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Bible Study

4 Bible Lessons -

Discovering Jesus and Salvation

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LESSON ONE - THE GOSPEL

Welcome to our Table Top Bible Study. The objective of this Bible study is to understand The Gospel and apply it to our lives. We will begin with a Bible overview so that we can put the right pieces in the right place. Without a general knowledge of biblical history and intent, it is difficult to understand where to find the answers to each subject. Our purpose is to answer the ultimate question: *“What Must I Do To Be Saved?”*

The Bible comes from God Himself. The Bible is the Word of God and through it we find salvation. It is imperative that we believe that this is God’s Word for us today. Without faith in His Word it is impossible to be saved.

This Bible study has nothing to do with denominations; it is based purely on the scripture. Particular denominations or church affiliations do not constitute salvation. The Bible is the ultimate authority for every believer and we are commanded to search the scriptures. The Word of God is our only road map to salvation and it is here we must look.

Before we begin, let’s establish that we will accept the Bible’s definition for Salvation regardless of philosophies or the opinions of others. Sometimes errors are made in the process so we will investigate a few of these common human errors.

Three reasons why the Gospel is rejected:

1. _____ Error: Acts 2:40

The key here is to seek out your own salvation regardless of the choices of friends or family. Each person will give an individual account. Our love for others must not hinder us from accepting the Truth of Salvation. Regardless of what others may do, we must be saved!

2. _____ Error: Matthew 7:13

When considering the population, it’s easy for the rational mind to question how so many people can be lost. Jesus said that He alone was The Door. Jesus said that “except we believe that He is God, we would die in our sins.” This means that there is only One way to be saved through One Savior, Jesus Christ!

Numbers of people do not constitute salvation. Millions are lost because they have rejected the Gospel. Therefore, we must stay focused on the Bible’s definition of salvation, not on the number of people who receive it or reject it.

3. _____ Error: Hebrews 11:3

Most people reject the Gospel for a lack of Faith. This “error” is the primary cause of sin. Seeing that faith in God is our beginning point, it is also the greatest stumbling block toward salvation especially in light of an anti-christ culture.

WHAT IS THE BIBLE?

The Bible is a collection of _____ individual books written by many different writers over a span of 1500 years. Yet the Bible is one book, with one _____.

II Timothy 3:15 The Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

*II Timothy 3:16 All scripture is God-breathed (NIV)
All scripture is given by inspiration of God (KJV)*

II Peter 1:20-21 Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. ²¹For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.

The Old Testament includes **39** books written by thirty-two writers.

- The first five books are called the _____
- Twelve books of _____
- Five books of _____
- Seventeen books of _____
(5 major prophets & 12 minor prophets)

The New Testament includes **27** books and at least 11 writers.

- The first four books are called the _____
- The Book of _____ tells about the beginning of the church where people were first saved.
- Twenty-one _____ written to the churches.
- One book of _____

The Old Testament includes creation and the history of the children of Israel. From Genesis to Malachi, God required a blood sacrifice to pay for sin. Each year the people brought a sacrifice to the Lord to relieve their debt of sin. Year after year they pushed their sins forward. But after many years of making sacrifices to God, they lost the intent. Instead of bringing their best to God, they brought diseased sacrifices - blind and lame lambs.

By the conclusion of the Old Testament, God rejected their sacrifice and for 400 years He did not speak to His people. The next recorded Biblical scene occurs when Jesus is born. Jesus is the Ultimate sacrifice for all sin. The scripture calls Him Emmanuel, "God with us." He was also known as the "Lamb of God."

The first four books are called the Gospels and they recount the birth, life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. There are several letters written to the churches and the saints, who have already obeyed the Gospel and have been saved. Finishing out the New Testament is the Revelation of Jesus Christ to John.

The book that we have not mentioned is the Book of Acts. It is the **only book in the Bible** where you can actually find someone being saved. If we want to know where and how people were saved then we must investigate the Book of Acts where the original salvation message was first taught. We should also notice that all the other epistles were written to people who had already obeyed the Gospel and were saved. While epistles contain the general view of salvation, only in the Book of Acts do we see the "keys to the Kingdom" obeyed in the lives of people.

Let us begin by detailing the Bible's plan of Salvation.

WE ARE ALL BORN IN SIN

Romans 3:23 "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;"

Psalms 51:5 "Behold, I was shapen in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me."

Romans 3:10-12 "There is no one righteous, not even one; there is no one who understands, no one who seeks God. All have turned away; they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good, not even one."

- Human goodness does not earn salvation.

Romans 6:23 "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

BIBLE STEPS TO SALVATION - WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED?

STEP ONE: _____

Hebrews 11:6 "And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to God must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who earnestly seek Him."

John 3:16 "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

Galatians 2:16 "Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ..."

Ephesians 2:8 "For by grace are ye saved through faith"

Notice in the Book of James that while believing is the first step, it does not constitute salvation. The devils believe but they are not saved.

Obedience is the key to faith.

James 2:19 "Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble."

Point to Ponder: According to the Scripture, it is not enough to simply believe. We must also OBEY!

STEP TWO _____

Acts 6:7 "...a large number of priests became obedient to the faith."

Romans 6:17 "But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you."

*Hebrews 5:9 "...Jesus became the source of eternal salvation for all who
him."*

John 8:30-32 "As He spake these words, many believed on Him. Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

Read: *John 8:30-32, Romans 15:18, II Thess. 1:7-10, Hebrews 11:28*

BELIEVE AND OBEY THE GOSPEL

Mark 1:15 Jesus said, "Repent ye, and believe the gospel."

Galatians 1:6-8 "I marvel that ye are so soon removed from Him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed."

The Gospel is the only way to be saved. Jesus said that we must believe the Gospel and Paul said that anyone who changes it will be cursed.

WHAT IS THE GOSPEL?

The Bible has already given the definition of the Gospel. This definition was clearly defined by Paul to the church in Corinth.

1 Corinthians 15:1, 3-4 "I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received... that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures."

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____

The Only way to be Saved is through obeying the_____

NOTES

DEATH EQUALS REPENTANCE

- **Repentance** identifies us with Christ in death. There is no Burial or Resurrection without a Death.
- The Greek word for repent is "metanoeo" which means change of mind – repentance means to turn from sin or “dying to sin.”
- Repentance is a change of mind involving both a _____ *from sin and a turning toward God.*
When you repent you ask for forgiveness but you also must turn away from sin.

Romans 6:2 “God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?”

II Cor. 7:10 “For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation...”

Luke 13:3 “I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.”

Luke 3:8 “Bring forth therefore fruits worthy of repentance.”

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.”

Read: *Psalm 51:1-12; Mark 1:4-5; Luke 3:7-9*

BURIAL - BAPTISM

When we are baptized the old nature is buried. Baptism of Water is the burial of our sinful nature. It is the process of washing away our sins.

Romans 6:3 “Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?”

Romans 6:4 “Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death.”

Colossians 2:12 “Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God...”

Galatians 3:27 “For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.”

Acts 22:16 “And now why tarriest thou? arise and be baptized and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord.”

JESUS SAID!

Mark 16:16 “He that believeth and is baptized shall be _____.”

NOTICE: Jesus did NOT say “he that believeth and is saved should be baptized.”

MUST A PERSON BE BAPTIZED TO ENTER HEAVEN?

JOHN 3:1-7

- 1: There was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews
- 2: The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him.
- 3: Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.
- 4: Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born?
- 5: Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.
- 6: That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.
- 7: Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.

WHAT TWO TYPES OF BAPTISM ARE FOUND IN THESE VERSES?

1. _____
2. _____

RESURRECTION - THE HOLY GHOST

Romans 6:4 "Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life."

Romans 8:11 "But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you."

NOTES

BIBLE OVERVIEW

EDEN ---- SIN ---- BLOOD ---- THE LAMB/SALVATION ---- THE CHURCH

- In the garden, Adam & Eve were sinless until they disobeyed God.
- To pay for sin there had to be a sacrifice. A blood atonement.
- **Hebrews 9:22** *“And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission.”*
- Throughout the Old Testament the shedding of blood paid for sin.
- Scripture states that there must be shedding of blood to cover our sin.
Leviticus 17:11 *“For the life of the flesh is in the blood:”*
- Over time people became careless with their sacrifices to God and God stopped speaking.
- 400 years of silence separates the Old Testament and the New Testament.
- In the New Testament there was a New Covenant established.
- Fulfilling the prophecies in the Old Testament, God came in the form of Jesus presenting Himself a sacrifice for our sins.
- **John 1:29** *“Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.”*
- Jesus came to establish His church and save the lost.

Jesus gave Peter the Keys to the Kingdom of Heaven

Matthew 16:18-19 “...I say, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven.”

Peter preached the Keys to the Kingdom on the Day of Pentecost

Acts 2:38-39 “Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. For the promise is unto you and to your children and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call.”

Peter declares and defines the Holy Ghost as the _____

LESSON TWO - WATER BAPTISM

Jesus made several key statements that we must obey. He said, “*You must repent, You must be baptized, You must be born again.*” In this lesson we will note that the first church in the book of Acts did more than confess that Jesus was Lord. They were baptized in water and filled with the Holy Ghost. It is imperative that sinners obey the Lord, repent and be baptized as Jesus commanded.

You will notice that Jesus did not say we could be saved by just confessing Him as Lord. Jesus told us to repent and be baptized in water and in the Spirit.

Our second lesson explores how Matthew’s record of the Lord’s Great Commission was perfectly executed by Peter’s first sermon on the Day of Pentecost. Also, to illustrate Peter’s writings concerning baptism and its role in salvation we will investigate the concept of **Types and Shadows**, which are found in the Old Testament, and how they apply to the rest of the Bible.

MUST A PERSON BE BAPTIZED TO ENTER HEAVEN?

John 3:5-7 “*Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.*”

Remember that JESUS SAID:

Mark 16:16 “*He that believeth and is baptized shall be _____.*”

Burial: Baptize: Greek: baptizo, bap-tid-zo;

The process of _____, submersion.

Romans 6:3 “*Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?*”

Galatians 3:27 “*For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have _____ Christ.*”

Romans 6:4 “*Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death.*”

Colossians 2:12 “*Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God...*”

- We are _____ with Christ when we are baptized.

KEYS TO THE KINGDOM

JESUS GAVE PETER THE KEYS TO THE KINGDOM

Matthew 16:18-19 "...I say, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven."

JESUS GIVES HIS GREAT COMMISSION

Luke 24:46-49

⁴⁶*And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behooved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day:*

⁴⁷*And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.*

⁴⁸*And ye are witnesses of these things.*

⁴⁹*And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high.*

Acts 2:38 "Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost."

Acts 2:39 "For the promise is unto you..."

THE KEYS TO THE KINGDOM WAS THE MESSAGE ON THE DAY OF PENTECOST

Jesus commanded the disciples that "repentance and remission of sins will be preached in His name, starting at Jerusalem."

Jesus is talking in third person. He said that it was appropriate for Christ (Himself) to suffer and die. Check the following proclamations of Jesus in His "Great Commission" according to Luke:

- ...repentance
- ...and remission of sins
- ...preached in His (My) name
- ...starting at Jerusalem
- ...the promise...

Question: What happened on the Day of Pentecost?

Answer: Peter preached the way of salvation. He used the Keys to the Kingdom that Jesus had given him when he preached exactly what Jesus had instructed in Luke chapter 24.

Peter preached repentance, in Jesus' name for the remission of sins. He was in Jerusalem also when he preached about the "promise of the father" which was the Holy Ghost.

Now we can mark off the exact Keys which Jesus proclaimed.

- Repent...
- ...for the remission of your sins...
- ...in **Jesus'** name...
- Where were they? Answer: **Jerusalem**
- Acts 2:39 *For the promise...*

DOES BAPTISM SAVE US?

1 Peter 3:20 *"Which sometime were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water."*

1 Peter 3:21 *"The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us."*

TYPES AND SHADOWS

Real events which reflect future likenesses of _____.

1. THE SERPENT IN THE WILDERNESS

John 3:14 "And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up:"

2. THE PASSOVER

Matthew 26:18 "And he said, Go into the city to such a man, and say unto him, The Master saith, My time is at hand; I will keep the Passover at thy house with my disciples."

3. THE RED SEA

Hebrews 11:28,29 "Through faith he kept the Passover, and the sprinkling of blood, lest he that destroyed the firstborn should touch them. By faith they passed through the Red sea as by dry land: which the Egyptians assaying to do were drowned."

4. THE FLOOD AND THE ARK OF NOAH

1 Peter 3:20,21 "... eight souls were saved by water. The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ:"

Noah was saved by water just as we are saved by _____

The children of Israel were saved by water just as our _____ are washed away in water baptism.

JESUS OUR PERFECT EXAMPLE

Matthew 3:13 “Then cometh Jesus from Galilee to Jordan unto John, to be baptized of him.”

Jesus was baptized by John even though He was sinless. He was our example and He was baptized in order to set baptism in order for all mankind.

HOW DID THE DISCIPLES BAPTIZE IN THE BIBLE?

Acts 2:41 “Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.”

Acts 8:12,13 “But when they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women. Then Simon himself believed also: and when he was baptized, he continued with Philip, and wondered, beholding the miracles and signs which were done.”

Acts 8:14-16 “Now when the apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent unto them Peter and John: Who, when they were come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost: (For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.)”

Acts 10:44-48 “While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit came on all who heard the message. The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astonished that the gift of the Holy Ghost had been poured out even on the Gentiles. For they heard them speaking in tongues and praising God. Then Peter said, “Can anyone keep these people from being baptized with water? They have received the Holy Spirit just as we have.” So he ordered that they be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.”

Acts 16:30 -33 “He then brought them out and asked, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” They replied, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved -- you and your household.” Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all the others in his house. At that hour of the night the jailer took them and washed their wounds; then immediately he and all his family were baptized.”

AFTER PAUL’S CONVERSION

Acts 22:16 “And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord.”

EVEN BELIEVERS WERE RE-BAPTIZED

Acts 19:1,2 “And it came to pass, that, while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul having passed through the upper coasts came to Ephesus: and finding certain disciples. He said unto them, Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed? And they said unto him, We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost.”

Acts 19:3,4 “And he said unto them, Unto what then were ye baptized? And they said, Unto John’s baptism. Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus.”

Acts 19:5,6 “When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues...”

THE GREAT COMMISSION RECORDED BY MATTHEW

The Question of the Name

Matthew 28:19,20 “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.”

Question: If Jesus had told them to baptize in the Name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost, why didn’t they do what He said?

FACT: No person in the Bible was ever baptized in the titles “...of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.” Everyone was baptized in the Name. The disciples did exactly what Jesus commanded them to do. They baptized everyone in “...his name for the remission of sins.”

Answer: Because the Disciples understood what Jesus said: “...baptize them in the _____...” a singular name (word): Jesus!

- **JESUS is the Name of the Father, Son, and the Holy Ghost.**

WHAT IS THE NAME OF THE SON?

Matthew 1:21 “And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.”

WHAT IS THE NAME OF THE FATHER?

John 5:43 “I am come in my Father’s name, and ye receive me not: if another shall come in his own name, him ye will receive.”

Isaiah 9:6 "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace."

Acts 4:12 "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is no other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved."

Colossians 3:17 "And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus."

WHAT IS THE NAME OF THE HOLY GHOST?

JOHN 14:26 "But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name...."

MODE AND FORMULA FOR BAPTISM

THE BIBLE CLEARLY TEACHES THE WAY TO BE BAPTIZED:

MODE OF BAPTISM IS BY _____ IN _____.

- Colossians 2:12 "Buried with him in baptism,"
- Matthew 3:16 "And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water:"
- John 3:23 "And John also was baptizing in Aenon near to Salim, because there was much water there: and they came, and were baptized."

THE FORMULA FOR BAPTISM IS...

_____.

- Acts 2:38 "Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ"
- Acts 19:5,6 "When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus."
- Acts 22:16 "And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord."

LESSON THREE - THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY GHOST

In this lesson we declare that God is a Spirit and that we can have His Spirit living inside of our hearts. The scripture is clear that everyone must be baptized in the Holy Spirit. Paul also related to us how the Holy Ghost is the Resurrection of Jesus applied to our lives.

Jesus Himself introduced to us the Holy Ghost as “**the Promise.**” Peter also called it “the Promise.” The prophet Joel prophesied hundreds of years prior to the day of Pentecost and foretold that this Promise was a ‘pouring out of the Spirit upon all people.’

The question then becomes, “How does a person know they have received the Holy Ghost which is the Spirit?” Through the scripture we will discover this powerful truth. Remember that the Gospel is: **The Death, Burial and Resurrection.** Everyone must experience the Resurrection; which is the Holy Ghost.

GOD IS A SPIRIT

John 4:24 “God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.”

There is only One Spirit

Ephesians 4:4 “There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling;”

The Holy Spirit is God

1 Corinthians 3:16 “Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?”

Romans 8:9 “But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.”

REMEMBER WHAT JESUS SAID...

John 3:5-6 “...Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.”

What two baptisms are mentioned?

_____ and _____

THE PROMISE

Luke 24:47-49 “And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. And ye are witnesses of these things. And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high.”

Acts 1:4-5 “...commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me. For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence.”

Acts 2:38,39 “Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call.”

TONGUES: AN OUTWARD SIGN OF THE HOLY GHOST

Acts 10:44-45 “While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word. And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost.”

Acts 10:46-47 “For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God. Then answered Peter, Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we?

Acts 2:1-4 “And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.”

Mark 16:16-17 “He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues.”

OLD TESTAMENT & NEW TESTAMENT PROPHECIES OF THE HOLY GHOST

In the Old Testament both Joel and Isaiah prophesied about the baptism of the Holy Ghost. In the New Testament both John the Baptist and Jesus spoke about the infilling of the Holy Ghost.

Joel 2:28 "And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophecy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions."

Isaiah 28:11 "For with stammering lips and another tongue will he speak to this people."

Matthew 3:11 "...he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire."

John 14:26 "But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name..."

John 16:7 "Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you."

BIBLE OCCURRENCES OF THE OUTPOURING OF THE HOLY GHOST

Acts 8:14-17 "Now when the apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent Peter and John: Who, when they were come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost: (For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.) Then laid they their hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost."

Acts 19:1,2 "And it came to pass, that, while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul having passed through the upper coasts came to Ephesus: and finding certain disciples, He said unto them, Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed? And they said unto him, We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost."

Acts 19:3,4 "And he said unto them, Unto what then were ye baptized? And they said, Unto John's baptism. Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus."

Acts 19:5,6 "When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied."

THE GIFT OF TONGUES

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE GIFT OF THE HOLY GHOST (RESURRECTION) AND THE GIFT OF TONGUES GIVEN TO THE CHURCH

Even though the Bible clearly speaks of the Holy Ghost as a necessity for salvation, a controversy developed over the years discouraging people from seeking for the Promise of the Holy Ghost. This development came decades after the early church was established and subsequently sought to limit the outpouring of the Spirit upon all people as prophesied by Joel.

Paul wrote to the Church at Corinth, which had already received the Baptism of the Holy Ghost, describing separate gifts given to the church for the benefit of the body. There were nine gifts of the Spirit listed: one of which was the gift of tongues followed by the gift of interpretation. This “gift of tongues” was and is meant for the benefit of communicating to the Church body through the Holy Spirit. This unique gift is meant for the edification of the Body.

However, in an attempt to remove speaking in tongues in the church, an erroneous doctrine has been extrapolated from I Corinthians 12 leading people to think that the Baptism of the Holy Ghost and the “gift of tongues” are the same thing and both are meant for the express purpose of interpretation.

Yet the scripture reveals that the Baptism of the Holy Ghost was accompanied, proven, and delivered through “other tongues” and that **everyone** should receive this Baptism of the Holy Ghost. The “gift of tongues” found in I Corinthians 12, on the other hand, was a specific gift provided by God for only a select people and was meant for the benefit of the corporate body of believers. While many have the gift of tongues and interpretation, everyone must receive the Baptism of the Holy Ghost.

Further investigation of this study can be found in David Bernard’s writing from “The New Birth Experience” which clarifies how the Gift of the Holy Ghost is the Resurrection and the gift of tongues and interpretation is a ministry to the church.

Remember Paul’s definition of the Gospel.

Everyone must die to sin.

Everyone must be buried with Christ in water baptism.

Everyone must be resurrected by the Promise of the Father, which is the Baptism of the Holy Ghost, evidenced by speaking in other tongues.

Romans 8:9b “Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.”

LESSON FOUR - THE GODHEAD

"Hear O Israel, the Lord our God is one Lord" Deuteronomy 6:4

In our search to understand the Bible it is important for us to seek an understanding of the Godhead. As we have learned, our redemption required the perfect blood of the Lamb to pay for our sins on Calvary. The Bible shows how God came in the form of Jesus Christ, died for our sins, was buried and rose again on the third day.

THERE IS ONLY ONE GOD

John 1:1 "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."

John 1:14 "And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth."

- The Word was God Himself: the "Word" comes from the Greek word, **LOGOS** which means the thought or the plan of God.
- So in the beginning, God had a plan, a logos, to restore mankind.
- The lamb was slain before the foundation of the world, which reveals that in the mind of God this thought existed.

1 Peter 1:19-20 "But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot: Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you,"

- God knew that mankind would need to be redeemed. This was God's Plan of Redemption. God became a Kinsmen Redeemer, who had to be of the same make and model, the same blood line. But how could God redeem man if He is a Spirit, without a body?
- Jesus said in *John 4:24 "God is a Spirit."*

NOTES

LITERAL AND FIGURATIVE SPEECH

Anthropomorphisms are examples of figurative speech about God.
(God's hands, feet, eyes)

Isaiah 53:1 "Who hath believed our report? and to whom is the arm of the LORD revealed?"

2 Chronicles 16:9 "For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth,"

- The Right Hand of God actually refers to a place, or Position of Power and Authority. It is not a literal reference. God could not be the Savior He proclaimed to be without a human body. He had to have the same blood of His creation.

DIVERSE PHILOSOPHIES:

Atheist:	Denies the existence of God
Agnostic:	Questions whether there is a God, believes the existence of God cannot be proven or disproved.
Pantheist:	Equates God with nature
Polytheist:	Believes in more than one God
Ditheism:	Believes in two Gods
Tritheism:	Believes in three Gods
Monotheism:	Believes in only one God

- **The Monotheistic View** espouses what the Jewish people call the Shema:

Deuteronomy 6:4 "Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD:"

THE OLD TESTAMENT proclaimed a monotheistic doctrine.

- God spoke about Himself as the one and only God. The 10 commandments also revealed this: *Thou shalt have no other gods before me.*

Isaiah, 43:10-11 "before me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after me, I even I am the Lord and beside me there is no savior."

Isaiah 44:6 'I am the first and I am the Last and beside me there is no God.'

Isaiah 44:8 "is there a god beside me?... I know not any."

Isaiah 44:24 "I am the Lord that maketh all things, that stretcheth forth the heavens alone; that spreadeth abroad the earth by myself."

Isaiah 45:21-22 "There is no God else beside me; a just God and a Savior; There is none beside me. Look unto me and be ye saved all the ends of the earth: for I am God and there is none else."

Isaiah 37:16 "O Lord of hosts, God of Israel, that dwellest between the cherubims, thou art the God even thou alone of all the kingdoms of the earth, thou hast made heaven and earth."

Malachi 2:10 - There is only one God; who is the creator.

Zechariah 14:9 - In the time of the Millennial Reign, there shall be only one Lord with one name.

Psalms 71:22 states that the Lord is the Holy One.

THE NEW TESTAMENT declares a monotheistic doctrine.

Romans 3:30 "Seeing it is one God which shall justify."

I Corinthians 8:4 "There is no other God but one."

I Corinthians 8:6 "But to us there is but one God."

I Timothy 2:5 "For there is one God."

James 2:19 "Thou believest that there is one God: thou doest well; the devils also believe and tremble."

I John 2:20 calls God the Holy One.

Revelation 4:2 states there is One throne in Heaven and One sits upon it.

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THE DUAL NATURE OF GOD

2 Corinthians 5:17,18 “Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation;”

2 Corinthians 5:19 “To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.”

John 14:8,9 “Philip saith unto him, Lord show us the Father and it sufficeth us. Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? He that hath seen me hath seen the Father: and how sayest thou then, Show us the Father?”

Jesus revealed to Philip the revelation of Who He was. This language infuriated the Pharisees as Jesus continually identified Himself as God, e.g., **“before Abraham was, I Am...” John 8:58**

REVEALING TRUTH

A powerful truth about God was spoken by Paul concerned the One God, Jesus as God. Paul revealed the mystery to Timothy how God (Yahweh – that Eternal Spirit) became a man (Jesus Christ).

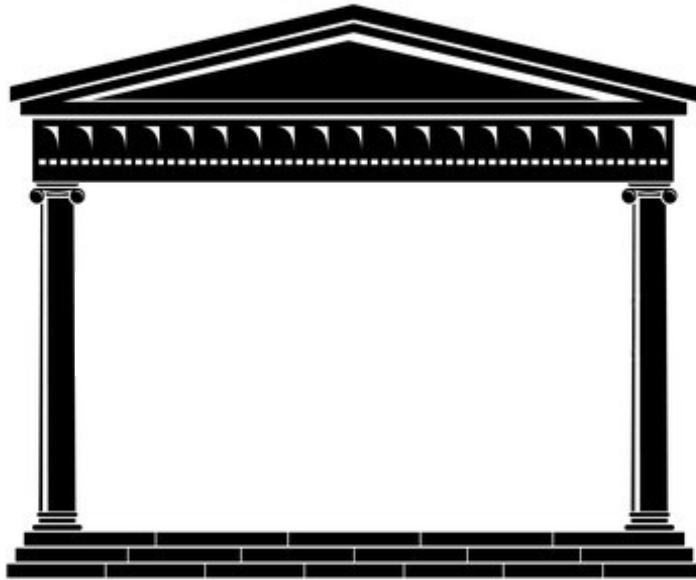
***1 Timothy 3:16** And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.*

NOTES

**JESUS WAS BOTH FULLY GOD AND FULLY MAN: BOTH MAN AND GOD.
THIS WAS REVEALED AT HIS BIRTH:**

He was born a baby: Luke 2:7	Yet He existed from eternity: Micah 5:2: John 1:1-2
He grew mentally, spiritually, and socially: Luke 2:52	Physically He never changes: Hebrews 13:8
Was tempted by the devil: Luke 4:2	He cast out devils: Matthew 12:28
He hungered: Matthew 4:2	He was the Bread of Life: John 6:25
He thirsted: John 19:28	He gave living water: John 4:14
He grew weary: John 19:28	He gave rest: Matthew 11:28
He slept in a storm: Mark 4:38	He calmed the storm: Mark 4:39-41
He prayed: Luke 22:41	He answered prayers: John 14:14
He was scourged- beaten: John 19	He healed the sick: Matthew 8, I Peter 2:24
He died: Mark 15:37	He raised His own body from the dead: John 2:20
He was sacrificed for sin: Hebrews 10	He forgave sin: Mark 2:5-7
He did NOT know all things: Mark 13:3	He KNEW all things: John 21:17
He had NO power: John 5:30	He had ALL power: Matthew 28:18, Col. 2:10
He was inferior to God: John 14:28	He was God: John 5:18
He was a servant: Phil. 2:7-8	He was King of Kings: Revelation 19:16

Notice: Jesus was called Emmanuel, which means **"God with us."** He was born of flesh making Him fully man. The eternal Spirit made Him fully God. He was The Eternal Spirit in fleshly form; God with us.



Remember, Solomon built his Temple and then realized that the heavens could not contain all of God seeing that God is Omnipresent.

1 Kings 8:27 "But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Behold, the heaven and heaven of heavens cannot contain thee; how much less this house that I have builded?"

QUESTIONS CONCERNING THE GODHEAD

The Bible supports only One God. Paul wrote that there is only One Lord, one faith, and one baptism. As we have discovered, both Old and New Testaments are emphatic that Jesus is the incarnate God. However, there are questions concerning the Godhead and Who Jesus is.

Before we ask and answer these pertinent questions, we will declare our view of the Godhead according to the Bible:

- We believe that the Mighty God was in Christ
- God was manifest in Jesus
- God has only One name
- There is only One I AM
- Father, Son, and Holy Ghost are manifestations of One God

Below we will present a few questions that both support this One God message as well as refute the claim of three distinct and separate gods or persons in the godhead.

1. We know that Mary was found with child of the Holy Ghost. If that is the case, Who was the father of Jesus? If there are three different persons in the godhead, it would mean that The Father was not the Father of the Son but the Holy Ghost was the father.

Answer: The Oneness view is that the Holy Ghost is the Spirit of God or God Himself. It is not a separate “person” but a manifestation of God. When we speak of the Father, we are talking about the Eternal Spirit, the Holy Spirit. When we talk about the Son, we are talking about the incarnation of Spirit in bodily form, Jesus.

2. How many Spirits are there? God the Father is a Spirit in John 4:24; the Lord Jesus is a Spirit in II Corinthians 3:17; and the Holy Spirit is a Spirit by definition.

Answer: We know that there is only One Spirit, I Corinthians 12:13. The scripture clearly teaches that there is only One Spirit. Just as Solomon said of the Temple, the Spirit was both inside and outside the building. Jesus was both fully God (Spirit) and fully man and the Spirit was still Omnipresent.

3. The word Trinity is NOT found in the Bible nor is there any description of three distinct persons represented in the Bible. If the trinity is the actual description of God, why is there no such word or translation for such in the scripture?

Answer: Because God was manifest in different ways. The concept of the trinity was created around the 4th century. Prior to this time it was not yet developed. The message of One God in Christ was and is the Bible view of the godhead.

4. If the meaning of "Almighty" indicates only One, i.e., One All-mighty, then how can two “persons” lay claim to this term? God (The Father) said in the Old Testament that He was the Almighty- Genesis 17:1, and Jesus in Revelation 1:8 said that He was the Almighty.

Answer: We know that Jesus is the manifestation of the God of the Old Testament. There are not two persons but one. Jesus is the image of the invisible God. He is Jehovah come in the flesh.

5. If the Father and the Son are co-equal persons, why did Jesus pray to the Father? Matthew 11:25. Can God pray to God?

Answer: We know that it was the flesh calling out or praying to the Spirit. Jesus is both God and man; Spirit and flesh. A god does not need to pray to another god so we know that Jesus in His flesh was calling out or praying to that Eternal Spirit.

6. Also, how can the Son not know as much as the Father if they are co-equal? Matthew 24:36, Mark 13:32.
7. Similarly, how can the Son not have any power except what the Father gives Him? (John 5:19)
8. And yet again, what about other verses of Scripture indicating the inequality of the Son and the Father? If they are co-equal, co-eternal, co-omniscient, according to the trinitarian doctrine, why does the Bible tell us otherwise? (John 8:42, 14:28, I Corinthians 11:3)

Answer: Questions 6-8 all reveal that in His flesh, Jesus was limited, but in His Spirit, Jesus was the Ancient of Days. Jesus said, Revelation 1:8 *"I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty."*

9. If Jesus is God the Son, why isn't He ever called "God the Son" in the Bible?
10. Did "God the Son" die? The Bible says the Son died in Rom. 5:10. If so, can God die? Or can part of God die?

Answer: Once again this proves that the body of Jesus could die but the Spirit was Eternal and that there is only One Spirit. This is Emanuel, God with us in bodily form.

11. How can there be an eternal Son when the Bible speaks of Him as the begotten Son, which clearly indicates that the Son had a beginning? John 3:16, Hebrews 1:5-6.

Answer: We know that the Son was made of a woman - Galatians 4:4. Begotten means to come after or procreated. The "only begotten son" means that God came in the form of a man, Jesus Christ. The Son was not in Heaven or eternal. The "son" had a beginning.

12. If there are three instead of One, to whom should we pray? If there are three distinct persons in the Godhead and the doctrine of the trinity is true, then who should we bring our needs before?

Answer: Jesus said to worship the Father in John 4:21-24 and yet Stephen prayed to Jesus in Acts 7:59-60. The Bible teaches us that Jesus - the son - and the Father are One. John 10:30 Jesus said, "I and my Father are One." We pray to Jesus who is God! He is the everlasting Father according to Isaiah 9:6. He is the son according to John 3:16, and He is the Holy Ghost according to John 14:18.

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