

# **New Life**

A bible study for new believers  
and others trying to learn the basics of Christianity.

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## Introduction

Wherever Jesus went, he brought new life. In fact, for the Christian, Jesus has made all things new, as the Bible says, “anyone united with the Messiah gets a fresh start, is created new. The old life is gone; a new life burgeons! Look at it!” (II Corinthians 5:17, MSG)

God wants everyone to have the new life that Jesus gives. It is an abundant and exciting life, but it also a sacrificial life. You can experience this life every day and see yourself and the people around you changed for Christ’s sake. That is the purpose of this study.

Whether you are just starting to investigate the claims of Jesus, or you are not sure where you stand, or you may even be a Christian, now, but feel the desire to renew your understanding of the most basic principles of the faith, then this study is for you. The purpose of this study is to help you fully understand what it means to be a Christian in the midst of the world.

Throughout the study, you will be asked questions and the answer are found on the accompanying scripture verses. For most of the answers, I used the *New American Standard Version* of the Bible, unless otherwise listed, but you may use any accurate translation. In addition, if you are new to the faith, you may not be familiar with the Bible, so I have tried to eliminate any abbreviations to avoid confusion.

You may want to do these studies on your own or with a friend; or maybe turn it into a group Bible study and involve others. However you do it, I pray it will help you discover the new life that only Jesus can bring.

Have a great Bible study and I pray you will experience the new life in Jesus!

# Authority of God's Word

Some believe that the Bible is outdated and inaccurate. Some will go as far as to say that it is an interesting history book, but possesses nothing relevant to our lives. However, God has said some astounding things about His Word. Although this study does not cover the mountains of outside evidence for the validity of the Bible, it does give an inside view of what God says about His Word and show us how to apply it to our lives for victorious living. This is a study for followers of Jesus. The intent is to introduce you to your Bible, to get you reading it for yourself and to understand basic beliefs of the Christian faith.

1. How were the Scriptures originally given? (II Timothy 3:16; II Peter 1:20-21)
  - a. \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_
2. How are they beneficial to you, as a Christian? (II Timothy 3:16)
  - a. \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_
3. After you submitted yourself to the Lordship of Jesus, what are you exhorted to do? (II Peter 2:2; II Timothy 2:15)  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. What will happen as you study God's Word? (I Peter 2:2)  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. What name is given to Jesus? (John 1:1)  
\_\_\_\_\_

In submitting to the Lordship of Jesus, we must also submit to the absolute authority of the written Word of God. God's written Word is God's thoughts, opinions, ideas and personality. God's Word is His expressed will to man.

6. What did Jesus say about this? (Luke 6:46)  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Regardless of our opinions, objections, or reasoning, we need to bring them into submission to God's Word. God's Word should become the absolute and final authority over our lives
7. In light of this, what must you do with any reasoning, imaginations, or any thought that would exalt itself above God's Word? (II Corinthians 10:5)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  8. What did Jesus say was the spiritual "food of the believer"? (Matthew 4:4)

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9. What has the God of this world done? (II Corinthians 4:4)

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10. After coming out from the world filled with carnality and sin, we find that our minds have been warped and molded by sin and the things of this world. How is your mind transformed? (Romans 12:12; Ephesians 5:26-27)

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11. As a result of the washing of the water of the Word, what will we be? (Ephesians 5:27; II Corinthians 3:18)

- a. \_\_\_\_\_
- b. \_\_\_\_\_
- c. \_\_\_\_\_

12. What excludes you from the life of God? (Ephesians 4:17-18)

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13. Why do God's people perish? (Hosea 4:6)

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14. What will happen if you reject the knowledge of God's Word and forget his law? (Hosea 4:6)

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15. What does the Psalmist David say about the guidance that comes from God's Word (Psalm 119:105)

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16. What does David say about the wisdom that comes from God's Word? (Psalm 119:98-100)

- a. \_\_\_\_\_
- b. \_\_\_\_\_
- c. \_\_\_\_\_

17. How can young believers keep their way pure and free from sin? (Psalm 119:9-11)

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18. What else does the meditation of God's Word do for you? (Psalm 119:45-46)

- a. \_\_\_\_\_
- b. \_\_\_\_\_
- c. \_\_\_\_\_

19. Describe David's love for God's Word. (Psalm 119:103)

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20. When Jeremiah fed on God's Word, what did it become to him? (Jeremiah 15:16)

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21. How much did Job esteem God's Word? (Job 23:12)

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22. As we trust in God's Word, what assurance do we have?  
(Psalm 119:89; Numbers 23:19; Matthew 24:35)

a. \_\_\_\_\_

b. \_\_\_\_\_

c. \_\_\_\_\_

d. \_\_\_\_\_

23. How can you obtain life and health to your body through God's Word?  
(Proverbs 4:20-22)

a. \_\_\_\_\_

b. \_\_\_\_\_

c. \_\_\_\_\_

d. \_\_\_\_\_

Meditation is more than a casual reading of the Scriptures. It is a diligent seeking of the revelation of it from the Lord Himself. It is reading; considering; pondering the scriptures.

24. What is the outcome of the man who meditates in God's Word day and night  
(Psalm 1:1-3)

a. \_\_\_\_\_

b. \_\_\_\_\_

c. \_\_\_\_\_

d. \_\_\_\_\_

25. What conditions did the Lord set for Joshua in order that he might be successful and inherit the Promised Land? (Joshua 1:8)

a. \_\_\_\_\_

b. \_\_\_\_\_

c. \_\_\_\_\_

26. What orders did the Israelites have concerning the Word of God? (Deuteronomy 11:1-18:21)
- a. \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. \_\_\_\_\_
  - d. \_\_\_\_\_
  - e. \_\_\_\_\_
  - f. \_\_\_\_\_

27. By loving the Lord with all their heart and walking in His ways, what would be the results? (Deuteronomy 11:21-25)
- a. \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. \_\_\_\_\_
  - d. \_\_\_\_\_

28. In the spiritual armor of the Christian, what is the Word called? (Ephesians 6:17)

\_\_\_\_\_

29. Give a description of this "sword." (Hebrews 4:12-13)
- a. \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. \_\_\_\_\_
  - d. \_\_\_\_\_

As we dwell in the Word of God, its edge cuts away from our lives all things that are offensive and evil. The Word in our mouth pierces the hearts of those who hear us and brings conviction of sin.

30. How did Jesus answer the devil when He was tempted? (Matthew 4:4, 7, 10)

\_\_\_\_\_

31. How can you prove your love to Jesus? (John 14:23)

\_\_\_\_\_

32. Contrast the wise man and his house to the foolish man and his house. (Matthew 7:24-27). What do they have in common? (v. 25 & 27). How are they different?

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## The Atonement: God's Provision for Man's Sin

1. What did Adam and Eve choose to do? (Genesis 3:3-6)

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2. We see that Adam and Eve chose not to love God and obey Him, but to rebel against God and disobey him. What was the secret motive of their heart? (Genesis 3:5; Isaiah 14:13-14)

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This is the basic sin of all men. Each has tried to be his own god and exalt his will above God's will.

3. On what three things were Adam and Eve's sin based? (Genesis 3:6; I John 2:16)

a. \_\_\_\_\_

b. \_\_\_\_\_

c. \_\_\_\_\_

The lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life are the root causes to all sin in this world.

4. What do we find God doing in the garden, and what was the desire of his heart? (Genesis 3:8-9)

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The God of heaven and earth came to the garden to fellowship with the sons of His love and to share His heart with them, finding only that they had broken His commandment and had gone their own independent way. By turning away from God in disobedience, man lost the blessing and protection of God and came under a curse and the power of the devil. They were cast out of the garden losing their fellowship with the Father. Because of Adam and Eve's transgression the knowledge of good and evil has come to all men; every unsaved man has desires bent toward sin.

5. What does the Bible teach about the spiritual condition of those who willingly sin against God? (Romans 3:10-23)

a. (v. 10) \_\_\_\_\_

b. (v. 11) \_\_\_\_\_

c. (v. 11) \_\_\_\_\_

d. (v. 12) \_\_\_\_\_

e. (v. 12) \_\_\_\_\_

f. (v. 13-14) \_\_\_\_\_

g. (v. 15) \_\_\_\_\_

h. (v. 16) \_\_\_\_\_

i. (v. 17) \_\_\_\_\_

j. (V. 18) \_\_\_\_\_

k. (V. 23) \_\_\_\_\_

6. If all have sinned willfully and do not seek God, then how can men come to God? (Isaiah 19:20; Luke 19:10; John 6:44)

\_\_\_\_\_

7. Therefore, what is it that brings men to repentance? (Romans 2:4)

\_\_\_\_\_

It is the love and kindness of God that seeks rebellious men. It is His love that strives with the heart of men convicting them of sin and drawing them to Him. It is the love of God that continues to push the stubborn and rebellious man into a corner until he surrenders his life of sin and death. Yet, God has given every man a free will to choose Him and live, or to reject His provision and die.

8. Can we save ourselves by our own good works? (Ephesians 2:8-9; Titus 3:5)

\_\_\_\_\_

9. Can keeping the law save us? (Galatians 3:21; Romans 3:20)

\_\_\_\_\_

10. What was Paul's testimony about himself in regard to the law and to sin? (Philippians 3:6; I Timothy 1:15)

\_\_\_\_\_

11. What was the purpose of the law? (Romans 3:19-20)

\_\_\_\_\_

12. Under the Old Covenant, how was a man cleansed from sin and brought into a right relationship with God? (Leviticus 17:11)

\_\_\_\_\_

God from the beginning of time instituted the blood sacrifice as the atonement and covering of sin. Adam, Abel, Noah, Abraham, Jacob and finally the nation of Israel all offered blood sacrifices for the atonement of sin.

God required animal sacrifices, for their blood was pure, innocent and undefiled; it was free from the nature bent toward sin. Under the Old Covenant, the shedding of this blood brought a covering and atonement for man's sin.

13. What did Jesus come to do? (Matthew 1:20-23; I John 3:5)

\_\_\_\_\_

14. What was said of Him? (John 1:29)

\_\_\_\_\_

The bloodline comes from the father. The Bible tells us that the life of the flesh is in the blood. In Jesus there was no sin. Because He was conceived of a virgin, He was not born from Adam. The blood of God ran through Jesus' veins, and it was that blood which was shed for the sins of the world.

15. Is the blood of Jesus a better sacrifice than the blood of animals? (Hebrews 9:13-14)

\_\_\_\_\_

The atonement that Jesus made was greater than the atonement under the Old Covenant. His atonement was more than just an offering for the forgiveness of sins, because the forgiveness of sins was available through the blood of animals under the Old Covenant.

16. What did Jesus actually do for us on the cross?  
(I Peter 2:24; Galatians 3:13; Romans 6:6-7)

- a. \_\_\_\_\_
- b. \_\_\_\_\_
- c. \_\_\_\_\_
- d. \_\_\_\_\_

Consequently, we see that the atonement of Jesus not only provided forgiveness, but also brought complete deliverance from sin, sickness and the curse.

17. What are the points of the "New Covenant" that Jesus established and made available through his blood? (Hebrews 8:8-12; Ezekiel 36:26-27)

- a. (v.10) \_\_\_\_\_
- b. (v. 10) \_\_\_\_\_
- c. (v. 11) \_\_\_\_\_
- d. (v. 12) \_\_\_\_\_
- e. (v. 26) \_\_\_\_\_
- f. (v. 26) \_\_\_\_\_

18. How can we become partakers of this New Covenant? (Acts 3:19; Romans 10:9-10)

- a. \_\_\_\_\_
- b. \_\_\_\_\_



## Faith Toward God

1. Before we can leave the elementary teaching about the Messiah and press on to maturity, what foundation must we have? (Hebrews 6:1-3).

- a. \_\_\_\_\_
- b. \_\_\_\_\_
- c. \_\_\_\_\_
- d. \_\_\_\_\_
- e. \_\_\_\_\_
- f. \_\_\_\_\_

In order to lay this strong foundation on which we may properly build, the following study has been prepared on the foundational truth of Faith toward God. Without a true understanding of Biblical faith, we will find it impossible to come into the maturity that God desires to see in each one of His children. Faith makes the difference between defeat and victory in a Christian life.

Without faith, it is impossible to please God. By faith, the men of old gained approval from God. By faith, they conquered kingdoms, performed acts of righteousness, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, from weakness they were made strong, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight, were stoned, sawn in two and put to death with the sword; they were destitute, afflicted, and ill-treated. All these gained approval through their faith. They believed God, and it was accounted to them as righteousness. After doing this study I pray that you will rise up to be an imitator of those who through faith and patience inherited the promises and pressed on to maturity in God.

2. What does God demand that you have in order to please Him? (Hebrews 11:6)

\_\_\_\_\_

3. What is the relationship between faith and pleasing God? (Hebrews 11:6)

- a. \_\_\_\_\_
- b. \_\_\_\_\_

We see then that “without faith it is impossible to please Him . . .” Therefore, if God demands that we have faith when it is impossible for us to have faith, then we have a right to challenge His justice. But if He places within us the means to produce faith, then the responsibility of whether we have faith or not rests on us.

4. How are you saved? (Ephesians 2:8)

\_\_\_\_\_

5. How do you get faith in order to be saved? (Romans 10:8-10, 13, 14, 17)

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6. We see that faith comes by “hearing the Word of God.” From studying the above passages in Romans, what three steps must a person take in order to receive salvation?

a. \_\_\_\_\_

b. \_\_\_\_\_

c. \_\_\_\_\_

7. God sent an angel to the house of Cornelius as he stood praying. The angel told him to send for Simon Peter. What was Peter supposed to tell Cornelius? (Acts 11:13-14)

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Cornelius had not yet heard the Gospel; he was not saved. The expression “who shall tell you words by which you will be saved” shows that hearing the Words of God saves men. The reason for this is that “Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God.”

8. In the following passage, what three things did Paul do? (Acts 14:7-10)

a. \_\_\_\_\_

b. \_\_\_\_\_

c. \_\_\_\_\_

9. What three things did the man do?

a. \_\_\_\_\_

b. \_\_\_\_\_

c. \_\_\_\_\_

10. Where did the man get the faith to be healed? (Acts 14:9)

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11. What is faith? (Hebrews 11:1)

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Moffat’s translation of this verse reads, “Now faith means that we are confident of what we hope for; convinced of what we do not see.” Many people want to receive something from God and then believe. However, Biblical faith is believing first, and then receiving the visible manifestation of it. This is the kind of faith that God has.

12. How did God form the world? (Hebrews 11:22-23)

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13. We see this faith of God outlined by Jesus. What principles are found in the following passage? (Mark 11:22-23)

- a. \_\_\_\_\_
- b. \_\_\_\_\_
- c. \_\_\_\_\_
- d. \_\_\_\_\_

14. We see this kind of faith operating in the heart of God when He created the world. What did he do?

- a. \_\_\_\_\_
- b. \_\_\_\_\_
- c. \_\_\_\_\_

15. When we pray for something, what are the conditions for receiving an answer to our prayer? (Mark 11:24)

\_\_\_\_\_

Jesus was simply saying that you have to believe it before you can receive it. Faith says, "I have it even though I can't see it." We must believe it because God's Word says it, then it materializes. Stand firm on God's Word, and results will be forthcoming. If, instead, we sit around and groan, sigh, gripe, and complain—waiting until we see the manifestation of the promise before we believe—we will never will get very far. "For faith is . . . the evidence of things not seen."

Now let examine two types of faith:

*Head* knowledge faith—seeing is believing

*Heart* knowledge faith—God says it, I believe it.

16. Why did Thomas find it hard to believe that Jesus was alive? (John 20:24-25)

\_\_\_\_\_

17. At what point did Thomas believe? (John 20:26-29)

\_\_\_\_\_

18. What exhortation did Jesus give him? (John 20:29)

\_\_\_\_\_

Abraham is an example of a man who did not see and yet believed. He had the heart kind of faith. Abraham was 100 years old when God gave him the promise of a son. His wife was 90, well past the years of childbearing. He believed the promises because God said it was true.

19. Describe Abraham's heart faith? (Romans 4:17-21)

- a. \_\_\_\_\_
- b. \_\_\_\_\_

c. \_\_\_\_\_

d. \_\_\_\_\_

e. \_\_\_\_\_

20. According to the above passage, if Abraham did not consider physical knowledge or feelings, what did you consider? (Romans 4:17-21)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Notice that Abraham did not consider his own body. Many people desiring healing, for example, look to their physical body for symptoms of sickness or healing. Abraham did not consider his body; he looked to the promise of God.

21. How do we put our faith in God's Word? (I John 5:9)

\_\_\_\_\_

John tells us that if we receive the words of our friends as truth, how much more we should receive the Words of God. Faith is a matter of simply receiving God's Word as true. This is the most crucial and important principle of faith. "If we receive the words of men, the Words of God are greater." The following two stories demonstrate the truth of this scripture: Mary went shopping on Monday morning. In one of the shops, she met a school friend whom she had not seen in three years. Mary asked the girl to come home for dinner that evening. The friend accepted. Mary did some last minute grocery shopping and spent the rest of the afternoon preparing for the visit. She did not worry about her friend keeping her word. Instead, she looked forward with great anticipation to her friend's visit. At 7:00 everything was ready, and she expectantly awaited her guest with joy in her heart. Mary received the witness of a friend. Her actions for the rest of the day were based on her friend's word.

Mary is also a Christian. She read in Matthew 6 that she should not be anxious about her food, drink or clothing, for God knows that she needs all these things. If she would seek the Kingdom of God first and His righteousness, God would take care of all these needs. This promise seemed too good to be true. The mailman came and Mary went to the door to get her mail. She received three bills in the mail, which totaled \$300 more than she had to pay. Mary spent the rest of the day worrying and fretting about whether God would really meet her need. Was His Word to her really true? If only she could get enough faith to make the Word happen. She became so worried that she found her thoughts filled with the cares of this life and found it hard to think on the Lord. Mary worried the rest of the day about whether God would keep His Word to her. "If we receive the word of men, the Word of God is greater!"

22. In light of God's Word, what should Mary have done?

\_\_\_\_\_

From these examples we can see that Mary naturally acted in faith toward her friend's word yet failed to act with the same kind of faith toward God's Word.



# Repentance

## And the Lordship of Jesus the Messiah

Jesus said during the early part of His ministry that the Spirit of God was upon Him to preach the Gospel, or good news. This good news, or the message Jesus preached, brought the people to understand how to receive the life Jesus had to give. In the same way, this study will help you understand how to receive and walk in the new life of Jesus.

1. In preaching the Gospel to the Jews, what did Peter say about Jesus? (Acts 2:36)  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. When the Jews heard this preaching, what happened and what was their response? (Acts 2:37)  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. What did Peter say that they must do? (Acts 2:38)
  - a. \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. \_\_\_\_\_

What does it mean to be a Christian? This is a very important question to answer. From Peter's sermon we can see that becoming a Christian requires that you repent. If you have truly repented, then it will be evident from your desire to continue to obey the Lord. You will want to be baptized and go on with the Lord allowing His Spirit to reign in your heart, changing your life and making you more like Jesus. In this study, I will deal separately with each of these three basic truths. The first one to consider is repentance.

4. How does the Word of God define repentance?  
(Psalm 32:3-5; Proverbs 28:13; Ezekiel 18:21-23, 27-28)  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. If we confess our sins, what will God do? (I John 1:9; Isaiah 1:18-20)  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. In repentance, what else must we be willing to do (Ezekiel 33:15)  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. What conditions does God set for receiving us and being a Father to us?  
(II Corinthians 6:14-18)  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. This condition for repentance is demonstrated very clearly in a parable Jesus told about a lost son. Read Luke 15:11-24. What did the lost son decide to do when he realized his state? (Luke 15:17-19)  
\_\_\_\_\_

There had to be a decision on his part to come out from the world and be separate and go to his father's house.

9. As soon as the son had made the decision in his heart to separate himself from the unclean thing and to go to his father to confess his sin, what did the father do? (Luke 15:20)

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10. The son was hoping only to be allowed to become a hired servant of his father. What did his father make him? (Luke 15:22-24)

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So also will the Heavenly Father do for us, as it is written, "Come out from their midst and be separate," says the Lord, "and do not touch what is unclean; and I will welcome you. And I will be a Father to you, and you shall be sons and daughters to Me," says the Lord Almighty. (II Corinthians 6:17-18)

11. We see this same requirement made of the Israelites as they were going in to possess the land that God had given them. What did God require of them in regard to the heathen nations? (Deuteronomy 7:1-3)

a. \_\_\_\_\_

b. \_\_\_\_\_

c. \_\_\_\_\_

12. Why did God require this? (Deuteronomy 7:4, 8:1)

a. \_\_\_\_\_

b. \_\_\_\_\_

c. \_\_\_\_\_

We too have spiritual land to possess and very real spiritual enemies to overcome.

13. What three things does James say about those who have friendship with the ways of the world? (James 4:4)

a. \_\_\_\_\_

b. \_\_\_\_\_

c. \_\_\_\_\_

14. What is in the world? (I John 2:16)

a. \_\_\_\_\_

b. \_\_\_\_\_

c. \_\_\_\_\_

15. What commandment did Jesus give for us to follow, and what did He say for us to seek first? (Mark 12:28-31; Matthew 6:33)
- a. \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_
16. Before we decide to become a disciple and follower of Jesus, what are we exhorted to do? (Luke 14:28-30)
- \_\_\_\_\_
17. What will the Lordship of Jesus bring? (Matthew 10:34)
- \_\_\_\_\_
18. What does Jesus point out as the three main areas of this conflict? (Matthew 10:17-22, 35-36)
- a. \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. \_\_\_\_\_
19. What did Paul say we must do to be saved? (Romans 10:9)
- a. \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_
20. What shall those who have forsaken all to follow Him receive? (Matthew 19:27-29; Mark 10:29-30)
- a. \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. \_\_\_\_\_
21. To as many as receive Him, what does Jesus give? (John 1:12)
- \_\_\_\_\_
22. What experience do we have as a result? (John 3:3-7)
- \_\_\_\_\_
23. When we receive Jesus, what does God give us through Him? (I John 5:11; Romans 6:23)
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

**Memory Verse:** II Corinthians 6:17-18 \_\_\_\_\_

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## Baptism in Water

When we come to Jesus and repent of our sins, we enter into what the Bible calls the “born again” experience. We experience a “new birth” and receive a new heart. Jesus comes to dwell in our hearts by faith. We become partakers of eternal life, for eternal life is in the Son. When we depart from this life, we will go to be with the Lord.

1. What are the three vital elements of the Christian life? (Acts 2:38)

a. \_\_\_\_\_

b. \_\_\_\_\_

c. \_\_\_\_\_

In the previous study we discovered what true repentance and submission to the Lordship of Jesus means. We come now to our next truth, water baptism, in which we experience a burial of our old nature and a rising to walk with Christ in a newness of life.

2. What did Jesus Himself say? (Matthew 28:19)

\_\_\_\_\_

3. For what purpose was our old sin-loving nature crucified with Him? (Romans 6:6)

“We know that our old (unrenewed) self was nailed to the cross with Him in order that (our) body, (which is the instrument) of sin, might be made ineffective and inactive for evil, that we might no longer be the slave of sin.” (Romans 6:6, *Amplified Bible*)

a. \_\_\_\_\_

b. \_\_\_\_\_

4. What provision did Jesus make for putting off the sin loving nature? (Colossians 2:11)

\_\_\_\_\_

5. What is the circumcision of Christ? (Colossians 2:11-12)

\_\_\_\_\_

This circumcision, made without hands, is a supernatural work of God. In the waters of baptism, God supernaturally takes His scalpel and cuts away from our lives the bondage to sin and buries it. A tremendous deliverance and victory takes place. Through faith you are identified with Christ in baptism and freed from the power and bondage of sin. Just like the Israelites, you are delivered into the promised land, able to meet and conquer your enemies head on.

6. An interesting parallel to baptism is brought out by Paul with the Israelites at the Red Sea. What does he say they experienced? (I Corinthians 2:12)

\_\_\_\_\_

- 
7. God performs the work of baptism. As a result you are raised up with Christ. This resurrection which God accomplishes for you is through what? (Colossians 2:12)
- 

Without faith in God's working, you will only get wet and without an understanding of what God wants to do in water baptism, it is difficult to exercise without faith.

8. When believers are baptized, they are following Jesus in what experience of His? (Romans 6:4).

a. \_\_\_\_\_

b. \_\_\_\_\_

9. If we have been united with Him in the likeness of His death, what shall we also be? (Romans 6:5)
- 

10. Jesus partook of our flesh and blood and died. Why did He do this? (Hebrews 2:14-15)

a. \_\_\_\_\_

b. \_\_\_\_\_

As He hung on the cross, Jesus became sin on our behalf. The purpose of this was to bring us to God the Father. Jesus died on the cross to make a perfect atonement for the sinful and lost condition of man. On the third day He arose from the dead and triumphed over Satan, thereby providing for man's salvation. Because we receive His life when we make Jesus Lord, our relationship to God is made alive and we also live in fellowship with God. Likewise, as we partake of water baptism, we share Jesus' burial and resurrection. Because we now share the resurrection life of Jesus, sin no longer has dominion over us.

11. In what way, or by what method, was the Ethiopian eunuch baptized? (Acts 8:38-39)
- 

The baptisms throughout the New Testament, including the baptisms of John, were all done by immersion; the people all went down into the water and came up again. The water represents the grave where the burial takes place.

12. What did the Philippian jailer do after believing Paul's message? (Acts 16:29-33)
- 

13. When was he baptized? (Acts 16:33)
- 

14. When were those who heard Peter's message baptized? (Acts 2:41)
-

Notice the immediacy of all the baptisms recorded in the book of Acts. Likewise, there should be no delay in the baptism of believers today.

15. In what name did Jesus tell the disciples to baptize? (Matthew 28:19)
- 

16. In what name did the disciples baptize? (Acts 2:38; 8:14-16; 10:45-48, 19:5)
- 

We read in Colossians 2:9: “For in Him the whole fullness of Deity (the Godhead) continues to dwell in bodily form [giving complete expression of the divine nature]” (*Amplified Version*). Jesus’ disciples understood this, for having His command, they went everywhere baptizing new believers. They were baptizing in the name, which is above all names, in the name, which all authority of heaven and earth is invested, and that name is Jesus. In the name of Jesus, demons are cast out, the sick are healed, and the lame walk.

17. Into whom are we baptized? (Romans 6:3)
- 

18. Many believers have gone through the motions of baptism, yet have not experienced a genuine New Testament baptism. In many cases, what have they experienced? (Acts 19:3-4)
- 

In the Old Testament an account was given of Naamon, the captain of the army of the King of Syria, who had leprosy. He went to Elisha, the prophet of God, to ask for healing. Leprosy in the Scripture is a type or symbol of “the body of sins of the flesh,” or of the bondage of the power of sin, because there is no cure for this disease apart from the mercy of God. The whole flesh is infected, and the end of it is death.

19. What did Elisha tell him to do? (II Kings 5:9-10)
- 

20. What was his response? (II Kings 5:11-12)
- 

In the same way, many people are insulted by God’s command for water baptism, thinking it is silly and ridiculous.

21. What was the servant’s advice to him, and what did he do? (II Kings 5:13-14)
- 

Likewise, we must become as little children and obey the simple things that God asks us to do. His ways are far above our ways. We must not lean to our own understanding. We must be careful lest we desire to do great feats for God, yet are not willing to humble ourselves to God’s way of doing things.

**Memory Verse:** Colossians 2:11-12

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-Notes-

## Baptism in the Holy Spirit

1. What instruction did Peter give to the Jewish people who were under conviction after his sermon at Pentecost? (Acts 2:37-38)

a. \_\_\_\_\_

b. \_\_\_\_\_

c. \_\_\_\_\_

2. What did Jesus tell His disciples to do before they went out into the world to preach repentance? (Luke 24:47-53)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. What was the “promise of the Father” they were to receive? (Acts 1:4-5)

\_\_\_\_\_

4. What did Jesus say would happen when the Holy Spirit came upon them? (Acts 1:8)

\_\_\_\_\_

Notice that this empowering produces the ability to be a witness; that is, it gives the ability to live the Christian life and the power to preach the gospel.

5. What did Jesus say about the Holy Spirit who He would send? (John 14:16-17)

\_\_\_\_\_

6. What are the other two names for the Holy Spirit? (John 14:16-17)

a. \_\_\_\_\_

b. \_\_\_\_\_

7. What other things did Jesus tell the disciples that the Holy Spirit would do for them? (John 14:26; 15:26; 16:13)

a. \_\_\_\_\_

b. \_\_\_\_\_

c. \_\_\_\_\_

d. \_\_\_\_\_

e. \_\_\_\_\_

8. Paul also speaks of the empowering. What did he say about the Gospel which he preached? (I Corinthians 2:4)

\_\_\_\_\_

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9. On what should the faith of men not rest? (I Corinthians 2:5)

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10. On what should their faith rest? (I Corinthians 2:5)

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11. How did Paul say that we might know the things that God has given us?  
(I Corinthians 2:9-12)

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12. What did Jesus say the Spirit would do for us when we are delivered up before the  
governors, kings and those in authority? (Matthew 10:18-20)

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13. Consequently, what are we exhorted to do when we are delivered up for the defense of  
the Gospel? (Matthew 10:19)

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All these things are available to all believers when the Holy Spirit is received.

14. What happened when the Holy Spirit was given? (Acts 2:1-4)

a. \_\_\_\_\_

b. \_\_\_\_\_

c. \_\_\_\_\_

15. The fire of the Holy Spirit represents the cleansing and purifying work of the Spirit in the  
lives of believers. How does John describe this cleaning work? (Matthew 3:12)

16. The prophet Malachi speaks of these cleansing fires. Describe this refining and purifying  
work that is to be done by the Holy Spirit. (Malachi 3:1-3)

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17. In fact, what does Paul say the Spirit of the Lord has come to do?  
(II Corinthians 3:18)

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18. To whom is the promised gift of the Holy Spirit made available? (Acts 2:39)

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19. Whom will the Father give the Holy Spirit? (Luke 11:13)

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**Memory Verse:** Acts 2:38-39

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-Notes-

## Commitment to the Body

1. By what sign did Jesus say all men would know that we are his disciples? (John 13:35)

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2. What kind of love did Jesus say this is? (John 13:34)

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3. In defining this love, what does the Scripture say? (I John 3:16; John 15:13)

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4. This love also expresses itself in commitment to each other in the following ways:

a. (I Peter 4:8) \_\_\_\_\_

b. (Galatians 5:15) \_\_\_\_\_

c. (Philippians 2:3-4) \_\_\_\_\_

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d. (I Corinthians 12:26; Romans 15:1) \_\_\_\_\_

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e. (Matthew 5:44) \_\_\_\_\_

f. (James 5:16; I Corinthians 12:25) \_\_\_\_\_

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g. (I John 3:17-18) \_\_\_\_\_

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5. What are we to be diligent to preserve? (Ephesians 4:3)

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Division is caused through backbiting and devouring one another. This cutting down of one another destroys the work of God and is one of Satan's main devices and tricks.

6. Why does Satan try to cause division? (Luke 11:17)

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7. It is Satan's desire to divide and lay waste God's kingdom. Therefore, if we know that any brother has anything against us, what are we to do? (Matthew 5:23-24)

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8. What attitude should we have? (Ephesians 4:32)

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9. What are we, as children of God, baptized into? (I Corinthians 12:13)

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10. What is the body of Christ? (I Corinthians 12:14)

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11. Is it God's will for us to walk alone in our service to Him? (I Corinthians 12:15-21)

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12. Where has God placed each individual member? (I Corinthians 12:18)

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13. If we are like eyes seeing things in the Spirit, or like ears hearing the direction in which the Spirit of God says go, can we function properly on our own? (I Corinthians 12:21)

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An eye sitting by itself on a table, detached from the rest of the body, cannot function. It is no good to itself or to anyone else apart from the physical body. It is also very ugly to look at. Yet, an eye connected to the physical body in its proper place is a great asset to the body because it gives light and sight to the whole body. The eye is also a very lovely thing to look at in the place where God designed it to be. An eye apart from the body is dead and can do nothing. So it is in the spiritual body of Christ. A member of the body separate and apart from the other members cannot function. It is dead, lifeless and good for nothing. Yet, the member when attached to the rest of the body performs its functions and blesses the entire body by being useful in the work of God. Each member receives its supply from the head of the body, who is Jesus.

14. Why is the manifestation of the Spirit or the gifts and operations of the Spirit given to each individual believer? (I Corinthians 12:7)

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15. How is the body fitted and held together? (Ephesians 4:16)

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16. In order for the joints to fit and hold the Body of Christ together, in what type of "working" order must each individual part be? (Ephesians 4:16)

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17. As each joint is supplying that which it has to give, what will happen? (Ephesians 4:16)

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18. A beautiful parable of this corporate working of the body is found in Joel. What concept does this parable communicate? (Joel 2:7-11)

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19. What are we, and what are we corporately being built into?

(I Peter 2:5; Ephesians 2:21-22)

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20. What is Jesus building, and what type of victory will it have? (Matthew 16:18)

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21. For what is Jesus coming? (Ephesians 5:25-27)

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Notice that Jesus is not coming for a superstar individual, but He is coming for a glorious church with spot or wrinkle; a church that is walking together in unity and love.

22. As your ministry develops, where has God appointed it to operate? (I Corinthians 12:28)

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23. How is the manifold wisdom of God going to be revealed? (Ephesians 3:10)

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24. What does Jesus call Himself? (John 15:5)

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25. What does He call the members of His body? (John 15:5)

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It is interesting to note that Jesus did not call Himself a tree, but a vine. A tree has limbs and branches that directly connect to, and branch off, from the main trunk. A vine, however, has no main trunk. It is composed of many branches connected together. In order to have a vine, you must have the branches. Each branch receives its life from the others by drinking the life-giving sap that flows from the roots. Jesus speaks of Himself as the head and His sons as the body, but He also speaks of Himself as the vine—the whole thing—and we as the branches of it. Just as the head is inseparable from the body, so also the branches are inseparable from the vine.

26. To bear fruit, what must we do? (John 15:5-6)

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As we have discussed the body of the Messiah, which is His church, we have found that it is not a building with a steeple on top, but a living organism. The word for the Church in the Greek is “ecclesia” which means “called out ones.” Those who make up a church according to the New Testament definition are true believers of Jesus, who have repented and turned from the ways of the world and of sin. As they are joined together into a local expression of Christ in the earth, they bring forth fruit.

27. Describe the church in its infancy. (Acts 2:40-47)

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## Intimacy with Christ

I serve a risen Savior; He is in the world today; I know that He is living, whatever men may say; I see His hand of mercy; I hear His voice of cheer; And just the time I need Him, He's always near.

He lives, He lives, Christ Jesus lives today!  
He walks with me and talks with me  
Along life's narrow way.  
He lives, He lives, salvation to impart!  
You ask me how I know He lives?  
He lives within my heart!  
-Alfred H. Ackley, 1887-1960

When Jesus walked the earth with His twelve disciples, the thought of His leaving them to go back to the Father was unbearable. Having become so accustomed to walking in unbroken fellowship with the Living God, it was among their deepest sorrows to contemplate going back to life it used to be before they knew Him.

1. What did Jesus tell His disciples in regards to His leaving them to go back to the Father? (John 16:7-8)

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2. What did Jesus promise His disciples in order to comfort them after His departure? (John 14:16-20)

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Through the power and presence of the Holy Spirit in their lives, His disciples experienced the presence of Christ in their hearts in an intimate way. While Jesus was on earth, the disciples experienced the Presence of God externally, but after Pentecost, He lived within their hearts!

It is to this intimate fellowship with Christ, that we are called!

3. For what three reasons did Jesus choose His disciples? (Mark 3:14)

a. \_\_\_\_\_

b. \_\_\_\_\_

c. \_\_\_\_\_

4. As Christians and partakers of the New Covenant, we have been called to inherit eternal life. What did Jesus say eternal life was all about? (John 17:3)

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5. The Apostle Paul understood this. What did he proclaim in his letter to the Philippians? (Philippians 3:8-11)

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6. In one of Paul's greatest apostolic prayers, what did he request for the church? (Ephesians 1:15-17)
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For those whose hearts desire is to know God and to experience the depths of Jesus Christ, Ephesians 1:17-19 is a prayer that should be prayed daily. Marvelous benefits will follow.

Jeanne Guyon wrote in the later part of the seventeenth century:

“If a new convert were introduced to real prayer and to a true inward experience of Christ as soon as he become converted, you would see countless numbers of converts go on to become true disciples . . . The new Christian should be led to God. How? By learning to turn within to Jesus Christ and by giving the Lord his whole heart. If you are one of those in charge of new believers, lead them to a real inner knowledge of Jesus Christ. Oh, what a difference there would be in the lives of those new Christians!

“Consider the results! We would see the simple farmer, as he plowed the field, spend his days in the blessing of the presence of God. The shepherd, while watching his flocks, would have the same abandoned love for the Lord, which marked the early Christians. The factory worker, while laboring with his outward man, would be renewed with strength in his inner man.

“You would see each of these people put away every kind of sin from his life; all would become spiritual men and women with hearts set on knowing and experiencing Jesus Christ.

“For a new Christians—for all of us in fact—the heart is important if we are to go forward in Christ. Once God has gained the heart, everything else will eventually take care of itself. This is why He requires the heart above all else.

“Dear reader, it is by the Lord gaining your heart, and no other way, that all your sins can be put away. If heart could be gained, Jesus Christ would reign in peace, and the whole church would be renewed.

“ In fact, we are discussing the very thing that caused the early church to lose its life and beauty. It was the loss of a deep, inner, spiritual relationship with Christ. Conversely, the church could soon be restored if this inner relationship were recovered!

“The simplest can know Him, and in the deepest way, with no help from rituals or forms or theological instruction! When it pleases Him, He turns factory workers into Prophets! No, He has not turned men away from the

inner temple of prayer. The reverse! He has thrown wide open those gates so that all may come in!” (Mme. Guyon, *Experiencing the Depths of Jesus Christ*, Auburn, ME: Seed Sowers, 1975, pp. 117-124)

The greatest doctrine of the Bible is that God can be known in personal experience.

7. How did John explain the Gospel that he and the other disciples preached? (I John 1:1-3)
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8. What did John see as the purpose for preaching the Gospel? (I John 1:3)
- 

John preached from a continuing fellowship with God, which he desired for others to enter into and experience.

Andrew Murray wrote in 1898:

“The great lack of our religion is—we need more of God. We accept salvation as His gift, and we do not know that the only object of salvation, its chief blessing, is to fit us for, and bring us back to, that close intercourse with God for which we were created, and in which our glory in eternity will be found. That only is a true and good religious life, which brings us every day nearer to God, which makes us give up everything to have more of Him.” (Andrew Murray, *The Two Covenants*, Fort Washington, PA: Christian Literature Crusade, 1974, pp. 8-9)

9. What promise did God give Israel through Jeremiah the prophet? (Jeremiah 29:13)
- 

A. W. Tozer explains:

“A spiritual kingdom lies all about us, enclosing us, embracing us, altogether within the reach of our inner selves, waiting for us to recognize it. God, Himself is here waiting on our response to His presence. This eternal world will come alive to us the moment we begin to reckon upon its reality” (A.W. Tozer, *The Pursuit of God*, Camp Hill, PA: Christian Pub., Inc., 1982, p. 52)

10. How did the psalmist describe his pursuit of God? (Psalm 42:1-2)
- 

11. Read Psalm 84. In this psalmist’s pursuit of God, how does he compare the blessings of knowing God, to seeking other things? (Psalm 84:10)
- 

Tozer continues:

“The moment the Spirit has quickened us to life in regeneration our whole being senses its kinship to God and leaps up in joyous recognition. That is the heavenly birth without which we cannot see the Kingdom of God. It is however, not an end but an inception, for now begins the glorious pursuit, the heart’s happy exploration of the infinite riches of the Godhead. To have found God and still to pursue Him is the soul’s paradox of love, justified in happy experience by the children of the burning heart. Come near to the holy men and women of the past and you will soon feel the heart of their desire after God. They mourned for Him, they prayed and wrestled and sought for Him day and night, in season and out, and when they had found Him the finding was all the sweeter for the long seeking.” (*The Pursuit of God*, pp. 14-15)

12. Jesus’ life was marked by His desire to seek the Father. What was Jesus in the habit of doing? (Matthew 14:23; Mark 1:35; Luke 6:12; 9:28)
- 

Jesus was always withdrawing from the multitudes to a lonely place to be alone with His Father. Sometimes He would rise up before sunrise and go out to pray. Other times He would stay up and pray late into the night. It was always in lonely places and in lonely hours while others slept that He found His closest fellowship with His Father. Jesus’ relationship to His Father was one of the greatest examples He left for us to imitate.

13. What did Jesus say the directive behind everything that He did and said? (John 5:19-20, 30; John 8:26, 28-29)
- 

As Jesus waited in the Father’s Presence for Divine direction and enablement, so must we. The blessings of the New Covenant cannot be experienced apart from a personal ongoing relationship with the Living God. We cannot live and walk in the power of the new life unless the Holy Spirit guides us every day hour. This kind of guidance cannot be known apart from much time in the Father’s presence, acquainting us with His voice, His will, and His nature.

14. When Jesus spoke to the woman at the well, what did He explain to her about true worship? (John 4:19-24)
- 

The early church was one, which was caught up, not in external forms and programs, but in the Presence of Christ. They understood that true Christianity was a worship of the heart. They came together to enjoy the Presence of their Risen Lord, to worship Him, to adore Him, to hear inspired messages from Him. Jesus, Himself, had promised them, “Wherever two or more are gathered together in my Name, there am I in the midst of them.” (Matthew 18:20)

In recent times, churches have substituted the “program” for the Presence and often becomes the center of attention. The most popular church is many times the one that can present the best “program” that interests the public. When Christians accept not only the substitution of the “program” for the Presence, but then rely

on that for their spiritual growth—when they omit personal seeking of the Lord—the effects will be deadening of the spiritual life.

15. Isaiah begins his ministry during the reign of King Uzziah. What indictment did God have against Israel? (Isaiah 1:1-3)

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The Amplified version says, “. . . but Israel does not know or recognize Me.”

16. Why had Israel become corrupt and wicked? (Isaiah 1:4)

a. \_\_\_\_\_

b. \_\_\_\_\_

c. \_\_\_\_\_

17. Although Isaiah had been prophesying during the reign of King Uzziah, in the year King Uzziah died, Isaiah had a revelation of God. What five things happened when Isaiah had this encounter with God? (Isaiah 6:5-8)

a. \_\_\_\_\_

b. \_\_\_\_\_

c. \_\_\_\_\_

d. \_\_\_\_\_

e. \_\_\_\_\_

Even though Isaiah prophesied in the name of the Lord, sin was present in his life, as well as in Israel because a deep knowledge of God was lacking

18. What will happen to us as we spend time beholding Him? (II Corinthians 3:18)

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The Phillips translation records, “We are transfigured in ever-increasing splendour into His own image, and the transformation come from the Lord, Who is the Spirit.”

19. Who did Jesus say were the ones who truly love Him? (John 14:21)

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20. What were Jesus’ commandments? (Matthew 22:37-40; John 13:34-35; John 15:12, 17)

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21. What will Jesus do for the one who has His commandments and keeps them? (John 14:21)

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Other translations say, “I will manifest Myself to him, reveal Myself and make Myself real to him.” Disclose means to open up, to bring to light, to lay open, to view, to reveal by word, to tell, to disclose the secret thoughts of the heart. Jesus promised those who really loved Him, that He would reveal the secret counsels of God’s heart; that He would show them His power and His glory and would reveal Himself to them. Of the twelve disciples that followed Jesus, there were three, Peter, James, and John, who were His closest friends. Because of this deep friendship, Jesus took Peter, James and John up to a high mountain to show them His glory.

22. What did they see and hear? (Matthew 17:1-5)
- 

We know that these three disciples loved Jesus because He disclosed Himself to them. Were Peter, James and John more special to Jesus than his other disciples? Did Jesus love them more? No, these three men were always walking as closely to Jesus as they could possibly get. They followed Jesus everywhere. It is because they loved Him more.

23. On the evening before His crucifixion, Jesus took His disciples to the Garden of Gethsemane to pray with Him. What did he do? (Mark 14:32-33)
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24. What did Jesus tell them? (Mark 14:33-34)
- 

To these men, His closest friends, Jesus began to show His grief and distress. Jesus wanted only those who loved Him deeply to be near Him in His greatest sorrow. After Jesus’ arrest in the garden, most of His disciples ran away and hid because they were afraid for their lives. Only John followed Jesus to the cross. In such a time of crisis those who loved Jesus the most stayed by Him. Of the twelve disciples who followed Jesus, it was John who showed that he loved Jesus most of all. John, along with Mary, the mother of Jesus, His mother’s sister, and Mary Magdalene were the only people who dared to stand at the foot of the cross. To so identify with a crucified man could mean certain death.

25. What did Jesus say was the greatest demonstration of love? (John 15:13)
- 

John and three Mary’s showed the greater love for their Master. They did not care about their own lives. They loved Jesus intensely and did not want to abandon Him at the hour of His suffering. The rest of the disciples, however, showed by their actions they cared more about themselves than they did about Jesus. At the crucifixion, the others stood at a distance, with the crowds, because they feared that they too might be arrested. Jesus was greatly moved by the affection and devotion of these four people. When Jesus saw His mother and John, the disciple whom He loved, standing nearby, He said to His mother, “Woman, behold your son!” Then He said to John, “Behold, your mother!” From that hour on, John took her into his own household. It was John that Jesus committed the care of the dearest person in the entire world to Him—His very

own mother. It is only to one who is deeply loved and trusted that a man will commit his most treasured possession.

When John wrote his account about the life of Jesus, he revealed—of all those who wrote the Gospels—the deepest understanding of who Jesus really was. It is John's Gospel that reveals Jesus' Deity, as God in human flesh. In his Gospel, John always speaks of himself as being the disciple whom Jesus loved. John was confident of Jesus' love for him. Of the remaining disciples who had personally walked with Jesus, John was the only one who did not die a martyr's death; for standing at the foot of the cross, he had already shown that he was ready to lay down his life. It was also to John that Jesus entrusted the book of Revelation. It was to John that He revealed the secret counsels of His heart. The book of Revelation of Jesus Christ reveals the history of the church, the glorious triumph over good and evil, and the final victory and glory of Christ's coming kingdom.

26. What did Jesus do for those who fear Him? (Psalm 25:14)

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After Jesus' crucifixion and burial, Mary Magdalene, one of the women who had stood by Jesus at the foot of the cross, went to Jesus' tomb early on the first day of the week. When she arrived at the tomb, she found that the stone had been rolled away and that Jesus' body was gone. She ran to get Peter and John. When the men came to the tomb and saw the body of Jesus was gone, they returned to their own homes.

27. What did Mary do? (John 20:10-13)

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28. What happened? (John 20:14-18)

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Mary Magdalene was the first person to whom Jesus revealed Himself after the resurrection. It was by her that He first sent word to His disciples of His victory over death. Most of the disciples were in hiding because they feared for their lives. The beloved John had come, Peter being deeply repentant because of his recent denial of the Master, had come also. John records himself that when he saw that the body was gone, he believed. This reveals to us that John had an understanding of who Jesus was. Both men returned home. Mary alone remained, deeply grieved, seeking to find His body. As a result of Mary's love for Him, Jesus chose her as the first to behold His glory. Jesus was irresistibly moved by the strength of her love for Him.

Peter, James, John and Mary were all lovers of God. It was not that God loved them more than the others or had favorites upon whom He bestowed special blessings. But the reason that God came close them and revealed Himself to them in ways, which He had not done for the others, was because they loved Him more than the other people did. Such has been the testimony of numerous saints in all ages.

29. If we press on to know the Lord, what can we be certain of? (Hosea 6:3)

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