

ENGRAFTED WORD CHURCH CHRISTIANITY 101

- Lesson 1- Engrafted Word Church History
- Lesson 2- The Authority of God's Word
- Lesson 3- The Creation of Man and His Threefold Nature
- Lesson 4-The Salvation of God: Man's Fall and Redemption
- Lesson 5-Sin, Repentance, Forgiveness, and Sanctification
- Lesson 6-The Church: What It Is and Why You Should Go!
- Lesson 7-The Fruit of The Spirit: The Testimony of a Christian
- Lesson 8-Evangelism and World Outreach
- Lesson 9-The Gifts of The Spirit (aka Manifestations of the Spirit)
- Lesson 10-Communion: The Celebration of the Lord's Supper
- Lesson 11-Tithes and Offerings
- Lesson 12-Divine Healing and Divine Health
- Lesson 13-The Doctrine of Baptisms
- Lesson 14-The Rapture (aka The Catching Away of the Saints)

CHRISITIANITY 101
New Members/New Believers Class
Lesson 1
EWC Church History and Vision

Our Church's History

- Pastor Kenneth Vaughn, founded Engrafted Word Church in 1983 under the name, Cookeville Christian Fellowship. The theme verse for the new church was **James 1:21:**
 - **Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls.**
- Pastor Vaughn was raised a Methodist but wasn't saved until he was 21. He was saved supernaturally while driving home from a bar early one Sunday morning. He briefly co-pastored a Baptist church until they asked him to leave due to doctrinal differences. Many of the church members had begun to seek him out in private for healing and the baptism of the Holy Spirit.
- God led Pastor Vaughn to move to Tulsa, OK to attend Rhema Bible Training Center in 1981. Upon graduation in 1983, he and his family returned to Cookeville to start our church. He was 25 years old.
- Pastor Vaughn started the church with the mandate to "teach my people about the move of the Holy Spirit." This was truly a pioneering work for our region in 1983.
- The Church was founded in the basement of his home, and then quickly moved to the back of Cornerstone Christian Bookstore.
- After a few months of services in the back of Cornerstone Christian Bookstore, the storefront next door became available and the church moved into it. This allowed the church to have 3,000 sq. ft. to call its own.
- By 1988, the church had outgrown its current location and needed to expand again. Not wanting to move locations, Pastor Vaughn looked to lease the storefront adjacent to its existing location, which had just become available, and connect the two spaces. However, the local business association was already unhappy with a church residing in a local storefront and so was further irritated at the church's desire to expand and take even more historic property. They moved against the church politically, even having meetings to discuss what could be done to blockade the church's expansion. One weekday in prayer service Pastor Vaughn directed the members in attendance to lay hands on the wall the two buildings shared and shout at the wall to come down. The church took possession of the property a few weeks later in June of 1988. It had been a two-year battle. This expanded the church's facilities to 12,000 sq. ft. Our sanctuary has been in the same place ever since.
- At least five businesses that had actively lobbied against the church's expansion soon went out of business. Over the years, several other hostile businesses have also failed or experienced the death of their owners. Today we enjoy great favor with our local businesses.

- The church enjoyed many years of revival, missionary trips, salvations, miracles, signs and wonders, praise and worship, and church growth.
- Pastor Chris began attending Cookeville Christian Fellowship in April of 1996 as a college student at Tennessee Tech. He attended for 3 years before moving away upon graduating college.
- Pastor Chris moved back to Cookeville and CCF in May of 2005 after cancelling a move to the Philippines.
- Pastor Vaughn passed away of cancer in April 2007.
- Pastor Chris McMichael and his wife, Manda, were set in as pastors in October 2007.
- In 2010, after a painful three-year healing process from the death of Pastor Vaughn, in order to give the church a fresh start, Pastor Chris renamed the church. To honor Pastor Vaughn, the church was renamed Engrafted Word Church, a reference to our theme verse, James 1:21.
- In 2013 the Lord spoke to Pastor Chris to “expand the tent of your habitation” and purchase the entire corner block. From the Bookstore to the Toy Store and the parking directly behind the buildings. This expanded the church’s facilities to 18,000 sq. ft. Fifteen thousand feet are used for the church and 3,000 feet are used as a rental property.
- In October of 2013, we remodeled the Toy Store facility.
- In February 2014, we began an 8-month remodeling project of what is now the Kids’ Wing. This combined the old Bookstore storefront with the original church storefront, to create a 6,000 sq. ft. facility for our children’s ministry.

Our Church’s Vision

- Engrafted Word Church has a vision to evangelize our World for Jesus Christ, beginning first with Cookeville and the Upper Cumberland Region.
- We endeavor to make disciples for Jesus out of these converts by teaching them to observe everything that Jesus and the epistles teach.
- We desire to see the saints of God raised up and trained in the uncompromised Word of God so that they may live victorious lives and be blameless in a corrupt and wicked generation. We endeavor to train every Christian to help and serve in the local church, thus finding and fulfilling the call of God upon their life.
- We have a vision for raising up men and women who are called to the fivefold ministry (**Ephesians 4:11**), training them to minister and flow with the Holy Spirit as a ministry gift given to perfect the body of Christ. We endeavor to raise these ministers up and send them out into their own ministry for the glory of God.
- We have a strong heart and vision for world missions. Pastor Chris has the strong conviction that every Christian should take at least one short-term mission trip in their lifetime.
- We desire to raise the standard in every area of life and godliness, promoting the spirit of excellence, doing all things as unto the LORD.
- We endeavor to be a Spirit-filled, Spirit-led ministry, allowing the Holy Spirit of God to direct every facet of every service.

- We have a vision to start new churches in our region by raising up strong teams to be part of these future church plants.

Misc.

- We have numerous departments within our church. We encourage every believer/member to find a department that appeals to them and begin to actively serve in that area. We call this the ministry of Helps. Every Christian is called to be a servant and the various departments will provide you an opportunity to fulfill this call.
- Ministry departments include: street evangelism, security, ushering, bed babies, toddlers, children's church, Royal Rangers, Missionettes, youth, television, sound, praise and worship, jail ministry, nursing home, maintenance, cleaning, and hospitality.

Welcome to Engrafted Word Church!!

CHRISTIANITY 101

Lesson 2

The Authority of God's Word

As Christians, we base our doctrine and faith on the Bible, God's holy scriptures. We believe the Bible is God-breathed and God-inspired.

The Bible is our guide, our law, our light, our lamp, and our standard. It gives us vision and inspiration. The Bible provides all believers with the same basis of faith. If we cannot agree the Bible is God's Word spoken to us, then we will be tossed to and fro with all types of bizarre and devilish doctrine. The Word of God is our anchor and foundation.

- **Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.**
2 Peter 1:20,21

- **And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. 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, throughly furnished unto all good works.**
2 Timothy 3:15-17

- **For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.** **Matthew 5:18**

The Word of God has two forms: the spoken (*rhema*) word and the written (*logos*) word. The Bible is God's spoken word written down and recorded for us. We are to take the written word, write it upon our heart and then speak it into the earth. God promises that His word will not return unto Him void, but it will accomplish everything that He sends it to accomplish (**Isaiah 55:11**).

WHAT GOD'S WORD ACCOMPLISHES

- It SAVES us: **1 Peter 1:23**
- It HEALS us: **Psalms 107:20**
- It CLEANSSES us: **John 15:3, Ephesians 5:26**
- It brings PEACE to us: **John 16:33, Acts 10:36**
- It provides FAITH to us: **John 4:41, Romans 10:8, 17**
- It CASTS out devils: **Matthew 8:16**
- It JUDGES us: **John 12:48, Hebrews 4:12**
- It makes us WISE: **2 Timothy 3:15**
- It PROVIDES DOCTRINE: **2 Peter 1:20,21; 2 Timothy 3:15-17**

EVERYTHING MUST OBEY THE WORD OF GOD

Because God's word contains His power and authority (**Hebrews 1:3**), everything created must obey it and line up with it.

- Weather: **1 Kings 17:1, 18:41-46**
- Animals: **Genesis 9:2; 2 Kings 2:24**
- Demons: **Luke 8:29, Mark 5:1-20**
- Sickness: **Matthew 8:3, Mark 2:10,11**
- Trees: **Luke 17:5,6; Matthew 21:19**
- Mountains: **Isaiah 41:15, Mark 11:22-24**
- Angels: **Psalms 103:20; 1 Peter 3:22**
- Finances: **Matthew 17:27**
- Our souls: **James 1:21**

BIBLE PROBABILITY AND STATISTICS

- J. Barton Payne's *Encyclopedia Of Biblical Prophecies* lists 1,239 Old Testament prophecies and 578 New Testament prophecies. Total: 1,817 prophecies.
- Over 300 prophecies deal with the LORD Jesus Christ.
- The chances of one man fulfilling 8 prophecies is about 1/100 trillion.
- The chances of one man fulfilling 48 prophecies is 1x10E157.
- Jesus Christ of Nazareth fulfilled every prophecy.

CHRISTIANITY 101 Lesson 3 The Creation of Man and His Threefold Nature

God created man. Man is not the result of evolution; macro, micro, or natural selection. Man is God's finest creation.

Scriptures: **Genesis 1:26-28, Psalm 8:3-9**

GOD CREATED MAN AS A THREE-PART BEING

- **And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.**
1 Thessalonians 5:23
- **For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.**
Hebrews 4:12

Man is a **spirit**, he possesses a **soul**, and he lives in a **body**.

1. **Man is a spirit.** You are a spirit being (**Proverbs 20:27**). Your spirit man is the real you. God has breathed into all people the "breath of life" (**Genesis 2:7, John 1:9**). This "breath of life" is our spirit man.

We are made in God's image and after His likeness (**Genesis 1:26**). Part of God's image and likeness is *spirit*. God is a Spirit (**John 4:24**) and He has made man to be a spirit as well. The New Testament often refers to our spirit man as our inner man.

The spirit of man is what will live forever. The spirit of man is the part of man that must "be born again." The spirit of man is the part of man that becomes a new creation in Christ Jesus (**2 Corinthians 5:17**). All people, whether Christian or heathen non-believers will live forever because spirits are eternal. Born again spirits get to go to Heaven. Dead spirits must go to Hell.

Scriptures: **Job 32:8, 1 Corinthians 6:20, Ephesians 3:16**

2. **Man possesses a soul.** You have been given a soul (**James 1:21**). Your soul can be further broken down into three parts: your **mind**, your **will**, and your **emotions**. Once you become a Christian, you must begin to apply the Bible to your soul. Your soul is your stewardship and responsibility. Just because you are a Christian doesn't mean your mind will think properly or godly. Just because you are saved doesn't mean your will is submitted to God's will. And just because you are a new creature in Christ Jesus doesn't mean you know how to properly use your emotions. The

process of training your mind, will, and emotions to conform to God's Word is what the Bible calls "the saving of your soul" (**James 1:21**).

- 3. Man dwells in a body.** Christians too often put this part first. Often, our bodies are more real to us than our spirit man. One day we will all put off our bodies and pass into eternity. (You only get one body so take good care of it.) Dr. Lester Sumrall once said, "Your spirit man should be king, your soul should be your servant, and your body should be your slave." We often reverse those.

As Christians, our bodies now belong to God, because they are the temple of His Holy Spirit. Therefore, it is not ours to use as we please (**1 Corinthians 3:16,17**), but should be presented to Him for His use as He sees fit (**Romans 12:1**). We must work to keep our body and its desires under (**1 Corinthians 9:27**). Our bodies contain the sin nature with all of its evil appetites. If we feed the evil appetites, we will develop a monster. If we starve the evil appetites, we will succeed in suppressing the same monster.

Scriptures: **1 Thessalonians 4:3,4; Romans 7:14-25; 2 Timothy 2:19-22**

CHRISTIANITY 101

Lesson 4

The Salvation of God: Man's Fall and Redemption

God's perfect will is for man to have constant and continuous fellowship with Him. This has been His will from the beginning. God had fellowship with Adam in the garden (**Genesis 1:29, 2:16**). Satan did not like to see God fellowshiping with His finest creation. (We can safely assume there was an element of jealousy in the heart of Satan.) So Satan deceived the woman and she gave the fruit unto her husband and he ate it, resulting in sin. This act of disobedience caused them to die spiritually and lose fellowship with God.

SIN IS REBELLION AGAINST GOD'S WORD

The word **sin** means *to miss the mark*. The mark we are to aim for is God's Word. Sin is anything violating God's holy Word. This is why it is so critical to study the Bible and to know what God has commanded and what He is expecting from us as His children.

- **And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die. Genesis 2:16,17**

This is the first commandment God ever gave to man. To disobey it was rebellion and sin. When Adam and Eve ate the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, they disobeyed God. They missed the mark. They sinned.

SIN BRINGS DEATH AND SEPARATION

Sin brings separation from God. The penalty for violating the commandments of God is death, for the wages or paycheck of sin is death (**Romans 6:23**). And certainly, they died instantly. They did not die in their physical bodies; they died spiritually. It took them over 900 years to physically die, but instantly they died in their spirits. Because they died spiritually, they lost the glory of God and found themselves naked, they lost fellowship with God, they lost their home in His garden, and things were made very difficult for them (**Genesis 3:15-24**) until the day they died their physical deaths.

THE SIN NATURE IS OUR INHERITANCE FROM ADAM

Through Adam's transgression sin entered mankind. Every child born into the earth has a sinful nature and because of this sin nature, death is inevitable.

- **For if through the offence of one many be dead . . . Romans 5:15a**
- **Now then it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me. For I know that in me (that is in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: Romans 7:17,18a**

God knew Adam would fail through sin causing death to enter the world. In order to redeem man from sin, God prepared a savior so he could once again have fellowship with man and be with him for eternity.

- **And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.**
Genesis 3:15

This is the first prophecy in the Bible speaking of the coming Redeemer, sent to crush the head of the serpent.

MAN'S REDEMPTION MUST BE SPIRIT-BASED

Because man is a spirit and because man dies spiritually when he sins the first time, man must be redeemed spiritually. A man must receive salvation inwardly, not merely a change in the flesh. Jesus said the flesh profits nothing (**John 6:63**), it is the Spirit that makes us alive. A dead spirit must be born again. This is the salvation of God: to be born again, not of corruptible seed but of the incorruptible Word of God (**1 Peter 1:23**). Outwardly good works can never revive nor give life to a dead spirit. Only the Spirit who raised Christ from the dead can raise a dead spirit to life again (**Romans 8:11**).

IT ONLY TAKES ONE SIN

It only takes one sin to die spiritually and go to hell.

- **For I was alive without the law once: but when the commandment came, sin revived, and I died.**
Romans 7:9

But Jesus became sin for us that we might be made righteous.

- **For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.**
2 Corinthians 5:21

SALVATION: ONLY A CALL AWAY

- **That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.**
Romans 10:9

Salvation has already been paid for, but it is obtained by believing in your heart and confessing with your mouth.

JESUS REDEEMED US FROM THE CURSE OF THE LAW

Until Jesus came, we were under the Law of Moses. This law came with a curse. If you didn't obey the law, curses came upon you for being wicked. But Jesus redeemed us from this curse.

- **Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree: That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith. Galatians 3:13,14**

This curse was threefold: spiritual death, sickness, and poverty (**Deuteronomy 28**). Jesus' death upon the tree (the cross) redeemed us from eternal death and separation from God. It redeemed us from all sickness and disease, and it redeemed us from poverty and lack.

Scriptures: **Psalm 103:2,3; 1 Peter 2:24, Philippians 4:19, Psalm 35:27**

CHRISTIANITY 101 Lesson 5 Sin, Repentance, Forgiveness, and Sanctification

Sin is defined as *missing the mark*. God's Word is the mark; therefore sin is anything violating or contrary to God's Word. His Word is Truth (**John 17:17**).

Once someone is born again in their spirit, they can no longer commit sin out of their spirit (**1 John 3:9**). The sin nature abides in the flesh (**Romans 7:15-24**) and will be there until our body dies. Corruption must put on incorruption (**1 Corinthians 15:50-54**).

We will continue to sin after we have made Jesus our Savior and Lord because there is a sin nature in our flesh and there is a tempter in the earth. We must remember God does not tempt us, but it is our own lust tempting us.

- **Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man: But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed.**

James 1:13,14

Every Christian sins, even the best ones. Do not allow condemnation to swallow you alive (**Romans 8:1**). Instead, confess your sins, get them out in the open before God and go on with God. Jesus does not condemn you, He advocates for you.

- **If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:**

1 John 1:9, 2:1

REPENTANCE VS. FORGIVENESS

There is a difference between forgiveness and repentance. Many Christians call "receiving forgiveness"- repentance. They are not the same. There is actually a huge difference, but we need both.

Forgiveness is what you receive when you confess your sins to God and ask for forgiveness (**1 John 1:9**). It takes faith to receive forgiveness.

Repentance is what you do. Repentance means to change directions and never return (**Matthew 3:8**). If you have truly repented there should be the fruit of change in your life.

You can sin the same sin over and over again, and continually receive forgiveness. But if you are continuing to commit the same sin, you have not repented of the sin, you have only sought forgiveness for it. Let us seek forgiveness as we are seeking repentance.

HOW DO I REPENT?

1. **Hebrews 4:16**- Go boldly to God as soon as you sin so you may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need (you sinning is a time of need).
2. **1 John 1:9**- Confess your sin so you can receive forgiveness and be cleansed from your unrighteousness.
3. **2 Corinthians 10:5**- Bring into captivity the thoughts helping you down the path of sin.
4. **Romans 13:14**- Put on the Lord Jesus Christ and don't make any provision for the flesh. This includes friends, hobbies, appetites, etc. All of these can be provisions for the flesh.
5. **Hebrews 4:16**- When temptation comes, start over at #1. Go boldly to God in this time of need so you can obtain mercy and find grace to help you out of your temptation.

Repeat this process for several months or until this area of sin no longer registers in your life.

SANCTIFICATION

Sanctification is the process whereby you, with God's help, make yourself holy. This is the process of purification. It means to set something aside as dedicated unto God. This is a divine process and it takes work. It will change your hobbies, friends, entertainment, attire, language, thought-life, and even finances.

- **For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication: That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honour;**
1 Thessalonians 4:3,4

This is a process. It takes work, time, effort, repentance, Bible study, church attendance, and making your flesh serve you as a slave. You will have to become disciplined and deny your flesh the sinful things it craves.

- **But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.**
1 Corinthians 9:27

Other Scriptures: **2 Timothy 2:19-22; 1 Corinthians 1:2, Ephesians 5:26**

CHRISTIANITY 101

Lesson 6

The Church:

What It Is and Why You Should Go!

The Church of the LORD Jesus Christ is not a building. The Church can meet in a building, but the Church is not a building.

The Greek word for Church is *ekklesia*- *called out ones*.

Christians are “called out ones.” Christians make up the Church.

CALLED OUT FROM WHAT?

We have been called out from the world, sin, darkness, habits, and even customs. We are in this world but not of it (**John 17:14-16**) and we have been translated out of the kingdom of darkness into the kingdom of God’s dear Son (**Colossians 1:13**). *Ekklesia*, or church, also means *called out from a private secret life into a public meeting or fellowship*.

WHO BUILDS THE CHURCH?

Jesus said “Upon this rock will I build my church and the gates of Hell shall not prevail” (**Matthew 16:18**). Jesus builds the Church. He does the calling out. He adds to His Church. His Church is a worldwide Church—a universal Church.

The rock upon which He builds is the revelation from God that He, Jesus, is the Christ, the Son of the Living God. Any “church” not preaching Jesus as the Christ, the Son of the Living God, is not part of the real Church, though they may call themselves a church. The Church is built upon this revelation, Jesus Christ himself being the chief cornerstone.

THE UNIVERSAL CHURCH AND LOCAL CHURCHES

The Bible speaks of the Church in both *singular* and *plural* tenses. In the singular sense, the Church is also called the Body of Christ (**Colossians 1:18,24**). And the Church is subject to Christ (**Ephesians 5:24**). The Lord Jesus will present to Himself a glorious Church (**Ephesians 5:27**). These scriptures speak of the universal Church, but we also understand there are many local “churches.”

Each epistle or letter in the New Testament is written to a local church. These include the local church in Rome, Corinth, Galatia, Ephesus, Colosse, and Philippi. Paul even mentions a letter he wrote to the church at Laodicea. We know there was also a local church at Crete, where Titus was pastor. Also, in the Revelation, Jesus Himself addresses seven different churches: Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamos, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, and Laodicea. At the end of every passage the Lord Jesus states, “He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the **churches**.”

EVERY CHRISTIAN IS CALLED TO A LOCAL CHURCH

- **But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body [church], as it hath pleased him.**
1 Corinthians 12:18

Remember the Body of Christ is the Church. And Jesus sets the members in and where it has pleased Him. It is according to His will, not ours. Ultimately, where we go to church is not our choice, but God's. He does the setting and He knows where He wants all of His members to be.

- You must be planted (**Psalm 1:3**).
- Have a custom of church attendance (**Luke 4:16**).
- Rejoice at going to church (**Psalm 5:7; 26:8; 27:4**).
- Don't forsake the assembly of the saints (**Heb. 10:24-25, Acts 11:26**).

The local church is where you are fed the Word of God, receive your supply, increase, and receive encouragement.

- **From whom the whole body [church] fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body [church] unto the edifying of itself in love.**
Ephesians 4:16

The local church is where you receive safety, protection, and direction.

- **Obey them that have the rule [guide] over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.**
Hebrews 13:17

In the same way that individual body parts are important to making a body entire and effective, the members of a local church are just as important to insure the success of that church. "The eye cannot say to the hand, I have no need of thee . . ." (**1 Corinthians 12:21**). We cannot say we do not need the local church or other Christians. This contradicts God's Word. Nor can we say the "woods" or the "lake" is our church. This too, contradicts scripture.

CHRISTIANITY 101
Lesson 7
The Fruit of the Spirit:
The Testimony of a Christian

Every Christian is designed to bear fruit. This is how people will know you are alive and walking with Jesus. Jesus said you must habitually walk with Him to bear fruit.

- **Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. 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. John 15:4,5**

So what does Christian fruit look like?

- **But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. Galatians 5:22,23**

The fruit of the Spirit is God reproducing His character in us.

Love - The God kind of love (*agape*). This is thoroughly defined in **1 Corinthians 13:3-8**. This is the greatest of all the fruit of the Spirit.

Joy - The joy of the Lord is our strength (**Nehemiah 8:10**). Without joy we have no strength.

Peace - My peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth (**John 14:27**). Peace that passes all understanding (**Philippians 4:7**).

Longsuffering - *Patient endurance; the ability to put up with a situation; the ability to remain under*. God demonstrates this quality towards us and He has placed the same ability within us. This is different from patience.

Gentleness - Kindness; God demonstrates this toward man (**Titus 3:4**). The Lord looks forward to showing us His kindness during the ages to come (**Ephesians 2:7**).

Goodness- Uprightness of heart and life. Without Jesus, it is impossible to have goodness in you (**2 Thessalonians 1:11**). If God doesn't live in you, you can't possibly have the goodness of God in you.

Faith (Faithfulness)- Dependable, committed, loyal, constant, steadfast. The Holy Spirit works to make us as faithful as He is. If we believe not, yet he abideth faithful, he cannot deny himself (**2 Timothy 2:13**).

Meekness - Not weakness, but humility and teachability. The Spirit of God on the inside of us will make us humble and teachable. The Holy Spirit will work to make you look and act just like Jesus. Jesus was humble and teachable (**Hebrews 5:8**).

Temperance - Self-control, restraint, the ability to control your sensual appetites. You must possess this to gain the victory over your sinful nature (**1 Corinthians 9:27**).

These fruit glorify God and they testify of our walk with God.

- **You will know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles?**
Matthew 7:16

Just as natural fruit draws men and women to a tree to partake of it, so the Fruit of the Spirit is designed to draw them to the tree in your life (the cross) to partake of it. If you abide in Jesus, you will bear this fruit.

CHRISTIANITY 101 Lesson 8 Evangelism and World Outreach

WHAT IS EVANGELISM?

To **evangelize** means *to publish glad tidings*. Evangelism is telling people about what Jesus has done both in your life and for the world.

WHY DO WE EVANGELIZE?

We are commissioned and commanded by the Head of the Church, the Lord Jesus Christ, to “Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature” (**Mark 16:15**). The Gospel is God’s “glad tidings.” Jesus has come to save mankind from sin, hell, and the devil.

We are not only called to preach the Gospel but also to teach and make disciples.

- **Go ye therefore, and teach [make disciples] all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen. Matthew 28: 19,20**

This is the job of every Christian. No one is exempt.

- **But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth. Acts 1:8**

Jerusalem is our local area. Judea is our region or state. Samaria is the group of people we don’t like so much. The earth is all nations outside ours. We are indebted to tell all people about the glad tidings of Jesus Christ.

- We evangelize in order “to seek and save that which is lost” (**Luke 19:10**).
- We evangelize because God is not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance (**2 Peter 3:9b**).
- We evangelize because without the Gospel, man’s ignorance will cost him eternally (**Acts 17:30,31**).
- We evangelize because we are all called to do the work of an evangelist (**2 Tim. 4:5**).
- **For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things! Romans 10:13-15**

HOW DO WE EVANGELIZE?

You can share the Gospel of Jesus Christ by many means and methods:

- Door to door/one on one- **John 4:1-26, Acts 3:1-11; 8:30-40; 16:13-15**
- Public preaching- **Acts 17:22-32**
- Christian love and lifestyle- **Matthew 5:16, John 13:35, Galatians 5:22,23; Philippians 2:15, 1 Peter 3:16**

CHRISTIANITY 101
Lesson 9
The Gifts of the Spirit
(aka Manifestations of the Spirit)

- **But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal. For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit; To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit; To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another interpretation of tongues: But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will.**

1 Corinthians 12:7-11

What are commonly called “the gifts of the Spirit” can more accurately or biblically be referred to as “the manifestations of the Spirit.”

The Greek word for gift is *charisma*: *a grace deposit*. The “gifts of the Spirit” are not “grace deposits” but are rather manifestations. (For a limited list of “grace deposits” gifts look at **Romans 12:6-8**. i.e., prophecy (preach), ministry (serving), teaching, exhortation, giving, leadership, hospitality/mercy.)

These nine *gifts* of the Spirit are actions or manifestations or exhibitions of the Spirit of God. These manifestations of the Spirit are the Holy Spirit manifesting as He wills. We cannot turn the manifestations of the Spirit on/off as we will or desire. The grace gifts are things we can manifest as we will.

These nine can be thought of as Holy Spirit exhibitions. The Holy Spirit is wanting to show off or exhibit His abilities in our life and these are nine ways in which He will do it.

Each gift is separate and distinct. Each gift is manifested as God wills, not as we will.

- **Word of Wisdom**- A supernatural revelation of the mind and purpose of God. This can be a divine insight in to future events as the purposes of God are generally regarded in future tense and can thusly be regarded as synonymous with prediction (e.g., What God purposes to do in the affairs of man).
Jude 14, Genesis 12:2; 18:17, Genesis 37:5-11, Acts 21:10-12, Psalms, Revelation
- **Word of Knowledge**- A supernatural revelation of a past or present situation, condition, or event, given to us for a specific purpose.
John 4:16-19; 1 Samuel 9:15-20; 2 Kings 5:25-27; Acts 14:8-10
- **Faith or Special Faith**- A supernatural endowment of faith, above and beyond the normal measure every Christian has been given which enables him to sustain an

unwavering trust in God for his personal protection or provision. It has also been used biblically to pronounce blessings upon people. Special faith receives a miracle (Working of Miracles works a miracle). This gift allows God to work for us.

Working of Miracles allows God to work through us.

1 Kings 17:1-16, Genesis 48:19-49:27; 1 Samuel 1:17, Daniel 3,6

- **Gifts of Healing-** The manifestations of the Holy Spirit in the realm of sickness and disease with the sole purpose of eliminating the ailment. Healings reveal God's mercy towards mankind. This is separate and distinct from the working of miracles. It does not include any form of medical science. We might jokingly call that the gift of doctors.
- **Working of Miracles- (Galatians 3:5)** A supernatural demonstration of the power of God whereby the laws of nature are altered, suspended, or controlled. This gift works the miracle through us. This is different and distinct from gifts of healings. Healings are healings. Miracles are miracles. If they were the same, why would the Holy Spirit distinguish between the two of them?
Exodus 8-10, Judges 15:18-16:3; 1 Kings 18:38, Isaiah 38:4-8, Matthew 17:27
- **Prophecy-** A divinely inspired utterance that speaks edification, exhortation, and comfort. It is the simplest form of inspired utterance.
Acts 19:6, 21:9; 1 Corinthians 14:3,15
- **Discerning of spirits-** The divine ability to see into the spirit-realm. When in operation, the believer will see angels, demon spirits, the Holy Spirit, the Lord Jesus, and even human spirits. (This not the gift of discernment, for there is no such thing.) All visions would be included in this gift for they are insights into the spirit realm.
Genesis 18, Numbers 22:31-33; Isaiah 6:1-6; Acts 7:55-57; 12:5-10
- **Divers Kinds of Tongues-** There are tongues of men and tongues of angels (**1 Cor 13:1**). On the day of Pentecost (**Acts 2**), many men of different nationalities heard uneducated men proclaim the wonders of God in their native tongue. Yet in **Acts 19**, men spoke with tongues and no one is recorded as having understood what was being spoken.
- **Interpretation of Tongues-** With the interpretation of tongues, the result would be the equivalent of prophecy. This gift also edifies, exhorts, and comforts.

Let us desire the best gifts!

CHRISTIANITY 101
Lesson 10
Communion:
The Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Communion is one of the few rites we celebrate as a Christian. A **rite** is defined as *a solemn religious act or ceremony*. (Other rites observed are Water Baptism and Baby Dedication.) Communion is the celebration of the Lord's Supper or the Last Supper.

- **And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, Take, eat; this is my body. And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it; For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.**
Matthew 26:26-28

The LORD Jesus gave us the explanation of the communion elements. The bread represents His body and the cup (wine/juice) represents His blood.

The Bread for Healing

Jesus said the bread represents His body. His body was broken and beaten that our body might be made whole (**1 Peter 2:24**).

- **I gave my back to the smiters, and my cheeks to them that plucked off the hair: I hid not my face from shame and spitting.**
Isaiah 50:6
- **Just as there were many who were appalled at him—his appearance was so disfigured beyond that of any human being and his form marred beyond human likeness—**
Isaiah 52:14 NIV
- **But many were amazed when they saw him. His face was so disfigured he seemed hardly human, and from his appearance, one would scarcely know he was a man.**
Isaiah 52:14 NLT
- **He was despised and rejected by men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not. Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed.**
Isaiah 53:3-5 ESV

Jesus had his beard plucked out, his face beaten beyond recognition, a crown of thrones thrust upon his head, and his back laid open by a cat-o-nine-tails—all for our healing. None of this torture was necessary for eternal salvation. The Cross is what atoned for our sins.

This breaking of the bread of life was for our physical healing. Communion gives us an opportunity to look at a piece of bread and remember the price that was paid for our healing. The breaking of the Lord's body did nothing for our sins. Only the blood can wash away sins.

The Cup for Remission of Sins

The wine/juice represents His blood. His blood was shed for the cancellation (remission) of debt and sins.

- **Indeed, under the law almost everything is purified with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins.**

Hebrews 9:22 ESV

- **And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission.**

Hebrews 9:22 KJV

The Lord began to shed His blood in the garden of Gethsemane as He sweat under the pressure of the cross. He continued shedding blood for us through His torture at the hands of the Romans, and ultimately on the cross as His hands and feet were nailed and His side was pierced with a spear. Thank God for both healing and forgiveness!

No Power in the Elements

There is no actual power in our communion elements, only spiritual significance. But, by faith we can receive both healing for our body and forgiveness for our sins because these things have already been purchased for us. By applying our faith and a thankful heart during Communion, we can quite easily receive both healing of our sickness and forgiveness for our sins. Both require faith to receive.

- **For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come.**

1 Corinthians 11:26

Communion is one way we can commemorate and remember the Lord's death, not just His resurrection.

COMMUNION IS TO BE TAKEN SERIOUSLY

Communion not only represents our fellowship or communion with Jesus and His death, but it also represents our fellowship and communion with one another. After all, we are all members of His body.

- **Wherefore whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink this cup of the Lord, unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup. For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body. For this cause many are weak and**

sickly among you, and many sleep. For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged.
I Corinthians 11:27-31

This passage teaches us to judge ourselves of sin before taking communion. The term “unworthily” refers to the hypocrisy of partaking of communion (the Lord’s body) while you are out of fellowship and angry and unforgiving of your brother or sister in Christ (also the Lord’s body). We must judge ourselves, be honest, and repent of all known sins before we partake of the communion elements so we do not bring judgment, sickness, weakness, or even death upon ourselves.

- **Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murdered hath eternal life abiding in him.**
1 John 3:15

It will be hard to fellowship with God in communion when He views you as a murderer.

- **If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?**
1 John 4:20

It will be hard to fellowship with God in communion when He views you as a liar. God wants us to commune with Him and our brothers and sisters in Christ. May we learn to do so and glorify our Father in Heaven!!!

CHRISTIANITY 101

Lesson 11

Tithes and Offerings

Every Christian is called to be a giver. God is a giver and He put the same nature into us, and now we give. We give of our time (serving, prayer, encouraging, working) and we give of our finances. By giving, we can manifest God's nature already in us.

THE FIRST OFFERING

- **And in the process of time it came to pass, that Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the LORD. And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. And the LORD had respect unto Abel and to his offering: But unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect. And Cain was very wroth, and his countenance fell. Genesis 4:3-5**

Notice, both men brought an offering to the LORD. The LORD doesn't need anything we have to offer, but the offering is our way of showing honor, respect, and appreciation to God. The LORD is never impressed or moved by an amount or size of an offering. He is impressed with the heart and motivation behind the offering.

Abel's offering was accepted and he earned God's respect. Cain's offering was rejected and he didn't earn any respect from God. Why?

- **And the LORD said unto Cain, Why art thou wroth? and why is thy countenance fallen? If thou doest well [*do it joyfully*] shalt thou not be accepted? and if thou doest not well [*begrudgingly*], sin lieth at the door. And unto thee shall be his desire, and thou shalt rule over him. Genesis 4:6,7**

Cain was rejected because he gave his offering begrudgingly. He didn't really want to give it, but he did so he wouldn't lose face in the eyes of his brother. He saw Abel prepare an offering and he felt like he had to compete (kind of like our Christmases with family and gift giving).

The first offering teaches us to be cheerful givers without a spirit of competition (**2 Corinthians 9:7**).

THE FIRST TITHE

Tithe means *tenth part*. This is 10% of all your increase (before taxes). It was begun by Abram as a way to honor God for His goodness.

- **And Melchizedek king of Salem brought forth bread and wine: and he was the**

priest of the most high God. And he blessed him, and said, Blessed be Abram of the most high God, possessor of heaven and earth: And blessed be the most high God, which hath delivered thine enemies into thy hand. And he gave him tithes of all.
Genesis 14:18-20

This Melchizedek represents Jesus. He was the King of Salem (peace). He brought bread and wine (communion). He was the priest of the most high God. And then He blessed Abram. And because He blessed Abram, Abram gave this priest/king of peace tithes of all he had.

God increased Abram, and Abram tithed on the increase.

This is the first example of tithing in the Bible, demonstrated by the Father of our Faith, to the LORD Jesus.

Moses' Law Gave Guidelines for Tithing

- The tithe is the LORD's. It is holy unto Him (**Leviticus 27:30**).
- Tithing causes you to continue to increase year by year (**Deut. 14:22**).
- Tithing allows God to bless you (**Malachi 3:10**).
- Tithing causes the devourer to be rebuked on your behalf (**Malachi 3:11**).

New Testament Guidelines for Giving

- Give as you purpose (pre-determine) in your heart (**2 Corinthians 9:7**).
- How you sow is how you will reap (**2 Corinthians 9:6**).
- Give cheerfully, not grudgingly (**2 Corinthians 9:7**).
- Give to those who teach the Word (**1 Timothy 5:17**).

Reasons for Giving

- Support those in need, such as widows (**1 Timothy 5:2-10**) and hurting churches (**Acts 11:27-30**).
- That there might be meat (supplies) in God's house (**Malachi 3:10**).
- To support the Gospel Preacher (**1 Corinthians 9:6-14, Philippians 4:10**).
- To honor God (**2 Samuel 23:16**).
- To demonstrate trust in His way of doing things (**Philippians 4:18,19**).
- To take care of God's house- this sews the holes up in your bag (**Haggai 1:3-9**)!!
- To have something to reap (**2 Corinthians 9:6**).

CHRISTIANITY 101

Lesson 12

Divine Healing and Health

The terms “divine healing” and “divine health” refer to the physical healing and health that can only be accredited to God. We are not against medical science, but medical science is not divine health. Nor does medical science heal anything. Medical science merely “treats” the condition. God alone heals and brings health. His flawless design of the human body reveals His desire for man to be healthy. God’s divine blueprint for man’s body never included defects or biological breakdowns. Man’s body is designed to heal and even, to some degree, regenerate itself.

Simply put, sickness does not come from God. He does not have it to give. Nor does sickness teach us anything about God’s nature. God gave us the Holy Spirit and the Bible to teach us. Not sickness. Sickness does not bring any revelation of the nature or character of God. Supernatural healing demonstrates God’s mercy towards us.

WHERE DOES SICKNESS COME FROM?

When Adam sinned against God, he fell and became partaker of a sinful nature. Planet earth was cursed and death began. Before sin, nothing would die. After the introduction of sin, every living thing was subjected to the curse of death. Every biological life form has a lifespan. All living biology dies. Only spirits are eternal.

- **For the creation (nature) was subjected to frailty (to futility, condemned to frustration), not because of some intentional fault on its part, but by the will of Him Who so subjected it- [yet] with the hope. The nature (creation) itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and corruption [and gain an entrance] into the glorious freedom of God’s children. Romans 8:20,21 Amp.**

The whole world is awaiting its redemption from the curse of sin, because sin brings death and corruption.

- **Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death. James 1:15**

All sickness is a result of man’s fall and the curse, and all sickness is demonic oppression (**Acts 10:38**), but not every sickness means you have a devil. Sometimes you simply have a virus, or a bacterium, or you broke a bone on accident. Sometimes a cold is just a cold.

HEALING IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

From the beginning of the Bible, God has demonstrated His will to heal people.

- Abraham prayed for King Abimelech, and God healed Abimelech, his wife, and his maidservants. Then they bore children (**Genesis 20:17**).

- Jacob declared health over his son Judah: “Your eyes shall sparkle like the red wine, and your teeth will be white as milk” (**Genesis 49:12**).
- God described Himself as the healer: “I am the LORD that healeth thee” (**Exodus 15:26**).
- Miriam got leprosy for slandering Moses. Moses prayed for Miriam and God healed her (**Numbers 12:1-15**).
- God told Moses to make a brass serpent on a pole so the people could be healed from snakebites (**Numbers 21:6-9**).
- O LORD my God, I cried unto thee, and thou hast healed me (**Psalms 30:2**).
- God’s benefits include forgiveness and healing (**Psalms 103:2,3**).
- God sent His word and healed us (**Psalms 107:17-20**).
- God’s word is life and health, healing, and medicine (**Proverbs 4:22**).

JESUS IS ANTI-SICKNESS

Jesus has always been against sickness and disease. Healing sickness was just as much a part of his earthly ministry as preaching and teaching was.

- **And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in the synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all manner of sickness and all manner of disease among the people.**
Matthew 4:23

We are called to do all three today: preach, teach, and heal.

- **How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him.**
Acts 10:38

Scriptures: **Matthew 8:1-17; 12:15; 14:14; 19:2, Mark 5:21-43; 8:22-26, Luke 6:19, 13:11-16, Acts 3:1-11; 9:32-43; 14:8-10; 20:9-12; James 5:14-16; 1 Peter 2:24, 3 John 2**

WE ARE TO BE ANTI-SICKNESS

- **And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick and they shall recover.**
Mark 16:17,18

It is the perfect will of God for every child of God to be perfectly healthy all the days of their lives. This is divine health. God is a Father and God is love. And a loving Father desires the absolute best for his children.

CHRISTIANITY 101

Lesson 13

The Doctrine of Baptisms

- **Therefore, leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God, Of the doctrine of baptisms . . .**

Hebrews 6:1,2a

Baptism (***baptizo***)- *to submerge, as to dye a garment, to place into, to immerse.* It implies a permanent change as a result of this immersion.

There are four unique baptisms spoken of in the New Testament. Three of them are for the born again Christian, one is not.

JOHN'S BAPTISM-THE BAPTISM OF REPENTANCE

Acts 19:4- John the Baptist, Baptized with the baptism of repentance. He was preparing the way for Jesus' ministry (**Matthew 3:1-12, Mark 1:4**). This baptism is not for the Church today.

BAPTISM INTO THE BODY OF CHRIST

(1 Corinthians 12:13, Romans 6:3, Ephesians 4:5)

This is the single most important baptism to mankind. This is the same thing as the new birth, or the born again experience. When you call on the name of Jesus, the Holy Spirit baptizes you into the Body of Christ. The Holy Spirit submerges you (your spirit man) into the Body of Jesus Christ and causes you to be brand new.

Here the Holy Spirit baptizes you into Jesus Christ.

BELIEVER'S WATER BAPTISM

(Matthew 28:19, Acts 8:12,13,16; 10:47,48; 19:1-5)

Water Baptism is an outward sign of what took place when you called upon the name of Jesus for salvation. Water Baptism is the first sermon you will ever preach. You will testify through water baptism you were alive once, you died with Christ, and you were raised a new man in Christ Jesus.

There is a debate within the Body of Christ as to which name should be used when a believer is water baptized. Jesus commanded: "baptizing all nations in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost." However, in the book of Acts, you see many people being baptized in Jesus' name. So what's the difference? We really don't see a difference so we baptize in all three, "*By the authority of the Lord Jesus Christ and in His Name, I now baptize you my brother/sister in the name of the Father and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.*" Any brother or sister in Christ can baptize you in water.

Here a believer baptizes you into water.

SIGNIFICANCE:

- It can be the first act of submission to the written Word as a new believer.
- It can be the first thing a Christian can do to follow Jesus as their example.
- It signifies the death (a watery grave) of the old man and the resurrection of the new man.
- It is the first sermon and testimony a Christian can preach.
- You are baptized for the remission of sins, not the permission to sin.

BAPTISM IN THE HOLY GHOST

(Matthew 3:11, John 7:37-39, Acts 1:8; 2:1-4)

The Baptism in the Holy Spirit is for every believer. As its name implies, the believer is baptized or submerged into the Holy Spirit. This is a supernatural event. You cannot necessarily see anything in the natural because you cannot see the Holy Spirit with your eyes.

Jesus takes the believer and submerges them into the precious Holy Spirit. Just as a garment submerged in dye will come out soaking and sopping wet and dripping, having every fiber flooded with the dye, so the believer, who Jesus has baptized with the Holy Spirit, will come forth sopping and filled up to overflowing and dripping with the Holy Spirit. You will know something has happened to you (**Luke 11:11-13**).

Just as the dyed garment is forever changed, so the one baptized is forever changed. The first obvious change will be the overflow of the Spirit in their life as manifested by speaking in other tongues.

Here Jesus baptizes you into the Holy Spirit.

The Manifestation of Tongues: Isaiah 28:11, Mark 16:17, Acts 2:1-13; 10:44-48; 19:1-7, Romans 8:26; 1 Corinthians 14:1-5, Jude 20

Tongues is for everyone: Mark 16:17, Acts 2:1-13, Acts 10:44-48; 19:6,7

In Acts, in every account, everyone present received the Holy Spirit and spoke in tongues. 100% received the Holy Spirit and spoke with other tongues.

THE PURPOSES OF TONGUES:

- It builds, encourages and recharges you as a believer (**1 Cor. 14:4, Jude 20**).
- You allow the Holy Spirit to intercede for yourself (**Romans 8:26**).
- You pronounce blessings (**1 Cor. 14:16**).
- You give thanks well (**1 Cor. 14:17**).
- You worship God and declare His wonderful works (**Acts 2:11**).
- You speak the unspoken mysteries of God (**1 Cor. 14:2**).

- Your spirit is praying (perfect prayer) (**1 Cor. 14:14**).
- You're speaking directly to God (**1 Cor. 14:2**).
- Tongues are a sign to them who believe not (**1 Cor. 14:22**).

There are three baptisms for the New Testament believer. Make sure you have been made a partaker of each one so you might enjoy all the benefits of what Jesus Christ has promised us.

CHRISTIANITY 101
Lesson 14
The Rapture
(aka: The Catching Away of the Saints)

WHAT: The rapture is the catching away of the saints of God, by the LORD Jesus to be with Him in the air.

- **For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the LORD.**
1 Thessalonians 4:16,17

Caught up together: Greek- *harpazo*: to catch, to snatch, to lead something away.

Though the word “rapture” is not used in the Bible; however, the idea is very much biblical. In the Vulgate (the Latin translation of the Bible, 4th Century), the Latin word used for the Greek *harpazo* is *raptus* (*rapere*). *Raptus* is where we get our English word **rapture**.

This will be a very noisy event. It will not go unnoticed:

- The LORD will descend with a shout (**1 Thessalonians 4:16**).
- An archangel will also give voice (**1 Thessalonians 4:16**).
- God will sound His trumpet (**1 Thessalonians 4:16, 1 Corinthians 15:52**).

Jesus will not actually touch down on planet earth, but will actually stop in the clouds and receive us to Himself. We will be caught up “in the clouds to meet the LORD in the air” (**1 Thessalonians 4:17**).

At this time, natural bodies will be changed into glorified bodies. The dead in Christ will go first. Their decayed bodies will be transformed into glorified bodies, then our living bodies will be transformed as well. Corrupted flesh and blood cannot go to Heaven (**1 Corinthians 15:50**). This will all happen in a moment (*atomos*) of time.

- **Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump; for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.**
1 Corinthians 15:51-53

This is not the second coming of the LORD. The Rapture and the “Second Coming of the LORD” (**Jude 14,15, Revelation 19:11-16**) are two different events and they are different and unique from “The Day of the LORD” (**2 Peter 3:10, Revelation 20:11**).

WHY: This is Jesus taking His church out of the earth in a supernatural and spectacular way in order to accomplish His will and plan.

1. Raptures are biblical occurrences. It is a way in which God has chosen to remove some of His servants in times past, including: Enoch (**Genesis 5:24**), Elijah (**2 Kings 2:11**), Jesus (**Matthew 28:6,7, Acts 1:9-11**).
2. The Rapture will change corruptible bodies into incorruptible bodies (**1 Corinthians 15:50-54**).
3. The Rapture will preserve the Church from the Great Tribulation (**Matthew 24:21, Luke 21:22**).

WHEN: Jesus said “no man knows the day nor the hour, only the Father” (**Matthew 25:13**). But Jesus did give us a clue to the “when”, and so does the book of James.

- **And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come. Matthew 24:14**
- **Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain. James 5:7**

WHO: Firstly, we must understand only born again Christians will be raptured. The Bible also tells us only Christians serving God and living for Him will be caught up to meet Jesus in the Rapture. This is a very sobering thought.

- **So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation. Hebrews 9:28**

We must be sure we are living a life looking for His return. Sinful lives live as though He isn't coming. Holy lives live as though He will return today.

- **Then we which are alive [*still breathing*] and remain [*still faithful to Jesus*] shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. 1 Thessalonians 4:17**

We must be sure we are not just alive when Jesus returns, but we also remain faithful to Him while we are alive. He will return for those who remain faithful.

SCOFFERS

Many people mock Christians for believing in the Rapture. They mock Christians for believing in God and the supernatural, when they themselves seek after psychics, astrology, palm readers, etc. These people are what the Bible calls scoffers.

- **Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the**

creation. 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. 2 Peter 3:3,4,9

Fear not. Just keep looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of your faith. He is coming quickly.