



Introduction Manual *for* New Christians

Dear beloved of God,

You are receiving this brief introduction to Christianity because you have either decided to become a Christian or are considering making this decision.

This is without a shadow of doubt the most important decisions you will ever make in your entire life. If you have surrendered your life to Jesus Christ by your own freewill, you have chosen wisely, and I welcome you into our Father God's family through Jesus Christ. There is much rejoicing in heaven now as this is the greatest miracle of all, the salvation of a soul and eternal life with Jesus Christ.

WARNING

You may now experience spiritual attacks and these attacks could be more ferocious than they were before you became a Christian. This is the enemy Satan desiring to pull you back into his kingdom of darkness. Satan's agenda is to kill, steal and destroy.

You must persevere in your faith in Christ and prevail over Satan. **Rest assured, all Christians who worship Jesus Christ have already won the victory over Satan, it is up to you now to learn how to appropriate this spiritual victory and live in Freedom through Jesus Christ.**

If you have chosen to receive deliverance ministry, I encourage you to read all the material we have sent you and comply with our instructions. Your complete cooperation is essential to you receiving your deliverance.

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Please visit our website <http://www.oracleministry.com> for teaching and information on deliverance from evil spirits and spiritual warfare. We conduct a Friday night meeting (every Friday except public holidays) and encourage you to attend whenever it is convenient for you. We have regular meetings at other location as well. Details on website.

It is also important to join a Holy Spirit led church and attend regularly. We invite you join or visit our church in Reservoir, Victoria in Australia, Oracle Full Gospel Church. Please see our webpage at <http://www.ofgc.com> for more information.

The Lord bless you and keep you, The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you, the Lord lift up His countenance upon you, and give you peace. (Numbers 6:24-26.)

In Lord Jesus' name,

Pastor Maurice Chapman
Senior Pastor
Oracle Ministry and
Oracle Full Gospel Church

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Christian Orientation

INTRODUCTION

After your deliverance session and or decision to turn to Jesus you need to take the next step of learning more about what the Bible teaches us what it is to be a Christian. As it is unlikely that you have been taught much about the Christian way of life, like in any group of people that share a common interest in a specialized activity there is 'jargon' associated with that group. Christianity is no exception. It is the aim of this teaching manual to teach what the Bible requires of us so that it is clear, simple and understandable. If there is anything that is not clear to you please ask at the appropriate time. This is not about us but you.

The book we use as the sole teaching for Christianity is the Bible. It is a collection of 66 God inspired works written by about 40 people, over approximately 6,000 years. It is in two parts called the Old Testament and New Testament. Old Testament consists of 39 works or books. Nearly all these works were written in Hebrew with the exception of the last half of Daniel and the book of Esther, which were written in Chaldee. The New Testament consisting of 27 works (books) all written in Greek. The Bibles we use are all translations from these original languages. For the ease of studying, the Bible translators set these translations out in the form of chapters and verses. A Bible verse is a sentence of that chapter numbered so it makes it simple and convenient to find.

The King James Version of the Bible is estimated to be written at grade 5-6 level in current literacy, and once you spend a little time acclimatizing yourself to the language, the Words will become

If you do not have access to a printed version, there is an online version here [Bible Gateway](#) which has the Word of God in both written and voice recorded format for you to listen to. Make sure that the setting is on the King James Version (KJV)

1. REPENTANCE

The first word preached by John the Baptist in the first gospel Matthew (Chapter) 3: (verse) 3 was “Repent”. And in Matthew 4:17 Jesus first preached word was, “Repent”. In the next gospel Mark, Jesus first preached word (Mark 1:15) was, “Repent”. In the third gospel Luke 3:2&3 the narration tells us that John the Baptist came, “preaching the baptism of repentance”. The word repent is used 24 times in the New Testament and the word repentance 25 times. In the Old Testament the word repent is used 22 times repentance once.

In the Gospel of Luke 13:1-5 there is an interesting dialogue. It starts by people telling Jesus about some worshippers from Galilee that Pilate (a Roman ruler), had killed while they were making sacrifices in the temple. Jesus discussed these people and continued by discussing another eighteen people upon whom an unstable tower had collapsed and killed. Jesus explained that acts by authorities or random acts like the tower collapsing did not mean that such people were any greater sinners than those spared. His answer to both these cases was the same as he said in both verses 3 & 5;

Luke 13:3-5 King James Version (KJV)

3 I tell you, Nay: but, **except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.**

4 Or those eighteen, upon whom the tower in Siloam fell, and slew them, think ye that they were sinners above all men that dwelt in Jerusalem?

5 I tell you, Nay: but, **except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.**

Jesus is teaching here that if we die without repentance we will perish.

As ‘repent’ is the first preached word used by both John the Baptist and Jesus and from the two illustrations described in Luke 13, then it is important, but what does it mean?

The Oxford Dictionary defines repent as, “feel sorrow or regret for what one has done or left undone, to think with contrition (to be crushed in spirit by a sense of sin) or regret”.

The English meaning is correct as far as it goes. We understand it to mean really, really sorry. However, the meaning of the word as the Bible would have us understand it is much deeper.

In Jeremiah 2:26 it says

Jeremiah 2:26 King James Version (KJV)

26 As the thief is ashamed when he is found, so is the house of Israel ashamed; they, their kings, their princes, and their priests, and their prophets.

Here the Bible is identifying worldly sorrow, a shallow repentance. The thief no doubt would have been quite contented to continue stealing. It was only after they were caught that they acted sorry. This is not true repentance.

2 Corinthians 7:10 King James Version (KJV)

10 For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death.

This verse is contrasting true repentance against worldly sorrow. The true repentance precipitates a change of action, whereas the worldly sorrow is emotion.

Once a person repents, they must remain in that state of repentance and not turn back from it. Worldly sorrow is like the thief described in Jeremiah 2:26 which is a regret they are found out.

The Bible meaning of the word repent is to completely change your mind or way of thinking.

Matthew 3:8 teaches us to

Matthew 3:8 King James Version (KJV)

8 Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance:

That is not to say sorry, but to show you are sorry, behave sorry and live sorry.

If a bully were to punch someone and then says sorry and proceeds to punch them again, then that sorry means nothing. The word must be backed up by action. The same applies to a thief. If they say they are sorry and continue to steal then they are not demonstrating true repentance.

Ephesians 4:28 King James Version (KJV)

28 Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth.

See here, instead of the thief using their hands to steal, they use the same hands to do good and to help people in need.

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True repentance is to be sorry for who you are. What you do, is a result of your character. So, there is no point in having regret for all the things you have done wrong but to allow God to change you so that you will learn to live a life in which you will no longer continue to offend people and God.

Acts 17:30 King James Version (KJV)

30 And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent:

If a person wants to follow God in this day and age, they must understand that God no longer is prepared to overlook our ignorance of Him. Jesus has died for us so God both DEMANDS and COMMANDS us to repent.

The time for repentance is strictly limited by the extent of our earthly life. There can be no repentance after death.

Hebrews 9:27 King James Version (KJV)

27 And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:

The second thing, repentance is further limited by the duration of one's capability of being impressed by conviction. The continued refusal to repent brings hardness of heart. Ephesians the Apostle Paul talked about people who were "past feeling" (of the need to repent) and gave themselves to self-gratification in all its forms.

Ephesians 4:19 King James Version (KJV)

19 Who being past feeling have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness.

Again, in Romans 2:4b (b refers to the second part of the verse after the colon) the Apostle Paul teaches us "that the goodness of God leads us to repentance".

Romans 2:4 King James Version (KJV)

4 Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?

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In 2 Peter 3:9b the Apostle Peter teaches us that God is “not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.”

2 Peter 3:9 King James Version (KJV)

9 The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

It is God’s will that all people everywhere repent and live lives that reflect that repentance.

Many people are confused about God’s will. Here is one verse that makes it clear that God’s will is that not one person should perish but that all people should come to him in repentance.

The devil through pride, gathered about a third of heaven’s angels in a rebellion against God. As a consequence, they were cast out. God prepared hell for them.

Matthew 25:41 King James Version (KJV)

41 Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:

As we see from the above verse, hell was never prepared for mankind. Unfortunately, many people through rebellion and pride have decided to join the devil and his angels.

Isaiah 5:14 King James Version (KJV)

14 Therefore hell hath enlarged herself, and opened her mouth without measure: and their glory, and their multitude, and their pomp, and he that rejoiceth, shall descend into it.

2. CONVERSION

The word conversion means change into or cause to turn around our faith, turn to godliness. The word is used 14 times in various forms in the Bible.

Acts 3:19 King James Version (KJV)

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

From this verse, it is clear that conversion follows on from repentance.

Matthew 18:3 King James Version (KJV)

3 And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven.

Jesus is making it plain that unless you are converted you cannot enter into the kingdom of heaven. The reference to becoming as little children shows us that conversion is simple. We must have childlike faith.

Mark 10:14-15 King James Version (KJV)

14 But when Jesus saw it, he was much displeased, and said unto them, Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God.

15 Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, he shall not enter therein.

Psalm 51:13 King James Version (KJV)

13 Then will I teach transgressors thy ways; and sinners shall be converted unto thee.

Psalm 19:7 King James Version (KJV)

7 The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple.

By reading the Bible again and again, our soul will be continually converted to God's ways.

James 5:19-20 King James Version (KJV)

19 Brethren, if any of you do err from the truth, and one convert him;

20 Let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins.

It is when we learn the ways of God that we become converted.

3. WATER BAPTISM

In the Roman Catholic, Anglican and some other Christian traditions, babies are sprinkled with water. The Orthodox tradition fully immerse babies. In the Salvation Army converts wear a blue uniform which symbolizes baptism. Baptist, Evangelical and Pentecostal churches baptize by immersing their converts in water. So what is the correct form of baptism?

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Matthew 3:13-14 King James Version (KJV)

13 Then cometh Jesus from Galilee to Jordan unto John, to be baptized of him.

14 But John forbad him, saying, I have need to be baptized of thee, and comest thou to me?

There are two key elements in the passage of the Bible. First is that Jesus was baptized. From the dialogue with John the Baptist, it is clear the Jesus did not need to be baptized, rather John felt he needed to be baptized by Jesus. The reason Jesus gave was that it was “to fulfill all righteousness”. A person that does not see the need to be baptized has not fulfilled all righteousness. As petty as the act may seem, God tells us that it is essential for us to do it. Jesus did it so if we want to be a follower of Him then it is logical that we should do it too. The important truth to understand here is that water baptism fulfills all righteousness. The second is that Jesus was baptized in the river Jordan and came up out of the water. Jesus was not sprinkled but immersed.

Mark 16:16 King James Version (KJV)

16 He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.

This verse teaches us that baptism is for people who first believe. Many see the age of accountability of a child is around the age of seven years. At this age they are capable of rational thought, able to make moral judgments and an ability to believe in God. The Jews celebrate a male’s adulthood at 13. In Australia adult fair on public transport is around 14, the age of consent 16 and citizen adult rights at 18. The law in the same way sees that at a certain age we become mature enough to accept more and more responsibility as we mature. So from this verse, baptism of babies is not correct because they are not capable of believing. A person must first be mature enough to make a rational decision to believe before they are baptized.

The Promise of Salvation, and the formulae for it was given by Lord Jesus gave to a Pharisees, named Nicodemus, it was recorded in the Gospel of John

John 3 King James Version (KJV)

3 There was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews:

2 The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him.

3 Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

4 Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born?

5 Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

7 Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.

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8 The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit.

In the book of Acts chapter 2, the Jews were celebrating a special feast day called Pentecost. The word Pentecost means fiftieth and was the day which was fifty days after the Passover, which was the beginning of this festival period. Jesus had commanded His followers to wait in Jerusalem until He gave them power from on high. About 120 people prayed together in an upper room. On this day God chose to pour out the Holy Spirit on this group of people. There was the sound of a rushing mighty wind, tongues of fire sat on them and they began to speak in languages they had never learnt. As this was a festival Jews from all over the Roman Empire were gathered there. They were amazed because people from Galilee were speaking in languages from all over the Empire. The book of Acts names 16 of these languages. They asked Peter what this phenomenon meant the in a message explained that this was God's out-pouring of His Spirit. After this message Acts goes on to say,

Acts 2:37 King James Version (KJV)

37 Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do?

Peter then gives out a formula for salvation.

Acts 2:38 King James Version (KJV)

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

The first as we have already looked at is Repentance (and conversion) the second is baptism for the forgiveness of our sin. The third is the gift of the Holy Spirit or as described elsewhere in the Bible the baptism of the Holy Spirit, which we will look at in Chapter 4.

The Bible and early church history are quite clear that all baptism was by full water immersion. The methods adopted by several of the traditional churches were introduced centuries later.

Acts 8:39 King James Version (KJV)

39 And when they were come up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip, that the eunuch saw him no more: and he went on his way rejoicing.

Romans 6:4 King James Version (KJV)

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

Acts 10:47-48 King James Version (KJV)

47 Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we?

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48 And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then prayed they him to tarry certain days.

Acts 19:3-6 King James Version (KJV)

3 And he said unto them, Unto what then were ye baptized? And they said, Unto John's baptism.

4 Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus.

5 When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.

6 And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied.

Romans 6:3-4 King James Version (KJV)

3 Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?

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

Galatians 3:27 King James Version (KJV)

27 For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

Ephesians 4:5 King James Version (KJV)

5 One Lord, one faith, one baptism,

Colossians 2:11-12 King James Version (KJV)

11 In whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ:

12 Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead.

1 Peter 3:20-21 King James Version (KJV)

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

21 The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ:

It is clear from the verse above that water symbolizes baptism that now saves you. Baptism by full water immersion is an integral part of salvation, as set out in Acts 2:38.

Acts 2:38 King James Version (KJV)

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

4. THE BAPTISM OF THE SPIRIT

What is the Baptism of the Holy Spirit?

It is a scriptural experience, which Jesus referred to several times during His ministry. In the Bible it is also referred to as the infilling of the Holy Spirit.

John 7:37-39 King James Version (KJV)

37 In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink.

38 He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.

39 (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)

Also

John 3:5 King James Version (KJV)

5 Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

After Jesus was raised from the dead, he came to minister to his disciples for forty days before he ascended into heaven.

In Acts 1:4 On one occasion, while he (Jesus) was eating with them (His disciples), he gave them this command:

Acts 1:4-5 King James Version (KJV)

4 And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me.

5 For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence.

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The Baptism of the Holy Spirit is an experience that first occurred on the Jewish festival day of Pentecost. This is described in the Bible in the book of Acts chapter 2. About 120 people in an upper room in the city of Jerusalem were gathered together. Among this number of people were the twelve apostles and Mary Jesus' mother. This is the first record of people being baptized by the Holy Spirit. As a sign of receiving this experience, they spoke in other tongues or languages that they had never learnt. As this was a festival, Jews from all over the Roman Empire were gathered there. They were amazed because people from Galilee were speaking in languages from their home towns. The book of Acts names 16 of these languages. Others mocked and said that these people were drunk. However, peoples' curiosity got the better of them and asked Peter, "What does this mean?"

Peter was clear to point out that these people were not drunk as it was 9 o'clock in the morning. He answered by saying, in Acts 2:16-17

Acts 2:16-17 King James Version (KJV)

16 But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel;

17 And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams:

Peter was quoting from an Old Testament prophet Joel chapter 2:28-29. He was explaining that people should receive this experience, was prophesied by God about 840 years before this event. This is truly incredible.

Joel 2:28-29 King James Version (KJV)

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

29 And also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my spirit.

This was not a one-off event it becomes clear in the Bible that as evidence of being baptized with the Holy Spirit people speak in tongues.

God spoke to Peter in a vision that he was to not see anything as unclean and commanded him to preach to a man called who was a gentile. It was forbidden for Jews to have any dealings with gentiles, that is people who were not Jews. Up until that time, the first church had only been dealing with Jews and Samaritans who were of the same race but had different beliefs. Peter went to the household of Cornelius and preached about Jesus and how He was killed. Then the Bible goes on to say.

Acts 10:44-48 King James Version (KJV)

44 While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word.

45 And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost.

46 For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God. Then answered Peter,

47 Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we?

48 And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then prayed they him to tarry certain days.

This passage shows that Peter is not deviating from the teaching he first gave in Acts 2:38 that water baptism is an integral part of our salvation.

However, when the other Jews heard that Peter had been with gentiles they criticized him. Peter in his defense recounted the whole story. The plank of his defense was this argument.

Acts 11:15-16 King James Version (KJV)

15 And as I began to speak, the Holy Ghost fell on them, as on us at the beginning.

16 Then remembered I the word of the Lord, how that he said, John indeed baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost.

In Acts 11:16 Peter is identifying the baptism of the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues as previously stated in Acts 10:46 with the same experience the apostles had on the day of Pentecost.

There is another Bible reference to this where the Apostle Paul preached to a group of believers in a Greek city named Ephesus. These people had been disciples of John the Baptist. Set out below is the following dialogue Paul had with them.

Acts 19:2-6 King James Version (KJV)

2 He said unto them, Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed? And they said unto him, We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost.

3 And he said unto them, Unto what then were ye baptized? And they said, Unto John's baptism.

4 Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus.

5 When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.

6 And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied.

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These verses reinforce the all the requirements of salvation. In the case of the Ephesians Paul did not call them to repentance because they were already believers. However, he wanted to make sure that they had a Christian baptism and finally God baptized them with the Holy Spirit. Speaking in tongues is the evidence or manifestation of the infilling of the Holy Spirit.

The most evil part of our body, the Apostle James teaches, is our tongue. It is the outward sign of the inner cleansing. Jesus taught about the Holy Spirit is in John chapter 14 He described it as the comforter then as the Spirit of truth.

John 14:16-18 King James Version (KJV)

16 And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever;

17 Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.

18 I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you.

John 14:26 King James Version (KJV)

26 But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

This teaching by Jesus in John 14 is just part of many more verses that tell us what the baptism of the Spirit does for us.

It is clear from the Bible that God wants us to be baptized with His Spirit. Jesus in Luke 11 gave us some interesting teaching on how we are to receive it.

Luke 11:9-13 King James Version (KJV)

9 And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you.

10 For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.

11 If a son shall ask bread of any of you that is a father, will he give him a stone? or if he ask a fish, will he for a fish give him a serpent?

12 Or if he shall ask an egg, will he offer him a scorpion?

13 If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?

First Jesus teaches us to ask, seek and knock as a way to show us that we always have to be constantly approaching God. He then uses the example of how a child constantly asks their parents for things. As fathers ensure that their children are given things that are good for them. Jesus is

clearly teaching us that as parents know how to give their children good things such as fish and eggs. It is our heavenly Father that wants to give us His good thing the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, much more than a father giving their children gifts. We have to keep asking and asking God to give it to us until He does for that is His will for us.

5. FELLOWSHIP

After following this pattern on our walk of salvation of repentance, conversion, water baptism and the Baptism of the Holy Spirit the Bible teaches us to be in continual fellowship with each other.

John 13:35 King James Version (KJV)

35 By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.

A person can only be a disciple of Christ if they have love one for another. It is by this manifestation of love, that is the fruit which demonstrates we are God's children.

1 John 1:7 King James Version (KJV)

7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.

There is deep truth in this verse. We have to walk in the light of God's word and truth not in independence but in fellowship one with another. Note that cleansing by the blood of Jesus comes as a result of us walking in the light and fellowshiping with one another.

Acts 2:42 King James Version (KJV)

42 And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.

As Christians, we have to continue steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship that is not moving away from this truth. Together with this, we have the breaking of bread and prayers. This was the pattern set for us to follow in the first church.

1 Corinthians 1:9 King James Version (KJV)

9 God is faithful, by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

This verse teaches us that the church is the fellowship of His Son. We are called into this fellowship.

2 Corinthians 6:14 King James Version (KJV)

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14 Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?

This is a colourful analogy the Bible uses in talking about a wooden yoke that was used to join two beasts of burden together. This was a common practice in those times. Such beasts were joined or yoked together in order to be more effective in a task such as pulling a heavy cart or ploughing a field. Conversion is the process of leaving behind our sinful nature. It is therefore illogical for a converted person to join themselves or become deeply committed with an unconverted person. This is especially true in the case of a Christian marrying a non-Christian.

On the other hand, we must not be like the Jews of Jesus time where they had nothing to do with non-Jews. We have to be with them, love them and deal with them. It is just that we must not become yoked or joined with them.

Galatians 5:1 King James Version (KJV)

5 Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.

Christians are set free from the works and consequences of this evil world; we are no longer to be bound with its yoke.

Ephesians 3:9 King James Version (KJV)

9 And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ:

This verse speaks of the fellowship of the mystery. The mystery here is the truth of the Gospel of Christ. It is our obligation to see the importance of fellowship together with those other people who have also had the mystery of the Gospel revealed to them.

Philippians 1:5 King James Version (KJV)

5 For your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now;

In this verse, the Apostle Paul is thanking the Philippian church for their fellowship from the beginning.

1 John 1:3 King James Version (KJV)

3 That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ

The Apostle John here is teaching us about the two aspects of fellowship. The first is with each other and the second is our fellowship with God. Here John gives us to understand that fellowship with each other teaches us more and more about our fellowship with the Father and the son.

Hebrews 10:25 King James Version (KJV)

25 Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

This verse expressly teaches us NOT to forsake fellowship. It teaches us that fellowship is a way for us to help each other to stay focused on the kingdom of God and the principles of the Kingdom. It is clear that the storm-clouds of the end times are upon us and that Jesus Christ will return soon.

2 Thessalonians 1:7-9 King James Version (KJV)

7 And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels,

8 In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ:

9 Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;

This verse is explicit that in these times fellowship with other believers becomes more and more important as the day of Jesus second coming approaches.

Some people say they can worship God and live a perfect Christian life without ever setting a foot inside a church. Clearly, this thinking is not in line with the Bible. Fellowship with the believers is an essential part of our salvation.

6. GIVING

John 3:16 King James Version (KJV)

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

God is the ultimate example of giving. Not only did He give us dominion over the earth and the abundance of it, He gave us His Son Jesus Christ to die on the cross for our sins. Psalm 103:2-5 also tells us all the great things God gives to us.

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Psalm 103:2-5 King James Version (KJV)

2 Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits:

3 Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases;

4 Who redeemeth thy life from destruction; who crowneth thee with lovingkindness and tender mercies;

5 Who satisfieth thy mouth with good things; so that thy youth is renewed like the eagle's. *ut* have everlasting life.

Luke 6:38 King James Version (KJV)

38 Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again.

This verse is not about give a dollar and you will get a dollar back it is about demonstrating a generosity of spirit. This is what is called a kingdom principle. Give, and it shall be given unto you. Some people call it the love bank. If you do not deposit love in the lives of those close to you, then you will always have an empty account. People remember kind acts you do for them and when your time of need comes, they will generously give to you. This is especially true in a marriage. If one spouse forever takes from the other and never gives anything in return, then that relationship will not last. The giver eventually runs out of giving. The second part of the above verse could well be written, 'the way you treat others is the way you will be treated'.

Proverbs 18:24 King James Version (KJV)

24 A man that hath friends must shew himself friendly: and there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother.

True friendship is all about giving. A person who lives exclusively to themselves, is grumpy, complains about everyone and everything and never extends the hand in fellowship, is not likely to have any or many friends. Giving is the same. As we serve a giving God, we have to be a giving people.

Acts 20:35 King James Version (KJV)

35 I have shewed you all things, how that so labouring ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive.

It is a Christian's responsibility to give of their time, resources and money. God delivers us from expensive vices on top of these there are all the savings in medical expenses as well as other daily blessings. It means that God has left us with a little extra to give Him.

When go to a restaurant or a show, you pay for the use of that asset. The overheads are loaded into the price. Church is the same people realize that they have to give in order to have the building and assets available to them. It is a privilege to sit in church knowing that the money we have contributed has helped to make the building & assets available and contribute to the pastor's welfare.

7. WALKING BY FAITH

The Bible teaches us in

2 Corinthians 5:7 King James Version (KJV)
7 (For we walk by faith, not by sight:)

This is an interesting change in the way God want us to live. Now you have become a Christian, God will give you a completely different way of looking at things. Again the Bible tells us

2 Corinthians 4:18 King James Version (KJV)
18 While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.

God gives Christians these new eyes to see the eternal and the invisible where up until our conversion, we looked at the visible world and wondered if anything lay beyond it. When God fills us with His spirit, He also gives us a measure of faith. By this faith among other things, it becomes a witness to us that,

Hebrews 11:3 King James Version (KJV)
3 Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.

This faith enables us to see, work, move and breath in the realm of the unseen. Walking by faith enables to tackle tasks that once seemed impossible. We can be like Moses who

Hebrews 11:27 King James Version (KJV)
27 By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king: for he endured, as seeing him who is invisible.

To get faith you must hear the word of God.

Romans 10:17 King James Version (KJV)
17 So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

This happens as you keep attend church and listening to sermons and talking with the people in authority. By doing this you begin to understand what the Bible is saying and as you read it yourself, you learn to hear the Holy Spirit speak to you thereby increasing your faith.

8. BIBLE READING

The basics about the Bible were covered in the second paragraph of the introduction.

The Bible uses the analogy of weaning a child. A new convert is called a babe in Christ.

Hebrews 5:13 King James Version (KJV)

13 For every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe.

It is interesting that the passage uses the term unskilful in the word of righteousness. So to become competent in anything it takes time to develop skill. The analogy of milk is like the process of weaning. This analogy is taken further, where parts of the Bible are described as strong meat.

Hebrews 5:14 King James Version (KJV)

14 But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.

Strong meat is another way of saying tough meat. Butchers would go out of business if they sold tough meat from old animals. Butchers hang meat for days, use young animals, beat it with mallets and even use chemicals such as meat tenderizes to make it palatable. Meat from game particularly old game can be very hard to chew, especially as it has not been properly butchered. If you have ever eaten such meat you will find it very hard to cut and especially hard to chew. The Bible is no different, there are a number of parts that take a great deal of 'chewing'.

The only way to get a clear understanding of it, is to read it over and over again. The Bible is not like any other book. It does not have an introduction main body and a conclusion. Its truth is scattered throughout its pages as it says about itself in Isaiah 28:13a (KJV) But the word of the LORD was unto them precept upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little;

On top of this, it is written in many literary formats. These can be in the form of laws, prayers, parables, songs, proverbs, narration, doctrine: just to name a few. When you understand the literary format, it can be a great first step in being able to understand it.

There is a term used by Bible scholars called context. That is working out how a particular passage fits in with the surrounding passages. It also should be looked at in light of other passages elsewhere that follow the same theme. If you do not take care to carefully fit a passage in with associated passages, you can take the meaning of that passage 'out of context'. That is change it from the intended meaning to something completely different.

For a person who wants to start reading the Bible for the first time, the best place to start is the Book of Acts then the Gospel of John followed by the other Gospels. The best book to start with in the Old Testament is the Book of Proverbs, followed by Psalms.

9. PRAYER

There are a great number of ideas about prayer. Prayer is simply talking to God your heavenly Father and creator. There are many stereotypes of people praying such as kneeling with your hands together. However, there is no set formula on how one should pray. Talking to God in prayer is an essential part of our Christian life.

Matthew 6:5-8 King James Version (KJV)

5 And when thou prayest, thou shalt not be as the hypocrites are: for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward.

6 But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly.

7 But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking.

In the above verse, Jesus is using an example of how not to pray. In His time, many of the religious leaders liked to make a public display of their righteousness. Unfortunately, such behaviour does not impress God because God likes people to be humble.

It pleases God for us to shut ourselves away from the outside world and get in His presence alone. When you make a habit of this, you will be amazed how much you will find that your life changes.

Matthew 6:5-8 King James Version (KJV)

7 But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking.

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This language seems extreme but it is important to ensure that we pray the way God wants us to pray not just think that anything we do will be accepted by God. As Jesus pointed out in Mat 6:5, people can have the wrong motive when they pray. As we saw, Jesus criticized the way many of the pious Jewish leaders prayed. Now He is talking about how pagan people pray. Both were examples of how not to pray.

Matthew 6:8 King James Version (KJV)

8 Be not ye therefore like unto them: for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him.

Here Jesus is clear to tell us not to pray like the pagans. We may be impressed with all these approaches we see but unfortunately they often do not impress God.

Luke 11:1 King James Version (KJV)

1 And it came to pass, that, as he was praying in a certain place, when he ceased, one of his disciples said unto him, Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples.

After Jesus taught His disciples how not to pray, they then asked Him to teach them how to pray. Most probably they had been coping the way the Jewish leaders had been praying so it make sense that they then would want to be taught how to pray properly. What Jesus then taught them is what we know as the Lord's Prayer. Jesus intention was not necessarily to make this a prayer to be prayed. Although there is nothing wrong with that, but focus our thinking on the things that please God.

Luke 11:2 King James Version (KJV)

2 And he said unto them, When ye pray, say, Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, as in heaven, so in earth.

First and foremost, we should make sure that payers are addressed to our heavenly Father. The name we are taught to reverence is Jesus.

Philippians 2:10-11 King James Version (KJV)

10 That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth;

11 And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

The name Jesus means Jehovah is our salvation or Jehovah saves, so by using the name Jesus you are praising or hallowing God's name.

Luke 11:3 King James Version (KJV)
3 Give us day by day our daily bread.

This aspect of the Lord's Prayer teaches us that it is perfectly correct to pray for God to provide us with our daily needs and necessities.

Luke 11:4 King James Version (KJV)
4 And forgive us our sins; for we also forgive every one that is indebted to us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.

This is a very important aspect of our prayer life. First, we often do things that we should not do. It is proper that we acknowledge that we have committed them and then ask God to forgive us. Second, as we do not live a perfect life so all the people around us do not live perfect lives either. We no doubt, either intentionally and or unintentionally offend people or even sin against them. In the Christian community they will be forgiving us; no doubt we also have to forgive them when they hurt us. It is important to note (1) that if we do not forgive then God will not forgive us and (2) if we are aware that we have offended or sinned against someone, we should go to that person and ask them to forgive us. This teaching is so important that Jesus, as recorded in the Gospel of Matthew, at the end of the Lord's Prayer, added the following.

Matthew 6:14-16 King James Version (KJV)
14 For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you:
15 But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.
16 Moreover when ye fast, be not, as the hypocrites, of a sad countenance: for they disfigure their faces, that they may appear unto men to fast. Verily I say unto you,

They have their reward

Matthew 6:13 King James Version (KJV)
13 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

It is God's will for us to ask God to deliver us from the evil things that confront us daily. Rather than just pray these words, take the specific evils that confront you to God in prayer by asking God to deliver you from them.

The prayer ends with Jesus focusing our attention back to God's Kingdom, God's Power and God's Glory; all of which are eternal. The things of this earth are temporary.

1 Corinthians 14:2 King James Version (KJV)

2 For he that speaketh in an unknown tongue speaketh not unto men, but unto God: for no man understandeth him; howbeit in the spirit he speaketh mysteries.

1 Corinthians 14:14 King James Version (KJV)

14 For if I pray in an unknown tongue, my spirit prayeth, but my understanding is unfruitful.

Jude 20 King James Version (KJV)

20 But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost,

1 Corinthians 14 teaches us that speaking tongues is praying in the Spirit and Jude 1:20 tells us that we build up our most holy faith.

When one keeps seeking God they will eventually find that they will spend their whole lives in prayer.

In

1 Thessalonians 5:17 King James Version (KJV)

17 Pray without ceasing.

The apostle Paul tells us to. 'Pray without ceasing'. It should be the aim of every Christians to reach this state.]

10. PRAYER & FASTING

Jesus set us an example of this. Before He was about to launch into His three and a half year ministry, He prayed and fasted for forty days and forty nights. Prayer and fasting is not part of our Western culture. However, it was part of the culture of the Jewish culture of Jesus time.

It should also be clear what fasting is. It is a period of time set aside for people not to eat food but to drink water only. This can be to miss one meal or many meals for up to a week or more. There is teaching about giving up things at Lent which are forms of self denial, such as not watching television or eating chocolate. Some even call this fasting. However, this is not what the Bible describes as fasting.

If you want to go on a protracted fast say several days or more and you have a medical condition see a doctor prior to attempting it. Many of our Western foods contain preservatives. These build up in our fat so that when we fast they are released. They can become quite toxic. It is advised that if you want to attempt a protracted fast, you should carry out several short fasts for a day or so in order to cleanse your body. It is also advised, to greatly increase your consumption of water while fasting, in

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order to dilute any toxins that will be released while you fast. People who drink tea and coffee may find that they get a withdrawal headache.

Matthew 6:16-17 King James Version (KJV)

16 Moreover when ye fast, be not, as the hypocrites, of a sad countenance: for they disfigure their faces, that they may appear unto men to fast. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward.

17 But thou, when thou fastest, anoint thine head, and wash thy face;

Note in both these verses, Jesus uses the term “When you fast.” This IS the teaching of Jesus. He did it, He expects us to do it too.

Matthew 6:18 King James Version (KJV)

18 That thou appear not unto men to fast, but unto thy Father which is in secret: and thy Father, which seeth in secret, shall reward thee openly.

As Jesus taught us how not to pray He is also teaching us how not to fast. He teaches us to just live your normal life and do not to make a show of fasting. It is good to set aside times of prayer and fasting. However, if you want a breakthrough for a difficult problem then a time of prayer and fasting may be the only way you will see a breakthrough.

Numbers 6:24-26 (KJV) The Lord bless thee, and keep thee: The Lord make his face shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee: The Lord lift up his countenance upon thee, and give thee peace. **AMEN**