New Beginnings
Bible Study Class

FOUNDATIONAL TRUTH
6-Week Curriculum on the Fundamentals of the Christian Faith

Join Us in Studying the “Sanctifying Truth” of God’s Holy, Inspired, Infallible, Inerrant Word

Psa 119:160 • Prov 30:5 • John 17:17 • 2 Tim 2:15; 3:15-17 • Rom 7:12 • James 1:21-25
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Dear Friend,

Welcome to the exciting North Jacksonville Baptist Church. We want to do all we can to enhance your walk with God. A Christian is a follower of Jesus Christ. We are ever becoming and never arriving in this life. The New Beginnings class will familiarize you with our church, our doctrinal beliefs, and will help you connect personally with our ministry. Through the New Beginnings class you will be inspired to move beyond where you are spiritually to greater maturity and fruitfulness.

Please make every effort to attend all the sessions. “A student learns what his teacher knows, but a disciple becomes what his master is.” The goal of the New Beginnings class is ultimately to help you become more like Jesus Christ. Come and be blessed! We look forward to seeing you there!

In Christ,

[Signature]

Dr. Herb Reavis, Jr.
Senior Pastor

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www.njbc.org
If any man come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow me – Luke 9:23

John 15:7 – If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.

John 15:8 – Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.

Matthew 4:19 – Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.

John 15:5 – I am the Vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in Me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without Me ye can do nothing (1 John 5:12; Phil 4:13).

John 14:15 – If ye love Me, keep My commandments.

John 8:31 – ... If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; 32And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

LIVING IN THE WORD
2 Tim 2:15

John 13:34 – A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. 35By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.

WITNESSING TO THE WORLD
Matt 28:18-20

WITNESS
John 15:5 – I am the Vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in Me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without Me ye can do nothing (1 John 5:12; Phil 4:13).

Matthew 4:19 – Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.

PRAYING IN FAITH
Luke 18:1

FELLOWSHIP WITH BELIEVERS
Heb 10:25

FELLOWSHIP
John 15:5 – I am the Vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in Me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without Me ye can do nothing (1 John 5:12; Phil 4:13).

NEW Beginnings

North Jacksonville Baptist Church
INTERESTING FOOD FACTS

It has been said that, over the average lifetime, the average American will consume approximately:

- 150 cows
- 3,000 chickens
- 300 pigs
- 26 acres of grain
- 50 acres of fruits & veggies

Yet, our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, has said that we SHALL NOT live by these things alone, but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God (Matt 4:4). Therefore, let us pray that our appetite for the “Milk” and “Meat” of God’s Word is at least as veracious as our appetite for food (see 2 Tim 3:15-17; Jos 1:8; Psa 1:2; 119:11-12; Acts 17:10-11; Luke 11:28; James 1:22; Matt 5:6; Rom 3:19; Gal 3:24; 2 Pet 3:18; 1 Cor 3:1-3; Phil 3:10-14; Heb 5:12-14; 1 Pet 2:2).
Lesson 1 – The Bible & What We Believe

Part 1 – The Bible: The Bible is not just another history book that can “inform.” It is a library of 66 books – 39 in the Old Testament and 27 in the New Testament – of HIS-story, i.e., the story of Jesus Christ, that can “transform” its readers from death to life, from darkness to light, from sinners to saints and from Satan’s victims to God’s victors. Every word of the Bible’s original text was given by God’s inspiration and is profitable for doctrine, reproof, correction, instruction in righteousness, in order that God’s children may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works (2 Tim 3:15-17). Perhaps, this is what prompted Dwight L. Moody to state that “the Bible will keep you from sin, or sin will keep you from the Bible” (see John 5:22; 12:48 – Jesus will judge us by the “WORD” He speaks).

Though man, in his finite and fleshly wisdom, tries to subscribe errors and contradictions to it, the Bible – in the words of Pastor Herb Reavis, Jr. – is the “HOLY (Rom 7:12), INSPIRED (2 Tim 3:16), INERRANT (Prov 30:5) Word of God,” which: (i) was written BY the Holy Spirit THROUGH 40 men over a period of 1,500 years; and (ii) we are instructed to dwell in or study to show ourselves approved unto God (2 Tim 2:15, 3:15-17; Col 3:16; 2 Pet 1:20-21). As we study the Bible, the Holy Spirit guides the children of God that we might be sufficiently taught and have a clear understanding of the Bible; otherwise, we could not understand it and would – like the natural man – consider it foolishness (John 16:13; 1 Cor 2:10-16; 1 John 2:27; but see Rom 3:11; Mark 12:24).

Almighty God is looking for those who will worship Him in spirit and in truth (John 4:23-24). In order to worship God in spirit and in truth, we must know the truth about who God says He is and, in order to know the truth about who God says He is, we must study His holy Word (Psa 119:160; Deut 29:29; 1 Thes 2:13; John 8:43; 10:27; 17:3,17). Therefore, we, like Job, should esteem God’s Word more than our necessary food (Job 23:12; see also John 6:27,35). We, like David, should consider God’s Word more desirable than gold, sweeter than honey and perfect in converting the soul (Psa 19:7-10, 40:8, 119:72, 103; see Rom 1:15-16). We, like Jeremiah, should rejoice at the hearing of God’s Word (Jer 15:16; see also 1 Thes 2:13). We, like Paul, should not be ashamed of God’s Word, for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believes (Rom 1:16; see also John 14:6; Acts 4:12; 2 Tim 3:15; James 2:1). We, like, Peter should embrace God’s Word as our nourishment and protection whereby we grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ (2 Pet 3:18). We, like the psalmist, should say, Blessed art Thou, O LORD: teach us Thy statutes that we may hide them in our heart that we might not sin against You (Psa 119:11-12; see Matt 5:6; Rom 3:19; Gal 3:24).

### The Bible at a Glance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OLD TESTAMENT</th>
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<td>5. Deuteronomy</td>
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<td>12. Malachi</td>
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**The New is in the Old, concealed. The Old is in the New, revealed.**

*God used 40 different men over a period of 1,500 years (about 1400 B.C. to A.D. 90) in writing the Bible ~ 2 Peter 1:20-21*

Part 2 – What We Believe: Before becoming a member of a church, it is extremely important to be able to ask questions about that church’s beliefs and to receive biblical and contextual answers in support of the same; otherwise, one may join a “church” or cult that is or may become susceptible to the lying whims of Satan’s emissaries or hucksters who peddle “another gospel” or false doctrine that has led and/or will lead astray those who are not looking for a true and fulfilling relationship with Christ, but who are looking for a religion that merely tickles or soothes their itching ears (2 Cor 11:13-15; Gal 1:6-9; 2 Tim 4:3). This is why one of the first things a North Jacksonville Baptist Church (“NorthJax”) decision counselor is asked to do – after leading a thorough discussion on the issue of salvation – is to generally share what the leadership and congregation of NorthJax “Believe,” support for which is exclusively found in a contextual study of the Bible, which NorthJax considers to be the holy, inspired, infallible, inerrant Word of God. In establishing what it believes, NorthJax “began at the beginning” by endeavoring to understand Almighty God, based solely upon how He has revealed Himself in the Bible, i.e., one God manifested in three Persons: (i) God the Father; (ii) God the Son; and (iii) God the Holy Spirit (see 1 Tim 3:16; Deut 6:4; Gen 1:2,26; Heb 2:2-3; Matt 3:13-17; Rom 8:9; John 1:1-3,14, 8:58, 10:30, 14:16,18,23; Col 1:16; Heb 1:6,8, 9:14; Rev 1:8,11,17-18, 22:13). A good foundational knowledge of the Trinity is so important to NorthJax that its New Beginnings curriculum devotes three weeks to its study.

Also important to NorthJax is what the Bible reveals about the origin, commission, ordinances and function of the Church. The origin of the Church is, perhaps, best summarized in Matthew Chapter 16, where Jesus – for the first time – mentions His “Ekklesia,” or Church of “Call Out Ones.” In response to what some refer to as the Great Confession or Simon Peter’s divinely revealed statement that Jesus is “the Christ, the Son of the living God,” Jesus states that, “upon this Rock I will build My Church” (Matt 16:13-18). As such, the Church finds its origin, ownership and foundation in Jesus Christ, who, as the Chief Cornerstone, has promised to build His Church, not of bricks and mortar, but by fitting / joining together “living stones” who believe the Great Confession that Jesus is “the Christ, the Son of the living God” (Matt 16:18; 1 Pet 2:5; Rom 10:9; 1 Cor 3:11, 10:4; Eph 2:19-22, 4:11-16). This is the true Church against which the gates of hell or death shall not prevail (Matt 16:18; 1 Cor 15:51-58; Heb 2:14-15). While Christ is responsible for building His Church, it is the responsibility of each Holy Spirit indwelt follower of Christ to fulfill the Great Commission of the Church, i.e., going into all the world through Members, Missions and otherwise, discipling / teaching the lost to observe the things Christ commands and baptizing confessing believers in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit (Acts 1:8, 2:47; Matt 16:18, 28:18-20). By the way, NorthJax believes that Believers Baptism by Immersion is one of only two ordinances that Christ has commanded of His Church (Acts 8:36-37). The other ordinance is the communal observance of the Lord’s Supper, whereby we commemorate the body Jesus sacrificed and the blood He shed as the propitiation of our sins (Phil 2:5-11; 1 Pet 1:18-19; Rom 3:23-25; 1 John 4:10; Acts 2:38, 16:30-33; 1 Cor 11:23-32; Eph 2:22,23, 4:11-16).

Excerpts of NorthJax’s Doctrinal Statement

(For a full statement on what NorthJax “Believes,” visit http://www.NorthJax.org/doctrine)

**Word of GOD** – Old and New Testaments of the Bible are the holy, inspired, infallible, inerrant Word of God (Psa 12:6-7, 119:160; Prov 30:5; 2 Tim 3:16; 2 Pet 1:19-21).

**One True God** – God, the Great I AM, has revealed Himself in three co-equal Persons: (i) God the Father; (ii) God the Son; and (iii) God the Holy Spirit (Gen 1:1; Exo 15:1; Deut 6:4; Psa 83:18; 139:7-9; Matt 28:19; John 10:30; 15:26; Acts 5:3-4; 2 Cor 13:14).

**Lord Jesus Christ** – God in flesh, the “God Man,” begotten of the Holy Spirit, born of a virgin, was tempted as we are, yet without sin: freely gave His life to redeem the sins of man in total obedience to God the Father’s plan of salvation, such that whosoever believes on Him should not perish but have everlasting life ( Isa 7:14; Matt 1:18-25; John 1:1, 14, 3:16; 6:37-40; Rom 4:25, 5:1-11; Gal 4:4, 5; Col 2:9; Phil 2:5-11; 1 Cor 15:3-7; Heb 4:14-17, 12:2, 1; John 2:1-2, 4, 10, 5:9-12).

**Holy Spirit** – Instantaneously and supernaturally indwells the hearts of those who receive the Lord Jesus as Savior; He convicts, regenerates, seals, anoints, guides, teaches, sanctifies and baptizes all believers into the Body of Christ (John 3:5, 14:16-17,26, 15:26, 16:7-14; Rom 8:9; 1 Cor 2:10-16, 12:3,12-14; 2 Cor 3:6,18; Eph 1:13-14, 4:30, 5:18; Matt 28:19; 1 Pet 1:2-5).

**Mankind** – Created in the image and likeness of God; yet, is under the condemnation of God as a result of a sin nature inherited from Adam; can do nothing to save himself and must be drawn to Christ by God the Father and God the Holy Spirit (Gen 1:27, 2:17, 3:6; Psa 51:5, 58:3; Rom 3:10-23, 5:12-21; 1 Cor 2:14, 12:3; Gal 3:11; Matt 11:27).

**Salvation** – By grace alone through faith alone, made possible by the virgin birth, sinless life, vicarious death and justifying resurrection of Jesus Christ, who redeemed / purchased us with His blood and paid our sin-debt on Calvary’s cross; it is a gift of God received by man in faith and repentance (Eph 2:8-9; Titus 3:5; John 1:12, 3:14, 10:28-29; Rom 8:1; Phil 1:6; 2 Pet 3:9; 1 John 2:2, 1 Cor 15:1-4; Rev 22:17).

**Eternal Security** – Jesus Christ, the “Author and Finisher of our faith,” seals His followers by the Holy Spirit, completes the good work He has begun in them and keeps them saved until the day of redemption such that nothing can pluck them out of His or God the Father’s hand (John 3:16, 18; 6:36-40, 10:27-30; Gal 3:24-26; 1 John 5:11-13; Heb 12:2; Eph 1:13-14, 4:30; 1 Pet 1:5; Phil 1:6).

**Satan** – A literal and personal creation, who was cast from heaven because of a prideful rebellion against God, was defeated at Calvary and may be resisted by those who submit themselves to God ( Isa 14:14-21; John 16:11; Eph 2:1-4; James 4:7; Rev 20:10).


**Last Things** – God, in His own time and way, will bring the world to its appropriate end. The Bible teaches the personal and imminent return of the Lord Jesus Christ. First is the Rapture or a “catching away” of the saints, then a seven-year period of tribulation, then the Second Coming of the Lord to rule and to reign on the earth for the millennium or 1,000 years (Matt 24:44; John 14:1-3; 1 Cor 15:51-57; 1 Thes 4:13-18; Rev 20).
Let’s Study the Bible (the following questions contemplate biblical answers, as opposed to opinions)

1. Why was the Bible written? (1 John 5:13; see also John 20:31):

2. How was the Bible written? (2 Tim 3:16-17; 2 Pet 1:20-21; see also 2 Sam 32:2):


4. Upon whom must we depend to teach us the Bible? (John 14:26, 16:13; 1 Cor 2:10-14; 1 John 2:27):

5. What must we mix with our understanding of the Bible in order for it to be profitable for us? (Heb 4:2; 11:6):

Let’s Study What NorthJax Believes (the following questions contemplate biblical answers, as opposed to opinions)

1. What is NorthJax’s belief as to salvation? (Ephesians 2:8-9; Galatians 2:16; Romans 10:9; Titus 3:4-7):

2. What is NorthJax’s belief as to eternal security? (John 6:37-40; 10:27-29; Phil 1:6; 1 Pet 1:3-5; 1 Thes 5:23-24):

3. What is NorthJax’s belief as to who Owns, Builds and Adds to the Church? (Matthew 16:18; Acts 2:47):


5. What phrase in 1 Corinthians 11:26 permits NorthJax to observe the Lord’s Supper once a quarter?

6. What does NorthJax believe about spiritual healing? (James 5:14-15; Psa 30:2; Jer 32:17,27):

7. What does NorthJax believe about speaking in tongues? (Acts 2:1-6,8,11; 1 Cor 13:8, 14:4,19,22):
Independent Study on the Bible & What NorthJax Believes (please take time to answer the following questions on your own based solely upon the referenced verses of Scripture and check your work with the answers provided in the back of this booklet)

1. How is the Bible profitable for us (2 Tim 3:16-17; Psalm 19:7-8, 119:11,165; Romans 1:16; John 8:32): __________

   _______________________________________________________________________

   _______________________________________________________________________

   _______________________________________________________________________

2. How should we receive Bible truth and what should we do with what we learn? (1 Thes 2:13; Luke 11:28; James 1:22; Deut 6:6-7): __________

   _______________________________________________________________________

   _______________________________________________________________________

3. What is represented by the three types of soil that can hinder the “SEED” of Bible truth from bearing fruit in our lives? (Luke 8:4-15): __________

   _______________________________________________________________________

   _______________________________________________________________________

4. How often should we study the Bible? (Joshua 1:8; Psa 1:2; Acts 17:10-11): __________

   _______________________________________________________________________

   _______________________________________________________________________

5. What are some things NorthJax believes about God? (Deuteronomy 6:4; Isaiah 44:6, 1 Timothy 3:16; John 6:44): __________

   _______________________________________________________________________

   _______________________________________________________________________


   _______________________________________________________________________

   _______________________________________________________________________

7. What are some things NorthJax believes about the Holy Spirit? (John 14:16-17, 16:13; Eph 4:30; Rom 8:9): __________

   _______________________________________________________________________

   _______________________________________________________________________

8. What are a few things NorthJax believes characterize a healthy Church?
   a. Hebrews 10:25 __________

   _______________________________________________________________________

   b. John 4:23-24 __________

   _______________________________________________________________________

   c. Hebrews 13:7,17; 1 Thes 5:12-13 __________

   _______________________________________________________________________

   d. 1 Cor 12:25-26; Phil 2:1-4 __________

   _______________________________________________________________________

   e. Eph 4:11-16 __________

   _______________________________________________________________________
BAPTISM BASICS

• **Master of Baptism** – As an example to His followers and to confirm the witness of John the Baptist, Jesus walked some 70 miles to be baptized in fulfillment of all righteousness, marking the beginning of His public ministry (Matt 3:13-16; Mark 1:15). Immediately after Jesus’ act of baptism, God the Father is heard to say, “Thou art My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased” (Mark 1:11). Likewise, our heavenly Father is well pleased when true believers follow Christ in baptism.

• **Mandatory for Baptism** – As evidenced by the thief on the Cross, scriptural baptism is not necessary for salvation in Christ; however, salvation in Christ is necessary for scriptural baptism, which should represent a true believer’s first act of obedience in Christ, as it pictures: (i) the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ; (ii) a believer’s death to sin and resurrection to a new life in Christ; (iii) unity with Christ; and (iv) unity with the people of God in the Body of Christ (Luke 23:40-43; Acts 8:36-39; Rom 6:1-9; 1 Cor 12:13; Gal 2:20, 3:27; Eph 4:5; Col 2:13-14; Titus 3:5).

• **Mode of Baptism** – “Baptism” comes from the Greek word *baptizo*, which ONLY means to immerse or submerge. *Rhantizo*, which is Greek for “sprinkling” with water, is never used to describe scriptural baptism (see Mark 1:9-10; Acts 8:36-39 – both references speak of going down into and/or coming up out of the waters of baptism).

• **Message of Baptism** – To summarize the message of baptism, please consider the following pre-baptism statement, the author of which is unknown: “I hereby confess in my willing submission to this divinely appointed ordinance, my glad obedience to the command of my Lord and Savior. In this manner, I show forth my identification with the One who bore my sins, took my place, died in my stead, was buried and rose again for my justification. As Christ went through the dreadful reality of suffering and death to secure my salvation, so by my immersion in water and emergence there from, I thus publicly declare my identification with my Lord in His death, burial and resurrection on my behalf, with the intention henceforth to walk with Him in newness of life.”
Lesson 2 – God the Father

According to Deuteronomy 29:29, “the secret things belong unto the LORD our God: but those things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children for ever, that we may do all the words of this law.” As such, a study of Almighty God must begin and end, not with the secret or the mysterious, but with those things Almighty God has chosen to reveal about Himself in Scripture, which contains a virtual treasure trove of revealed truths about the character and attributes of God. This lesson is designed, not to exhaust, but to introduce a few of the characteristics and attributes of God, who, in a succinct statement to Moses, describes Himself as “I AM” (Exo 3:14; compare John 8:58). This statement of God illustrates the fact that God is who He says He is, based on what is revealed in Scripture, which is why many err in their study of God because they do so without consulting Scripture, endeavoring to understand an infinite God using the logic and reasoning of a finite mind (see Matt 22:29; Psa 14:1, 53:1; Isa 45:18-22, 55:7-9; Rom 1:21; Deut 29:29). A true understanding of God is impossible without understanding Scripture and understanding Scripture is impossible without the guidance and instruction of the Holy Spirit (see Rom 3:11; 1 Cor 2:9-16). As such, in a discussion on who God is, let’s focus on Scripture’s “revealed” truth about God and let’s not focus on God’s “secret things” or that which God—in His infinite wisdom—has chosen not to reveal (Rev 1:11,19, 10:4, 21:5; 2 Cor 12:4).

So, exactly what does Scripture have to say about God? Well, first of all, Scripture teaches that God has revealed Himself in what has become known as the TRINITY. Much like the words “Rapture,” “Millennium,” “Omniscient,” and “Omnipresent,” the word “Trinity” is not found in Scripture; however, the word “Trinity” aptly describes exactly what Scripture teaches about God, which is: (i) there is only one true God; and (ii) He has revealed Himself in three personalities – God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. You might say, “I do not understand this,” to which I would respond that the Trinity is one of the revealed truths in Scripture that remains a mystery. To quote the Apostle Paul, “. . . great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory” (1 Tim 3:16; see also Deut 6:4; Mark 12:29; Gen 1:2,6, 2:2-3, 9:14; Matt 3:13-17; Rom 8:9; John 1:1-3,14, 8:58, 10:30, 14:16,18,23; Col 1:16; Rev 1:8,11,17-18, 22:13; Acts 5:1-4,9).

Having very briefly discussed the Trinity, we now turn our attention to the first member of the Trinity: God the Father. The name used by many for God the Father is “JEHOVAH,” which biblical scholars say represents the consonants of “YAHWEH” and vowels of “ADONAI.” Nevertheless, Scripture contains many names for Almighty God that are primarily based on His attributes, like: (i) ELOHIM, which is plural for God and means the source of everything that exists (see 2 Cor 3:5; Col 2:8-15); (ii) EL SHADDAI, which means God Almighty; and (iii) EL OLAM, which means everlasting God. There are many other names and/or attributes of God that are explicitly or implicitly described in Scripture, such as: (i) ETERNALITY – God has always existed beyond eternity past and will always exist beyond eternity future; (ii) CONSTANCY – God never changes; (iii) OMNIPRESENT – God is everywhere at the same time; (iv) OMNISCIENT – God is all-knowing; and (v) OMNIPOTENT – God is all-powerful.

I could go on and on about the revealed truths in Scripture regarding God the Father; however, I would rather you see these truths for yourself. As such, please open your Bibles and review with me what it has to say about our heavenly Father.

Let’s Study God the Father (the following questions contemplate biblical answers, as opposed to opinions)

1. How is God described in His commandments and what does He say about other gods? (Deut 6:4; Isa 44:6):

2. How does the Bible describe the nature and image/likeness of God? (John 4:23-24; Gen 1:26-27): 
A FEW NAMES OF GOD

And God said unto Moses, I AM That I AM (Exo 3:14; see John 8:58) . . .

Jehovah-Ganan: Lord Our Defense (Psa 89:18)
Jehovah-Go’el: Lord My Redeemer (Isa 49:26)
Jehovah-Jireh: Provider (Gen 22:14)
Jehovah-Machsi: Lord my Refuge (Psa 91:9)
Jehovah-Ma’oz: Lord my Fortress (Jer 16:19)
Jehovah-Mephatli: Lord my Deliverer (Psa 18:2)
Jehovah-Nissi: Banner (1 Chron 29:11-13)
Jehovah-Rohi: Shepherd (Psa 23)
Jehovah-Rophe: Healer (Isa 53:4-5)
Jehovah-Shalom: Peace (Isa 9:6)
Jehovah-Shammah: Present (Heb 13:5)
Jehovah-Tsori: Lord my Strength (Psa 19:14)
Jehovah-Yasha: Lord my Savior (Isa 49:26)

El Elyon: Most High GOD (Gen 14:18)
El Emunah: Faithful GOD (Deut 7:9)
El Gibbor: Mighty GOD (Isa 9:6)
El Hakabodh: GOD of Glory (Psa 29:3)
El Hay: Living GOD (Jos 3:10)
El Hayyay: GOD of My Life (Psa 42:8)
El Kanna: Jealous GOD (Exo 20:5)
El Marom: GOD Most High (Micah 6:6)
El Nekamoth: GOD that Avenges (Psa 18:47)
El Nose: GOD that Forgave (Psa 99:8)
El Roi: GOD that Sees Me (Gen 16:13)
El Shaddai: Almighty GOD (Gen 17:1-2)
El Simchath Gili: GOD My Exceeding Joy (Psa 43:4)
3. How does the Bible describe God’s OMNISCIENCE? (Job 34:21; Psa 139:1-6, 147:5):

4. How does the Bible describe God’s OMNIPRESENCE? (Psa 139:7-12; Prov 15:3; Jer 23:24):

5. How does the Bible describe God’s OMNIPOTENCE? (Gen 1:1; Jer 10:12-13; 32:17; Rev 1:8):

6. How does the Bible describe God’s ETERNALITY? (Psa 90:2,4; 2 Pet 3:8):


8. How does the Bible describe some of God’s QUALITIES? (Lev 11:44; Deut 32:4; 1 John 1:9, 4:8; Psa 116:5):

9. What is God’s role in our salvation? (John 3:16, 6:29,44; Eph 2:4-9; Rom 8:29-30; 1 Pet 1:3-5; Jude 24):

10. What does the Bible call those who deny God exists or do not glorify Him? (Psa 14:1; Rom 1:18-23):
Lesson 3 – God the Son

In Matthew Chapter 16, Jesus asks His disciples, Who do men say that I am? This question is asked today and will continue to be asked until that day when, according to Philippians Chapter 2, every knee will bow and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord (Phil 2:10-11). As it was in the days when Jesus first asked this question, there is no shortage in the number of those who are emphatic in their belief that Jesus Christ is, at best, a “good man;” however, this number is drastically less for those who, like the Apostle Peter, believe that Jesus is “the Christ, the Son of the living God” (Matt 16:16; see generally Matt 7:13-14). The reason for this drastic difference can be attributed to the fact that to believe in the same Jesus in whom Peter believed requires the same revelation that Peter received, i.e., God the Father must draw you to and reveal to you the true person of Christ (Matt 16:17; John 6:44). In other words, no man can come to a true understanding of who Jesus Christ is, unless the will of God the Father draws him to that understanding through divine revelation (John 1:12-13, 6:44,65; Rom 3:11; 1 Cor 2:10-16, 12:3). Perhaps, this is one of the reasons why 1 Timothy 3:16 refers to Christ’s incarnation as a “MYSTERY” that the human mind, in its carnal state, cannot comprehend (1 Cor 2:10-16). Perhaps, this is why we are told in Romans Chapter 12 to be transformed by the renewing of our minds that we, through the guidance of the Holy Spirit, might comprehend the “Truth” about Jesus Christ and His KENOSIS – Christ’s self-emptying of His right, apart from the will of God the Father, to independently exercise His attributes of deity – as described in Philippians Chapter 2:

Philippians 2:5 – Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: 4Who, being in the FORM of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: 5But made Himself of no reputation, and took upon Him the FORM of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: 6And being found in fashion as a man, He humbled Himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. 7Wherefore God also hath highly exalted Him, and given Him a name which is above every name: 8That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; 9And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father (see also John 5:19-20,30, 6:38, 14:6; Heb 10:20).

Next to 1 Timothy 3:16, one of the most succinct statements on the deity of Christ is found in the Gospel of John, Chapter 1 of which begins, “In the beginning was the WORD, and the WORD was with God, and the WORD was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by Him; and without Him was not any thing made that was made” (John 1:1-3; see also Col 1:15-17, 2:9; Titus 2:13; Heb 1:1-4; 2 Pet 1:1; 1 John 5:20). You may ask, “How does this statement relate to Christ?” The answer to this question is found in John 1:14, which states, “And the WORD was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth” (a few of Jesus’ “I AM” Statements in John – John 6:35; 8:12,24,58; 10:7,9,11,14; 11:25; 14:6; 15:1,5).

As indicated by some of the answers to the questions below, the Bible is replete with explicit references to the deity of Christ; but, why would God leave the portals of heaven to come into this sin-cursed world to die for those who were His enemies (see Rom 5:10)? Well, the short answers to this question are: (i) to do His Father’s will (John 6:38); (ii) because He loves us (John 3:16; 1 John 4:8-10); (iii) to seek, identify with and to save us by becoming a curse for us that we might receive imputed righteousness (Luke 19:10; Gal 3:10-13; Rom 4:25; Heb 4:14-16); and (iv) to reconcile us back to God (2 Cor 5:17-21). This and more was accomplished as a result of the virgin birth, sinless life, victorious death, atoning resurrection and victorious ascension of Jesus Christ, who is 100% God and 100% man, i.e., the Word made flesh (Matt 1:18-25; John 8:46; Heb 4:14-16; Rom 4:25, 5:9-21; 2 Cor 5:21; Phil 2:5-11; John 1:14). Who do you say Jesus is?

Let’s Study God the Son (the following questions contemplate biblical answers, as opposed to opinions)

1. What does God the Father say about God the Son? (Luke 3:21-22; Mark 9:7; Heb 1:8; 1 John 5:9-12): ________

2. What does Jesus say about His deity and eternality? (John 8:24,58, 10:30, 14:9; Rev 1:8,11,17-18, 22:13 KJV): ________

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A Few “I AM” Statements of Jesus Christ

The Gospel of John contains what has become known as our Lord’s Seven “I AM” Statements, which speak volumes to the deity of Jesus Christ. Each statement references back to Exodus 3:14, where God the Father describes Himself as “I Am That I Am.” Similar to John 10:30, these statements illustrate that God the Father and God the Son are “One.”

1. I AM the Bread of Life (John 6:35-48)
2. I AM the Light of the world (John 8:12; 9:5)
3. I AM the Door (John 10:7; 9)
4. I AM the Good Shepherd (John 10:11-14)
5. I AM the Resurrection and the Life (John 11:25)
6. I AM the Way, the Truth and the Life (John 14:6)
7. I AM the True Vine (John 15:1-5)

In Matthew 16:15, Jesus asks “whom say ye that I am,” but a most important “I AM” statement is John 8:24, where Jesus says unless you believe that “I AM,” you shall die in your sins (see also John 8:58; 18:6).
3. What role did Jesus play in creation? (John 1:1-3; Col 1:15-17; Heb 1:1-4; 3:4; see also Neh 9:6; 1 Cor 8:6; Rev 4:11):


5. What and/or who are the four witnesses of Jesus Christ? (John 5:31-39):

6. Upon what “Rock” or statement of truth did Jesus Christ say He would build His Church? (Matt 16:15-18):

7. What did Jesus’ death and resurrection accomplish for us? (Rom 4:25, 6:5-6; Gal 3:13; Col 2:9-15):

8. Through whom do we have access to God the: (i) Son; and (ii) Father? (John 6:44, 14:6, 16:23; Matt 11:27; 1 Cor 12:3):

9. In order to receive salvation, what must be our response to Christ? (Rom 10:9; Mark 1:14-15):

10. After salvation, what has Christ promised us in Christ? (Eph 1:13-14, 4:30; Phil 1:6; 1 Pet 1:3-5; John 6:37-40; 10:27-29):

11. After salvation, what “Mystery” in Christ will we enjoy? (Col 1:26-27; Gal 2:20):

12. After salvation, what relationships do we acquire with, through and by Christ? (Rom 8:1, 14-17; Gal 4:4-7; Eph 1:5):


14. What will be the fate of those who reject the love of Christ? (2 Thes 2:7-12; Rev 20:11-15; see also John 3:36; 8:24):

15. Before whom will we all stand in judgment? (John 5:22, 26-27; 2 Cor 5:10; Rev 20:11; see also Acts 17:31; Rom 2:16):
JUDGMENT AND ETERNAL DESTINY

Everyone will be Judged (Dan 12:2; Heb 9:27; John 5:29)

- **Believers** – Having **accepted** Jesus’ payment for sin over which the “second death has no power,” believers will appear before the **Judgment or Bema Seat of Christ** during the “FIRST RESURRECTION” to have their works judged by Christ and tried by fire to determine whether or not they will receive a **reward** (John 5:22,27-30; 2 Cor 5:10; 1 Cor 3:11-15; Rev 20:4-6; 1 John 1:9).

- **Unbelievers** – Having **rejected** Jesus’ payment for sin, unbelievers will appear before the **Great White Throne** – at least **1,000 years** after the Judgment or Bema Seat of Christ – to be judged by Christ and will have to either: (i) demonstrate “deeds” of sinless perfection; or (ii) pay for their own sin with the “wages” of eternal death in the “lake of fire.” This is the **Second Death** (Rom 2:16, 3:10-11,23, 6:23; 2 Thes 1:8-9; 2:9-12; Matt 5:48; John 5:22,27-30; 1 Pet 1:15-16; Gal 3:10; James 2:10; Rev 20:11-15).
Lesson 4 – God the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is probably the most misunderstood member of the Trinity. One reason for this misunderstanding probably results from the fact that the Holy Spirit is ascribed TOO FEW attributes by many who, using words like “IT” rather than “HE” to describe the Holy Spirit, consider Him some kind of spooky spiritual power supply or force through which God manifests His presence in the world. Another reason is that the Holy Spirit is ascribed TOO MANY attributes by others, who – at least in practice – attempt to elevate the Holy Spirit above God the Father and God the Son in Trinitarian priority. However, based on what Scripture ACTUALLY reveals about the Holy Spirit, neither of these extremes is accurate.

The Holy Spirit is not an “IT” or just some power supply or force; He is the Third Person of the Trinity, whose first appearance in Scripture can be found in Genesis 1:2. Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, also introduced His disciples to the Holy Spirit, referring to Him with personal pronouns like “He” and “Him” (John 14:15-17,26, 15:26; 16:7-13). As their Comforter during His time on earth, Jesus said to His disciples, “I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you” (John 14:18; see 1 John 2:1). Keeping His promise, Jesus gave / gives His disciples the Holy Spirit, whom He described as “another Comforter,” which is interpreted that the Holy Spirit is “allos” or “another” of the same kind as or equal to Jesus, and ALL OF WHOM God the Father has given to dwell with and in every believer at salvation (John 14:16-18; 1 Cor 6:19-20; Rom 8:9; Luke 11:13; see Ezek 36:27, 37:14; 1 John 3:24; 2 Cor 6:16; Gal 2:20).

In the fulfillment of this promise, Jesus Christ illustrates that the Holy Spirit is in fact the Third Person of the Trinity, for, just as true disciples of Christ are baptized in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, true disciples of Christ are also indwelt by the Father, Son and Holy Spirit (John 14:23, Matt 28:18-20; Gal 2:20; 1 John 4:12; 2 Cor 6:16). In addition, the divinity of the Holy Spirit becomes quite obvious from His various names in Scripture, as we will see below. Yet, those mentioned above who seek to ascribe to the Holy Spirit attributes that would make Him, not just equal, but superior to God the Father and God the Son, find themselves contradicting the very statements of Christ in John Chapter 16, where He says, “I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now. Howbeit when HE, the Spirit of Truth, is come, HE will guide you into all truth: for HE shall not speak of HIMSELF; but whatsoever HE shall he (John 16:12-14). In other words, the Holy Spirit is God; yet His work of guiding and prompting us to “glorify” and “testify” of Jesus Christ makes it clear that we are not to elevate the Holy Spirit above Jesus Christ (Acts 5:1-4,9; John 15:26, 16:14).

As you may have glimpsed from the statements above, we have been given the indwelling Holy Spirit such that we might walk in Him and be empowered by Him in order that – amongst other things – we: (i) shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh; and (ii) may bear much “FRUIT” by abiding in Christ and in keeping the commandments of God in complete and total fulfillment of that to which we have been called (Eph 1:15-23; Gal 5:16-26; John 14:16-17; 15:1-5). Like God the Father and God the Son, God the Holy Spirit possesses an infinite number of attributes / functions, a few of which are listed here:

- Inspired / “Move” Biblical Writers (2 Pet 1:21)
- Leads us to Salvation and Obedience (1 Cor 12:3)
- Dwells with and in Believers (John 14:17; Rom 8:9)
- Leads the Church (Book of Acts)
- Provides Power (Rom 8:11, 15:19; Eph 1:19-20, 3:20)
- Provides Counsel / Guidance (John 16:13; Rom 8:14)
- Teaches Believers (1 John 2:27; 1 Cor 2:10-16)
- Seals and Sanctifies (Eph 1:14, 4:30; 1 Pet 1:2)
- Intercedes for and helps Believers pray (Rom 8:26)
- Gives Spiritual Gifts / Fruit (1 Cor 12:4-11; Gal 5:22-23)

Let’s Study God the Holy Spirit (the following questions contemplate biblical answers, as opposed to opinions)

1. According to the Bible, what are some of the names given to the Holy Spirit:
   a. Genesis 1:2; Romans 8:14; 2 Cor 3:3; 1 John 4:1-2 __________
   b. Romans 8:9; 1 Peter 1:9-11 __________
   d. John 14:17, 15:26, 16:13 __________
   f. Galatians 4:6-7 __________
   g. Ephesians 1:13 __________

2. How does the Bible describe the GREATNESS of the Holy Spirit? (1 John 4:4): __________
A.C.T.S. – The Prayer Acronym

(. . . men ought always to pray, and not to faint – Luke 18:1; see also Philippians 4:6-7)

A – Adore / Awe of God (Matt 6:9)

C – Confess our Sins (1 John 1:9; Psa 32:5)

T – Thanksgiving (Eph 5:20; 1 Thes 5:16-18)

S – Supplication for the needs others and for our own (1 Thes 1:11-12; 1 Tim 2:1-3; 1 John 5:14-15)

* Communion with God has two parts: (i) Studying of God’s Word; and (ii) Prayer. This is why many agree with the saying, “Seven days without communion with God makes one weak” (no God, no peace; know God, know peace – Isa 26:3).

* Pray to God the Father through God the Son, asking for intercession that God’s will be done (John 16:23; Rom 8:26-27).
3. How does the Bible describe the Holy Spirit’s OMNISCIENCE? (Isa 40:13-14; 1 Cor 2:11): ______________________

4. How does the Bible describe the Holy Spirit’s OMNIPRESENCE? (Psa 139:7): ______________________

5. How does the Bible describe the Holy Spirit’s OMNIPOTENCE? (Job 33:4; Luke 1:35; Rom 8:11, 15:13, 19): _____

6. How does the Bible describe the Holy Spirit’s ETERNALITY? (Heb 9:14): ______________________

7. How does the Bible describe the Holy Spirit in terms of TRUTH? (John 16:13; 1 John 5:6): ______________________

8. How do the following Bible verses describe the WORK of the Holy Spirit:
   a. 2 Peter 1:20-21 ______________________
   b. 1 Corinthians 12:3 ______________________
   c. John 14:16-18; 1 Corinthians 3:16 ______________________
   d. John 16:8-11 ______________________
   e. Romans 8:9 ______________________
   f. John 16:13; 1 Corinthians 2:13; Luke 12:11-12; John 14:26; 1 Cor 2:10-14; 1 John 2:27 ______________________
   g. John 15:26 ______________________
   h. Romans 8:26-27 ______________________
   i. 1 Corinthians 12:13 ______________________

9. Based on the following Bible verses, what are some of the specific works of the Holy Spirit in salvation?
   a. John 16:8; 1 Cor 12:3 ______________________
   b. John 6:63 (see generally Ephesians 2:1-4; John 5:26; Rom 8:2) ______________________
   c. 2 Thes 2:13-14; 1 Pet 1:2 ______________________
   d. Ephesians 1:13-14, 4:30; 2 Cor 1:21-22 ______________________

10. What does the Bible say of those who would be “made perfect” in the flesh? (Gal 3:1-3): ______________________
DEATH & THE “DISEMBODIED STATE”

The Rapture notwithstanding, “it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment” (Heb 9:27; see 1 Thes 4:13-18). Like taxes, death is certain; however, many still question what happens to us immediately after we die. The Bible is quite clear on what happens when death separates body and soul during what has become known as the “DISEMBODIED” STATE:

- **Believers** – Those who die in Christ, having accepted His payment for sin, can be “confident” in death, willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord (2 Cor 5:8). The “disembodied state” between a true believer’s death and the “First Resurrection” is graciously and consciously spent in the presence of the Lord in Paradise, which is also called “Abraham’s Bosom” or the “third heaven” (Rev 20:5-6; Heb 11:35; Dan 12:2; John 5:29; Acts 24:15; Luke 14:14; 16:2; 2 Cor 12:2-4; Rev 2:7).

- **Unbelievers** – Those who die without Christ, having rejected His payment for sin, will spend the time between death and the “Second or Final Resurrection” in the temporary, conscious and torturous confinement in Hell, the Realm of the Death, which is like the punishment of Jail where the convicted soul of man awaits a body, sentencing and final / eternal punishment in the Penitentiary of the Lake of Fire (Rev 20:4-15; Dan 12:2; John 5:29; Luke 14:14; Heb 11:35; Acts 24:15; 2 Pet 2:9).

Whether spent in the presence of the Lord or in Hell, the “disembodied state” is experienced in total consciousness and, despite not having a physical body, one is acutely aware of all senses. Also, Heaven and Hell are separated by an impassable chasm and, therefore, these destinations are fixed and there is also an apparent lack of excuses and repentance (see Luke 16:19-31; Once there, can’t be prayed out or in).
Lesson 5 – God’s Plans of Salvation & Evangelism

Part 1 – God’s Plan of Salvation: One of the scariest verses in all of Scripture is found in Matthew 7:23, where Jesus tells those calling Him “Lord, Lord” that He never knew them and to depart from Him because they were workers of iniquity (see 2 Thes 2:9-12). How could Jesus say such things to those who alleged to have prophesied in His name, cast out devils in His name and did many other wonderful works in His name? One answer to this question is that salvation is not based on man’s “wonderful works” of self-righteousness, but on Jesus’ “finished” work (John 19:30; Eph 2:8-9; Gal 2:16). Inasmuch as man’s “righteousness” is seen as filthy rags before the holiness of God and all of mankind have sinned and come short of the glory of God, the justice of God demanded that the “curse of the law” and eternal death should fall upon all of us (Isa 64:6; Rom 3:11-23; Gal 3:10; James 2:10). Dead in trespasses and sins and in desperate need of the quickening or life-giving power that results from a new birth in Christ, we all were literally children of Satan and slaves of sin, incapable of doing anything to alter our spiritual condition (Eph 2:1-3; John 3:3,5, 8:44; Rom 6). But God had a plan and His name is Jesus Christ, the “Lamb slain from the foundation of the world” (John 14:6; Acts 4:12; Rev 13:8; see generally Rom 9:10-12).

As this name, the “Lamb slain from the foundation of the world,” indicates, God’s plan of salvation for mankind predates the actual creation of mankind (Rev 13:8; see 1 Pet 1:18-21). Before the foundation of the world, Almighty God in His omniscience knew that man, in his Adamic nature, would violate the righteous standard of sinless perfection, for which the JUSTICE OF GOD demanded a death sentence (Rom 1:32, 3:10-11,23, 5:12-19, 6:23; Heb 2:14-15). Yet, the LOVE OF GOD demanded a perfectly sinless sacrificial Lamb as the “propitiation,” “atonement” and eternal pardon from this death sentence (1 John 4:10; Rom 5:1-19; Heb 2:14-15). Jesus Christ is that sacrificial Lamb, who, according to God’s plan of salvation, was delivered up for our offenses and was raised for our “Justification,” who, as “Mediator” between God and man, has also placed “Condemnation” with the free gifts of “Peace,” “Reconciliation” and eventually “Glorification” (Rom 4:25, 5:1-10, 8:1-29-30; 2 Cor 5:17-21; 1 Tim 2:5; Heb 9:15; 1 John 3:2; Phil 3:20-21). A few other terms that describe elements of God’s plan of salvation and the work / role of Jesus Christ include, without limitation:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sacrifice (1 John 4:10) – Jesus Christ, who knew no sin, was made to be sin for us that we might be the righteousness of God in Christ (2 Cor 5:17, 21; see also Rom 4:17, 25).</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Propitiation / Expiation (Rom 3:25, 4:25) – God remembers our sins no more because we have received the finished work of Jesus Christ as the only: (i) appeasement for God’s wrath and demand for justice; and (ii) removal or blood washing / covering for our sins (Ps 103:12; Mic 7:19; 1 Cor 6:9-11; Heb 8:12, 10:17; 1 John 1:7, 4:1-19; Rev 1:5, 7:14); and</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Justification (Gal 2:16; Rom 3:23-26, 5:9) – Having received the imputed righteousness of Christ, Almighty God looks upon true believers Just as if We have Never Sinned (Rom 3:25, 4:6,17-25, 8:29-30; Heb 8:12, 10:17). Though we are sinners, practically (1 Tim 1:15), God sees us as saints, positionally (our “Scarlet Sin” has been made “White as Snow” – Isa 1:18).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sacrifice (1 John 4:10) – Jesus Christ, who knew no sin, was made to be sin for us that we might be the righteousness of God in Christ (2 Cor 5:17, 21; see also Rom 4:17, 25).

Redemption (1 Pet 1:18-19; Gal 3:13) – Jesus Christ redeemed or purchased us with His blood from the slave market of sin, such that we are no longer slaves to sin but slaves to righteousness (Eph 1:7; Rom 6; John 8:36; Col 2:11-15).

Reconciliation (Rom 5:1, 8:1) – Sin not only separated us from God, it caused us to be at WAR with Him (Rom 8:6-8). Through His atoning work on the cross, Jesus Christ has reconciled true believers back to God in eternal PEACE (Rom 5:1-10).

Jesus’ miraculous birth, sinless life, vicarious death and atoning resurrection accomplished God’s plan of salvation, through which God the Father elects, predestinates, calls and draws to God the Son those, who – in spiritual deadness – never would nor could understand or seek Christ in the weakness of their own sinful flesh (John 6:37-44,65; Rom 3:11, 8:29-30; Eph 1:3-14). In other words, God, has, from the beginning, chosen salvation through sanctification of the Spirit for as many as He has “ordained” or appointed to eternal life, causing them to believe the Truth through the guidance of the Holy Spirit (2 Thes 2:13-14; Acts 13:48; 1 Cor 2:10-14, 12:3; John 14:6,26, 15:26, 16:13). As a result, our dead spirits are made alive and we are then able to: (i) understand the Gospel; (ii) receive God’s gifts of faith and repentance; and (iii) confess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior unto salvation by God’s amazing grace (Eph 2:1-10; 1 John 5:20; 2 Tim 2:25; 1 Cor 12:3).

At this point in the discussion, someone usually asks, “What role does “Free-Will” play in God’s plan of salvation?” Well, “free-will” must be viewed in light of the “Sovereign Will” of Almighty God and must be limited to our nature and by what Scripture can support (see Pastor Herb Reavis’ sermon, “Blessed are the Balanced”). Suffice it to say that:

(i) Carnal man is free to reject God and His Word as foolishness (Prov 1:24; 1 Cor 2:10-14; Matt 23:37; but see John 1:12-13); but Carnal man is NOT free to accept God or even understand God’s Word until his dead spirit is made alive and he is drawn to Christ (Psa 65:4; Eph 2:1-4; John 1:12-13; 3:3,5, 6:44,65; Rom 3:10-11; 1 Cor 2:10-16, 12:3; Matt 11:27; Rom 9:10-16); and

(ii) Redeemed man is free to stumble within God’s grace (1 John 1:8-10, 2:19); but Redeemed man – once truly saved – is NOT free to fall from, reject, renounce, or walk away from God’s grace (Jude 24-25; John 6:37-40; 10:27-29; Rom 5:10; 8:29-39; Eph 1:14, 4:30; Phil 1:5-6; 1 Pet 1:5; Heb 12:2; Gal 3:1-3; Noah’s Ark Ex. – Noah might have fallen down in the ark but not out of the ark).

Nevertheless, God’s Sovereign Will runs parallel with Human Responsibility throughout the Bible and this truth becomes obvious by comparing verses like Matthew 11:27 with Matthew 11:28-30 or by comparing Romans Chapters 9, 10 and 11.

Page 22 – Prepared by Devin J. Reed
Part 2 – God’s Plan of Evangelism: Whenever someone dies, the first question asked by Christians is generally, “was s/he saved . . .” Yet, when someone dies, whether or not they were saved is a moot point because their eternal state is fixed and there is nothing they or we can do to change it (see Rev 22:11). According to the World Health Organization, 56 million people die – and have their eternal states fixed – each year, which equates to about 153,400 everyday, 6,400 every hour, 100 every minute, or 2 every second. As such, it is imperative that we Christians overcome our fears and obey God’s command that we share the Gospel of Christ, which is the power of God unto salvation (Rom 1:16). Yet, despite God’s command that we share the Gospel and despite these rather alarming death statistics, an equally alarming statistic exists amongst those who call themselves Christians. More specifically, it is said that 95% of all Christians have never witnessed to or led anyone to Jesus Christ, many of whom believe that sharing the Gospel is some kind of “spectator sport,” the participants of which are only pastors, evangelists, missionaries and the like. However, as “AMBASSADORS FOR CHRIST,” Jesus has commanded that ALL Christians participate in taking His precious Gospel – and not our opinions – to the entire world, beginning at home or within our sphere of influence and radiating outward from there (2 Cor 4:5; Acts 1:8). If we do not witness, the “GOSPEL IS HID” from those whose minds Satan has blinded to the “Way,” the “Truth” and the “Life” of Jesus Christ (2 Cor 4:3-6; 5:20; Luke 10:1-2; John 14:6; 1 John 5:13-16; Rom 1:15-16). Many of us do not witness because of fear or shame; however, Jesus has said: (i) follow me and I will Make You Fishers of Men (Matt 4:19); and (ii) “Whosoever therefore shall be ASHAMED OF ME … of him also shall the Son of man be ashamed, when He cometh in the glory of His Father with the holy angels” (Mark 8:38; Rom 10:11). Therefore, with boldness of speech, let us be witnesses for Christ (see 2 Cor 4:13, 7:4-10; 1 Pet 3:15-16).

The simple truth about witnessing is that God never called us to “save” people; He only calls us to share – plant and water – the “incorruptible seed” of the Gospel, whereby one plants, one waters, but only God can give the increase (see Matt 4:19; Luke 8:4-15, 19:10; John 1:12-13, 6:44,65; Acts 2:46, 13:48, see also Acts chapters 25 & 26; Rom 1:15-16; 1 Cor 1:23-31, 3:5-8; 1 Pet 1:23). As such, let’s not be afraid, praying rather that God would give us boldness and make us fishers of men, which will occur only AFTER we truly begin to “follow” Christ (Matt 4:19; Eph 6:10-20; 2 Cor 7:4-10). The harvest of those in need of Christ is truly great, but the laborers are few; therefore, pray that the Lord of the harvest will send forth laborers into His harvest, beginning with you (Luke 10:2). Consider the following elements of witnessing:

Witnessing 101

1. **Personal Testimony – Life before salvation**
2. **Explain your Conversion and Life after Salvation**
3. **Transition to Scripture** (e.g., Romans Road; John 3 - Nicodemus or Matthew 19 - Rich Young Ruler)
4. **Emphasize the Broken Laws of God** (can’t teach grace without talking about the law; can’t teach mercy without talking about judgment; can’t teach salvation without talking about sin – help them see that they are lost before helping them see they need to be saved)
5. **Confirm a need for Repentance/Confession/Submission to Jesus Christ as Savior AND Lord** (Rom 10:9)
6. **Close the Deal – Always give an opportunity to make a decision for Christ** (tomorrow is not promised - 2 Cor 6:2)
7. **Follow-up in Love, Admonition, Discipline and/or Restoration** (1 Cor 4:14; Gal 6:1-2)
8. **Model Christ in Living and Teaching a Sanctified Lifestyle** (“what we do speaks so loud that they cannot hear what we say”)

Again, after receiving God’s precious gift of salvation, every Christian is CALLED to be a witness for Christ and – like Andrew and the woman at the well – to fish men out of the sea of sin (Matt 4:19; John 1:35-42, 4:28-42). Not only are Christians called to witness to those who do not “know” Christ, we – like Abraham (Gen 18:22-33), Moses (Exo 32:9-14,32) and Paul (Rom 9:3) – must INTERCEDE or PRAY FOR THEIR SALVATION, which, according to 2 Peter 3:9 and Matthew 18:14, is the will of God and, according to 1 John 5:13-16, we can be “confident” that God will answer our prayers when we pray consistent with His will (Rom 10:9,13; John 14:6; Acts 4:12).

Inasmuch as most people are persuaded more by what they see rather than by what they hear, witnessing and sharing the Gospel of Christ is a lot more persuasive when we, as LIVING EPISTLES of Christ, MODEL Christ before those who do not “know” Him (2 Cor 3:2-3). When our lifestyle does not line up with our witness, the responses we receive to our witnessing efforts will be like that of Mohandas “Mohatma” Gandhi, who is rumored to have said, “I like your Christ, I dislike your Christians” (but see 1 Pet 2:15). As we discuss the following questions on evangelism, please consider the quote of St. Francis of Assisi, who is credited with saying, “Preach the Gospel always and, if necessary, use words.”
Let’s Study God’s Salvation Plan (the following questions contemplate biblical answers, as opposed to opinions)

1. What does the Bible say about sin and forgiveness? (Romans 3:23, 6:23; Gal 3:10; James 2:10; 1 John 1:8-2:2; Psalms 32:5):

   __________________________________________________________________________

2. What does God require for the forgiveness of sin? (Hebrews 9:22, 10:4; Romans 3:24-25; 5:9; Colossians 1:12-14; 1 John 1:7):

   __________________________________________________________________________

3. Upon whose name must we call in order to be saved and who can be saved? (Acts 4:12; Romans 10:13; John 3:36; 14:6; 1 John 5:12):

   __________________________________________________________________________

4. What must we confess and believe to be saved? (Romans 10:9; 1 John 5:10-13; see also Mark 1:15):

   __________________________________________________________________________

5. What does the Bible say about “works” salvation? (Galatians 2:16; Ephesians 2:8-9; 2 Timothy 1:9; Titus 3:5):

   __________________________________________________________________________

6. What does the Bible promise about eternal security? (1 Peter 1:3-5; Philippians 1:6; John 6:37-40, 10:27-29; Jude 24-25):

   __________________________________________________________________________

Let’s Study God’s Evangelism Plan (the following questions contemplate biblical answers, as opposed to opinions)

1. What is God’s will for every person? (Matthew 18:14; 2 Peter 3:9; see generally Ezekiel 33:11):

   __________________________________________________________________________

2. What has Jesus commissioned us to be for Him? (Acts 1:8; 2 Corinthians 5:20; Acts 22:15):

   __________________________________________________________________________

3. With the Holy Spirit controlling our lives, what will He enable us to do? (2 Corinthians 4:13; Acts 4:31; Ephesians 6:19-20):

   __________________________________________________________________________

4. What is the eternal seed God uses to bring men to salvation and what is our role and God’s role in the growth of the eternal seed? (1 Peter 1:23; Luke 8:11; Mark 4:14; 1 Corinthians 3:5-8):

   __________________________________________________________________________

5. What six statements from the Romans Road can be incorporated into our witnessing efforts?
   a. Romans 1:18
   b. Romans 1:19-20
   c. Romans 3:10-11, 23
   d. Romans 5:6-10
   e. Romans 6:23
   f. Romans 10:9, 13

6. To whom should we begin witnessing and how far does our responsibility for witnessing extend? (Mark 5:19; Acts 1:8; Matthew 28:19-20):

   __________________________________________________________________________
1. What is the general progression of God’s plan of salvation (Romans 8:29-30): ___________________________

2. According to the following Bible verses, briefly describe a few of the steps in the process of salvation:
   a. Ephesians 2:1; John 3:3,5 ___________________________
   b. John 16:8; 1 Corinthians 12:3 ___________________________
   c. John 6:44,65; Matt 11:27 ___________________________
   d. Romans 10:17; Ephesians 1:12-13 ___________________________
   e. 2 Timothy 2:25; 1 John 5:20 ___________________________
   f. Ephesians 2:8-9; Gal 2:16 ___________________________
   g. John 6:37-40; Philippians 1:6; 1 Peter 1:5 ___________________________

3. When God freed us from being slaves to sin, what did we become? (Romans 6:5-6,18): ___________________________

4. What are two reasons God inspired the letter of 1 John to be written? (1 John 5:13; see also John 20:31): ________________

5. What can separate us from the love of God which is in Christ? (Romans 8:35-39): ___________________________


7. Look up the word “witness” in a dictionary and write out a brief definition: ___________________________

8. For what should we pray in preparing to witness? (Acts 4:29; Luke 10:2; Col 4:3): ___________________________

9. What happens when Christians fail to witness or to share their testimony? (2 Corinthians 4:3-4): ___________________________

**Salvation Mathematic Equation**

How long would it take one local body of believers to save the following populations if that one local body of believers begins with only 1,000 members whose faithful obedience to the “Great Commission” results in God’s “increase” causing each member’s witness to add just two new members in a saving relationship with Jesus Christ each year?

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Population</th>
<th>Estimated Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>World Population: 6,882,573,081 6.9 billion</td>
<td>less than 15 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>US Population: 310,741,672 310.7 million</td>
<td>less than 12 years</td>
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<td>Florida Population: 18,537,969 18.5 million</td>
<td>less than 9 years</td>
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<td>Jacksonville Population: 813,518 813.5 thousand</td>
<td>less than 7 years</td>
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*Population statistics as of November 19, 2010*
Some have said witnessing is as simple as: (i) following Christ, who promises to make us fishers of men; (ii) walking in the power of the Holy Spirit, through whom we can proclaim the Gospel Truth boldly in the Lord; and (iii) sharing the ABCs of Salvation, which can be summarized as follows (Matt 4:19; Gal 2:20; 5:16; Acts 14:3; 1 Pet 3:15):

**A – ACKNOWLEDGE** that you are a sinner incapable of doing anything to save yourself from the wrath that God has promised to pour out upon all ungodliness and unrighteousness who are without excuse and whose works of righteousness are filthy rags before God (Rom 1:18-20; 3:10-11,23; Isa 64:6; see also Acts 3:19).

**B – BELIEVE** that, despite being a sinner and enemy of God, God so loved you that He sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to die for you, justify you by His blood, save you from God’s wrath, reconcile you back to God by the substitutionary death of His Son and keep you saved by the resurrected and atoning life of His Son. (Rom 4:24-25; 5:6-10; 6:23; 2 Cor 5:21; 1 Pet 1:18-21; John 3:16,36; 1 John 4:7-19; see also Mark 1:15).

**C – CONFESS** with your mouth the LORD Jesus Christ, the only name by which we must be saved, and believe in your heart that God has raised Jesus from the dead to declare Him the only way of salvation, and you shall be saved and become a child of God the Father, joint-heir with God the Son and temple of God the Holy Spirit (Rom 1:4; 8:1-18; 10:9,13; Phil 2:5-11; John 14:6,16-17; Acts 4:12; Col 1:26-27; 1 John 5:9-13).
LESSON 6 – MY PERSONAL TESTIMONY

("... and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you ... 1 Peter 3:15")

Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, has promised that, if we would only follow Him, He would make us fishers of men and, next to the Gospel of Christ, one of the most powerful tools used by effective fishers of men is their personal testimony (Matt 4:19; Rom 1:16). Like the formerly blind man who – testifying of his healing at the hands of Jesus Christ – said, “...one thing I know, that, whereas I was blind, now I see,” your personal testimony should be a simple statement of how Christ has changed your life (John 9:25). Like the Apostle Paul’s testimony of Acts Chapter 22, your personal testimony, at a minimum, should include a brief statement of your: (i) life before salvation (Acts 22:3-5; Phil 3:3-6); (ii) salvation experience (Acts 22:6-13); and (iii) life after salvation (Acts 22:14-15; 1 Cor 15:1-10; Phil 3:7-17). Organize and sharpen your personal testimony by thinking it through, writing it down and praying that God will give you boldness and opportunities to share it.

EXAMPLE: PAUL’S TESTIMONY

Paul’s Life before Salvation

Acts 22:3 – I am verily a man which am a Jew, born in Tarsus, a city in Cilicia, yet brought up in this city at the feet of Gamaliel, and taught according to the perfect manner of the law of the fathers, and was zealous toward God, as ye all are this day. 4 And I persecuted this way unto the death, binding and delivering into prisons both men and women. 5 As also the high priest doth bear me witness, and all the estate of the elders: from whom also I received letters unto the brethren, and went to Damascus, to bring them which were there bound unto Jerusalem, for to be punished (see also Phil 3:5-6).

Paul’s Salvation Experience

Acts 22:6 – And it came to pass, that, as I made my journey, and was come nigh unto Damascus about noon, suddenly there shone from heaven a great light round about me. 7 And I fell unto the ground, and heard a voice saying unto me, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me? 8 And I answered, Who art thou, Lord? And he said unto me, I am Jesus of Nazareth, whom thou persecutest. 9 And they that were with me saw indeed the light, and were afraid; but they heard not the voice of him that spake to me. 10 And I said, What shall I do, Lord? And the Lord said unto me, Arise, and go into Damascus; and there it shall be told thee of all things which are appointed for thee to do (see also Acts 26:12-18).

Paul’s Life after Salvation

Acts 26:19 – … I was not disobedient unto the heavenly vision: 20 But shewed first unto them of Damascus, and at Jerusalem, and throughout all the coasts of Judaea, and then to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, and do works meet for repentance.

Philippians 3:5 – Circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, an Hebrew of the Hebrews; as touching the law, a Pharisee; 6 Concerning zeal, persecuting the church; touching the righteousness which is in the law, blameless. 7 But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. 8 Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ, 9 And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith: 10 That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death; 11 If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead.
# MY PERSONAL TESTIMONY

(… and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you … 1 Peter 3:15)

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Will Your Circles Be Unbroken?
(based upon a lesson prepared and taught by Chris Coram of NJBC)

Regardless of our station in life, each of us has multiple spheres or circles of spiritual influence, the people in which are more likely to listen and respond effectively to our Christian witness than to anyone else’s. Inasmuch as the life we live may be the only “Bible” ever read by those within our multiple spheres or circles of influence, Almighty God likely considers and, perhaps, has assigned these spheres or circles to us as our primary “mission fields,” to which Jesus Christ has commanded that we cultivate first before trying to extend our Christian witness to the “ends” of the earth (see Mark 5:19; Acts 1:8; 2 Cor 3:1-3; Matt 28:18-20). “What are these spheres or circles in which we have such a spiritual influence,” you may ask. Good question, the answers to which are:

According to Luke Chapter 5, when Jesus called / saved Matthew or Levy, the tax collector, he made Jesus a “great feast in his own house,” to which he invited all those within his spheres or circles of spiritual influence in order that he might introduce them to Jesus (Matt 5:29). The “feast” notwithstanding, we should all take a page out of Matthew’s book and seize every opportunity that presents itself to introduce all those we know or come in contact with to Jesus, such that, when we get to heaven, our spheres or circles of spiritual influence will not be broken. Therefore, as we “GO” about our daily lives, let us share our testimony – in word and in deed – with those like our family, friends, neighbors, bosses, co-workers, prospects, beauticians, barbers and even our enemies, endeavoring to plant and water the “seed” of God holy Word and praying that He will give the increase unto salvation, sanctification and glorification (Matt 28:19-20; 1 Cor 3:6-7; Rom 8:29-30). How do we do this? Simply share your: (i) life before salvation; (ii) salvation experience; and (iii) life after salvation. Also, intercede in prayer on behalf of the lost, trusting that God will take care of the rest (2 Pet 3:9; 1 John 5:14-13).
Will Your Circles Be Unbroken?
(based upon a lesson prepared and taught by Chris Coram of NJBC)

Take a minute or two to think about and include below the initials, acronyms, or symbols of those within your spheres or circle of spiritual influence and indicate whether or not you KNOW – to the fullest extend you can know – whether or not they are saved (see Matt 7:13-27). If there is any doubt in your mind as to their salvation, consider them lost until your doubt has been erased. For all those you indicated as not being saved, ask God to orchestrate an opportunity to carefully and graciously share with them your three-minute testimony, which again simply includes the succinct facts of your: (i) life before salvation; (ii) salvation experience; and (iii) life after salvation (see also “Witnessing 101” of Lesson 6). As Christians, we MUST realize that we enjoy the wonderful privilege that God has chosen to use us as vessels of honor in His plan of salvation, not that we are responsible for saving anyone, but we are responsible for witnessing to everyone that God gives us an opportunity.

Jude 1:20 – “But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost, 21 Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life. 22 And of some have compassion, making a difference: 23 And others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh.”

2 Corinthians 5:11 – “Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men … .”

2 Peter 3:9 – “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. 10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up. 11 Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons OUGHT ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness.”
1. How is the Bible profitable for us? See Bold Text Below (“Grow in Grace and Knowledge of Christ”-2 Pet 3:18)
   - 2 Tim 3:16 – All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.
   - Psa 19:7 – The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple. The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes.
   - Psa 119:11 – Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.
   - Psa 119:165 – Great peace have they which love thy law: and nothing shall offend them (see Isa 26:3; Phil 4:7).
   - Rom 1:16 – For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek (2 Tim 3:15; see also Luke 16:29-31 – Salvation is from faith in the Word, not emotion).
   - John 8:32 – And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free (see John 17:17 – “Sanctified” by the Word).

2. How should we receive Bible truth and what should we do with what we learn? HEAR the Word, RECEIVE it as the Word of God and not of man, KEEP it, be DOERS of it and TEACH it to our children (Ex. Cell Phones)
   - 1 Thes 2:13 – For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the Word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the Word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe (John 17:17; see Gal 1:11 – Paul’s received Revelation of Christ; Rev 21:5 – John received Revelation of Christ).
   - Luke 11:28 – But he said, Yea rather, blessed are they that hear the Word of God, and keep It (see Rom 10:17).
   - James 1:22 – But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves (1 John 3:18; see also 1 Sam 15:22 – To obey is better than sacrifice).
   - Deut 6:6 – And these Words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: 7 And thou shalt teach them diligently unto the children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up (Psa 22:6 – Train your children and when they are old they will not depart (Phil 1:6)).

3. What is represented by the three types of soil that can hinder the “SEED” of Bible truth from bearing fruit in our lives?
   See Below:
   (i) The Devil – (Way Side / Fowl of the Air; see 2 Cor 4:3-4)
   (ii) Cares – (Rocks; see James 1:13-15)
   (iii) Temptations – (Thorns; see Matt 6:25-34; 1 Tim 6:6-19; Rom 1:28-32)
   - Luke 8:11 Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. 12 Those by the way side are they that hear; then cometh the Devil, and taketh away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved. 13 They on the rock are they, which, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, which for a while believe, and in time of Temptation fall away. 14 And that which fell among thorns are they, which, when they have heard, go forth, and are choked with Cares and Riches and Pleasures of this life, and bring no fruit to perfection. 15 But that on the good ground are they, which in an honest and good heart, having heard the word, keep it, and bring forth fruit with patience (see Matt 7:24-27; but see Luke 11:28; Matt 6:33; Prov 30:7-9 – Pursue righteousness, not just happiness; 1 John 2:19 – never saved).

4. How often should we study the Bible? Meditate on the Bible DAY and NIGHT (should become a lifestyle)
   Jos 1:8 – This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.
   Psa 1:2 – But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.
   Acts 17:10 – And the brethren immediately sent away Paul and Silas by night unto BEREAN: who coming thither went into the synagogue of the Jews. These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.

* God intends for His holy Word to be our “DAILY” diet and not just an occasional or holiday feast.
* Treat God’s Word like you treat your cell phone; Always have it with you by studying it and hiding it in your heart (Psa 119:11).
5. What are a few things NorthJax believes about God? **See Bold Text Below:**

- **Deuteronomy 6:4** – Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD:
- **Isaiah 44:6** – Thus saith the LORD the King of Israel, and His redeemer the LORD of hosts; **I am the first, and I am the last; and beside me there is no God** (see Rev 1:8,11,17-18, 22:12-13).
- **1 Tim 3:16** – And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: **God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory (John 1:1-14)**; see also Acts 5:3,5,9.
- **John 6:44** – No one can come to Me (Jesus), except the Father which hath sent Me draw him; and I will raise him up in the last days (see also John 1:12-13; 6:65; Matt 11:27; Rom 3:10-11; 1 Cor 12:3).

6. What are a few things NorthJax believes about Jesus? **Jesus Christ is the GOD / MAN, the ONLY way of Salvation**

- **John 8:58** – Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, **I AM** (see John 8:24).
  * see Exo 3:14; John 1:1-5,14, 10:30, 18:5-6
- **Luke 1:34** – Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man? **35And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God (Luke 3:21-22; Mark 9:7; Isa 7:14).**
- **Romans 4:25** – [Jesus] was **delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification.**
- **John 14:6** – Jesus saith unto him, **I am the WAY, the TRUTH, and the LIFE: no man cometh unto the Father, but by Me** (see Matt 11:27).
- **Acts 4:12** – Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is **none other name** under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved (see 1 John 5:9-12).

7. What are a few things NorthJax believes about the Holy Spirit? **Holy Spirit is God, Abide With and In Believers, and Guides us in All Truth and Seals us in Christ** (see **Rom 8:9**; Acts 5:3,4,9; see **John 17:11-12**

- **John 14:16** – And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that He may abide with you for ever: **17Even 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** (see Acts 5:3,5,9; see generally 2 Thes 2:7, about Holy Spirit being taken out of the way).
- **John 16:13** – Howbeit when He, the Spirit of truth, is come, He will guide you into all truth: for He shall not speak of Himself; but whatsoever He shall hear, that shall He speak: and He will shew you things to come (see 1 Cor 2:10-14; 1 John 2:27).
- **Ephesians 4:30** – And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption (Eph 1:13-14).

8. What are a few things NorthJax believes characterize a healthy Church? **See Bold Text Below:**

a. **Hebrews 10:25** – Do not forsake the assembling of ourselves together (physically in the presence of other believers regularly)
c. **Hebrews 13:7,17; 1 Thes 5:12-13** – Esteem highly and obey church elders in the Lord, who will give an account to God: **be at peace with one another** (so that the Pastor / Elders may be able to focus on studying and feeding the flock).
d. **1 Cor 12:25-26; Phil 2:1-4** – No schism; care for one another and esteem others before yourself – **Selfless, not Selfish . . .**
e. **Eph 4:11-16** – Use gifts and ministries not for our own glory but for the **Edification of the Church** that we not be tossed to and fro but that we may grow in Christ (see **1 Cor 14:4**).

Extra – What are some reasons for why it is necessary to study the Bible?

- To increase in spiritual understanding (see John 17:3,17).
- To increase awareness, appreciation and dependency on the things of God.
- To increase our faith in and prayers to the Lord.
- To increase spiritual development through spiritual nourishment and protection.
- To increase discernment and recognition of false doctrine and sin (1 Cor 2:10-14).
- To increase in wisdom and in the ability to live and teach God’s Word (2 Tim 3:15-17).
E X T R A C R E D I T A N S W E R S  
Independent Study on Salvation & Evangelism

1. What is the general progression of God’s plan of salvation? **God Foreknew, Predestinated, Called, Justified and Glorified His Children** (past-tensed, as if already “finished” or “done” – John 19:30; Rev 21:6; Rom 4:17)

   ● Romans 8:29 – For whom He did foreknow, He also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. 8Moreover whom He did predestinate, them He also called: and whom He called, them He also justified: and whom He justified, them He also glorified (Eph 1:3-14; 2 Thes 2:13-14; Phil 1:6; Heb 12:2; 1 John 3:2).

2. According to the following Bible verses, briefly describe a few of the steps in the process of salvation:
   a. **Quickened, Given Life, or Born-Again by the Holy Spirit** (Eph 2:1; John 3:3,5)
   b. **Conviction and Knowledge of the “Lord” Jesus Christ by the Holy Spirit** (John 16:8; 1 Cor 12:3)
   c. **Drawn to the Son by the Father; Drawn to the Father by the Son** (John 6:44,65; Matt 11:27)
   d. **Hear the Word of God / Gospel of our Salvation** (Rom 10:17; Eph 1:12-13; see Mark 9:7)
   e. **Receive the “Gifts” of Repentance and Faith from God** (2 Tim 2:25; 1 John 5:20; see 2 Pet 1:1; John 6:29)
   f. **Receive the “Gift” of Salvation by God’s Grace through the Faith of Jesus Christ** (Eph 2:8-9; see Gal 2:16)
   g. **God “Completes” and “Keeps” Us** (Phil 1:6; 1 Peter 1:5; see Heb 12:2; John 6:37-40)

3. When God freed us from slavery to sin, what did we become? **Slaves of Righteousness**

   ● Romans 6:5 – For if we have been planted together in the likeness of His death, we shall be also in the likeness of His resurrection: 6Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. ... 8Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness (actually “SLAVES”; 1 Cor 6:19-20).

4. What are two reasons God inspired the letter of 1 John to be written? **That we might “BELIEVE” and “KNOW” we have Eternal Life (Blessed Assurance . . .)**

   ● 1 John 5:13 – These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God (1 John 5:11-12; Mark 9:7; John 6:66-69).
   ● John 20:31 – But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through His name (see Acts 4:12; Rom 10:13).

5. What can separate us from the love of God which is in Christ? Absolutely NOTHING!

   ● Romans 8:35 – Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? 36As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. 37Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him that loved us. 38For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, 39Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord (John 6:37-40, 10:27-29).

6. Of what should a Christian witness’ testimony consist? **What we have SEEN and HEARD** (see 1 Pet 3:15)

   ● 1 John 1:3 – 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 (1 Pet 3:15 – “BE READY” to give an answer for your faith).
   ● Acts 22:14 – And he said, The God of our fathers hath chosen thee, that thou shouldest know His will, and see that Just One, and shouldest hear the voice of His mouth. 15For thou shalt be His witness unto all men of what thou hast seen and heard.

7. Look up the word “witness” in a dictionary and write out a brief definition:

   “One who can give a **firsthand account of something seen, heard, or experienced**” (thefreedictionary.com)

8. For what should we pray in preparation for witnessing? **Boldness, Door of Opportunity and Laborers in the Harvest** (don’t be threatened by the antagonism of the audience; be emboldened by the good news of the Gospel of Christ and the Spirit)

   ● Acts 4:29 – And now, Lord, behold their threatenings: and grant unto thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak thy word (see Luke 12:11-12; Eph 6:19-20; again, consider the disciples – cowards at the Crucifixion but bold at Pentecost).
• **Colossians 4:3** – Withal praying also for us, that God would open unto us a door of utterance, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in bonds: (should also pray that God make the hearts of those to whom we witness fertile ground).

• **Luke 10:2** – Therefore said [Jesus] unto them, The harvest truly is great, but the labourers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that He would send forth labourers into His harvest (beginning with self for we are all called to witness).

9. What happens when Christians fail to witness or share their testimony? **The Gospel is HID from the Lost**

• **2 Corinthians 4:3** – But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: 4In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them (but see Ezek 3:18-19; 33:7-9; **Matt 7:6** – Give not that which is holy to dogs, neither cast ye your pearls before swine . . .”).

* As “Living Epistles” of Christ, we are often the first and/or only Bible people will get to read (see also 2 Cor 3:2-3; Matt 5:16).

* Remember, before they will ever see a need to be saved, they must first see that they are lost (Ex. Woman at the Well)

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**TARGETED BIBLE STUDY**

The best way to read and interpret the Bible is by way of the “Synthesis Principle,” which the Reformers called **Analogia Scriptura**, i.e., all of Scripture comes together and no part will contradict another part. Hence, the Bible is its best concordance because **Scripture is best interpreted by Scripture**. Please consider this simple diagram of concentric circles to understand that the context of every verse must harmonize with what is contained in the surrounding **PARAGRAPH, CHAPTER, BOOK**, other books written through the same **AUTHOR** and the rest of the **BIBLE**.