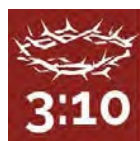




The Basics of the Faith

to know the Person, Power & Passion of Jesus Christ



Discipleship
Course

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"Christianity involves a crisis and a process"

A. THE CRISIS: How Can I Find God?

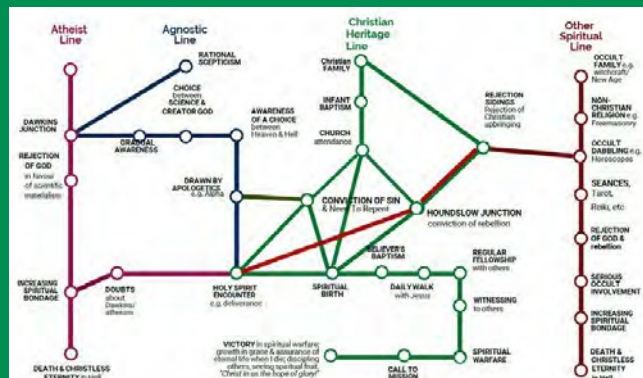
- Session 1: FINDING GOD: Journeys To Faith**
Different roads to different destinations
- Session 2: A. CRISIS: How Can I Experience God?**
Conversion = A Crisis leading to a Process
The Problem: Born rebels vs God
The Solution: A New Heart
Born *anōthen* to receive a new heart
- Admitting I'm a sinner in God's eyes
 - Repentance=Ending my rebellion vs God
 - Receiving God's forgiveness of my sins
- Baptism in Water for forgiveness of sins
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The facts & theories about Jesus' resurrection
How we know that Jesus is alive

Session 1:

FINDING GOD: Journeys To Faith

Different Roads: Different Destinations

Charting Your Spiritual Journey Where Have You Come From?



Where Are You Heading?

The Basics of the Faith

Session 1: FINDING GOD: Different Routes: Different Destinations

Jesus said: "Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." Matthew 6:21 (NIV)
 God says: "You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart, and I will be found by you," declares the LORD." Jeremiah 29:13-14 (NIV)

A. THE CRISIS: Discovering the Problem of My Sin in the Eyes of a Holy God

"No one is good—no one in all the world is innocent. No one has ever really followed God's paths or even truly wanted to. Everyone has turned away; all have gone wrong. No one anywhere has been doing what is right; not one" Romans 3:10-12 (TLB)

The problem is we are all born rebels, who by nature want nothing to do with God. The Bible calls this SIN and defines it as *anomia* – 'lawlessness' or 'rebellion.' Different individuals have different journeys to finding God, but all reach a point, where they are confronted by our natural rebellion against God and his laws for life, leading to a choice: **either** to acknowledge that God is holy, totally other in power, love and goodness and to surrender my life to him, asking him to forgive my sin and give me his life **or** to refuse to go God's way and continue doing my own thing, even worshipping other gods

Choices Have Consequences

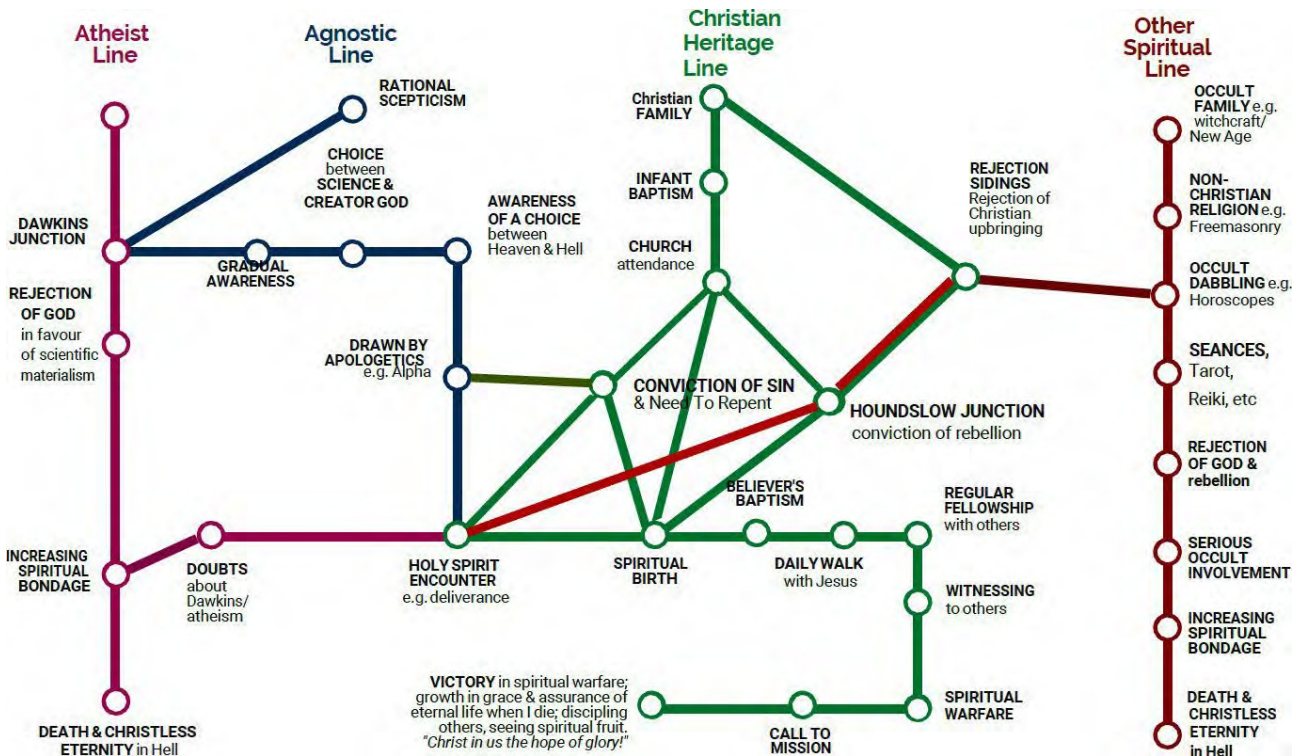
The choice we make results in arriving at one of two destinations: Heaven or Hell.

- Heaven consists of eternal life after death with Jesus in heaven
- Hell involves a Christless eternity separated for ever from God

CS Lewis put it this way: "There are only kinds of people in the end. Those who say to God 'Thy will be done,' and those to whom God says in the end 'Thy will be done.' All those in hell choose it. Without that self-choice there could be no hell."

HAVE A LOOK AT THE 'TUBE MAP' OF DIFFERENT JOURNEYS TO FAITH IN GOD

Can you identify with any of the journeys shown on the map? Where are you presently?



Session 2:

The Crisis

The Problem Of Sin

Conversion = A Crisis leading to a Process

The Problem: Born Rebels vs God

The Solution: A New Heart

Born *anotnen* to receive a new heart

- Admitting I'm a sinner in God's eyes
- Repentance=Ending rebellion vs God
- Receiving God's forgiveness of sins

Baptism in Water *for the forgiveness of sins*

Baptism in Holy Spirit *for new life & power*

A New Creation: *born again*

The Basics of the Faith

Session 2: THE CRISIS: Confronting the Problem of Sin

The Problem: Human beings are born rebels vs God who can't save themselves
Try as we might, we discover we cannot change ourselves and are slaves to sin, Paul says.

"There is no one who is right with God or wants anything to do with God. We're all rebels."

So God has to take the initiative by showing us our need to get right with him

The Solution: A Supernatural Heart Transplant



© Adobe Stock

"I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your impurities and from all your idols. I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws."

Ezekiel 36:25-27 NIV

God promises through Ezekiel to perform a supernatural heart transplant

- removing the old hard stony heart that wants to do its own thing
- giving us a new heart that will beat with his love and goodness
- placing his Holy Spirit in our new heart
- writing his Law on our hearts so that we will end our rebellion and want to go God's way

Jesus describes how to get a new heart: by Repentance & Baptism

Jesus told his disciples that the Holy Spirit would convict people of their rebellion.

"And when he (The Spirit of Truth) comes, he will convict the world concerning sin, righteousness and judgment:

- concerning **sin**, because they do not believe in me;
- concerning **righteousness**, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no longer;
- concerning **judgment**, because the ruler of this world is judged."

John 16:8-11 ESV

Jesus was saying that the Holy Spirit will convict people of

Man's sin because they do not put their trust in Jesus' death and resurrection

God's righteousness because Jesus' return to heaven was so we can get right with God

Satan's judgment when Jesus died on the Cross and rose again to defeat sin, death and Satan

Q Have you been convicted of your sin, that Jesus' death and resurrection are the only way to get right with God and know that Jesus defeated sin, death and Satan on the Cross?

If you answered Yes, Jesus says you need to be

- **born anothen** - meaning *from above, supernaturally* by the Holy Spirit
- **baptised in water** as a sign God has forgiven your sins and
- **baptised/overwhelmed by the Holy Spirit** to hear God say:

"You are my beloved child in whom I am well pleased"

and receive the Holy Spirit's power.

John 3:3-7 NIV

The Basics of the Faith

Getting Right With God

A. Confession of Sin & Repentance



Design Pics

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions. Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me. Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight; so, you are right in your verdict and justified when you judge. Surely, I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me. Yet you desired faithfulness even in the womb; you taught me wisdom in that secret place. Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow. Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones you have crushed rejoice. Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquity.

David's Prayer of Confession & Repentance Psalm 51:1-9 NIV

I admit I am a sinner in the eyes of a holy God.
I ask God to forgive my sins because Jesus died in my place.
I decide to end my rebellion against God by
turning away from going my way
turning to God to go his way from now on.

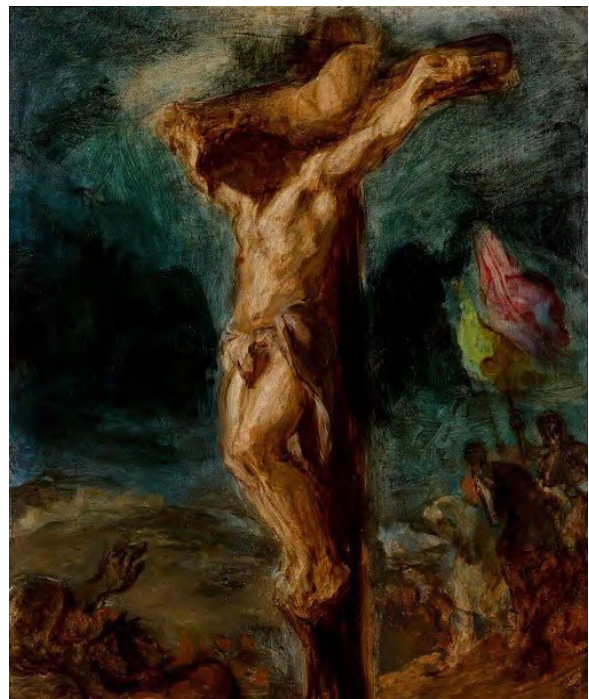
B. Putting My Trust in Jesus' Death on the Cross for My Sins

Jesus' death on the Cross to take the punishment my sins deserve.

"For our sake [God] made [Christ] to be sin, who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God." **2 Corinthians 5:21** ESV

Jesus' death and resurrection are the only way sinners can be put right with God and know God as their heavenly Father.

When we confess our sins, repent of our rebellion and put our trust in Jesus' blood to cover our sins, God promises to forgive our sins and cause us to be born *anowen* by the Holy Spirit.



Sketch for a painting of Christ on the Cross
Eugene Delacroix Creative Commons

Questions

Why did Jesus die on the Cross?
Why do I need to put my trust in his death?
What must I do to be born *anowen*?

The Basics of the Faith

C. Being Baptised in Water & in Spirit

Jesus gave us an example of how we need to be

- **baptized in water** for the **forgiveness of sin**, and
- **baptized in the Holy Spirit** to receive
 - (i) the **Father's affirmation** we are his children, and
 - (ii) his **power to live the Christian life**.

Baptism in Water



Lightstock

John's Baptism Matthew 3:1-2, 11-12

In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, *"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."* "I baptize you with **water for repentance**, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the **Holy Spirit and fire**. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor & gather his wheat into the barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

Baptism in water was a sign of forgiveness of sins

John's baptism was a call to repent and to ask God to forgive those who confessed their sins and repented. *Read ACTS 19:1-7*

Q What did Paul do when he discovered the Ephesian elders had only received John's baptism?

Baptism in Spirit



The Holy Spirit descending on Jesus as a dove Lightstock

Jesus' Baptism Matthew 3:13-17

Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, *"I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?"* But Jesus answered him. *"Let it be so now, for it is fitting to do this for us to fulfill all righteousness."* Then John consented. And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; and a voice from heaven said, *"This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."*

Questions

What message did John the Baptist preach to those coming to the River Jordan?

What was the significance of his baptism in water?

Why did Jesus insist on John baptizing him? Why did Jesus not need to be baptized in water? What happened when Jesus rose out of the water?

Session 3:

**Why Jesus Died
on the Cross**

**Jesus' Death Reversed
the Results of The Fall**

**On the Cross Jesus
Took My Punishment**

**Jesus' Death on the Cross
Demonstrates God's Grace**

*"But God demonstrates his love for us in this fact -
while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."*

Romans 5:8

The Basics of the Faith

Session 3: Why Jesus Died

He Died To Reverse The Results of The Fall

Jesus' death and resurrection reversed all the results of Adam and Eve's disobedience.

"The reason the Son of God came into the world was to destroy the Devil's work."

1 John 3:8b NIV

RESULTS OF THE FALL	RESULTS OF THE CROSS
SIN & DEATH	FORGIVENESS & ETERNAL LIFE
SICKNESS & SUFFERING	HEALING & SHALOM
SEPARATION FROM GOD & OTHERS	RECONCILIATION WITH GOD & OTHERS

Jesus' Mission Statement in Nazareth

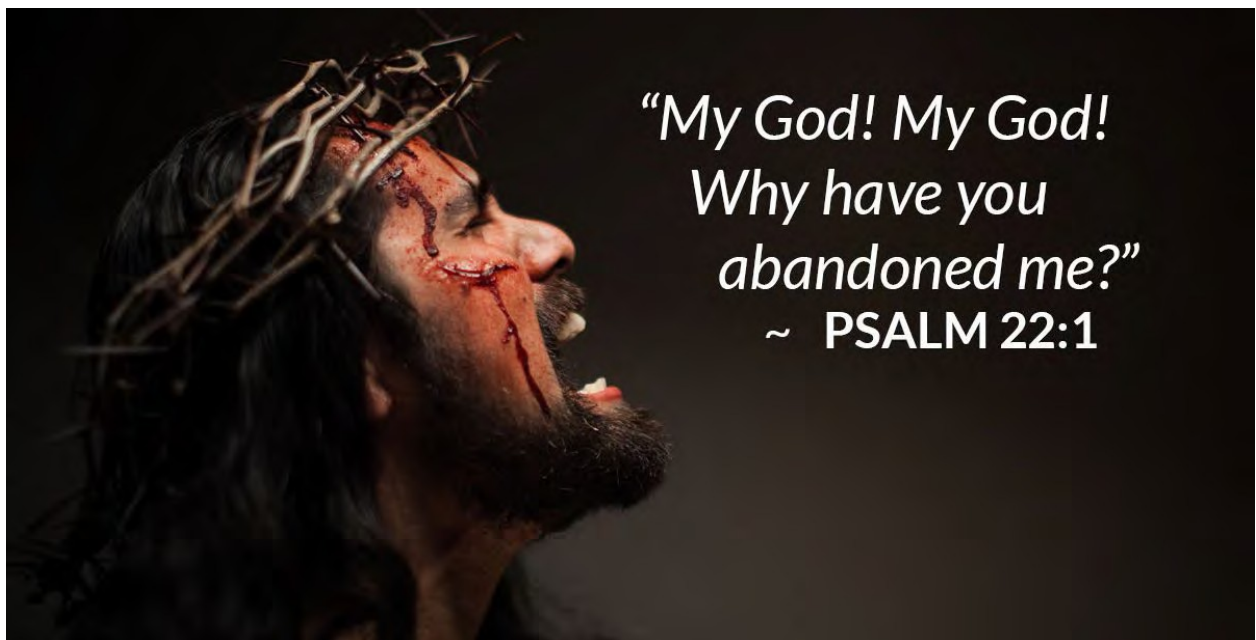
Jesus stood up in the synagogue at Nazareth and read from the scroll of Isaiah 61:1-2:

"The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour."

Luke 4:18-19 NIV UK

He then announced that the prophecy was being fulfilled that day in his person - that he was God's promised Messiah, anointed to reverse all the results of The Fall of Mankind.

He Died To Take Our Place & Our Punishment To Put Us Right With God



*"My God! My God!
Why have you
abandoned me?"*
~ PSALM 22:1



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"While we were still sinners, Christ died for our sins."

Romans 5:8

*"God made him who had no sin to be sin for us,
so that in him we might become the righteousness of God."*

2 Corinthians 5:21

Questions

Why did Jesus come into the world?

In what ways did his arrival reverse the results of Adam and Eve's disobedience?

How did Jesus' death on the Cross put us right with God?

The Basics of the Faith

God Always Takes the Initiative



Jesus leads his sheep; we are called to follow where he leads

 Lightstock

"But God demonstrates his love for us in this fact - it was while we were still sinners Christ died for us."

Romans 5:8 NIV

God always takes the initiative. He did not wait until we were good enough before he convicted us of our need to get right with him by repenting of our rebellion. It is what is meant by the word **grace**.

God's Amazing Grace

One of the most famous hymns is John Newton's *"Amazing Grace,"* which he wrote as his testimony to the way God saved him when he was a slave trader. They express his gratitude to God for his undeserved rescue from death during a storm at sea on the 10th March 1748.

*Amazing grace, how sweet the sound,
That saved a wretch like me;
I once was lost but now I'm found,
Was blind but now I see.*

*'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear
And grace my fears relieved,
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed.*

He later wrote:

"It is certain that I am not what I ought to be. But, blessed be God, I am not what I once was. God has mercifully brought me up out of the deep miry clay and set my feet upon the Rock, Christ Jesus. He has saved my soul. And now it is my heart's desire to extol and honour his matchless, free, sovereign and distinguishing grace, because 'By the grace of God I am what I am.' It is my heart's great joy to ascribe my salvation entirely to the grace of God." 1 Corinthians 15:10

Questions

What is meant by the word 'grace'?
Who took the initiative in John Newton's salvation?

Session 4:

**Life After Death:
Jesus' Resurrection
Fact or Fiction?**

**The Reliability
of the Gospel Accounts**

**The Facts
of the Resurrection**

**Alternative Theories
for Christ's disappearance**

**Paul's Summary
of the Gospel**

**Evidence of Life
after Death?**

**The Guarantee
of Eternal Life:**

Session 4: Jesus' Resurrection: Life After Death



Adobe Stock

Evidence of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ

Paul's Summary of the Evidence

Paul summarised the situation in the following words:

"For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance that

- *Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures,*
- *He was buried,*
- *He was raised on the third day, according to the Scriptures*
- *He appeared to Cephas and then to the Twelve.*
- *After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep.*
- *Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, and*
- *Last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born. For I am the least of the apostles and do not even deserve to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God."*

1 Corinthians 15:3-9 NIV

William Lane Craig summarised the authenticity of the Gospel accounts as follows:

- Pauls' summary supports the idea the tomb was empty
- The phrase 'the first day of the week' instead of 'the third day' suggests an early oral account
- The account is plain and not an attempt to justify the account: it suggests its authenticity
- The discovery of the tomb by women is not what one would expect if the story was made up
- The investigation by the disciples the tomb was empty and details of the graveclothes is very probable
- It would have been impossible for the disciples to proclaim the resurrection if the tomb was not empty
- Jewish accusations that the disciples stole the body prove the tomb was empty

Questions

What are the main 'facts' Paul reports in his summary of the resurrection?

The arguments are not around the facts of the empty tomb
but around explanations for Jesus' disappearance.

What evidence from the Gospel accounts suggests they are authentic?

Alternative Theories to Explain the Disappearance of Jesus' Body

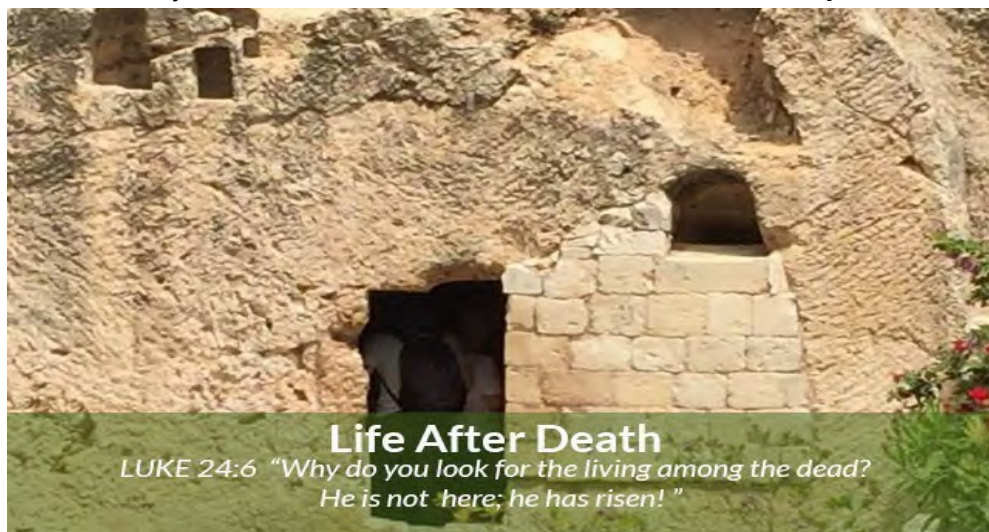
A number of theories have been suggested to explain Jesus' disappearance after his body was placed in Joseph of Arimathea's brand-new tomb. These are summarised below.

THEORY	MAIN POINTS	POSSIBLE RESPONSE
LEGEND	Gospel accounts are myths	Why did the disciples die as martyrs?
CONSPIRACY THEORIES	Disciples stole the body Jesus went east/west	Why not just produce the body/the guards?
SWOON	Jesus just swooned and revived later before disappearing	Romans knew how to crucify people. What about the sword thrust?
HALLUCINATION	Jesus' appearances just hallucinations	Physical appearances not like hallucinations
WRONG TOMB	The women went to the wrong tomb	What about appearances to the disciples and others?

Sir Norman Anderson, after a lifetime of analyzing this issue from a legal perspective, summed up the situation: *"The empty tomb, then, forms a veritable rock on which all rationalistic theories of the resurrection dash themselves in vain."*

How We Can Be Sure Jesus Is Alive?

The Holy Spirit is God's guarantee of eternal life from the moment of conversion and of resurrection when we die. Every Christian born *anointed* by the Holy Spirit has the witness of the Spirit within him/her. Paul says. **Romans 8:14-16; Ephesians 1:13-14 NIV.**



The Garden Tomb, Jerusalem

B. THE PROCESS: Discipleship

Session 5: Following Jesus Day By Day

Establishing the Lordship of Christ
Jesus' relationship with Father God
Practising Jesus' spiritual disciplines
Listening to God: Ways God speaks today
Experiencing God comes from obedience

Session 6: Getting Lift-Off & Keeping Flying

Made in the Image of God:
Body, Soul & Spirit
The Battle between Flesh vs Spirit
Keeping Flying

Session 7: Spiritual Warfare

The Warfare: The Warriors: The Weapons
The Whole Armour of God
Winning the Spiritual Battle

Session 8: The Church: The Body & The Family Of God

The Church as The Invisible Body of Christ
Relationship vs Religion
The Church as The Family of God the Father

Session 9: The Lord's Supper: Holy Communion

Jesus' institution of the Lord's Supper
The Passover Meal: a memorial of deliverance
The Meaning of the Bread & the Wine
Celebrating Holy Communion: Body Unity

Session 10: Sharing Christ's Compassion

God's Recycling Process: The 'Love Cycle'
The Great Commission: Sharing God's Love
Proclamation of the Good News
Demonstration of the Good News
The History of Christian Missions
Reaching the Local Community for Jesus

Session 5:

Following Jesus

Day by Day

**Establishing the
Lordship of Christ**

**God Wants a
Love-Relationship**

**Jesus' Relationship
with Father God**

**Practising Jesus'
Spiritual Disciplines**

**Listening to God:
Recognizing God's Voice**

**Experiencing God
through obedience**

Session 5: FOLLOWING JESUS DAY BY DAY: Being A Disciple of Jesus



Jesus' call is to follow him and do what he tells us.

 Lightstock

That's because he said:

"Jesus gave them this answer: "Very truly I tell you, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does." **John 5:19 NIV**

Later Jesus said to his disciples:

*"I am the vine; you are the branches. If you abide in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit. **For apart from me you can do nothing.**"* (emphasis added) **John 15:5 NIV**

Establishing the Lordship of Christ Each Day

If Jesus was completely surrendered to God the Father, we need to be surrendered to the Lordship of Christ at the beginning of every day.

A Simple Prayer of Surrender

"LORD, I surrender my will to you today for you to work your perfect will in me and through me. Cleanse me of secret sin, I pray - the lusts of the flesh, of the eyes, pride, unbelief and everything that would get in the way of my relationship with you - by your precious blood shed to cover sins; and fill me afresh with the streams of living water of your Spirit that you promised to enable me to be the person you created me to be and do the things you have called me to do. I ask this in your name and for your glory. Amen."

Questions

- How did Jesus maintain a close relationship with Father God?
- What does that tell us about how we should approach each day?
- Why do we need to surrender ourselves to the Lordship of Christ each day?

God Wants A Love-Relationship with His Children



God wants us to respond to his love in joyful surrender day by day

 Pixabay

Jesus Practised Four Spiritual Disciplines To Maintain His Relationship With Father God

Jesus practised four spiritual disciplines each day to maintain his relationship with God as his Father.

- **Spending time alone with God** in a quiet place
- **Listening to God** in prayer, Scripture reading, meditation on God's Word and fasting
- **Talking to God** in prayer
- **Praising and worshipping God** with lips and life

If we want to maintain our relationship with God, we need to do what Jesus did. What starts out as a discipline will eventually become a delight as we experience our heavenly Father communicating with us and enabling us to cope with whatever we have to do each day.

Learning to Recognize the Voice & Activity of God

One of the key disciplines is to learn to recognize the voice of the Good Shepherd. Jesus promised:

"My sheep hear my voice; I know them and they follow me."

John 10:27 NIV

If we are serious about our daily walk, we obviously need to hear from Jesus if we are going to follow where he leads. This means we need to recognize the ways God may speak to us.

Ways God Speaks in the Bible

The Bible is a record of God's dealings with human beings from Genesis to Revelation. It shows that God can speak in a variety of ways. These include -

- A personal encounter
- Through angels
- Through a strange event
- Through dreams and visions
- By the Holy Spirit
- Through Scripture verses and references
- Through his spokespersons the prophets - both men and women
- Through signs and wonders eg healings or deliverances

The Basics of the Faith

Listening to God (see *Going Deeper* Listening To God)

Look at the questionnaire below. How has God revealed himself to you? How did you respond?

- Having everything the world has to offer and still feeling an emptiness inside
- The impact of a friend who is a Christian and the authenticity of his/her faith
- Through reading the Bible and realising I needed to repent of my sin
- Having messed up my life and desperate to know God's forgiveness
- Receiving an answer/answers to prayer for God to reveal himself
- Realising the immensity and beauty of the universe around us suggests a Creator
- Realising no matter how hard I try, I still can't live up to my standards, never mind God's
- Experiencing God's amazing grace and power in healing me physically
- Being delivered from an addiction eg alcohol; drugs; eating; gambling; sex; smoking
- Being set free from demonic bondage after previous involvement in the occult
- Experiencing a tremendous peace when I prayed and cried: "O God, help me!"
- A deep gnawing longing for intimacy that no human being has been able to fill
- Seeing the way a Christian family member or friend faced death and dying
- Hearing/watching a sermon on the internet or in church
- Being 'miraculously' delivered from certain death in an accident or from an illness
- Being scared by an evil presence after being involved in the occult
- Listening to a Christian sharing how s/he had a personal encounter with Jesus
- Had a personal encounter with Jesus when I was a child
- Watching the film "The Passion of the Christ" and realising what Jesus did for me
- Listening to music and realising it was inspired by God
- Being struck by the mystery of life and death through the death of a close friend
- Other experience that has shown me God is real.....

How Do You Know It Was God Speaking To You?

- It has changed my life eg I am no longer a slave to an addiction, fear, etc
- It was like what I see in the Bible
- It was while I was reading Scripture during a quiet time
- It was the way I see the disciples experiencing God in *The Book of Acts*
- The dream was obviously from God, not demonic, and has been confirmed
- I prayed and asked God to confirm it and he has done
- Because what I heard has come true
- Because it was the answer to a prayer I/we prayed
- I just know in my 'knower'
- I was woken up in the middle of the night which is when God often speaks to me
- Because when I was obedient, God did what he said he would do

Question

How did people know it was God and not their own ideas or the enemy?

Experiencing God Through Obedience

Read ACTS Chapters 8, 9 and 10



A Roman centurion like Cornelius (with *vitis* vine-stick in his left hand) commanding legionaries

Source: https://imperiumromanum.pl/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/kij_centuriona.jpg

Read ACTS 8:26-40 Philip and the Ethiopian government official

Read ACTS 9:1- 19 Paul and old Ananias

Read ACTS 10:1-48 Peter and Cornelius, the Roman centurion

Read MATTHEW 8:5-10 Jesus and the centurion

Questions

What was strange about the angel's instruction to Philip?

What was Philip's response? What was the result?

Why was Ananias worried by the instruction he received?

What was the result of his obedience?

Why was Peter surprised by the vision and the request to go to Caesarea?

What was the result of his obedience?

What did Jesus praise the centurion for?

Session 6:

Getting Lift-off & Keeping Flying

**Made in the
Image of God**

**The Battle of
The Two Natures**

Gravity vs Lift-off

Keeping Flying

The Basics of the Faith

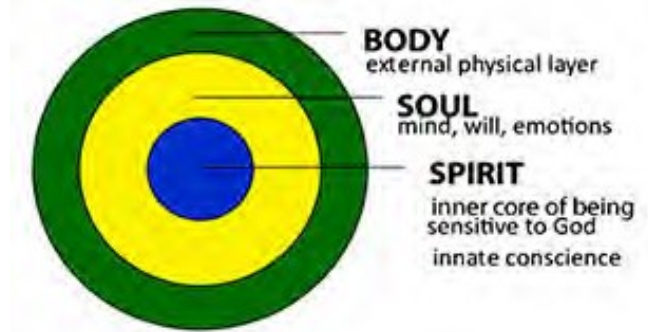
Made In The Image of God: The Tripartite Structure of Human Beings

The Bible says that human beings are made in God's image. Just as God is Three Persons in One God, so human beings consist of three distinct but indivisible parts - **Body, Soul** and **Spirit**.

SPIRIT - the part of us that is in touch with God, but dormant until it comes alive at conversion.

SOUL - comprising the **Mind (thought life), Will (control centre)** and **Emotions (feelings)**

BODY - our physical body with needs and problems



God has designed us to be surrendered to him so that we are under the control of the Holy Spirit. In order to live the way God wants us to live, we are to bring our **Fleshly Nature (Body and Soul)** under the control of the **Holy Spirit and our spirit**.

Our Old Nature (Fleshly Nature) is naturally rebellious and wants to go its own way because it is controlled by the Law of Sin and Death. God wants us to be under the guidance of the Holy Spirit .

How to Keep Flying: Practising the Spiritual Disciplines Jesus Practised

If we want to live the way God wants us to live and not fall back into our rebellious ways of living, we need to be filled with the Holy Spirit and led by him and the Word of God each day.

"How can a young person stay on the path of purity? By living according to your word." **Psalm 119:9**

We need to practise the spiritual disciplines Jesus practised each day to maintain our relationship with our heavenly Father and to prevent us from lapsing back into our old rebellious ways.

When a group of religious leaders tried to trap Jesus with a trick question, Jesus replied:

"You are mistaken because you know neither the Scriptures nor the power of God." **Matthew 22:29 NIV**

In other words, we need **both The Word of God and The Spirit of God** if we are to overcome the old fleshly nature's attempts to go back to our rebellious ways. Instead, Paul says we are to be filled with the Holy Spirit continually (**Ephesians 5:18**) and submit our thoughts to Christ, when Satan tempts us with his lies, deceit and attempts to intimidate us (**2 Corinthians 10:3-5 NIV**). The Holy Spirit will show us how to combat Satan's lies with the truth of God.

Jesus Practised Four Disciplines -

- **Spending Time Alone with God in Silence**
- **Listening to God in Prayer, Scripture, Biblical Meditation and Fasting**
- **Talking to God in Prayer**
- **Praising and Worshipping God**

For more on this go to <https://www.the310course.com/walking-with-jesus>

Questions

How did Jesus maintain his relationship with God the Father every day?

What does the psalmist say we need to keep right with God?

Do you spend time alone with God each day?

Why is it important for us to do this? What happens when we don't?

A lot of the battle takes place in our thought life. How can we win the battle?

The Battle between the Old & the New Nature: Getting Lift-off & Keeping Flying



Aircraft at the rotation point for take-off



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The Law of Gravity vs The Law of Aerodynamics

When an aeroplane is ready to take off, the pilot increases the throttle to increase its speed down the runway until it reaches what is called *the rotation point*. At this point the pilot gives the order "Rotate" and the co-pilot pulls back on the joystick to raise the plane's nose. Up till this point **The Law of Gravity** has kept the plane glued to the ground. But when it reaches the 'rotation point', another law of physics - **The Law of Aerodynamics** - takes over. When this happens, the plane gets lift-off and begins to climb into the air.

Paul says that in our Christian lives there are two laws - the **Law of Sin & Death** and the **Law of the Spirit & Life**.

"There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit, who gives life, has set you free from the law of sin and death." **Romans 8:1-2 NIV**

The Pull of the Old Nature (gravity) vs New Life in the Power of the Spirit (lift-off)

Our **Old Nature is like The Law Of Gravity** and wants to keep us rooted to the ground of our old sinful way of life.

Our **New Spiritual Nature is like The Law Of Aerodynamics** and wants to give us lift-off, so we can live life in the power of the Holy Spirit.

When we were born *anthen*, or born from above, at conversion, the Holy Spirit gave us lift-off so we could live our lives under God's control instead of our old fleshly way of life. As long as we are filled with the Holy Spirit, we will remain airborne. But just as a plane will plummet to the ground like a stone if the pilot switches off the engines, so we will revert to our sinful way of life if we rely on our fleshly natures rather than asking God to fill us with the Holy Spirit each day.

Questions

- In what way is the Law of Gravity like the Law of Sin and Death?
- What happens when you turn the engines of a plane off?
- What is the answer to the Law of Sin and Death?

Session 7:

Spiritual Warfare


**The Warfare
The Warriors
The Weapons**

Satan's Tactics

**Winning the
Spiritual Battle**



Our battle is not against flesh and blood but against spiritual forces of wickedness

 Dusan Kostic

The Warfare Is Supernatural

Paul tells the Christians in Corinth that the warfare they are engaged in is not against a physical enemy. It is **supernatural** which means that trying to fight using our natural abilities and ideas is a waste of time and will always lead to defeat.

“For though we walk in the world, we do not fight according to this world’s rules of warfare. The weapons of the war we’re fighting are not of this world but are powered by God and effective at tearing down the strongholds erected against His truth. We are demolishing arguments and ideas, every high-and-mighty philosophy that pits itself against the knowledge of the one true God. We are taking prisoners of every thought, every emotion, and subduing them into obedience to the Anointed One.”

2 Corinthians 10:3-5 VOICE

The Warriors Are Supernatural

The combatants are also supernatural involving God’s forces against Satan’s forces.

God’s Forces: The Holy Spirit, Archangels, Angels, and Christians filled with the Spirit

In **Daniel 10:13 and 20** we read of two Archangels: Gabriel and Michael fighting against enemies.

Satan’s Forces: Fallen Angels, Rulers (archons), Authorities (exousiae), World Rulers of this darkness (kosmokratores tou skotou toutou), and Spiritual Forces of Evil (pneumatika ths ponerias) in the heavenly realms (en tois epouraniois)

“For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places.”

Ephesians 6:12 NLT

Satan’s forces include territorial rulers (eg The Ruler of Persia **Daniel 10:13** and The Ruler of Greece **Daniel 10:20**) as well as evil powers and authorities behind what is seen in the physical world on earth and demonic spirits operating in the heavenly realms between earth and heaven.

The warfare is not against equals: God’s forces are far superior to Satan and his forces, who were defeated by Jesus’ death on the Cross at Calvary

Revelation 12:11 NIV

The Basics of the Faith

The Weapons Are Supernatural

In **Luke 11:21** Jesus says that Satan's forces have armour (Greek: *panoplia*) that protects them just as Christians have God's whole armour (Greek: *panoplia*) to protect them.

In **Ephesians 6:10-18** Paul describes the whole spiritual armour of God.

The Whole Armour (*panoplia*) of God vs Satan's Armour (*panoplia*) and Tactics



Satan attacks our minds by telling lies and trying to deceive and intimidate us into thinking we have not been saved.

He attacks our hearts with his lies, deceit and attacks designed to attack our trust in God.

In place of God's truth, Jesus says Satan has been a liar and murderer from the beginning. He fires his fiery arrows in the form of lies in his attempt to intimidate us into giving up on God.

The weapons we have as Christians include -

- The Blood of Jesus shed at Calvary that has defeated Satan
- The Spirit of God who raised Jesus to life from the dead
- The Word of God anointed by the Spirit which is powerful in demolishing the mental strongholds the enemy establishes in our minds with God's Word says: *"It is written!"*
- Our position as children of God means we have peace with God and are no longer in fear of Satan's accusations of sin

Romans 5:1; 8:1 NIV

Winning the Spiritual Battle

In winning the spiritual battle, we have several powerful weapons with which to defeat the enemy.

- **The Blood of Jesus** *"The saints overcame [Satan] by the Blood of the Lamb and the word of their testimony."* **Revelation 12:11 NIV**
- **The Spirit of God** *"Be continually filled with the Spirit."* **Ephesians 5:18 NIV**
- **The Written Word of God** Jesus said: *"it is written you shall not put God to the test."* **Luke 4:12 NIV**
- **The Rhema Word of God** *"wielding the sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God"* **Ephesians 6:17 NIV**

Key Verse: *"Submit yourselves then to God; resist the devil and he will flee from you."* **James 4:7 NIV**

First, complete submission to God, ask for his power and his instructions; then resist in God's strength and in obedience to his instructions.

**CRUCIFY THE FLESH
BE TRANSFORMED BY THE RENEWING OF YOUR MIND
BE CONTINUALLY FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT**

**GALATIANS 5:24
ROMANS 12:2
EPHESIANS 5:18**

Questions

Why is it futile to attempt to reason your way in spiritual warfare?

Where is most of the spiritual warfare fought?

What are Satan's main weapons against Christians?

What does Paul tell us to do to combat Satan's lies and attempts to deceive and intimidate?

How did Jesus battle Satan in the desert? (**Matthew 4:1-10; Luke 4:1-12**)

Session 8:

**The Church
as
The Body of Christ**

Relationship vs Religion

**The Church
as
The Family of God**



The Holy Spirit Fell At Pentecost

Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them....We hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!

~ The Book of ACTS Chapter 2 Verses 2-4

The Birth of the Church at Pentecost Acts 2:1-41

The Church of Jesus Christ came into being on the Feast of Pentecost by a supernatural act of God the Holy Spirit. All those who responded to Peter's call to repent of the sins were baptized by the Spirit into the supernatural Body of Christ, with Christ as the Head of the Body.

The Visible vs The Invisible Church

When a person is born *anōthen* by the Spirit, s/he is born into the supernatural Body of Christ and is united spiritually with every other born again believer, both living and dead. This is an **invisible Body** of individuals united with Christ and with one another by the Holy Spirit.

The **Visible Church** consists of all those who are members of one of the different denominations of the Church as a result of being baptized in water and being received as a member into a particular fellowship of believers. It includes, but is different from, the **Invisible Church**, which is *not* an *organisation* but a *living, spiritual organism*.

Relationship vs Religion

The key difference between the Visible and Invisible Church of Christ is that **The Visible Church** is a **human organisation**, based on a system of rules and rituals from the Latin word *religio*, which means 'binding,' from which we get our word **religion**. It involves members being **bound together by the need to observe various rules and rituals**.

The Invisible Church by contrast is the **body of free individuals united by the Spirit to Christ and to one another** as a **living organism**. It is based on **relationship to God through faith in Jesus Christ** and consists of all those who have been born from above by the Holy Spirit as God's children.

"For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry "Abba! Father!" The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God."

Romans 8:14-16 ESV

The Basics of the Faith

The Visible vs The Invisible Church

Below is a table showing the differences between **The Visible Church** (a human organisation) and **The Invisible Church**, consisting of all those who have been born again as children of God.

FEATURES	THE VISIBLE CHURCH	THE INVISIBLE CHURCH
APPEARANCE	VISIBLE BUILDINGS & MEMBERS	SUPERNATURAL BODY OF CHRIST
NATURE	MORIBUND ORGANIZATION	LIVING ORGANISM
STRUCTURE	CEO + MEMBERS	BODY OF PARTS HEAD IS CHRIST
CONDITIONS OF ENTRY	RULES & RITUALS eg BAPTISM; CONFIRMATION	BORN <i>anōthen</i> by the HOLY SPIRIT
MEMBERSHIP	ANYONE FULFILLING ENTRY CONDITIONS	BORN AGAIN + BAPTIZED in water & Spirit
BASIS OF AUTHORITY	BIBLE + TRADITIONS	BIBLE ALONE
BASIS OF SALVATION	FAITH IN CHRIST + RULES & RITUALS	GOD'S GRACE & MERCY THROUGH FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST
ORDINANCES	ORDAINED BY ORGANIZATION	ORDAINED BY JESUS IN SCRIPTURE
OBJECTS OF WORSHIP	THE TRIUNE GOD + OTHERS	THE TRIUNE GOD ALONE



The Church is Not a Building; It Is a Body of *Born Again* Believers

The Church as The Family of God



The Church as The Family of God

Fotolia

The Family of God Consists of God's Children

All who have been born *anōthen* by the Spirit of God are God's spiritual children.

"For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!" The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God." **Romans 8:14-16**

God Invites Us To Pray to Him as "Abba! Daddy!"

*"Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
let your kingdom-rule come, let your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.*

*And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.
For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you.
But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.*

And lead us not into temptation/testing but deliver us from the evil one. "

Matthew 6:9-14 NIV

Questions

- What happens to a person when s/he is born from above by the Spirit?
- What are the differences between the Visible and the Invisible Church?
- Why will religion not get a person into heaven?
- Who is the head of the Body of Christ?
- How does a person become a member of the Family of God?

Session 9:

The Lord's Supper: Its Origin


The Meaning of the Bread & Wine

Holy Communion: A Celebration of Christian Unity

Session 9: The Lord's Supper: Holy Communion



Bread & Wine: Symbols of Salvation

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The Origin of the Lord's Supper: A Memorial of Deliverance from Death

The night he was betrayed Jesus took bread and wine to celebrate the Jewish *seder*, or **Passover Meal**, with his disciples. This meal is celebrated by devout Jews to this day as a memorial of the night the Angel of Death '*passed over*' the houses of God's children Israel in Egypt in the last of the ten plagues God sent to persuade Pharaoh to let his people go (**Exodus 12:1-51**)

The youngest child in a Jewish family asks the question: "*Why is this night so special?*" which prompts the head of the household to rehearse the story of how God told Moses to tell the Israelites to take the blood of a spotless lamb and daub the blood on the door posts and lintel of every Israelite house that night. When the Angel of Death visited Egypt to kill the firstborn male children, including the son of Pharaoh, he would **pass over every Israelite house where he saw the sprinkled blood**.

Jesus' Death at Passover as The Spotless Lamb of God

Jesus (Hebrew Yeshua, whose name means '*he will save his people from their sins*') was hailed by John the Baptist as "*The Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!*" (**John 1:29**). And he was crucified at the Festival of Passover at the very time the paschal lambs were being slaughtered by the Jews to celebrate their deliverance from death.

The Meaning of the Bread & the Wine: The Symbols of Our Salvation

During the meal Jesus said one of them was going to betray him and he was going to die. He told them to celebrate God's New Covenant in his blood with bread and wine, symbolising his body and blood shed for the forgiveness of sinners, just as the paschal lambs were sacrificed to remember God's Old Covenant with his children Israel.

"While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, 'Take and eat; this is my body.' Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, 'Drink from it, all of you. This is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.'"

Mark 14-22-24 NIV

Questions

- What is the origin of the Lord's Supper?
- What is the significance of Jesus' celebration of it before his crucifixion?
- What do the bread and the wine symbolise?

The Lord's Supper as a Memorial of Jesus' Death



Breaking the bread at Cleopas' house at Emmaus on Easter Day: Painting by Caravaggio Creative Commons

Paul tells the Corinthian Christians that Jesus told them to celebrate this meal as a memorial of his death until he returns to bring in God's kingdom-rule finally on earth and in heaven.

"For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, "This is my body, which is for^{al} you. Do this in remembrance of me."¹ In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

1 Corinthians 11:23-26 ESV

Holy Communion: Celebrating the Unity of the Body of Christ

The Lord's Supper is only one of two ordinances Jesus commanded his disciples to keep - the other being Believer's Baptism. It is celebrated throughout the world by Christians, both as a memorial of Jesus' death and resurrection and also as a celebration of the unity the Holy Spirit brings to the invisible Body of Christ. It marks the unity of thousands of individual Christians across the world, reminding us that we are all one in Christ Jesus, as Paul wrote **Galatians 3:28** NIV

Questions

Is the Lord's Supper a sacrifice for sins or a memorial of what Jesus has done for us?
What is the significance of it for believers?
Why is it important in the life of the Church?

Session 10:

Sharing Christ's Compassion

God's Recycling Process

Jesus' Commission:

- **Proclaim the Good News**
- **Demonstrate God's Love**

The History of Christian Missions

Evangelism in the Local Community

Session 10: Sharing Christ's Compassion



Sharing Christ's compassion in the Body of Christ



God's Recycling Process: The Cycle of Love

Paul describes the process by which God shows his love to us and then sends out to share his love with others in what we could call 'The Cycle of Love' shown in the diagram here.

"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God. For just as we share abundantly in the sufferings of Christ, so also our comfort abounds through Christ. If we are distressed, it is for your comfort and salvation; if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which produces in you patient endurance of the same sufferings we suffer. And our hope for you is firm, because we know that just as you share in our sufferings, so also you share in our comfort."



2 Corinthians 1:3-7 NIV

The Great Commission

The history of Christian missions begins with Jesus' commission to the disciples before he returned to heaven.

"Jesus came and told his disciples, "I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

Matthew 28:18-20 NLT

He had previously spent three years teaching and showing them how to call people to repent of their rebellion against God and be baptized as a sign of God's forgiveness of their sins, healing the sick of various kinds of diseases, and setting people free from their bondage to demonic spirits.

The Basics of the Faith

Proclamation & Demonstration of the Good News of God's Kingdom-rule

Jesus' mission was to reverse the results of The Fall by calling people to repent of their rebellion and tell them that God was bringing his kingdom-rule to earth in his Person and to demonstrate it by healing people and delivering individuals who were afflicted by demonic spirits.

So before his return to heaven he gave his disciples the following instructions:

*"And he called the twelve together and gave them **power and authority over all demons and to cure diseases, and he sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal. And he said to them, "Take nothing for your journey, no staff, nor bag, nor bread, nor money; and do not have two tunics. And whatever house you enter, stay there, and from there depart. And wherever they do not receive you, when you leave that town shake off the dust from your feet as a testimony against them." And they departed and went through the villages, preaching the gospel and healing everywhere.***" **Luke 9:1-7 ESV**



Healing the sick



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Later Jesus selected seventy-two more disciples and sent them out in pairs to do what the twelve had been doing: **proclaiming the arrival of God's kingdom rule** in the Person of Jesus the Messiah/ Christ and **demonstrating his power to heal the sick and set the captives free**. The seventy-two came back excited at what they had witnessed the Holy Spirit doing through their obedience.

Luke 10:17-20 NLT

The History of Christian Missions

Christian missions, beginning with Paul's missionary journeys in *The Book of Acts*, have been based on Jesus' instructions - to **proclaim the Good News that God is in control, not Satan (Isaiah 52:7)** and to **demonstrate its arrival by healing the sick and setting the captives free**.

A missionary is someone who is sent (Latin: *mitto*= I send) to carry the Good News of the Gospel and to demonstrate God's power by healing and setting captives free from bondages.

Ten of the apostles (Greek *apostello*= I send) were martyred for their faith - a pattern that has continued down the centuries with the martyrdom of missionaries all over the world. In every case they were obedient to the call, not just to preach the Gospel but also to demonstrate the power of God through healing the sick and delivering people from demonic spirits.

Reaching Out into the Local Community

Different fellowships reach out to their local community in a variety of ways - visiting the sick and shut-ins, hospital and prison visiting, food banks, job clubs, debt counselling and help for people suffering from addictions of various kinds as well as people afflicted by demonic spirits as a result of being involved in the occult. How does your fellowship reach out with the love of Jesus?

Questions

- What did Jesus command his disciples to do? Were they obedient?
- In what ways has the Church been obedient to the Great Commission?
- In what ways have we been disobedient in what Dallas Willard calls 'The Great Omission'?
- Who took the initiative in every missionary outreach? God or individuals?

The Basics of the Faith

The History of a Christian Missions

We sometimes forget that Christian missionary organizations began with God calling an individual to share the Good News of God's love for lost humanity with those who are suffering and do not know him.



Paul's Missionary Journeys

© Zondervan

From the birth of the Church at Pentecost in 33AD, individuals have sensed God calling them to reach out with the love of Jesus to others in obedience to Christ's commission to go into all the world, beginning in Jerusalem and Judaea and moving out to the ends of the earth. Sadly, over the centuries Jesus' call to individuals to serve him by sharing his compassion with the suffering has been used by rulers and governments as a means of colonisation and conquest, often by violent means. But as Jesus told his disciples, they would be his witnesses (Greek: *martyres* = martyrs) and the spread of the Gospel was accompanied by the martyrdom of many of those called to take Christ's love to their murderers.

The History of a Mission

An example of the origin of a missionary organization that has reached out with the Gospel across the world is **Teen Challenge**, founded in 1961 by David Wilkerson, an Assemblies of God pastor, who left a rural Pennsylvania church to work on the street among teenage gang members and socially marginalized people in New York City. The organization offers rehabilitation programs of a general duration of 12 months to help young people to get out of addictions of all kinds (Wikipedia).

The original call to David Wilkerson, described in the film *The Cross & The Switchblade*, came when he saw an article about the trial of teenage gang members in New York and felt God tell him to go and share the Gospel with the leaders, including Nicky Cruz, who was subsequently converted and became a worldwide evangelist.

Research the History of a Christian Missionary Organization

Take a Christian organization, national, international or local, and research its history to see how God spoke to an individual or group of Christians to reach out with his compassion to others.

Questions

- Choose a missionary or missionary organization and find out how it began?
- Has anyone in the group felt God calling them to reach out with his love to others?
- How can we support individuals and organizations called to be missionaries?

NOTES

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The 3:10 Discipleship Course

The Basics of The Faith



Discipleship
Course