



# Basic Bible Courses

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## Lesson 1

# GOD'S PLAN FOR SALVATION

### The creation of man

- Man did not evolve. He was created by God. In whose likeness was he created?  
*Genesis 1:26-28*

### The fall of man

- Instead of trusting the Lord and serving Him, Adam disobeyed God thinking he could take charge of his own life. *Genesis 3:1-7*
- As a result of Adam's disobedience, was there a change in his relationship with God?  
*Genesis 3:7-24*

### The result of the fall

- Sin entered the world. This is described as Original Sin - the sinful nature.  
*Romans 5:12; Romans 7:18*
- Our sinful nature causes us to commit sins. Our way of life is the way of sin.  
*Psalms 51:5; Ephesians 4:22; Romans 8:7*
- The carnal man is given over to sin. *Ephesians 2:1-3*

### Sin

- Sin is the failure to do what is right. *James 4:17*
- Sin is doing something that is against God's will. *Matthew 15:19; James 1:15*

### God's heart for mankind

- God wants to reconcile Man to Himself. The only way for Him to do this was to give His Son to pay the price for our sin. *John 3:16*
- God has provided only one way for Man to be set free from sin.  
*Acts 4:12; Romans 10:9-10*
- What was the purpose of Christ's death on the Cross?  
*2 Corinthians 5:21; Isaiah 53:4-6*

### How does Christ direct the Church?

- Christ has placed specific spiritual gifts in the Church in order to equip and strengthen us spiritually. The most important of these are the Apostolic and Prophetic ministries, which are responsible for laying the foundation of Christ in our lives. Teachers, Evangelists and Pastors then build on this foundation, so bringing the Church to maturity and perfection, and to the image of Christ.  
*Ephesians 2:20; 1 Corinthians 12:28; Ephesians 4:11-14*

### The local church

- Each group of Christians meeting in a specific area is known as the local church. The Elders are shepherds and are in authority over each local church. Some may also teach or preach, but an Elder's primary responsibility is to take care of God's people and feed them as a shepherd feeds his sheep. *Acts 20:17,28*

### What is the purpose of the Church?

- To establish each believer firmly in Christ. *Hebrews 10:24-25*.  
We must realise that being a part of the Church is a way of life. The Church is a spiritual family that meets in order to be edified. When we gather it is to worship the Lord, to benefit from the ministry of the Word, for the breaking of bread, and prayer. *Acts 2:42*
- To make Christ known to the world. *Ephesians 3:10; 1 Thessalonians 1:6-9*  
The most powerful testimony we can give the world is the reality of our own lives being changed by the power of Christ.
- To bear fruit. *Matthew 7:17-20*

Jesus said that we can recognise the true from the false by its fruits. The Church is a miracle, as people from every walk of life are knit together in love, as one family in the spirit, bearing the fruit of Christ. This reality is what shakes the world.

### The Church will be perfected

- Jesus is coming for a holy and glorious Church. *Ephesians 5:27*

## Lesson 9

# THE CHURCH

### What is the Church?

- The word 'church' comes from the Greek word 'Ekklesia' meaning 'the called out ones'.
- It is important to understand that in the Bible the word 'church' is never used to refer to a building or place of worship, but always to people who have been saved and called out of this world to serve the Lord as part of the Body of Christ. The Church is built on the revelation of who Jesus is. He is the foundation and the builder of the Church. *Ephesians 1:22-23; Matthew 16:16-17; 1 Corinthians 3:11-12*

### When did the Church start?

- The New Testament Church was born on the day of Pentecost, 50 days after Jesus rose from the grave, when the Lord poured out the Holy Spirit on His twelve Apostles. *Acts 2:40-42*

### How do I become a part of the Church?

- When Jesus died on the cross a miracle took place. Before His death, the Gentile nations were excluded from the promises of God (unless they became a Jew and kept the Law).
- Through His death, Jesus did away with the works of the Law and opened the door to every nation to become the people of God. Consequently, when you received Christ as your Lord and Saviour, you, by the Spirit, became part of His Body – the Church. *Ephesians 2:14-22*

### The Church is the Body of Christ

- This tells us that Christ calls His Church, His Body, and that He is the Head. The Church is not an organisation set up by man nor is it under man's control. *Ephesians 1:22-23*
- Here we see that just as the natural body has many parts, so too has the Church. Each of us has a special place in the Body of Christ, which we find as we relate to one another in love and humility. *1 Corinthians 12:12-18; Ephesians 4:15-16*

### Repentance is necessary

- When preaching Christ to the world, what did the Apostles say men must do because of their sin? *Acts 2:38; Acts 17:30; Acts 20:20-21; 2 Peter 3:9*
- Repentance means 'to change direction'. It is more than just sorrow at how we have lived; it is a willingness to receive Christ as Lord and change the way we live.

### Saved by grace

- Can we be saved by our good works? *Ephesians 2:8-9*
- Can we be saved by keeping the Law? *Romans 3:21-24*
- How can we be saved then? *Galatians 2:16*

### What happens next?

- What does God say will happen to our sins once He has forgiven them? *Psalms 103:11-12*
- The Bible speaks of a believer as being someone who has received salvation from the Lord (salvation means deliverance, in this case, from sin). It also means that we have received the nature and the life of God in us. *John 3:3*
- When we receive Christ as our Lord and Saviour, what special miracle takes place in our hearts? *John 1:12-13*

### God gives us assurance

- How do we know we have eternal life? *John 5:24; 1 John 5:11; 1 John 5:13; Romans 8:16*
- Christ comes to live in our hearts by faith. *Galatians 2:20; Ephesians 3:17*

### We need to grow in faith

- What must we do after being saved? *1 Peter 2:2-3*

## Lesson 2

# REPENTANCE

### What is repentance?

- Repentance is a gift from God. It is the power God gives us to turn from our old way of life and to turn to Him. *Acts 11:18; 2 Timothy 2:24-25; Acts 5:31*

### What is our 'way of life'?

- We are born with a sinful nature. Our sinful nature causes us to commit sins. Sin is an integral part of our lives. *Psalm 51:5; Ephesians 4:22; Romans 8:7*
- The carnal man is given over to sin. *Ephesians 2:1-3*

### What is sin?

- Sin is the failure to do what is right. *James 4:17*
- Sin is doing something that is against God's will. *Matthew 15:19; James 1:15*
- Sin has consequences. *James 1:15*
- There are two types of sin:
  - a) Original Sin (sinful nature), which is the basic corruption of every human being. *Romans 5:12*
  - b) The act of sinning, which is the breaking of God's Law. *1 John 3:4*

### The road of repentance

- Since by our nature we are opposed to God, the Holy Spirit has to impart faith to us so that we can believe in the Word of God. *Romans 8:7; John 5:24; Romans 10:9-10*
- We are convicted of sin by hearing the Word. *Acts 2:37*
- The Holy Spirit shows us that we have gone astray. *John 16:8*
- This produces Godly sorrow and humility of heart. *2 Corinthians 7:10*
- God gives us strength to repent. *Acts 11:18*
- His goodness leads us to repentance. *Romans 2:4*

### God's Word is His wisdom for our lives

- There is one kind of wisdom that comes from the world and another that comes from God. The wisdom of the world produces death, while the one that comes from the revelation of God through His Word, produces life. *Psalm 119:130; Psalm 119:105*

### God's Word is a revelation to our hearts

- Paul's prayer for the Church was that the eyes of their understanding might be opened so that, through the help of the Holy Spirit, the Gospel becomes revelation when it is preached or read. *Ephesians 1:15-18*
- We are, therefore, encouraged to meditate on the Scriptures. *Joshua 1:8; Psalm 1:1-3*

## Lesson 8

# THE WORD OF GOD

### The Bible

- The Bible is the foundation of our faith. We must understand that it is no ordinary book but is God's Word to Man.

### How was the Bible written?

- Over the ages, men of God, anointed by the Holy Spirit, declared His Word, which was then written down. *2 Timothy 3:16; 1 Peter 1:23-25*

### Is what is written in the Bible true?

- The answer is yes. For example, there were many prophecies in the Old Testament concerning Jesus that proved this. Isaiah, who lived in 750 B.C. spoke clearly of the coming of the Messiah and how He would die. *Isaiah 53:4-9*
- In the New Testament, the Apostles referred to prophecies and their fulfillment. *Acts 1:16*

### God's Word remains valid today

- We realise that God's Word is as much alive today as when it was first spoken. This is because the Holy Spirit is the One who speaks to our hearts revealing the truth contained in the Scriptures to us. *Hebrews 4:12; John 14:26; John 16:13*

### God's Word has the power to change our lives

- Our attitude towards God's Word is very important.
- Read the parable of the Sower. *Luke 8:4-15*
- Here we see that God spoke to the hearts of many different kinds of people. But only those who opened their hearts to receive His Word benefitted. *1 Thessalonians 2:13*

### Fruits of repentance

- Freedom in our hearts.
- A sincere desire to turn away from our sin and past life and to give ourselves completely to God in order to walk in His ways. *1 Thessalonians 1:9*

### Repentance leads to

- Forgiveness of our sins
- Salvation
- Eternal life
- Reconciliation with God
- The love, joy and peace of God
- The righteousness of God
- A life of faith in Christ
- Sanctification

### Repentance is a lifestyle

- When we sin, we are able to humble ourselves and ask for God's forgiveness, and He forgives us and purifies us from our sins. *1 John 1:9*
- We are unable to change ourselves (dead works). Only God can do this. Therefore, we have to repent continuously for trying to accomplish this by our own efforts. God wants us to remain humble, in faith, depending on His grace.

## Lesson 3

# FORGIVENESS

### Forgiveness brings freedom from sin

- Man by his nature could not get rid of his sins. Therefore, God in His great love made a wonderful plan to save Man. His Son, Jesus, became sin for us before God. *2 Corinthians 5:21*
- When we accept the sacrifice Jesus made at Calvary and we repent of our sins and recognise Jesus as our Saviour, we enter the Kingdom of God and receive forgiveness for our sins. *Acts 10:43*
- Jesus takes away the sin of the world by His one and only sacrifice. *Hebrews 9:25-28*
- He wiped out the written code that was against us and in His grace forgave us. *Colossians 2:13-15*
- The forgiveness of sin is granted to anyone who believes in the sacrifice of Christ on the Cross. *John 1:29*

### We need to ask God for His forgiveness

- We continue to sin because of the carnal nature within us. *1 John 1:8*
- He has promised to forgive us from all of our sins. *1 John 1:9*

### Forgiving oneself

- When we ask for God's forgiveness, we must believe we have received it and have been completely forgiven. We should no longer allow the devil to accuse us, because he will try everything to condemn us. The revelation of God's Word renews our hearts and minds and sets us free. *Romans 8:1; Romans 8:33-34*

- a) Samaria: *Acts 8:14-16*
- b) Apostle Paul: *Acts 9:17; 1 Corinthians 14:18*
- c) The household of Cornelius: *Acts 10:44-46*
- d) Believers at Ephesus: *Acts 19:6*
- The promise of the Holy Spirit is for every born again Christian. *Luke 11:13*

### The gifts of the Holy Spirit

- Through baptism in the Holy Spirit the Lord is able to work through our lives in various powerful and supernatural ways. There are also other gifts of the Spirit. The gifts of the Spirit are temporary but the fruits of the Spirit last forever. *1 Corinthians 13:8-9; 1 Corinthians 13:13*

### The gift of tongues

- When a believer speaks in tongues, he speaks to God. *1 Corinthians 14:2*
- We can pray and sing in tongues. This contributes to building our spiritual life. *Jude 20; 1 Corinthians 14:4; 1 Corinthians 14:14-15*

## THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

### The Holy Spirit

- During His ministry on earth, Jesus relied entirely on the Holy Spirit. Before the Spirit came upon Him in the Jordan, He had not preached or done any miracles.
- What did John the Baptist see descending upon Jesus? *John 1:32-33*
- What enabled Jesus to preach the Gospel? *Luke 4:18; Acts 10:38*
- By what power did Jesus cast out demons? *Matthew 12:28*

### The Holy Spirit in the life of the disciples

- Jesus made it very clear to His disciples that after His resurrection He would send the Holy Spirit to be with them and to fill them with His power. *John 14:16-18*
- One of the roles of the Holy Spirit was to teach the disciples to understand spiritual things. *John 14:26; John 16:13*
- Jesus told His disciples that, after His ascension, the Holy Spirit would come upon them, and that they would be empowered to witness for Him. *Acts 1:4-8*
- On the day of Pentecost the disciples were baptised in the Holy Spirit and began to pray in languages they had never learnt. *Acts 2:1-12; Acts 2:32-33*
- This was the beginning of what God had promised for the Church in the last days. *Acts 2:17-18*

### The Holy Spirit in the Early Church

- Baptism in the Holy Spirit is a supernatural act. Its purpose is to equip the Christian to serve God and witness more powerfully. Throughout the New Testament, new believers were baptised in the Holy Spirit. This was usually done through the laying on of hands by the disciples, and was evidenced by the believer speaking in new tongues.

### In the same way that He forgives us, we need to forgive others

- As inheritors of the Kingdom of God we now live in forgiveness, and realise that we need to forgive others at all times, in order to keep our hearts pure. *Colossians 3:13*
- Jesus teaches us to forgive. *Matthew 6:12*

### To forgive one another

- Forgiving each other restores relationships with those around us. God has given us a spirit of reconciliation, and therefore we continually forgive one another in order to keep the bond of peace. If God has forgiven us, who are we to hold sin against others? *Colossians 3:12-14*
- Examples of forgiveness:
  - a) Having a humble heart that was free towards others: Stephen was stoned and showed forgiveness to his enemies, asking the Father not to hold their sin against them. *Acts 7*
  - b) Jesus Himself immediately forgave even those who put Him to death. *Luke 23:34*

### The consequences of unforgiveness

- Unforgiveness develops bitterness and resentment in the heart and may even be the cause of physical sickness. *James 5:15; 1 Corinthians 11:28-30*
- Unforgiveness is sin and it leads to a life of anguish. *Matthew 18:32-35*
- Unforgiveness hinders our prayers to God. *Psalms 66:18*
- The revelation of the Word cannot come to our hearts.

## Lesson 4

# FAITH

### The importance of faith

- God is a God of faith. *Mark 11:22-23*
- God honours faith. Without faith it is impossible to please God. *Hebrews 11:6*
- It is a way of life for the Christian. We do not need faith only for a blessing or healing. All that we do must be done in faith. *Romans 14:23*

### Faith grows

- Each Christian receives a measure of faith when he or she is born again. *Romans 12:3*
- Our faith, however, needs to grow so that we can please God in all things. Faith comes through the revelation of the Word of God. *Romans 10:17*
- Our faith is strengthened by the revelation of the Word of God, and our heart is enlightened concerning the Son of God and the work He accomplished on the Cross and through His resurrection.

### We live by faith

- We are saved by grace through faith. *Ephesians 2:8*
- God gives us faith to be saved. *Philippians 1:29*
- Abraham is the father of faith. As Abraham did, we also receive righteousness by faith. *Galatians 3:8-9*
- We have the victory through faith. *1 John 5:4-5*
- We walk by faith. *2 Corinthians 5:7*

### Faith in prayer

- We pray in faith. *Matthew 21:22; James 5:15-16*
- It is by faith that we receive from God. *1 John 5:14-15*

### Old things have passed away; all things have become new

- Our old life is dead and buried. This is clearly represented by our immersion in water. Through baptism, we are declaring that we have become believers, and have finished with sin. When Jesus died, our old self died with Him. Baptism has the same meaning as the burial that follows death, and is a public declaration that the old life is finished. This shows our heartfelt commitment to God. *Romans 6:2-6; 1 Peter 3:21*

### How are we baptised?

- When we buy something 'in the name of' someone, it becomes the property of that person. To be baptised 'in the name of the Lord' means exactly the same thing. My life becomes His when I am baptised in His name. I acknowledge His rights over me. I belong to Him.
- The disciples obeyed Jesus' command by baptising new believers in His name. *Matthew 28:19; Acts 2:38; Acts 8:16; Galatians 3:27*

### Some questions about baptism

- **Should babies be baptised?**  
No, only when we are born again can we decide to be baptised. Baptising infants does not make them Christians.
- **Should a person be re-baptised?**  
Only if you were christened as an infant, or were not born again at the time of your baptism; or if you did not understand its true meaning when you were baptised.

## Lesson 6

# WATER BAPTISM

### Jesus - our example

- The Lord sent John the Baptist to prepare the way for Jesus. When the time came for Jesus to start His public ministry, He went to the Jordan River to be baptised by John. *Matthew 3:13-15*
- Jesus lived a life of total submission to the will of His Heavenly Father. By being baptised, He was publicly consecrating His life to the purpose for which He came to earth: His death and resurrection. We see how the Father spoke from heaven expressing His approval that His Son was giving His life in accepting His plan, and thus fulfilling the will of the Father, as an act of obedience. *Matthew 3:16-17*

### What does the word baptism mean?

- The word baptism comes from the Greek word 'Baptisma' and means 'to immerse or plunge into the water'. True baptism is not the sprinkling of water on someone's forehead.

### When should we be baptised?

- Only after someone has truly repented of their sin and experienced the reality of new birth (a changed life), should they be baptised. *Acts 2:38; Acts 8:36-37*

### Baptism - a public declaration

- Baptism is the outward sign of an inner change of heart. Baptism is also an act of faith because, like Jesus (now that we are Christians), we are publicly consecrating our lives to serving the Lord, and identifying ourselves with Him, in His death and resurrection. Thus we are willing to give ourselves completely to God's plan for our lives. We are ready to obey His Word. *Colossians 2:12*

- He who prays must believe that God answers his prayers as he is praying. He must believe that he has already received the answer to his prayer, even when circumstances point to the contrary.

### Our faith protects us

- Faith is a shield that protects us from the flaming arrows of the evil one, which are lies, doubt, fear etc. *Ephesians 6:16*
- Faith is our trust in God and our utter confidence in the work of His Son for us, even when all evidence is to the contrary.
- Our faith moves God to act in our favour. The prophets in the Old Testament experienced the blessing and grace of God through their faith. *Hebrews 11:1-2; Hebrews 6:12*

### Faith releases the power of God

- God created the world by faith. He spoke in faith and things came into existence. *Genesis 1; Hebrews 11:3; Psalm 33:9*
- Faith moves mountains in our lives; and when our hearts accept the work of the Cross of the Lord, He intervenes in our lives by His grace. *Mark 11:23*
- Faith is the firm assurance of things we hope for, the evidence of things not seen. *Hebrews 11:1*
- Faith takes hold of something before it is even seen, felt or touched. *Mark 11:24; John 20:27*

### How do we obtain faith?

- By reading and meditating on the Word of God which is Life and Truth. *Hebrews 4:12*
- By hearing God's Word through the preaching of the Gospel.
- When God speaks to us through the conviction of our hearts.
- Faith is therefore nurtured by prayer. Prayer keeps our faith focused.

## Lesson 5

# PRAYER

### Why pray?

- Prayer is the wonderful way Christians can enter into God's presence, to worship Him and receive guidance, help and strength. As the Lord challenges us, we will naturally want to pray in order to remain constantly in fellowship with Him. This is not repeating words but is our heart's response to Him. *James 4:8*

### Prayer in the life of Jesus

- Jesus made it clear that prayer was not a duty but the source of His very real and personal relationship with His Father, from whom He drew His strength. *Matthew 14:23; Luke 6:12; Luke 22:39-46*

### Prayer is every believer's right

- Because Christ lived and suffered as a man, He can identify with us in every situation we face. In shedding His blood, He gave every believer direct access to the Father. *Hebrews 4:14-16*
- Once we understand this, we realise how the Lord wants to be involved in every area of our lives; that every believer has access to the heart of the Father; just as Jesus did while He was on earth. We too can draw the strength we need for every situation from the Father, through sincere prayer. *Philippians 4:6; 1 Timothy 2:1-3; 1 Timothy 2:8; Hebrews 7:25*
- We realise that Jesus stands before the Father on our behalf to make intercession for us. *Romans 8:34*

### How do we pray?

- This is the most commonly asked question. Let's remember that there is no technique involved, for prayer is simply our relationship with God.

However, there are a few basic guidelines we can follow:

- a) We pray from the heart. *Matthew 6:5-8*  
Avoid the use of repetitive phrases and prayers, as there is no true sincerity in these.
- b) We need to pray in faith. *Hebrews 11:6*  
Faith is not an emotional feeling; it is the inner assurance that whenever I bring my heart before the Lord with sincerity, He hears me.
- c) We must pray according to God's will. *1 John 5:14-15*  
In other words, I cannot ask God to do what is contrary either to His Word or His nature. If I pray according to His will, I know He hears me and that I will receive what I am asking for.
- d) We ask in His name. *John 14:13-14*  
This has the same significance as being baptised in His name. By asking in His name, we are placing ourselves under His authority and seeking His will for our lives. His name represents everything that He is and all that He has done for us through His sacrifice on the Cross.

### Scripture encourages us to pray

- Jesus' prayer for the Church. *John 17:9; John 17:20-21*
- God calls His people to serve Him in prayer. *Acts 2:42; Acts 4:23-24*
- Prayer for the Church. *Ephesians 6:18; Colossians 1:9-12*
- Prayer for the servants of God. *Colossians 4:2-4; Ephesians 6:18-19*
- Prayer for all men. *1 Timothy 2:1-2*

### Hindrances to prayer

- An unrepentant heart. *Psalms 66:18; Mark 11:25-26*  
When I deliberately harden my heart because of sin, the result is that I will also harden my heart towards God. This changes when I am ready to repent and allow the Lord have access to my heart again.
- Sin in our lives. *Isaiah 59:2*