

VICTORY WORLD MISSIONS

INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES



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*I'm a new
Creation!*



Chapter I: I'm a New Creation

Hello! You're a Christian now and that means there've been some changes....
You're a New Creation!

"Therefore, if any man be in Christ, he is a new creation: old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new."

II Corinthians 5:17

Oh, I know you look the same. Your shape, your eyes and hair are still the same color but the change has happened inside you.

Man is made of two parts:

1. The earth, or dust

"And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground..."

Genesis 2:7a

2. God's breath, or spirit:

"...and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being."

Genesis 2:7b

Up until the time you became a Christian you were taking care of the first element you are made of, the dust or body. When it got hungry you fed it; when it wanted water, you poured water down it; when it wanted sex, you took care of it; when it got sick you nursed it. All those things will continue to be needs as long as you live in a body.

But NOW God has quickened (brought to life) part (2) two ... your spirit, which died when sin entered into the world.

"But of the tree of knowledge of good and evil, you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."

Genesis 2:17

Just as you feed your physical body, you must now feed your spirit man too!

Your spirit will hunger for God and will thirst for God. This hunger can only be satisfied by God. Things produced by the earth will only satisfy the body or flesh

Some scriptures that tell us about satisfying the thirst or hunger of our spirit man are listed below:

Isaiah 45:3	Old Testament
Isaiah 49:8,9	Old Testament
Isaiah 55:1	Old Testament
Amos 8:11	Old Testament
Matthew 5:6	New Testament
John 4:14	New Testament
John 6:35	New Testament

As you read these scriptures you become aware that indeed your new spirit man wants to be fed and strengthened. God's Word is the bread of life and water to the spirit of man. You will continue to grow spiritually as you:

1. Read The Word
2. Listen to preaching and teaching of the Word.
3. Fellowship with Christians.
4. Pray.
5. Be Obedient to the Word.

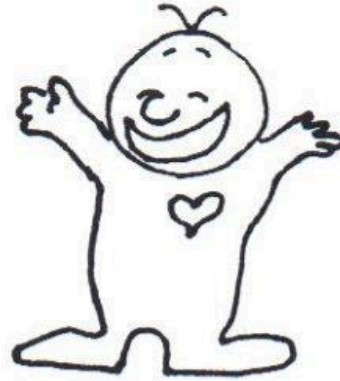
The following lessons will tell you how to begin. Just as a baby who is a new creation, cannot walk, chew meat, talk, etc., you also as a new creation, must start with milk.

“As newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the Word, that you may grow thereby.”

1 Peter 2:2

So don't be disappointed if you fail or make a mess at times... all babies do, but you're still loved by God and us! Welcome to His family!

Yea!
I'm Born
Again!



Chapter II: Born Again – A. What's That?

When you ask Jesus Christ to forgive you of your sins, He gives spiritual birth to you, new life!

You may hear Christians and the Bible describe this experience in the following terms: salvation or being saved, born again, converted.

Just as each baby's birth is different and unique, so is your spiritual birth. Some people feel highly emotional and cry while others feel such joy and peace and very exhilarated, while still others feel nothing... no flashing lights, no bolts of thunder, no joy or peace at the moment. Feelings are important, but you do not have to have feelings to be born. Neither does your spiritual birth require you to have an emotional experience. The most important thing to focus on, is obeying God's Word. As you obey His Word He makes the changes... we cannot. We'll talk more about your feelings in the next chapter. In the meantime, read the scriptures below and write in your own words what the scripture says happened to you when you received Christ.

1. **John 1:12**– “But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right (authority or right) to become the children of God, even to those who believe in His name.

2. **John 5:24** -- “Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My Word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life.”

3. **John 6:35-37** -- “And Jesus said to them, I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst. But I said to you that you have seen Me and yet do not believe. All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out.”

4. **I John 5:11-12** -- “And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.”

5. **I John 1:9** -- “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

So, you see, something did happen to you. This same experience has happened to millions and yet you are unique and special to God... one of a kind, and you bring great delight to God's heart because He loves His kids.

On a separate piece of paper, write what God means to you and how you feel about him!

Chapter II: Born Again – B. Facts About Your Birth

Your continued growth and spiritual maturity will rest on some fundamental foundation stones. The spiritual battle ground where victory or defeat occurs is your mind, so God will renew or change your mind.

“And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is the good and acceptable and perfect will of God.”

Romans 12:2

The natural mind (before you were born again) wanted to do its own thing and to only serve the body or flesh. It was influenced by feelings and emotions and reasoning; but God's Word tells us that the carnal, fleshly mind is at war against your spirit man.

“For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.

Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the laws of God, nor indeed can be.

So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.

But you are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His.

And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness.

But if the Spirit of Him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by His Spirit that dwells in you.

Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh.

For if you live after the flesh, you shall die: but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you shall life.”

Romans 8:6-13

We are not born AGAIN by works (fleshly deeds) but by His Spirit and faith in God's Word.

“Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we might be justified by the faith in Christ, and not by the works of the law; for by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified.”

Galatians 2:16

The above illustration shows you where your new power is contained. It is having faith in God's Word that makes your new spirit man work. NEVER will you find your power in feelings. Feelings are fickle fellows that flit and flirt and often frustrate and fail. But God's Word works wonders, so put your faith in His Word and what His Word says you are, even though you don't feel anything. Faith in God can be defined as trusting or relying on what God's Word says. For example, “How do you know you are saved?” I rely on God's promise in His Word.

Rom. 10:12 “Whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

You and I called on the name of Jesus to give us eternal life. God promised if we would call on His name we would be saved! Now we live our lives totally relying on that promise. That is faith!

This story shows us faith. When someone jumps from an airplane with a parachute they totally trust that their parachute will open correctly. They rely on that parachute! God and His Word is our parachute! We totally rely on God's promise for salvation, healing, etc.

“You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you.

Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine; neither can you, unless you abide in Me.

I am the vine; you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.

If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned.

If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire and it shall be done for you.

By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.

As the Father has loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love.

If you keep My commandments, you will abide in my love; just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love.

These things have I spoken unto you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy might be full.

**“This is My commandment, that you love one another, as I have loved you.”
John 15:3-12**

The feeling may come the moment you receive Christ or it may come days later. Suddenly you will sense His peace and joy, but just keep walking by faith in His Word.

Since feelings can change from day to day, they are not a solid foundation to build on. But God's Word is fact and won't be shifting from day to day or with moods. His Word will be there forever, the same yesterday, today and forever! (Hebrews 13:8) So we build on God's Word, which is stable.

Remember now, feelings aren't bad. They are good and wonderful, but they fluctuate; so our faith must be placed in the unmovable, unchangeable Word of God.

How to Survive



Chapter II: Born Again – C. How to Survive

Remember the laws you must live by to survive physically? You must eat, relax or rest and exercise. If a baby doesn't eat he will starve to death. If you eat and don't exercise, you soon look like a balloon. If you don't exercise or work, your power wastes away and life becomes boring and dull. So the thing to do is be sure you do all three to survive. Remember, these three laws apply to your new spirit man also.

EATING

Your spiritual food will be God's Word, the Bible. Take time to read it every day, just like you take time to feed your physical body. If you don't, your spirit man soon die. Keep a notebook of things you may learn and teaches you. Try to concentrate on one verse and think all day. That way you have something to meditate on (on) all day long.

Make eating for the spirit man a habit. Just as you make eat physically, you must make time to eat spiritually. Don't just leave it for a convenient time...chances are days will go by before you eat for the spirit man. Start building good eating habits today.



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When you read, pray that God will help you understand what you read. God's Holy Spirit lives inside you and He inspired the writing of the Bible, so He understands it. Ask Him to read the Word with you. Praying is like drink is to a good meal. Praying is talking to God and listening. If you can talk, you can pray. TRY IT!

RELAXING

When you have eaten properly, then you need to learn to relax. Pressure and tension on a full stomach are not good. Your food always digests better when you are relaxed. So don't worry! Let God "worry" for you. He tells us to "cast all our cares on Him because He cares for us" (I Peter 5:7). You do this "relaxing" when you pray and remember God understands your frustrations and struggles and even your temptations. He experienced what you had to go through while He lived on earth and has made provisions for you to succeed to be an overcomer.



"For the Word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.

Seeing then that we have a great High Priest, who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession.

For we do not have a High Priest which cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.

Let us therefore come boldly into the throne of grace that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need."

Hebrews 4:12-16

So just rest and relax in Him. We weren't good enough to be His children in the first place, but "He loved us while we were yet sinners" (Romans 5:8) and provided His grace (unmerited favor) so we could be His children. He did it all at Calvary so we rest in His finished work. When you relax through prayer, don't pick up your cares and worries again...leave them with God, our burden bearer. Don't forget to pray or relax every day.

EXERCISE



Physically you need to exercise to stay “fit” and “trim.” Too much eating and not enough exercise can make you unbalanced and fat.

The Bible says we should not only be bearers, but doers of the Word. Many people know what God's Word says and even how to do what He says, but they just don't do it!

Your exercise program begins with careful instruction. Not knowing how to exercise could hurt you. You could pull a muscle or injure your back.

Instructions are given in God's Word and are made clear through Apostles, Pastors, Teachers, Prophets and Evangelists (Ephesians 4:11-30), who perfect the saints for the work of the ministry.



Your faith comes by hearing the Word of God (Romans 10:17), so don't miss Church and your exercise periods.



Why all this exercise? Is it just to look good? NO! The devil and unbelievers will try to destroy your spirit man. In our own strength we would fail. But through proper diet, rest and exercise, we become “more than conquerors” (Romans 8:37) through Jesus Christ who lives inside us. So remember to eat (read the Word) rest or relax (pray) and exercise...apply Biblical principles to your daily living. It really works!

Chapter III: All About Jesus – A. His Father

Just as you have a father, Jesus also has a Father. His name is God. The Bible, God's Word, tells us many things about Him.

God always was. No one made Him.

“Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations.”

“Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever You had formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God.”

Psalm 90:1- 2

He is the first and the last, and besides Him there is no God.

“Thus says the Lord the King of Israel, and his Redeemer the Lord of hosts, I am the first, and I am the last; and beside Me there is no God.

Isaiah 44:6

(Also see Psalm 93:2 and Proverbs 8:23)

Does God have a body? The Bible tells us that God is a Spirit.

“God is a Spirit: and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth”

John 4:24

His Spirit comes into us to live when we ask Him to forgive our sins.

It would be hard to understand God if He were just a Spirit floating around, so He made Himself visible as a person called Jesus (read John 1:1-14). Jesus demonstrated what God was like and told His disciples, “If you've seen me, you've seen my Father” (John 14:9). Jesus showed us what God is like. Here are some of the characteristics or likenesses that we call attributes. We see in them how human Jesus is and yet some of the attributes are only found in God, who is deity. Jesus was both God (Deity) and man.



Chapter III: All About Jesus – B. His Attributes and Characteristics

1. He is Omnipotent. (All powerful).

Here are some scriptures which tell us this:

Genesis 18:14, Matthew 19:26, Jeremiah 32:27

<http://www.victoryworldmissions.info/home/download/1144/>

(Also see Job 42:2, Psalm 24:8 and Deuteronomy 32:27)

2. He is Omnipresent. (Everywhere)

I Kings 8:27, Psalm 139:3-10

3. He is Omniscient. (All Knowing).

Psalm 139:1-4, 1 Samuel 2:3, I Chronicles 28:9 (also see II Chronicles 16:9; Isaiah 46:10).

4. He is perfect.

Deuteronomy 32:4; II Samuel 22:31

5. He is righteous.

Ezra 9:15; Romans 9:14

6. He is eternal. (Will never die).

Jeremiah 10:10; Psalm 90:1,2; Exodus 15:18

7. He is sovereign. (Does as He pleases over all).

Deuteronomy 10:14, 17; 32:39; Isaiah 45:7

8. He is Immutable (Truth, never makes a mistake)

Numbers 23:19; I Samuel 15:29

9. He is full of grace.

Psalm 84:11; Genesis 18:26

10. He is good and merciful.

Psalms 69:16; 100:5

11. He is love.

I John 4:7-8

12. He is faithful.

Psalms 89:1; I Thessalonians 5:24

13. He is holy.

Leviticus 19:2

Chapter III: All About Jesus – C. His Other Family - The Holy Spirit

These three people, God, Christ and the Holy Spirit are referred to as the Trinity (three)

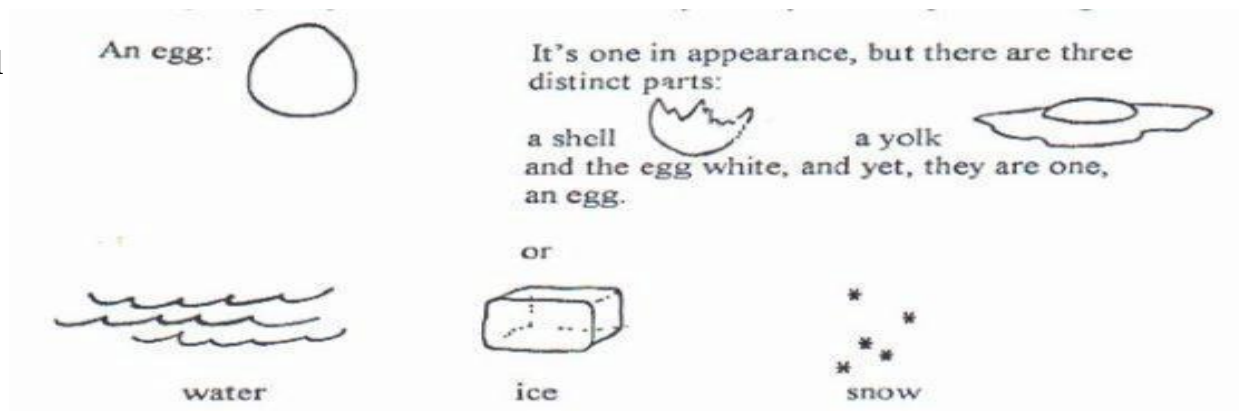
A great mystery is that all three persons are the same, and yet they are separate and distinct from each other. We see all three persons in action in John's Gospel and one classic example from Matthew 3:16, 17.

“Then Jesus, when he had been baptized, came up immediately from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him.

And suddenly a voice came from Heaven, saying “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”

This mystery may be better understood by a couple of simple drawing:

All



look different, but ice melted is water, and snow melted is water...all the same!

Throughout the Bible you will see these three persons and their activity. Generally, their work assignments can be remembered by these simple phrases:

1. God thought it (Genesis 1:1) – Creation.
2. The Son brought it (Galatians 4:4-5) – Redemption.
3. The Spirit wrought it (I Peter 1:2) – Sanctification.

When we get to Heaven we will see all three Persons of the Godhead, the Trinity:

1. God the Father – Revelation 5:1, 4:3
2. God the Son – Revelation 5:5, 6-7
3. God the Holy Spirit – Revelation 4:5 Since you've accepted Jesus you are now part of his family. The Bible refers to Him as our "elder brother." His family and yours reaches all around the world.

Why not take a moment to thank Him for accepting us into His family?

Look at these characteristics of God. Then on a separate piece of paper make a list of His characteristics that you see being developed in your own life. Where you don't see a likeness, pray that God will give you this characteristic. Remember, He lives inside you, and you can become more and more like Him since we take on the characteristics of our parents. He is our heavenly Father and we become a new creation in Him.

As Jesus' holiness, love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control are worked into your life they will produce the fruit of righteousness.

Your Security as a Believer



Chapter IV: Your Security as a Believer

Since you're in the Family of God now, what is your security as a believer or a member of that family?

When I was born into my natural family, I was given their name. You are now called a Christian. That is the highest name you can be given. Just as your family name was highly thought of, so is your Christian name. Sometimes I made mistakes that disappointed my earthly father, but he never rejected me. He never asked me to leave the family. He never asked me to stop using our family name.

Dad would often correct me and discipline me so I would learn right from wrong. And although I never enjoyed the discipline, I knew my parents loved and cared enough about me to correct me. They saw that if I was left to myself that I would ruin my life, and they had my best interests at heart. They had already learned valuable lessons through experience, and they wanted to spare me any grief they could...but they always loved me in spite of my mistakes.

So it is with your new spiritual Father. When you do something wrong or sin, God does not kick you out of the family, although it grieves Him. The Bible says:

“...if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.”

I John 2:1

The word advocate means a “lawyer.” Jesus defends us to the Father, and I John 1:9 says:

“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

God disciplines us to bring us back to the right paths and right living. That’s a sign that He cares about us and loves us. The Bible says:

“For whom the Lord loves He chastens, and scourges every son whom He receives.

For as you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom the father does not chasten?

But if you are without chastening, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate and not sons.

Furthermore, we have had human fathers who corrected us, and we paid them respect. Shall we not much more readily be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live?

For they indeed for a few days chastened us as seemed best to them; but He for our profit, that we might be partakers of His holiness.

Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but grievous; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.”

Hebrews 12:6-11

God Really Loves You, and Loved People are Secure People

John 3:16 says:

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”

So never doubt God’s love for you. He loved us even when we were a mess and in sin. God loved us before we ever knew Him. Now that we know Him we can be assured that He loves us. In fact, there is nothing that we can do that will change His love for us. His love is the same to all people, but as His children, we want to please Him by keeping His commandments. Listen to the Bible declare this:

“In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us, and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.”

I John 4:10

“This is love that we walk according to His commandments. This is the commandment, that as you have heard from the beginning, you should walk in it.”

I John 1:6

“Now he that keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him. And by this we know that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us.”

I John 3:24

You have God's Protection

Just as my big brother would “watch out” for me, so Jesus, my elder brother, loves me and protects me. God promised Israel, His chosen people, protection, and that same promise is to us also since by birth we are in His family as children. Note how many ways God said He would protect you in Isaiah 43:1-4

Also read Psalm 56 this week. Then write down what you think God is saying to you.

Remember too that God will continue to perfect and build you. You are His workmanship, and God does good work.

If you fail, tell God about it, and get back up and keep walking. He really loves you, despite your failures.

“Being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ.”

Philippians 1:6

“For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.”

Ephesians 2:10

Where is
Jesus now?



Chapter V: Where is Jesus Now?

After Jesus was raised from the dead, He stayed on the earth teaching His disciples and appeared to several different groups of people in His new glorified body. These appearances lasted for about 40 days.

One day while with His disciples, a strange thing happened. Jesus had been telling them that He was going away and how necessary it was so He could send the Holy Spirit. Suddenly a cloud came down and took Him into the heavens.

“But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and

Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight.

And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel;

Who also said, Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you have seen Him go into heaven.”

Acts 1:8-11

The disciples went to Jerusalem where they had been told to wait for the Holy Spirit (Luke 24:49). Ten days later the Holy Spirit came. We will discuss this in a following chapter.

But What Is Jesus Doing Now in Heaven, and Why Did He Go Away?

Jesus went away because:

1. The Holy Spirit could not come until Jesus' work was finished.

"Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I go not away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him unto you."

John 16:7

2. Jesus' redemptive work was finished. Redeem means to ransom. The Devil kidnapped all of God's creation, through sin. But Jesus paid the ransom to rescue us. To pay the ransom, Jesus had to die for our sin. This gave us an opportunity to come back to God.

"But Christ came as High Priest of good things to come, with greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this creation."

"Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by His own blood he entered the most Holy Place, once for all, having obtained eternal redemption."

Hebrews 9:11-12

"Previously saying, 'Sacrifice and offering, burnt offerings, and offerings for sin You did not desire, nor had pleasure in them' (which are offered by the law).

Then He said, 'Behold, I have come to do Your will, O God.' He takes away the first, that He may establish the second.

By that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

And every priest stands ministering daily and offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins.

But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God."

Hebrews 10:8-12

3. Jesus made an entrance into the throne room of God in Heaven.

"And according to the law, almost all things are purged with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no remission.

Therefore, it was necessary that the copies of the things in the heavens should be purified with these, but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these.

For Christ has not entered the holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us.”

Hebrews 9:22-24

“and having a High Priest over the house of God,

Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.”

Hebrews 10:21-22

What Is Jesus Doing in Heaven Now?

1. He is the intercessor and mediator for us before God.

“For Christ has not entered the holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us.”

Hebrews 9:24

“For there is one God, and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus.”

I Timothy 2:5

2. He is our advocate-lawyer.

“My little children, these things I write to you, that you may not sin. And if anyone sine, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the Righteous.”

I John 2:1

3. He is our High Priest. Jesus is the one we pray to and in His name we pray.

“Until now you have asked nothing in My name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.”

John 16:24

4. Because He is seated with the Father we have a continual rest as the people of God.

“Who being the brightness of His glory, and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high.”

Hebrews 1:3

5. One day He is coming back for His church (the body of believers).

“In my Father’s house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.

And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.”

John 14:2-3

Why not list some ways that you are helped through Christ’s ministry before the Father.



The Gifts of the Holy Spirit

Chapter VI: The Gifts of the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit... Our Friend

We have already seen that the Holy Spirit is a member of the heavenly family. He is the third Person of the Godhead. (God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit).

God's Spirit dwells, or lives in you when you asked Him to forgive you of your sins. Your body becomes His temple.

“Do you not know that you are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?”

I Corinthians 3:16

He is a gentleman and anything He does in you will build or edify you...never will He scare you or do anything contrary to God's will and purpose. He is the Holy Spirit and all of His gifts are good and will be beneficial to you.

“But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all.”

I Corinthians 12:7

Since you are a believer, now you are a candidate to be baptized in the Holy Spirit as well. This experience is described in your next chapter, but first let us look at the gifts which are available to you through the Holy Spirit. You will find that there are at least 23 listed in the chapters and chart on the next page. Study them carefully and read the scriptural references.

The following is a diagram of the gifts with arrows showing those which overlap.

While it is true that some gifts may frequently overlap, that is not a dogmatic truth. Example, a prophet may prophecy yet have a motivational gift of mercy.

ROMANS 12:3-8**EPHESIANS 4:11-12****I COR. 12:8-11**

- | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------|
| | 1. Apostle |
| 1. Prophecy-----□ | 2. Prophet-----□- |
| | 3. Evangelist |
| | 4. Pastor |
| 2. Teaching-----□ | 5. Teacher |
| 3. Giving Aid-----□ | 10. Helps |
| 4. Ruling | 11. Governments |
| 5. Exhorting & Encouragement | |
| 6. Giving | |
| 7. Mercy | |

1. Word of Wisdom
2. Word of Knowledge
3. Faith
4. Gifts of Healing
5. Working of Miracles

6. Prophecy
7. Discerning of Spirits
8. Tongues
9. Interpretation

The gifts listed in Romans 12 are often referred to as “motivational gifts,” meaning that every believer will manifest one of these gifts predominantly and it will be the gift which motivates his other ministries.

For example, a person may not have an Ephesians 4 ministry, but he may have the Gift of Mercy which motivates him, and he may be used in any of the I Corinthians 12 gifts as the Spirits wills. An apostle may be motivated by teaching and the Holy Spirit minister through them in the working of miracles.

Every man is instructed to wait on his gift or ministry. Abraham waited, Moses waited, the Apostle Paul waited...some waited years, but then God said, “NOW” and they went forth in power and demonstration of the Holy Spirit, God working with them.

Is It Wrong to Desire Spiritual Gifts?

NO! In fact, the Bible encourages us to seek them.

“But earnestly desire the best gifts.”

I Corinthians 12:31a

“Pursue love, and desire spiritual gifts.”

I Corinthians 14:1a

Who Determines Who Receives What Gift?

The Bible tells us that God’s Spirit determines this distribution.

“But the manifestations of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all.”

For to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through 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 different kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues.

But one and the same Spirit, works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.”

I Corinthians 12:7-11

Once You Receive Your Gift Or Gifts, They Are Not To Be Used Selfishly Nor Are We To Be Lifted Up In Pride

The Bible teaches that we become even more dependent on each other.

“For in fact the body is not one member, but many.

If the foot shall say, “Because I am not a hand, I am not of the body,” is it therefore not of the body?

And if the ear should say, “Because I am not the eye, I am not of the body,” is it therefore not of the body?

If the whole body were an eye, where would be the hearing? If the whole body were hearing, where would be the smelling?

But now God has set the members, every one of them, in the body, just as He pleased.

And if they were all one member, where would the body be?

But now indeed there are many members, yet one body.

And they eye cannot say unto the hand, “I have no need of you; nor again the head to the feet, “I have no need of you.”

No, much rather, those members of the body, which seem to be weaker, are necessary.

I Corinthians 12:4-22

Now... How Do You Receive the Gifts of the Holy Spirit?

Gifts are given freely! You do not beg, but it is “the Father’s good pleasure to give gifts to His children.”

When you were born you inherited the family name. You also inherited certain traits and characteristics of your family. You were given no choice at all as to whether you wanted to or not; by birth you received them.

You did not receive all the same natural abilities as your brothers or sisters, but neither did they receive all you did, good looks, musical talent, athletic ability, etc.

You have become a child of God. You further received a great inheritance, gifts and graces. You are unique in God’s sight and make up a part of His body that no one else can.

As a child of God, at birth, you received graces or gifts so that people can see and say, “He’s a Christian,” not just (your name). I inherit:

1. The Spirit of Christ
2. Various gifts of the Spirit
3. Authority
4. Righteousness
5. Faith
6. The love of God
7. Hope

All of these are received at birth (inherited) while other graces or gifts are added as the Spirit wills.

How Does the Church Profit Through the Gifts of the Spirit?

These gifts function by the Holy Spirit to help mankind. They are from God and supernatural. I know a lady that doctors performed surgery on. The doctors told her there was nothing that they could do. She had cancer so bad the doctors said she would live only three weeks! That is supernatural! That is when God does something we could not do.

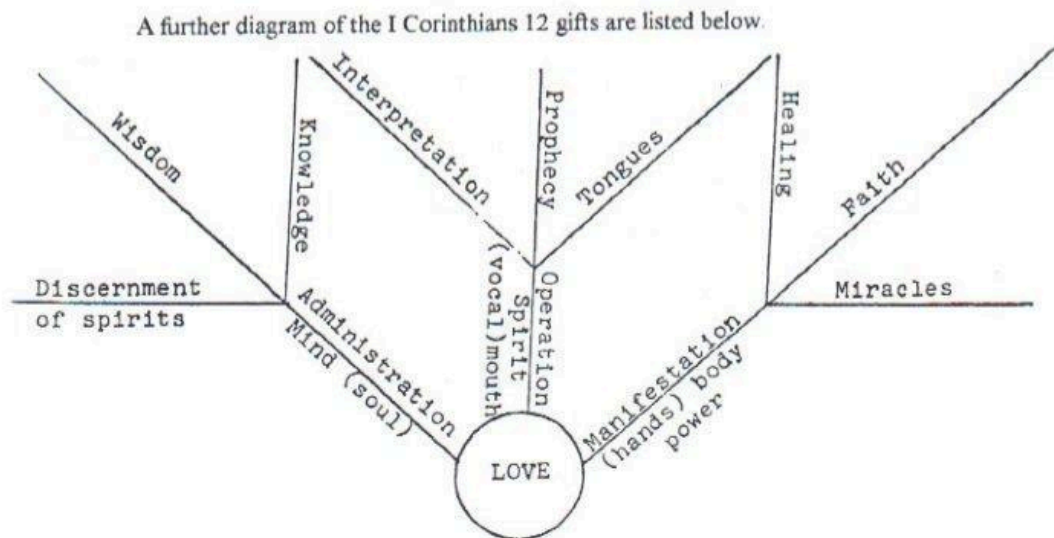
The 9 gifts in I Corinthians 12 may be diagramed several ways:

1. Divine intelligence-wisdom, knowledge, discerning of spirits. This supersedes anything that is innate in man.
2. Divine enablement-faith, working of miracles. No human power can match up to these.
3. Divine eloquence-languages or tongues, interpretation, prophecy.

Jesus had no manifestation of power until the Spirit came upon him and neither will the church

“But you shall receive power, after the Holy Spirit Has come upon you: and you shall be witnesses unto Me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and to Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

Acts 1:8



How Can We Desire and Develop the Gifts in Our Lives?

In the simplest of terms, spend time with the Giver of the gifts. Read His Word, pray, meditate on the law of the Lord and exercise every gift He has already given you.

Be faithful in the Spirit's prompting to use the gifts. According to Scripture we have a responsibility to stir up the gift or gifts which reside in us.

“Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given you by prophecy, with the laying on of the hands of the presbytery.

Meditate upon these things; give yourself entirely to them; that your progress may be evident to all.

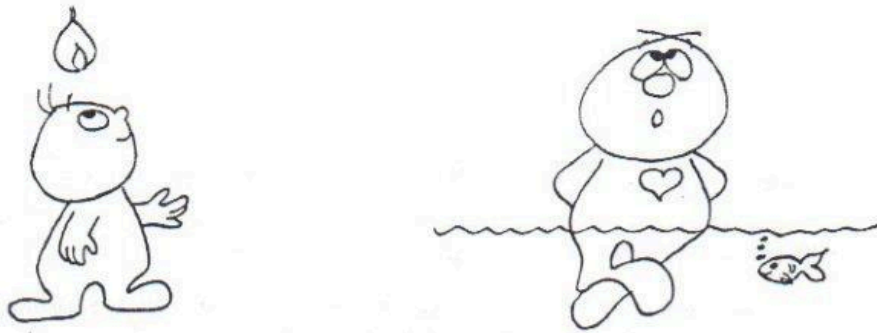
Take heed to yourself, and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you.”

I Timothy 4:14-16

Volumes more could be written about each individual gift with explanation of each, but we would hope that the student will be encouraged to seek, search and desire them.

To help remember the gifts, please list the gifts from Romans 12, Ephesians 4, and I Corinthians 12.

Make it a point to desire these gifts within your life.



Chapter VII Baptisms - Water Baptism - Holy Spirit Baptism

In this chapter we will introduce you to a commandment and also to a promised gift. Water Baptism is a commandment to all believers and the Holy Spirit Baptism is the promise given for power and opening new spiritual perspective.

You will find the scripture talks about baptisms in the plural, meaning that there are more than one. In fact, you will find that there are three baptisms mentioned. (Hebrews 6:1,2; Matthew 3:11; Acts 11:16)

Let us look at Water Baptism

Water Baptism - A. Facts About Water Baptism

First, our read example, Jesus, was baptized in water (Matthew 3:13-17).

You may ask, “Before I became a Christian, or while I was a baby, I was baptized. Is that good enough?” The Scripture is clear in teaching that repentance from sin precedes, or come before, you are baptized (Acts 2:38). Therefore, you should understand what you are doing. When you’re a baby or small child you do not understand the meaning of water baptism.

Water Baptism - B. Sprinkled or Immersed?

When you are baptized in water you will want to follow scriptural teaching. The Bible is very clear that baptism should be by immersion, or burial. The Greek word for

baptism is “baptizen,” and it means “to immerse, wash, to be buried.” There is no biblical record of sprinkling as a mode of baptizing. All words and variations of baptism mean “burial.”

“Or do you not know that as many of us were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death?”

Therefore, we are buried with Him through baptism into death.”

Romans 6:3,4a

“Buried with Him in baptism, in which you also were risen with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead.”

Colossians 2:12

Water Baptism – C. What Formula Should Be Used?

What words should the minister or person doing the baptizing use?

“Then Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and in earth.

“Go therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and the Holy Spirit.”

Matthew 28:18-19

Some teach that the formula should be in Jesus’ name only. (Acts 10:48; Acts 19:5; Acts 2:38)

We do not believe one formula is superior to another. For example, you may have twenty-five cents. It does not matter if you have twenty-five pennies or two dimes and a nickel or five nickels, they all equal twenty-five cents. The value is the same.

The reason we use the Trinity is because our sins were against God, and he brought us to Christ through His Holy Spirit. All three Persons of the Godhead were active in our redemption from sin.

Baptism is a type of the resurrection also. We are buried and raised with Christ. In Christ’s resurrection He was raised up by God through the Spirit, so all three are active in that part of baptism.

“But if the Spirit of Him that raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.”

Romans 8:11

“Yes, and we are found false witnesses of God, because we have testified of God that He raised up Christ, whom He did not raise up-if in fact the dead do not rise.”

I Corinthians 15:15

The outward symbolism of water baptism is described in Colossians 2:12

“buried with Him in baptism, in which you also were raised with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead.”

Baptism should be done as soon as possible after you’ve received Christ.

Water Baptism - D. After Water Baptism...

Follow the guidelines of Colossians, chapter three, verses 1-10. Note the lists below taken from these verses.

THINGS TO DO

1. Seek those things above
2. Set your affections on things above
3. Mortify (put to death) your members
4. Also put off these
5. New man is renewed in knowledge
(God’s knowledge-His Word)

THINGS TO PUT OFF

- not on things on earth
- formication, uncleanness, inordinate affections, evil concupiscence, covetousness (idolatry)
- anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy
- filthy communication, lie not

As you set your affections on God and His Word and renew your mind daily in His Word and make an effort (faith in action) to kill or put off the list to the right, you will find most of them die of their own accord because of your new desires and godly affection. You are now starving one nature and feeding the other.

Here is a list that helps us grow. Increase from time to time.

1. Read at least one chapter in the Bible, daily.
2. Pray at least five minutes each day.

3. Go to church every time you can.

This will help you focus on God in your life. The desires of the flesh (list on right) will begin to die. Your Godly desires will grow because you are feeding your spiritual desires and starving your fleshly desires.

The Holy Spirit Baptism

1. What is the outward physical sign of the Holy Spirit Baptism?

Scriptures: Isaiah 28:11-12

Acts 2:4

Acts 8:15-19

Acts 9:17 (see also I Corinthians 14:18)

Acts 10:44-46

Acts 15:7-8

Acts 19:1-6

2. The tongue is the most unruly member of our body (James 3:2-8). Therefore, God picks it as a sign that He is in control and speaks through us in a tongue we've never learned.
3. We seek the Giver of the gifts (Jesus), and not tongues. When you buy a pair of shoes, the tongues come with the shoes; you don't ask for a pair of tongues.
4. Praying in tongues edifies or builds you up.
 - Jude 20
 - 1 Corinthians 12:10, 28
 - I Corinthians 14:26
 - I Corinthians 12:7 (it benefits-doesn't destroy
– God gives good gifts)
5. Tongues are a sign to the unbeliever.
 - I Corinthians 14:15, 16, 22
6. Should tongues be used in a church service?

Yes, but with guidelines.

- I Corinthians 14:12-19
- I Corinthians 14:23
- I Corinthians 14:26-28

Paul is definite that if a tongue is used in public meetings, it should be interpreted, so the whole body may be edified. Otherwise, it only edifies the one who speaks and should be done in private devotion (Jude 20).

However, please note that Paul instructs that tongues should not be forbidden in public meetings (I Corinthians 14:39) – interpreted, but not forbidden and to covet prophecy.

7. The Holy Spirit is much more than a tongue.

The tongue is only the outward evidence of the third Person of the Godhead's occupancy of your life. The scriptures listed below gives us an idea of His help in our lives.

- Romans 8:26, 27
- John 14:16
- John 16:8, 13
- Acts 1:8
- I Corinthians 2:12
- I Corinthians 2:13
- I Corinthians 2:16
- John 15:26
- II Corinthians 4:13-14

8. Do you make up words or repeat words after somebody or speak baby babblings to start with? NO! The Scripture is clear that the Holy Spirit will give you utterance of speech. Note: There was no one present on the day of the Pentecost to teach them how to talk, and 25 years later at Ephesus (Acts 19) no one was teaching them how to talk. Acts 2:4

9. How do I receive the Holy Spirit Baptism?

- A. Repent of your sins (Acts 2:37-39).
- B. Have faith to receive, just as you did for salvation (Acts 8:14-17).
- C. He is the promised Gift to be received. You don't have to beg or plead for a gift, just receive it. (Acts 2:38 and 39)

Note: Acts 2:39 says the gift is for everyone.

- Luke 11:9-13

D. Be obedient to God's Word (Acts 5:32).

E. Supply the air and vocal chords, just as you do to speak English or any other language. You may not understand the words, and you won't, but give expression to them.

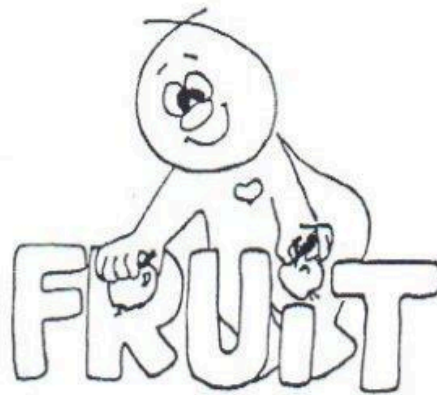
F. He will stimulate your lips to speak.

- Isaiah 28:11
- I Corinthians 14:21

10. The Holy Spirit also renews your mind. Remember, God doesn't give any bad gifts, only those which edify, or build up

- II Timothy 1:7
- Romans 12:2
- II Corinthians 4:16
- Ephesians 4:23

Looking for



Chapter VIII: Looking for Fruit

How Do I Know I'm Making Progress?

One gauge of your spiritual progress and maturity will be manifested (make known) by the spiritual fruit you produce.

An apple tree, for example, is still an apple tree, even though there are no apples, or good mature apples, or green apples. Of course, if it never produces any fruit, the tree is not worth keeping. (See John 15:1-8)

Even on a good tree there may be some bad fruit or fruit that is not mature. So don't be disappointed if you look and see some things in your life that you detest and are even surprised at. Perfection or maturity does not come about overnight. Just as apples aren't fully grown in one day, neither will your mature overnight but gradually you will come into Christ's likeness. The Bible says we are being changed from glory to glory.

What Are Fruits I Should Look For?

Galatians, Chapter 5, verses 19-26 describe the fruits (works) of the flesh and also the fruits of the Spirit. In the Bible, when it mentions "flesh" it is an enemy.

**"I say, then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lusts of
The flesh.**

**For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh:
And these are contrary to one to the other, so that you do not do
The things that you wish."**

Galatians 5:16-17

Below are listed the fruits that are found on the same tree. The fruits of the flesh need to be pruned or cut off as they sap us of spiritual nutrition to produce good fruit. When we become a Christian, our source of life is Jesus Christ, and that new nature or source

will starve out the works of the flesh. If the fruits of the flesh are still being produced long after we've become a Christian, it is a sign that we still allowing roots of our old nature (sin or flesh) to exist, and thus these fruits continue to grow. We must allow God's Spirit within us to prune off these branches and sever their tap root.
(Romans 8:6-10)

FRUITS OF THE FLESH

Galatians 5:19-26

1. Adultery-extra marital sex
2. Fornication-sex before marriage
3. Uncleaness-thoughts, conversations, body
4. Lasciviousness-lewd or lustful
5. Idolatry-worshiping other gods/things
6. Witchcraft
7. Hatred
8. Variances-disputing
9. Emulations-competitiveness to outdo
10. Wrath
11. Strife
12. Seditions – insurrection against lawful authority
13. Heresies – departure from the doctrine
14. Envy
15. Murders
16. Drunkenness
17. Reveling – noisy wild partying

FRUITS OF THE SPIRIT

1. Love
2. Joy
3. Peace
4. Longsuffering
5. Gentleness
6. Goodness
7. Faith
8. Meekness- enduring
injury with patience
and without resentment
9. Temperance –moderation
in indulgence
of the appetites

Make a list of the fruits you see in your life, both good and bad.

Now make a list of fruits that are dropping off and that you know have changed.

Pray and ask God to help you sever the fruits of the flesh that remain and to apply His Word (His Sword) to those roots that exist.

Remember, no fruit reaches maturity overnight, so be patient...God understands!

