

ADRIAN ROGERS

**WHAT EVERY  
CHRISTIAN  
OUGHT TO KNOW**

*Essential Truths for Growing Your Faith*



**SMALL GROUP**  
*Student Handouts*

# LESSON ONE: THE BIBLE IS THE WORD OF GOD

## SESSION ONE

### OUR KEY PASSAGE

**2 Timothy 3:16** “All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.”

### REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- What is your opinion of the Bible? Do you believe it is fully trustworthy, or do you think there are parts of Scripture that science and history have proven to be false?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- Do you think we should rely upon pastors, academics, or other “experts” to tell us what is in the Bible and what it means, or do you think we each have the ability, and indeed the responsibility, to study and learn from Scripture ourselves?

### VIDEO PRESENTATION NOTES

## AMPLIFICATION AND DISCUSSION

Your salvation depends upon understanding the Bible. Your assurance depends upon your understanding the Bible. Your spiritual growth depends upon your understanding the Bible. Your power in witness depends upon the confidence that you have in the Word of God.

—Adrian Rogers

**For Discussion:** What doubts about the Bible's scientific accuracy have you had, or maybe still have? Try to be specific about what you thought or might still believe.

**For Discussion:** Does having a better understanding of what the Bible actually says and how it is written provide you with more confidence in the validity of it being God's Word? How so?

**For Discussion:** What can we do to make more time for personal Bible study in our lives?

**For Discussion:** If the Bible is indeed the Word of God and our instruction manual for life, why do you suppose it goes unread most of the time? Could that possibly account for many of the difficulties we personally encounter, and for the mess the world is in as a whole?

### PERSONAL APPLICATION

Take time this week to read and study for yourself each of the suggested Scriptures listed in the “**Additional Scriptures to Study**” section. As you read and meditate, ask God to reveal His truth to you concerning the trustworthiness of His Word and the importance of applying it to our lives. You may want to journal your thoughts and impressions as a record of what the Lord reveals to you.

### GROUP PRAYER REQUESTS

**Suggested group prayer** – “Lord, open our eyes and heart to Your truths.”

### ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURE TO STUDY

As you read and study the following Scriptures, consider the infinite power, majesty, and greatness of Who God is, and how He is revealed to us through His creation. Use this time of study to worship Him.

**Job 26:7** “He stretches out the north over empty space; He hangs the earth on nothing.”

**Isaiah 40:22** “It is He who sits above the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers, who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, and spreads them out like a tent to dwell in.”

**Jeremiah 33:22** “As the host of heaven cannot be numbered, nor the sand of the sea measured, so will I multiply the descendants of David My servant and the Levites who minister to Me.”

**Romans 1:20** “For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse,”

### ADDITIONAL READING RESOURCES

- Charles Hummel, “Priorities; Tyranny of the Urgent” (InterVarsity Press, 1994)
- Ken Ham, “Science Confirms the Bible” (Answers in Genesis, 2012)
- W.A. Criswell, “The Bible for Today’s World” (Zondervan, 1965)

# LESSON ONE: THE BIBLE IS THE WORD OF GOD

## SESSION TWO

### OUR KEY PASSAGE

**2 Timothy 3:16** “All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.”

### REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- As we discovered in the previous session, astronomical information presented as “science” has often been little more than mythology or fable over the centuries. This is true also in the “science” of medicine and physiology. What are some of the “Old Wives’ Tales” remedies you may have heard of or grown up with over the years that were intended to cure maladies?
  
- If the Bible remains accurate in the area of science, how does that impact our faith? Should we be more inclined to believe that it is, in fact, God’s Word? Why?

### VIDEO PRESENTATION NOTES:

## AMPLIFICATION AND DISCUSSION

You will never be a great Christian until you come to this first rock-ribbed assurance, that the Bible is the Word of God. —**Adrian Rogers**

**For Discussion:** There are those who despise the Bible, there are those who deny the Bible, there are those who distort the Bible, and there are those who disregard the Bible. How do you think these perspectives have served to impact our Christian faith?

**For Discussion:** If the basic principles of hygiene, quarantine, and hematology (the study of the physiology of the blood) found in the Bible had been understood and practiced, in what ways do you think world history or the advancement of mankind would be different today?

**For Discussion:** Has information about the scientific accuracy of the Bible impacted your confidence in the Bible as being the Word of God? How do you think you might possibly change the way you will approach Scripture in the future? Explain.

### PERSONAL APPLICATION

During your devotions this week, take time to thank the Lord for His Word, the Bible, and how it transcends the ages to give us timeless truths. Ask Him to open your understanding and to give you a hunger to learn.

### GROUP PRAYER REQUESTS

**Suggested group prayer** – “Lord, continue to open our eyes and hearts to Your truths.”

### ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURE TO STUDY

As you study the Scriptures, consider how marvelous the Word of God is to have provided guidance for health and cleanliness centuries before “science” ever even knew about germs or how diseases are transmitted. Use your time of study to praise and worship the God of all creation.

**Leviticus 13:46** “He shall be unclean. All the days he has the sore he shall be unclean. He is unclean, and he shall dwell alone; his dwelling shall be outside the camp.”

**Leviticus 17:14** “For it [blood] is the life of all flesh. Its blood sustains its life. Therefore I said to the children of Israel, ‘You shall not eat the blood of any flesh, for the life of all flesh is its blood. Whoever eats it shall be cut off.’”

**Numbers 19:14-16** “This is the law when a man dies in a tent: All who come into the tent and all who are in the tent shall be unclean seven days; and every open vessel, which has no cover fastened on it, is unclean. Whoever in the open field touches one who is slain by a sword or who has died, or a bone of a man, or a grave, shall be unclean seven days.”

### ADDITIONAL READING RESOURCES

- U. Saarnivaara, “Can The Bible Be Trusted?” (Minneapolis: Osterhus, 1983)
- S.I. McMillan, “None of These Diseases” (Grand Rapids: Fleming H. Revell Co., 2001)

# LESSON ONE: THE BIBLE IS THE WORD OF GOD

## SESSION THREE

### OUR KEY PASSAGE

**2 Timothy 3:16** “All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.”

### REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- If the Bible accurately records history as it unfolded during the time of its writing, would you consider it a trustworthy roadmap to study and follow while navigating through current life issues?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- Do you think information about the Bible’s unity might change the opinion of someone who tends to view the Bible as, “just another religious book”?

### VIDEO PRESENTATION NOTES

## AMPLIFICATION AND DISCUSSION

Not only is the Bible not a book of science, it is not a book of history, but it is historically correct ... The Bible, though it may not be a book of history per se, is “His story,” it is the story of God. —**Adrian Rogers**

**For Discussion:** It has been well said that “history tends to repeat itself.” In reading and studying passages in the Bible that record historical events, do you find any parallels to our contemporary times? What are some of the cultural, religious, and/or nationwide events that seem to mirror the past, and how do you think we should respond to those situations?

**For Discussion:** The Bible was written by more than 40 authors on three different continents with backgrounds ranging from fishermen to kings. These authors wrote 66 books in three different languages over a timespan of nearly 2,000 years, yet the Bible is perfectly unified as a single book. How does this lend credibility to the trustworthiness of the Bible?

**For Discussion:** How important do you think it is to read and study the Bible, and to use it to guide one’s conduct and personal decisions? Why do you suppose there are people who simply choose to either ignore or deny truth? How do you think we should respond to such individuals?

### PERSONAL APPLICATION

In your personal devotions this week, consider the marvelous trustworthiness of the Bible, which is not dependent upon man's limited knowledge or understanding. You might consider journaling your thoughts and impressions.

### GROUP PRAYER REQUESTS

**Suggested group prayer** – Teach us Your way, O Lord; Help us to walk in Your truth, and unite our hearts to fear Your name.

### ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURE TO STUDY

Read **Daniel 5**. Some have claimed the Bible is historically inaccurate because they knew of only one last Chaldean Babylon king, when in fact, there were two co-rulers—father and son, Nabonidus and Belshazzar—both descendants of Nebuchadnezzar.

### ADDITIONAL READING RESOURCES

- Neil S. Wilson, “Handbook of Bible Application” (Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, 1992)
- W.A. Criswell, “The Bible for Today’s World” (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1965)
- U. Saarnivaara, “Can The Bible Be Trusted?” (Minneapolis: Osterhus, 1983)
- Paul Lee Tan, “Bible and Archaeological Testings, in Signs of the Times” (Dallas, TX: Bible Communications, 1998)

# LESSON ONE: THE BIBLE IS THE WORD OF GOD

## SESSION FOUR

### OUR KEY PASSAGE

**2 Timothy 3:16** “All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.”

### REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- In a book containing prophecies, or in the case of a person making prophetic utterances, if even one of the predictions fails to be true, should we believe that book or person can be trusted?
  
- With all of the attempts throughout history to destroy or discredit the Bible as God’s Word, do you think there might be a Providential Hand at work serving to preserve it?
  
- There are many so-called “self-help” books on the market today that promote the promise of a better life if one practices certain disciplines. How do you think such books compare with “God-breathed” Scripture? Which would you rather follow, and why?

### VIDEO PRESENTATION NOTES

## AMPLIFICATION AND DISCUSSION

Only God can prophesy. No one else apart from God knows the future – no one! The only future that you know is the future that God has revealed in His Word. —**Adrian Rogers**

**For Discussion:** Why do you think the undisputed mathematical probabilities attesting to the fulfilled biblical prophecies of Jesus Christ are virtually ignored, even among intelligent and academically-minded people?

**For Discussion:** What steps do you think we need to take in order to allow God's Word to become more real in our lives?

**For Discussion:** Share with your group a specific portion or aspect of Scripture that you might now be willing to pay more attention to, and why.

### PERSONAL APPLICATION

This week as you continue to develop your personal time of devotion and Bible study, be sure to open your heart to the Lord by asking Him to transform you “by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God,” (Romans 12:2). Have a 3x5” card handy to write down a meaningful Scripture to memorize, and make it a practice to commit at least one verse of Scripture to memory each week.

### GROUP PRAYER REQUESTS

**Suggested group prayer** – “Lord, we praise You for your transforming power; yes, we praise You for Your mercies, for You are our defense and refuge in days of trouble.”

### ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURE TO STUDY

As you read the following Scriptures, consider the power that is contained in the Word of God that is too often ignored or taken for granted.

**Jeremiah 23:29** "Is not My word like a fire?" says the LORD, "And like a hammer that breaks the rock in pieces?"

**Psalms 119:89-93 (NKJV)** “Forever, O LORD, Your word is settled in heaven. Your faithfulness endures to all generations; You established the earth, and it abides. They continue this day according to Your ordinances, for all are Your servants. Unless Your law had been my delight, I would then have perished in my affliction. I will never forget Your precepts, for by them You have given me life.”

Consider how the Word of God is unlike any other book ever written, and that as Pastor Rogers said, “We read other books; this book [the Bible] reads us.”

**Hebrews 4:12** “For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”

As you read the following passage, think about the miraculous trustworthiness of biblical prophecy. Meditate on how God used 40 different authors over a span of nearly 2,000 years, who spoke and wrote in three different languages from different continents, to produce 66 perfectly unified books in what we know as the Bible.

**2 Peter 1:19-21** “And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts; knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God who spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.”

**Additional Reading Resources**

- David Limbaugh, “Jesus on Trial” (Regency Publishing: New York, NY, 2014)
- D. L. Moody, “Secret Power” (Chicago: F. H. Revell, 1881)
- Henrietta C. Mears, “What the Bible is All About” (Gospel Light Publications, 1996)
- Peter W. Stoner, “Science Speaks” (Moody Bible Institute: Chicago, 1976)



## AMPLIFICATION AND DISCUSSION

“We don’t need to be doubting Christians; we ought to be shouting Christians!” —  
**Adrian Rogers**

**For Discussion:** Have you come to the place in your spiritual life at which you know with absolute certainty that if you were to die today that you would spend eternity in Heaven? What do you think is the source of any doubts you may have, or what is the source of your confidence?

**For Discussion:** In what ways do you think “intellectual assent,” as opposed to “actionable trust,” can work to weaken our Christian walk?

**For Discussion:** If the Lord Himself were to ask you, “Why should I let you into My Heaven?”, how do you think you would respond?

**For Discussion:** Has there been any misapplication of faith or belief in your life that needs to be corrected? How do you intend to correct that?

**For Discussion:** Have you ever considered that Satan and his demons are believers? James 2:19 says, “You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe—and tremble!” What is the defining difference between a Christian believer and demonic believers?

**PERSONAL APPLICATION**

This week during your time of devotion or Bible study, take time to make a list of instances in which you may have failed to truly trust or believe God. Ask Him for help in recalling those instances, and be ready to confess, repent, and then recommit yourself to Him. You may want to record your thoughts in your journal.

**GROUP PRAYER REQUESTS**

**Suggested group prayer** – “O Lord, let our mouths declare Your righteousness, your wondrous love, and Your salvation all the day!”

**ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURES TO STUDY**

As you read John 1:12, ask yourself what it really means to “*receive Him*.” This over-used phrase in Christian circles has become synonymous with “intellectual assent.” Meditate on the same question concerning what it means to “*believe in His name*.” Consider how your life has, or has not, reflected the true meaning of this verse.

**John 1:12** “But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name.”

In studying the next two verses, try to grasp the depth of God’s love for mankind that He would send His Son in human form to die an agonizing death on the cross on our behalf, and to do so while we were yet estranged from Him because of our sin.

**John 3:16** “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”

**Romans 5:8** “But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”

As you study and meditate on the following verse, analyze carefully each of the key words and phrases; “*grace*,” “*faith*,” “*not of yourselves*,” “*gift of God*,” “*not of works*,” “*boast*.” Ask yourself how your thinking and life has measured up to these truths.

**Ephesians 2:8-9** “For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.”

**ADDITIONAL READING RESOURCES**

- Andrew Murray, “The Master’s Indwelling” (Fleming H. Revell, 1896)
- C. I. Scofield, “The New Life in Christ Jesus, Messages of Joy and Victory” (The Bible Institute Colportage Association of Chicago, 1915)
- S. D. Gordon, “Quiet Talks on Following Jesus” (Fleming H. Revell Co., 1913)

# LESSON TWO: HOW TO BE SAVED AND KNOW IT

## SESSION TWO

### OUR KEY PASSAGE

**1 John 2:3-6** “Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. He who says, “I know Him,” and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him. He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked.”

### REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- What would you consider to be the Biblical characteristics, or traits, of a true believer?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- If Christians were ever placed on trial just for being Christians, what kind of evidence do you think would be needed to convict them?

### VIDEO PRESENTATION NOTES

## AMPLIFICATION AND DISCUSSION

“You’re not saved because you keep the commandments, you keep the commandments because you’re saved.” —**Adrian Rogers**

**For Discussion:** In your opinion, what does the lordship of Christ look like in the life of a true believer?

**For Discussion:** What are some of the struggles or distractions in life that work against us living lives surrendered to the lordship of Christ?

**For Discussion:** What are some of the things we can do to help strengthen our reliance on the lordship of Christ in our lives?

### PERSONAL APPLICATION

This week during your personal devotions, make it a point to study Psalm 119:33-40. As you study, make this passage of Scripture your personal prayer back to God. (It is a powerful practice to pray the Word of God back to God!) Choose one or two verses from this passage to memorize and pray the words back to God throughout your day.

### GROUP PRAYER REQUESTS

**Suggested group prayer** – “Lord, teach us Your ways, and help us to live lives that honor You as reflected by our steadfast submission to Your Lordship.”

### ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURE TO STUDY

The book of Psalms is a book of prayers and worship. Personalizing prayers recorded there helps us commune with God and become intimate with Him by praying His Word back to Him. As you meditate on Psalm 119, make it your personal prayer.

**Psalm 119:33-40** “Teach me, O LORD, the way of Your statutes, And I shall keep it to the end. Give me understanding, and I shall keep Your law; indeed, I shall observe it with my whole heart. Make me walk in the path of Your commandments, for I delight in it. Incline my heart to Your testimonies, and not to covetousness. Turn away my eyes from looking at worthless things, and revive me in Your way. Establish Your word to Your servant, who is devoted to fearing You. Turn away my reproach which I dread, for Your judgments are good. Behold, I long for Your precepts; revive me in Your righteousness.”

As you read the warning from Jesus Himself, consider how He makes clear that works, even those “done in His name,” that lack the foundation of personal intimacy with Him, are considered “lawless” deeds.

**Matthew 7:22-23** “Many will say to Me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?’ And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!’”

To call oneself a Christian, and yet ignore the teachings and precepts of Christ, is hypocrisy. As you study these verses, ask the Lord to reveal to you any changes you may need to make in your life to help you know, and obey, His commands.

**Luke 6:46** “But why do you call Me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and do not do the things which I say?”

**John 10:27** “My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.”

**John 14:15** “If you love Me, keep My commandments.”

#### **ADDITIONAL READING RESOURCES**

- Andrew Murray, “The School of Obedience” (CreateSpace, 2018)
- John MacArthur, “The Gospel According to Jesus” (Zondervan, 2008)
- Matthew Henry, “The Secret of Communion with God; How to Begin the Day, Spend the Day, and End the Day with God” (Kregel, 1991)



## AMPLIFICATION AND DISCUSSION

“A church is comprised of people who have finally realized that they are sinners and have banded themselves together to do something about it. It is the only organization I know besides Hell’s Angels that you have to profess to be bad before you can join.” —**Adrian Rogers**

**For Discussion:** Why do you think fellowship is such an important mark of a true believer?

**For Discussion:** What struggles do we face in fulfilling the mandate to “love one another” in the local church? Why do you think that such struggles persist, and what do we need to do about it?

**For Discussion:** Who would say, “Yes,” to a foundation but, “No,” to the building? Who would say, “Yes,” to a groom but, “No,” to the bride? Who would say, “Yes,” to Christ as the head but, “No,” to the body?

**For Discussion:** What are some things you or your small group could do to help strengthen fellowship among your church body?

**For Discussion:** How do you think we should respond to someone who professes to be a Christian but refuses to fellowship with other believers? What hurts do you think might need to be healed in that person’s life, and how could we help that to happen?

### PERSONAL APPLICATION

This week during your personal devotions, make it a point to pray for your church. Take time to write a note of encouragement to someone in the body who you know is struggling, and maybe volunteer to visit a church member who is homebound.

### GROUP PRAYER REQUESTS

**Suggested group prayer** – “Lord, place within our hearts a desire to love others as You have loved us.”

### ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURE TO STUDY

As you read the following verses, ask the Holy Spirit to confirm in your heart your function in the body of the local church. Remember, we are all created with different gifts and abilities, each of which is necessary for the healthy function of the body.

**Romans 12:4, 5** “For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, <sup>5</sup>so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another.”

**1 Corinthians 12:12-22** “For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ. For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and have all been made to drink into one Spirit. For in fact the body is not one member but many. If the foot should say, ‘Because I am not a hand, I am not of the body,’ is it therefore not of the body? And if the ear should say, ‘Because I am not an eye, I am not of the body,’ is it therefore not of the body? If the whole body were an eye, where would be the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where would be the smelling? But now God has set the members, each one of them, in the body just as He pleased. And if they were all one member, where would the body be? But now indeed there are many members, yet one body. No, much rather, those members of the body which seem to be weaker are necessary.”

The following verses explain that you have been created to be a dwelling place for the Holy Spirit of God. Are there any dirty or cluttered “closets” in your life that need to be cleaned up in order to make your life acceptable as a dwelling place for the Holy Spirit?

**Ephesians 2:19-22** “Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief corner stone, in whom the whole building, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.”

**1 Peter 2:5** “You also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.”

**Additional Reading Resources**

- Arthur Pink, “Practical Christianity” (Baker Books, 1995)
- Brother Lawrence, “The Practice of the Presence of God” (Baker Books, 1989)
- Robertson McQuilkin, “The Five Smooth Stones” (B&H Publishing, 2007)



## AMPLIFICATION AND DISCUSSION

The Bible never uses a past experience as proof of salvation. It never points us back to some time when we may have believed on Jesus Christ. It always deals with our present confidence. —**Adrian Rogers**

**For Discussion:** How would you discern whether or not a person was having a loving relationship with Christ? Are there certain characteristics or behaviors that you would look for?

**For Discussion:** Have you ever known someone who participated in so many church activities that their ministry work seemed to overshadow their personal intimacy with Christ? How would you counsel such a person?

**For Discussion:** In your view, what would you say are some of the burdens we may continue to carry after coming to faith in Christ? Why do you think that is, and how should we deal with that?

**For Discussion:** Having a healthy relationship with anyone requires communication, and that includes our relationship with God. What are the ways we can communicate with God, and how does He communicate with us?

**For Discussion:** Share with your group any things you may have done, or currently do, that have helped you to develop your personal intimacy with Christ.

### PERSONAL APPLICATION

This week during your personal devotions, imagine Jesus standing before you in the room as you read your Bible or pray. Pray as you might talk with Him if He were in the room, and read Scripture with the expectancy that He will teach or explain what it means. Remember, “Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you” (Matthew 7:7).

### GROUP PRAYER REQUESTS

**Suggested group prayer** – “Lord, we set You always before us. Show us the path of life, because in Your presence is fullness of joy.”

### ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURE TO STUDY

As you read and meditate on the words of Jesus, focus on what it means to love God “with all your **heart**,” “with all your **soul**,” “with all your **strength**,” and with “all your **mind**.” Determine the difference between those specific aspects of life, and ask yourself how that plays out, or needs to play out, in your life. Then apply the same examination to what it means to love “your neighbor as yourself.”

**Luke 10:27** “So he answered and said, ‘You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind,’ and ‘your neighbor as yourself.’”

The wonderful news of the Gospel is that when we take Jesus’ yoke upon us, the burden of our sin is lifted and He carries it away. To continue to carry the guilt of past indiscretions is to deny the grace He provided through His sacrifice. Meditate on the power and promise of the verse. Concentrate on what it means to be “washed,” “sanctified,” and “justified.”

**1 Corinthians 6:9-11** “Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.”

The following verse is a serious warning against the hypocrisy of claiming to be a Christian while walking “in darkness,” meaning living a life that either ignores or deliberately disobeys the Word of God. As you meditate on this Scripture, ask God the Holy Spirit to reveal any unconfessed sin in your life that needs to be dealt with and turned from.

**1 John 1:6** “If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.”

**Additional Reading Resources**

- Hannah Whitall Smith, “The Christian’s Secret of a Happy Life” (Moody Press, 1968)
- Lewis Sperry Chafer, “He That is Spiritual” (Zondervan, 1983)
- R.A. Torrey, “How to Pray” (Moody Press, 1980)

## LESSON THREE: HOW TO BE SURE YOU ARE ETERNALLY SECURE

### SESSION ONE

#### OUR KEY PASSAGE

**John 10:27-28** “My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand.”

#### REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- Why do you think that some people who initially profess to be Christians, and who are for a season active in Bible study or church, suddenly, or even gradually, change their behavior to what is obviously in contrast to the Christian walk? Why do you think that happens?
  
- How do you think the possibility of being able to lose one’s salvation impacts a person’s spiritual life? How many sins, or what kind of sins, do you think it would take to cause people to lose their salvation?

#### VIDEO PRESENTATION NOTES

## AMPLIFICATION AND DISCUSSION

“The faith that fizzles before the finish had a flaw from the first.” —**Adrian Rogers**

**For Discussion:** How should knowing our salvation is secure affect our Christian walk? Should that security ever be an excuse to allow sin, even small offenses, to be acceptable?

**For Discussion:** What would you say to friends who seem to have abandoned their faith as evidenced by their outward behavior?

**For Discussion:** In your opinion, what kind of things would make up “good soil” in the life of a believer?

**For Discussion:** How do you think Christians should react when they find themselves having sinned in thought, word, or deed?

**PERSONAL APPLICATION**

In your personal devotions this week, do an evaluation of the “spiritual soil” in which you are currently planted. Are you being watered by the Word, receiving light from the Son through prayer, and are you receiving sufficient nourishment from fellowship with other believers? Take note of any deficiencies you find, and make a plan to shore up those areas in your spiritual life that need attention.

**GROUP PRAYER REQUESTS**

**Suggested group prayer** – “Salvation belongs to You, Oh Lord. We will rejoice in Your salvation and praise You for what You have done!”

**ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURE TO STUDY**

As you read the Parable of the Sower as recorded in the three Gospel accounts, determine how your life reflects the soil in which you have allowed yourself to be planted. Have you been ambivalent to the things of God (the wayside)? Have you allowed personal discouragement to turn you away from God (stony ground)? Are you more consumed with material things than you are with the things of God (thorny soil)? Or are you bearing fruit for God (good soil)?

**Matthew 13:4-9, 18-23; Mark 4:3-8, 13-20; Luke 8:5-8, 11-15**

Consider this unfailing testimony of Jesus’ authority and power to keep those who are His. Meditate on the key words and phrases in this verse:

**John 10:27-29** “My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father’s hand.”

The verse explains why people “fall away.” It’s not because they lost their salvation, it’s because they were never genuinely saved to begin with. Review this verse in conjunction with the Parable of the Sower, above.

**1 John 2:19** “They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us; but they went out that they might be made manifest, that none of them were of us.”

**ADDITIONAL READING RESOURCES**

- D. L. Moody, “Sovereign Grace: Its Source, Its Nature, and Its Effects,” (CreateSpace, 2015)
- Thomas M. Cucuzza, “Secure Forever! God’s Promise or Our Perseverance? True Salvation and its Relationship to the Christian Life,” (Xulon Press, St. Cloud, MN, 2007)
- Whitney T. Kuniholm, “The Essential Jesus; 100 Readings Through the Bible’s Greatest Story,” (InterVarsity Press, 2007)



## AMPLIFICATION AND DISCUSSION

“If salvation is your work, maybe it will run out in a ditch somewhere; but if it is God’s work, it will be completed.” —**Adrian Rogers**

**For Discussion:** How should knowing that the Bible provides a sacred promise of “nothing can separate us from God’s love,” impact our daily walk with Christ?

**For Discussion:** God’s Word also indicates God has a sacred purpose for each of our lives. How do you think we can effectively find and fulfill that purpose?

**For Discussion:** As believers, we are predestined to be conformed to the image of Christ, though sometimes we may feel we are far from achieving that goal in our earthly state. What can we do this side of Heaven to move the process of sanctification and spiritual growth forward in our lives?

**For Discussion:** What do you think you might tell someone who believes that he or she has no chance of salvation?

### PERSONAL APPLICATION

During your personal devotions this week, make it a point to think on God's love and how He will never allow anything to separate Himself from His love for you. You might want to pray a prayer of thanksgiving to Him for His unfathomable love, and for working in your life for a purpose that He will see through to completion.

### GROUP PRAYER REQUESTS

**Suggested group prayer** – “Lord, we will praise You because You have become our salvation. You are our strong tower and refuge that keeps us safe and secure in the midst of the storm.”

### ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURE TO STUDY

The two verses clarify the essence of predestination; that we are to be conformed to the image of Christ for the purpose of performing good works that have been prepared for us to walk in. As you meditate on these passages, ask the Holy Spirit to guide your steps to accomplish God's purpose for your life.

**Romans 8:29** “For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.”

**Ephesians 2:10** “For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.”

As you read Paul's declaration of confidence in God's unfailing love, ask the Holy Spirit to impart that same confidence and understanding into your life.

**Romans 8:38-39** “For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

In reading the verse, evaluate for yourself how much you desire and hunger for the Word of God. Do you spend more time in the Word than you do surfing the internet, watching TV, or playing video games?

**1 Peter 2:2** “...as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby,”

Meditate on the powerful significance of the verse by considering the unfathomable love the Father has for us and how our love for Him is an extension of the love He has for us.

**1 John 4:19** “We love Him because He first loved us.”

#### **ADDITIONAL READING RESOURCES**

- Arthur Pink, “The Doctrine of Justification,” (Bottom of T.H.E. Hill Publishing, 2011)
- Paul Enns, “The Moody Handbook of Theology,” (Moody Press, 2014)
- Thomas M. Cucuzza, “Secure Forever; God’s Promise, or Our Perseverance? True Salvation and its Relationship to the Christian Life,” (Xulon Press, 2007)

# LESSON THREE: HOW TO BE SURE YOU ARE ETERNALLY SECURE

## SESSION THREE

### OUR KEY PASSAGES

**Hebrews 10:14** “For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified.”

**2 Corinthians 5:17** “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.”

### REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- How do you think God works to perfect those who are being sanctified (set apart) for Him?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- What does it mean to have old things pass away, and all things become new? How does that play out in our daily lives?

### VIDEO PRESENTATION NOTES

## AMPLIFICATION AND DISCUSSION

“When you get saved, God doesn’t just give you a fresh start, He gives you eternal perfection.” —**Adrian Rogers**

**For Discussion:** How do you think we can know that we are being perfected (made complete, mature)? Are there specific things that we can do to help accomplish the end goal of becoming like Jesus?

**For Discussion:** How does becoming a “new creation” impact our lives and the lives of others around us? Share with the group any personal examples from your life that might encourage others.

**For Discussion:** How can we deal with the “old things” of our past that the enemy may try to use to discourage our Christian walk?

**For Discussion:** What do you think God’s reaction must be to the idea that He is incapable of keeping secure those He has saved?

### PERSONAL APPLICATION

This week in your personal time of devotion, make a list of all of the things that have changed in your life, especially those things of the heart, since becoming a “new creation” in Christ. Meditate on those changes and how God has been working in your life to sanctify you (set you apart) for Himself. Be sure to thank and praise Him for what He has done.

### GROUP PRAYER REQUESTS

**Suggested group prayer** – “Lord, we ask you to sanctify us by Your truth. Lead us by Your Word, which is truth, to become all that You want us to be.”

### ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURE TO STUDY

Many Old Testament stories are analogies and foreshadows of spiritual truths; such is the case with Noah’s Ark which pictures the divine salvation and protection that God provides by His own hand. Notice God said, “Come into the ark,” (where He was), as opposed to “Go into the ark,” (where He was not).

**Genesis 7:1, 16** “Then the LORD said to Noah, ‘Come into the ark, you and all your household, because I have seen that you are righteous before Me in this generation.’ ... So those that entered, male and female of all flesh, went in as God had commanded him; and the LORD shut him in.”

As you meditate on this verse, make a conscious list of “old things” that have passed away from your life since coming to Christ. What remaining things need to be removed?

**2 Corinthians 5:17** “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.”

Ancient seals were used to mark one’s authority over a property or possession. They served as legal notice and guarantee of ownership. Does the Holy Spirit reside in your heart? Are you fully His?

**2 Corinthians 1:22** “who also has sealed us and given us the Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee.”

**Ephesians 1:13** “In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise,”

**Ephesians 4:30** “And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.”

**ADDITIONAL READING RESOURCES**

- D.L. Moody, Ed., "Thoughts for the Quiet Hour," (Fleming H. Revell, 1900)
- Lewis Sperry Chafer, "He That Is Spiritual; A Classic Study of the Biblical Doctrine of Spirituality," (Zondervan, 1983)
- William Law, "A Serious Call to a Devout and Holy Life," (Griffith Farran, 1111)

## LESSON THREE: HOW TO BE SURE YOU ARE ETERNALLY SECURE

### SESSION FOUR

#### OUR KEY PASSAGES

**John 5:24** “Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life.”

**John 17:15** “I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one.”

**1 Peter 1:3-5** “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.”

#### REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- How do you think we can know for sure that we have eternal life?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- Why do you think believers are left in the world instead of being instantly “beamed up” as in “Star Trek,” at the moment of their salvation?

#### VIDEO PRESENTATION NOTES

## AMPLIFICATION AND DISCUSSION

“You’re kept by the power of God. It’s not a matter of your holding onto Him; it’s a matter of Him holding onto you.” —**Adrian Rogers**

**For Discussion:** In what ways do you think understanding security of salvation should cause Christians to adjust their lives or attitudes of heart?

**For Discussion:** How does knowing that Jesus is effectively interceding on our behalf provide confidence in day-to-day interactions, trials, and temptations?

**For Discussion:** How do you think we can put into practice rejoicing in the security of our salvation?

**For Discussion:** How do trials and temptations strengthen and/or refine our faith?

### PERSONAL APPLICATION

This week in your personal devotions, take time to read through and meditate upon the **Additional Scriptures to Study**, and thank God that He who is able to save you is also able to keep you. If you have never done so, you may consider writing a note to yourself in the flyleaf of your Bible to remind you that you are His when dark times come.

### GROUP PRAYER REQUESTS

**Suggested group prayer** – “Lord, we thank You for Your everlasting power and provision of salvation. You are our strong tower in whom we trust!”

### ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURES TO STUDY

As you read and meditate on the promises contained in John 6:47 and 11:25-26, keep in mind the word translated “*believes*” comes from the Greek verb “*pisteuo*” which literally means to trust, have faith in, or to be fully committed to someone or something. This is more than just an intellectual belief or acceptance of a fact.

**John 6:47** “Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me has everlasting life.”

**John 11:25-26** “Jesus said to her, ‘I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?’”

Intimacy with Christ is developed through prayer, not just talking to God, but, most importantly, listening to Him. If we do not listen, we cannot obediently follow.

**John 10:27-29** “My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father's hand.”

As you read and meditate on the following verses, you should take great comfort in knowing that Jesus is constantly interceding to the Father on our behalf. No issue in our lives is either too small or too great for our Savior.

**John 17:20** “I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word.”

**Hebrews 2:17-18** “Therefore, in all things He had to be made like His brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for

the sins of the people. For in that He Himself has suffered, being tempted, He is able to aid those who are tempted.”

**Hebrews 7:25** “Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.”

**ADDITIONAL READING RESOURCES**

- Arthur W. Pink, “The Sovereignty of God and the Godhood of God,” (Lulu Press, 2016)
- John Bunyan, “The Work Of Jesus Christ As An Advocate For The Benefit Of All Believers,” (Curiosmith, 2010)
- Samuel Dickey Gordon, “Quiet Talks on Power,” (Pinnacle Press, 2017)

# LESSON FOUR: WHAT HAPPENS WHEN A CHRISTIAN SINS

## SESSION ONE

### OUR KEY PASSAGES

**Psalm 51:1-4** “Have mercy upon me, O God, according to Your lovingkindness; according to the multitude of Your tender mercies, blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I acknowledge my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. Against You, You only, have I sinned, and done this evil in Your sight—that You may be found just when You speak, and blameless when You judge.”

**Psalm 51:8** “Make me to hear joy and gladness, that the bones which You have broken may rejoice.”

**Psalm 51:12** “Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, and uphold me with Your generous Spirit.”

### REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- What do you think are some of the consequences of sin in the life of a believer?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- What do you think believers can do to avoid, and/or be cleansed from current or future sins?

### VIDEO PRESENTATION NOTES

## AMPLIFICATION AND DISCUSSION

The most miserable person on earth is not a lost person, but a saved person out of fellowship with God. —**Adrian Rogers**

**For Discussion:** How would you define sin?

**For Discussion:** How can we as Christians, live in such a way as to diminish the power and effect of sin in our lives?

**For Discussion:** Why do you think sin has such a deep and damaging effect in the life of a believer?

**For Discussion:** Was there a time when sin seemed to have no effect on your life, when it just seemed to be the “normal” thing to do? Share with your group how that has changed.

### PERSONAL APPLICATION

This week in your personal devotions, meditate on those times before coming to Christ when sin had little or no impact on your life, and compare it to how sin affects you now. Spend time praising God for how He has provided the Holy Spirit to bring conviction when we stray from Him.

### GROUP PRAYER REQUESTS

**Suggested group prayer** – “Lord, we are grateful for the ability to feel pain, both physically and spiritually, that warns us when something is wrong. Let Your Word be a lamp unto our feet, and a light unto our paths!

### ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURES TO STUDY

As you read the two verses, consider why it is that God always considers our sins as having been committed against Him, even though they were perpetrated against another?

**Numbers 32:23b** “...you have sinned against the LORD; and be sure your sin will find you out.”

**Psalms 51:4** “Against You, You only, have I sinned, and done this evil in Your sight—that You may be found just when You speak, and blameless when You judge.”

Have you ever experienced the Lord’s correction or chastisement (not just situational consequences), for something you did wrong? If so, take time to recount those incidents and to thank Him and praise Him for His love. If not, you may need to reexamine your relationship with Him.

**Proverbs 3:12** “For whom the LORD loves He corrects, just as a father the son in whom he delights.”

People tend to live their lives as though God never really sees what they do. Consider, He not only sees behind closed doors, but He also looks deep into our hearts.

**Mark 4:22 (see also Luke 8:17)** “For there is nothing hidden which will not be revealed, nor has anything been kept secret but that it should come to light.”

Contemplate the depth of meaning in this verse, that while our sin made us unlovely and repulsive to our Holy God, He still loved us enough to humble Himself by taking on human form to suffer a cruel and demeaning death to accept the penalty of our sins.

**Romans 5:8** “But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”

**ADDITIONAL READING RESOURCES**

- C. H. Spurgeon, "The Treasury of David," (Hendrickson Publishers, 1876)
- Lewis Sperry Chafer, "Grace; An Exposition of God's Marvelous Gift," (Kregel, 2007)
- R. A. Torrey, ed., "The Fundamentals; A Testimony of Truth," (Bible Institute, 1917)



## AMPLIFICATION AND DISCUSSION

Folks who are out of fellowship with God are quick to find fault with other people. If you want to, you can always find fault because all of us are just a society of sinners who finally realized it and banded ourselves together to do something about it. —

**Adrian Rogers**

**For Discussion:** What can we do to avoid the accumulation of “little” sins?

**For Discussion:** How do you think harboring sin in one’s life can hinder their personal evangelism?

**For Discussion:** How do you think making restitution for a sin made against another works in the life of a believer? Do you have a story to share with the group as a means of encouragement to others who may be struggling in this area?

**For Discussion:** How can we effectively maintain a righteous life before God, and not just in the eyes of other men?

### PERSONAL APPLICATION

This week during your personal devotions, ask the Lord to reveal anything that may be hidden in your heart that you need to confess, repent, or make right. If there is anything wrong in your life, make it right.

### GROUP PRAYER REQUESTS

**Suggested group prayer** – “Lord, You are holy! Help us O’ God, to be more like you through obedience to Your Holy Spirit, and to Your Word.”

### ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURES TO STUDY

Read **2 Samuel 11, 12**. These two chapters detail how sin was able to creep into the life of David, “A man after God’s own heart,” and how God intervened to bring divine chastisement. As you read through these chapters, take note of the issues that caused David to stumble, and commit to keep the same issues from infecting your life (laziness, wandering eyes, lust, covetousness, greed, evil schemes, murder, deceit, etc.)

**Read Psalm 51**. After Nathan confronted David with what he had done, note the depth of contriteness, confession, and repentance that David experienced.

### ADDITIONAL READING RESOURCES

- John Bunyan, “The Pilgrim’s Progress,” (CreateSpace, 2016)
- Martin Luther, “Table Talk [see “Of Sins”],” (Dover Publications, 2005)
- R. A. Torrey, ed., “The Fundamentals; A Testimony of Truth,” (Bible Institute, 1917)



## AMPLIFICATION AND DISCUSSION

God does not love us because we are valuable, we are valuable *because He loves us!*

—Adrian Rogers

**For Discussion:** What do you think it means to have a broken and contrite spirit, or heart? What can we do to cultivate a broken and contrite spirit before God?

**For Discussion:** What attitude do you think we should have toward sin and God's gift of forgiveness?

**For Discussion:** How should we respond to God's forgiveness when we sin?

**For Discussion:** What can we do to teach others about God's love and forgiveness? Can we effectively share those truths if they are not real in our own lives?

### PERSONAL APPLICATION

This week during your personal devotions and throughout the week, try to put into practice “spiritual breathing” each time you find yourself having fallen short of what God expects of you. Be quick to immediately confess to Him any shortcoming, then by faith, receive His forgiveness and filling of the Holy Spirit. You may want to journal and make a record of the results.

### GROUP PRAYER REQUESTS

**Suggested group prayer** – “Lord, we are so needy and daily fall short of Your glory. Help us to be sensitive to sin whether in thought or deed, and help us to quickly confess and receive the infilling of Your Holy Spirit.”

### ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURES TO STUDY

As you reflect on the truths contained in the following verses, ask the Holy Spirit to give you a broken heart and contrite spirit for sin. Make that a routine prayer as you face the daily issues of life.

**Psalms 34:18** “The LORD is near to those who have a broken heart, and saves such as have a contrite spirit.”

**Psalms 51:17** “The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, A broken and a contrite heart—these, O God, You will not despise.”

**Isaiah 57:15** “For thus says the High and Lofty One who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy: “I dwell in the high and holy place, with him who has a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones.”

**Isaiah 66:2b** “But on this one will I look: on him who is poor and of a contrite spirit, and who trembles at My word.”

It is important to remember that nothing can be hidden from Almighty God. The verses not only remind us of that fact, but they testify of the Lord’s mercy and willingness to forgive and restore when we confess our sins.

**Proverbs 28:13** “He who covers his sins will not prosper, but whoever confesses and forsakes them will have mercy.”

**Isaiah 1:18** “Come now, and let us reason together,” says the LORD, “though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall be as wool.”

**Romans 5:8** “But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”

**1 John 1:7-9** “But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

Being a Christian does not give one a license to sin. It does, however, provide a way to escape the temptation of sin if we choose to follow the prompting of the Holy Spirit, and be obedient to the Word of God for “the way of escape.”

**Romans 6:15** “What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? Certainly not!”

**1 Corinthians 10:13** “No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.”

#### ADDITIONAL READING RESOURCES

- Andrew Murray, “Divine Healing” (Whitaker House, 2019)
- R. Kent Hughes, “Disciplines of a Godly Man,” (Crossway, 2019)
- Samuel Dickey Gordon, “Quiet Talks on Following the Christ,” (Kessinger Publishing, 2008)

# LESSON FIVE: BELIEVER'S BAPTISM

## SESSION ONE

### OUR KEY PASSAGE

**Matthew 28:19-20** “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age. Amen.”

### REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- What is your view of baptism? Does it matter if one who claims to be a follower of Christ is ever baptized or not? Why?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- Does it matter whether one is baptized by immersion, or by sprinkling? Why?

### VIDEO PRESENTATION NOTES

## AMPLIFICATION AND DISCUSSION

Baptism is not incidental, it is fundamental! Don't ever minimize what God has so maximized. —**Adrian Rogers**

**For Discussion:** How important do you think it is to obey what the Bible teaches, and what the Lord Jesus Christ modeled, concerning baptism?

**For Discussion:** Should culture and/or convenience trump the authority and commands of Scripture? Why or why not?

**For Discussion:** Why do you think it is hard for someone who was baptized by sprinkling to submit to baptism by immersion?

**For Discussion:** What would you say to someone who sincerely desires to follow Christ, but has never been baptized, or was baptized by sprinkling?

**PERSONAL APPLICATION**

This week in your personal devotions, meditate on Romans 6:4, and ask the Holy Spirit to reveal any aspect of your life that does not align with you having put the old man to death in order to live in newness of life to the Father's glory. Determine to adjust any aspect of your life that does not reflect that reality, and journal your thoughts.

**GROUP PRAYER REQUESTS**

**Suggested group prayer** – “Lord, You submitted to John’s baptism not because you needed repentance, but in order to fulfill all righteousness! Forbid that we should fail to do the same.”

**ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURES TO STUDY**

As you study the following verses, note how carefully Scripture records baptism by immersion “**in** the Jordan ... **coming up from** the water”, that more than a cup of water was needed “because there was **much water** there”, and that they “went **down into** the water”.

**Mark 1:9-10** “It came to pass in those days that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee, and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And immediately, coming up from the water, He saw the heavens parting and the Spirit descending upon Him like a dove.”

**John 3:23** “Now John also was baptizing in Aenon near Salim, because there was much water there. And they came and were baptized.”

**Acts 8:36-39** “Now as they went down the road, they came to some water. And the eunuch said, ‘See, here is water. What hinders me from being baptized?’ Then Philip said, ‘If you believe with all your heart, you may.’ And he answered and said, ‘I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.’ So he commanded the chariot to stand still. And both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and he baptized him. Now when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught Philip away, so that the eunuch saw him no more; and he went on his way rejoicing.”

There is a reason why baptism by immersion is so important. It provides a clear depiction of a death and burial by use of a watery grave, along with a resurrection to “newness of life” empowered by the Holy Spirit. Question: Is your baptism on the right side of your salvation, and for the right reason?

**Romans 6:4** “Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.”

**ADDITIONAL READING RESOURCES**

- T. Robertson, “Word Pictures in the New Testament,” (Broadman Press, 1930)
- “The Outline Bible Five Translation Practical Word Studies in The New Testament,” (Leadership Ministries Worldwide, 1998)
- William Smith, L.L.D., “Smith’s Bible Dictionary,” (Thomas Nelson, 2004)



## AMPLIFICATION AND DISCUSSION

The meaning and the method [of baptism] are inextricably interwoven. If you change the method, you will destroy the meaning. The method and the meaning are bound together. —**Adrian Rogers**

**For Discussion:** Does it matter if someone is baptized by immersion in a swimming pool, in a pond, or in a church baptistery? Does the location make a difference in the worthiness of the baptism?

**For Discussion:** Do you think sprinkling or pouring water over someone who has come for baptism adequately pictures a death, burial, and resurrection? Is that even important? Why or why not?

**For Discussion:** Does the biblical method, coupled with the biblical meaning as explained in this and the previous session, change your understanding of baptism? If so, in what way?

**For Discussion:** In your opinion, what does it mean to “walk in newness of life”?

**For Discussion:** How important do you believe it is to follow the dictates of Scripture and the commands of our Lord in the midst of a culture that is openly hostile to Christianity?

### PERSONAL APPLICATION

In your personal devotions, ask the Holy Spirit how you might offer yourself as an instrument of righteousness to God and to others this week.

### GROUP PRAYER REQUESTS

**Suggested group prayer** – “Lord, help us to always walk in newness of life, to live righteously not out of fear or obligation, but out of genuine love for You.”

### ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURES TO STUDY

Consider as you read the following, how God has made all believers one by a spiritual baptism (immersion) in His Spirit which is symbolized by our physical baptism.

**1 Corinthians 12:12-13** “For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ. For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and have all been made to drink into one Spirit.”

Following Christ is a daily practice of rejecting sin which no longer holds us captive.

**Romans 6:6** “...knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin.”

**Ephesians 4:22** “...that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts...”

As you read the following verses, take time to praise God for the wonderful gift of salvation, grace, and forgiveness He has provided. Commit to live your life by faith in Him, allowing the resulting good works to shine through in praise to Him.

**Colossians 2:11-14** “In Him you were also circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the sins of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, buried with Him in baptism, in which you also were raised with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead. And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses, having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.”

**James 2:17-22** “Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. But someone will say, ‘You have faith, and I have works.’ Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe--and tremble! But do you want to know, O foolish man, that faith without works is dead? Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered Isaac his son

on the altar? Do you see that faith was working together with his works, and by works faith was made perfect?"

**ADDITIONAL READING RESOURCES**

- Charles Hodge, "The Way of Life," (Patala Press, 2016)
- William Evans, "The Great Doctrines of the Bible," (Moody, 1974)
- James Orr, "The Christian View of God and the World," (Kregel Publications, 1989)



## AMPLIFICATION AND DISCUSSION

While baptism is not necessary for salvation, it is necessary for obedience, and obedience is necessary for joy and fruitfulness in the Christian life. —**Adrian Rogers**

**For Discussion:** What do you believe are some of the different motives people may have when they come to be baptized?

**For Discussion:** How important do you believe it is for a person to possess the correct heart-motive before stirring baptismal waters. Does the act of baptism by itself, override issues of the heart?

**For Discussion:** Does the “Great Commission” (Matthew 28:19) where Jesus commands His disciples to teach “all the nations” (meaning all peoples), to make disciples of them, and to baptize them, apply to modern-day Christians? If so, does it only apply to those who are “called” to be missionaries? Explain your thoughts.

**For Discussion:** What would you tell a person whose baptism:

- Was not done by the correct biblical method (by immersion)?
- Did not reflect the correct biblical message (salvation by grace, not by the act of baptism)?
- Did not possess the correct biblical motive (was done without understanding the Gospel)?

**For Discussion:** Do you believe it matters if a church requires individuals presenting themselves for membership to be baptized by immersion, with the correct biblical message having been conveyed (i.e., that it represented a picture of identification with Christ and that it was **not** necessary for salvation), and that it was done with the right motive of declaring Jesus as their Lord? Why or why not?

### PERSONAL APPLICATION

This week in your devotions, ask the Holy Spirit to review the history of your personal baptism to make sure, for the benefit of your personal spiritual growth, that you have been faithful to follow the right baptismal method, message, and motive.

### GROUP PRAYER REQUESTS

**Suggested group prayer** – “Lord, help us to always honor You by our obedience to your commands, that through our obedience we may be sanctified and set apart for Your service.”

### ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURES TO STUDY

The following list of Scripture details the historic, symbolic, and spiritual importance of baptism. Study them well to solidify your understanding of this most important act of obedience in the life of the Christian.

**Matthew 28:19-20** “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.’ Amen.”

**Mark 16:15-16** “And He said to them, ‘Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.’”

**Romans 6:4-7** “Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection, knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin. For he who has died has been freed from sin.”

**Acts 2:38-41** “Then Peter said to them, ‘Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call.’ And with many other words he testified and exhorted them, saying, ‘Be saved from this perverse generation.’ Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them.”

**Acts 8:12** “But when they believed Philip as he preached the things concerning the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, both men and women were baptized.”

**Acts 8:35-38** “Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning at this Scripture, preached Jesus to him. Now as they went down the road, they came to some water. And the eunuch said, ‘See, here is water. What hinders me from being baptized?’ Then Philip said, ‘If you believe with all your heart, you may.’ And he answered and said, ‘I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.’ So he commanded the chariot to stand still. And both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and he baptized him.”

**Acts 10:43-48** “‘To Him all the prophets witness that, through His name, whoever believes in Him will receive remission of sins.’ While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who heard the word. And those of the circumcision who believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also. For they heard them speak with tongues and magnify God. Then Peter answered, ‘Can anyone forbid water, that these should not be baptized who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?’ And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then they asked him to stay a few days.”

**Acts 18:8** “Then Crispus, the ruler of the synagogue, believed on the Lord with all his household. And many of the Corinthians, hearing, believed and were baptized.”

**Acts 19:3-5** “And he said to them, ‘Into what then were you baptized?’ So they said, ‘Into John's baptism.’ Then Paul said, ‘John indeed baptized with a baptism of repentance, saying to the people that they should believe on Him who would come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus.’ When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.”

**Galatians 3:26-27** “For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.”

#### ADDITIONAL READING RESOURCES

- Alfred Edersheim, “The Life and Times of Jesus the Messiah,” (Eerdmans, 1984)
- Elyse M. Fitzpatrick, “Found in Him; The Joy of the Incarnation and Our Union with Christ,” (Crossway, 2013)
- John MacArthur, “The Love of God; He Will Do Whatever It Takes To Make Us Holy,” (Word Publishing, 1939)



## AMPLIFICATION AND DISCUSSION

We are all subject to temptation so that we can learn how to depend on the Lord Jesus Christ and know victory. There is no Christian who does not know temptation.

—Adrian Rogers

**For Discussion:** How would you define “temptation”?

**For Discussion:** What are some specific temptations of the world that we tend to face? How can we readily recognize them when they occur, and what are some ways we can defend ourselves against worldly temptations?

**For Discussion:** Discuss some specific temptations of the flesh. How can we readily recognize them when they occur? What are some ways we can defend ourselves against fleshly temptations?

**For Discussion:** Share with one another ways in which the Lord provides “the way of escape” when we are tempted.

### PERSONAL APPLICATION

This week in your personal devotions, consider how the enemy has used temptations in your life. Acknowledge your weaknesses, thank God for His forgiveness for any failures, and commit to always look to Him for the way to overcome temptations.

### GROUP PRAYER REQUESTS

**Suggested group prayer** – “Lord, You are our strong tower. Help us to learn to run to you when we find ourselves under siege by the enemy.”

### ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURES TO STUDY

As you study the following verses, ask the Lord to confirm in your heart how you are to be wholly separated unto Him, and that you are not to be controlled by the world, but by the presence of the Holy Spirit.

**Romans 12:1-2** “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.”

**1 Corinthians 6:19** “What? Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?”

Satan, “the prince of the power of the air” (see Ephesians 2:2), is the enemy of every believer, but he no longer holds us captive to sin. It is important for every true follower of Christ to recognize where temptations and spiritual assaults come from, and to combat temptation through prayer and submissive obedience to the Lord and His Word.

**Ephesians 2:1-5** “And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, <sup>3</sup>among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others. <sup>4</sup>But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved).”

**Ephesians 6:12** “For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.”

**James 4:4** “Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.”

The term “adulterers and adulteresses” is used to express the unfaithfulness of those claiming to be Christ’s, but who are more devoted to the world than they are to the things of God. Ask the Lord to reveal anything in your life for which you hold more devotion than you have for God.

**1 John 2:15-16** “Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world.”

**ADDITIONAL READING RESOURCES**

- Beverly Carradine, “The Old Man,” (First Fruits Press, 2016)
- C.I. Scofield, “The New Life in Christ; Messages of Joy and Victory,” (Palala Press, 2016)
- Samuel Dickey Gordon, “Quiet Talks About the Tempter,” (Wentworth Press, 2019)

# LESSON SIX: HOW TO HANDLE TEMPTATION

## SESSION TWO

### OUR KEY PASSAGE

**1 Corinthians 10:12-13** “Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall. No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.”

### REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- The Bible says that we are made in the image of God (see Genesis 1:27). What do you think that means?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- How would you describe the difference between a person’s soul and his spirit?

### VIDEO PRESENTATION NOTES

## AMPLIFICATION AND DISCUSSION

With my body I have physical life and can know the world beneath me. With my soul I have psychological life and can know the world around and within me. With my spirit I have spiritual life and can know the world above me. ... When my body is right, I am healthy. When my soul is right, I am happy. When my spirit is right, I am holy. —**Adrian Rogers**

**For Discussion:** What are some of the worldly temptations that tend to manifest themselves in one's "youth"; in one's "mid-life?" Are there things one can do to help mitigate those temptations when they occur?

**For Discussion:** What are some of the spiritual temptations that you believe tend to manifest themselves in "older age?" Are there things one can do to help mitigate those temptations when they occur?

**For Discussion:** What advice or counsel do you think you might give to a believer who is consumed with career or material success? What would you say to an unbeliever?

**For Discussion:** What do you think are some of the steps believers can take to bolster their faith when facing times of spiritual crisis?

### PERSONAL APPLICATION

This week in your personal devotions, consider how temptations may have come at you from different sources during the different stages of your life. As with last week, continue to acknowledge your weaknesses, thank God for His forgiveness, and commit to look to Him to overcome all temptations.

### GROUP PRAYER REQUESTS

**Suggested group prayer** – “Lord, You are our shield. We need Your protection to overcome the temptations around us. Teach us to follow Your ways and to honor You with our lives.”

### ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURES TO STUDY

As you study the verses, consider how the Holy Spirit of God interacts with our spirit to allow us to have communion with Him, as well as with fellow believers.

**John 4:23-24** “But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. <sup>24</sup>God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.”

**Romans 8:16** “The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God.”

Consider the difference between the “spirit of this world,” and the Holy Spirit of God who works in us for righteousness, as you read the following:

**Ephesians 2:1-6** “And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others. But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus.”

**1 Thessalonians 5:23** “Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

A key way to help sensitize oneself to the work of the Holy Spirit in one’s life is to make it a priority to study and apply the Word of God.

**Hebrews 4:12** “For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”

#### ADDITIONAL READING RESOURCES

- C.C. Mitchell, "Let's Live," (Revell, 1975)
- Chad Meister and James K. Dew, eds., "God and Evil; The Case for God in a World Filled with Pain," (InterVarsity Press, 2012)
- James Orr, "The Christian View of God and the World," (Scribners's Sons, 1908)

# LESSON SIX: HOW TO HANDLE TEMPTATION

## SESSION THREE

### OUR KEY PASSAGE

**1 Corinthians 10:12-13** “Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall. No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.”

### REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- Do you think it is of any importance that the temptations Christians face are common to everyone? Why?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- How do you handle temptations? What are some of the things you do to overcome temptations when they come your way?

### VIDEO PRESENTATION NOTES

## AMPLIFICATION AND DISCUSSION

When you understand how the devil is working and how the flesh is working and how the world is working, then you can understand how to get victory over these three areas. —**Adrian Rogers**

**For Discussion:** What specific actions or practices do you think we can engage in to strengthen our faith in order to survive in a fallen and hostile world?

**For Discussion:** How would you respond to the statement, “Life is 10% of what happens to you and 90% how you respond to what happens to you?” Do you agree, or disagree? Explain.

**For Discussion:** What are some of the things we can do in the church to help guard against temptations from the world, the flesh, and the devil?

**For Discussion:** Why do you believe God allows us to face temptations? Have you found any value, or learned from any of the temptations you have experienced?

**PERSONAL APPLICATION**

This week in your personal devotions, make it a point to acknowledge and give thanks for the power to overcome temptations that God has provided. Review your life's history and ask the Lord to show you "*the way of escape*" He provided in times of temptation, whether you took the way, or not.

**GROUP PRAYER REQUESTS**

**Suggested group prayer** – "Lord, thank you for the grace you pour into our lives, even when we may fail you. We acknowledge our need for You, and ask for Your continued guidance in our lives."

**ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURES TO STUDY**

**Read Psalm 1** and take note how assaults upon our lives and on our walks with God can be divided into three specific categories; our actions (walking in the counsel of the ungodly), our associations (standing in the path of sinners), and our attitudes (sitting in the seat of the scornful). Note also the remedy, (taking delight in the law of the Lord, and mediating on it day and night).

**Ephesians 6:12** "For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places."

It is important to understand and to remember that temptations and enticements to sin all emanate from this fallen world and its prince, the devil. Notice the principle of "faith, flight, and fight" in the following verses.

**1 John 5:4-5** "For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. Who is he who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?"

**2 Timothy 2:22** "Flee also youthful lusts; but pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart."

**Revelation 12:11** "And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death."

**ADDITIONAL READING RESOURCES**

- Charles G. Finney, "Power from on High," (CLC Publications, 1989)
- D.L. Moody, "Secret Power; The Secret of Success in Christian Life and Christian Work," (Revell, 1881)
- S.D. Gordon, "Quiet Talks on Power," (Revell, 1903)



## AMPLIFICATION AND DISCUSSION

When we are filled with the Spirit, the Christian life will not be a burden, but a blessing. —**Adrian Rogers**

**For Discussion:** In what ways do you believe living a Spirit-filled life can make a difference in the decisions you make, the activities in which you engage, or the people with whom you choose to associate?

**For Discussion:** Pastor Rogers stated that from his experience as a pastor, people trying to “do the work of God” in their own strength without being Spirit-filled can cause great harm in the church. What do you think about that idea; do you agree, or disagree? Can you give any examples?

**For Discussion:** What would you say matters most to God concerning personal, and corporate (church) worship? What can you do to help promote a proper spirit of worship in your personal life, as well as in your church or group?

**For Discussion:** In what ways do you think the Holy Spirit can, by dominating the lives of a married couple or a couple yet to be married, positively impact the relationship? How would the absence of the Spirit in either the life of the man or the woman, or both, negatively impact the relationship?

### PERSONAL APPLICATION

This week in your personal devotions be still before the Lord and just worship Him for Who He is.

### GROUP PRAYER REQUESTS

**Suggested group prayer** – “Help us to fully understand what it means to live Spirit-filled lives. Help us to seek You and to obey You in all we do.”

### ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURES TO STUDY

When Jesus spoke the words to the woman at the well in Samaria, keep in mind that both the Samaritans, as well as the Jews were very religious people who faithfully practiced a form of worship in their separate temples. Make sure your worship is not based on a routine formal practice or cultural tradition but truly emanates from the heart.

**John 4:23-24** “But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.”

**Philippians 3:3** “For we are the circumcision, who worship God in the Spirit, rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh.”

Physical circumcision is superseded by a circumcision of the heart, where one worships God in the Spirit, rejoicing in Christ Jesus as Savior and Lord, and who holds no confidence in his/her own ability to live the Christian life.

**James 4:17** “Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin.”

James reminds us that it is not just what we do wrong that is sinful. Failing to do what we should is sinful and pits us against God. It is important to live a Spirit-filled life so that we can know what we should do and have the power, or spiritual authority, to accomplish it.

### ADDITIONAL READING RESOURCES

- Henry and Richard Blackaby, “Spiritual Leadership,” (B & H Publishing Group, 2011)
- J Oswald Sanders, “Spiritual Leadership; Principles of Excellence for Every Believer,” (Moody Press, 1967)
- Lewis Sperry Chafer, “He That Is Spiritual,” (Moody Press, 1918)

# LESSON SEVEN: How to Be Filled With the Spirit

## SESSION TWO

### OUR KEY PASSAGE

**Ephesians 5:18-1** “And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord.”

### REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- How do you think being filled with the Spirit serves to impact our daily lives? Provide some practical examples to discuss.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- How do you think **not** being filled with the Spirit can impact our daily lives? Provide some practical examples to discuss.

### VIDEO PRESENTATION NOTES

## AMPLIFICATION AND DISCUSSION

Every day that you live without being filled with the Spirit is a wasted day. —**Adrian Rogers**

**For Discussion:** How do you feel when your employer demonstrates ungodly conduct (foul language, unfair treatment, unethical business practices, etc.) How should you, or have you, dealt with such situations?

**For Discussion:** What kind of spiritual battles have you fought? Did you recognize these battles as spiritual at the time? What did you do right? What did you do wrong?

**For Discussion:** How would you say being filled with the Spirit has impacted your witness? Where have you benefitted from being Spirit-filled, and where have you maybe failed by witnessing in your own power, or by attempting to use persuasive words?

**For Discussion:** How has the Holy Spirit provided direction in your life? Have there been times when you have responded to His promptings, and what was the outcome? Have there been times when you failed to respond, and what were those outcomes?

### PERSONAL APPLICATION

This week in your personal devotions, confess any missed opportunities you may have had to serve Him or times you failed to respond to the Holy Spirit's prompting. In faith, accept His love and forgiveness, then ask Him to help guide you in your obedience, obligations, and opportunities.

### GROUP PRAYER REQUESTS

**Suggested group prayer** – “Lord, we will hope in You continually, and we praise You for Your righteousness. Help us to go in Your strength, speaking of Your love and salvation all the day.”

### ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURES TO STUDY

**John 15:5** “I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.”

Living the Spirit-filled life means we are living a life connected to Jesus and that we are abiding in Him. As you meditate on this verse, consider what kind of fruit you are producing. Is there more you could do by more conscientiously abiding in Him?

**Acts 5:32** “And we are His witnesses to these things, and so also is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey Him.”

Sharing one's faith can be intimidating, especially if it is done out of obligation and without the filling of the Holy Spirit. Being Spirit-filled empowers us to state boldly the truths of God.

**Ephesians 6:19** “...and for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel,”

The following verses should be committed to memory and placed deep in the heart for all who are either employed, or for those who hold responsibility over others.

**Ephesians 6:5** “Bondservants, be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in sincerity of heart, as to Christ;”

**Ephesians 6:9** “And you, masters, do the same things to them, giving up threatening, knowing that your own Master also is in heaven, and there is no partiality with Him.”

As believers, we are constantly engaged in an invisible battle against forces of evil. As you study the following verses, check to be sure you are covered in the **whole** armor of God.

**Ephesians 6:10-18** “Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers,

against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore, take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having girded your waist with **truth**, having put on the breastplate of **righteousness**, and having shod your feet with the preparation of the **gospel of peace**; above all, taking the shield of **faith**, with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the **word of God**; **praying** always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints.”

**1 John 4:4** “You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.”

#### **Additional Reading Resources**

- Andrew Murray, “The Master’s Indwelling,” (Chicago; New York; Toronto: Fleming H. Revell, 1896)
- L.S. Chafer, “He that is Spiritual,” (Moody Press: Chicago, 1918)
- P. E. Little & J. F. Nyquist, “Know what you believe,” (Westmont, IL: IVP Books, 2009)

# LESSON SEVEN: How to Be Filled With the Spirit

## SESSION THREE

### OUR KEY PASSAGE

**Ephesians 5:18-20** “And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, submitting to one another in the fear of God.”

### REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- What does it mean for you to be filled with the Spirit – what does that look like in a practical sense?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- In your opinion, what do you believe is required of you to be filled with the Spirit?

### VIDEO PRESENTATION NOTES

## AMPLIFICATION AND DISCUSSION

It is not your responsibility to persuade God to fill you with the Holy Spirit, but to permit Him to do so. God wants to fill you with the Spirit. He longs for you to live with power and victory. —**Adrian Rogers**

**For Discussion:** What do you think churches, and Christianity in general, would look like if they were made up of people genuinely committed to Jesus Christ and filled with His Spirit? How would that impact church activities and programs, families, local communities, and even the world?

**For Discussion:** “Secret rooms” tend to be very personal. If you feel comfortable, share with your group any victories you may have had in allowing the Holy Spirit to clean up areas of your life. If comfortable, share with your group where you may still be struggling.

**For Discussion:** Why do you think it is so easy for mankind to be enticed away by counterfeit spiritual experiences? Consider the history of the Israelites, cultic movements, or even some churches that emphasize unbiblical manifestations of the Spirit.

**For Discussion:** Why do you think it is that so many “Christians” seem to go about their lives without being filled with the Spirit? What is the cause, and how can that be corrected?

### PERSONAL APPLICATION

This week in your personal devotions, take time in prayer to sincerely yield yourself to the presence and power of the Holy Spirit. Open “every room” of your heart and allow Him to enter and have preeminence over all aspects of your life.

### GROUP PRAYER REQUESTS

**Suggested group prayer** – “Lord, without You we can do nothing. As a vine attached to a branch, we need Your daily sustenance to survive and thrive in this fallen world. Fill us with Your Spirit, teach us, and lead us in the way we should go.”

### ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURES TO STUDY

**John 14:17** “the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.”

Consider the depth of meaning of the promise that the Lord has sent His Holy Spirit to dwell in us. How wonderful a gift of love and personal concern that is for us!

**1 Corinthians 6:19** “Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own?”

This above passage in 1 Corinthians is a constant reminder of how we are to keep our bodies, hearts, and souls consecrated (separated) unto the Lord. We are to be holy, as He is holy.

As you review the key passage for this series of sessions, take time to note its application to your personal life. You may want to journal your thoughts on what you may need to do to meet the requirements of this passage (complete commitment, continual control, conscious claiming), and you may want to carefully evaluate whether you are reaping the results (proper relationship with God, to circumstances, and with others).

**Ephesians 5:18-20** “And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, submitting to one another in the fear of God.”

### ADDITIONAL READING RESOURCES

- Henry Blackaby and Richard Blackaby, “Spiritual Leadership: Moving People on to God’s Agenda,” (Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman, 2001)
- J. Oswald Sanders, “Spiritual Leadership: Principles of Excellence for Every Believer,” (Chicago: Moody Press, 1967)
- St. Ignatious of Loyola, “The Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola,” trans. Elder Mullan, (New York: P. J. Kenedy & Sons, 1914)

# LESSON EIGHT: How to Know the Will of God

## SESSION ONE

### OUR KEY PASSAGE

**Acts 9:6** "So he, trembling and astonished, said, 'Lord, what do You want me to do?' Then the Lord said to him, 'Arise and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do.'"

### REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- Why is it important to discern God's will for your life? How does that impact your daily activities, your choice of career, your family, or even your church?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- How would you measure or determine whether or not you are living out God's will in your life? What would you say are the markers or indicators that serve to confirm you are on course, or not?

### VIDEO PRESENTATION NOTES

## AMPLIFICATION AND DISCUSSION

Your great desire ought to be to know His will. Your great delight will be to do His will. Your great danger is to refuse His will. Nothing is right for you if it is not God's will. —**Adrian Rogers**

**For Discussion:** How does the sovereignty of God's will impact your view of world events? Does it strengthen your faith, or do you feel things are spinning out of control?

**For Discussion:** How would you handle a conversation with someone who rejects God because of "All the starving children," or some other such evil in the world?

**For Discussion:** Do you feel that you are fulfilling God's plan for your life? Why, or why not?

### PERSONAL APPLICATION

This week in your personal devotions, ask the Lord to help you know more of who He is and what He would have you do. Make that a daily prayer of your life.

### GROUP PRAYER REQUESTS

**Suggested group prayer** – “Lord, we are grateful for Your providential, permissive, and personal will. Help us to be ever mindful that You do have a plan for each of our lives, and help us to obediently follow that plan.”

### ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURES TO STUDY

If you have children that you are raising, you know what it is to guide them with your eye. One look to a child who is inherently intent on pleasing a parent can correct their behavior without a word. That is how our relationship with the Lord should be. Our trust and commitment to Him should be such that He does not have to harness us with “bit and bridle.”

**Psalms 32:8-10** “I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will guide you with My eye. Do not be like the horse or like the mule, which have no understanding, which must be harnessed with bit and bridle, else they will not come near you. Many sorrows shall be to the wicked; but he who trusts in the LORD, mercy shall surround him.”

**Proverbs 3:5-6** “Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.”  
Proverbs are not promises, but are principles by which we are to live. The best way to discover God’s will for your life is to fully trust and be committed to Him with all of your heart, and by so doing, not to trust in your own understanding or abilities.

**Ephesians 2:10** “For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.”

As you meditate on the depth of meaning of this verse, consider for yourself what the “good works” are that God has prepared for your life. You may want to list them in a journal and make certain determinations to actively fulfill them.

### Additional Reading Resources

- Charles Caldwell Ryrie, “A Popular Systematic Guide to Understanding Biblical Truth,” (Moody Press, 1999)
- Jerry Bridges, “The Pursuit of Holiness,” (NavPress, 1996)
- Timothy Winters, “Discovering David’s Destiny; Insightful Expositions to Help Christians Discover Their Personal Destiny,” (Mount Carmel Books, 2004)



## AMPLIFICATION AND DISCUSSION

If He is your Lord, there will be no rebuttal, no refusal, no rival. —**Adrian Rogers**

**For Discussion:** In what ways may you have fallen victim to any of these myths? Is there any one particular myth that has plagued your life more than another? Explain.

**For Discussion:** How would you counsel someone who is making a radical decision for their lives that appears to be outside the norms of the world or of common-sense behavior? How would you respond to a claim that “God has told me to do this?”

**For Discussion:** Would you be willing to share with your group if there has ever been a time in your life when you might have engaged in a great plan for something, only to discover you left God out of the plan? How did that manage to take place? What did you do about it? What did you learn from the experience?

**For Discussion:** How do you suppose God must feel when one of His children pleads for knowledge of God’s will for his life, but harbors in his heart greater devotion to the things of the world? (Consider the story of the Rich Young Ruler in Luke 18:22, 23.)

### PERSONAL APPLICATION

This week in your personal devotions, take time to praise and thank the Lord for His mercy and patience. Ask Him to specifically direct your steps, but be certain there is a determined spirit of obedience when you do so.

### GROUP PRAYER REQUESTS

**Suggested group prayer** – “Jeremiah prayed, ‘...the way of man is not in himself; It is not in man who walks to direct his own steps. ...Correct me, but with justice; not in Your anger, lest You bring me to nothing.’ Help us, Lord, as needy people, to know how to walk in Your steps.”

### ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURES TO STUDY

The word “meek,” or “humble,” implies submissiveness, or a teachable spirit. God will teach any person His ways if that person is truly willing to learn and obey.

**Psalm 25:9** “The humble [‘meek’ - KJV] He guides in justice, and the humble He teaches His way.”

As you meditate upon this verse, is your devotion and intimacy with God such that He can guide you with His eye, or does He have to get your attention in more direct and painful ways?

**Psalm 32:8** “I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will guide you with My eye.”

The story of the Rich Young Ruler is preserved in all three of the Synoptic Gospels (Matthew 19:16-22; Mark 10:17; Luke 18:18) which signals its importance in the teachings of our Lord. Read one or more of these passages and determine why it was that this religious young man, desirous of following Jesus, was unable to bring himself to obedience.

**Matthew 19:21, 22** “The young man said to Him, ‘All these things I have kept from my youth. What do I still lack?’ Jesus said to him, ‘If you want to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me.’ But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.”

### ADDITIONAL READING RESOURCES

- Erik Raymond, “Chasing Contentment: Trusting God in a Discontented Age,” (Crossway, 2017)
- Lewis Sperry Chaffer, “He That Is Spiritual,” (Moody, 1918)
- William Law, “A Serious Call to a Devout and Holy Life,” (Paulist Press, 1978)



## AMPLIFICATION AND DISCUSSION

God will speak, but you must hear His voice. **Adrian Rogers**

**For Discussion:** How can we be expected to know God's will for our lives if we are not devoting adequate time to hearing His voice?

**For Discussion:** What are some of the different fears one may experience in yielding to the will of God? How does one overcome those fears?

**For Discussion:** How would you counsel someone who claims it is God's will for them to do something or to participate in a behavior that is clearly prohibited by Scripture?

**For Discussion:** How would you recognize and identify godly people in your circle of relationships? What would be their identifying marks or traits, and would you feel comfortable approaching them for counsel or advice? Why, or why not?

### PERSONAL APPLICATION

This week during your quiet time with the Lord, ask Him to reveal to you if you have in any way missed the mark with respect to His requirements of being willing, open, and yielded to His will. Confess any failure, receive His love and forgiveness, then commit to surrendering to His will.

### GROUP PRAYER REQUESTS

**Suggested group prayer** – “Lord, help us this week to know your perfect will, and to remain obedient to your ‘still, small,’ quiet voice.”

### ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURES TO STUDY

**Read Exodus chapters 3 and 4.** As you do so, place yourself in Moses’ shoes as he struggles with yielding in obedience to God’s awesome task of freeing His people from Egypt. Note Moses’ inner fears of inability and unworthiness, yet how he bowed in obedience to the Lord. Examine your own heart with respect to how you might respond if God were to call you to a seemingly impossible task.

**Read Psalm 1.** As you meditate upon this verse, evaluate those in your circle of relationships who are ungodly (have no relationship with God), are sinners (willfully disobey the commands of God), or who are scornful (ignore the instructions of God), and determine to:

1. Refuse to follow their counsel - Action
2. Limit your involvement - Association
3. Reject their thinking - Attitude

Be careful not to judge others, but place your delight in the law (the Word) of God so that you might know His blessings.

### ADDITIONAL READING RESOURCES

- Andrew Murray, “Absolute Surrender,” (Fleming, 1897)
- Brother Lawrence, “The Practice of the Presence of God,” (H.R. Allenson, 1906)
- Dwight L. Moody, “Secret Power, or the Secret Success in Christian Life and Work,” (Fleming, 1881)



## AMPLIFICATION AND DISCUSSION

The Holy Spirit never shoves; He guides and leads. If you find a hand between your shoulders blades just shoving you, that's not the Holy Spirit. —**Adrian Rogers**

**For Discussion:** Have there been any times in your life when you experienced an inner struggle where you “felt” something was the thing to do, but the Holy Spirit seemed to be leading you in another direction. If you are willing, share the experience with your group and what you learned from it.

**For Discussion:** How important do you feel it is to know, and practice, godly wisdom? Is biblical wisdom still applicable today; how so, or why not?

**For Discussion:** Has there been a time in your life when you questioned what God was doing? How did you approach the situation at the time, and what did you learn from the experience?

### **PERSONAL APPLICATION**

This week during your quiet time with the Lord, review any notes you have taken during these sessions and focus your attention on any areas that you might want to develop further to better understand God's will for your life.

### **GROUP PRAYER REQUESTS**

**Suggested group prayer** – “Lord, we are grateful for Your love, and for how You desire for us to know and respond to Your will. As we conclude this study, help us to live for You so that You may be glorified through our lives.”

### **ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURES TO STUDY**

**Read I Kings 19:11-18.** As you do so, place yourself in Elijah's shoes as he struggles to understand God's will for his life. Meditate on how the Lord was not in the dramatic manifestations of fire, wind, and earthquake, but that He spoke to Elijah in a “still small voice.” Consider also how the Lord directed Elijah to return to the city of Damascus where Ahab and Jezebel were waiting to kill him, and how Elijah despaired at the thought of being all alone, yet the Lord had preserved seven thousand who had not bowed to Baal.

### **Readings from Proverbs**

The subject of wisdom is found addressed in the book of Proverbs more than 50 times, and usually in the context of understanding or discerning God's will. Consider the verses and determine to make it a priority to seek and apply the wisdom of God in your personal life.

**Proverbs 3:13-18** “Happy is the man who finds wisdom, And the man who gains understanding; for her proceeds are better than the profits of silver, and her gain than fine gold. She is more precious than rubies, and all the things you may desire cannot compare with her. Length of days is in her right hand, in her left hand riches and honor. Her ways are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace. She is a tree of life to those who take hold of her, and happy are all who retain her.”

**Proverbs 4:5-7** “Get wisdom! Get understanding! Do not forget, nor turn away from the words of my mouth. Do not forsake her, and she will preserve you; love her, and she will keep you. Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom. And in all your getting, get understanding.”

**Proverbs 9:10-11** “The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding. For by me your days will be multiplied, and years of life will be added to you.”

**ADDITIONAL READING RESOURCES**

- Carolyn Nystrom, “Listening to God,” (IVP Connect, 2015)
- C. I. Scofield, “The New Life in Christ Jesus,” (The Bible Institute Colportage Association, 1915)
- Matthew Henry, “Secret of Communion with God,” (Solid Ground, 2005)