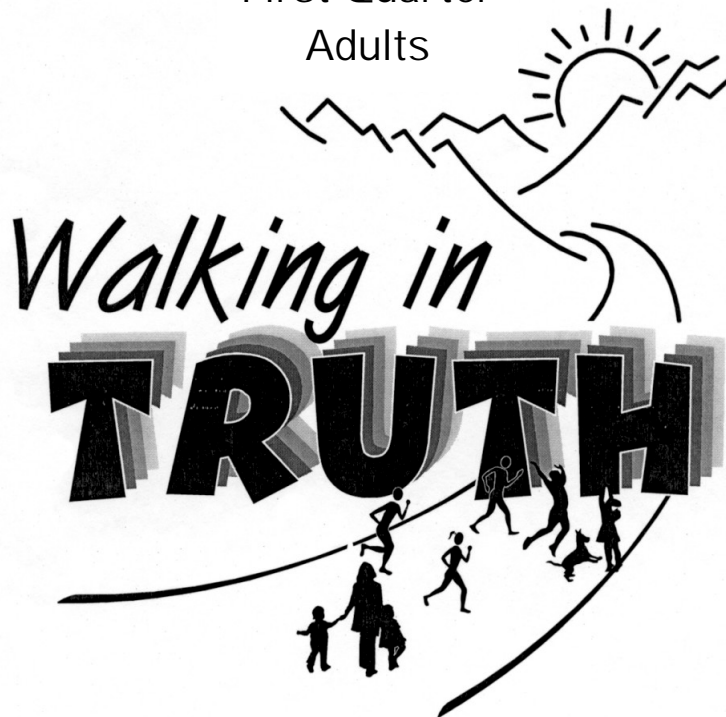


SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS

First Quarter
Adults



Walking in

TRUTH

**"I HAVE NO GREATER JOY THAN TO HEAR
THAT MY CHILDREN WALK IN TRUTH."**

3 JN. 4 (KJV)

Compiled By:
Nicky Sisco

WHAT IS REPENTANCE?

GOAL: To define repentance and inform us on some Bible characters who preached it.

KEY SCRIPTURE: II Corinthians 7:9,10

Repentance means to turn away from all sin; to change one's mind. It brings about a change of attitude, action and lifestyle. In Eddie Jones' tract, "**The Truth About Repentance**", he wrote that "**The nature of repentance is not only a turning from, but also a turning to. It will cause a person to stop a wrong action and begin a right one.**"

- II Peter 3:9
- Genuine repentance is brought about by a "**godly sorrow**" (II Corinthians 7:10). Before one can repent, he needs to feel sorrow for his sins. He must be sorry not because his sins have been discovered but because he has broken God's commandments and grieved God through his acts of disobedience.

WHO PREACHED IT?

A large portion of the following material was taken from the book "**Repentance - An About-Face!**" A Search For Truth Publication.

In the New Testament, the first person we hear calling men to repentance is John the Baptist (Mark 1:3-4). Then later on in this same, chapter we see that the first message Jesus preached after John the Baptist had prepared the way was "**Repentance**" (Mark 1:14-15).

"The first commandment to come from the lips of Christ was to repent."

The first thing one will do when he or she really believes is repent! This is the first step towards salvation. True repentance produces

results. It is telling God (and others) we are sorry and showing our sorrow by turning from sin. The proof of true repentance is the fruit it bears (Acts 26:20).

The third group (person) in the Bible who preached repentance were the disciples. Matter of fact, they were commanded to preach this message (Mark 6:12).

When Christ appeared to His disciples in Luke 24 after His resurrection, He commissioned them to take this glorious Gospel to all the nations of the world. Notice that the first word in Christ's message was "**repentance**" (Luke 24:47).

On the Day of Pentecost, Peter's first response to the question: "**What shall we do?**" was to "REPENT!" (Acts 2:38).

All throughout the New Testament we see that the first response of man to the Gospel is repentance. **Nothing else can take its place.**

Repentance is a command from God. A command means "**to order or demand with authority.**" Our supreme authority, Jesus Christ, demands that we first repent in order to be saved. It is not an option. He commands "**all men everywhere to repent.**" (Acts 17:30)

ADDITIONAL NOTES

IS REPENTANCE NECESSARY?

GOAL: To show us that without repentance, there can be no salvation.

KEY SCRIPTURE: Acts 17:30

Repentance is a commandment from God. And any command that we receive from God must be obeyed.

- Jesus said in Luke 13:5 “**Except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.**” Repentance is vital to the plan of salvation!
- Ezekiel announced “**Thus sayeth the Lord God; Repent, and turn yourselves from your idols; and turn away your faces from all your abominations.**” (Ezekiel 14:6)
- John the Baptist preached “**Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.**” (Matthew 3:2)

We know that repentance is a commandment from the Lord. It is the building block upon which our whole Christian experience is built on. For without true repentance there can be no forgiveness or remission of sins.

Repentance causes a chain reaction:

REPENTANCE => BAPTISM IN JESUS NAME => HOLY SPIRIT =>
VICTORIOUS LIVING => HEAVEN.

However, without repentance, the rest is not possible.

HOW DOES ONE REPENT?

A large portion of this material was taken and revised from a tract entitled, “**The Truth About Repentance**” by Eddie Jones.

#1 CONVICTION OF SIN

Before one can truly repent, he must have an understanding and acknowledgment that he is guilty of sin (Romans 3:23; 5:12).

1 John 3:4 - The law is God's Word. Whoso committeth sin transgresseth the law; therefore, they sin against God and deserve the punishment of death (Psalm 51:4; Ezekiel 18:20).

- Romans 6:23

Unless a sinner repents he will stand condemned before God on the judgment day and will be lost forever (Luke 13:3; Jude 15; Revelation 21:8).

God's Word will reveal our sins to us as we study it. This knowledge will bring conviction. Remember Acts 2:37, when the people heard God's Word they were pricked (convicted) in their heart. Another experience that adds to conviction is God's chastisements. He said in Revelation 3:19 "**As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.**" Conviction of sin may bring an uncomfortable feeling of shame and guilt, but if this is followed by true repentance, it will lead to great rejoicing!

#2 GODLY SORROW

There must be feelings of deep sorrow, regret and remorse over sin when a person truly repents. One should not sorrow for personal hardship brought on by sin, but rather remorse over the hurt he has caused a loving, forgiving God.

- II Corinthians 7:9,10.
- Joel 2:12; Psalm 34:18

#3 WILL TO REPENT

Read what the Prodigal son had to say in Luke 15:18. If a sinner is willing to repent, God is willing to forgive him of his sins (Acts 3:19).

#4 PLEAD FOR MERCY

Psalm 51:1- The first thing David prayed for was mercy. Divine forgiveness is not based upon how good we are but on the love and mercy of God. "**...While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.**" (Romans 5:8). Luke 18:13 - In approaching God, we must cast ourselves without reservation (not holding back) upon His mercy.

#5 CONFESSION TO GOD

Proverbs 28:13 - A person must be honest and admit (confess) his sins openly to God.

I John 1:9; 2:1 We must specifically name our sins to God and admit our wrong actions if we want His forgiveness.

“The confession of evil works is the first beginning of good works.” (Quote from the book, **Repentance-An About Face! - Lesson 2**, A Search For Truth Publication)

When we confess, there must be true repentance (turning from sin and turning toward God), otherwise our sins will not be forgiven. True repentance involves a godly sorrow.

It is easy to confess and not repent. But real confession hurts and always involves repentance.

ILLUSTRATION: Children often confess without repentance. For instance, if you caught your little girl taking a biscuit off the shelf at the store. She would immediately say, **“I’m sorry. Please do not spank me.”** She really is not feeling sorrow for what she did. She is sorry she got caught and uses the words, **“I’m sorry”** to prevent punishment or rejection.

Often we confess or repent of a sin that we did because we do not want to make God angry and we believe it will take away our feeling of guilt.

But after a while we go back and do the same thing over again.

The sure sign of confession and repentance is a change in our behavior.

#6 FORSAKE ALL SIN

“Cast away from you all your transgressions, whereby ye have transgressed; and make you a new heart and a new spirit.” (Ezekiel 18:31)

Jesus said to the woman taken in adultery, “...**Go, and sin no more.**” (John 8:11).

- Other references: I Thessalonians 5:22; II Corinthians 6:14-17; I John 2:15-16; Titus 2:11-12.

When we repent, we crucify our sinful nature at an altar of self denial and begin a new life in Christ (Romans 6:6; Mark 8:34). Paul wrote in Romans 6:1,2 “**Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid, How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?**”

- I John 3:4-9

#7 ASK GOD FOR FORGIVENESS

- Hosea 14:2; I John 1:9

After a sinner has surrendered all to God, the only thing left to do is ask God to forgive you for all of your sins.

#8 RECEIVE GOD’S FORGIVENESS

Matthew 6:14 If you want to be forgiven by God, you must forgive others.

- Once you have asked for God’s forgiveness, you must simply accept it and forget your sinful past (Philippians 3:13,14).
- **Isaiah 1:18**
- **Psalms 86:4**

ADDITIONAL NOTES

REPENTANCE, REMORSE OR REFORMATION?

GOAL: To show the difference between these three words.

KEY SCRIPTURE: Romans 2:4

A lot of this information was taken from a book entitled, **“Repentance-An About Face!”**. A Search For Truth Publication and Tract #6140, **“Except Ye Repent”**

The first two lessons have given us a clear understanding of the word repentance.

“Then Judas, which had betrayed him, when he saw that he was condemned, repented himself, and brought again the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, saying, I have sinned in that I have betrayed the innocent blood.” (Matthew 27:3-4)

The word **“repented”**, found in verse three does not mean repentance. It comes from a Greek word that means: emotion, **remorse** or anguish.

Judas definitely felt a lot of anguish and remorse for betraying Jesus Christ. Yet he did not experience true repentance. He did not change his mind, his course, or his direction. Instead of returning to Jesus for restoration, he went and hung himself. Judas' remorse and despair led to self-destruction. This was not repentance; it was remorse.

True repentance brings about a change.

For example, look at the life of Peter. He denied Jesus three times in Luke 22:54-62, but afterwards, when he realized what he had done he repented. He did not stop with emotions of regret. He changed his ways and found a deeper relationship with his Lord.

Repentance will always bring about a change. It will make you a better person and free you from guilt, shame and remorse.

Remorse is a feeling of deep regret, of hopelessness and even despair. But it does not lead to real change. It does not help us believe in God.

Repentance causes us to turn away from sin and helps us have faith in God to be filled with His Spirit.

Remorse is destructive; it turns us against ourselves. Repentance gives life by helping us turn to God (II Corinthians 7:10).

Repentance is more than Reformation

To reform means to **“improve one’s character or conduct; to become better; to behave better; to give up misconduct; to make better by removing faults or defects.”**

When one truly reforms, he starts to live a better life from that moment on.

Although reformation is good, it does not change or erase the past. It still leaves all the sins we have committed on the pages of God’s record book. It still leaves the sinner under the sentence of eternal death.

Suppose that a criminal who has broken the law several times and is guilty decides to reform. From that moment on he decides to obey the laws of the land. This is good, but it still does not take away the guilt of his past crimes.

If he is caught or if he surrenders to the law, he will still have to pay for his past crimes, unless he is given a pardon.

Psalm 51:1 tells us that we were all born in sin (iniquity) and guilty of death (Romans 6:23). **But through repentance, Jesus has given us a pardon.**

True repentance brings about an immediate change in a person’s conduct. There is great joy and forgiveness in repentance (I John 1:9). When we look at the Old Testament, we learn that the prophets of Israel were continually calling their nation to repent from idolatry

and return to God. Many of the kings of Judah brought about a reformation (they tried to improve or correct the faults in their nation). They destroyed many idols and stopped many evil practices that were abominations to the Lord. But the hearts of the people were not turned to God.

Conditions may have appeared good on the outside, but nothing had changed in the hearts of the people.

God is never happy until the root of sin in our heart is removed from our lives and we are transformed (true repentance).

Sinners may stop drinking, fornicating or committing adultery and other sinful habits, but that will not bring about salvation. Only the Holy Spirit can change us within to make us new creatures in Christ.

Reformation changes only the surface or the bad habits men can see. Repentance changes the heart.

LIMITED TIME!

There can be no repentance after death. The time for repentance is now. No one knows how long he or she will live. Therefore, it is not wise to say that you will repent later. The Bible tells us in Hebrews 9:27, **“It is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment.”**

If you have done something that has caused you to feel remorse, that is not enough. You still need to repent and make things right.

Do not allow sin to remain in your heart. It will keep you out of heaven.

But this is not the Lord’s will. He is **“not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.”** (II Peter 3:9).

ADDITIONAL NOTES

THE RESULTS OF REPENTANCE

GOAL: To describe the great joy that comes with repentance

KEY SCRIPTURE: Luke 15:7, 10

A large portion of the following material has been taken from the tract “**The Truth About Repentance**,” by Eddie Jones.

#1 Great Joy

When the Prodigal son repented, there was much rejoicing (Luke 15:23).

- All of heaven rejoices when one sinner repents!
- Knowing that God gives forgiveness of sins to all who confess openly brings us great joy.
- In Acts 8:5-8, when the Samaritans listened to the preaching of Philip, there was great joy in the city.

#2 New Birth

The new birth experience consists of two elements: water and spirit. When a sinner repents of his or her sin, that old sinful nature is dead and the believer is ready for the “**new birth**”.

Jesus said to Nicodemus, “**Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.**” (John 3:5)

Repentance is the seed from which the new birth experience stems from.

A. Water Baptism

When we repent of our sins, we are dying out to the old nature. And naturally, following a death there must be a burial.

The old sinful man must be put away. “**Therefore we are buried with Him by baptism into death.**” (Romans 6:4)

- Colossians 2:12

Repentance must be followed by water baptism in the Name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins (Luke 24:47; Acts 2:38).

“And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling upon the Name of the Lord.” (Acts 22:16)

B. Baptism of the Holy Spirit

(Some of the following information has also been taken from Tract #6140, published by Word Aflame Press, UPCI.)

According to Romans 6:5; 8:11, the baptism of the Holy Spirit is a type of the resurrection of Christ.

Jesus tells us in John 14:17 that the **“world”** cannot receive this experience. What Jesus meant was those who are unwilling to give up the carnal things of the world, through repentance, cannot receive this wonderful gift. A person cannot receive the Holy Spirit before repentance.

The requirements for receiving the Holy Spirit are repentance and faith.

Repentance must come before water baptism and the infilling of the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit completes the new birth experience and makes us new creatures in Christ (II Corinthians 5:17).

“A new heart also will I give you, and a new Spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh,... and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them.” (Ezekiel 36:26,27)

The Holy Spirit is promised to all who obey the Word of God (Acts 2:4, 38, 39; 5:32).

Simply repent and claim God’s promise of forgiveness. Your burdens will begin to lift as you confess your sins before God and start to feel

His love and mercy. A natural response to this feeling is to worship God, who in turn will pour out His Spirit upon this repentant, believing, worshipping person.

#3 Total Cleansing

Jesus said, **“If we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth us from all sin.”** (I John 1:7)

- I Peter 1:19; Revelation 1:5)

When God cleanses us from all sin we are totally clean! It is as though we had never committed a sin. **“As far as the east is from the west, so far hath He removed our transgressions from us.”** (Psalm 103:12)

RESTITUTION

Restitution is an important part of repentance. True repentance will produce restitution (Luke 19:8).

Webster’s Encyclopedic Dictionary defines Restitution as **“the right of giving back to the rightful owner; a giving of something as an equivalent (of equal value) for what has been lost or damaged.”**

At times, true repentance is expensive. One who repents may have to return something he has stolen, or ask forgiveness for something he has said.

The repentant person changes. He not only says he is sorry he did wrong, he stops doing wrong.

Guilt and condemnation are heavy weights to carry around. Guilt makes one feel ugly, unhappy, lonely and hateful. Suppose I gave you a brick to carry for the rest of your life.

Although the brick was not really heavy when I first gave it to you, the longer you carry it, the heavier it becomes. So it is with unrepented sins. The longer you wait to repent, the harder it is.

This applies not only to those who have never repented, but also to

those who have received the Holy Spirit. Repentance is not something we do once like graduating from Senior Secondary School. It is something we do again and again, like taking a bath. It is possible to pick up little sins here and there. We need to repent (unload) daily.

If you have something wrong (maybe no one knows about it but you and God) and it is weighing heavily upon your mind. Why not repent of it today? If you need to take something back, or pay for something, or tell someone you are sorry, do it today. Get it off your mind and let the Lord blot it off your record.

The results of true repentance:

Release

Excitement

Peace

Enthusiasm

New nature

Thankfulness

Acceptance

No guilt

Comfort

Energy

ADDITIONAL NOTES

IS BAPTISM ESSENTIAL?

GOAL: To clearly define baptism and the part it plays in Salvation.

KEY SCRIPTURE: Mark 16:16

Baptism is an essential part of Salvation! Without it you cannot be saved.

“The FIRST MESSAGE preached by the apostles resulted in a command for EVERYONE to be baptized. ACTS 2:38. The LAST MESSAGE preached by Jesus was a COMMAND to baptize all nations. (MATTHEW 28:19.” (Quote from Lewis Manuwal’s booklet **“Water Baptism according to The Bible and Historical References”**)

Baptism, according to the scriptures, instructs us to be completely immersed in water. The word **“baptism”** comes from the Greek word **“baptiso,”** meaning **“to plunge, bury or immerse.”** Baptism must be by immersion! (The next lesson will cover this very important point.)

Three reasons why we should be baptized:

#1) Baptism is Commanded

- Matthew 28:19
- Mark 16:15 - Baptism is part of the Gospel message!
- Acts 10:48 - Peter commanded those who had repented of their sin and received the Holy Ghost to be baptized.

#2) Baptism Saves

- I Peter 3:20, 21
- John 3:5 - You cannot enter into the kingdom of God without being baptized.
- I Corinthians 6:11
- Galatians 3:27

#3) Baptism remits sin

- Acts 22:16
- Luke 3:3 - One must first repent before he is baptized. You must first acknowledge your sins, ask forgiveness, and then have them washed away through the act of baptism. Baptism is for the “**remission of sins**” (Acts 2:38-41).
- Hebrews 9:22 The blood of Jesus Christ must be applied to remit sins. What then is the Biblical way to receive remission of sins? This also is the only way to get the Saviour’s blood applied.
- Colossians 2:11-14
- Titus 3:5

Baptism was spoken of (foreshadowed) in the Old Testament. “**For a water of separation: it is a purification for sin.**” (Numbers 19:9) “**But if he washed them not, nor bathe his flesh; then he shall bear his iniquity.**” (Leviticus 17:15-16) In other words, if you are not baptized you shall bear your sin and be exempt from heaven. Exodus 30:20 states, “**wash with water that thou diest not.**” If the priest did not first wash at the laver, he would be smitten dead.

ADDITIONAL NOTES

HOW SHOULD I BE BAPTIZED?

GOAL: To explain through the Scriptures how believers should be baptized.

KEY SCRIPTURE: Matthew 3:16

BAPTISMAL MODE: IMMERSION IN WATER

As mentioned in the previous lesson, baptism comes from the Greek word “**baptiso**” which means “**to plunge, bury or immerse.**” The definition of the word alone tells us that any other method is incorrect.

The word “**immerse**” means “**to plunge or dip.**” Baptism is a type of the Lord’s death and is the only method that retains this biblical symbol of baptism as a burial.

- Colossians 2:12
- Romans 6:4

SHOULD YOU BE IMMERSED or SPRINKLED WHEN BAPTIZED?

IMMERSION

MUCH WATER

John 3:23

INTO THE WATER

Acts 8:39

BURIED IN WATER

Romans 6:4

PLANTED IN WATER

Romans 6:5

SPRINKLING

The early church definitely taught and practiced baptism by immersion. If you were not baptized this way then you need to be.

Ephesians 4:5 says, **“One Lord, one faith, one baptism.”**

INFANT BAPTISM?

As with sprinkling, infant baptism cannot be found in the New Testament church.

Matthew 28:19 says, **“Teach all nations, baptizing them...”**

Acts 8:36,37 - The Ethiopian Eunuch asked, **“What doth hinder me to be baptized?”** Philip responded, **“If thou believest with all thine heart.”**

- **Believing is a prerequisite of baptism** (Mark 16:16).

One must first understand and then believe. You need to repent before you are baptized! (Acts 2:38)

Baptism should first be understood by the person. A child should be old enough to receive teaching, believe, and repent of his or her sins before being baptized.

Based on the Word of God, we are able to conclude that the only biblical method of baptizing people is by immersion in the name of Jesus Christ.

ADDITIONAL NOTES

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE NAME

GOAL: To show that the name of Jesus is vitally important in baptism.

KEY SCRIPTURE: Acts 4:12

Salvation is in the Name!

ONE NAME

- Matthew 28:18-20
- Zechariah 14:9
- Matthew 1:21
- Luke 24:47
- John 5:43; 14:26

What is the name of the Father, Son and Holy Ghost? - JESUS.
You will discover how the early church baptized by reading Acts 2:38; 8:16; 10:48; and 19:5.

Is it proper to baptize in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost? Or can we only use the name of Jesus? Let us go to the Word of God and see what the Apostles either taught or preached concerning water baptism.

IN JESUS NAME

TITLES

JEWS—Acts 2:38

SAMARITANS - Acts 8:16

GENTILES - Acts 4:12

PETER TAUGHT- Acts 4:12

PAUL TAUGHT - Colossians 3:17

“Matthew 28:19 was a command by Jesus to baptize in a NAME.

The Apostles did not repeat the words of the command, but they did obey it as seen in the scriptures above. Since Father, Son, and Holy Ghost are titles of the manifestations of the Almighty Spirit and His body, the Apostles understood His SAVING NAME to be JESUS. Can any dare say that the Apostles disobeyed the Lord, or failed to baptize properly? THE NAME OF THE FATHER, SON, AND HOLY GHOST IS LORD JESUS CHRIST. The actions of the Apostles in the Book of Acts prove this to be true.”

(Quote from Lewis Manuwal’s booklet “**Water Baptism according to The Bible and Historical References**”)

SIX REASONS WHY WE BAPTIZE IN JESUS NAME:

- (1) To take upon ourselves the family name (Ephesians 3:14-15).
- (2) The Church began with the teaching of this doctrine (Acts 2:38).
- (3) This teaching has been continued over the ages of time by the Church (Acts 2:42).
- (4) It is followed by a Promise (Acts 2:38).
- (5) His name is GREAT (Malachi 1:11).
- (6) Purged our sin for His name’s sake (Psalm 79:9).

THE BRIDE MUST TAKE THE BRIDEGROOMS NAME!

NO NAME, NO CLAIM!

ADDITIONAL NOTES

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF BAPTISM

GOAL: To give a summary of water baptism and show the Biblical significance for baptism in Jesus Name.

KEY SCRIPTURE: Ephesians 2:1

We have both seen and understood that water baptism in Jesus Name is essential!

But what is the biblical significance?

#1.) God remits sin at water baptism (Acts 2:38; 22:16).

#2.) Baptism is part of the new birth experience (John 3:5; Titus 3:5).

#3.) Baptism indicates that we have died out to sin by repentance and are burying our past sins and sinful lifestyle (Romans 6:4; Colossians 2:12).

#4.) Baptism places us into the family of Christ (Galatians 3:27; Ephesians 4:5).

#5.) Baptism allows us to enter into the New Covenant relationship with God. It is part of our spiritual circumcision (Colossians 2:11-13).

BIBLICAL REASONS FOR BAPTISM IN JESUS NAME

1. The Apostolic Church followed this formula exclusively (Acts 2:38; 8:16; 10:48; 19:5; 22:16).
2. Baptism is a burial with Jesus Christ and no one else (Romans 6:4).
3. Baptism is a personal identification with Jesus Christ. His name

- identifies us as His possession (Romans 6:3; Acts 15:14,17).
4. Baptism is for the remission of sins, and Jesus is the only name associated with remission of sins (Acts 2:38; 10:43).
 5. The name of Jesus represents all the power and authority of God and makes it available to us (Matthew 28:18; John 14:14; Acts 3:6, 16).
 6. Everything we do in word or deed should be done in the name of Jesus (Colossians 3:17). Baptism is both word and deed.
 7. Jesus is the highest name known to mankind, and every knee shall bow to that name (Philippians 2:9-11).
 8. Baptism is part of our salvation. Jesus is the only saving name (Acts 2:21; 4:12; I Peter 3:21).
 9. Baptism is the outward act of an inward confession; signifying the acceptance of Jesus as our Lord and Saviour (Acts 8:12; 8:37).
 10. Baptism in Jesus name signifies belief that the fullness of the Godhead is in Jesus (Colossians 2:9).
 11. Baptism in the name of Jesus demonstrates reverence for and obedience to God's Word over human tradition.
 12. The modern Trinitarian doctrine is not taught in the Bible. Therefore, there is no theological justification for a triune baptismal formula.

Baptism is more than a symbolic ceremony and public declaration of joining the Church.

By reading the Word of God and observing the actions of the Apostles and the early church, it becomes obvious to us all that the Jesus Name formula for water baptism is the only way to be baptized.

**Baptism saves, identifies
and remits!**

ADDITIONAL NOTES

WHAT IS THE HOLY SPIRIT?

GOAL: To clearly define what the Holy Spirit is and to show that it is an important part of Salvation's plan.

KEY SCRIPTURE: Acts 2:38

Simply put, the Holy Spirit is "**Christ in you, the hope of glory**" (Colossians 1:27).

TITLES OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

1. Spirit of God (Matthew 3:16; Romans 8:9)
2. Holy Ghost (Matthew 1:18; Luke 3:22)
3. Spirit of the Lord (Acts 8:39)
4. Comforter (John 14:26)
5. Spirit of Truth (John 16:13)
6. Holy Spirit of Promise (Ephesians 1:13)
7. Spirit of Adoption (Romans 8:15)
8. Spirit of Christ (Romans 8:9; 1 Peter 1:11)
9. Spirit of Grace (Hebrews 10:29)
10. Eternal Spirit (Hebrews 9:14)

The Holy Spirit is when Jesus Christ comes into your life. According to Acts 2:38, in order for us to experience full Salvation one must repent, be baptized in Jesus Name and then receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. Ephesians 4:30 speaks of it as being a seal or promise. What is it a promise of? Eternal life! (Romans 6:23) The Holy Spirit is a gift. It is not something that you can buy or earn. You simply receive it as a gift from the Lord once you have obeyed the first two steps found in Acts 2:38.

When you receive the Holy Spirit into your life you receive POWER (to live a victorious life); STRENGTH to overcome (Ephesians 3:16)

and a COMFORTER to be there for you during those times of grief and sorrow.

Isaiah 28:9-12 tells us that the Lord would speak to His people with stammering lips and another tongue.

Tongues are the initial evidence of receiving the Holy Spirit.

- Acts 2:1-4
- Acts 10:44-48
- Acts 19:1-6

WHY DID GOD CHOOSE TONGUES?

#1) An outward sign (Acts 10:46)

#2) A uniform sign (Acts 10:44-48; 19:6)

#3) Sign of complete control

- By reading James chapter three, we understand that the tongue is the most unruly member of the body.
- It is the hardest member to tame (control).
- We are told that the tongue is capable of defiling the whole body. Therefore, if the tongue can be tamed then the whole body can be consecrated to God. **God knows if He can control the tongue, He can control the man!**

#4) Man's Greatest Expression

"Seeing that the tongue is man's greatest expression of his spirit," (Quote taken from tract #108 - **PENTECOSTAL PUBLISHING HOUSE**) it is no wonder God chose the tongue to express the greatest experience that man could ever receive.

How To Receive The Holy Spirit

1. Put your faith in Jesus Christ. Jesus promised the Holy spirit to all who believe on Him as the Scripture has said (John 7:38, 39). Peter said, **"The promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call."** (Acts 2:39) Remove all doubt and confusion created by

false theories and ideas of men, and believe that God is willing to baptize you with the Holy Spirit. **“Be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is ...BE FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT.”** (Ephesians 5:17,18)

2. The next step is obedience. God gives the Holy Ghost to them that obey Him (Acts 5:32). The question was asked on the day of Pentecost, **“What shall we do?”** The response was Acts 2:38.

(a) Repentance is necessary because your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit. If any man defile the temple (body) of God, him shall God destroy (I Corinthians 3:16,17). So God commandeth all men everywhere to REPENT (Acts 17:30). Jesus said, **“Except ye REPENT, ye shall all likewise perish.”** (Luke 13:3) Without true repentance you cannot receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

(b) After repentance, we are baptized in Jesus Name for the remission of sins.

3. Lift up your hands and praise the Lord.
4. Let God use your tongue to speak in tongues and simply accept the experience you have received.

What does the Holy Spirit have to do with Salvation?

- Without it one cannot be saved. (Romans 8:9-11; I Corinthians 12:3)

We know that the gospel is the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The response to the Gospel is Acts 2:38.

LOOK AT THE COMPARISON

death = repentance
burial = baptism in Jesus Name
resurrection = Holy Spirit

To repent of your sins and be baptized in Jesus Name for the remission of sins is good and necessary. But when you receive the Holy Ghost, the same resurrection Spirit that raised Christ up from

the dead now dwells within you. We identify with Christ burial and resurrection at baptism (Romans 6:3-5); however, this resurrection power does not become effective in our lives until we receive the Holy Spirit. (Romans 8:9-11)

If you do not have the resurrection power of Christ within you, then how will you rise to meet Him in the sky?

The Holy Spirit is:

- #1.) Christ in you (Colossians 1:27)
- #2.) Power (Acts 1:8)
- #3.) Comforter (John 14)
- #4.) The earnest of our inheritance (II Corinthians 1:22)
- #5.) A seal, or promise (Ephesians 4:30)
- #6.) A rest and refreshing (Isaiah 28:12)
- #7.) Living Water (I Corinthians 10:1-4)
- #8.) Eternal life (Romans 6:23)

ADDITIONAL NOTES

WHY CAN'T I RECEIVE THE HOLY SPIRIT?

GOAL: To give us some possible reasons as to why some are not able to receive the Holy Ghost.

WHY SOME DO NOT RECEIVE THE HOLY SPIRIT QUICKLY
(Taken and modified from J.T. Pugh's book "**How to Receive the Holy Ghost**")

On the day of Pentecost about one hundred and twenty people received the Holy Ghost as a group. Later on in Acts 2 we are told that three thousand were added to the Church.

- In Acts 8, the Holy Spirit was given by the laying on of the Apostles' hands. The Apostle Paul also received the Holy Ghost under the hands of Ananias.
- In Acts 10, the Holy Ghost fell suddenly upon the household of Cornelius.
- In Acts 19, Paul laid his hands upon the twelve Ephesian disciples, and they received the Holy Ghost right then and there.

This leads us to believe that this experience is not something that has to be sought after for years. There is absolutely no Scriptural justification for honest-hearted persons to seek the Holy Spirit for years.

(1) Lack of real repentance

The person who is faced with a feeling that he should be personally reconciled to another, yet fails to do so, will probably never receive the Holy Ghost. A man cannot be honest and cover his sins. God is not free to operate in dishonest circumstances. Such a seeker cannot hope to be filled with the Holy Ghost, regardless of how long he seeks.

“He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy.” God’s very nature would not allow Him to fill the soul of a dishonest man. **“...And what communion hath light with darkness?”** (II Corinthians 6:14)

It is true that one can repent in his heart while he is still sitting on the pew, or even while he is on his way to the altar. If he truly turns from his sin and looks to God in faith, God in that instant will forgive him.

(2) Doubt or Unbelief

“Without faith it is impossible to please God.” (Hebrews 11:6)
When a person prays in doubt, or without faith, he is praying to a displeased God. It is impossible to overstress the importance of faith. No meaningful relation of any kind can be established except it be on the basis of simple trust between the parties involved. God is deeply grieved when people doubt Him.

It is difficult to describe how great an insult it is to God when we disbelieve Him. Doesn’t it cause you to feel bad when people disbelieve your word? Think how God feels?

FORGIVE YOURSELF!

At times we refuse to accept the Holy Spirit because we cannot allow ourselves to believe that God has forgiven us. So we continue to repent and cry out for forgiveness. This act of unbelief grieves God.

What may appear to some as an over-sensitive conscience is nothing more, at times, than an attempt of the Devil to hold or keep the candidate under condemnation, so that he will not, with faith, accept the forgiveness that God has already given.

It is one thing for God to forgive, but quite another for one to accept His forgiveness. In order for God’s forgiveness to be appropriated to us personally, we must by faith believe that we are forgiven and accept it.

So many times when the Holy Spirit is moving upon someone, they are unable to accept it. They seem to feel that the Holy Ghost is an overwhelming Spirit; that is altogether different from the breath of God which they feel during worship or even at the altar.

Often, the Spirit is upon a person but they fail to receive its fullness because they could not say within themselves, **“This is the Holy Ghost falling on me right now. This is the Holy Ghost that I feel. This is the Holy Ghost I am receiving right now.”**

Another trick of Satan is to remind the seeker that he is in the flesh, and thus frighten him away from the reality of the Spirit. Faith, however, steps over such reasoning, and blindly flings itself into the arms of an approaching God.

Satan will also try and cause the seeker to doubt that he will receive the Holy Spirit right now at this particular time. **“I believe that God will give me the Holy Spirit, but maybe not tonight.”**

The courageous, faithful seeker emphatically asks, **“Why not tonight? If this gift is for me, as the Bible says it is, why shouldn’t I receive it tonight?”**

(3) Preconceived ideas of how one should receive the Holy Spirit

Matthew 9:29 says **“According to your faith be it unto you.”** This statement can go a long way in determining what a seeker is willing to accept as the genuine baptism of the Spirit. If your thinking is incorrect you probably will not get it.

- Some feel that unless they fall on the floor, run, jump, laugh, shout or cry that they have not truly received the gift of the Holy Spirit.
- The only biblical sign for receiving the Holy Spirit is to speak with other tongues! You may or may not do the above actions upon receiving the Holy Spirit. This will depend primarily on the person’s personality.

(4) Pride

(5) Fear

(6) Sin

God cannot enter into an unclean (sinful) vessel. Sin separates us from God (Isaiah 59:2). That is why repentance is so important.

(7) Indoctrination from other churches and traditional religions.

(8) Feel that the Holy Ghost is not for them.

ADDITIONAL NOTES

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT? PART I

GOAL: To explain why we are given the Holy Spirit and to give us some signs that should follow the initial infilling.

KEY SCRIPTURES: John 14:12; Mark 16:17-18; Ephesians 3:20

THE PURPOSE OF THE HOLY GHOST

(Youth Teacher's resource packet-lesson 10)

#1.) John 14:26 - The Holy Ghost will teach us all things and bring all things to our remembrance.

The Holy Spirit will let us know when we are doing something wrong. It will not stop you from doing it but it will forewarn you.

The Holy Spirit will give us an understanding of the Word of God.

#2.) Isaiah 28:12 - The Holy Ghost is the refreshing and gives rest to the weary.

When you come to church and you are weary from the days work, if you will begin to worship the Lord and allow the Holy Spirit to minister to you it will revive, strengthen and encourage you.

#3.) John 16:13 - The Spirit of truth lets us know things to come in the future.

- The Holy Ghost acts as our spiritual telescope enabling us to see what the natural man cannot.
- It directs our lives; we are led by the Spirit.

#4.) Acts 1:8 - The Spirit gives us power for witnessing.

The word power comes from the Greek word “**dunamis**” and is the same word used to describe dynamite! When you receive the Holy Spirit it will give you dynamite power to be a witness for Christ and to do great things in His name.

#5.) Romans 8:11 - The Spirit is our promise that we will be resurrected.

#6.) Romans 8:26 - The Spirit itself maketh intercession for us. It helps us pray.

The Holy Spirit has a five-fold purpose in our lives:

- 1.It teaches**
- 2.Refreshes**
- 3.Looks ahead in the future**
- 4.Gives us POWER**
- 5.Will take us to heaven**

There is no lack of supply in God’s vast reservoirs. If you thirst, God will fill you.

ADDITIONAL NOTES

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT? PART II

KEY SCRIPTURES: I Corinthians 2:12; Ezekiel 36:27

At Sinai: God spoke to the people. The law was inscribed on tables of stone.

At PENTECOST: God spoke through the people. The Spirit writes on the tables of the heart.

Although tongues are the initial sign of receiving the Holy Spirit in your life, it is not the only sign. There should be other signs which follow and attest to the fact that you do have the Holy Spirit. Now all of the following does not have to be in the life of every individual; however, some of these should be produced in the life of a Holy Ghost filled person.

#1 FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

- Galatians 5:22,23
- If we do not see some parts of the fruit of the Spirit in our lives something is wrong. We better start praying for God to help us in this area.

#2 GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT

- I Corinthians 12:7-13
- The gifts of the Spirit can only be given to believers who have received the gift of the Holy Spirit. These gifts cannot operate in a person without the Holy Spirit residing in them.

#3 LOVE, JOY, PEACE

- According to the Word of God these three characteristics (traits) should be in the life of a Holy Ghost filled believer.
- Acts 13:52
- Romans 5:5; 14:17; 15:3

#4 CONTINUALLY GROWING IN THE WORD

- John 14:26

#5 POWER TO BE A WITNESS

Understanding the Power Within Us
--

- Acts 1:8

I. The Flesh Does No Miracles

- A.) Jesus said, “...**the Father that dwelleth in me, He doeth the works.**” (John 14:10)
- B.) It was God in Him that possessed the true power.
- C.) John 6:63 - the spirit gives life, but the flesh profits nothing.
- D.) Jesus, though robed in flesh, moved in the total power of the Spirit of God.

- I Corinthians 2; Zechariah 4

II. “And greater works than these shall he do...” (John 14:12)

- A.) The works of Jesus are so mighty, yet He said the Church would do greater still!
- B.) What was the secret to the power of the Messiah?
 1. He was “**possessed**” by the Holy Spirit of God.
 2. His flesh was out of the way.
 3. He sought only to glorify the Name of the Lord.

III. The Works of our Lord.

- A.) He opened the eyes of the blind. John 8:6-7
- B.) He healed the lame and crippled. Luke 6:10

- C.) He resurrected the dead. John 11:43
- D.) He delivered the demon-oppressed. Mark 5:8
- E.) He overpowered the forces of nature. Mark 4:39
- F.) How could we do greater than these?

1. The apostles laid hands on seekers and they were filled with the Holy Ghost.
2. Acts 19:11-12: The anointed handkerchiefs and aprons were sent out from the apostle Paul that brought special healings.
3. Tongues are spoken for the edification of the church.
4. The church is the multiplied body of the Lord in the earth today, now doing greater works and reaching more souls than ever before!

IV. The Power in us.

- A.) It was promised when **“the Holy Ghost is come upon you.”**
 1. Not after **“earning”** it
 2. Not after **“enough”** years in the church
- B.) It is the same power that was in the Lord.
 1. Its potential is the same
 2. It must be released
- C.) Read Matthew 11:11

The least person in the kingdom of God can be greater than John the Baptist. How? Because we move in the power of the Lord (Holy Spirit).

- D.) It is used in evangelism.
 1. Personal evangelism must be done in the same power of the Spirit as anointed Holy Ghost preaching.
 2. We do not go forth in the flesh, but in the Spirit, with tears and compassion, with wisdom and with power. Psalm 126:5,6

E.) Some things that we can expect while moving in the Spirit and in the Power are:

1. Expect God to work a miracle through you.
 2. Expect the Lord to confirm His Word with “**signs following**”.
 3. Expect people to receive the Holy Ghost anywhere and at anytime.
 4. Expect healings.
 5. Expect answers to your prayers
 6. Expect revival.
- **You are a “POWER WITNESS” for Jesus!**
 - **God has promised to go with you. So go in the POWER!**

ADDITIONAL NOTES

WHO NEEDS IT?

GOAL: To show us through the Word of God that the Holy Spirit is for ALL.

KEY SCRIPTURE: Revelation 21:6

A large portion of this material has been taken from an article written by Simeon Young entitled: **The Holy Ghost, who needs it?**

- Luke 11:5-13 In this portion of scripture, we find that the focus of the asking, seeking and knocking is the Holy Ghost. Here, Jesus uses a story to express to us His willingness to give the Holy Spirit to all who are thirsty for it.
- The word “**parable**” comes from two Greek words: “**para**” which means “**beside**” or “**alongside,**” and “**ballein**” which means “**to throw.**” In a parable one thing is thrown alongside something else for comparison.

Often a parable’s lesson is drawn from the fact that the two things are alike. But sometimes the lesson is drawn from the fact that they are not alike. In this parable, Jesus uses both of these methods to teach us about the Holy Spirit.

Let us look at this parable and see what **Jesus is trying to teach us:**

1. The Holy Spirit is a pressing need deserving of shameless persistence.
2. God is eager to give the Holy Spirit to desperate people.

What we need and what we think we need are not always the same. **A need is indispensable, something that is essential.** We know that the Holy Spirit is essential to Salvation. It is a need! Everyone needs the Holy Spirit in their life.

The following is a list of various groups (categories) of people who need the Holy Spirit. From this we can determine **who needs the Holy Spirit today.**

#1 - Religious Leaders (Activists)

The twelve apostles, who were with Jesus for three and a half years, healing the sick and casting out devils, needed the Holy Ghost so desperately that Jesus told them to tarry in Jerusalem until they be endued with power from on high (Luke 24:49). Later, in Acts 1:13-14; 2:1-4, we discover that the twelve did receive the Holy Ghost with the evidence of speaking in other tongues.

#2 - Highly Favoured And Blessed People

Gabriel said to Mary the mother of Jesus, **“Hail, thou art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women”** (Luke 1:28).

- Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Ghost **“spake out with a loud voice, and said, ‘Blessed art thou among women...’”** (Luke 1:42). Five times in this chapter we see that Mary was blessed by God.

But Mary, though highly favoured and signally blessed by God, needed the baptism of the Holy Spirit. She was one of the 120 who received the Holy Ghost on the day of Pentecost.

God’s blessing and favour did not take away her need for the Holy Spirit in her life.

#3 - Sincere, But Misguided, Religious People

Saul of Tarsus was sincere. And even though he was zealous toward God (Acts 22:3) and exceeding mad against Christians (Acts 26:11), he was still misguided and needed the Holy Ghost. Ananias came to him and said, **“Brother Saul, the Lord, even Jesus...hath sent me that thou mightest receive thy sight and be filled with the Holy Ghost”** (Acts 9:17).

#4 - Prayerful, Generous Friends of the Church

Cornelius was a devout, God-fearing, generous, praying man. He would be a very good person to have in our church today. Yet the Bible tells us that he was not saved without the Holy Ghost (Acts

11:14). This God-fearing Gentile needed the Holy Ghost so desperately that God sent to him a reluctant Simon Peter to preach to him so that he could receive the Holy Ghost.

#5 - Those Healed and Delivered

“Unclean spirits, crying with a loud voice, came out of many (Samaritans) that were possessed with them: and many taken with palsies, and that were lame were healed. And there was great joy in that city” (Acts 8:7,8).

The Samaritans’ need of the Holy Ghost is seen in the fact that Peter and John came from Jerusalem and **“prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost: (for as yet He was fallen on none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.) Then laid they their hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost”** (Acts 8:15-17).

#6 - Long Standing Church Members

Paul found twelve men in the city of Ephesus who had responded to the preaching of John a long time ago. They had accepted John’s baptism that required evidence of genuine repentance and were true believers. Still Paul wanted to know, **“Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed?”** (Acts 19:2). After Paul baptized them in the name of the Lord Jesus, he **“...laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them: and they spake with tongues, and prophesied”** (Acts 19:5,6).

The six examples that have just been presented to you should prove to us that everyone needs the Holy Spirit. It is for everyone (Joel 2:28,29). It does not matter where you were born, what position you presently hold, or how much sincerity and zeal you have, you still need the Holy Ghost.

The parable of the eager father is evidence that God is ready to give the Holy Spirit to everyone who asks, seeks and knocks (Matthew 7:7,8).

Who needs the Holy Spirit? Everyone who does not have the Holy Spirit needs it!

Reaching Through Teaching Ministries
A Ministry of
United Pentecostal Church International
P. O. Box 7455 Accra-North
Ghana
E-mail: AfricaAflame@aol.com
Telephone: 233-21-308804 or 233-21-308061

