

# Bible Doctrine 1

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# The importance of Christian Doctrine

## Lesson 1

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### Introduction

In times when many moral values are twisted and changed it is extremely important to know, understand and live by God's unchanging truths. Jesus said that the man who does this will be like a man who builds his house on a rock and the storms and changes of life will not be able to cause that person to fall. Matthew 7:24-27.

The church is called "the foundation and pillar of truth". It should always, through all times and generations stand for and proclaim God's eternal truth in spite of where the world, driven by the spirit of the Antichrist, is turning. 1 Timothy 3:15.

### A. What is Doctrine?

#### Read 2 Timothy 2:15

1. **The Word here encourages us to rightly divide the word of truth.**

Christian doctrine may be defined as the fundamental truths of the Bible, arranged in a systematic form.

2. **The eternal truth about any matter or philosophy is found scattered over the pages of Scripture.**

**Illustration:** A colourful variety of flowers and plants are scattered over the mountains and valleys. The educated botanist does not disregard the wide scope and great beauty of nature's arrangement, but he values the Botanical Garden, where everything is arranged and named, because it helps him gain a fuller understanding of the beautiful gift and great wonder of nature.

In the same way, the Christian theologian identifies and arranges the wonderful truths scattered throughout the Word of God.

### B. The value of doctrine

#### Read 2 Timothy 3:16-17

1. Here Scripture tells us that the Christian doctrine will make the man/woman of God "complete" and "thoroughly equipped".
2. The Christian doctrine gives authoritative and true answers to life's many questions.
3. True doctrine, understanding and conviction develop a good Christian character.
4. Doctrinal knowledge and understanding will protect against error and confusion.
5. Doctrine also reveals God's glory and His eternal plans.

6. Doctrine reveals who we are and what we have in Christ, so that we can live our lives in the fullness of God.

### C. The right approach to biblical doctrine

#### Read 2 Timothy 3:16

1. **The Bible is God's inspired Word and the final authority on any given matter.**
  - a) Neither tradition, nor reason, nor any "new" revelation can overrule the Word of God.
  - b) Paul says here that the Word should "reprove", "correct" and "instruct" us, so that we can live correctly in every way.

2. **God's revelation is progressive throughout the Bible.**

#### Read Hebrews 10:1

No doctrinal conclusion should be drawn out of the Old Testament alone. By continuing into the New Testament, full light and understanding falls on any subject.

**Example:** The Old Testament only gives us an incomplete picture of God's nature and attributes, whereas the New Testament wonderfully completes the picture.

3. **Take the standpoint that there are no contradictions in the Bible.**

#### Read 1 Corinthians 8:2 and 13:9-12

- a) Paul clearly points out that our understanding is limited.
- b) God's thoughts are higher than ours. Isaiah 55:8. The limited mind of man cannot fully understand the unlimited mind of God.
- c) **NB.** Sometimes bad translations are the problem!

### D. How to reach a doctrinal standpoint

#### Read Acts 17:11

1. "They searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so".  
  
Don't create doctrine on the basis of just one passage of Scripture. Only when everything the Bible has to say on a certain matter is carefully considered can a doctrinal statement be made.
2. It is important **not** to rely on the intellect alone in searching for truths, but also to let the Holy Spirit guide you into all truth. John 16:12-14.
3. It is also important to read what other great men of God have concluded on the same matter.

# The lost state of man

## Lesson 2

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### A. What does the Bible call sin?

#### 1. Sin is rebellion against God.

##### Read 1 Samuel 15:23

- a) Satan was once the angel Lucifer, one of God's chief angels created to bring glory to Him. Lucifer lifted himself up in pride, rebelled against God's authority and was then cast out of heaven to earth.
- b) Satan's spirit of rebellion against God is working in the earth today, inspiring mankind to reject God's authority and to go their own way.
- c) God considers rebellion to be very serious. He says it is like witchcraft and bowing down to idols. Jesus said that the greatest commandment is to love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. Matthew 22:37.
- d) Many people claim that they are not sinners. They live good lives. They do not steal or kill but they are not surrendering their lives to God, nor are they seeking Him with their whole heart.

God created us to have a relationship with Him. He has to be first in our hearts. Our whole life needs to be surrendered to Him, seeking to please Him by faith.

#### 2. Sin is in our actions.

##### Read 1 John 3:4

- a) Sin first entered the world in the Garden of Eden when man disobeyed God. God had given man clear instructions, but Satan led Adam and Eve into doubting God's Word and eating the fruit which God had said not to eat.
- b) Today man is given clear instructions in the Bible regarding the things that please God. We sin every time we choose to disobey His instructions. Sin is doing anything that is not pleasing to God.

#### 3. Sin is in our thoughts.

##### Read Matthew 5:27-28

**Illustration:** Two brothers were fighting. Their father punished them by making them sit in two different corners of a room. The father had stopped the boys fighting, but they were still planning how they could hurt each other. So, although they had stopped fighting physically, there was still resentment and unforgiveness – they were still fighting in their hearts.

- a) Sin is not just outward disobedience to God, but also inward disobedience in the heart of man to what the Word says.
- b) Many people say that they are not sinners because they do not do bad things. Yet in their thoughts there is resentment, bitterness, lust, etc.

**4. Sin is in our mouths.**

**Read Proverbs 10:19**

The Bible speaks a lot about how we should speak. Not only does God tell us what He wants us to do and to think, but also how to please Him with our lips.

Gossip, lying, backbiting, slander, cursing, etc., are not pleasing to God. James 4:11.

**5. Sin is in man's nature.**

**Read Romans 5:12, 19**

**Illustration:** A mother was disappointed when she found her young child trying to steal something from the kitchen. The mother wondered where her child had learnt to steal.

- a) A child does not have to be taught to sin. It is natural for a child to sin.
- b) We have all inherited a sinful nature through Adam and so sin is in our seed. Our children will also inherit a sinful nature through us.
- c) The Bible says that we not only sin, but that we are sinners.

**B. All are sinners**

**Read 1 John 1:8**

1. When we consider what sin is we must admit that all are sinners. No one is excluded.
2. We all need God's help to deal with sin.

**C. All have fallen short of God's glory**

**Read Romans 3:10, 23**

These are more verses that confirm that all people are sinners. Verse 23 tells us about our sin. We have fallen short of God's glory.

Let us consider together what it means to fall short of God's glory.

**D. Man's relationship with God**

**Read 1 John 4:8**

1. In this verse we see something of God's character. God is love. He not only loves – He is love itself.
2. Because God is love, He desired someone to express that love to. Adam and Eve fulfilled that desire in God's heart in the Garden of Eden. They enjoyed God's fellowship and blessing.

## **E. God is a holy God**

### **Read Habakkuk 1:13a**

This verse tells us something more about God's character. He is a Holy God who will not dwell with sin.

## **F. Sin separates man from God**

### **Read Isaiah 59:2**

The fellowship that man enjoyed in the garden was broken when man sinned. We might ask, “If God is a loving God, why was this relationship broken?”

Because God is also a Holy God and will not tolerate sin.

**Illustration:** Man's present position with God can be likened to a picture of a large canyon. On one side stands the glory of God and on the other side stands sinful man. Between the two is a large gulf that is separating man from God. Man is unable to enjoy all the blessings that come from a relationship with Almighty God. In this way man has **fallen short of the glory of God.**

## **G. The results of this separation**

### **1. Death.**

#### **Read Genesis 2:17**

#### **Sin brings death to man in three ways:**

##### a) Physical death.

Sin brought sickness and death into the world. On the day that Adam and Eve sinned, their natural bodies started dying. Genesis 5:5.

##### b) Spiritual death.

#### **Read Ephesians 2:1**

- i) Although speaking to people who are alive, this passage of Scripture calls them dead. People without Christ are spiritually dead.
- ii) Sin separated man from God's fellowship. Sinful man cannot communicate with God.

- c) Eternal death.

**Read Romans 6:23**

There is a time when every person will die and his body will go to the grave. The soul, the real person inside the physical body, does not go to the grave. The soul of a person lives forever.

Without Christ, the soul of man is separated from God's love for eternity in hell. This is the worst death of all.

**2. Guilt.**

**Read Genesis 3:7-10**

- a) Adam and Eve had peace with God in the garden.
- b) Because of the guilt and shame of their sin we now see them hiding from God in fear.
- c) Many people today do not admit that they are sinners, but the guilt of their sin weighs on their hearts and robs them of peace.

**3. Sorrow.**

**Read Genesis 3:14-19**

- a) In the garden man was free from strife and all his needs were met.
- b) Then God said that man would be in warfare with Satan, verse 15, and he would have to struggle to provide for his needs.
- c) We see in the world today that sin has brought much sorrow into people's lives. This includes drug addiction, broken marriages, strife in relationships, poverty, etc.

**4. Darkness.**

**Illustration:** A man had to journey through the night across an area of land that had large pits in the ground. While it was still light the man could find his way, avoiding the holes, but as darkness came he stumbled on the way, fell into the pits and injured himself.

**Read Proverbs 4:19**

Sin brings darkness, and without the light of God's presence, man stumbles in the darkness and does not know the right way to go. So he falls into all kinds of traps that the devil has put there to harm him.

## 5. **Bondage.**

### **Read John 8:34**

- a) Sin makes man a slave. He cannot do what he wants to, but is bound like a person bound with chains.
- b) Sin separates man from the freedom that comes from knowing God.

## **H. There is nothing man can do to save himself**

### **Read Jeremiah 2:22**

1. Lost and bound in sin, man tries many ways to remove himself from this state. Many people think that good works, going to church, better education, different religions, trying to be good, etc., will help. Proverbs 14:12.

**Illustration:** Again picture the large canyon of sin separating us from God. People try with these things we have listed to build a bridge across this canyon. The Bible is clear that all of these attempts will not bridge this separation.

2. There is nothing man can do himself to remove his sin and restore fellowship with God. Acts 4:12. None of man's attempts, no matter how good they are, will remove the guilt of man's sin. Isaiah 64:6.

## **I. All man's attempts will fail**

1. **Different religions – John 14:6.**  
Jesus did not say that He is a way to God. He said He is the **only** way.
2. **Going to church – John 3:1-3.**  
To the religious Jesus said, "You must be born again".
3. **Good works – Ephesians 2:8-9.**  
Good works without Christ will not save us.
4. **Education – 1 Corinthians 1:18-21.**  
All man's learning and wisdom will not gain him eternal life.
5. **Mental belief in God – James 2:19-20.**  
The demons believe in Jesus, but they are not saved.

## **J. Jesus Christ is the only answer**

### **Read Romans 7:24-25**

With all this bad news we might wonder if there is any hope for man.

The good news is found in Jesus Christ. Only the blood of Jesus can remove our sin and restore our relationship with God.

# Repentance

## Lesson 3

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### A. Introduction

Repentance is the first "stepping stone" into a relationship with God.

#### 1. Acts 2:38.

When the 3000 on the day of Pentecost cried out "What must we do to be saved?" the Apostle answered "Repent" as the first step.

#### 2. The greatest mistake.

**Read John 3:3**

It is a mistake to think that repentance is achieved by joining a church and becoming religious and reforming yourself, or by lifting your hand in an evangelistic meeting. There is much more to repentance than that.

### B. What is true repentance?

**Three great repentance stories in the Bible:**

1. Luke 15:13-21 – The prodigal son – repentance and restoration.
2. Luke 18:13-14 – The repentant tax collector.
3. Psalm 51:1-14 – The repenting king.

These three stories all bear the marks of true repentance, as we will see below:

#### 1. Acknowledgement of the situation.

- a) The horrible sin:
  - i) The Prodigal: "I have sinned against you", verse 21.
  - ii) The Tax Collector: "Me a sinner...", verse 13.
  - iii) King David: "I acknowledge my transgressions", verse 3.
- b) The hopeless, lost situation:
  - i) The Prodigal: "I perish here...", verse 17.
  - ii) The Tax Collector: "He beat his breast", verse 13.
  - iii) King David: "Do not cast me away...", verse 11.

#### 2. Regret and sorrow for sin.

**Read 2 Corinthians 7:9.** Only genuine sorrow for sin will lead to repentance.

- a) The Prodigal: "I have sinned ..., I am not worthy", verse 21.
- b) The Tax Collector: "would not even as much as look up", verse 13.
- c) King David: "My sin is ever before me", verse 3.

**3. Action – turning away from sin to God.**

- a) The Prodigal: "I will arise and go to my Father", verse 18.
- b) The Tax Collector: "God be merciful to me", verse 13.
- c) King David: "Have mercy on me, O God", verse 1.  
Confession of sin, Psalm 32:1-5.

**C. The Hebrew and Greek words for repentance express the same meaning**

**1. The Greek word is "Metanoia".**

The meaning of this is: regret and a change of mind.

- a) Towards Jesus.  
Acts 9:5-6: Paul's powerful conversion on the road. (What a change of mind!)
- b) Towards the Cross.  
1 Corinthians 1:18: To the repentant person, the Cross changes from foolishness to God's power.
- c) Towards the Word.  
2 Corinthians 3:16: From a dusty, dull, old-fashioned book to the living, powerful Word of God.
- d) Towards God.  
Luke 15:20: From an angry judge to a loving Father.

**2. The Hebrew word is "Shool".**

The meaning of this is: turning around.

- a) Acts 26:18, "From darkness to light, from the power of Satan to God".
- b) Acts 8:22, "From wickedness and sin – turn away".
- c) 1 Thessalonians 1:9, "Turn from idols and witchcraft to God".
- d) Ephesians 4:22-24, Put away the "old man", put on the "new man".

**3. What will bring man to a state of repentance?**

- a) The Word of God (when read or preached with power).

- i) Hebrews 4:12, "The Word of God is like a sword, piercing right into the heart of man".
  - ii) Acts 2:37, on the day of Pentecost, the Word cut into their hearts, and led them to repentance.
  - iii) Romans 10:14, how can they call on Him and believe if nobody preaches the word?
- b) The Holy Spirit.
- i) John 16:8, "He will convict the world of sin, righteousness and judgement". There is only one thing to do – to repent and plead for mercy.
  - ii) John 3:5, "No one can enter – except he is born of the Spirit".
- c) The goodness of God leads to repentance.
- Romans 2:4. In the book of Acts we see how God's kindness in healing and restoring peoples' lives led a multitude to repentance. Acts 5:12-16.
- d) Godly sorrow produces repentance.

**Read 2 Corinthians 7:10**

- i) This was what happened on the day of Pentecost; they were grieved, cut to their hearts. Acts 2:37.
- ii) In every major revival a great travail and sorrow was common, which led people to repentance.
- iii) It is clearly seen in Peter's repentance: "He went out and wept bitterly". Matthew 26:75.

**4. The result of true repentance.**

- a) From death to life.

**Read Ephesians 2:1**

- i) The fantastic work of the Holy Spirit is to enter the repentant person's dead spirit, and to make him alive to God.
- ii) This is God's response to true repentance. (We will see more of this in the next chapters.)

- b) Set free from demonic influences.

**Read Acts 8:5-8**

- i) This is the time when all demonic activities, strongholds and curses should

be broken and driven out of the repentant person. In leading a person to repentance, he must also be counselled and, if necessary, delivered.

c) Cleaning and restoring the "temple".

Turning away from anything that is not pleasing to God.

**Read Acts 19:19**

- i) The repenting person has to turn away from any form of witchcraft and the occult and should be advised to destroy any item displeasing to God: books, magazines and anything connected to the occult.
  - ii) Repay and restore wherever possible. Luke 19:8, "I will pay back". As the Holy Spirit reminds you, repay and ask for forgiveness from people who have been wronged by you. (This will, by the way, create a wonderful opportunity for witnessing.)
  - iii) Break away from relationships and habits that are displeasing to God.
- d) Start to produce the fruits of repentance.

**Read Matthew 3:8**

By letting the Holy Spirit have control, you will start to produce fruit like love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, etc. Galatians 5:22.

**Read Acts 26:20**

Show your repentance in your deeds and conduct.

# Regeneration

## Lesson 4

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### A. Introduction

1. Regeneration is God's response to a person who truly repents. It is a Divine Act, which imparts new spiritual life and a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.
2. It is the same principle that applied to the repentant prodigal son – running to his Father; dirty, in rags, smelling like a pig. Soon afterwards we find him totally transformed; clean and beautifully dressed, dancing and rejoicing in the presence of his Father. Luke 15:11-24. What a miracle of regeneration!

### B. What actually happens in regeneration?

#### 1. A New Birth.

##### Read John 3:5-8

- a) A person without Christ is spiritually dead. This means that he is without any fellowship with God.
- b) We must be born of "water and the Spirit". In this context "water" stands for the Word of God as in Ephesians 5:26 and 1 Peter 1:23.
- c) The Word, under the anointing of the Holy Spirit, reaches the heart of a sinner and moves him to repentance. The Word and the Spirit conceive and give birth to a brand new life in his heart.

#### 2. A cleansing.

##### Read Titus 3:5

- a) Here the regeneration is explained further. It is totally God's work of mercy. The soul is completely washed of all the sin and defilement of the old life.
- b) Baptism (which should happen immediately after repentance) is an outward sign, a testimony of this wonderful inner experience. Acts 22:16.

#### 3. A renewing by the Spirit.

- a) Not just a washing away of the old filth, but an impartation of a brand new life with unlimited possibilities, by the Spirit of God.
- b) 2 Corinthians 5:17. It is a new creation, with new desires, purpose, character and nature.
- c) Ephesians 4:23. We are encouraged to use only that new nature and leave the

old nature dormant.

4. **A resurrection.**

**Read Ephesians 2:5-6**

He quickens a soul dead in sin and makes it alive to the realities of the spiritual world.

**Read Romans 6:4-5**

This act of resurrection from spiritual death is also symbolised in baptism, which is a symbolic burial of the old sinful life and a resurrection to a brand new life.

5. **The new life must grow and develop.**

**Read Hebrews 5:12-14**

Take note that the previous four points all say the same thing: forgiving and cleansing of the old and the creation and impartation of a brand new life.

All natural life starts small and, given the right conditions, grows and develops into its full potential. It is exactly the same with this new spiritual life and here the potential is wonderfully great.

**Read John 3:7-8**

The "wind" (the Holy Spirit) is endlessly great and powerful and cannot be controlled by us but, if we allow Him, He will lead us and steer us in His direction. He will carry us forward.

**Illustration:** Your "life boat" can be solidly tied to its "pole" and the wind will only irritate it. Set it free, hoist the sails and let the wind take it where it wants to.

**C. The absolute necessity for regeneration**

1. **A clear statement.**

**Read John 3:1-5**

Jesus makes it perfectly clear that there is no other way, no religious effort of man that can change the situation – only a new birth.

Jesus explains why: “What is born of flesh is flesh and what is born of the Spirit is Spirit”. The one cannot produce the other. The human nature, no matter what it does, cannot produce spiritual life. Only the Holy Spirit can produce the wonderful life of God in us.

2. **A hopeless task.**

**Read Romans 3:19-25**

To try to find freedom and win God's approval through human effort is as hopeless as trying to change "a pig into a lamb".

This miracle can only be done by grace through faith in Christ Jesus. Ephesians 2:4-10.

## **D. What are the effects of regeneration?**

### **1. A New Position and relationship.**

**Read John 1:12 and Galatians 4:1-7**

- a) Through regeneration, the person will be adopted into "sonship" by God. This is not a "male term" but a wonderful position for all believers. It means that the person now has all the benefits and privileges of being a true child of God: a "son" of God.
- b) Romans 8:17 & 32. We are now heirs of God, joint-heirs with Christ. God promises to freely give us everything in Jesus.

### **2. A New Lifestyle.**

**Read Ephesians 4:22-32**

- a) From now on the new believer has the possibility and the power to leave the old nature dormant and live in the new nature that was implanted into him by the Holy Spirit.

**Illustration:** It is like a man having an old, troublesome car, which has caused him much pain (the old nature). He is now given a brand new, wonderful car (the new nature). He is told: "Don't ever use the old again, only use and enjoy the new", but he is so used to the old that he often takes that one and thereby causes a lot of damage and pain. (Do you recognise that?)

- b) The Holy Spirit will remind him about areas that have to change and will give him the power to do so. Things like: lying, stealing, anger, evil talk, etc., (verses 25-32). As he yields to the Spirit, he will discover a wonderful freedom in Jesus, and he can now sing: "The things I used to do, I do them no more".
- c) He will start to serve the Living God.

1 Thessalonians 1:9. "How you turned from idols, to serve the true God". We have an exciting new purpose and vision in life: To be God's messengers, to witness and plead with people to be reconciled to God. 2 Corinthians 5:17-20.

# Justification

## Lesson 5

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### Introduction

Through the precious Blood of Christ, poured out for us on the Cross, the door has been opened for guilty sinners to be declared righteous and justified in God's "court".

**Justification is a judicial (law) word.** Justification is the verdict, the pronouncement of the Judge, declaring that he has found the accused person innocent of all charges of guilt. It sets him forth as totally right and perfectly justified, no part of his case can ever be raised against him again.

### A. How is this possible?

1. How can it be possible for God to declare an unrighteous, guilty sinner to be righteous and yet retain His holiness and integrity?

Romans 3:24-25 – By God's amazing plan of atonement.

2. The pronouncement of justification can only be made because the justice of a Holy God has been fulfilled. Jesus, who was completely righteous and totally obedient to His Father, did this. He went to the Cross and paid the full penalty for our sin. God's sentence of judgement upon sin was executed in its fullest measure when Christ, the Lamb of God, was slain on Calvary. Revelation 5:9-10.

**Illustration:** Two boys were the best of friends but as they matured their paths separated. They only met again in court, many years later. The one was the judge, the other the accused. The judge had to exercise righteousness and sentence his friend, but afterwards he stepped down, took off his garment and paid the heavy fine, so that his friend could go free.

That was what Jesus did for us! And our sentence was not just a fine, but execution!

### B. So how are men justified?

1. Not by works of the law.

**Read Galatians 2:16**

A clear statement: "no flesh shall be justified by the works of the law". Doing the "works of the law" means keeping religious rules and regulations.

2. Why do they not make me righteous if I keep them?

**Read Galatians 3:10-11**

In order to be justified by the works of the law, not one point of the law can be broken. Since this is impossible for any man, justification by the law is completely impossible.

The intention of the law was not to make us righteous. The law was given to convict man of sin and to lead him to Christ. Galatians 3:24.

**3. Men are justified by God's grace as a free gift.**

**Read Romans 5:9 and Ephesians 2:8-10**

Justification is not on the grounds of any qualification that we have. It is a totally free gift of God's grace.

**4. Men are justified – caused to be righteous – by the Blood of Christ.**

**Read 2 Corinthians 5:21 and 1 Peter 2:24**

Christ never sinned, but He was made sin for us – He took our sin upon Himself. We can only be justified on the grounds of Christ's sacrificial death.

**5. Men are justified through faith in Jesus Christ.**

**Read Romans 5:1 and Romans 3:28**

- a) It is living, active faith that brings us under the covering of the blood of Christ.
- b) Christ has done it all. "It is finished" – we are actually justified when we believe it.
- c) Living faith is faith that acts according to the truth. James 2:18-22.
- d) We are justified by faith without works, but living faith is not dead – it will show itself in works.

**6. Our justification is sealed by His resurrection.**

**Read Romans 4:25**

- a) We are justified by the Blood of Christ.
- b) The resurrection of Jesus Christ is the proof that God accepted the sacrifice for us. By raising Jesus, God sealed our redemption.

**Hallelujah!**

**C. The extent of the Justification**

**1. How much does it cover?**

**Read Acts 13:38-39 and Romans 8:31-34**

Everything the law would condemn us with: every sin, big and small – even our very sinful nature. Jesus started out by forgiving and justifying a robber, probably a

murderer, on the Cross next to Him.

2. **A wonderful exchange.**

**Read 2 Corinthians 5:21 and 8:9**

Christ took our place so that we should take His place. Christ was made sin for us. We were given God's righteousness in Him. Christ was made poor that we might become rich, etc.

3. **It can never be nullified.**

**Read Hebrews 9:11-12**

"He has won us an eternal redemption".

**Read Revelation 5:6-10**

On the throne of God is "a Lamb as though it had been slain". He won us eternal redemption and justification. The fact is that this will never change for all eternity.

**D. The result of Justification**

1. **Peace with God.**

**Read Romans 5:1 and Colossians 1:20-22**

a) Before, there was enmity between God and the sinner.

b) **Read Philippians 4:7.**

Now there is not just peace with God, but also the Spirit of God will fill and guard our hearts and minds.

c) It is a peace that surpasses all understanding. It is not dependant on our circumstances.

2. **No one can lay a charge against us.**

**Read Romans 8:1 and 33-34**

No one can condemn the one Jesus justifies! Not the devil. Not any man or religious system. Not even you, yourself. There is no more self-condemnation.

3. **Saved from the wrath to come.**

**Read Romans 5:9**

God so loved the world that He sent His only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. To perish means everlasting hell, the most horrible condition one can imagine. That was our destiny before, but now

we are saved by His grace.

**4. Made heirs to eternal life.**

**Read Titus 3:7**

“Eternal” does not only mean duration, but also fullness, quality and glory.  
“Joint heirs with Christ” – this is more than you can ever imagine.

**5. Being glorified by God.**

**Read Romans 8:30**

This is not only a future thing in eternity when we shall be like Jesus. This is present tense. God already sees you and me through Christ and His perfect work of redemption and justification.

**6. We shall reign in life through Christ.**

**Read Romans 5:16-17**

A wonderful expression of a victorious life: “Reign in life, through Christ” using His Name, His authority and power, etc., in the normal affairs of life.

# Sanctification

## Lesson 6

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### A. What does sanctification mean?

#### 1. To be made holy.

The Greek word "Hagiasmos" is translated as either sanctification or holiness. Sanctification is to be changed into the likeness of Jesus.

#### 2. The difference between sanctification and justification.

- a) The work of justification was done for us.  
The work of sanctification is done in us.
- b) Justification will make us safe.  
Sanctification will make us sound.

#### 3. It also means "to be set apart for God".

##### **Read Jeremiah 1:5 and 1 Corinthians 1:2**

Jeremiah was sanctified, set apart for God. Paul says that the believers are sanctified, called to be saints; people whose lifestyles shine forth the glory of God.

**Illustration:** A boy entered an old church with his mother and was fascinated by the beautiful stained glass windows through which the sun shone in glorious colours. The boy pointed at the windows and asked: "Who are these men?" The mother answered, "They are Saints". "Oh" the boy said, "now I know what a saint is – a person through whom the light shines".

#### 4. It also means "to hate what God hates".

- a) Sin.  
Romans 6:11-14.  
Our sin nailed Jesus to the Cross. Sin should be abhorred and turned away from.
- b) Ungodly relationships.  
2 Corinthians 6:14-18 and 7:1.  
"Come out" – "be separated" – "do not touch". Have a look at the wonderful promises that are ours if we follow His advice.
- c) The world.  
1 John 2:15-17 and 5:19.
  - The New Testament shows us that the "world" is under the powerful influence of the evil one. Satan is the prince of this world.
  - Jesus said this about the believers: they are in the world, but they are not of the world. John 17:11, 14.

- Worldly influence will defile and draw the believer away from God's will.
- We are admonished not to "love" the world and not even the things in this world.
- We are "pilgrims" who belong to another Kingdom, and all our affection and love should be in that direction.

## **B. How are men being sanctified?**

### **1. By God.**

#### **Read 1 Thessalonians 5:23**

- a) God's aim is to make us completely holy. This means the whole man: spirit, soul and body. ("The soul" is the whole thought, emotional and will area of a person.)
- b) God does it by His Word. John 17:17. His Word is like a sword dividing the soul and the spirit and discerning the thoughts and deepest motives of man. Hebrews 4:12. (Many good things can be done with a wrong motive and thus lose their value.)

### **2. By Christ and His wonderful sacrifice.**

#### **Read 1 John 1:9 and 2:1-2**

- a) He will cleanse us by His blood when we confess our sins.

**Read Ephesians 5:25-27** – He will sanctify us by the washing of the Word. If the Word is applied properly, it will wash away "spots and wrinkles or any such things" so that we can be holy and blameless.

- b) He is also a permanent propitiation (atonement) for our sins. It even covers the many sins we are not aware of.

### **3. By the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives.**

#### **Read 2 Thessalonians 2:13**

Again sanctification is by the Spirit, using the Word of truth. He takes the Word and applies it to our lives by convicting us. We react and are sanctified.

Galatians 5:16-18. The Holy Spirit works in our hearts to overcome the flesh, with all its lust and defilement.

### **4. By tests, trials and discipline.**

#### **Read Hebrews 12:4-11**

- a) The context indicates (verse 1) that chastisement is to set us free from burdens

and things, which easily "ensnare" us.

- b) We can also be chastised by circumstances and people around us (verse 3).

**Examples:** A man loses his job; or the house burns down; or a nagging relative; etc.

Submit yourself to it and it will produce in you the wonderful fruit of peace and righteousness (verse 11).

## C. The two sides to Sanctification

### 1. Sanctification as a position (immediate).

**Read Ephesians 1:3-7**

On the day of our salvation we were "hidden" in Christ. God sees us through Christ – holy and pure.

**Read 2 Corinthians 5:17.** "If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation, the old thing has passed away".

**Read Hebrews 10:10, 14.** In Christ we are perfected forever. "It is finished".

### 2. Sanctification as a process (right throughout the Christian life).

**Read Ephesians 4:13-16**

- a) We are called to constant growth and our goal is wonderfully high "to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ".

- b) 2 Corinthians 3:18. When we spend time with Jesus we are being changed into His image.

- c) The goal will be reached – **Read 1 John 3:2 and 1 Corinthians 15:49.**

"When we see Him, we shall be like Him". "We have borne the image of the earthly man. We shall then bear the image of the heavenly man (Jesus)".

An **illustration** of the position of perfection and process of growth is found in the development of a baby to mature manhood. At any stage along the way the child is fully loved and accepted by the parents, but constant growth is expected.

## D. The result of Sanctification

### 1. Close union with Jesus Christ.

**Read Hebrews 2:11**

We are one with Him and He is not ashamed to call us brothers.

2. **Free access into the presence of God.**

**Read Hebrews 12:14 and Psalm 24:3-5**

- a) By the Blood and its wonderful cleansing, sanctifying power.
- b) To "see" and experience God's wonderful presence in our daily lives, we have to walk in holiness.

3. **Qualified for a glorious inheritance.**

**Read Acts 20:32**

The inheritance of the saints in glory is beyond description. "We are joint-heirs with Christ". Romans 8:17. What awaited Christ when He returned back to heaven is described in Philippians 2:9-11.

4. **We are forever perfect.**

**Read Hebrews 10:14**

We have a perfect standing before God – pure, holy, righteous in His Spirit. From God's side it can and will never be withdrawn or changed. It is forever.

# Baptism

## Lesson 7

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### Introduction

#### Read Romans 6:1-4 and Acts 2:38

Psychologists say, “If you want to make a lasting impression on anyone, let them hear it, see it, touch it and experience it and they will never forget it”.

In the Church we have been given at least two Sacraments that touch our senses (a Sacrament is a holy action that describes an important spiritual truth). These are:

1. **Holy Communion.**

"Do this in remembrance of Me" – Never forget the importance of the Cross.

2. **Baptism.**

What an experience – to be completely submerged, under water – helplessly.

This kind of dramatic action brings up some questions ... Why? What? When? Who? How? Where? Let us answer them!

A. **Why?**

1. **A strong command from the risen Jesus.**

**Read Matthew 28:19**

- a) These were some of His last words, given as a strong command.
- b) John 15:9 – If you obey My commands you will remain in My love.
- c) We have no choice if we call Him Lord: Baptism is a step of obedience.

2. **A strong command from the Apostles.**

**Read Acts 10:48**

The house of Cornelius repented and they received the Spirit. Was there any need for them to be baptised? Verse 48, "and He commanded them to be baptised".

**Read Acts 2:38**

The people asked: “What must we do?” The Apostle Peter gave them three points. We need to do all three:

First: Repent                      Second: Be baptised                      Third: Receive the Holy Spirit

**Illustration:** If somebody asks for advice and is told to go to the third floor – but he

only goes to the second floor – he can't complain that he did not find what he was looking for.

**3. Because they practised it in the early Church.**

They were **ALL** baptised in water.

- a) Acts 2:41 on the day of Pentecost – imagine 3000 being baptised and later about another 10,000.
- b) Acts 8:16 & 38 – Philip and the eunuch in Samaria.
- c) Acts 9:18 – Paul.
- d) Acts 10:48 – Cornelius.
- e) Acts 16:33 – The prison-keeper.
- f) Acts 19:5 – At the church of Ephesus.

**4. Because it is such an important radical step of faith.**

- a) Baptism is so closely related to salvation that many even mistake it for one of the saving means, i.e. they say that without baptism you are not saved.

When a newborn baby cannot live some Christians react by running to the tap to baptise the dying baby because they think that without it the baby will be lost.

- b) Jesus also linked salvation and baptism closely together. **Read Mark 16:15**, “Go into all the world to preach ...”, “He who believes and is baptised will be saved”.
- c) 1 Peter 3:21, "That water symbolises baptism that now also saves you!" But read it all: They were not saved by the water – but by the ark "Christ" through the water. That baptism is an important step is without doubt!

**B. What?**

**1. To be buried.**

Baptism is a symbol of burial of the old sinful life.

**Read Romans 6:1-4; Colossians 2:12**

Burial always occurs after death. Christ died for me. So I am dead to my old sinful life – let me bury it!

**2. A Public Confession.**

**Read Romans 6:11**

- a) To people – a public confession and testimony.
- b) To God – I receive the fact that Jesus died for me.
- c) To principalities and powers.

"I am dead to sin and alive to Christ!"

**3. A definite break with the world.**

- a) Romans 6:12 – Sin – Satan – World.  
I am no longer under your control.
- b) Exodus 14:21. The Egyptians wanted to pull them back into slavery. They sent the whole army out. The enemy was mightily defeated at the Red Sea (when Israel went through the water).

**4. A door into a closer relationship with Jesus.**

**Read Romans 6:3 and Galatians 3:27** – "Baptised into Christ".

"You have clothed yourself with Christ".

**5. A door into a completely new life.**

- a) Romans 6:4. That we should live a new life – a resurrection life.
- b) They could never have reached the Promised Land without going through the water – the Red Sea.

When God shows you a step but you don't want to obey, you are stuck and you even slide backwards.

- c) Promises related to baptism:  
John 14:21 – "I will love him, and manifest Myself to him".  
Acts 2:38 – "You shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit".

**C. When?**

**1. After death – then burial.** Don't bury a person who is not dead.

- a) Exodus 14:21. Only those who went out through the blood gate went through the water.
- b) Acts 2:38. Repent – be baptised. True repentance must come first.
- c) Acts 8:36. The eunuch: "Here is water – what hinders me?" Philip looked straight at him and said: "Do you believe with all your heart?" (i.e. believe in Isaiah 53: "He was wounded for our transgressions") Yes! Then it can be done!

**2. In the early church people were baptised immediately after conversion** – the same day, the same hour. Acts 16:33 – At that hour of the night.

So what are you waiting for?

**D. Who?**

**Read Matthew 28:19**

1. "Disciples" are those who will follow Jesus.
2. All creatures – all nations!
3. What about children?
  - a) Not before they can really understand and believe with their whole heart.
  - b) The small children belong to the Kingdom of God (Mark 10:14).

## E. How?

### 3. The Greek word "Baptizo" means to dip – immerse completely under water.

- a) When they first translated the Bible into English they had a problem with the word "baptizo" which means "to immerse". The church would never have accepted that in those days, so they created a new word in English – "baptism" – so that no-one was offended.
- b) Romans 6. It is a glorious funeral of your old life – in a natural funeral you don't let a hand or a foot stick up.
- c) Acts 8:38. They both went down into the water.

### 2. Matthew 28:18. Baptised in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

- a) In Acts, they only baptised in the name of Jesus. Big argument! Some now say: "We must only baptise in the name of Jesus", as in Acts.

That is not a problem. Matthew 28:19 says "in the name" – (singular) of the Trinity. Jesus said: "We are One". So both ways are right.

Romans 6:3. We are baptised into Jesus, into His death.

- b) The charge:

When standing in the water with the candidate, the baptiser could use the following charge:

“(The name of the candidate), on your own confession of repentance and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, I baptise you in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit” – or “I baptise you in the name of Jesus”, as they did in the early church.

Then immerse the candidate under the water once.

## F. Where?

Acts 8:36 – "There is water". All we need is enough water ... it can be in a river, lake, ocean, church font, pool, etc.

But let us remember, even when it is done in a river or a pool, to lift it up to be a glorious, holy act unto God.

Romans 6:4. A baptism is a miracle. "A man resurrected to a completely new life".

# The Baptism of the Holy Spirit

## Lesson 8

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### A. A radical experience

Read Matthew 3:11 and Acts 1:5

1. **Both John the Baptist and Jesus used the words “to be baptised in the Spirit”.**

- a) The word in Greek is “Baptizo” and means “to dip into” or “to immerse”.
- b) It is a radical step and a wonderful experience that should mark the beginning of every overflowing Christian life.
- c) It is a spring that should never stop flowing again. John 7:37-38.

2. **The Holy Spirit takes residence in our spirits the day that we are born again. John 3:5.**

- a) This also happened to the disciples when Jesus, after His death and resurrection, breathed on them. John 20:22.
- b) But they also needed the baptism in the Spirit, which they then powerfully experienced on the day of Pentecost.
- c) The same is true for us. It takes the baptism in the Spirit for the "spring" to well up into our soul life, through our body to the people around us.

### B. The Promise of the Father – the Gift of the Holy Spirit

1. **Through the Prophets.**

Read Isaiah 44:3-4 and Joel 2:28

- a) God promised an outpouring that would be like rain on the dry ground. This would create growth and freshness wherever it fell.
- b) In Joel God promised that the outpouring of the Spirit would give powerful spiritual and even physical manifestations.
  - i) Prophecy.
  - ii) Dreams.
  - iii) Visions.
  - iv) Signs and Wonders.
  - v) Revival, verse 32.
- c) The last prophet of the Old Covenant repeated the Father's promise. (John the Baptist). He described it as a baptism with "fire".

2. **Jesus confirmed this promise of the Father.**

**Read Luke 11:9-13 and Acts 1:4**

Jesus makes it clear to us that the Father in heaven will never break His promise. We don't need to fear that we will get anything other than the Holy Spirit. Jesus encourages us to ask, seek and knock for the gifts of God.

Jesus even commanded His followers not to start their ministry before receiving the promise of the Father.

3. **We are clearly told whom this promise is for.**

**Read Acts 2:38-39**

- a) The promise was for the people on the day of Pentecost, the 3000 that repented after Peter's preaching.
- b) Not only to them, but also to their children. The promise did not stop with them; the scripture says: "to all who are far off, as many as the Lord our God would call".

So we are all wonderfully invited to partake of that promise that they so powerfully received on the day of Pentecost.

**C. The three beginning steps in the Christian life**

1. **From the first day in the life of the church.**

**Read Acts 2:36-38**

The question from the 3000 convicted people was: "What must we do?"

The answer was not "just repent", but "repent, be baptised and you shall receive the Holy Spirit".

So there were three steps required of them to start their Christian life in victory.

2. **These three steps seem to be the pattern throughout the New Testament.**

**Read Acts 8:12-15**

Soon after Pentecost the gospel reached Samaria where many "half-Jews" received Jesus. Here, they were also led through all three steps.

Notice that the baptism in the Spirit was not received at the time of their conversion but at least a week or more afterwards when the Apostle arrived from Jerusalem.

**Read Acts 10:44-48**

Here the first Gentiles believed the gospel. On this occasion the three steps came in a different order because the Jews would never have accepted the Gentiles into the Kingdom of God. Peter didn't even want to go and preach to them until God forced him to do so. Verses 9-21.

So when they received the gospel, God baptised them in the Spirit, just as on the day of Pentecost. This convinced Peter that their conversion was genuine and he commanded them to be baptised in water.

### **Read Acts 9:17-18**

Paul was converted on the road to Damascus. Three days afterwards he was baptised and filled with the Spirit. So Paul also took all three steps within the first few days of his Christian life.

### **Read Acts 19:1-6**

Here we see a group of people who had only taken the first step – repentance. Paul quickly leads them into taking the other two steps.

3. **Everyone in the early church took these three "steps" right at the beginning of their Christian lives, which was probably the reason for the powerful effect that the church had in that period.**

## **D. The fullness of the Spirit**

1. **The experience described by Jesus.**

### **Read John 7:37-39**

Notice that Jesus spoke prophetically because it had not yet happened – it could only happen after His death and resurrection.

- a) "If anyone" – it is for anyone washed by the blood of Jesus.
- b) "Is thirsty" – means an intense longing for the fullness of God.
- c) "Let him come to Me" – Jesus is the baptiser – draw aside and seek Him.
- d) "Drink" – this simply means to receive, open your mouth, your soul, your spirit. Don't fear – He will not give you a snake when you ask for the Spirit. Luke 11:11-12.
- e) "He who believes" – receive by faith, know and be assured that the promise is for you.

Let it well up from within you. Remember that the Holy Spirit took residence when you were converted. Let it be like a fountain into your soul and through your body.

It can grow to be a life giving well, giving rivers of joy, boldness, power, love, peace, tongues, etc.

2. **Explained by Ezekiel in his prophetic vision.**

**Read Ezekiel 47:1-10**

- a) When you allow it to flow from your "temple" (1 Corinthians 6:19) and are willing to obey Him as He measures out His course for you, the flow of the Holy Spirit will increase in your life.
- b) Wherever that river flows, things will live. Even the "dead sea" will come alive.
- c) There will be plenty of "fish" and you will be a fisher of men.

3. **Do not leave your "Jerusalem" before you have received the promise of the Father.**

**Read Acts 1:4**