if done in steps.

Read ***the verse 3 times.***

Write ***the verse 3 times.***

Recite ***the verse from memory 3 times.***

Review ***every day regularly for the next 10 days.***

Meditation:

“Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers. But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night. He is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers.” Psalm 1:1-3

Meditating on God’s Word involves deliberately contemplating a passage over and over again, absorbing all the spiritual nutrients in it! One way is to:

Recite a verse over and over in your mind. Then ... Emphasize a different word each time to absorb the contribution of that word’s meaning to the meaning of the verse as a whole.

Application

When you read, memorize or meditate on God’s Word, see if there are any ...

S Sins to Confess

P Promises to Claim

A Attitudes or Actions to Adopt or Avoid

C Commands to Obey

E Examples to Follow

We began this lesson thinking about how often we needed to eat to survive. Just as we need daily nourishment for a healthy body, even so, we need a daily intake of God’s Word to ensure a healthy Spiritual life. Too many Christians only hear God’s Word once a week on Sundays. Make it a habit to read, memorize, meditate and apply God’s Word ... EVERY DAY!

LESSON 3

Prayer

Memory Verse: *“If I had cherished sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened”* Psalm 66:18

Introduction

Let’s perform a test. Take three deep breaths and **hold the last one**. Now how long can you go without breathing? A few days? Of course not! Not even a few hours! The longest humans can last without air is *a few minutes* at best.

Prayer is like that. ***Prayer is to our Spiritual Lives as air is to our physical.*** It is what ***energizes*** our ***New Nature*** and ***refreshes*** our ***Soul***. Without it, our Christian lives become spiritually ***stagnant***. ***Why? You can be involved in every kind of Christian activity without being empowered by the Holy Spirit, except Prayer.*** Conference speaker, the Rev. Ron Dunn, shares that **Prayer alone requires you be right with God because it is a “Man to God encounter”!**

“Prayer is the one activity that brings us into an encounter with the Living God!”

Four Aspects of Prayer

Adoration

Confession

Thanksgiving

Supplication

Adoration:

“Who can utter the mighty acts of the LORD? who can show forth all his praise?” Psalm 106:2

The word Adoration means to *worship* or to *praise*.

To praise God then is to proclaim His “mighty acts”.

Let the class make a list of some “mighty acts” God has done in their lives.

Application: Praise the Lord for His mighty acts in your life.

Confession:

Another important aspect of Prayer is the Confession of our sins. Read the following Scriptures on Confession.

“If I had cherished sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened” Psalm 66:18

“Then I acknowledged my sin to you and did not cover up my iniquity. I said, ‘I will confess my transgressions to the LORD’ - and you forgave the guilt of my sin. Psalm 32:5.

Explain what happens if we cherish sin in our hearts according to Psalm 66:18. This verse teaches *there is a relationship between sin and prayer*. Sin ***short circuits*** our ***Fellowship*** with God, and ***keeps Him from hearing our prayers.*** (see ***1 John 5:14-15*** for the importance of God hearing our prayers.)

What does the Psalmist ***acknowledges*** before God in ***Psalm 32:5***, ?

What is God’s ***response***.

Read the ***confession*** of ***David*** after he committed adultery with ***Bathsheba*** found in ***Psalm 51*** below.

“Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me. Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are proved right when you speak and justified when you judge. Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me. “Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.” Psalm 51:2-5,10 & 12

Can God forgive unconfessed sins? Why or why not?

Why do you think God requires us to confess our sins in order to be forgiven?

Genuine Confession results in a desire to obey God. Notice that after acknowledging his sins to God, David prays that God would give him an obedient heart.

Thanksgiving

A third aspect to *Prayer* is Giving Thanks.

“give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.” 1 Thessalonians 5:18

In which circumstances are we to give thanks (*Thessalonians 5:18*). God requires that, as an act of our wills, we give thanks in all circumstances.

“And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.” Romans 8:28. This scripture explains to us why we must give thanks.

What are some benefits to being a thankful person?

How does God use “bad” experiences for our benefit?

Application

Spend time in prayer right now *thanking God* for all the things He is allowing in your life, *good or bad*, knowing that *He is absolutely able to use everything for your benefit*. Giving thanks to God demonstrates our faith!

Supplication

Supplication is the *bringing of our requests to God*. Too often, we become worried and forget the *one Person* who can help! Read *Philippians 4:6* below.

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” Philippians 4:6

What are the two opposite emotions mentioned in *Philippians 4:6*?

Have you ever wondered why some of our prayer requests are not answered?

The Scriptures below explains why.

“When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.” James 4:3

“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

“If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you.” John 15:7

“If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer.” Matthew 21:22

Why do we sometimes not receive what we ask for in James 4:3 .

What does James means by ‘wrong motives’.

What are the condition for answered prayers in 1 John 5:14-15 .

What are the condition for answered prayers in John 15:7 .

What are the condition for answered prayers in Matthew 21:22.

For Whom Should We Pray

“I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for

everyone-- for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness."

1 Timothy 2:1

"Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective."

James 5:16

"And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints."

Ephesians 6:18

Application

Spend a few minutes praying for all the LORD brings to your mind.

LESSON 4

Witnessing

Memory Verse: *For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. (Romans 1:16)*

Introduction

It is crucial that one must learn and experience the Gospel before sharing it. We must start telling people about Christ and how He has saved us immediately we get saved. Let the joy overflow to those around you.

What would you say is the greatest threat to Christianity?

Someone has perceptively suggested that ... “The greatest threat to Christianity is Christians trying to sneak into heaven without ever sharing their faith.”

One of the great privileges we have as God’s children is the authority and privilege to invite others to be reconciled with God! ***There is no greater decision people can make than trusting Jesus Christ as their personal Savior and Lord.*** In this lesson, we will learn ***five ways*** to share our faith in Christ with others.

Sharing our faith, or Witnessing, is one of the most important factors in growing as a Christian. It keeps our faith *fresh* and *exciting* as we watch others being transformed by a miracle from God! But we need to remember the following to be effective Witnesses for Christ:

1. Be Available: **Yield your life to God. God uses Available Servants.**
2. Be Prayerful: **Ask God to lead you to people to share with. Pray that God will make them open to His Word!**
3. Be Filled with the Spirit: **Only God can bring others to Himself. Our part is simply to be filled with His Holy Spirit and allow Him to share His love with others through us!**

A few facts that are you need to know.

- A. People are unfitted naturally to fellowship with God, Romans 8:8.
- B. God desires the salvation of all people, 2 Peter 3:9.
- C. People, in God's plan, are to be reached through other people.
- D. Every believer is to share in winning souls, John 15:16; Matthew 28:19-20.
- E. This is the most blessed service to people, Daniel 12:3.