

# BIBLE BASICS

## SIN:

Memory Verse: Romans 6:23

“For the wages of sin is death; but gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”

The word *sin* is taken from the Greek word *hamartia* (*ham-ar-tee'-ah*): offense; to miss the mark (and so not share in the prize).

In considering the question of sin, we are faced with two startling facts:

1. **Man makes so little of sin:** to some it is an illusion, a religious mirage, the invention of some fanatic. It is denied, joked about and laughed at by man. Many who believe sin to be fact continue in it with little thought of its penalty.
2. **God makes so much of sin:** God said, “*The soul that sinneth, it shall die.*” (Ezekiel 18:20); “*...the wages of sin is death...*” (Romans 6:23). All sins are an abomination to God (Proverbs 6:16-19) and He hates those who work iniquity (Psalm 5:5). Moses said, “*...all that do unrighteously, are an abomination unto the Lord thy God.*” (Deuteronomy 25:16).

Sin is an evil force and its presence cannot be escaped in this life, but it can be overcome by the power of God.

## THE ORIGIN OF SIN:

Sin was first noted in the heart of Satan. He was created [by God] a perfect being, “*...until iniquity was found in thee.*” (Ezekiel 28:11-19). Satan fell from perfection when he exerted his will above the will of God. Five times he said “*I will...*” (Isaiah 14:12-17). It was his will over God’s will – this is sin.

As Lucifer (i.e. Satan), he is described as one whose garment was made up of precious stones (Ezekiel 28:13). In him was the fullness of wisdom and perfection of beauty. The name Lucifer means “*bright and shining one*” or “*light bearer*”. He guarded the throne of God. He was created with a beautiful voice that had the sound of many drums. He was probably the lead singer in the celestial choir, for one of his titles is “son of the morning stars” and the “morning stars” came before God often to sing and shout their praises (Job 38:7).

## **WHAT IS SIN?**

Sin is:

- Lawlessness (I John 3:4).
- Falling short of God's glory (Romans 3:23).
- Rebellion against God (Isaiah 1:2).
- Unbelief – it makes God a liar (I John 5:10).
- Going you way, planning you life according to your own will, without seeking the will of God (Isaiah 53:6).

## **HOW SIN ENTERED INTO THE WORLD:**

1. Through one man sin entered the world (Romans 5:12).
  - The fall of man is found in Genesis 3:1-24.
2. When Adam sinned, his seed became corruptible (I Peter 1:23).
3. We are sinners, born in sin (Psalm 51:5).
  - NOTE: You don't have to teach children to be bad, but you do have to teach them to be good – not how to lie, but how to tell the truth.
  - All have sinned – we are sinners by nature (Romans 3:23).

## **THE RESULTS OF SIN:**

The wages of sin is death (Romans 6:23).

Death separates. There are three deaths as a result from man's sins:

- Spiritual Death
- Physical Death
- Eternal Separation from God [known as the "*Second Death*"]

## **SALVATION:**

Memory Verse: Ephesians 2:8

“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God.”

### **THE SALVATION PLAN:**

**ACKNOWLEDGE** – That you are a sinner (Romans 3:10 and Romans 3:23).

**CONFESS** – Your belief in God’s Son, Jesus Christ (Romans 10:9-10).

**REPENT** – Turn away from your sins (Luke 13:1-3, II Corinthians 7:10).

### **THE SINNERS PRAYER OF REPENTENCE**

*Lord Jesus. I acknowledge that I’m a sinner.  
I know I can’t save myself.  
I now receive You into my life as  
Saviour and Lord.  
I’m truly sorry for my sin, and I now  
Accept Your love and full forgiveness.  
I look forward to living with You forever in  
Heaven.  
Please bless my family.  
May they come to know You too.  
Amen. \*\**

**\*\*TAKEN FROM THE BOOK, ‘COUNSEL YOURSELF & OTHERS FROM THE BIBLE’,  
BY BOB MOOREHEAD  
(PAGE 107).**

**FORSAKE** - Stop practicing sin (Isaiah 55:7).

The word *salvation* comes from the Hebrew word *ysua* (*yesh-oo’-aw* [3444]) meaning salvation, deliverance, help, rescue from a dangerous circumstance or harmful state by a savior; divine

salvation usually has its focus on rescue from earthly enemies, occasionally referring to salvation from guilt, sin and punishment.

The word *salvation* also comes from the Greek word *soteria* (*so-tay-ree'-ah* [4991]) meaning salvation, rescue, deliverance, the state of not being in grave danger and so being safe; this can refer to ordinary dangers and conditions on earth, but it usually refers to the state of believers being safe from righteous wrath in a proper relationship with God (Ephesians 2:8).

The Hebrew & Greek words for *salvation* imply the ideas of:

- Deliverance [Psalm 107:6 and Galatians 1:3-5]
- Safety [Psalm 4:8 and Proverbs 18:10]
- Preservation [Psalm 121:7 and Jude 1:1]
- Healing [Malachi 4:2 and Acts 10:38]
- Soundness [Acts 3:16]

**Salvation is in three tenses:**

**PAST** – The Christian *has been* saved from the *guilt and penalty* of sin (Luke 7:50, I Corinthians 1:18; II Corinthians 2:15; Ephesians 2:4-9; I Timothy 1:9).

**PRESENT** – The Christian *is being* saved from the *power, habit and dominion* of sin (Romans 6:6,14; Romans 8:2; Galatians 2:19-20; Philippians 1:19; Philippians 2:12-13 II Thessalonians 2:13).

**FUTURE** – The Christian *will be* saved at the Lord's return, from all the bodily infirmities (*the presence*) that are the result of sin and God's curse upon the sinful world (Romans 8:18-23; I Corinthians 15:42-44).

**BEWARE OF SUBSTITUTES!!!**

1. Service is not salvation (Matthew 23:15) – How can you lead others to Christ when you do not know Christ yourself?
2. Turning over a new leaf in life is not salvation (Isaiah 64:6) – Man does not get saved by reforming, saying, "I will clean up my life and begin life anew."\*\*
- \*\* NOTE: The devil fools so many by whispering to them, "... you need to stop (whatever) before you become a Christian".
3. Right thinking is not salvation (Isaiah 55:8,9) – It is not thinking high thoughts – how can you think high thoughts with a *base* ( i.e. mean, ignoble; of poor quality) nature (Psalm 51:5)?
4. Denying self is not salvation (I Corinthians 13:3) – The heathen are masters at this – they practice all kinds of *asceticism* (i.e. the religious doctrine that one can reach a higher spiritual state by rigorous self discipline and self denial). You are not saved by crucifying

yourself. It is not proving to yourself you can do hard things. \*\*

**\*\*Note: There is no side door into heaven – Jesus said, “I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved...” (John 10:9 [John 14:6]).**

## **THE NATURAL BIRTH VERSUS THE SPIRITUAL BIRTH**

The natural birth produces a natural (physical) man and the spiritual birth produces a “new creature” (II Corinthians 5:17).

When man becomes “born again”, the natural (physical) man does not die, but you now possess two natures fighting to gain control of that one body (Galatians 5:17). You will never get rid of the old nature until the fleshly (physical) body dies, but we must learn to keep the natural man under subjection.

### **HOW?**

1. By walking in the Spirit (Galatians 5:16).
2. By starving the flesh (Romans 13:14).
3. By cutting off that thing which offends (Matthew 18:8-9).
4. By mortifying (i.e. put to death) the deeds of the body (Romans 8:13, Colossians 3:5-10).
5. By eliminating weights (Hebrews 12:1).
6. **WE MUST FEED THE SPIRITUAL MAN WITH SPIRITUAL THINGS** (I Peter 2:2).

### **TO SUMMARIZE:**

The story of salvation can be told in four words – SIN, CALVARY, FAITH, and LIFE.

1. SIN – Salvation is needed – “For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God...” (Romans 3:23).
2. CALVARY – Salvation is provided – “Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree...” (I Peter 2:24).
3. FAITH - Salvation is offered (Ephesians 2:8).
4. LIFE – Salvation is accepted (I John 5:12).

## **ORDINANCES: BAPTISM & COMMUNION**

### **BAPTISM:**

Memory Verse: Mark 16:16

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

Baptism in the early church was the outward declaration of conversion, so even though the ordinance *has no saving merit*, the close connection is natural because it is the sign of genuine faith.

The word *baptism* comes from the Greek word *baptize* (*bap-ti'-zo*): fully wet, dip, dunk or immerse, thus indicating its proper mode. Nowhere does this term ever indicate “*sprinkling*”.

### **BAPTISM AND COMMUNION:**

Baptism like Communion is an *ordinance*<sup>1</sup> within the Christian church.

Baptism like Communion shows the Lord’s death. It is faith you show publicly when you are baptized (Romans 6:3-5, Colossians 2:12).

Baptism is our open profession before the world that we are now living the miraculous, supernatural life of Christian grace by the quickening, regenerating power of God in us. In other words, baptism is an *outward showing* of the *inward change* that has already occurred.

Baptism is one of the first tests of obedience.

Baptism was commanded by:

- Christ (Matthew 28:19-20, Mark 16:15-16)
- Christian ministers (Acts 22:12-16)

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<sup>1</sup> An *ordinance* is a practice that rather demonstrates *the* participants' faith. The *ordinances* are often observed in remembrance of Jesus—primarily His baptism and the Last Supper (*Holy Communion*).

## **LORD’S SUPPER/COMMUNION:**

**Memory Verse: Matthew 26:26-28**

“And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, *Take, eat; this is my body.*

And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, *Drink ye all of it;*

*For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.”*

### **THE BREAD:**

The word *bread* comes from the Greek word *artos* (*ar-tos*): bread, as raised or a loaf.

During the Passover feast the Jewish householder took bread in his hand and said, “*This is the bread of affliction which our fathers ate in the land of Egypt...*”, meaning, of course, that the one represented the other.

By His words, the Lord changed the whole significance and emphasis of the feast from looking back to the typical redemption from Egypt to faith in the redemption from sin accomplished by His death (I Peter 2:24).

The bread and wine were only outward symbols of our Lord’s death and a reminder to us of the cost of our redemption during our Lord’s absence (Luke 22:19).

### **THE CUP:**

The word *cup* comes from the Greek word *poterion* (*pot-ay-ree-on*): a drinking vessel.

Three cups were passed around by the Jewish householder during the Passover meal; the third cup, which is probably referred to here, being known as the “*the cup of blessing*” (I Corinthians 10:16).

The covenant in Exodus was sealed with blood. The word *testament* (*Greek – diatheke*) did not mean a covenant, which is an agreement between equals, but a settlement by a great or rich man

for the benefit of another. As the most common form of settlement was and still is, by testament or will, the word came to have this meaning almost exclusively.

**“...SHED FOR MANY FOR THE REMISSION OF SINS...” (Matthew 26:28):**

Here is a clear statement that the death of Jesus was necessary to enable God to forgive sins. It, in fact, made it right morally justifiable for Him to do so.

**JUSTIFICATION [Read Romans 3:21 – 5:21]:**

Memory Verse: Romans 5:1

“Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:”

The word *justification* comes from the Greek word *dikaiosis* (*dik-ah'-yo-sis*): acquittal (for Christ's sake): justification.

- Root word is *dikaioo* (*dik-ah-yo'-o*): to render (i.e. show or regard as) just or innocent: free, justify(-ier), be righteous.
- Changing the sinner's *status* from condemned to justified.
- The words “*justified*” and “*righteousness*” are translations of the same Greek root word (*dikaioo* [(*dik-ah-yo'-o*)]).

The believer is justified (i.e. treated as righteous) because Christ, “...*who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.*” (II Corinthians 5:21).

Justification is an act of reckoning (i.e. to put to one's account) and does not mean to make a person righteous (Romans 4:16-25 & Romans 5:17-21).

**JUSTIFICATION:**

1. Originates in grace (Romans 3:24 & Romans 4:16-18).
2. Is through the redemptive and propitiatory (i.e. averting God's wrath by satisfying the demands of His holiness) work of Christ who fulfilled the law (Romans 3:24-25 & Romans 5:9).
3. Is by faith, not works (Romans 3:28-30, Romans 4:5, Romans 5:1, Galatians 2:16 & Galatians 3:8,24).



4. May be defined as the judicial act of God whereby he justly declares and treats as righteous the one who believes in Jesus Christ. The justified believer has been declared by the judge Himself (Romans 3:31) to having nothing laid to his charge (Romans 8:1,31-34).

## **SANCTIFICATION:**

**Memory Verse: I Thessalonians 4:3-4**

**“For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication:**

**That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honour;”**

The word *sanctification* comes from the Greek word *hagiasmos* (*hag-ee-as-mos*): purity, holiness; purify or consecrate.

In both testaments, the same Hebrew and Greek words are rendered by the English words “sanctify” and “holy” in their various grammatical forms. The one uniform meaning is to set aside for God.

In both testaments, the words are used of things (ceremonial) and persons (moral).

When “sanctification” is used of things, no moral quality is implied; they are made holy or sanctified because they are set apart for God, and when “sanctification” is used of persons, and has a threefold meaning:

1. **In position** – believers are eternally set apart for God by redemption, “...*through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.*” (Hebrews 10:10). Positionally, therefore, believers are “saints” and “holy” from the moment of believing (Philippians 1:1 & Hebrews 3:1).
2. **In experience** – believers are being sanctified by the work of the Holy Spirit through the scriptures ( John 17:17, II Corinthians 3:18, Ephesians 5:25-26, I Thessalonians 5:23-24).
3. **In consummation** – the believer’s complete sanctification awaits the appearing of the Lord (Ephesians 5:27 & I John 3:2).

**GOD KNOWS HIS SERVANTS – THEY ARE SANCTIFIED (II Timothy 2:19,21).**

\*\*\*\*\*NOTE THE PARALLEL BETWEEN SALVATION AND SANCTIFICATION\*\*\*\*\*

- The believer has been saved from the penalty of sin and has been sanctified in position.
- The believer is being saved from the power of sin and is being sanctified, the same way, through the Word of God.
- The believer will be saved from the very presence of sin and will be sanctified completely at the return of our Lord.

## PRAYER:

Memory Verse: I John 5:14-15

“And this is the confidence that we have in him, that if we ask anything according to his will, he heareth us:

And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.”

## WHAT IS PRAYER?

It is talking to God. It is making your request known to Him in faith.

The word *prayer* is taken from the Greek word *proseuchomai* (*pros-yoo'-khom-ahee*): supplicate, worship – ask earnestly.

Prayer is as old as man, as universal as religion, and as instinctive as breathing (Genesis 4:26). It is practiced in some form by all men of all faiths. Prayer springs from the heart with a need greater than man's ability to encounter. Prayer is man's acknowledgement of a being higher than himself.

Most men try to pray, yet so few know how:

There are two kinds of prayers: The one that doesn't reach God and the prayer that does.

Luke 18:9-14

The parable of the Pharisee and the publican:

- The Pharisee prayed with religious pride & self-righteousness (Proverbs 30:12).
- The Publican prayed with humility and was conscious of his unworthiness – this was a righteous prayer (Psalm 25:14, Proverbs 3:34 & James 4:6).

It is a privilege to pray. It brings you into close fellowship with God, admitting your need for Him and your utter dependence upon Him.

Our Lord instructs the believer to ask, seek, and knock (Mark 7:7) – because these three words cover the whole spectrum of prayer:

1. Prayer is ***asking and receiving*** – when you know the will of God regarding a need, whether it be material or spiritual, you can ask and receive. This is prayer according to the revealed will of God (I John 5:14-15).
  - Level 1: LITTLE FAITH – I KNOW GOD CAN.
  
2. Prayer is ***seeking and finding*** – when you do not know the will of God regarding a need, whether it be material or spiritual, then you are to seek His will in prayer concerning this need until you find it. This is prayer for knowledge of the unrevealed will of God (Jeremiah 29:12-13 & Colossians 3:1).
  - Level 2: I KNOW GOD WILL.
  - Get involved with the thing you are talking to God about (e.g. finding a job). [However, there are times when God says don't do anything – trust me!!]
  
3. Prayer is ***knocking and opening*** – when you know the will of God, and yet you find a closed door, you are to knock and keep on knocking until God opens the door. This is tenacious prayer. “Knocking” prayer perseveres until the impossible becomes the possible. This is miracle working prayer (Matthew 17:14-21). All things are possible when you ASK, SEEK and KNOCK (James 5:16).
  - Level 3: DONE DEAL – YOU DON'T HAVE TO ASK, JUST START THANKING GOD THAT HE HAS GIVEN YOU THE ASSURANCE OF WHAT HE IS GOING TO DO (I John 5:14-15).
  - Mark (9:29) – While some manuscripts omit fasting, it seems crucial to the context. Jesus does not seem to have resorted to prayer in the course of this healing. Perhaps He refers to a lifestyle of prevailing prayer that yields a reservoir of spiritual power for just such a crisis as this.

### **WHY PRAY?**

1. Because Jesus said, “...men ought always to pray...” (Luke 18:1). Prayer is ***imperative***. You are commanded to pray (Matthew 26:41).
2. Prayer is the only way to get things from God (James 4:2-3).
3. There is joy in prayer (John 16:24).
4. Prayer will save you out of all your troubles (Psalm 34:6).
5. Prayer unlocks the treasure chest of God's wisdom (James 1:5).
6. Prayer is a channel of power (Jeremiah 33:3).

7. It is a sin not to pray (I Samuel 12:23).
8. Sinners can be saved when they pray in faith (Romans 10:13-14).
9. Jesus while here in the flesh prayed often to the Father. Now if Jesus, the Son of God, needed to pray, then we should "...pray without ceasing..." (I Thessalonians 5:17).

### **HOW TO PRAY**

The *model* prayer found in Matthew 6:9-13, is just that, a *model*. It was never intended to become our prayer because it is not specific enough. It gives you a mode upon how to approach God in praying and what to pray for.

You are to:

1. Acknowledge the holiness of God and give Him respect – “Our father, which art in Heaven, Hallowed be thy name.”
2. Pray that His will be done in earth just like it is in heaven (Beginning with me/surrender to the Lord).
3. Ask for your daily needs – “Give us this day...”
4. Forgive others and ask for forgiveness – notice the arrangement; if you cannot forgive, don’t expect to be forgiven (Mark 11:25-26).
5. Recognize that He is the power behind all that you have asked of Him and thank Him for what you believe He will do for you (Psalm 34).

### **POSITIONS FOR PRAYING**

1. **PROSTRATE** – lying face downward which demonstrates complete submissiveness and humility (Revelation 22:8-9).
2. **KNEELING** (Daniel 6:10, Luke 22:40-41)
3. **STANDING** (Luke 18:11-14)

### **FASTING AND PRAYER [Read Matthew 17:14-21]**

Jesus was teaching that some work for God is more difficult than others and requires a greater than usual dependence on God. This passage of scripture does not mean that prayer and fasting alone would have accomplished the miracle. Prayer and fasting indicate faith, discipline, and humility before God, without which there can be no hope of success.

## **WE SHOULD PRAY**

**Always (Colossians 1:3)**

**Without ceasing (I Thessalonians 5:17)**

**Everywhere (I Timothy 2:8)**

**Morning, noon and night (Psalm 55:17)**

## **TYPES OF PRAYER**

**Intercessory – one who intercedes or acts as a stand-in on the behalf of another (John 17:9-11, Romans 8:34, Hebrews 7:25, & Hebrews 9:24).**

**Repentance (Luke 18:13-14)**

**Praise (Psalm 47 & Luke 24:51-53)**

## **HINDERANCES TO PRAYER (I Peter 3:7)**

**When prayers are not answered, you should examine yourself in the light of God's word. If you find anything not pleasing to God, confess it, believing God for your forgiveness that your prayer might be answered (I John 1:9).**

- 1. Not a child of God (John 9:31).**
  - You cannot get to Holy God and detour around and bypass the only means of getting there, which is the person of Jesus Christ (John 10:1 & John 14:6).**
- 2. Unharmonious relationship between husband and wife (Ephesians 5:22-33 & I Peter 3:1-7).**
- 3. Selfishness (James 4:3).**
- 4. An unforgiving spirit (Matthew 5:22-24).**
- 5. Unbelief (Hebrews 11:6 & James 1:6-7).**
- 6. Known sin in the heart (Psalm 66:18 & Isaiah 59:12).**

## **WAYS GOD ANSWERS PRAYER**

- 1. Immediate (Matthew 14:22-31) – Peter said, “Lord, save me.”**
- 2. Delayed, according to His will (Romans 8:28); delayed, not denied (John 11:1-44).**

- The resurrection of Lazarus – God’s delays are not denials as Mary and Martha had to learn.
3. No, always accompanied with peace (Philippians 4:6-7) and grace (II Corinthians 12:7-10).
  4. Sometimes different from what you expect. You pray for patience, you get tribulation; tribulation produces patience (Romans 5:3).

## **FAITH:**

Memory Verse: Hebrews 10:38

“Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him.”

The word *faith* is taken from the Greek word *pistis* (*pis'-tis*): persuasion, i.e. credence; moral conviction (of religious truth, or the truthfulness of God or a religious teacher), especially reliance upon Christ for salvation.

“*The just shall live by faith*” is found four times in the Bible:

- Habakkuk 2:4
- Romans 1:17
- Galatians 3:10-11
- Hebrews 10:38

## **WHAT IS FAITH?**

“*Now faith is the substance [title deed] of things hoped for...*” (Hebrews 11:1). Your faith is your title deed to eternal life. Just as a title deed is evidence of real estate, so your faith is evidence of your eternal state in God (II Corinthians 4:18 & Romans 8:24-25).

Faith is taking God at His word and asking no questions (Hebrews 11:6).

Faith does not believe that all things are good or work well. It does believe that all things (good or bad) work together for good to them that love God (Romans 8:28).

## **FAITH HAS TWO SIDES:**

1. It has to do with intellect (i.e. understanding). It is an intellectual conviction that Jesus Christ is God.
2. It has to do with the will. It is a volitional surrender of the will to Jesus Christ as Master. Thomas believed and confessed, “*My Lord [volitional] and my God [intellectual]*” (John 20:28).

**FAITH IS PARADOXICAL – IT GOES BEYOND REASON – IT BELIEVES WITHOUT UNDERSTANDING “WHY” (Isaiah 55:8-9 & Jeremiah 33:3):**

*Faith, then, rises into the sphere where God is all and in all and in which He moves and rules without the limitation of godless reasoning.*

*Reason is full of “whys” and “wherefores”. Faith, on the other hand, asks no questions. It takes God at His Word.*

*In the realm of truth, it is not what do reason and experience say, but what does God say, that counts, and faith rests in the assurance that there is nothing too hard for God.*

[Taken from ALL THE DOCTRINES OF THE BIBLE (Pg. 197)]

1. Faith sings in prison (Acts 16:25).
2. Faith glories in tribulation (Romans 5:3).
3. Faith chooses to suffer affliction (Hebrews 11:25).
4. Faith accepts all things as a part of God’s will (Philippians 1:12).

You are not born with this faith. It comes by hearing the Word of God (Romans 10:17).

**THE IMPORTANCE OF FAITH:**

The shield of faith is a vital part of the Christians armor. “Above all, taking the shield of faith...” (Ephesians 6:16). Here are some reasons why faith is so important:

- You cannot be saved without faith (John 3:36).
- You can’t live victoriously over the world (I John 5:4).
- You can’t please God (Hebrews 11:6).
- You can’t pray (James 1:5-7).
- You can’t have peace with God (Romans 5:1).
- You can’t have joy (I Peter 1:8-9).
- You are justified by faith (Galatians 2:16).
- You are to live by faith (Galatians 2:20).

- You are made righteous by faith (Ephesians 3:17).
- The Holy Spirit is received by faith (Galatians 3:2).
- Whatever is not from faith is sin (Romans 14:23).

Faith is important because *it honors God* and *God always honors faith* (Genesis 15:6 [Old Testament] & Romans 4:3 [New Testament]).

- We must know the facts (Colossians 2:5-15).

### THE THREE KINDS OF FAITH (John 11:21-44):

1. **LIMITED** – Limited faith is controlled by circumstances and motivated by fear of failure. Martha believed Jesus had the power to raise Lazarus [God has helped] from his sick bed but not from the dead (John 11:21).
  - *Circumstances: Mary and Martha thought that Jesus had limited power because Lazarus had been dead for four days.*
2. **FUNDAMENTAL** [based on literal interpretation – “...*I know that he shall rise again in the resurrection at the last day*”.] – Martha stated her fundamental faith in her creed (Acts 23:6) - it is not enough to believe in creed only. Faith must go beyond your creed to the living, all-powerful Christ (John 11:24).
3. **UNLIMITED** – Martha believed and waited to see the glory of God, and she was not disappointed (John 11:25-45).
  - *Believed and waited = APPLICATION*

### THE HALL OF FAITH (Hebrews 11:32-35):

By faith they were patient in suffering, courageous in battle, made strong out of weakness and were victorious in defeat.

- Gideon (Judges 6:1 through 8:28)
- Barak (Judges, Chapter 4)
- Sampson (Judges 13:1 through 16:31)
- Jephthah (Judges 11:1 through 12:7)
- David [his life] (I Samuel – Chapters 19 through 31; II Samuel – Chapters 1 through 24; I Kings – Chapters 1 through 2; I Chronicles Chapters 10 through 29).
- Samuel [the last judge] (I Samuel Chapter 1 through 12:25).

They were more conquerors by faith. It is only by faith in the all-powerful Christ that you can be superior to circumstances and victorious over all of the evil forces that would destroy you.



*“Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith...”* (Hebrews 12:2).

The faith of the saints inspires us, but we look to Jesus as our example of faith.

- Though chapter 11 of the book of Hebrews provides many champions for believers to emulate, the supreme example of endurance is Jesus himself (Hebrews 12:3-4).

## **THE CHURCH COVENANT:**

Memory Verse: Psalm 89:34

**“My covenant will I not break, nor alter the thing that is gone out of my lips.”**

### **Covenant**

- The word *covenant* is taken from the Hebrew word *beriyth* (*ber-eeth*): a pact (because made by passing between pieces of flesh [Genesis 15:7-21]): confederacy, covenant, league.
- The word *covenant* is taken from the Greek word *diatheke* (*dee-ath-ay'-kay*): a disposition, a contract, covenant or testament.

The Church Covenant is a voluntary agreement by members of Christian Church whereby they promise to conduct their lives in such a way as to glorify God and promote the ongoing of His Church. Every member should study it carefully, refer to it often, and seek to live by it. It clearly outlines the obligations of church membership.

- I. THE GREAT COMMISSION (Matthew 28:19-20, Mark 16:15 and Luke 24:47)
- II. DUTIES TO THE CHURCH:
  - A. To work together in Christian love (John 13:34-35).
  - B. To strive for the advancement of the church and promote its prosperity and spirituality (II Corinthians 7:1, Philippians 1:27, II Timothy 2:15 & II Peter 3:11).
  - C. To sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline, and doctrine (Matthew 28:19, I Corinthians 11:23-26, Jude 3).
  - D. To give it preeminence in my life (Matthew 6:33).

**E. To carry my membership when I move and be active in church work wherever I live (Acts 11:19-21 & Acts 18:24-28).**

**F. To contribute cheerfully and regularly (I Corinthians 16:2 & II Corinthians 9:6-7).**

### **III. DUTIES IN PERSONAL CHRISTIAN LIVING:**

**A. To maintain family and secret devotions (Acts 17:11 & I Thessalonians 5:17-18).**

**B. To religiously educate the children (Deuteronomy 6:4-7 & II Timothy 3:15).**

**C. To seek the salvation of the lost (Proverbs 11:30, Matthew 4:19, & Acts 1:8).**

**D. To walk circumspectly in the world, and to be just in our dealings, faithful in our engagements, and exemplary in our deportment (Ephesians 5:15, Philippians 2:14-15, Colossians 3:8, James 3:1-2, and I Peter 2:21-23).**

**E. To avoid gossip and excessive anger (Ephesians 4:31, Colossians 3:8, James 3:1-2, and I Peter 2:21-22).**

**F. To abstain from the sale or use of liquors (Ephesians 5:18).**

**G. To be zealous in our efforts for Christ (Titus 2:14).**

### **IV. DUTIES TO FELLOW MEMBERS:**

**A. To watch over one another (I Peter 1:22).**

**B. To pray for one another (James 5:16).**

**C. To aid in sickness and distress (Galatians 6:1-3).**

**D. To cultivate sympathy and courtesy (I Peter 3:8).**

**E. To be slow to take offense, always ready for reconciliation (Ephesians 4:30-32).**

## **ELEVEN (11) BASIC REASONS WHY I AM A CHRISTIAN:**

**Memory Verse: I Peter 3:15**

**“But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:”**

### **I**

**I am a Christian first because Christians believe the whole Bible and accept nothing but the Bible as their guide in matters of faith and practice.**

**(Matthew 28:18-20)**

### **II**

**I am a Christian because Christians believe in One Lord, One Faith, and One Baptism.  
(I Corinthians 8:4-6, I Corinthians 12:13, Ephesians 4:5-6, Titus 1:4, and Jude 3)**

### **III**

**I am a Christian because Christians believe that salvation is wholly of God that we are saved by grace and not works, and that the conditions of salvation are Repentance and Faith.**

**(Luke 13:3, John 1:12-13, John 3:15-16, Ephesians 2:8-9)**

### **IV**

**I am a Christian because Christians believe in a regenerated membership.**

**(John 3:3, Acts 2:41, 47, and Acts 5:14)**

### **V**

**I am a Christian because the Christian Church is the only church that has a Spiritual Head and Founder, Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ is its only head and He has founded only one Church.**

**(Matthew 16:18, Luke 20:17, I Corinthians 3:11, Colossians 1:18, and Ephesians 2:20)**

### **VI**

**I am a Christian because Christ, the head of the Church and the only begotten Son of God, both accepted and requested baptism at the hand of John the Baptist, who was prepared in heaven for this sublime task, and sent from God.**

**(Matthew 3:13-16, Luke 1:44, and John 1:5-17)**

## VII

**I am a Christian because Christians promote the right of an individual. First, we may seek God for ourselves. Secondly, everyone must repent for himself or herself. Third, everyone must confess Jesus Christ as his or her personal savior for themselves. Lastly, everyone must report to God for himself or herself.**

**(Acts 17:27-31, Romans 10:9-10, and Romans 14:11-12)**

## VIII

**I am a Christian because Christian Ministers, whether called Pastor or Bishops, are equal in rank and are never to exercise authority over one another and are never to be called Master or Father (i.e. Pope).**

**(Matthew 23:8-12 and Mark 10:35-45)**

## IX

**I am a Christian because Christians accept as Church ordinances only those things ordered by Jesus Christ which symbolize the death, burial, resurrection of Christ, namely, Baptism and the Lord's Supper. That Paul's statement, "But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup.", is a statement addressed to a church and has no reference to non-Christians and non-church members.**

**(Romans 6:3-5, and I Corinthians 11:23-28)**

## X

**I am Christian because Christians believe that the salvation of God is eternal.  
(John 3:4-15, John 10:28-30, Romans 8:33-39, and Hebrews 11:13, 32, 33)**

## XI

**I am a Christian because Christians believe in the Second Coming of Christ; the immortality of The human soul; the resurrection of the body; the final judgement of a just God; the never ending punishment of sinners and the eternal bliss of the saints.**

**(Genesis 2:7, I Corinthians 15:44, 53-55)**

## **TRUE GUIDES TO GIVING:**

Memory Verse: Malachi 3:10

**“Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.”**

The word *give* is taken from the Greek word *didomi* (*did-o-mee*): used in a very wide application, greatly modified by the connection; bestow, bring forth, commit, deliver [up].

When we give to God’s work, we **SHARE HIS BLESSINGS** with others! Giving of our means begins when we first give God our hearts: “...*they first gave their own selves unto the Lord...*” (II Corinthians 8:5). Every giver soon learns that it is more blessed to give than to get – “*It is more blessed to give than to receive.*” (Acts 20:35).

[Tithe = one tenth (1/10)]

**Giving** is also a form of worship - a way to express confidence in God (Malachi 3:10).

**Giving** is really sharing to meet the needs in the body of Christ.

**Giving** in the New Testament focuses on the needs of people.

THEN:

- **WHO SHOULD GIVE?** “...*let everyone you of lay by him in store as God hath prepared him...*” (I Corinthians 16:2).
- **IN WHAT SPIRIT SHOULD WE GIVE?** “...*not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.*” (II Corinthians 9:7 [Psalms 112, Psalms 128, Luke 6:38, & Galatians 6:7-9]).
- **SHOULD WE GIVE LITTLE OR MUCH?** “...*He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully.*” (II Corinthians 9:6).
- **WHAT SHOULD BE THE MINIMUM?** “*And all the tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land, or of the fruit of the tree, is the Lord’s: it is holy unto the Lord.*” (Leviticus 27:30).

- **CAN I AFFORD TO PAY THE LORD ONE TENTH?** “...*prove me now, herewith saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that shall not be room enough to receive it.*” (Malachi 3:10).
- **HOW MUCH MORE THAN A TENTH CAN I GIVE?** “...*every man according to his ability...*” (Acts 11:29). “*Every man according as purposeth in his heart, so let him give...*” (II Corinthians 9:7). “...*freely ye have received, freely give.*” (Matthew 10:8). The believer will give God first place and use money in God’s service. The love of God will be reflected in sharing what we have (I John 3:17-18).
- **SHOULD I PAY MY BILLS BEFORE I GIVE?** “*Honour the Lord with thy substance, and with the first-fruits of all thine increase:*” (Proverbs 3:9-10). God is our “Preferred Creditor”.

**RICH REWARDS ARE PROMISED TO THOSE WHO ARE FAITHFUL:**

“*And behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.*” (Revelation 22:12). Remember, in the parable of the talents, God’s faithful ones are promised great rewards: “...*Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.*” (Matthew 25:14-23).

**GOD WILL NOT FORGET:**

“*For God is not unrighteous to forget you work and labor of love, which ye have shewed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister.*” (Hebrews 6:10). “*For we are labourers together with God:...*” (I Corinthians 3:9).

**UNTITLED**

*All that I spend is gone,  
it is mine no longer;*

*All that I save is mine  
until I spend it, lose it,  
or leave it behind;*

*All that I give to God  
is added to my credit  
in the bank of heaven,  
and will be mine  
forever.*

### **AS YOU TOIL FOR GOLD**

*Did you ever think  
as you toil for gold,  
that a dead man's hand,  
a dollar won't hold.?*

*So send it ahead, for your  
mansions above,  
where He is preparing  
a place with great love.*

*Remember our mansions are  
spacious or small,  
as we give to the Lord  
from our little or all.*

*He gave His all here,  
let us help while  
we can, to send  
His great message  
to each living man.*

#### **FINALLY, GOD SAYS:**

- ***“...freely ye have received, freely give.” (Matthew 10:8)***
- ***“...it is more blessed to give than to receive.” (Acts 20:35)***
- ***“...we are labourers together with God:...” (I Corinthians 3:9)***
- ***“...see that ye abound in this grace also.” (II Corinthians 8:7)***
- ***“...prove the sincerity of your love.” (II Corinthians 8:8)***
- ***“...he which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully.” (II Corinthians 9:6)***
- ***“...God loveth a cheerful giver.” (II Corinthians 9:7)***
- ***“... let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.” (Galatians 6:9)***
- ***“...I desire fruit that may abound to your account.” (Philippians 4:17)***
- ***“And behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.” (Revelation 22:12)***