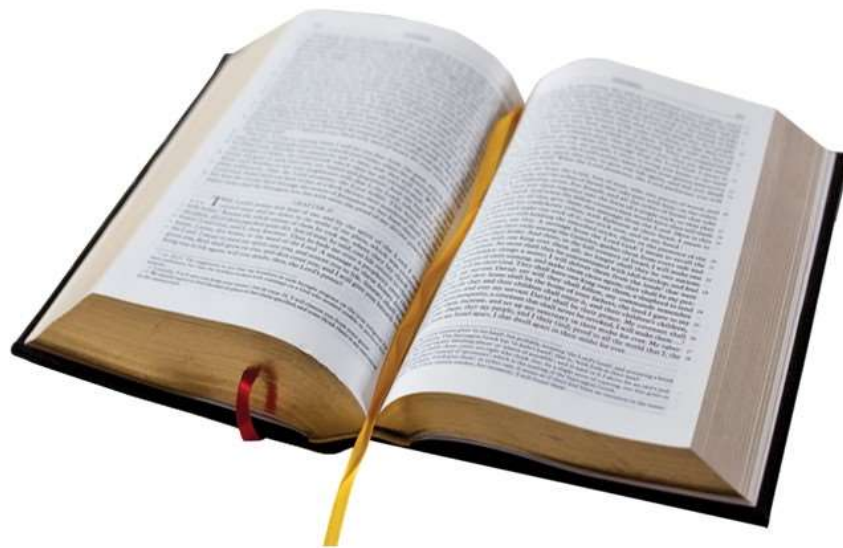


BASIC CHRISTIANITY

A Bible Study for New Christians Teacher's Guide



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Introduction

This workbook contains 10 lessons designed for the newly converted in order to help prepare them for their new life in Christ. It can also help the Christian who wants to revisit and revive the foundation of their faith.

Lessons have been prepared using the **New King James Version** of the bible.

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BASIC CHRISTIANITY – Lesson 1 - Motivation to Grow

SINCE I AM A CHRISTIAN...

1. I am a part of the general ASSEMBLY and the CHURCH of the Firstborn and my name is registered in HEAVEN. (Hebrews 12:23)

(22) But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels, (23) to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are registered in heaven, to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of just men made perfect, (Hebrews 12:22–23)

2. As a result of obeying the Gospel of Christ, a person is “called out” of the DARKNESS and into the marvelous LIGHT of Christ. (1 Peter 2:9-10)

(9) But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; (10) who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy. (1 Peter 2:9–10)

Notes: Church = Gr. “*ekklēsia*” – *The assembly of believers, the gathering of those summoned.*
The “called out.”

- a. **Discovery:** Since I am in the “light”, what things can I no longer have as part of my life?

3. List 3 compelling reasons to live a righteous and godly life: (Titus 2:11-14)

- (1) God’s grace compels us to say “No” to ungodliness and worldly passion
- (2) Because of God’s grace we are compelled to live soberly, righteously, and godly during this life
- (3) Because Christ died for us, we should live for Him

(11) For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, (12) teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, (13) looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, (14) who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works. (Titus 2:11–14)

4. I am encouraged through the scriptures to “live a life worthy” of this calling. How? (Ephesians 4:1-3)

- (1) HUMBLE (2) GENTLE (3) PATIENT (4) BEARING WITH ONE ANOTHER IN LOVE

(1) I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, (2) with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, (3) endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. (Ephesians 4:1–3)

5. One of my goals is to become more PERFECT (MATURE) in Christ. (Ephesians 4:13)

Notes: Read and discuss Ephesians 4:11-16

Till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ... (Ephesians 4:13)

MY WEEKLY CHALLENGE: DAILY BIBLE READING

6. According to 2 Timothy 2:15, what kind of daily effort must I put forth in order to be a good worker for the Lord? DILIGENT STUDY OF THE BIBLE, GOD'S WORD

Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. (2 Timothy 2:15)

Notes: The King James Version = "Study to shew thyself approved unto God"

7. What dangers come from not knowing God's will for our lives? (Hosea 4:6)

SPIRITUAL DESTRUCTION

My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: Because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: Seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children. (Hosea 4:6)

(11) Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

(17) And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God... (Ephesians 6:11-17)

ABOUT THE BIBLE:

8. The bible is divided into two great parts:

(1) The OLD Testament (2) The NEW Testament

a. What does the word "testament" mean? A "covenant" which is an agreement, a promise

Notes: The word "bible" comes from the Greek word meaning books.

JEWELS FROM JAMES:

9. The mature Christian will find JOY in life's troubles. (1:2)

My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials... (James 1:2)

10. The testing of your faith will produce PATIENCE. (1:3)

(3) knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. (4) But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing. (James 1:3-4)

11. The word “perfect” in verses 3-4 actually means “to become MATURE.”

Notes: The word “perfect” (Gr. telos) describes something that is complete, whole, or without blemish. Can also refer to someone who is blameless and has integrity. Maturing but never mature, as in Phil. 3:12.

Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. (Philippians 3:12)

12. How does the Christian become wise about life and spiritual things? (v. 5) ASK GOD

If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. (James 1:5)

13. We must build on our faith to prevent becoming DOUBTFUL when things are difficult. (v. 6-7)

(6) But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. (7) For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord... (James 1:6–7)

QUESTION OF THE WEEK:

14. Ask the class for questions they may have concerning their faith. Record the questions. Answer and discuss at least one question per class.

BASIC CHRISTIANITY – Reaffirming My Salvation - Lesson 2

REVIEW THE WAY ONE BECOMES A CHRISTIAN...

1. Knowing how and why you became a Christian will prepare you to give a DEFENSE to those who may ask about your hope in Christ. (1 Peter 3:15)

But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense (KJV answer) to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear... (1 Peter 3:15)

2. The bible says that all have SINNED and fall short of the glory of God. (Romans 3:23)

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God... (Romans 3:23)

O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? (Romans 7:24)

(13) And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me a sinner!' (14) I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted." (Luke 18:13–14)

3. My faith developed after HEARING the word of God. (Romans 10:17)

So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. (Romans 10:17)

Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. (Hebrews 11:1)

4. One way we can hear the word is through PREACHING. (1 Corinthians 1:21)

For since, in the wisdom of God, the world through wisdom did not know God, it pleased God through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe. (1 Corinthians 1:21)

5. Without faith, I cannot PLEASE God. (Hebrew 11:6)

But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him. (Hebrews 11:6)

6. Not only do we have faith in God, but also in JESUS CHRIST. (John 14:1; Galatians 3:26)

"Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. (John 14:1)

For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. (Galatians 3:26)

7. The bible was written so that we may BELIEVE that Jesus is the Christ. (John 20:30-31)

(30) And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; (31) but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name. (John 20:30–31)

8. I learned that I need to change the direction of my life by REPENTENCE. (Acts 17:30)

Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent... (Acts 17:30)

Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord... (Acts 3:19)

Notes: Define “repentance” – *The act of changing one’s mind. A change of direction in one’s life. Leaving a life of sin and living in God’s service. Repentance is often misunderstood.*

9. When I CONFESS the name of Jesus before others, it leads me toward salvation. (Romans 10:9-10)

(8) But what does it say? “The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart” (that is, the word of faith which we preach): (9) that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. (10) For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. (Romans 10:8–10)

(15) He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” (16) Simon Peter answered and said, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” (Matthew 16:15–16)

10. I am now ready to be BAPTIZED and wash away my sins. (Acts 22:16)

And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord.’ (Acts 22:16)

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. (Acts 2:38)

11. At this point, I was saved and began to live for God because I was DEAD to sin. (Romans 6:4-6)

(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. (5) For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection, (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. (Romans 6:4–6)

MY WEEKLY CHALLENGE: IMPROVE MY DAILY BIBLE READING

12. By reading the bible each day and applying what I learn, I will be BLESSED in the things I do.
(James 1:25)

Notes: Daily reading and meditating on God’s word will change your attitude, increase aptitude, and insure daily living in Christ.

But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does. (James 1:25)

ABOUT THE BIBLE:

13. The Old Testament contains 39 books.

14. List the 5 categories of books in the Old Testament:

(1) LAW (2) HISTORY (3) POETRY (4) MAJOR PROPHETS (5) MINOR PROPHETS

JEWELS FROM JAMES:

15. The poor person will glory in their EXALTATION but the rich person in HUMILIATION. (1:9-10)
a. As a flower, both will FADE AWAY.

(9) Let the lowly brother glory in his exaltation, (10) but the rich in his humiliation, because as a flower of the field he will pass away. (11) For no sooner has the sun risen with a burning heat than it withers the grass; its flower falls, and its beautiful appearance perishes. So the rich man also will fade away in his pursuits. (James 1:9–11)

16. Part of being blessed as a Christian is to endure TEMPTATION. (1:12)
a. God promises a CROWN of LIFE to those who love Him.

Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him. (James 1:12)

QUESTION OF THE WEEK:

17. _____

BASIC CHRISTIANITY – More About My Baptism - Lesson 3

UNDERSTANDING MY BAPTISM...

1. My baptism placed me into CHRIST. (Galatians 3:27)

(26) For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. (27) For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. (28) There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. (Galatians 3:26–28)

(3) Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ... (Ephesians 1:3)

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. (1 Corinthians 12:13)

2. Jesus instructed the Apostles to make DISCIPLES of people from all nations and to BAPTIZE them in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. (Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-16)

(18) And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. (19) 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. (Matthew 28:18–20)

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

Notes: Share the story of the Ethiopian Eunuch of Acts 8:26-39.

(36) 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?” (37) 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.” (Acts 8:36–37)

3. At the end of Peter’s sermon in Acts 2, what two things did he command the people to do?

REPENT and be BAPTIZED. (Acts 2:37-42)

- a. Notice that the gift of the HOLY SPIRIT is given at baptism.
- b. Discussion: How does the gift of the Spirit today differ from New Testament times?

(37) Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Men and brethren, what shall we do?” (38) 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. (39) 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.” (40) And with many other words he testified and exhorted them, saying, “Be saved from this perverse generation.”

(41) Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them. (42) And they continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers. (Acts 2:37–42)

Notes: *Understanding the purpose and our relationship to the Holy Spirit can be complicated and confusing. Many people disagree on the Spirit’s part in our Christian life. At this point there are two points we need to understand:*

(1) The gift of the Holy Spirit given to the Apostles gave them miraculous abilities for furtherance of the gospel message.

(2) Now that the gospel has been fully delivered (1 Corinthians 13:8-10), the Spirit helps us in different ways. For instance, He helps us when we pray (Romans 8:26) and when we worship (Ephesians 5:18-19; Colossians 3:16)

4. The first time that disciples (followers of Christ) were called **CHRISTIANS** is found in Acts 11:26.
 - a. SEARCH: How many times does the name “Christian” appear in the New Testament?
NKJV = 3
 - b. Why should I desire to be called a Christian? (Acts 4:12)
There is no other **NAME** given by people in which salvation is found.

Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.” (Acts 4:12)

To Him all the prophets witness that, through His name, whoever believes in Him will receive remission of sins.” (Acts 10:43)

MY WEEKLY CHALLENGE: NEW DISCOVERIES THROUGH DAILY BIBLE READING

5. What new thing did I learn from my daily bible reading last week? **OPEN DISCUSSION**
6. “But you must **CONTINUE** in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them. (2 Timothy 3:14)

ABOUT THE BIBLE:

7. The New Testament contains **27** books.
8. List the 5 categories of books in the New Testament:
(1) **GOSPELS** (2) **HISTORY** (3) **PAUL’S LETTERS** (4) **OTHER LETTERS** (5) **PROPHECY**

JEWELS FROM JAMES:

- 9. We should never say, “I am TEMPTED by God.” (1:13)
 - a. God cannot be tempted with EVIL.

Let no one say when he is tempted, “I am tempted by God”; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone. (James 1:13)

- b. What do we discover about God’s character from 1 John 1:5? (also see James 1:17)
God is LIGHT and there is no DARKNESS in His character.

(5) This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. (6) If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. (7) 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. (1 John 1:5–7)

- 10. Whose fault is it when we sin? (1:14-15) OUR OWN FAULT

(14) But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. (15) Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death. (James 1:14–15)

Notes: Whose fault was it that Adam sinned? True, He was influenced by Eve who was influenced by the serpent. But it was ultimately and finally Adam’s own decision to eat of the forbidden fruit. As the bible says...

So then each of us shall give account of himself to God. (Romans 14:12)

- 11. Every GOOD and PERFECT gift comes from God. (1:16-18)

(16) Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren. (17) Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning. (18) Of His own will He brought us forth by the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of His creatures. (James 1:16–18)

QUESTION OF THE WEEK:

12. _____

BASIC CHRISTIANITY – The Christian and the Church - Lesson 4

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

1. After obeying God through faith, repentance, confession, and baptism, how does one become a member of the church? “And the LORD added to the church daily those who were being saved.” (Acts 2:47; Colossians 1:13)

(46) So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, (47) praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved. (Acts 2:46–47)

He (God) has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love... (Colossians 1:13)

2. What’s in a name? From the following passages, list the terms used to describe the church:
 - a. Acts 20:28 – The church of GOD

Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. (Acts 20:28)

- b. Romans 16:16 – The churches of CHRIST

Greet one another with a holy kiss. The churches of Christ greet you. (Romans 16:16)

- c. 1 Corinthians 1:2 – The church of GOD which is at CORINTH
(Designates the location of the congregation)

To the church of God which is at Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all who in every place call on the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours... (1 Corinthians 1:2)

- d. Hebrews 12:23 - The church of the FIRSTBORN

To the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are registered in heaven, to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of just men made perfect... (Hebrews 12:23)

- e. Colossians 1:13 – The KINGDOM of the SON

He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love... (Colossians 1:13)

- f. Ephesians 4:12 – The BODY of CHRIST

For the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ...
(Ephesians 4:12)

3. Discuss the popularity of present day “hobby” churches (i.e. The Biker’s Church; The Cowboy Church)

Notes: List possible church names based on personal pastimes or lifestyles.

- a. Examples: Video Game Church; Woodworker’s Church; Fisherman’s Church; Big Game Hunter’s Church; Sewing Church; Youth Baseball Church
- b. What about churches named after nationalities or ethnic groups?
- c. Discuss the purpose or mission of the church as described by the Scriptures.
 - i. To make disciples - Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-16
 - ii. To worship and serve God – John 4:23-24; Luke 9:23; Luke 17:10
 - iii. To love and serve mankind – Matthew 25:34-40; Galatians 6:10

4. “For by ONE Spirit we were all baptized into ONE body (church).” (1 Corinthians 12:13)

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. (1 Corinthians 12:13)

5. In recent years the phrase “church family” has become popular. According to the following passages, determine whether this is an acceptable way to describe the church.
(1 Timothy 3:14-15; Hebrews 3:4; Ephesians 3:15; 1 John 3:1)

(14) These things I write to you, though I hope to come to you shortly; (15) but if I am delayed, I write so that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth. (1 Timothy 3:14–15)

For every house is built by someone, but He who built all things is God. (Hebrews 3:4)

(14) For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, (15) from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named... (Ephesians 3:14–15)

Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. (1 John 3:1)

MY WEEKLY CHALLENGE: NEW DISCOVERIES THROUGH DAILY BIBLE READING

6. What new thing did I learn from my daily bible reading last week? _____
7. List the compelling reasons that I should read and study the bible daily: (2 Timothy 3:16-17)
(1) DOCTRINE (2) REPROOF (3) CORRECTION (4) INSTRUCTION in RIGHTEOUSNESS

(16) All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, (17) that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work. (2 Timothy 3:16–17)

ABOUT THE BIBLE:

8. The first five books of the Old Testament are commonly called the books of MOSES.
 - a. These books are also known as the “Pentateuch” meaning “five books”.

JEWELS FROM JAMES:

9. Every Christian should be swift to HEAR slow to SPEAK and slow to WRATH. (1:19-20)
 - a. Acting out my anger does not produce the RIGHTEOUSNESS of God.

(19) So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath; (20) for the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God. (James 1:19–20)

In the multitude of words sin is not lacking, But he who restrains his lips is wise. (Proverbs 10:19)

(26) “Be angry, and do not sin”: do not let the sun go down on your wrath, (27) nor give place to the devil. (Ephesians 4:26–27)

Notes: Righteous indignation, also called righteous anger. One commentator notes that “...on many occasions, in the management of families, in reproofing sin, and even in ordering their temporal concerns”, anger is permitted of Christians.”

10. The implanted word of God is able to SAVE my SOUL. (1:21)

Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls. (James 1:21)

(8) But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth. (9) Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, (10) and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him... (Colossians 3:8–10)

(1) Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, (2) by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you— unless you believed in vain. (1 Corinthians 15:1–2)

11. Christians are to be DOERS of the word and not HEARERS only. (1:22-25)

a. Therefore Christianity is a religion of ACTION!

(22) But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. (23) For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; (24) for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. (25) But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does. (James 1:22–25)

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

So likewise you, when you have done all those things which you are commanded, say, ‘We are unprofitable servants. We have done what was our duty to do.’ ” (Luke 17:10)

Notes: *Christians must invest themselves in the work of the Lord, not as a means to gain God’s favor (grace), forgiveness, or salvation, but as a reaction to those blessings provided to the obedient servant of the Lord (Matthew 25:14-30)*

QUESTION OF THE WEEK:

12. _____

BASIC CHRISTIANITY – Worship of the Church – Lesson 5

ACTS OF WORSHIP

1. God is looking for people to worship Him. In what ways does God desire to be worshiped?
(John 4:23-24) In SPIRIT and in TRUTH

Notes: “In spirit” = with the proper attitude, reverence, respect

“In truth” = according to truth. God’s word is truth (John 17:17)

(23) 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. (24) God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.” (John 4:23–24)

2. Is all worship acceptable to God? (Matthew 15:8-9) (9) Jesus said, “In VAIN they worship Me, teaching as doctrines the COMMANDMENTS of men.” (Matthew 15:9)

Notes: Jesus quotes Isaiah 29:13. Vain worship is useless worship.

“Doctrines” – Principles, rules, guidelines, authoritative teachings concerning religion

(8) ‘These people draw near to Me with their mouth, And honor Me with their lips, But their heart is far from Me. (9) And in vain they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.’ ”
(Matthew 15:8–9)

3. Who has been given all authority concerning matters of worship? (Matthew 28:18) JESUS CHRIST

And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.
(Matthew 28:18)

However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. (John 16:13)

Also (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

Singing

4. According to Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16; and Hebrews 2:12, we are commanded to SING.
 - a. What type of songs are we to sing? PSALMS, HYMNS and SPIRITUAL songs.

(17) Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is. (18) And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, (19) speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord... (Ephesians 5:17–19)

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. (Colossians 3:16)

“I will declare Your name to My brethren; In the midst of the assembly I will sing praise to You.”

(Hebrews 2:12)

Notes: Discuss the “law of exclusion” and how we approach the scriptures. God teaches us through the scriptures by command, example, and necessary inference (inferred, suggested)

Discuss the difference in a commandment and a matter of liberty.

Prayer

5. The disciples in the first church continued consistently in the acts of worship. These included the Apostle’s DOCTRINE, FELLOWSHIP, the LORD’S SUPPER, and PRAYER.

(Acts 2:42)

And they continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers. (Acts 2:42)

So, when he had considered this, he came to the house of Mary, the mother of John whose surname was Mark, where many were gathered together praying. (Acts 12:12)

6. 1 Thessalonians 5:17 instructs us to PRAY with ceasing. We are to let our requests be known to God through PRAYER. (Philippians 4:6)

Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; (Philippians 4:6)

Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving; (Colossians 4:2)

Preaching

7. As the Christians were gathered on the first day of the week, what did Paul do? (Acts 20:7)
PREACHED

Now on the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul, ready to depart the next day, spoke to them and continued his message until midnight. (Acts 20:7)

8. Timothy was instructed to PREACH the word to the Christians he would minister to. (2 Tim. 4:2-5)

(2) Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. (3) For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; (4) and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables. (5) But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry. (2 Timothy 4:2–5)

The Lord's Supper

9. As Jesus instituted the Lord's Supper, He took the BREAD and broke it. (Matt. 26:26; Mark 14:22)

(26) And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to the disciples and said, "Take, eat; this is My body." (27) Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. (28) For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins. (Matthew 26:26–28)

10. The disciples of the early church continued steadfastly in the "breaking of BREAD" and later came together on the first day of the week to "break BREAD". (Acts 20:7)

And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers. (Acts 2:42)

Now on the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread... (Acts 20:7)

Notes: We must take note that the phrase "first day of the week" is also used concerning the collection (1 Corinthians 16:1-2), most churches collect an offering on "every first day of the week."

11. How long are Christians to continue partaking of the Lord's Supper? (1 Corinthians 11:26)

TILL THE RETURN OF JESUS CHRIST AT HIS 2ND COMING

For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes. (1 Corinthians 11:26)

Notes: Discuss the elements (the bread and the cup) of the Lord's Supper

- a. Unleavened bread as was eaten at the Passover
- b. The "fruit of the vine" as specified by Jesus in Matt. 26:29; Mark 14:25; Luke 22:18
- c. Jesus instituted the New Testament supper during the eating of the Passover as described in Matthew 26: 17-30; Mark 14:12-26; Luke 22:7-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26
- d. The Passover feast celebrated the sparing on the firstborn during the tenth plague and Israel's freedom from Egyptian captivity.

Giving

12. According to 1 Corinthians 16:1-2, on the first day of the week, there is to be a COLLECTION.

(1) Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given orders to the churches of Galatia, so you must do also: (2) On the first day of the week let each one of you lay something aside, storing up as he may prosper, that there be no collections when I come. (1 Corinthians 16:1–2)

13. How are we to determine the amount of our offering? (2 Corinthians 9:7) BY OUR HEARTS

(6) But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. (7) So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver. (8) And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work. (9) As it is written: "He has dispersed abroad, He has given to the poor; His righteousness endures forever." (2 Corinthians 9:6–9)

There is one who scatters, yet increases more; And there is one who withholds more than is right, But it leads to poverty. (Proverbs 11:24)

14. What happens when we give generously? (Luke 6:38) WE RECEIVE BACK IN ORDER TO GIVE AGAIN

Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you."

(Luke 6:38)

Notes: *This godly principle has always applied to God's people...*

He who has pity on the poor lends to the LORD, And He will pay back what he has given. (Proverbs 19:17)

I have shown you in every way, by laboring like this, that you must support the weak. And remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.' " (Acts 20:35)

Notes: *Is giving 10% or a tenth of our earnings a good rule of thumb for Christians to follow?*

(Deut. 14:22-23; Malachi 3:8-10)

(22) "You shall truly tithe all the increase of your grain that the field produces year by year. (23) And you shall eat before the LORD your God, in the place where He chooses to make His name abide, the tithe of your grain and your new wine and your oil, of the firstborn of your herds and your flocks, that you may learn to fear the LORD your God always. (Deuteronomy 14:22–23)

(8) "Will a man rob God? Yet you have robbed Me! But you say, 'In what way have we robbed You?' In tithes and offerings. (9) You are cursed with a curse, For you have robbed Me, Even this whole nation. (10) Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, That there may be food in My house, And try Me now in this," Says the LORD of hosts, "If I will not open for you the windows of heaven And pour out for you such blessing That there will not be room enough to receive it. (Malachi 3:8–10)

MY WEEKLY CHALLENGE: NEW DISCOVERIES THROUGH DAILY BIBLE READING

15. What new thing did I learn from my daily bible reading last week? _____
16. The Psalmist hid God's word in his HEART so to prevent him from SIN. (Psalm 119:11)

Your word I have hidden in my heart, That I might not sin against You. (Psalm 119:11)

ABOUT THE BIBLE:

17. Using your available resources, answer the following:
- (1) How many authors wrote the bible? 40
 - (2) How long did it take to write the complete bible? 1600 years
- Source: "Back to the Basics" – Book 1 by John M. Duvall

JEWELS FROM JAMES:

18. If we fail to BRIDLE (CONTROL) our TONGUES (SPEECH) then our religion is useless. (1:26)

If anyone among you thinks he is religious, and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this one's religion is useless. (James 1:26)

19. List the two characteristics of "true religion": (1:27)

Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world. (James 1:27)

- (1) Visit the ORPHANS and WIDOWS in their TROUBLE. (See Matthew 25:31ff)

And let our people also learn to maintain good works, to meet urgent needs, that they may not be unfruitful. (Titus 3:14)

- (2) Keep yourself UNSPOTTED from the world.

And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God. (Romans 12:2)

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. (1 John 2:15)

20. Christians must not practice PARTIALITY. (2:1)

My brethren, do not hold the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory, with partiality. (James 2:1)

QUESTION OF THE WEEK:

21. _____

BASIC CHRISTIANITY – Organization of the Church – Lesson 6

ELDERS and DEACONS

1. The first mention of elders is found in Acts 15. The APOSTLES and ELDERS came together to consider a spiritual matter. (Acts 15:4-6)

(4) And when they had come to Jerusalem, they were received by the church and the apostles and the elders; and they reported all things that God had done with them. (5) But some of the sect of the Pharisees who believed rose up, saying, "It is necessary to circumcise them, and to command them to keep the law of Moses." (6) Now the apostles and elders came together to consider this matter. (Acts 15:4–6)

2. What was lacking in the churches of Titus 1:5? ELDERS

For this reason I left you in Crete, that you should set in order the things that are lacking, and appoint elders in every city as I commanded you (Titus 1:5)

Note that there is a plurality (more than one) elder in the church. (1 Peter 5:1)

The elders who are among you I exhort, I who am a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that will be revealed: (1 Peter 5:1)

3. The Holy Spirit made the elders to be OVERSEERS of the church, just as a SHEPHERD would watch his flock. (Acts 20:28-31; 1 Peter 5:2)

(28) Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. (29) For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. (30) Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves. (31) Therefore watch, and remember that for three years I did not cease to warn everyone night and day with tears. (Acts 20:28–31)

Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly; (1 Peter 5:2)

4. According to 1 Timothy 3:1, a MAN must desire the position of a bishop (overseer) and in so desires a GOOD WORK.

This is a faithful saying: If a man desires the position of a bishop, he desires a good work. (1 Timothy 3:1)

5. A bishop must have a good reputation and be BLAMELESS. (1 Timothy 3:2)

A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, temperate, sober-minded, of good behavior, hospitable, able to teach; (1 Timothy 3:2)

- a. A bishop should have been married only ONE time.
- b. A bishop must be the head of his family (including children) and RULE well.
(1 Timothy 3:4-5)

(4) one who rules his own house well, having his children in submission with all reverence (5) (for if a man does not know how to rule his own house, how will he take care of the church of God?); (1 Timothy 3:4–5)

- c. The elder’s children must be FAITHFUL. (Titus 1:6)

if a man is blameless, the husband of one wife, having faithful children not accused of dissipation or insubordination. (Titus 1:6)

- 6. We must be SUBMISSIVE to the elders because they watch out for our SOULS. (Hebrews 13:17)
 - a. It is up to us to be sure the elders serve with JOY and not with GRIEF.

Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you.
(Hebrews 13:17)

- 7. The word “deacon” means a SERVANT.
- 8. Deacons must also be BLAMELESS. (1 Timothy 3:10)

But let these also first be tested; then let them serve as deacons, being found blameless. (1 Timothy 3:10)

- a. Deacons must have only ONE marriage and RULE their homes well. (1 Timothy 3:12)

Let deacons be the husbands of one wife, ruling their children and their own houses well. (1 Timothy 3:12)

- 9. An example of the work of deacons can be found in Acts 6:1-6. The SEVEN men (v.3) that were chosen were to care for the needs of WIDOWS (v.1)

(1) Now in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplying, there arose a complaint against the Hebrews by the Hellenists, because their widows were neglected in the daily distribution. (2) Then the twelve summoned the multitude of the disciples and said, “It is not desirable that we should leave the word of God and serve tables. (3) Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business; (Acts 6:1–3)

MINISTERS, PREACHERS, EVANGELIST

10. How shall they HEAR without a preacher? (Romans 10:14-15)

(14) How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? (15) And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, Who bring glad tidings of good things!” (Romans 10:14–15)

11. List the duties of a preacher according to 2 Timothy 4:2: (1) PREACH the WORD
(2) CONVINCE (3) REBUKE (3) EXHORT

Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. (2 Timothy 4:2)

12. A preacher is to speak the TRUTH in Christ. (1 Timothy 2:7)

For which I was appointed a preacher and an apostle—I am speaking the truth in Christ and not lying—a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth. (1 Timothy 2:7)

MY WEEKLY CHALLENGE: NEW DISCOVERIES THROUGH DAILY BIBLE READING

13. What new thing did I learn from my daily bible reading last week? _____

14. It is up to me to preserve the UNITY within the church. (1 Corinthians 1:10; Ephesian 4:1-6)

Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment. (1 Corinthians 1:10)

(1) I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, (2) with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. (Ephesians 4:1–3)

ABOUT THE BIBLE:

15. The New Testament contains 27 books.

16. List the five (5) categories of the New Testament:

(1) GOSPELS (2) HISTORY (3) PAUL'S LETTERS (4) OTHER LETTERS (5) PROPHECY

JEWELS FROM JAMES:

17. Christians must not practice their faith while showing PARTIALITY. (2:1)

My brethren, do not hold the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory, with partiality. (James 2:1)

18. Who has God chosen to be rich in faith? (2:5) THE POOR

Listen, my beloved brethren: Has God not chosen the poor of this world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom which He promised to those who love Him? (James 2:5)

19. What is the “royal law”? (2:8) YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF

If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself,” you do well; (James 2:8)

20. Does it do any good to claim to have FAITH while not having WORKS. (2:14)

What does it profit, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can faith save him? (James 2:14)

21. If we do not help those in need, then our faith is DEAD. (2:15-17, 26)

(15) If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food, (16) and one of you says to them, “Depart in peace, be warmed and filled,” but you do not give them the things which are needed for the body, what does it profit? (17) Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. (James 2:15–17)

QUESTION OF THE WEEK:

22. _____

BASIC CHRISTIANITY – Work of the Church – Lesson 7

GOOD WORKS

1. The members of the church are God's SPECIAL people, and are to be zealous (enthusiastic) for GOOD WORKS. (Titus 2:14)

(Jesus Christ) who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works. (Titus 2:13–14)

2. Through study and knowledge of the scriptures, Christians can be thoroughly equipped for every GOOD WORK. (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

(16) All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, (17) that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work. (2 Timothy 3:16–17)

And let our people also learn to maintain good works, to meet urgent needs, that they may not be unfruitful. (Titus 3:14)

3. Members of the church must learn to recognize and take advantage of every OPPORTUNITY to do good for all people. (Galatians 6:10)

Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith. (Galatians 6:10)

MISSION OF THE CHURCH

4. The church is to go out and make DISCIPLES in all nations. (Matthew 28:19-20)

(19) 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, (20) 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. (Matthew 28:19–20)

- a. New disciples are to be BAPTIZED in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- b. The church is to teach new converts to OBSERVE all the commandments of Christ.

5. The church must PREACH the WORD! (2 Timothy 4:2)

Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. (2 Timothy 4:2)

6. TRUE or FALSE: Preaching from the pulpit fulfills the churches' obligation to spread the gospel.
 - a. Christians who were scattered due to persecution went EVERYWHERE preaching the word. (Acts 8:4)

Therefore those who were scattered went everywhere preaching the word. (Acts 8:4)

- b. In Matthew 10:16, what wise advice does Jesus give those who go out in society to teach the message of Christ? Be WISE as serpents and HARMLESS as doves.

Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves. Therefore be wise as serpents and harmless as doves. (Matthew 10:16)

7. In your opinion, what is the most successful form of evangelism? FRIENDSHIP EVANGELISM

8. According to James 1:27, another mission of the church is to support those who are in NEED.

Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world. (James 1:27)

See Matthew 25:34ff; James 2:15-17

9. Is sending financial support to other congregations a scriptural practice? YES

(Acts 11:29-30; Romans 15:26)

(29) Then the disciples, each according to his ability, determined to send relief to the brethren dwelling in Judea. (30) This they also did, and sent it to the elders by the hands of Barnabas and Saul. (Acts 11:29–30)

(26) For it pleased those from Macedonia and Achaia to make a certain contribution for the poor among the saints who are in Jerusalem. (Romans 15:26)

10. What happens to the church when each member fulfills their part of the church's mission?

(Ephesians 4:15-16) GROWTH OF THE CHURCH

(15) but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ—(16) from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.

(Ephesians 4:15–16)

THE CHURCH'S EXAMPLE

11. We are to always be aware that we represent Christ and His church. Therefore we should walk properly (be good examples) to those OUTSIDE the body of Christ. (1 Thessalonians 4:11-12)

(11) that you also aspire to lead a quiet life, to mind your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you, (12) that you may walk properly toward those who are outside, and that you may lack nothing. (1 Thessalonians 4:11–12)

12. When we are proper examples, those outside the church will have nothing EVIL to say about us.

(Titus 2:6-8)

(6) Likewise, exhort the young men to be sober-minded, (7) in all things showing yourself to be a pattern of good works; in doctrine showing integrity, reverence, incorruptibility, (8) sound speech that cannot be condemned, that one who is an opponent may be ashamed, having nothing evil to say of you. (Titus 2:6–8)

MY WEEKLY CHALLENGE: NEW DISCOVERIES THROUGH DAILY BIBLE READING

13. I am committed to read the bible every day: (Check the box each day)

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

JEWELS FROM JAMES:

14. We must use caution when becoming bible teachers because those who do will receive a stricter JUDGMENT. (3:1)

My brethren, let not many of you become teachers, knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgment. (James 3:1)

15. The spiritually mature person will not STUMBLE in word. (3:2)

For we all stumble in many things. If anyone does not stumble in word, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle the whole body. (James 3:2)

16. Using unwholesome words can DEFILE the whole body. (3:6)

And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity. The tongue is so set among our members that it defiles the whole body, and sets on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire by hell. (James 3:6)

17. Dangers of the tongue: (3:9-12)

- a. With our speech, we BLESS God and CURSE men.
- b. Out of the same mouth comes BLESSINGS and CURSINGS.
- c. Can a spring bring both FRESH and BITTER water?
- d. Christians, these things ought not to be so!

(9) With it we bless our God and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the similitude of God. (10) Out of the same mouth proceed blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be so. (11) Does a spring send forth fresh water and bitter from the same opening? (12) Can a fig tree, my brethren, bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Thus no spring yields both salt water and fresh. (James 3:9–12)

18. List two types of wisdom: (3:15-18) EARTHLY and GODLY.

(15) This wisdom does not descend from above, but is earthly, sensual, demonic. (16) For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there. (17) But the wisdom that is from above is first

pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy. (18) Now the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace. (James 3:15–18)

QUESTION OF THE WEEK:

BASIC CHRISTIANITY – Unity and Diversity of the Church – Lesson 8

MANY MEMBERS – 1 Corinthians 12

1. There are various GIFTS but the same SPIRIT. (V. 4)

There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. (1 Corinthians 12:4)

- a. List some of the miraculous gifts that the 1st century Christians were given: (v. 7-10)

(1) _____ (2) _____ (3) _____

(7) But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all: (8) for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit, (9) to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit, (10) to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another different kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. (1 Corinthians 12:7–10)

2. Even though there are many members in the church, the church is still ONE body. (v. 12)

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. (1 Corinthians 12:12)

3. We are all BAPTIZED into one body (church). (v.13)

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. (1 Corinthians 12:13)

4. According to verses 15-17, will all members have the same function in the church? NO

(15) If the foot should say, “Because I am not a hand, I am not of the body,” is it therefore not of the body?

(16) 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? (17) If the whole body were an eye, where would be the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where would be the smelling? (1 Corinthians 12:15–17)

5. God has placed you in the church just as He PLEASED. (v. 18)

But now God has set the members, each one of them, in the body just as He pleased. (1 Corinthians 12:18)

- a. Review: The Lord ADDED you to the church upon obedience to the gospel. (Acts 2:47)

Praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved. (Acts 2:47)

IMPORTANT PARTS

6. No member should ever say concerning another member, “I have NO NEED of you.” (V. 21)

And the eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you”; nor again the head to the feet, “I have no need of you.” (1 Corinthians 12:21)

7. Members who seem WEAKER are still necessary. (v. 22)

No, much rather, those members of the body which seem to be weaker are necessary. (1 Corinthians 12:22)

8. We are to grant greater HONOR on those members we think less important. (v. 23-24)

(23) And those members of the body which we think to be less honorable, on these we bestow greater honor; and our unpresentable parts have greater modesty, (24) but our presentable parts have no need. But God composed the body, having given greater honor to that part which lacks it, (1 Corinthians 12:23–24)

9. God wants no DIVISION within the body of Christ. (v. 25; 1 Corinthians 1:10)

- a. All members should have the same CARE for one another.

That there should be no schism (division) in the body, but that the members should have the same care for one another. (1 Corinthians 12:25)

Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment. (1 Corinthians 1:10)

10. If one church member SUFFERS then we are to SUFFER with them. (v. 26)

- a. If a member is HONORED then we are to rejoice with them.

And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; or if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it. (1 Corinthians 12:26)

11. How would you summarize verses 27-31? **ALL MEMBERS HAVE THEIR PLACE IN THE CHURCH AND ALL ARE IMPORTANT!**

(27) Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually. (28) And God has appointed these in the church: first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, varieties of tongues. (29) Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Are all workers of miracles? (30) Do all have gifts of healings? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret? (31) But earnestly desire the best gifts. And yet I show you a more excellent way. (1 Corinthians 12:27–31)

MY WEEKLY CHALLENGE: NEW DISCOVERIES THROUGH DAILY BIBLE READING

12. I am committed to reading the bible every day: (Check the box each day)

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

JEWELS FROM JAMES

13. What is a primary cause of strife in the church? (4:1-2) One's DESIRE for pleasure (pride).

(1) Where do wars and fights come from among you? Do they not come from your desires for pleasure that war in your members? (2) You lust and do not have. You murder and covet and cannot obtain. You fight and war. Yet you do not have because you do not ask. (James 4:1-2)

14. Why are some requests through prayer not received? (4:3; Philippians 2:3) WRONG MOTIVES

You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss (wrongly), that you may spend it on your pleasures. (James 4:3)

Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. (Philippians 2:3)

15. The person who wants to be a friend of the world makes themselves an ENEMY of God. (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. (James 4:4)

16. The cure for worldliness is to SUBMIT to God. (4:7)

Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. (James 4:7)

17. If we HUMBLE ourselves before God, He will LIFT us UP. (4:10)

Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up. (James 4:10)

18. Church members should never say EVIL things about each other. (4:11)

Do not speak evil of one another, brethren. He who speaks evil of a brother and judges his brother, speaks evil of the law and judges the law. But if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge. (James 4:11)

19. In life, we make many plans. However, what is said about tomorrow? (4:13-15) WE DON'T KNOW WHAT WILL HAPPEN

a. We should always say, "If the LORD WILLS we'll do this or that."

(13) Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, spend a year there, buy and sell, and make a profit"; (14) whereas you do not know what will happen tomorrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away. (15) Instead you ought to say, "If the Lord wills, we shall live and do this or that." (James 4:13–15)

20. The person who knows to do GOOD but doesn't do it, to them it is SIN. (4:17)

Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin. (James 4:17)

BASIC CHRISTIANITY – More Jewels from James – Lesson 9

A WARNING TO THE RICH

1. In America, most of us are considered rich by the world's standards. James warns that material wealth can bring MISERY. (5:1)

Come now, you rich, weep and howl for your miseries that are coming upon you! (James 5:1)

2. "Your riches are CORRUPTED and your garments MOTH-EATEN. (5:2)

Your riches are corrupted, and your garments are moth-eaten. (James 5:2)

3. Verse 3 states that our "silver and gold are corroded." What does this teach us about the longevity of earthly wealth? (1 Timothy 6:7)

"We brought NOTHING into the world, and we'll take NOTHING out."

Your gold and silver are corroded, and their corrosion will be a witness against you and will eat your flesh like fire. You have heaped up treasure in the last days. (James 5:3)

For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. (1 Timothy 6:7)

Notes: The use of the words corrupted and corroded in these verses carry with them the temporary state of material wealth. As the suffering Job stated...

"Naked I came from my mother's womb, And naked shall I return there. The LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away; Blessed be the name of the LORD." (Job 1:21)

4. The "heaping up of treasure" can be spiritually dangerous (5:3), Jesus said what good will it do if we gain the WHOLE WORLD and lose our SOUL? (Matthew 16:26)

For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? (Matthew 16:26)

5. Instead of pursuing pleasure and luxury (indulgence) all of our lives (5:5), we should learn to be CONTENT with our present situation. (1 Timothy 6:6)

Indeed the wages of the laborers who mowed your fields, which you kept back by fraud, cry out; and the cries of the reapers have reached the ears of the Lord of Sabaoth. (5) You have lived on the earth in pleasure and luxury; you have fattened your hearts as in a day of slaughter. (James 5:4–5)

Now godliness with contentment is great gain. (1 Timothy 6:6)

Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content:
(Philippians 4:11)

CHRISTIAN BEHAVIOR

6. Christians should continually develop PATIENCE in their lives. (5:7-8)

Therefore be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, waiting patiently for it until it receives the early and latter rain. (8) You also be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. (James 5:7-8)

7. We must never GRUMBLE (COMPLAIN) about each other. (5:9)

Do not grumble against one another, brethren, lest you be condemned. Behold, the Judge is standing at the door! (James 5:9)

Bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do. (Colossians 3:13)

8. We should never SWEAR but let our “yes be yes” and our “no be no”. (5:12)

But above all, my brethren, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or with any other oath. But let your “Yes” be “Yes,” and your “No,” “No,” lest you fall into judgment. (James 5:12)

Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers. (Ephesians 4:29)

Notes: *The use of “colorful” language is discouraged for the Christian. Many times, swearing or even the use of profanity are used to cover up even more sin. Integrity is of the utmost importance!*

MEETING NEEDS IN THE CHURCH

9. If we are suffering then we should PRAY. If we are happy then we should SING. (5:13)

Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing psalms. (James 5:13)

Call upon Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify Me.” (Psalm 50:15)

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. (Colossians 3:16)

10. One service of the elders is to pray for those who are SICK. (5:14-15)

Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. (15) And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. (James 5:14–15)

11. Our relationships should be as such that we can CONFESS our faults to each other and PRAY for each other. (5:16)
 - a. Prayers made by the righteous are very EFFECTIVE (BENEFICIAL).

Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much. (James 5:16)

So Jesus answered and said to them, “Assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith and do not doubt, you will not only do what was done to the fig tree, but also if you say to this mountain, ‘Be removed and be cast into the sea,’ it will be done. (22) And whatever things you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive.” (Matthew 21:21–22)

Notes: *Our prayers must be requested based upon our faith in God and that He is the provider of all good things. (See James 1:17)*

RESTORING THE ERRING CHRISTIAN

12. Verse 19 states that it is possible for a Christian to WANDER (STRAY) from the TRUTH.
13. Through prayer and encouragement, the SINNER can be turned back to God. (5:20)
 - a. When the sinner repents, his soul is saved from spiritual DEATH.

Brethren, if anyone among you wanders from the truth, and someone turns him back, (20) let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save a soul from death and cover a multitude of sins. (James 5:19–20)

Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted. (2) Bear one another’s burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. (Galatians 6:1–2)

Notes: *What a great way to complete this letter of practical Christian guidance than to remind us of our responsibility to watch out for each other’s spiritual well-being? Our relationship, fellowship, and partnership with each can assure a strong and faithful church and an eternity with our Lord in heaven.*

MY WEEKLY CHALLENGE: NEW DISCOVERIES THROUGH DAILY BIBLE READING

14. I am committed to reading the bible every day: (Check the box each day)
 Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

BASIC CHRISTIANITY – Lesson 10 – Living for Christ

A NEW BEGINNING

1. Having obeyed the gospel (good news) and being baptized into Christ, I am a new CREATION now ALL things are in the past and all things are now NEW. (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. (2 Corinthians 5:17)

2. I have made a commitment to God to GROW in the grace and knowledge of my Lord Jesus Christ. (2 Peter 3:18)

But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen. (2 Peter 3:18)

3. Part of growing spiritually is developing a sincere desire for the MILK of God's word. (1 Peter 2:2-3)

As newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word that you may grow thereby, if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is gracious. (1 Peter 2:2-3)

4. Spiritual growth must continue for a lifetime, therefore I will be FAITHFUL until my life is over. (Revelation 2:10b; Matthew 24:13)

Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life. (Revelation 2:10b)

But he who endures to the end shall be saved. (Matthew 24:13)

5. God has blessed me with all things that pertain to LIFE and GODLINESS through the knowledge of Christ. (2 Peter 1:2-3)

Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue... (2 Peter 1:2-3)

THINGS I MUST DO

6. As I live for Christ, I will strive to develop the "Christian graces" described in 2 Peter 1:5-8:
(1) VIRTUE (2) KNOWLEDGE (3) SELF-CONTROL (4) PERSERVERANCE
(5) GODLINESS (6) BROTHERLY KINDNESS (7) LOVE

But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. (2 Peter 1:5-8)

7. I will develop a habit of meeting regularly with other Christians for worship, study, and fellowship.

a. God is seeking people to WORSHIP Him in spirit and truth. (John 4:24)

God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth. (John 4:24)

b. I will meet every FIRST DAY of the WEEK to partake of the Lord's Supper. (Acts 20:7)

Now on the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul, ready to depart the next day, spoke to them and continued his message until midnight. (Acts 20:7)

c. I will make a determination in my HEART and give an offering each week.
(2 Corinthians 9:6-7)

But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver. (2 Corinthians 9:6-7)

d. I will continue in the Apostle's DOCTRINE, (teaching) and FELLOWSHIP with other Christians.
(Acts 2:42)

And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers. (Acts 2:42)

8. I will be careful to live a life filled with GOOD WORKS, meeting the needs of others.
(Titus 3:8, 14; Galatians 6:10; 1 Timothy 6:18; Hebrews 10:24)

This is a faithful saying, and these things I want you to affirm constantly, that those who have believed in God should be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable to men.

And let our people also learn to maintain good works, to meet urgent needs, that they may not be unfruitful. (Titus 3:8, 14)

Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith. (Galatians 6:10)

Let them do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share... (1 Timothy 6:18)

And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works... (Hebrews 10:24)

a. I will not only look out for my own INTEREST, but also for the INTEREST of others.
(Philippians 2:3-4)

Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others. (Philippians 2:3-4)

9. I must protect my personal reputation and the reputation of my congregation by abstaining from every form (appearance) of EVIL. (1 Thessalonians 5:22)

Abstain from every form of evil. (1 Thessalonians 5:22)

- a. My lifestyle should reflect Christ, being an example and walking properly towards those OUTSIDE of the church. (1 Thessalonians 4:11-12)

That you also aspire to lead a quiet life, to mind your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you, that you may walk properly toward those who are outside, and that you may lack nothing. (1 Thessalonians 4:11–12)

THINGS I MUST NOT DO

10. I must not LOVE the world or the things in the world. (1 John 2:15-16)

- a. I must not give in to the lust of the FLESH, lust of the EYES, or the PRIDE of life.

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. (1 John 2:15–16)

11. I must not participate in the immoral behavior listed in 1 Corinthians 6:9-11 because I have been WASHED, SANCTIFIED, and JUSTIFIED in the name of the Lord Jesus.

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. (1 Corinthians 6:9–11)

12. I must not be greedy or obsessed with physical wealth because the LOVE of MONEY is the root of all kinds of evil and can cause me to stray from the FAITH. (1 Timothy 6:6-10)

Now godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content. But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows. (1 Timothy 6:6–10)

13. I must not give in to sinful desires and emotions as listed in Galatians 5:19-21. List at least four:

(1) ADULTERY (2) FORNICATION (3) UNCLEANNESS (4) LEWDNESS...

Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. (Galatians 5:19–21)

Notes: Some clarification may be needed in this list of sinful behaviors. For instance, “fornication” is sexual immorality or any sexual activity outside the marriage relationship. Other clarifications are:

“uncleanness” = impurity

“lewdness” = sensuality, debauchery

“sorcery” = witchcraft, seeking the dark arts, astrology, fortunetelling

“revelries” = carousing, orgies, parties

The use of the phrase “and the like” indicates that all sinful behavior (whether listed or not) is to be avoided by the Christian.

14. I must never call any person COMMON or UNCLEAN. (Acts 10:28)

Then he said to them, “You know how unlawful it is for a Jewish man to keep company with or go to one of another nation. But God has shown me that I should not call any man common or unclean. (Acts 10:28)

Notes: All partiality, bigotry, or racism is strictly prohibited from the Christian’s character.

Revisit James 2:1-13

a. God resists the PROUD but gives grace to the HUMBLE. (James 4:6)

But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: “God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble.” (James 4:6)

15. I must not neglect (forsake) the ASSEMBLY of the church. (Hebrews 10:24-25)

And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching. (Hebrews 10:24–25)

Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name. (Hebrews 13:15)

And they continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers. (Acts 2:42)

THE ULTIMATE GOAL

16. Because I am a Christian, my citizenship is in HEAVEN. (Philippians 3:20)

For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ...
(Philippians 3:20)

17. I can have inexpressible JOY knowing that the end of my faith is the SALVATION of my soul.
(1 Peter 1:8-9)

(Jesus Christ) whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, receiving the end of your faith—the salvation of your souls.
(1 Peter 1:8–9)

18. If I continue to sow to the Spirit (spiritual service), I will reap EVERLASTING life. (Galatians 6:8)

For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life. (Galatians 6:8)

19. I have a living HOPE because of the resurrection of Jesus Christ and now have a reservation in HEAVEN. (1 Peter 1:3-4)

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... (1 Peter 1:3–4)