



THE PRESENT HELP SANCTUARY OF GOD
MINISTRIES

BEGINNING A NEW LIFE

IN

CHRIST JESUS

- Fundamental Studies -

[A 17-DAY STUDY GUIDE FOR A NEW CONVERT]
REFERENCE MANUAL FOR THE REST OF US

TABLE OF CONTENTS

STUDY 1:	UNDERSTANDING THE NEW BIRTH	1
STUDY 2:	REPENTANCE FROM DEAD WORKS: Heb.6:1-2 -----	5
STUDY 3:	DISCOVERING YOUR NEW SELF. Part 1 -----	8
STUDY 4:	DISCOVERING YOUR NEW SELF - Part 11 -----	10
STUDY 5:	LEARNING ABOUT THE BIBLE, THE TRINITY AND THE DEVIL -----	11
STUDY 6:	QUIET TIME -----	15
STUDY 7:	TEACHING ON BAPTISM: THREE BAPTISMS FOR TRUE BELIEVERS --	18
STUDY 8:	PERSONAL EVANGELISM -----	20
STUDY 9:	CHRISTIAN CONDUCT AND DISCIPLINE (PART I) -----	21
STUDY 10:	CHRISTIAN CONDUCT AND DISCIPLINE PART (II) -----	23
STUDY 11:	THE BIBLICAL FASTING AND PRAYER -----	24
STUDY 12:	DIVINE HEALING -----	27
STUDY 13:	RESTITUTION, HOLY MARRIAGE AND TITHES -----	29
STUDY 14:	DELIVERANCE -----	31
STUDY 15:	THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST -----	34
STUDY 16:	(PART I) PROPHECY IN THE ~CHURCH, RESURRECTION OF THE DEAD AND THE MILLENNIAL REIGN -----	36
STUDY 16:	(PART II) COMING JUDGMENTS -----	38

STUDY I : UNDERSTANDING THE NEW BIRTH

INTRODUCTION

To become a member of a family, you are either born or adopted into it. The new birth is the way you are both born and adopted into the family of God. It is a spiritual experience that transforms you from the kingdom of darkness into the kingdom of God. It is both a spiritual and moral change. Christ lives in you by the Holy Spirit. It is so vital an experience that no one can enter into Gods Kingdom without it,

I. What New Birth is not:

- (a) Religion or church membership-Acts 10:1-9; John 3:1-3; Matt. 23:27-33.
- (b) Keeping the law - Rom. 3:20; Gal. 2:16 - 21; John 2:10; Acts 13:39
- (c) Self-righteousness - Isaiah. 64:6; Phil, 3;8-9
- (d) Education and culture -1 Cor, 1:18-25.
- (e) Baptism -.Acts 8:36-39,
- (f) Good works and good morals

These things are good and important but they will not substitute for the new birth (Matt. 23:23).

2: What then is New Birth?

John, 3:1--7; Jn. 1:12-13; 1 Pet. 1;23; Col. 1:12-13 Eph, 2:8-10, It is a spiritual birth. Our spirit not flesh becomes born again. Every man must undergo this second birth to receive power to become a child of God. It is the process of substituting the Adamic, that is, the sinful nature, with the nature of God which is the nature of Holiness.

3. Why is the new Birth so important?

The nature of Adam on any man will stand against him at the gate of heaven if not substituted, as explained, before he gets there because;

- (a) Man is spiritually dead and cannot obey, understand or please God. Romans 8:6-8; Jeremiah 17:9; Ephesians 2:3
- (b) He must be re-born if he is to see or enter the kingdom of God John.3:3-5.
- (c) Without the new birth the natural man is the child of the devil Jn. 8:44; 1 John.3:10.
- (d) The natural man is corrupt in his affections and perverse in his will Galatians. 5:19-21; Mark. 7.2-23.
- (e) The new birth affects our taste, habit, opinion, desire, appearance and hope II Cor.5:17.

- (f) Through the new birth, we are raised from death in sin to the life of righteousness.

4. How can I be born again?

- (a) Acknowledge that you are a sinner - Rom 3:23; Luke 18:13 Ps, 51
- (b) Confess your sins to God 1 John. 1:9.
- (c) Sincerely repent of your sins Acts 3:19; Luke 13:3.
- (d) Forsake or turn away from your sins and old ways Isaiah. 55:7; Proverb 28:13.
- (e) Believe Him and His substitutionary sacrifice John. 3:16; 11 Cor. 5:21,
- (f) Receive Him into your heart by faith and thereafter thank God for saving you Jn, 1:11-12; Eph.2:8,

5. What are the evidences of the new birth?

The following characteristics will be manifested in the believer who is born again;

- (a) A changed life 2 Cor 5:17.
- (b) Righteousness 1Jn. 2:29,
- (c) Holiness 1 Jn, 5;18, 3:7.
- (d) Godly love 1 Jn, 4:7.
- (e) Overcoming life 1 Jn. 5:4.
- (f) Witness of the spirit Rom 8:16.

6. How can we live this new life successfully?

- (a) We must submit totally to Christ. II Cor. 5:15;
- (b) Giving ourselves to the daily reading and study of the Word I Peter 2:2 Psalm 119:103;
- © Constant fellowship with the brethren, Hebrew. 10:25, - attend most church meetings.
- (d) Give yourself to constant Prayer Luke 18:1; Eph. 6:18; 1Thessanians 5:17

CONCLUSION

In the light of what we have learnt today, a born again Christian **MUST** be different from those who are not. This difference should be evident in what he/she says, does or wears.

MEMORY VERSE: II CORINTHIANS 5:17

STUDY 2: REPENTANCE FROM DEAD WORKS: Heb.6:1-2

INTRODUCTION

This is the first fundamental doctrine of Christ in the scripture. Nobody can lay claim to being born again without the step of genuine repentance,

1. What does Repentance mean? *Heb. 6:1-2; Acts 3:19; 1Thes.1:5-10.* It is a firm conscious personal decision to change from sin (obedience to the devil) to righteousness in obedience to God, Living holy. It is not an emotion.

Repentance must involve the steps of:

- (a) Acknowledge the fact that you have sinned. Rom. 3: 23
- (b) Confess your sins. 1 John 1;9
- (c) Ask God for forgiveness and His mercy, Isa, 55:7
- (d) Ask for divine ability to forsake your sins. Prov. 28:13

2. How important is the subject to us as believers?

(a) Luke 3:7-9 - Genuine repentance is followed by desirable fruits of love, peace, patience, faith etc.

(b) Matt. 4:17; Luke 13:1-5; Luke 15:7; Luke 5:32; Luke 24:46-47 - Jesus our Lord and Master

commanded us to repent and be saved,

(c) Act 2:37-38; Acts 17:30-31; 20:20-21- The disciples preached it.

(d) Matt. 3:1-2 - John the Baptist also preached it.

Nobody can say he is born again without genuine repentance

3. What are the dead works from which we have to repent?

(a) Idols in your heart. Ezek. 14:6-8; 1 Thess. 1:9

(b) Sin. Rom. 6:11-14

(c) All unrighteousness. 1 Cor. 6:9-11; Eph. 4:25-31

(d) Works of the flesh. Gal. 5:19-21

(e) Empty religion. 11 Tim. 3:1-9

4. Elements of genuine repentance?

- (a) Conviction - Before any sinner can repent, he must be convicted that he has urgent need to make his way right with God. Ps. 38:4; 51:3; Acts. 2:37
- (b) Godly sorrow: This comes as a consequence of conviction by the Holy Spirit. This produces repentance. II Cor.7: 10
- (c) Renunciation: True repentance involves grief and hatred for sin turning from it to God. Isa. 55:7; Joel 2-13

5. Distinguish between genuine repentance and remorse?

Ps. 51:1-19; Rom. 6:23; Rom. 12:1-2; Matt. 27:3-4; Acts 1:25

<u>GENUINE REPENTANCE</u>	<u>REMORSE</u>
- Leads to salvation	- Leads to death
- Comes from the spirit	- Comes from emotion
- Godly sorrow for sin	- Regret for wrong doing
- Heartfelt confession and desire to forsake sin	- Shallow and transient concern about sin
- Physical manifestation of holy life, thoughts and work	- Turbulent life of sorrow and failure

Genuine repentance is a two-fold act:

- (1) Turning from sin
- (2) Turning unto God.

Turning from sin without turning to God is reformation without regeneration.

6. What are the apparent results of genuine repentance?

- (1) Cleansing with the blood of Jesus by faith, I Jn. 1:7-9
- (2) Justification as if sins never occurred, II Cor.5:17;
- (3) Peace with God and man. Rom 5:1; Acts. 3:19
- (4) Assurance of forgiveness, ability to have fruitful fellowship with God in prayer. Rom 8:1
- (5) Joy of salvation. Luke 15:7, 10; Gal. 5:22-23; Ps. 51:12-14
- (6) Escape from the consequence of sin is part of the fruit of genuine repentance. Is. 30:15; Ps. 51:1-10

CONCLUSION

Remember, God is not mocked (Gal. 6:7). Sin will always pay its full if not repented of (Rom. 6:23a), and that God is ready to forgive and He is plenteous in Mercy (Ps. 86:5) if there is a genuine repentance. Therefore repent now so that you could have wonderful times of refreshing from the presence of the Lord.

Acts 3:19 Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord;

MEMORY VERSE: PROVERBS 28:13

STUDY 3: DISCOVERING YOUR NEW SELF. Part 1

INTRODUCTION

Before Apostle Saul had his first encounter with God on the way to Damascus, he was an avowed (sworn) enemy of the Lord Jesus Christ. But after the experience on the way to Damascus, he became a different person. He was commissioned and he started preaching the same Gospel he had persecuted Acts 9:1-22. Earlier, Saul (who became Paul) was a servant or slave of the Law, culture and traditions but was turned to a servant of God in righteousness.

A. Knowing who you are

1. You were a servant of sin, a child of the devil but now have been delivered from sin and its passions. Rom. 6:16-18; Rom. 7:5-6; Jn. 8:34-44; 1Jn. 3:8
2. You who were taken captive, afflicted and dehumanized at will by the devil, are now totally delivered from the power of darkness and translated into the kingdom of the Lord Jesus Christ. 1Tim.2:26; Luke 13:11-16; Col. 1:12-13
3. You were once no people, alien to the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise but have now been made sons (children), in fact, Joint-heirs with the Lord Jesus and thereby made entitled to all divine blessings. Rom. 9:25-26; Eph. 2:11-16; Rom. 8:17; Eph. 1:3; 11 Peter 1:3-4; Eph. 2:19; I Peter 2:9-10
4. Satan had rule and authority over you since you lost your first position due to sin. However, the new you are now **restored back** to that former position and you now bear rule, power, dominion and authority over satan and his cohorts. 1Tim.2:25-26; II Peter 2:9; Luke 4:6; Col. 1:20--22; Luke 10:19; James 4:7; Luke 9:1; Luke 10:1, 17
5. You were blind to the light of the glorious gospel of Jesus Christ but now you could see. II Cor. 4:4
6. You were God's enemy, but now his friend and a citizen of heaven. Rom, 5:1-2; I Jn. 2:15; Eph. 2:6

B. How does God see you now?

1. As a new person entirely. Whose sins have both been washed away and forgotten. 2 Cor. 5:17, Gal. 6:15, Heb. 8:12, Rev.1:5, 1 John 1:7, Isa. 43:25, Isa.44:22, Sin, mentioned here include every manner of sin committed in the past.
2. As being holy and peculiar to Him. He has consequently kept you as the apple of His eye. I Pet.2:9; Titus 2:14; Ex. 19:5-6; Deut. 32: 10; Zech 2:8; Isa 54:15--17
3. As a new creature that is separated unto God. 11Cor. 5:17; Eph. 4:22-24; Col. 16:13-14; Eph. 6:17-18
4. As The righteousness of God by faith in Christ. Rom.3:22; Phil. 3:9; Isa. 54: 17; Gal. 2:20

Sanctification

To sanctify means to make holy, to make pure and to be separated unto (set apart for) God. Sanctification is the second work of grace. It attacks and removes the root of sin, Lev. 20:7-8; John 17:17-18; Heb. 12:14; !I Cor. 6:14-18

Sanctification is for the body and all that we have. Lev. 22:14-16; Rom. 12:1-2

The deliverance from the power of besetting sins can be achieved through sanctification. Heb. 12:1

How to be sanctified

- By the word. John 17:17; Heb. 4:12
- By the blood of Jesus. Heb. 10: 19-20; 9:13-14; 1 John 1:9
- By the Holy Spirit. I Pet. 1;2; 11 Thess. 2:13
- By God. 1 Thess. 5:23

CONCLUSION

Your position is exactly like that of Saul mentioned in the introduction. You (put your name) were weak before, but now are strong, were an under-dog to Satan, but now his master. You have now overcome him and not only that, you are now to begin to rescue from his hands those he is still holding captive.

MEMORY VERSE: I PETER 2:9

STUDY 4: DISCOVERING YOUR NEW SELF - Part II

INTRODUCTION

Now that you have, by the Grace of God become a child of God, you must now learn to live and operate successfully in your new home. This is necessary because the kind of life you were living before is a sharp contrast to your new life (nature).

1. The Immediate Things God Expects From You

- (a) Put off the old man and put on the new man Matt. 9:16-17; Eph. 4:22-24. What are the things to put off? (Discuss) Eph. 4:25-32; Col. 3:5-10
- (b) Break all diplomatic relations with the devil and his kingdom 11 Cor. 6:14-18, Eph. 5:11-12. What kind of relationships are we to break? (Discuss) Gal 4:4-9; Ps:1; Deut. 7:3-6; 1 Cor, 15:33; Joshua 23:12-13.
- (c) Purify yourself, your thoughts and all you have on a daily basis, in order to retain God there. 1 Cor.3:18-17; Rom. 12:1-2; Phil. 4:8; Ex. 32:29 How can these be achieved (Discuss) 1 Pet. 2:11; James 4:7; Jn. 17:17; Pro. 23:26, “Thy word have I hid in my heart that I might not sin against thee.” Ps 119:11.
- (d) He expects you to have regular fellowship and unbroken, personal relationship with him, (Discuss) 1 Jn 1:1-3; Jam.4:8a, “Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee.” Isa. 26:3. (Jesus Christ gave us a good example) Luke 6:12,
- (e) You should fellowship with other brethren at all times Heb,10:25; Acts. 2:42-47; Ps. 133:1-3. Why is this type of fellowship very Important? Eccl. 4:9-10; Matt. 18:18-20; Deut. 32:30.
- (f) You must do all things in FAITH in order to please God. Gal. 3:11; Rom. 1: 17; Heb. 11.6; Mk. 11:23-24 Discuss

- **What is Faith?** Heb. 11:1

- How can we receive the victorious kind of faith? Rom.10:17

- Examples of victorious Faith: Rom. 4:19-22; Heb.11:17-19, Dan. 3:17; Sam. 17:37

2. The Immediate Things You Should Expect From the World

- (a) The world will hate you. Discuss why? Jn. 15:18-19; Jn. 17:14; Matt. 6:44-48
- (b) The world will persecute you. Jn. 15:20-21; Jn. 16:33; 11Tim. 3:12. Distinguish between persecution and accusation. 1 Pet. 4:12-16.
- (c) The world will want to lure you back into doing things of old. Jam.4:7; Prov. 1: 10-15; James 1:12-16; Titus 2:11. -14.

MEMORY VERSE: EPHESIANS 5:11

STUDY 5: LEARNING ABOUT THE BIBLE, THE TRINITY AND THE DEVIL

A. The Bible

- (1) The Bible is the spoken word of God (Joshua 1:8), authored by the Holy Spirit through the instrumentality of inspired men of old, II Tim. 3:18--17; II Pet 1:20-21; Isa. 55:11
- (2) The Bible contains a total of Sixty-six books with thirty-nine in the Old Testament and Twenty-seven in the New Testament. (*Memorize these books in the order in which they occur*).
- (3) The Bible is the un-amendable CONSTITUTION of every believer, it answers every question of life and nothing should be added or subtracted from it as it is dangerous to do so. Deut, 4:2; Rev, 22:18-19; Deut 12:32
- (4) The New Testament is the fulfilment and the perfection of the Old Testament. Matt, 5:17-19; Rom 3:31; James 2:10

What you expect to find in the Bible?

- Mind of God - Gen. 1:1.
- State of man - Rom. 3:23.
- Way of salvation - Acts, 4:12; Rom. 3:24.
- Doom to sinners - Rom, 6;23; Rev. 20:15; John 3:36.
- Happiness for believers - Luke 10:20; John 14:1-4.
- Light to direct you - Ps. 119:115.
- Comfort to cheer you - I Cor. 1:4.

Doctrines of the Bible are:

- Holy - Ps. 19:7,
- Binding - Prov. 7;7; Prov. 4:20-23.
- True, right and pure - Rev. 15:3-4; Ps. 19:8.
- Immutable - Heb 6;17-18.

What You Benefit from the Bible

- Heaven is opened - John 3: 16.
- Gates of hell disclosed - Rev. 20:15; John 3:18.
- Christ is shown as its grand subject - John 5:39. - It is designed for your good Ps. 19:7-11.

What you should do with the Bible

- Read it to be wise - Ps. 119:98-100.
- Read it slowly, frequently and prayerfully.
- Believe it to be saved - Acts. 16:31.
- Practice it to be holy - Ps. 119:9.
- Meditate on it to be successful - Josh. 1:8; Ps. 7.,1-3.
- Study it to be approved of God - II Tim. 2:15.

B. The Trinity

Trinity means the union of Three Divine Persons; God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit in one Unified God-head.

Biblical foundation of the doctrine of the trinity

- (1) There are three divine Persons that bear record in heaven: "John 5:7 -9 and the three are one. They are: The Father, John 6:27; I Pet 1:2; Jesus Christ, John 1: 1; Titus 2:13,, and the Holy Spirit, Acts 5:3-4.
- (2) The Trinity is seen at work at the creation. And God said; let us make man in our image after our likeness. Gen. 1:26.
- (3) At the expulsion of Adam and Eve from the Garden of Eden, the Lord God said, Behold the man is become as one of us. So He (unity of Trinity) drove out the man. Gen. 3:22
- (4) When God confounded the language of man at the Tower of Babel. "Come let us (Trinity implied) go down, and there confound their language ... so the Lord scattered them abroad ... Gen. 11:7-8
- (5) At the baptism of the Lord Jesus. Matt. 3:13-17 identify the members of the Trinity in this event.
- (6) At the Baptism of believers. Matt. 28:19
- (7) At Benediction 11 Cor. 13:14,

In conclusion, the Bible says, "And without controversy, great is the mystery of godliness ..." (I Tim. 3:16). The doctrine of Trinity is a great mystery and cannot be explained exhaustively. It should, therefore, not be argued for it is a revelation of truth. Deut 29:29

C. The Devil

Introduction

The Christian life is that of a continuous warfare against our arch-enemy, Satan, the devil. Through the fall of man, man became his possession and pawns. But when we are born again, this relationship is broken. However, Satan does not give up easily; he fights desperately to regain us. The Bible tells us to resist the devil, fight him and give him no

place in our lives. We need to know about his devices so as to know how to curb him and frustrate his counsels concerning us.

Origin of Satan

God is the only self-existing one; not created. God created all other spiritual beings - angels, Cherubims, Seraphims and also Satan (Ez. 28:13-15). Hence, like us, Satan is a created being. Col. 1:16

Who Is Satan?

- Satan is a spirit and has a personality, possessing life, intelligence, will power and feelings. However, being a spirit, he does not possess a human body (neither tail nor horn).
- He is a thief - Matt. 13:19; John 10:10a.
- He is subtle - Gen. 3:1; 11 Cor. 11:3.
- He is a murderer - John 8:44.
- He is a liar - John 8:44.
- He is a deceiver - Rev. 12:9.
- He is the accuser of Brethren - Rev. 12:10.
- He is the tempter - Matt. 4:1.

Limitations of Satan

- Limited in Power - Job 1: 10-12; Lk. 22:31--32.
- Limited in Time - Rev. 12:12; Matt. 8:29.
- Limited in Location - Job 1:6-7.

How to deal with the devil

- Submit yourself to God - James 4:7a.
- Resist the devil. - James 4:7b
- Be sober. - I Pet. 5:8a
- Be vigilant.- I Pet. 5:8b
- Cast him out. - Mark 16:17

Some facts about the devil

- (1) He was an arch-angel in heaven having his angelic name as Lucifer. Isa. 14:12
- (2) He was the leader of the Angelic Choir of God, no wonder he is leading a lot of people into perdition today through music. Ezek. 28:12-14.
- (3) He rebelled in Heaven due to pride with a third part of the angels. They were fought and sent packing from heaven. Isa. 14:12-14; Eze. 28:15-17; Rev. 12:7-9; Luke 10:18
- (4) He was responsible for the first fall of man. Gen. 3:1-7.
- (5) He has ever remained the tempter and the accuser of the brethren. Matt. 4:1; Rev. 12:10
- (6) He is the author of sin, sickness and death. John 10:10.
- (7) He will be chained and kept in the bottomless pit for 1000 years during the millennium reign of Jesus Christ- Rev. 20:1-3, 10.
- (8) What are we to do to the devil when he tries to tempt us? Jam. 4:7

MEMORY VERSE: II TIM. 3:16

STUDY 6: QUIET TIME

Quiet time is the time set aside to meet with God. It is the time set aside to communicate with the father through the living word with the assistance of the Holy Spirit and also to bring our request to God in prayer. Through Quiet Time we cultivate a relationship with God. In this study, we shall also discuss how to have effective quiet time on a daily basis with God.

Why the need for quiet time

- (1) We need God's power to cope with daily activities. 1 Kings 19:7; Jn. 15:5; Isa. 40:31
- (2) We pattern our lives after our Lord Jesus Christ's life by following his steps. Mt. 14:23; Mk. 1:35; 6:46; 1 Pet. 2:21
- (3) To cultivate personal habit of worshipping the Lord and thereby help our personal devotion, 1 Pet. 2:2; Josh. 1:8; Ps. 1:1-3; Ps. 95:6
- (4) To create personal adjustment to the teaching of the Bible; i.e. living by the Word, reacting positively or negatively to the Bible. Jn. 1:21-25; Mt. 4: 4; Phil. 2:1; 1 Pet. 2:2; James 1:21-25
- (5) Create right response to trials and temptations that befall us. Knowledge already imparted helps us handle challenges. 1Pet. 1:3--7; Heb. 12:10-11; James 1:2-4.

What you need

- (a) The Holy Bible (it is advisable to have more than one version and a good reference of the Bible at the side),
- (b) Hymn book/chorus book and a dictionary,
- (c) Notebook and a pen or pencil.
- (d) List of prayer points.
- (e) Aid; Any daily devotion publication e.g. Daily Power, Everyday with Jesus, etc.

Time and place of quiet time

- (a) Frequency: At least once a day. Dan. 6:10
- (b) Period of the day: At an acceptable time, preferably early in the morning. Mk. 1:35; Prov. 8:17; Ps. 5:3; Gen. 19:27

Benefits of using the morning

- (a) Waking thoughts are focused on God.
- (b) Strength is received to meet the challenges of the day. Eph. 6:10-12
- (c) Place: A quiet place.
- (d) Durations: To be determined by the Believer/you such that it does not encroach on another activity for the day.

How to observe quiet time

- (a) Begin with a **short** prayer/thanksgiving/forgiveness and Holy spirit guidance.

- (b) Sing a few songs/chorus.
- (c) Read slowly and meditatively through a predetermined portion of the Bible (Ps. 119:18, 105) providing answers to the following questions where applicable:

- What is the main subject of the passage or book?
- Who are the persons revealed in the passage?
- Who is speaking? About whom is he speaking?
- What is the key verse(s) of the passage?
- Is there any sin for me to confess and forsake? Pro v. 28:13
- Is there any commandment for me to obey?
- Is there any error for me to avoid?
- Is there any promise for me to claim?

- (d) Prayer: Intercession, thanksgiving, adoration, supplication (Phil, 4:6; I Tim. 2:1-3),

During the course of the quiet time, it is important that you do the following:

- (a) Write down on a notebook, sins to be confessed and commandments to be obeyed.
- (b) Passages should be memorized.
- (c) Meditate on the portion read. Some of the benefits of meditating on the word of God are: Josh. 1:8; Ps. 119:97
 - The word will become real to you.
 - The Holy Spirit would apply the word of God to your life and problems.
 - The soul learns to blame itself when it detects faults and adores and loves the Lord.
 - Determine to obey the word of God. James 1:22; I Tim. 3:16.
 - List out areas which the word of God has touched you and pray on each of them.

Methods of Bible study during quiet time

- (a) By chapters
- (b) By Topics
- (c) By paragraphs
- (d) Through biography
- (e) By verses

- (f) Study outlines, e.g. Daily Bread
- (g) By books
- (h) Everyday with Jesus.

The methods suggested are not exhaustive. Use all the Bible study methods available to avoid monotony.

Benefits of quiet time

- (a) Provides an opportunity for the soul to linger in the presence of God, laying the innermost being before him.
- (b) Entering a reverent and affectionate yet fruitful conference with Him. It creates an atmosphere where God speaks to you and you speak back to him.
- (c) Gives you a working knowledge of the Bible.
- (d) Builds in you a desire to know God and to do his will.

How Does God speak to you?

1. By His Word - Ps. 119:105; Heb. 1:1.
2. By Dream - Joel 2:28; Job 33:14-16; Gen, 31:11; 37:5-7.
3. By Vision - Acts 10:3; Joe12:28; Isa, 6:1-4.
4. The Still Small Voice - 1 Kings 19:12.
5. Inward Witness - Prov. 20:27; 1 Cor. 2:11.
6. Audible Voice - Acts 10: 13; 1 Sam. 3:4.
7. Through the gifts of the Holy Spirit, e.g. prophecy, word of wisdom, word of knowledge, etc. I Cor. 14:3-4; 11 Pet. 1: 19-21; Deut. 18:20-21.

Obstacles to effective quiet time

Discuss possible obstacles to a fruitful quiet time - Haste, disturbance, bad planning, laziness, over-eating, and monotony due to using one method of study.

CONCLUSION

A fruitful and consistent quiet time brings out a balanced spiritual development in at least three different areas:

- Healthy and fruitful Bible Knowledge: Ps. 119:9,11,105; Eph. 3:16; 11 Tim 2:15; Ps. 19; 8; Hos. 4:6
- Fruitful Prayer Life: Pr. 28:9; 15:8-29
- An enviable Christian-character: Mt. 5:16; 1 Pet. 3:2; Phil. 3:20; 1 Pet. 3:15-16

MEMORY VERSE: I PETER 2:2

STUDY 7: TEACHING ON BAPTISM: TWO BAPTISMS FOR TRUE BELIEVERS

INTRODUCTION

This very important study will look into the two main types of baptisms every believer must undergo. These are the baptism in Water otherwise known as Water baptism by immersion and the Holy Spirit Baptism.

A. The Water Baptism

1. Identify the scriptural evidence and mode of water baptism. Mt. 3:13-17; Acts 2:41; Acts 8:12,38; Acts 16:33; Acts 18:8 Why water baptism must be by Immersion:
 - (a) The word baptism in Greek is "Baptizo" which means to submerge or immerse.
 - (b) It expressed the reality of burial with Christ (Rom, 6:4),
 - (c) Bible references indicate it being carried out in a body of water, (Mt. 3:6,13); Acts 8:36-39.

2. The importance and/or significance of water baptism:

- (a) It is an outward symbol of an inward reality - genuine conversion.
- (b) It is a symbol of identification with the death, burial and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. (Rom. 6:3-6)
- (c) It is an open declaration of separation from the world.
- (d) It is to follow the example of the Lord Jesus Christ in fulfilling all righteousness. Mat. 3:3-15; I Pet. 2:21; John 13:5

3. In whose name should water baptism be carried out?

Matt. 28:19. We are to be baptized in the name of God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. The Minister of God is the agent of this type of Baptism.

3. How appropriate or scriptural is infant baptism?

Discuss. (Acts 8:12) The scripture demands repentance towards God and faith towards Christ (Acts 20:21) as basic conditions for Water Baptism and no child can do this until he is mature enough to understand sin and what to do to be saved.

4. Water baptism is a command,

It is not optional so long as a believer remains alive after conversion. Mark 16:16

B. Baptism with the Holy Spirit

1. The regenerating work of the Holy Spirit is different from His work of baptism. In regeneration, there is impartation of the divine life or nature of God (1 Pet. 1:4), but in baptism with the Holy Spirit there is impartation of divine Power for effective Christian service. Luke. 24:49; Acts 1:4-5,8; 3:1-4
2. What is the immediate outward sign of the Holy Spirit baptism? Acts 2:4; Acts 8:17; Acts 10:44-46; Acts 19:6-7

- (a) It gives power for effective and result-oriented Christian service. Acts 1:8; 2:41
 - (b) It imparts boldness for service. Acts 2:1-14,' Acts 4:31: Pro v 28:1
 - (c) At regeneration, we have Holy Spirit as 'resident' in the believer but at the Holy Spirit baptism, we have Him as the 'President'.
 - (d) The foundation is laid for the operation of gifts of the spirit in the life of a believer. 1 Cor. 12:4-14
4. Who should receive this baptism and when? Discuss Mark 16:17; Acts 10:44; Luke 11:9-13; Acts 5:32. Every obedient child of God as at and when required.
5. Who is the agent of baptism in this case? Luke 3:16 The Lord Jesus Christ.

MEMORY VERSE: ROMANS 6:4

STUDY 8: PERSONAL EVANGELISM

INTRODUCTION

Personal Evangelism is the person to person sharing of the gospel message with the aim of leading the individual to Christ. There is no greater joy than seeing a soul coming to Christ. Moreover, the Bible says, "he that winneth a soul is wise" (Pro. 11:30). One of the primary reasons we are still alive after we received Christ is to be fishers of men (Matt. 4:19).

1. What is Evangelism and its pre-requisites? Mat. 28:18-20; Lk. 24:47; /Tim. 1:15; Rom. 1:16; 1,1n. 4:8; Mat.B; 5-13; Lk.9:53.
2. (a) Why must we win souls? Eze. 33:7-9; Mk. 16:15-16; Mat. 28:19-20; Jn. 15:16; 14:6; 20:21-23
(b) Why is it urgent? John. 4:35-38; Mat. 9:36-37
3. How long does it take after new birth to witness? Jn. 1:40-42, 4:25-30, 39
4. How often and where should a Christian witness?
Acts 5:42; 2:46--17; 20:20; II Tim.4:2 What are the results of these? Acts 6: 7; 19: 10; II Cor. 5:15-20
5. What things make for effective Personal Evangelism?
Ps. 126:5--6; Mat. 10: 16; I Cor.13:1-3; Lk. 9:5-55; Mat. 8:5-13; I I Cor.5:14; Pro. 16: 1; I Tim. 2:1-4
(a) Discuss practical problems that are likely to be encountered in Personal Evangelism.
(b) What rewards await a faithful Christian witness?
I Thess. 2:19; Dan 12:3; II Tim 4:7-8; Jn. 15:1-2, 7-8

CONCLUSION

This study is not just a theory; something in anticipation of an examination. It is not the hearer only that will be justified but the doer of the word. Start personal evangelism after this study.

MEMORY VERSE PROVERBS 11:30

STUDY 9: CHRISTIAN CONDUCT AND DISCIPLINE (PART I)

INTRODUCTION

In societies, organizations and countries, there are rules and regulations governing the members/staff/nationals of each grouping or whoever finds himself/herself in any of the groupings. So also in the Kingdom of God there are rules and regulations governing every child of God. In a nutshell, a child of God is expected to conduct him-/herself in conformity to the Bible standard, i.e. how a Christian should behave is contained in the Bible and no where else.

Also many Christians accept the gift of God's free grace, but then a lot of it leaks out because of lack of discipline. God isn't going to pour His power into a vessel that leaks because of indiscipline living.

In this study, we shall be examining what the Bible says about the following and discuss what a believer should do concerning them.

- **Malice**: Malice can be defined as having a desire to harm others, or ill-will, to this effect, malice is an aberration to any child of God, therefore, put it away - Eph. 4:31-32, lay it aside, 1 Peter 2: 1, put it off , Col. 3:8.
Restore relationship immediately with anyone who you have been keeping malice.
- **Strife**: This involves contending or struggling with people of opposing views. At times hot and abusive words are exchanged. However, we should not allow issues to degenerate into this state or be influenced by the spirit of strife, 1 Tim. 2:24; Phil. 2:3. Strife leads to uncontrollable situations, Prov. 17:14; Prov. 26:17. It is an honour for a man to desist from strife, Prov. 20:3; Titus 3:9.
The example of Jesus Christ should be followed, who did nothing through strife or vain glory and at the end of His ministry here on earth, God highly exalted Him and gave Him a name which is above every name, Phil. 2:3-11. If the spirit of strife is still operating in you, then you are still carnal, I Cor. 3:3; I Cor. 6:6. Therefore rebuke it and cast it out of your life.
- **Anger**: The spirit of anger and bad temper, is a destructive spirit, hence cease from it (Ps. 37:7). Foolish decisions are often taken when in this state (Prov. 14:17), slow to anger, James 1:19. A controllable spirit is better (Prov. 16:32; Prov. 19:11). An angry man is a foolish person (Eccl. 7:9). Take things easy, and repent today.
- **Un-forgiveness**: This evil called un-forgiveness is a cankerworm working against a lot of believers. It can also hinder prayers (Mk. 11:25-26; Mitt. 18:23-35). Forgive one another, even as God for Christ's sake has forgiven you (Eph. 4:32; Col. 3:13). Ask God for a forgiving spirit today.
- **Cruelty**: This is a state of showing indifference to another's suffering or causing a person to suffer. Some believers still manifest the spirit of cruelty and wickedness at home or at work and this should not be. Cruelty bounces back (Prov. 11:17). Let not mercy depart from you, Prov. 3:3; Micah 6:8; Matt. 5:7; Luke 6:36.
- **Gloominess**: This is being in a state of depression, wearing a dull, dismal or dejected face and always frowning. It is also having a feeling of sadness and

hopelessness (Prov. 15:13; Prov. 17:22). Gloominess is a defect of character and should never be equated with Godliness. Rejoice Ps. 33:1; 97:12; Phil. 3:1, 4:4.

CONCLUSION

Any believer that still harbours one or more of the above ugly dispositional flaws shall be unfruitful and shall never be a vessel meet for the Lord's use. Such un-saintly saints only succeed in keeping unbelievers away from the gospel than otherwise.

MEMORY VERSE: I CORINTHIANS 14:40

STUDY 10: CHRISTIAN CONDUCT AND DISCIPLINE PART (II)

A dictionary defines "discipline" as the training of the mind and body to produce self-control, orderliness, obedience and capacity for co-operation and not competition. Conduct is simply defined as "behaviour". In the army, a soldier is expected to be disciplined and to follow the code of conduct of the profession, so also a Christian as a soldier of Christ (II Tim. 2:3-4) is expected to be disciplined and to behave himself in conformity to the Bible standard. Some aspects of Christian discipline and conduct shall be examined in this study.

Christian Discipline

Practically discuss how a Christian should discipline himself in the following aspects of life.

- (a) Use of Tongue: Jam. 1: 25-26; 3:26-13; Rom. 12:14; Matt. 5:34-37. We must learn to bridle our tongue and utter with it only things which glorify God. Swear and curse not with it and in the Law Court, we can affirm our words instead of swearing.
- (b) Moderation in all things: (eating, sleeping, dressing, spending, etc.) Phil. 4:5; Pr. 23:21; Phil. 3:19; Pr. 20:13; I Tim. 2:9; Deut. 22:5.
- (c) Debt of:
 - (i) Money - Rom. 13:7-8; Deut.28: 1 - 13
 - (ii) Promise or vow, Ps. 105:7-10; Eccl. 5:2-5; Num. 30:2
 - (iii) Time, Eccl. 3:1-8; 9: 10
 - (iv) Preaching the gospel, I Cor. 9:16-17; II Tim.4:1-2; Rm. 1:16.
- (d) Punctuality at meetings, self-control, orderliness at meetings, I Cor. 14:40.
- (e) Diligence in Work: Pr. 22:29; 24:30-31; I Thess. 3:10.
- (f) Respect for one another especially elders, ministers and leaders in the church, I Tim.5:1-2, 17; Heb. 13:17; Lev, 19:32
- (g) Respect for parents and the law of the land. Eph. 6:1-3; Matt. 15:4; I Pet. 2:13-17; Titus 3:1
- (h) Rebellion especially against church leaders. Num. 1:1-10; Num. 16:1-5, 28-33; Heb. 13:17; Josh. 1:16,18; II Pet. 2:10-13.
- (i) Going to dancing halls, cinema halls, revelling, etc. II Tim. 2:19-21; I Thess. 5:22; I Pet.4:3; Eph. 5:11-12. Try not to go where God cannot go with you.

CONCLUSION

By doing things "decently and in order" in the Church, holiness will surely be reflected in the body of Christ. Your salvation takes you away from certain behaviours and connects you with the life of Him that was from above.

MEMORY VERSE: PHILIPPLANS 4:5

Reading ahead for the next study: Read Isaiah 58:1-14 against next study. Discuss the abuse of fasting in vs. 3-5.

STUDY 11: THE BIBLICAL FASTING AND PRAYER

INTRODUCTION

The Biblical fasting is imperative for the members of the body of Christ. It is essential, among other things, to deal with the flesh, that fallen nature, which is still much around to prevent us from prospering in the things of the spirit. Apostle Paul said "But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection ..." (1 Cor. 9:27).

A. What is fasting?

Fasting means abstinence and Biblical fasting means abstaining from food and drink (depending on the duration) for a period. Thus fasting is an act of denying yourself of things that give us pleasure with a view to suppress the flesh and uplift the spirit. Fasts could be divided as follows:

- (i) Absolute Fast: means abstinence from both food and water. It is advisable not to exceed three days.
- (ii) Total Fast: Abstinence from food only, that, water could be taken. After the third day, it is advisable you take warm water,
- (iii) Partial fast: One meal/fruit may be taken in 24 hours.

B. Who should fast?

- (i) Individual believer, II Sam.12:16; 11 Cor.6:5; 11:27.
- (ii) Group of believers, Acts 13:1-3.
- (iii) A whole nation, Jonah 3:5-9; Esther 4:15-17.

C. What Fasting is set to Achieve, Isa. 58:6-9

- 1. To loose the bands of wickedness Vs.6
- 2. To undo the heavy burdens Vs,6
- 3. To let the oppressed go free Vs.6
- 4. To break every yoke Vs.6
- 5. To give bread to the hungry Vs.7
- 6. To restore the poor Vs.7
- 7. To clothe the naked Vs.7
- 8. Not to hide from relatives who need your help Vs.7

All these could be summarized in James 1:27. It should be pointed out here that whether or not you are fasting, you are expected to lead a life of practical daily holiness. 1 Peter 1:15-16

D. Other advantages of fasting

1. It puts down our flesh and increases our spiritual capacity, strength and awareness. *"But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength ..."* Is. 40:31; Ps.5:13.
2. It makes clearer the purpose of God in your situation as you become more receptive in the spirit.
3. You possess keener perception of divine things and clarity of thought.
4. Fasting helps to kindle and develop faith. Through fasting, spiritual fire is kindled and faith operates well.
5. It helps break the power of Satan, and brings about deliverance and healing. Mark 9:28-29
6. It improves your prayer life tremendously. Luke 11:9-11
7. It enhances continuous flow of anointing.

E. When do we fast?

1. When asking for divine secrets. Dan. 9:3; 20-22; 10:2-3
2. When in danger. Acts 27:21-25; Jonah 1: 17; 2:1
3. When taking a crucial decision. Esther 4:15-16
4. When sick and needs deliverance. II Chro. 7:14
5. When preparing for a great task, revival, etc. Matt. 4:1-3
6. When asking God for intervention. Neh. 1:3-4; 11 Chro. 20:3-10
7. When interceding for other people. Dan. 9:3
8. We fast so that our spirit will readily be alive when God speaks. Acts 13:3-4

F. How to operate Biblical fasting

1. The one who is fasting needs to be very close to God, seeking His face in prayers and supplication for the duration of the fast. And as already mentioned, there must be abstinence from food and drinks.
2. Where the fast goes beyond three days, it is not medically advisable to continue without water. Such drinking water should be pure, warm and adequate.
3. Where the person fasting needs to undertake some heavy task and undertake long-distance journeys, other liquid drinks will be advisable.
4. The duration of a fast should be a covenant between you and God and the purpose must be very clear, else, the fast may be a waste of time, a hunger strike, or dieting.
5. During periods of fasting, those who are married must be like those who are not, that is, abstaining from sexual relationship. 1 Cor. 7:5
6. There must be concerted prayers, adequate meditation on the word and listening distinctly to the Holy Spirit for the duration of the fast.

7. When the days are fulfilled, withdrawing from fast should be done with all caution and discipline. You need to exercise more self control than when you were fasting so that your health is not impaired.

G. What Fasting does to your health

1. Medical science tells us that fasting is excellent for good health. It helps to build the digestive system which should be given periodic rest.
2. Overweight people are advised to fast, in order to reduce weight. The slogan is, "After you feast, you should fast."

It is very good for serious students to fast occasionally and particularly when they are about to start examinations. During fasting, there is increased mental activity, and flow of blood to the brain area and gives more, clarity of thought.

CONCLUSION

Apostle Paul declared that he was "in fasting often" II Cor. 11:27. Every believer should endeavour to have the one day duration **fast at** least once every week and other higher duration, as the spirit leads and/or as situation dictates. Do nothing to indicate to people you are fasting if you desire a reward from it. Matt. 6:16-18

MEMORY VERSE MARK 9:29

STUDY 12 DIVINE HEALING

INTRODUCTION

Our God is the Almighty One and His knowledge of us can be likened to that of a manufacturer of an engine who must know all intricacies of the engine. As the Chief Architect of our nature and/or the manufacturer of all parts of our body, He knows what to do to any part that falls out of harmony at any point in time. He wants to heal us. We only limit His power if we deny His healing power today. We need His healing touch today more than in the time of Christ's life ministry and the apostolic age.

A. **The original state of man**

The Bible in Psalms 139:14 says we are fearfully and wonderfully made. This implies the perfect state of man at creation. After God finished creating man, He looked and considered the work he has just created and certified and pronounced that, "it was very good" (Gen. 1:31). So God created man perfect, with no ailment, no disability, no disease and no sickness. In His own perfect image created He man (Gen. 1:27).

B. **The sources of illness**

The maxim/saying that there is "no curse without cause" is very relevant to our point of consideration here since there is as well no sickness without source. Some sources of illness are:

1. **Sin**: Man was tempted, sinned and fell in the Garden of Eden Gen. 3:1-6, since God could no longer dwell in man because of indwelling sin, the original state of perfection was lost. The presence of sin in man implies the presence of the devil and the presence of Satan means problems, woes, sickness, afflictions, etc. because he, the devil, is the author of them all and there is nothing good in him. Job 1:8-12; 2:7; Jn. 10:10a; Luke 13:14-16
2. **Malnutrition**. This is caused by starvation and under-nourishment, due to the eating junk food and non-balanced diets.
3. **Over-eating**: Overworking the systems of the body will break them down Pro. 23:21. Here, over-eating (gluttony) is likened to drunkenness.
4. **Curses and demonic attack**: Luke 13:16; Acts 13:9--11
5. **Other sources** can be through overwork, sleeplessness, restlessness, over-anxiety and worries. Pro. 17:22; Prov. 15:13

C. **Healing in Jesus name**

Our Lord Jesus Christ died and rose again to guarantee us perfect redemption. Part of the redemption package is our good health and power over sickness and disease III John 2; Isa. 53:4--5; Matt. 8:17; 1 Pet. 2:23; Luke 9.1 2. By redemption, we have been brought back to our former position. However, because we lost that position to Satan, he is not going to let go easily unless we send him packing by violence. (Matt. 11: 12)

D. **Ways of receiving our healing**

1. **Prayer by the sick person**. James 5:13; 16b; John 1-t:13-1-; Phi, 2:9 - 11. Nothing hinders the devil from trying you with, a sickness and nothing stops you from rejecting his offer and dispatching it back to him with the speed of the spirit of the Lord and in the name of Jesus. When you are ill, check your life to see if there is any sin there. Confess and repent of it if there is and thereafter pray a prayer of healing for yourself and the result will amaze you if you do all things by faith. II Kings 20:3-5
2. **By united or communal prayer of two or more brethren**. Matt. 18: 19; James 5:16a. This is why you need to belong to a House Fellowship nearest to you (when we have one).
3. **By laying hands on the sick person**. Mark 16:18; Acts 9:17-18; Acts 28:8 This must be done with caution. Ensure you have consecrated your life and you are living holy before laying hands on the sick. II Cor. 8:5; Rom.12: 1; 6:13.
4. **Anointing the sick with oil and prayer of faith by eiders** (in the church). James 5:14-15 There should be no unscriptural ceremonies like ritual washing, burning candles, holy water, putting on of cross, etc. The Bible says the prayer of faith and nothing else. Mark 5:25-29

D. **How to keep your healing and remain healthy**

1. You must be born again, Jn. 3:3,16,36. Note that healing is the children's bread Mark 7:24-27.
2. After salvation, you must live in obedience. Touch no sin anymore. Deut. 7:12, 15; Isa. 1:18-20; John 5:14; James 4:7
3. Worship God continually in spirit and in truth. Jn. 4:24
4. Fast and pray often. Isa. 58.-6,8
5. When Satan tries you with illness, confess what the word of God says about your healing and claim the promises. Confess strength at all times and not weakness. 1 Cor. 3:16-17; Joel 3:1 0

CONCLUSION

The realm at which divine healing is operated is the realm of dominion. God wants to take you there. To seek refuge at the medicine shops at every appearance of illness is not sinful but indicates you are still far from where God wants you to be. Develop strong faith against sickness today based on the word of God and you will in no time find yourself walking in the realm of dominion.

MEMORY VERSE I PETER 2:24

STUDY 13. RESTITUTION, HOLY MARRIAGE AND TITHES

INTRODUCTION

This study will take us through four different topics. They are very vital and should be well understood by every believer who wants to live a successful Christian life.

What is Restitution?

What is restitution and how do we retribute? Lev. 6:1-7; Luk. 19:8; Prov. 28:13; Acts. 24:16; Ex. 33:15-16. Restitution involves restoring to the owners all things taken by falsehood; confessing all lies told and bringing all those we have deceived, one way or the other, to the true picture of things.

Christ's Righteousness is our garment.

Will it be right to refer to believers as sinners based on Romans 3:23? Discuss Isa. 54:17; Rom. 10:4; 1 Cor. 1:30; 11 Cor. 5:21; Phil. 3:9. Paul in Gal. 2:20 says "I am crucified with Christ; nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ lives in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me." This is applicable to all believers. We have been bought with a price and we are no longer of our own and because we are no more of our own, we start to enjoy the righteousness of Him who owns us. i.e. God.

Holy Marriage.

(a) Name the elements of undefiled marriage. What do you feel about little romance and may be a little sex during courtship? Discuss exhaustively. Heb. 13:4.

(b) What is the sound and Bible approved way of getting engaged as believers? 1 Sam. 16:7; Gen. 24:1-4; Prov. 4:12. No marriage must be contracted with unbelievers. Also we must seek God's face concerning His choice of a believer for us. God will not enter into our own program concerning marriage; we must instead come into His own plan for us if only to avert troubles in future. God hates divorce - Ma12:14-16.

Tithes in the Church

Tithe is one tenth or ten percent of your total or gross income. It belongs to God. Mal. 3:8-12

(A) Why do we pay tithes?

- (i) Abraham gave tithes to Melchizedek, King of Salem, at his return from battle. Gen. 14:20
- (ii) Jacob also imitated his grandfather's piety. Gen. 28:22
- (iii) Moses ordained that all the tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land or fruit of the land be given to God. Lev. 27:30-32

- (iv) God commanded us to bring our tithes into His storehouse. Mal. 3:10

(B) How do we pay our tithes?

We must bring it into the house of God promptly and cheerfully with all our heart and gratefulness to God. Pay the tithe to the church where the whole truth is preached.

(C) Benefits of tithing

- (i) God will rebuke the devourer for your sake, Mal. 3:11
- (ii) God will open the windows of heaven and pour His blessings more than you can accommodate. Mal 3:10

Unfaithfulness in the area of tithing can make a believer to loose heaven, because it is stealing from God directly.

MEMORY VERSE ISAIAH 1:19

STUDY 14 DELIVERANCE

INTRODUCTION

Definition: Deliverance is setting free. Jn. 8:32. Expelling of demons. Breaking of yokes. Isa. 10:27; Ezek. 34:27. Removing curses Ps. 78:63. Loosening of bonds - Lk. 10:19.

There are four different types of deliverances mentioned in the Bible:

1. Deliverance from sin, Col. 1:13
2. Deliverance from the flesh, 1 Cor. 9:27.
3. Deliverance from troubles, Job 5:19.
4. Deliverance from demons, Matt. 8:16; 1 Jn. 3:8.

This study will focus on deliverance from demons: how they come in, how to obtain our deliverance; and how to remain delivered. God's plan is that our bodies should be the temple of the Holy Spirit (1 Cor. 6:19, 20) but the devil's desire is to seek to invade the body of man. The Triune man (spirit, soul and body) must be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

A. **How demons gain access to man**

Demons cannot just decide to possess or oppress a man without cause Prov. 26:2; Ezek. 10:8b. Covenants, curses and sins give demons legal authority over the life of a person or nation.

1. **Covenant**: -This is an agreement between two or more parties. It could be holy or demonic. Any violation will always attract some form of penalty.
Types of covenants include:
 - (a) Blood covenant Gen.17:10; 1 Cor. 11:25; Lev21:5,
 - (b) Peace covenants, Job 9: 14:15,
 - (c) Marriage covenants, Mal. 2:14,
 - (d) Oaths covenant, Gen. 31:48;
 - (e) Meal covenants, Ps. 106:20.
2. **Curses**: This is often the result of violating the articles of a covenant or the result of sins against God's laws. Gen. 3:14-19; Jos. 6:26; II Sam. 21:1-2; Mal. 1:12-14; 2:1-2; 3:8-10; Gen. 31:32; Gen. 35:7-19.

A. **Who can curse?**

- (a) **Self**. 1 Kings 2:30-31; Gen. 27:13, Job 3

- (b) **God.** Deut 28:15
- (c) **Those in authority**, e.g. leaders, parents, husband, pastor, Gen. 49:3-7; 31:32; 35:16-18
- (d) **The aggrieved.** 11 Kings 2:23-24

B. Examples of Curses

- (a) Rebecca on herself. Gen. 27:13
- (b) Joshua on Wall of Jericho. Josh. 6:26; 1 Kings 16:28
- (c) Saul on Jonathan. 1 Sam. 20:30-31
- (d) Elisha on the children. 11 Kings 2:23-24
- (e) Curse on Judah. Deut. 23:2; Gen. 38:1-end; Mal. 1:3-6

3. Sin:

There are three major doorways of sin that gives Satan the authority to cause havoc in the lives of people.

(a) **Inheritance and relational disguises**

Exod. 20:2-5; 11 Cor. 6:14 Just because a person is born or married into a particular family may qualify him/her for demonic influences. 1 Kings 16:30; 11 Chr. 21:1-6; 18-20; 11 Chr. 22:7-9; 11 Chr. 24:1-2.

(b) **Occult involvement:**

Lev. 19:28; 31; Lev. 21:5; Deut. 14:1,2A 11, - forms of idolatry - incisions, ceremonial baldness, seeking protection outside Christ, house warning rituals, weddings, burials, seeking for children, masquerade involvements, traditional dances, occult meditation, music, devilish symbols, necklaces, astrology, books (6th and 7th books of Moses, etc.) Rosicrusianism, Jehovah Witness, Mormons, Christian science, AMORC, etc. Col. 2:18, special names Deut. 29:29, incense burning 11 Cor. 10:3-6, sacrifices Heb. 10:1-4, 26, special use of Psalms IITim, 3:16, visions and prophesies 11 Tim. 4:1-5,* Deut. 13:1-5.

(c) **Sexual sins:**

1 Cor. 3:16-17 Fornication, adultery, prostitution, pornography, x-rated movies, sexual perversion; masturbation, lesbianism, homosexuality, etc.

(d) **Others:**

Deut. 34:9; II Tim. 1:7; II Kings 2:12; Zech. 5:1-4. Touching the dead, shock, grief, transference, stealing, etc.

B. Who needs deliverance?

Everybody under demonic influence needs deliverance. The activity of demons could manifest in several ways: Family-line tragedies, repeated or regular tragedy, sexual immorality, stagnancy in life, rejection, unwarranted miscarriages, abnormal dreams, abnormal development of one or more of the sense, emotional imbalance (resentment, envy, jealousy, hatred, depression, procrastination, poor memory, etc.), addiction (sleep, food, sex, music, etc.), speech pervasion (lying, exaggeration, back-biting, etc.), physical disorders, psychic deformation, insanity, wizardry, ogbanje, occultism and religious perversion. However, not all these manifestations always reveal demonic implications.

C. Methods of deliverance

Acts. 3:6; Eph. 1:20-21; Luke 4:4-12, 1 Pet. 1:18-19, 1 Cor. 14:18; Heb. 2:14; Mark 9:29; Luke 4:40-41; 1 Sam. 16:23; 1 Kings 3:15. Praising God, using the word of God, anointing with oil, using the name of Jesus, prayer of agreement, binding and loosening the spirit, pleading the Blood of Jesus, sometimes fasting, speaking in tongues, etc. Note that it is important to let the Holy Spirit guide you when ministering deliverance.

D. How can one be delivered?

Be born again Jn. 3:3, forgive others Mk. 11:25-26, repent Lk. 13:3, do not hold on to occult symbols/objects. Renounce old covenants and forsake old ways.

E. How you can stay delivered

Gal. 5:1; Matt. 12:43-45; Jn. 5:14; II Tim. 2:15; Jos. 1:8, 1 Pet. 1:13-15; Deut. 18:9-10; Rev. 12:11; 1 Jn. 4:18; Col. 3:16; Acts 1:8; 1 Cor. 14:15; Heb. 10:25; Matt. 28:10-20. Live a holy life, avoid all old habits, keep off from occultic practices, confess your deliverance often, be holy, study the Bible, pray always, fellowship with Christians, preach Christ.

CONCLUSION

This study is not exhaustive on this subject. Whatever the affliction you are going through today is the day of your deliverance let it be so.

MEMORY VERSE OBADIAH 1:17

STUDY 15. THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST

INTRODUCTION

4 Events in the world today are showing more than ever the imminence of the coming of our King and our Lord (Luke 21:8-11). He is coming again and we shall soon hear the sound of the trumpet. However, it is worthy of note that His second coming shall be in two phases. In this study we shall learn about these and the various events which shall occur under them.

A. The first phase of His coming (Rev. 18;4)

Under this part, the Lord Jesus Christ will be coming for the saints, to remove them from the world and take them unto himself so that they will not partake in the "Great Tribulation" which shall unfold itself immediately after the first phase of His second coming. There are many events which shall be witnessed within this first phase and they are;

1. The Lord Jesus shall appear in the sky to take home His own I Thess. 4:16.
2. The saints who slept shall be resurrected and the living ones (saints) transformed and translated to meet the Lord in the sky in an event referred to as "The Rapture". This event also signals the beginning of the "First Resurrection" I Thess, 4:13-18; I Cor, 15:44,51-53.
3. There shall be seven years of great tribulation on earth when the anti-Christ shall be the head of government of the world. It is a seven-year period of great deceit, bloody war, violence, crime, lawlessness and terror. There shall not be such times before it or after it. Matt. 24:21; II Thess, 2:5-8
4. In the sky, however, the raptured saints who will remain there with Christ for seven years shall be treated to such events such as The Judgment Seat of Christ, being the period of accountability. Rom. 14:10; II Cor. 5:10; 1 Cor. 3:11-15 Also we shall have the Marriage Supper of the Lamb which will be the marriage between Christ (the Bridegroom) and His bride which is the Church - the raptured saints. Rev. 19:7-9
5. The second death shall have no power over raptured saints. 1 Cor. 15:54; Rev. 20:6; 2: 11
6. The Church, the undefiled brethren, the saintly saints shall not partake in the Great Tribulation. Luke 21:34-36

Note:

The day is coming, so near, when there shall be bold headlines on pages of the newspapers concerning millions of people who are missing, who suddenly disappeared. There will be confusion and for those who have had fore-knowledge but missed the event, it will be a sad news. Where do you want to be on this day, in the air with the Lord or among the perplexed ones here on earth?

B. The second phase

At the round-up of events in the air after the seven-year period as already mentioned, Christ and His bride shall return to earth. In other words, at the concluding part of His second coming, He shall be coming with the saints. Halleluyah! The following events shall unfold at His coming:

1. The, battle of Armageddon. This is the war that will be fought at the descent of Christ and the saints to the earth. The anti-Christ will institute this battle using his confederated army which he would have gathered from all nations. Rev. 16:13-16; Zech. 14:1-5; Rev. 19:11-19
2. That anti-Christ's armies will be defeated and destroyed with the sword that comes out from the mouth of the glorious Lord Jesus Christ. Rev. 19:20-21
3. The Millennial Reign of Christ. Rev. 20: 4-6. The victory at Armageddon heralds in the one thousand years reign of Christ and His saints here on earth. The following shall be the features of this period:
 - (i) The government of Millennium will be a theocratic form of, or system of government; that is. God ruling.
 - (ii) It is going to be a period of Golden age, that is, a time of lasting peace on earth. No wars, no crimes, divine health for all, no infant death and many other wonderful events will be the order of the day. Is. 2:4; 11:6-9; 60:18,- Jer. 30:1171, Isa. 33:24; 65:20.
 - (iii) Jerusalem in Israel shall be the capital of the government in Millennium. Joel 3: 16
 - (iv) Christ will be manifested to take possession of David's Kingdom according to the covenant made with David, II Sam. 7:8-16
 - (v) It is the time of restoration of Israel back to their land and conversion unto their righteous and rightful King. Jer, 31:10; Amos 9:14-15
 - { vi} Satan shall be held bound in the bottomless pit in the entire period. Rev. 20:1--3
 - (vii) The saints shall reign with Christ in His earthly Kingdom. Rev. 20:6

CONCLUSION

Brethren, commit yourself to Christ and His coming in all holiness so as to partake in this first resurrection which shall see death being swallowed-up in victory.

MEMORY VERSE I CORINTHIANS 15:54

STUDY 16. (PART I) PROPHECY IN THE CHURCH, RESURRECTION OF THE DEAD AND THE MILLENNIAL REIGN

INTRODUCTION

This is the concluding part of our studies and it will take us through some set of topics almost as we had in the previous study

1. **Prophecy in the church:** Is it right to accept all prophecies in a real church of God as coming from the Lord? What should be done in effect? How do we know the wrong and right prophecies in the church? Discuss. /John 4:1; 1 Cor. 14.-29--33, 1 Cor. 14:3; 1 Cor. 14:39--40, Deut. 78:20-22 Prophecy in the church is good. In fact it is the only gift of the spirit we are permitted in the Scripture to covet. However, every prophecy must be tested, judged by the word of God and according to the scriptures, prophecies must be for edification, exhortation and comfort and not spelling of woes upon the people of God. The prophet must also be tested by his confession of Jesus. His relationship with the world and attitude towards the commandment of God. He must live a life of transparent holiness. Deut. 13:1-4; 1 John 4.-15: I! John 7
2. **Resurrection:** This is the rising of all the dead in the Last Day into a new state of existence. We are going to have two types of resurrections which are yet future and are inclusive of all that are in the graves. John 5:28-29; Luke 76:19-31
- A. **Resurrection of the dead in Christ:** Where are the dead in Christ? Why and in what form (of body) will they be resurrected? Discuss. 1 Thess. 4:13-18; II Cor. 5:1-9, 1 Cor. 15:33-44; 51-54. All saints who "steep" in the Lord in all ages will take part in the first resurrection.

Characteristics of the resurrection body

- (i) It is God's given according to His will. 1 Cor, 15:38; 11 Cor. 5:1-4
- (ii) The body will be immortal and incorruptible. 1 Cor. 15:52-54; Luke 20:35--36; Rev. 27:4 The body is free from sickness, pain, weakness and death.
- (iii) It will be a celestial body for heavenly environment. 1 Cor. 15:40; 47--49
- (iv) It will be an agile body able to pass through space with lightening speed. 1 Thess. 4:13-17
- (v) It will be composed of spirit, flesh and bones like the resurrection body of Jesus. Luke 24:39; Phil. 3:21; 1 John 3:2
- (vi) The bodies will have variety of glories. 1 Cor.15:41; Dan. 12:2-3

B. Resurrection of the dead unbelievers and last judgment

Where are the unbelieving dead ones and when is their own resurrection coming up? What event will immediately precede this and what happens immediately after? Discuss. Rev. 20:11-15; John 5:28-29

This is the resurrection of all the wicked dead from Adam to the end of the Millennial reign. It will take place between the end of the thousand year reign of Christ and just before the Great White Throne Judgement. Let it be known that whoever appears under this last judgement is doomed for ever. However, the believers who would have earlier been resurrected stand as spectators on that day.

C. Millennium Reign

What is Millennium and when is it going to come up? Discuss. The millennium is a wonderful 1000 years reign we are going to have with our king here on earth after the first seven, years of our stay with Him in the sky would have elapsed. Rev. 20:1-6 Rev. 21:26-27; Isa. 55:18-23.

The blessedness of the Millennium

- (a) Theocratic government through Jesus Christ, the apostles and all the saints from Adam to millennium Is. 2:2-4; Dan. 2:44-45; Dan. 7:13-14; Ps. 149:4-9, Dan. 7:18-27; Rev. 1:6; 2:26-27; 5:9-10.
- (b) Warless world Isa. 2:4; Micah 4:3-4; Isa. 11:6-9; 60:18
- (c) Crimeless Society. Jer. 31:33-34; Mic. 4:2
- (d) All shall know Christ. Isa. 11:9; Jer. 31:34; Zech. 8:22-23
- (e) No more desert. There will be abundance of food and material possession. Isa. 35:5-6; Amos 9:13; Isa. 49:9
- (f) Divine health for all. Is. 35:5-6; Jer. 30:17
- (g) Increased life span. Is. 65:20; Zech. 8:4
- (h) Changes in animal creation. Isa. 11:6-9

May we all be there in Jesus name. Amen

STUDY 16. (PART II) COMING JUDGMENTS

INTRODUCTION

Various judgments are mentioned in the Bible. Seven of these are prominent viz;

- (i) Judgment of sins on the Cross of Christ, Jn. 12:31
 - (ii) Believer's self-judgment. 1 Cor. 11:31
 - (iii) Judgment of believers' works 11 Cor. 5:10
 - (iv) Judgment of individual gentile nations at the return of Christ to the earth. Matt. 25:32
 - (v) Judgment of Israel at the return of Christ Ezek. 20:37
 - (vi) Judgment of angels after the 1000 years - Jude 6 and
 - (vii) The Judgment of the wicked with which the history of this present world will be brought to an end. Rev. 20:11-15. This study will focus on the judgment of believers' works otherwise known as judgment seat of Christ.
1. What is the purpose of this judgment?
- II Cor. 5:10; 1 Cor. 3:6-13; Rev. 22:12 To examine believers' work and determine his reward.
2. What are those things to be judged?
- (i) Works -good and bad. 1 Cor. 3: 11-15; II Cor. 5: 10; Rom. 2:6; II Tim. 4:14; Rev. 2:23
 - (ii) Doctrines or beliefs. Rom. 2.14-16
 - (iii) Idle words. Matt. 12:32-37
 - (iv) Broken promises and wrong dealings. Rom. 1:29-32; ICor. 6:9-11; Eph. 4:1-32; 5:1-33
 - (v) Loose living, neglected opportunities, wasted talents, etc. Gal. 5:1-26; 6: 1-10; Rom. 2:14-16- I Cor.4:5
 - (vi) Disobedience, rejection, carnality. Eph.4:1-32: Rom. 8:1-2; Rom.12:1-2; II John 8
 - (viii) Our secrets. Rom. 2:16; 1 Pet. 4:6. Note; 1 Cor. 3:13-14 Comment on this.
 - (viii) Motives (correct, bad/wrong). II Chron. 25:2

3. When and where will the judgment take place?

1 Cor. 4:5; Rev. 22:12; Lk. 14:12-14; 1 Cor. 9:24-27; Rom. 14:10; II Cor 5: 10

4. What will be the basis of the judgment and who will be the judge? Matt. 16:27; Rev, 2:23; 22:12; Rom. 2:6; 11 Tim. 4:14; John 5:1-2; 11 Tim. 4:8; Rev. 22:12-16; II Cor. 5: 10

5. (a) What are the rewards?

James 1:12; Rev. 2:10; II Tim. 4:8; I Pet. 5:4; 1 Thess. 2:19-20; Dan. 12:3; I Cor. 9:25

(b) Now what should be your attitude towards this subject? Lk. 9:13; Matt. 5:16; I Tim. 6:18; II Pet. 3:17; 1 Cor. 3:11-15; 1 Cor. 4:20; Gal. 1:10; Col. 1:25

CONCLUSION

The scripture enjoins that we work out our salvation with fear and trembling and not to be slothful in business but fervent in spirit and serving the Lord, in faithfulness. Rev. 3:11 Hold fast that which we have so that no man takes our crowns. It is possible to earn a crown, and then lose it.

MEMORY VERSE II CORINTHIANS 5:10



THE PRESENT HELP SANCTUARY OF GOD MINISTRIES

(January 2009)

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