Chapter 4 - God's Love

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever would believe, would not perish, but have everlasting life." JOHN 3:16

God has a steadfast Love for every person, in every nation throughout the world. We should observe just how much God loved us, by what He gave to us; God gave what was most precious to Him, which is His very own Son, Jesus Christ, to lay down His life to save us.

How many fathers and families can identify with this, whom have sent sons to war, to save and protect the welfare other people and the children of their nation; ? And when a family has lost the life of their son, they really know the extent of the love that he had for them. And furthermore the love that the father and families had for the one who gave his life for many is fully manifested and fills their hearts forever.

KEY SCRIPTURES

ROM 5:8 But God demonstrates His own love towards us, in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us.

JOHN 3:16 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.

OBSERVATIONS OF GOD’S LOVE

Some Topics of Love covered in this Bible Study...

• WHAT / WHO is Love ?
• WHO does God Love ?
• WHAT does God Love ?
• HOW does God Love us? In what ways and manner?
• WHAT are the BLESSINGS & BENEFITS to be Loved by God and Jesus Christ ?
• HOW do we RECIEVE God’s Love ?
• WHEN does God Love ?
• WHERE does God Love ?
• WHY does God Love us ?
• Does our Love for God and others SAVE us ?
• Does God want all Christians to Love Him and one another ?
WHAT / WHO is Love?

"God is Love"

1 JOHN 4:8 - "Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is Love."

How do we know "WHAT Love is?"

1 JOHN 3:16-18 - This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. 17 If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? 18 Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.

WHO does God Love?

ROMANS 5:8 "But God demonstrates His own Love towards us, in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us." (God Loves us while we yet sinners, not so we can continue in sin, but that we might have new life, through His Grace, and saved from the penalty of our sin, and for us to continue to turn away

JOHN 3:35 "The Father Loves the Son and has given all things into His hand."

JOHN 3:16 "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."

NEH 1:5 "Then I said; "O Lord, God of heaven, the great and awesome God, Who keeps His covenant of Love with those who Love You and obey your commands."

PSA 33:18 "But the eyes of the Lord are on those who fear Him, on those whose hope is in His unfailing Love."

PSA 37:28 "For the Lord Loves the just and will not forsake His faithful ones, They will be protected forever, but the offspring of the wicked will be cut off;"

2 CH 6:14 "He said, "O Lord, God of Israel, there is no God like You in heaven or on earth,..You who keep your covenant of Love with your servants who continue wholeheartedly in your way.

PSA 32:10 "Many are the woes of the wicked, but the Lord's unfailing Love surrounds the man who trusts in Him."

PSA 86:5 "You are forgiving and good, O Lord, abounding in Love to all who call to you."
WHO does God Love?

PSA 103:11 "For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is His Love for those who fear Him."

PSA 103:17 "But from everlasting to everlasting the Lord's Love is with those who fear Him, and His righteousness with their children's children."

PSA 146:8 "The Lord gives sight to the blind, the Lord lifts up those who are bowed down, the Lord Loves the righteous."

DAN 9:4 "I prayed to the Lord my God and confessed; "O Lord, the great and awesome God, who keeps His covenant of Love with all who Love you and obey your commands,"

PROV 8:17 "I Love those who Love me, and those who seek me, will find me."

PSALM 146:7 "Who executes justice for the oppressed, Who gives food to the hungry, The Lord gives freedom to the prisoners, 146:8 "The Lord opens the eyes of the blind; The Lord raises those that are bowed down; The Lord Loves the righteous " 146:9 "The Lord watches over the strangers; He revives the fatherless and the widow;"

DEUT 10:15 "The Lord delighted only in your fathers to Love them, and He chose their seed (descendants) after them, you above all peoples, as it is this day.

DEUT 33:3 "Yes, He Loves the people, All His saints are in His hand; they sit down at your feet; Everyone receives your Words.

DEUT 10:18 He administers justice for the fatherless and the widow, and Loves the stranger, giving him food and clothing."

PSALM 47:4 "He shall choose our inheritance for us, the excellency of Jacob whom He Loved."

PROV 15:9 "He Loves him who follows after righteousness."

PROV 8:17 "I Love those who love me, And those who seek Me diligently, will find Me.
WHO does God Love?

PSALM 146:7 "Who executes justice for the oppressed, Who gives food to the hungry, The Lord gives freedom to the prisoners, 146:8 "The Lord opens the eyes of the blind; The Lord raises those that are bowed down; The Lord Loves the righteous "
146:9 "The Lord watches over the strangers; He revives the fatherless and the widow;

2 CORIN 9:7 "God Loves a cheerful giver "

ISAIAH 43:4 Since you were precious in My sight, you have been honored, And I have Loved you; Therefore I will give men for you, And people for your life. Fear not, for I am with you; I will bring your descendants from the east, and gather you from the west....."

JOHN 14:21 "He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who Loves Me. And he who Loves Me will be Loved by My Father and I will Love him and manifest Myself to him."

JOHN 16:27 "For the Father Himself Loves you, because you have Loved Me, and have believed that I came forth from God."

WHAT does God Love?

PSA 33:5 "The Lord Loves righteousness and justice; the earth is full of His unfailing Love."

PSALM 37:28 "For the Lord Loves justice, And does not forsake His saints, they are preserved forever, but the descendants of the wicked shall be cut off."

PSALM 11:7 "For the Lord is Righteous, He Loves righteousness; His countenance beholds the upright."

PSALM 33:5 "He Loves righteousness and justice; The earth is full of the goodness of the Lord."

PSALM 99:4 "The King's strength also Loves justice; You have established equity; You have executed justice and righteousness in Jacob."
HOW does God Love us? In what ways and manner? WHAT are the some of the BLESSINGS & BENEFITS to be Loved by God and Jesus Christ?

ROM 8:37,39 - No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. 38 For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, 39 neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

1 JOHN 3:1 - See how great a love the Father has bestowed on us, that we would be called children of God; and such we are.

1 JOHN 4:7 - Beloved let us love one another, for Love is from God, and whoever Loves has been born of God and knows God.

NEH 9:17 " They refused to listen and failed to remember the miracles you performed among them. They became stiff-necked and in their rebellion appointed a leader in order to return to their slavery. But you are a forgiving God, gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in Love. Therefore you did not desert them."

JER 31:3 " Yes, I have Loved you with an everlasting Love, therefore with Lovingkindness, I have drawn you."

1 PET 5:7 " God cares for you that you should cast your cares upon Him."

ISAIAH 38:17 " But You have Lovingly delivered my soul from the pit of corruption, For You have cast all my sins behind Your back."

DEUT 7:7,8 "The Lord did not set His Love upon you, nor choose you, because you were more in number than any people; for we were the fewest of all people; But because the Lord Loved you."

DEUT 7:13 " And He will Love you, and bless you, and multiply you."

PSALM 63:3 " Because Thy Lovingkindness is better than life, my lips shall praise Thee."

DEUT 10:18,19 - He defends the cause of the fatherless and the widow, and loves the foreigner residing among you, giving them food and clothing. 19 And you are to love those who are foreigners, for you yourselves were foreigners in Egypt.

PSALM 147:3 " He heals the brokenhearted, and binds up their wounds."
**HOW does God Love us? In what ways and manner?**

**WHAT are the some of the BLESSINGS & BENEFITS to be Loved by God and Jesus Christ?**

**DEUT 10:18** He administers justice for the fatherless and the widow, and Loves the stranger, giving him food and clothing.

**PSA 145:8** The Lord is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and rich in love.

**EPHES 2:4** "But God, Who is rich in mercy, because of His great Love with which He Loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ ( by Grace you have been saved ).

**2 THES 2:16,17** "Now may the Lord Jesus Christ Himself, and our God and Father, who has Loved us and given us everlasting consolation and good hope by grace, comfort your hearts and establish you in every good word and work."

**HEB 12:6** "Whom the Lord Loves He chastens."

**PROV 3:12** "because the Lord disciplines those he Loves, as a father the son he delights in."

**JOHN 17:20-26** - "My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, 21 that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. 22 I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one— 23 I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.24 “Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world. 25 “Righteous Father, though the world does not know you, I know you, and they know that you have sent me.26 I have made you known to them, and will continue to make you known in order that the love you have for me may be in them and that I myself may be in them."

**GAL 2:20** - I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and [t]he life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.
HOW does God Love us? In what ways and manner?
WHAT are the some of the BLESSINGS & BENEFITS to be Loved by God and Jesus Christ?

2 CORIN 1:3-7 - Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God. For just as we share abundantly in the sufferings of Christ, so also our comfort abounds through Christ. If we are distressed, it is for your comfort and salvation; if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which produces in you patient endurance of the same sufferings we suffer. And our hope for you is firm, because we know that just as you share in our sufferings, so also you share in our comfort.

GOD'S Compassion - NEH 9:17, PSA 51:1, 86:15, 103:4, 145:8, ISA 54:10, LAM 3:32, PS 78:38, PS 90:13
2 CORIN 7:6 "Nevertheless God, who comforts the downcast, comforted us by the coming of Titus."


GOD'S EVERLASTING LOVE .................................................JER 31:3

GOD'S DELIVERING, SAVING LOVE ...............ISA 38:17, JOHN 3:16

GOD'S REDEEMING LOVE .................................................ISA 63:9
HOW do we RECEIVE God's Love?

ROM 5:5 "The Love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us."

1 JOHN 4:9,10 "In this the Love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him.

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."

2 TIM 1:7 - For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline.

WHAT are some of the BLESSINGS & BENEFITS to those who LOVE God, and follow Jesus Christ?

PSA 145:20 "The Lord watches over all who Love Him, but all the wicked He will destroy."

PSA 147:11 - "The Lord delights in those who fear Him, who put their hope in His unfailing Love."

1 JOHN 3:1 - "Behold what manner of Love the Father has bestowed on us that we should be called the Sons of God."

1 JOHN 4:9,10 - "In this the Love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him.

PSALM 145:13 - Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and your dominion endures through all generations. The Lord is faithful to all His promises and loving toward all He has made. 145:14 The Lord upholds all those who fall and lifts up all who are bowed down. 145:15 The eyes of all look to You, and You give them their food at the proper time. 145:16 You open your hand and satisfy the desires of every living thing. 145:17 The Lord is righteous in all His ways and loving toward all He has made. 145:18 The Lord is near to all who call on Him, to all who call on Him in truth. 145:19 He fulfills the desires of those who fear Him; He hears their cry and saves them. 145:20 The Lord watches over all who love Him, but all the wicked he will destroy.

COL 1:12 - and giving joyful thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of his holy people in the kingdom of light.
WHAT are some of the BLESSINGS & BENEFITS to those who LOVE God, and follow Jesus Christ?

2 THES 2:16 - May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and by his grace gave us eternal encouragement and good hope,

JOHN 10:28 - I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand.

MAT 11:28 - “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."

WHEN DOES GOD LOVE?

PSALM 42:8 "The Lord will command His Lovingkindness in the daytime, and in the night His song shall be with me."

WHY does God LOVE us?

www.gotquestions.org

Question: "Why does God love us?"

Answer: This short question is among the most profound questions ever asked. And no human would ever be able to answer it sufficiently. One thing is certain, however. God does not love us because we are lovable or because we deserve His love. If anything, the opposite is true. The state of mankind since the fall is one of rebellion and disobedience. Jeremiah 17:9 describes man’s inner condition: “The heart is deceitful and desperately wicked. Who can know it?” Our innermost beings are so corrupted by sin that even we don’t realize the extent to which sin has tainted us. In our natural state, we do not seek God; we do not love God; we do not desire God. Romans 3:10-12 clearly presents the state of the natural, unregenerate person: “There is none righteous, no, not one; There is none who understands; There is none who seeks after God. They have all turned aside; They have together become unprofitable; There is none who does good, no, not one.” How then is it possible for a holy, righteous, and perfect God to love such creatures? To understand this we must understand something of the nature and character of God.

First John 4:8 and 16 tell us that “God is love.” Never was a more important declaration made than this; never was more meaning crowded into a few words than in this short sentence—God is love. This is a profound statement. God doesn’t just love; He is love. His nature and essence are love. Love permeates His very being and infuses all His other attributes, even His wrath and anger. Because God’s very nature is love, He must demonstrate love, just as He must
demonstrate all His attributes because doing so glorifies Him. Glorifying God is the highest, the best, and the most noble of all acts, so, naturally, glorifying Himself is what He must do, because He is the highest and the best, and He deserves all glory.

Since it is God's essential nature to love, He demonstrates His love by lavishing it on undeserving people who are in rebellion against Him. God's love is not a sappy, sentimental, romantic feeling. Rather, it is agape love, the love of self-sacrifice. He demonstrates this sacrificial love by sending His Son to the cross to pay the penalty for our sin (1 John 4:10), by drawing us to Himself (John 6:44), by forgiving us of our rebellion against Him, and by sending His Holy Spirit to dwell within us, thereby enabling us to love as He loves. He did this in spite of the fact that we did not deserve it. "But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8).

God's love is personal. He knows each of us individually and loves us personally. His is a mighty love that has no beginning and no end. It is this experiencing of God's love that distinguishes Christianity from all other religions. Why does God love us? It is because of who He is: "God is love."

**WHAT is the Love of Christ?**

**Question:** "What is the love of Christ?"

**Answer:** The phrase “love of Christ,” as opposed to “love for Christ, refers to the love that He has toward mankind. His love can be briefly stated as His willingness to act in our best interest, especially in meeting our greatest need, even though it cost Him everything and even though we were the least worthy of such love.

Though Christ Jesus, being God in nature, existed from the beginning of time with God the Father (John 1:1) and the Holy Spirit, He willingly left His throne (John 1:1-14) to become a man, that He might pay the penalty for our sin so that we would not have to pay for it for all eternity in the lake of fire (Revelation 20:11-15). Because mankind's sin has been paid for by our sinless Savior Jesus Christ, God who is just and holy can now forgive our sins when we accept Christ Jesus' payment as our own (Romans 3:21-26). Thus, Christ's love is shown in His leaving His home in heaven, where He was worshipped and honored as He deserved, to come to earth as a man where He would be mocked, betrayed, beaten, and crucified on a cross to pay the penalty for our sin, rising again from the dead on the third day. He considered our need of a Savior from our sin and its penalty as more important than His own comfort and life (Philippians 2:3-8).
Sometimes people may give their lives willingly for ones they deem as worthy—a friend, a relative, other “good” people—but Christ’s love goes beyond that. Christ’s love extends to those most unworthy of it. He willingly took the punishment of those who tortured Him, hated Him, rebelled against Him, and cared nothing about Him, those who were most undeserving of His love (Romans 5:6-8). He gave the most He could give for those who deserved it the least! Sacrifice, then, is the essence of godly love, called agapé love. This is God-like love, not man-like love (Matthew 5:43-48).

This love which He demonstrated toward us on the cross is just the beginning. When we place our trust in Him as our Savior, He makes us God’s children, co-heirs with Him! He comes to dwell within us through His Holy Spirit, promising that He will never leave us or forsake us (Hebrews 13:5-6). Thus, we have a loving companion for life. And no matter what we go through, He is there, and His love is ever available to us (Romans 8:35). But as He rightfully reigns as a benevolent King in heaven, we need to give Him the position He deserves in our lives as well, that of Master and not merely companion. It is only then that we will experience life as He intended and live in the fullness of His love (John 10:10b).

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."

**OBSERVATIONS OF GOD’S LOVE**

**WHO DOES GOD LOVE?**

**DEUT 10:17** For the Lord your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the Great God mighty and awesome, who shows no partiality nor takes a bribe."

**DEUT 10:18** He administers justice for the fatherless and the widow, and Loves the stranger, giving him food and clothing."

**DEUT 33:12** " The beloved of the Lord shall dwell in safety by Him, Who shelters him all the day long; And he shall dwell between His shoulders."

**PSALM 78:67,68** " Moreover He rejected the tent of Joseph, And did not choose the tribe of Ephraim, But chose the tribe of Judah, Mount Zion, which He Loved."

**PSALM 87:2** " The Lord Loves the gates of Zion, More than all the dwellings of Jacob: "

**PSALM 99:4** " The King's strength also Loves justice; You have established equity; You have executed justice and righteousness in Jacob."

**PSALM 103:13** " As a father pities his children, So the Lord pities those who fear Him."
OBSERVATIONS OF GOD’S LOVE

WHO DOES GOD LOVE ?

HOW DOES GOD LOVE ?

PSA 145:9 The Lord is good to all; He has compassion on all He has made.

ROM 8:32 " He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things ?"

ROM 15:5 " Now may the God of patience and comfort grant you to be like-minded toward one another, according to Christ Jesus."

PSALM 25:7 " Remember not the sins of my youth and my rebellious ways; according to your Love remember me, for you are good, O Lord."

OBSERVATION OF GOD’S LOVE...


Chapter 4 - THE HOLY SPIRIT

The Holy Spirit is the Divine Spirit of God. The Holy Spirit is the third person of the trinity of God; which is God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. The orthodox doctrine of Christianity teaches that the Holy Spirit is part of the Godhead, co-eternal; The Holy Spirit is a person that is distinct from God the Father and God the Son, though united to both of them in oneness of the Godhead.

Although the Father, Son and Holy Spirit are one in moral attributes, they are still distinctly different in function, and form/nature; However they rule together as " One God " in Heaven.

The ' Holy Spirit ' is just what His name declares; God's Spirit is HOLY- which means separated from evil, full of righteousness God's Holy Spirit is SPIRIT- You can not see it, He has an heavenly body The Holy Spirit of God is a living eternal divine almighty being and is not just an impersonal force or electrical power. The Holy Spirit also has several other names such as Comforter, Holy Ghost, Spirit of Truth, Counselor, Helper, Sanctifier; He is the source of all wisdom and spiritual power.

When a person becomes a Christian, the Holy Spirit comes and dwells inside of a believer's heart and leads them into all truth, by teaching them all things that are essential, and further God's Spirit 'reminds' us of everything that Jesus spoke to us, ( JOHN 14:26 ) and moreover He convicts our hearts of sin and of the judgment to come.
THE HOLY SPIRIT - Key Scriptures

JOHN 14:16-31 16 And I ( Jesus ) will pray the Father, and he will give you another Helper ( Holy Spirit ), to be with you for ever, 17 even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him; you know him, for he dwells with you, and will be in you. 18 "I will not leave you desolate; I will come to you. 19 Yet a little while, and the world will see me no more, but you will see me; because I live, you will live also. 20 In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. 21 He who has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me; and he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him." 22 Judas (not Iscariot) said to him, "Lord, how is it that you will manifest yourself to us, and not to the world?" 23 Jesus answered him, "If a man loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. 24 He who does not love me does not keep my words; and the word which you hear is not mine but the Father's who sent me. 25 "These things I have spoken to you, while I am still with you. 26 But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you. 27 Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid. 28 You heard me say to you, 'I go away, and I will come to you.' If you loved me, you would have rejoiced, because I go to the Father; for the Father is greater than I. 29 And now I have told you before it takes place, so that when it does take place, you may believe. 30 I will no longer talk much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming. He has no power over me; 31 but I do as the Father has commanded me, so that the world may know that I love the Father. Rise, let us go hence.

JOHN 14:26 But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I (Jesus) said to you.

EPHES 1:13 In Him (Jesus), you also, after listening to message of truth, the gospel of your salvation having also believed you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise.

ACTS 2:17-18 And it shall be in the last days, God says, " That I will pour forth of My Spirit upon all mankind; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams; Even upon My bondslaves both men and women, I will in those days pour forth of My Spirit and they shall prophesy.
Why should we receive the Holy Spirit?

**JOHN 16:13** But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come.

To receive power (Spiritual) - **ACTS 1:8, ROMANS 15:19**

To be an effective witness for Christ - **ACTS 1:8**

For direction, To be led - **ROMANS 8:26**

To have strength - **EPH 3:16**

To have the Love of God to be poured out in our heart - **ROM 5:5**

To receive revelation - **1 CORIN 2:10**

To receive the spirit of truth -

**2 CORIN 3:16, JOHN 14:16, 17; 16:13; 1 CORIN 2:13**

To have life and peace - **ROMANS 8:6**

To have prayers answered - **ROMANS 8:26**

To be holy - **ROMANS 1:4**

To come into unity - **EPHES 4:3**

For the common good - **1 CORIN 12:7**

To have no condemnation - **ROM 8:1-5**

To teach and preach - **LUKE 4:18**

To receive joy - **1 THES 1:6**

To receive freedom - **2 CORIN 12:17**

To overcome weakness - **ROMANS 8:26**
**Why should we receive the Holy Spirit?**

- To be an overcomer - ZECH 4:6
- To spiritually build yourself up - JUDE 20
- To know the Spirit of Truth - JOHN 14:16,17
- To become sons of God - ROMANS 8:14
- To receive dreams and visions - ACTS 2:14-17
- To set liberty to the oppressed - LUKE 4:18
- To proclaim Justice - MAT 12:18
- To bring about the obedience of faith - ROMANS 1:5
- To comprehend the thoughts of God - 1 CORIN 2:11
- To speak to another in spiritual songs - EPHES 5:18,19
- To make melody to God - EPHES 5:19
- To have victory - MAT 12:20
- To receive the spiritual gifts - 1 CORIN 14
- To have a guarantee of salvation - 2 CORIN 5:5
- To have sanctification - 2 THES 2:13
- To purify your soul - 1 PET 1:22
- To be transformed into the image of the Lord from glory to glory - 2 CORIN 3:17,18

In order to truly worship God - JOHN 4:24
How do we receive the Holy Spirit?

There are several ways outlined in the Bible that an individual can receive and be baptized by the Holy Spirit; There is not just one particular way that God uses to give us His Holy Spirit; A Christian can also receive many fillings of the Holy Spirit.

All of these ways are found in the Bible.....

**BY ASKING GOD IN PRAYER FOR THE HOLY SPIRIT**

LUKE 11:10-13 For everyone who asks, receives; and he who seeks, finds; and to him who knocks, it shall be opened.

Now suppose one of you fathers is asked by his son for a fish; he will not give him a snake instead of a fish, will he? Or if he asked for an egg, he will not give him a scorpion, will he? If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them who ask Him!

**Pray believing and do not doubt**

MAT 7:7, MARK 11:24, MAT 21:21,22, LUKE 11:11-13

**BY LISTENING TO THE WORD OF GOD**

ACTS 10:44-47 While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who were listening to the message. And all the circumcised believers who had come with Peter were amazed, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out upon the Gentiles also. For they were hearing them speaking with tongues and exalting God. Then Peter answered, "Surely no one can refuse the water for these to be baptized who have received the Holy Spirit just as we did, can he?"

**BY REPENTING AND BEING BAPTIZED**

ACTS 2:38,39 And Peter said to them, 'Repent, and let each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you and your children, and for all who are far off, as many as the Lord our God shall call to Himself."
How do we receive the Holy Spirit?

**BY THE LAYING ON OF HANDS**

**ACTS 8:17** Then they began laying their hands on them, and they were receiving the Holy Spirit...

**ACTS 8:18** Now when Simon saw that the Spirit was bestowed through the laying on of the apostles' hands, he offered them money.

**What, If Anyone Chooses Not To Receive The Holy Spirit? They Do Not Belong To Christ**

**ROMANS 8:9,10** However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him. And if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, yet the spirit is alive because of righteousness.

**Chapter 4 – SANCTIFICATION**

Sanctification is the spiritual purification process, that the Holy Spirit does within our hearts and minds to cleanse our life of our sinful nature by the power of God. Sanctification is spiritually made available to Christians through the work of God's Holy Spirit and continues throughout our life.

What sanctifies us is the atoning blood of Jesus Christ which was made possible to us by His perfect sacrifice at the cross. God's Word also sanctifies and washes our hearts and minds from all evil ways.

We are sanctified more and more when we humble ourselves and continue to confess our sins to God and as we continue to listen and believe God's Word because His words are spirit and life. As we are sanctified we are renewed into the image of Christ and set apart for God's service. Therefore sanctification brings about "regeneration"; This means that our minds and hearts are regenerated or restored spiritually to perfection or made pure the way God intended.

As we are sanctified, we also are able to break free of the bondage of sin, because of the blood of the Lamb, and overcome evil and live in righteousness.
1 THESSALONIANS 5:23 Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame, at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

ROMANS 6:19 I am speaking in human terms because of the wickedness of your flesh. For just as you presented your members as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness, resulting in further lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness resulting in sanctification.

ROMANS 6:22 But now having been freed from sin and enslaved to God, you derive your benefit, resulting in sanctification and the outcome, eternal life.

HEBREWS 10:10 By this will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

HEB 10:14 For by one offering, He has perfected for all time those who are sanctified. JOHN 17:17 Sanctify them in the truth; Thy word is truth.

**Question:** "What is sanctification? What is the definition of Christian sanctification?" [GotQuestions.org](http://GotQuestions.org)

**Answer:** Jesus had a lot to say about sanctification in the Book of John, chapter 17. In verse 16 the Lord says, “They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world,” and this is before His request: “Sanctify them in the truth: Thy word is truth.” Sanctification is a state of separation unto God; all believers enter into this state when they are born of God: “But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God—and righteousness and sanctification and redemption” (1 Corinthians 1:30). This is a once-for-ever separation, eternally unto God. It is an intricate part of our salvation, our connection with Christ (Hebrews 10:10).

Sanctification also refers to the practical experience of this separation unto God, being the effect of obedience to the Word of God in one’s life, and is to be pursued by the believer earnestly (1 Peter 1:15; Hebrews 12:14). Just as the Lord prayed in John 17, it has in view the setting apart of believers for the purpose for which they are sent into the world: “As Thou didst send Me into the world, even so send I them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they themselves also may be sanctified in truth” (v. 18, 19). That He set Himself apart for the purpose for which He was sent is both the basis and the condition of our being set apart for that for which we are sent (John 10:36). His sanctification is the pattern of, and the power for, ours. The sending and the sanctifying are inseparable. On this account they are called saints, hagioi in the Greek; “sanctified ones.” Whereas previously their behavior bore witness to their standing in the world in separation from God, now their behavior should bear witness to their standing before God in separation from the world.
There is one more sense that the word sanctification is referred to in Scripture. Paul prayed in 1 Thessalonians 5:23, “The God of peace Himself sanctify you wholly; and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved entire, without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.” Paul also wrote in Colossians of “the hope which is laid up for you in the heavens, whereof ye heard before in the word of the truth of the Gospel” (Colossians 1:5). He later speaks of Christ Himself as “the hope of glory” (Colossians 1:27) and then mentions the fact of that hope when he says, “When Christ, who is our Life, shall be manifested, then shall ye also with Him be manifested in glory” (Colossians 3:4). This glorified state will be our ultimate separation from sin, total sanctification in every aspect. “Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is” (1 John 3:2).

To summarize, sanctification is the same Greek word as holiness, “hagios,” meaning a separation. First, a once-for-all positional separation unto Christ at our salvation. Second, a practical progressive holiness in a believer’s life while awaiting the return of Christ. Third, we will be changed into His perfect likeness—holy, sanctified, and completely separated from the presence of evil.

Chapter 4 – JUSTIFICATION

Christians are "Justified" before God by their faith in Jesus Christ. What this means is that as we have sincere faith in Jesus Christ we are 'declared righteous' by God the Father; The precious blood of Jesus Christ given at the cross is what justifies any believer, in God's eyes.

Sanctification is the continue spiritual process that actually 'makes us righteous' through the grace and word of God interacting within our lives. Without being justified by God, we all would be condemned; In fact, we all are guilty before God, but God chooses to justify us because of His steadfast love, compassion, and by His great mercy.
The righteous act at the cross, by Jesus Christ alone, justifies us before God.

KEY SCRIPTURES

ROMANS 5:1 " Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ."
ROMANS 5:9 " Having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him."

ROMANS 5:18 So then as through one transgression there resulted condemnation to all men, even so through one act of righteousness there resulted justification of life to all men.
5:19 For as through the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, even so through the obedience of the One the many will be made righteous.
GAL 3:10,11 For as many as are of the works of the Law are under a curse; for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who does not abide by all things written in the book of the Law, to perform them"
Now that no one is justified by the Law before God is evident; for "The righteous man shall live by faith."

**Question: "What is justification?"

**Answer:** Simply put, to justify is to declare righteous, to make one right with God. Justification is God’s declaring those who receive Christ to be righteous, based on Christ’s righteousness being imputed to the accounts of those who receive Christ (2 Corinthians 5:21). Though justification as a principle is found throughout Scripture, the main passage describing justification in relation to believers is Romans 3:21-26: “But now a righteousness from God, apart from law, has been made known, to which the Law and the prophets testify. This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. God presented him as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in his blood. He did this to demonstrate his justice, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished—he did it to demonstrate his justice at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus.”

We are justified, declared righteous, at the moment of our salvation. Justification does not make us righteous, but rather pronounces us righteous. Our righteousness comes from placing our faith in the finished work of Jesus Christ. His sacrifice covers our sin, allowing God to see us as perfect and unblemished. Because as believers we are in Christ, God sees Christ's own righteousness when He looks at us. This meets God’s demands for perfection; thus, He declares us righteous—He justifies us.

Romans 5:18-19 sums it up well: “Consequently, just as the result of one trespass was condemnation for all men, so also the result of one act of righteousness was justification that brings life for all men. For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous.” It is because of justification that the peace of God can rule in our lives. It is because of justification that believers can have assurance of salvation. It is the fact of justification that enables God to begin the process of sanctification—the process by which God makes us in reality what we already are positionally. “Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ” (Romans 5:1).

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Chapter 4 - TRANSFORMATION / REGENERATION

"Regeneration" is the spiritual restoration or transformation act of God which changes a person's mind and heart into the renewed nature of Jesus Christ, through the work of the Holy Spirit.

Degeneration is what happens to all of us in the world. Before we come to be saved by Jesus Christ, our life sinks into a lower and lower moral state. In the scriptural and theological sense, 'Regeneration' is the spiritual and special work of the Holy Spirit in restoring a believer's spiritual nature into the original intended image or character of God.

A believer in Jesus Christ does not become God or a god, but rather through spiritual regeneration becomes a son or daughter of God.

MATTHEW 19:28 And Jesus said to them, "Truly I say to you, that you who have followed Me, in the regeneration when the Son of Man will sit on His glorious Throne, you also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

Regeneration is the spiritual birth of new life of all who come to Jesus Christ, thus leaving behind their old life and becoming a new creation, a partaker of His divine nature.

By spiritual regeneration or transformation, we become children of God, and mature into the same image of God, having His same attributes of Love, Joy, Peace, Kindness, etc; It is the "spiritual renewal" of all the good qualities of Jesus Christ and God.

KEY SCRIPTURES

PHIL 3: 20,21 For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ;

Who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself.

TITUS 3:5 He (Jesus) saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit.
Question: "What does the Bible say about transformation?"

Answer: In the Bible “transformation” means change or renewal from a life that no longer conforms to the ways of the world to one that “pleases” God (Romans 12:2). This is accomplished by the renewing of our minds, an inward spiritual transformation that will manifest itself in outward actions. The Bible presents the transformed life in Christ as demonstrated through our “bearing fruit in every good work” [and] growing in the knowledge of God” (Colossians 1:10). Transformation involves those who were once far from God being “drawn near” to Him through the blood of Christ (Ephesians 2:13).

Moreover, evidence of transformation within us is seen in the way we increasingly reflect the likeness and glory of Christ (2 Corinthians 3:18). For as the apostle Paul said: “You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ” (Romans 8:9). To be considered as children of God, we must be led by the Spirit of God. And it is through the power of God’s Spirit that Christ lives within us. The transformed life mirrors the attitude of the apostle Paul. “I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me” (Galatians 2:20).

This power of transformation comes from one source. Paul said: “For the message of the cross [the gospel] is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God” (1 Corinthians 1:18). In speaking of Jesus, it was the apostle Peter who, empowered by the Holy Spirit, boldly declared this truth: “Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved” (Acts 4:12).

Transformed lives begin with the gospel message of Christ, for in it is the power of God. It is the gospel that brings us salvation: “I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile. For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: ‘The righteous will live by faith’” (Romans 1:16-17).

Through the gospel message of Christ, we learn “to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness” (Ephesians 4:22-24). “For if you live according to the sinful nature, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live, because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God” (Romans 8:13-14).
Just before he died, the apostle Peter provided us specific instructions on how we are to live out our transformed lives: “His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness ... for if you do these things, you will never fall, and you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ” (2 Peter 1:3-11).

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Chapter 4 – REST

God gives us Rest as we come to Jesus Christ and believe...

Unsurpassing "Rest" is one of the richest rewards for the Christians who put their trust in God.

One of the greatest works in a Christian's life is the place of perfect rest that the Lord Jesus Christ establishes in a person's heart. In the past, when we tried to address or resolve any major situation under our own abilities, we were easily overwhelmed by stress and the hardship, because we had to labor alone, under our own human strength and limited understanding. Sometimes we even labored in vain for the wrong things.

However, now as Christians, God's voice gives us direction, so that when we purpose to do a particular work, it will not be in vain because He will give us wisdom on How to do something correctly, and that within itself will bring us rest.

Today, when you hear God's voice, do not harden your heart as in the day of rebellion in the wilderness lest you not enter His rest. (HEB 3:7,11) God's perfect emotional and spiritual rest will come to those who do not harden their hearts but rather obey God's instructions and commandments in His word.

God will, sometimes, go before us to complete a particular work with His own infinite abilities, and thereby ease the burden and hardship, so that we may enter His rest and have good success.

Throughout our lives as Christians, Jesus takes away the oppression, anxiety, and the burden of the problems that we face daily and gives us divine rest and assurance. We will in many instances still have to work out a problem but as we come in prayer to Jesus, we will not be alone; He will help us through any problem that we encounter. Jesus makes us lay down in green pastures and restores our soul.

God can give us ongoing rest now and an eternal rest to come. Satanic powers and worldly situations are constantly trying to pull us out of God's rest; Sometimes we can easily become weary after struggling and encountering various obstacles in the world; It is so comforting when God replenishes our strength by His Spirit, and brings a perfect solution which relieves us of the stress and pressures of the world.

As Christians we need to STOP trying to confront any problem under our own strength and limited understanding, but instead, come to Jesus in prayer, and commit our plans and troubles to Him because He cares for us and He will then do what is right and bring us into His rest.
REST KEY SCRIPTURES

Matthew 11:28-30 Jesus said, "Come to me, all of you who are weary and who are heavy laden and I'll give you rest." Take My yoke upon you, and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart; and you shall find rest for your souls.

What could any of our brethren do that would cause them not to enter God's Rest?

Evil, Unbelieving Heart

HEBREWS 3:7-11 Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says, "Today, when you hear his voice, 8 do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion, on the day of testing in the wilderness, 9 where your fathers put me to the test and saw my works for forty years. 10 Therefore I was provoked with that generation, and said, 'They always go astray in their hearts; they have not known my ways.' 11 As I swore in my wrath, 'They shall never enter my rest.'" 12 Take care, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God.

HEBREWS 4:1 Therefore, let us fear lest, while a promise remains of entering His rest, any of you should seem to have come short of it. 4:9 There remains therefore a Sabbath rest for the people of God. 4:10 For the one who has entered His rest has himself also rested from his works, as God did from His. 4:11 Let us therefore be diligent to enter that rest, lest anyone fall through following the same example of disobedience.

Question: "How is Jesus our Sabbath Rest?"

Answer: The key to understanding how Jesus is our Sabbath rest is the Hebrew word sabat, which means "to rest or stop or cease from work." The origin of the Sabbath goes back to Creation. After creating the heavens and the earth in six days, God "rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had made" (Genesis 2:2). This doesn't mean that God was tired and needed a rest. We know that God is omnipotent, literally "all-powerful." He has all the power in the universe, He never tires, and His most arduous expenditure of energy does not diminish His power one bit. So, what does it mean that God rested on the seventh day? Simply that He stopped what He was doing. He ceased from His labors. This is important in understanding the establishment of the Sabbath day and the role of Christ as our Sabbath rest.

God used the example of His resting on the seventh day of Creation to establish the principle of the Sabbath day rest for His people. In Exodus 20:8-11 and Deuteronomy 5:12-15, God gave the Israelites the fourth of His Ten Commandments.
They were to “remember” the Sabbath day and “keep it holy.” One day out of every seven, they were to rest from their labors and give the same day of rest to their servants and animals. This was not just a physical rest, but a cessation of laboring. Whatever work they were engaged in was to stop for a full day each week. (Please read our other articles on the Sabbath day, Saturday vs. Sunday and Sabbath keeping to explore this issue further.) The Sabbath day was established so the people would rest from their labors, only to begin again after a one-day rest.

The various elements of the Sabbath symbolized the coming of the Messiah, who would provide a permanent rest for His people. Once again the example of resting from our labors comes into play. With the establishment of the Old Testament Law, the Jews were constantly “laboring” to make themselves acceptable to God. Their labors included trying to obey a myriad of do’s and don’ts of the ceremonial law, the Temple law, the civil law, etc. Of course they couldn’t possibly keep all those laws, so God provided an array of sin offerings and sacrifices so they could come to Him for forgiveness and restore fellowship with Him, but only temporarily. Just as they began their physical labors after a one-day rest, so, too, did they have to continue to offer sacrifices. Hebrews 10:1 tells us that the law “can never, by the same sacrifices repeated endlessly year after year, make perfect those who draw near to worship.” But these sacrifices were offered in anticipation of the ultimate sacrifice of Christ on the cross, who “after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down on the right of God” (Hebrews 10:12). Just as He rested after performing the ultimate sacrifice, He sat down and rested—ceased from His labor of atonement because there was nothing more to be done, ever. Because of what He did, we no longer have to “labor” in law-keeping in order to be justified in the sight of God. Jesus was sent so that we might rest in God and in what He has provided.

Another element of the Sabbath day rest which God instituted as a foreshadowing of our complete rest in Christ is that He blessed it, sanctified it, and made it holy. Here again we see the symbol of Christ as our Sabbath rest—the holy, perfect Son of God who sanctifies and makes holy all who believe in Him. God sanctified Christ, just as He sanctified the Sabbath day, and sent Him into the world (John 10:36) to be our sacrifice for sin. In Him we find complete rest from the labors of our self-effort, because He alone is holy and righteous. “God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God” (2 Corinthians 5:21). We can now cease from our spiritual labors and rest in Him, not just one day a week, but always.

Jesus can be our Sabbath rest in part because He is “Lord of the Sabbath” (Matthew 12:8). As God incarnate, He decides the true meaning of the Sabbath because He created it, and He is our Sabbath rest in the flesh. When the Pharisees criticized Him for healing on the Sabbath, Jesus reminded them that even they, sinful as they were, would not hesitate to pull a sheep out of a pit on the Sabbath.
Because He came to seek and save His sheep who would hear His voice (John 10:3,27) and enter into the Sabbath rest He provided by paying for their sins, He could break the Sabbath rules. He told the Pharisees that people are more important than sheep and the salvation He provided was more important than rules. By saying, “The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath” (Mark 2:27), Jesus was restating the principle that the Sabbath rest was instituted to relieve man of his labors, just as He came to relieve us of our attempting to achieve salvation by our works. We no longer rest for only one day, but forever cease our laboring to attain God’s favor. Jesus is our rest from works now, just as He is the door to heaven, where we will rest in Him forever.

Hebrews 4 is the definitive passage regarding Jesus as our Sabbath rest. The writer to the Hebrews exhorts his readers to “enter in” to the Sabbath rest provided by Christ. After three chapters of telling them that Jesus is superior to the angels and that He is our Apostle and High Priest, he pleads with them to not harden their hearts against Him, as their fathers hardened their hearts against Jehovah in the wilderness. Because of their unbelief, God denied that generation access to the holy land, saying, “They shall not enter into My rest” (Hebrews 3:11). In the same way, the writer to the Hebrews begs them—and us—not to make the same mistake by rejecting God’s Sabbath rest in Jesus Christ. “There remains, then, a Sabbath-rest for the people of God; for anyone who enters God’s rest also rests from his own work, just as God did from his. Let us, therefore, make every effort to enter that rest, so that no one will fall by following their example of disobedience” (Hebrews 4:9-11).

There is no other Sabbath rest besides Jesus. He alone satisfies the requirements of the Law, and He alone provides the sacrifice that atones for sin. He is God’s plan for us to cease from the labor of our own works. We dare not reject this one-and-only Way of salvation (John 14:6). God’s reaction to those who choose to reject His plan is seen in Numbers 15. A man was found gathering sticks on the Sabbath day, in spite of God’s plain commandment to cease from all labor on the Sabbath. This transgression was a known and willful sin, done with unblushing boldness in broad daylight, in open defiance of the divine authority. “And Jehovah said to Moses, ‘The man shall surely be put to death’” (v. 35). So it will be to all who reject God’s provision for our Sabbath rest in Christ. “How shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation?” (Hebrews 2:3). GotQuestions.org
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KEY SCRIPTURES

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Chapter 4 - PURE HEART

PSALM 51:10 " Create in me a clean heart O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me."

It takes the refining power of God's Holy Spirit to burn away everything evil that is not of Him, in our hearts and minds.

Many times it takes years for God to work certain evil ways out of our hearts, not because God is unable to readily achieve the work within, but rather a pure heart depends upon how and when we willingly choose to submit to God's will, and further desire for God to change our lives. If we are stubborn, our hearts remain impure and we suffer spiritual lack and we hinder the flow of God's blessings for our lives.

We should earnestly desire a pure heart and the grace of the blood of Jesus Christ will wash us clean. We should ask ourselves, 'Are we holding onto some earthly desires over God's will for our life?' If so, we need to let go of what is polluting our spiritual nature. Above all we should recognize that God is diligently working by His Holy Spirit to make your heart pure. Pure gold comes from being refined through fire. Pure water comes from being filtered through a purifier. Pure material is accomplished by being washed and cleansed.

Pure hearts come from being washed and cleansed by grace and God's word through the purifier, who is Jesus Christ, and refined by God's Holy Spirit, as we go through various fiery trials and sufferings. Sin is impure and flaws our spiritual nature. Only God's grace in Jesus Christ can sanctify and remove those imperfections from every facet of our lives, till we appear a perfect gem before God.

KEY SCRIPTURES

MAT 5:8 Blessed are the pure in heart; for they shall see God.

MAL 3:2 But who may abide the day of his coming ? and who shall stand when he appears ? For He is like a refiner's fire, and like fullers' soap. 3:3 And He will sit as a smelter and purifier of silver, and He will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, so that they may present to the Lord offerings in righteousness.

PSALM 24:3 Who shall ascend into the hill of the Lord ? Or who will stand in His holy place ? 24:4 He who has clean hands, and a pure heart; who has not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully.

24:5 He shall receive the blessing from the Lord, and the righteousness from the God of his salvation.
PURE HEART

ISAIAH 1:18 Come now, and let us reason together, says the Lord, Though your sins are as scarlet, They will be as white as snow; Though they are red like crimson, They will be like wool.

1 PETER 1:22 Since you have in obedience to the truth purified your souls for a sincere love of the brethren, fervently love one another from the heart.

1 JOHN 3:3 And everyone who has this hope fixed on Him (Jesus) purifies himself, just as He (Jesus) is pure.

2 TIM 2:21 Therefore, if a man cleanses himself from these things, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified, useful to the Master, prepared for every good work.

JAMES 3:17 But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering, without hypocrisy.

Chapter 4 - SPIRITUAL FRUIT

God wants our lives to be productive and fruitful; Many people in the world are spiritually famished and God wants to establish His spiritual fruit within every Christian's life so that they will truly have something to give to others to fill their hearts with God's eternal goodness. God is glorified when we bear much spiritual fruit in our hearts.

Spiritual fruit is the good spiritual attributes and abilities that God plants and brings to maturity in our lives. For instance, Love, joy, peace, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control etc...

We need to be in God's word, and follow Jesus, in order to bear fruit and God will produce much growth.

KEY SCRIPTURES

GAL 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

JAMES 3:17 But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering, without hypocrisy.

JOHN 15:1-4 I (Jesus) am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. 15:2 Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit, He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit, He prunes it, that it may bear more fruit. 15:3 You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. 15:4 Abide in Me, and I in you.
As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you, unless you abide in Me. 15:5 I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me, and I in him, he bears much fruit; for apart from Me, you can do nothing. 15:6 If anyone does not abide in Me, he is thrown away as a branch, and dries up; and they gather them and cast them into the fire, and they are burned. 15:7 If you abide in Me (Jesus) and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it shall be done for you. 15:8 By this is My Father glorified, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples.

COLOSSIANS 1:10 So that you may walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God. 1:11 Strengthened with all power, according to His glorious might, for the attaining of all steadfastness and patience; 1:12 Joyously giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in light.

Question: "What is the fruit of the Holy Spirit?"

Answer: Galatians 5:22-23 tells us, “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control." The fruit of the Holy Spirit is the result of the Holy Spirit's presence in the life of a Christian. The Bible makes it clear that everyone receives the Holy Spirit the moment he or she believes in Jesus Christ (Romans 8:9; 1 Corinthians 12:13; Ephesians 1:13-14). One of the primary purposes of the Holy Spirit coming into a Christian's life is to change that life. It is the Holy Spirit's job to conform us to the image of Christ, making us more like Him.

The fruit of the Holy Spirit is in direct contrast with the acts of the sinful nature in Galatians 5:19-21, “The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.” This passage describes all people, to varying degrees, when they do not know Christ and therefore are not under the influence of the Holy Spirit. Our sinful flesh produces certain types of fruit that reflect our nature, and the Holy Spirit produces types of fruit that reflect His nature.

The Christian life is a battle of the sinful flesh against the new nature given by Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17). As fallen human beings, we are still trapped in a body that desires sinful things (Romans 7:14-25). As Christians, we have the Holy Spirit producing His fruit in us and we have the Holy Spirit's power available to conquer the acts of the sinful nature (2 Corinthians 5:17; Philippians 4:13). A Christian will never be completely victorious in always demonstrating the fruits of the Holy Spirit. It is one of the main purposes of the Christian life, though, to progressively allow the Holy Spirit to produce more and more of His fruit in our lives—and to allow the Holy Spirit to conquer the opposing sinful desires. The fruit of the Spirit is what God desires our lives to exhibit and, with the Holy Spirit's help, it is possible! GotQuestions.org
"The Joy of the Lord is your strength"
Nehemiah 8:10

Every person in the world searches to find happiness, in some way. However the joy which God gives to those who love Him and to those who follow His way, is far more fulfilling than any other happiness brought from earthly things. Therefore we should not settle just for passing thrills derived from canal pleasures, but rather do the will of God, and receive fullness of everlasting Joy.

KEY SCRIPTURES

ISAIAH 55:12 For you will go out with joy, And be led forth with peace; The mountains and the hills will break forth into shouts of joy before you, and all the trees of the field will clap their hands.

JOHN 15:9-11 Just as the Father has loved Me, I have also 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 I have spoken to you, that My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be made full.

JOHN 16:23 And in that day you shall ask me nothing. Truly, truly, I say to you, whatsoever you ask the Father in My name, He will give it to you. Until now, you have asked nothing in My name; ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be made full.

JOHN 16:20-22 Truly, truly, I say to you, that you will weep and lament, but the world will rejoice, you will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will be turned to joy. Whenever a woman is in travail she has sorrow, because her hour has come; but when she gives birth to the child, she remembers the anguish no more, for joy that a child has been born into the world. Therefore you too now have sorrow; but I will see you again, and your heart will rejoice, and no one takes your joy away from you.
Chapter 4 - PEACE OF GOD

The spiritual "Peace" which God offers and gives to every Christian is vastly different from worldly peace. People in the world are constantly striving for peace between cultures and nations; They say 'Peace, Peace,' when there is no peace, because of How they are wrongly trying to achieve peace, by their own efforts and for the wrong motives.

They form temporal agreements of peace, yet continue to wage war in their hearts, with hatred, bitterness, anger, and the lust for power and worldly gain. Till violence once again rears its ugly head and emerges from darkness, to break the shallow earthly peace, and continues to produce death.

However God gives an inward lasting peace that surpasses all understanding. Through a sincere acceptance of Jesus Christ into a person's life, anyone can also receive God's divine peace, as they continue to put their trust in God.

The remarkable quality of God's perfect peace is that regardless if there is turmoil all around in the physical realm, a Christian can still have true divine peace in his heart, and thereby be secure and have God's joy as well.

KEY SCRIPTURES

JOHN 14:27 Peace I (Jesus) leave with you; My peace I give to you: not as the world gives, do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful.

JAMES 3:18 And the seed whose fruit is righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

PROV 3:13-17 Find Wisdom, Gain understanding PROMISE; Her ways are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace

PHIL 4:6,7 Be anxious for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known unto God. PROMISE; PHIL 4:7 And the peace of God, which passes all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

COLOSSIANS 3:15 And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body; and be thankful.

PEACE OF GOD SPIRITUALLY MINDED IS PEACE

ROMANS 8:6 To be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.
HOW CAN WE BE SPIRITUALLY MINDED, WHAT DO WE DO?

PHIL 4:8,9 Meditate on these things... whatever things are, true, noble, just, pure, love, of good report, meditate on also,...any virtue, anything praiseworthy.

ISAIAH 26:2,3 ( Keep your mind stayed on God, and Trust in God; He will then keep you in perfect peace.)

Chapter 4 - SPIRITUAL STRENGTH FROM GOD

As Christians our strength must come from God, so that we can endure the trials ahead and overcome every evil way in our life and to succeed in acquiring the promises of God. We must not depend solely on just our own strengths or the strengths of other individuals, however God will sometimes use other Christians to encourage us with God's word through the Holy Spirit.

As we trust in God even when we are weak, God will be faithful to strengthen us to have the spiritual ability to accomplish His will during any moment of our life, and under any type of circumstance.

We should never give up or run away from anything that God has called us to do because He will give us the spiritual strength that is needed.

God is able to bind up our broken hearts, and empower us to confront any spiritual hindrance and have the victory in Jesus Christ. When we are weak, we should turn to God in prayer with hope, and He will fill our hearts and minds with His power to fulfill His will and plan for our lives.

KEY SCRIPTURES

2 CORIN 12:9 And He has said to me, " My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness." Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, that the power of Christ may dwell in me. 12:10 Therefore I am content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ's sake; for when I am weak, then I am strong.

PSALM 28:7 The Lord is my strength and shield; My heart trusts in Him and I am helped.

COLOSSIANS 1:10 So that you may walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God. 1:11 Strengthened with all power, according to His glorious might, for the attaining of all steadfastness and patience; 1:12 Joyously giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in light.
PROVERBS 14:26 In the fear of the Lord there is strong confidence, And his children will have refuge.

PSALM 29:11 The Lord will give strength to His people; The Lord will bless His people with peace.

PSALM 31:24 Be strong, and let your heart take courage, All you who hope in the Lord.

NEH 8:10 "The Joy of the Lord is your Strength"

Chapter 4 – DISCIPLINE

Every Christian needs to have God's "discipline" in their life; We continually should be open for correction from the Lord, in regards to the way we think or act. Only by receiving, with a teachable heart, the chastening and discipline and/or correction of God can anyone be eternally changed for good.

Some discipline seems unpleasant at first but then as we accept God's will, we then will bear God's fruitfulness in our life. Thank you, Father, for your discipline, help us to obey.

KEY SCRIPTURES

HEBREWS 12:5-7 "My son do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, nor faint when you are reproved by Him; For those whom the Lord loves He disciplines, And He scourges every son whom He receives." It is discipline that you endure; God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom his father does not discipline?

HEBREWS 12:10 For they (our earthly fathers) discipline us for a short time as seemed best to them, but He (God) disciplines us for our good, that we may share His holiness.

HEBREWS 12:11 No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but sorrowful; yet to those who have been trained by it, afterwards it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness.

1 CORIN 11:32 But when we are judged, we are disciplined by the Lord in order that we may not be condemned along with the world.

REV 3:19 As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten; be zealous therefore and repent.
COLOSSIANS 2:5 For even though I am absent in body, nevertheless I am with you in spirit, rejoicing to see your good discipline and stability of your faith in Christ. 2:6 As you have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, 2:7 Having been firmly rooted and now being built up in Him and established in your faith, just as you were instructed and overflowing with gratitude.

PROVERBS 3:11 My son, do not reject the discipline of the Lord, or loathe His reproof, 3:12 For whom the Lord loves He reproves.

PROVERBS 12:1 Whoever loves discipline loves knowledge.

**Question: "When, why, and how does the Lord God discipline us when we sin?"**

**Answer:** The Lord's discipline is an often-ignored fact of life for believers. We often complain about our circumstances without realizing that they are the consequences of our own sin and are a part of the Lord's loving and gracious discipline for that sin. This self-centered ignorance can contribute to the formation of habitual sin in a believer's life, incurring even greater discipline.

Discipline is not to be confused with cold-hearted punishment. The Lord's discipline is a response of His love for us and His desire for each of us to be holy. "My son, do not despise the LORD's discipline and do not resent his rebuke, because the LORD disciplines those he loves, as a father the son he delights in" (Proverbs 3:11-12; see also Hebrews 12:5-11). God will use testing, trials, and various predicaments to bring us back to Himself in repentance. The result of His discipline is a stronger faith and a renewed relationship with God (James 1:2-4), not to mention destroying the hold that particular sin had over us.

The Lord's discipline works for our own good, that He might be glorified with our lives. He wants us to exhibit lives of holiness, lives that reflect the new nature that God has given us: "As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; for it is written: 'Be holy, because I am holy’” (1 Peter 1:15-16).

**Question: "What does the Bible say about self-discipline?"**

**Answer:** Self-discipline is essentially the same as self-control, one of the nine fruits of the Spirit listed by Paul in Galatians 5:22-23. The KJV translation uses the word “temperance” in place of self-control which, like self-discipline, generally refers to our ability to control or restrain ourselves from all kinds of feelings, impulses, and desires, which includes the desire for physical and material comfort. Now, even though self-control is the last of the spiritual fruits mentioned by Paul, and even though it is a term not used extensively in the Bible, self-control is clearly an indispensable attribute of the Christian life, especially as our unredeemed flesh sometimes causes us to succumb to the persistent tug of our sinful desires.
The apostle Paul calls us to “purify ourselves from everything that contaminates body and spirit, perfecting holiness out of reverence for God” (2 Corinthians 7:1). And in his letter to the Romans, he exhorts them to “offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God,” and not to be conformed to the pattern of this world (Romans 12:1-2). Yet most Christians would agree that subordinating the constant pull of these worldly desires in order to please our Lord is not always an easy thing to do. Paul discusses his own inner conflict and struggle with sin in his letter to the Romans, “What I want to do I do not do… the evil I do not want to do – this I keep on doing…it is sin living in me that does it” (Romans 7:15-20).

It is clear that our seemingly insatiable human appetites and needs can easily lead to sinful excesses if not controlled. Especially in affluent societies, the lack of self-discipline is rampant, as evidenced by the number of obese people and the extensive use of stimulants, depressants and over-the-counter medications. Further, the enticements of the material world have caused many to yearn for and acquire material goods far beyond their needs and their ability to pay for them. Indeed, the nations of the world have fallen into the same trap, borrowing trillions of dollars to finance bloated budgets that result from the inability to exercise self-discipline. For Christians, without self-discipline, our appetites for comforts and pleasures can easily become our master and lead us into sin or otherwise hinder us in our spiritual walk. If the spiritual does not govern the physical, we can become easy targets for Satan due to our lack of self-control (1 Corinthians 7:5).

Paul discusses self-discipline in his letter to the Corinthian church. As the Greeks had the Olympic games and the Isthmian games, they were very familiar with the rigors of athletic training, especially if one wanted to win the “prize” or the “crown.” Here Paul analogizes living a disciplined Christian life to an athlete in training: “Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training” (1 Corinthians 9:25). When Paul says “I beat my body and make it my slave,” he is saying that his body is under the dominion and control of his mind, not the other way around. Paul is showing us how self-control is needed to win the race that is before us and to live the life that is “holy and pleasing to God.” For Paul, the “race” was winning souls for Christ, a goal which he states four times in verses 19-22.

It is important to understand that self-control is a work of the Holy Spirit, not a work of the individual. After all, Galatians 5:22-23 lists the fruit of the Spirit, not the fruit of the Christian. As we are merely the branches upon which the Vine (Christ) hangs the fruit He produces (John 15:1-8), it is the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit that gives Christians the power and ability to exercise self-control so that we will not be mastered by the “cravings of sinful man.” As Paul said, “God did not give us a Spirit of timidity, but a Spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline” (2 Timothy 1:7).
Indeed, Christians are controlled not by the sinful nature, but by the Holy Spirit (Romans 8:9), who helps us in our weakness (v.26), which makes us able to say “no” to sin.

The wise King Solomon wrote many proverbs for the purpose of helping us to live a “disciplined” and prudent life (Proverbs 1:3). Certainly we will be more victorious in our Christian walk when we exercise our Spirit-given self-control, that which helps us respond in obedience to the commands of Scripture and allowing us to grow in our spiritual life.

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Chapter 4 - DIVINE GUIDANCE - How do we receive God’s guidance?

God gives His divine guidance to every Christian so that we will have the spiritual insight to understand His ways. Then we can daily perceive which is the best direction to go or how to rightly address a certain situation. Before we were Christians, our lives were full of confusion and uncertainties, but as we attempted to make the right decisions and do our own thing, our lives often ended up in turmoil and we became hurt and brokenhearted, destitute of real lasting goodness.

Yet when we become a Christian, God brings His Divine guidance to our lives in so many ways, so that we can truly make the right decisions and so our joy will be made full.

As God gives us meaningful direction by His divine guidance, we begin to react to circumstances correctly and our lives become enriched by His goodness which results and those around us are also blessed. However we must learn How God gives us direction.

God will help you to distinguish your own thoughts, from when He is really speaking to you. This discernment will come from the Holy Spirit over a period of time as you grow in Christ. Some of the ways that God gives us His Divine guidance are...

Through listening and following God’s word in the Bible

God's Word found in the Bible is one way God speaks to us individually; Even though the Bible was written thousands of years ago, still God intended His Word to be heard by each one of us today, so that we would be properly built up in the faith and have good direction for our lives.
ROMANS 10:17 " So Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God "
PSALM 119:105 Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path

PSALM 119:133 Establish my footsteps by Your word PSALMS 25:8 Good and upright is the Lord; Therefore He instructs sinners in the way. 25:9 He leads the humble in justice and teaches the humble His way. 25:10 All the paths of the Lord are lovingkindness and truth, to those who keep His covenant and His testimonies.

DIVINE GUIDANCE - How do we receive God's guidance ?

By the Holy Spirit

PSALM 32:8 I will instruct you and teach you in the way which you should go; I will counsel you with My eye upon you.

Through prayer, the Holy Spirit will guide us

PROVERBS 3:5 Trust in the Lord with all of your heart, And do not lean on your own understanding. 3:6 In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight.

PROVERBS 16:3 Commit your works to the Lord, and your plans will be established.

By God's Wisdom

God will give Christians spiritual wisdom and insight so that we might always know what is right to do, and also when.

PROVERBS 24:6 For by wise guidance you will wage war, And in abundance of counselors there is victory.

PROVERBS 4:11 I have directed you in the way of wisdom; I have led you in upright paths. PROV 4:12 When you walk, your steps will not be impeded; And if you run, you will not stumble.
**By God's Angels**

Angels have been used many times to bring messages from God to His people...

**1 KINGS 19:5-7 TO ELIJAH**  "And he laid down and slept under a juniper tree; and behold, there was an angel touching him, and he said to him, 'Arise, eat.' 19:6 Then he looked and behold, there was at his head a bread cake baked on hot stones, and a jar of water. So he ate and drank and laid down again.

19:7 And the angel of the Lord came again a second time and touched him and said, 'Arise, eat, because the journey is too great for you, 19:8 So he arose and ate and drank, and went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights to Horeb, the mountain of God."

**DIVINE GUIDANCE - How do we receive God's guidance?**

By Pastors, teachers, counselors, other Christians God might choose to speak to you, through Pastors, Christian teachers, counselors, a Christian friend or relative;

**PROVERBS 11:14** Where there is no guidance, the people fall, But in abundance of counselors there is victory.

**PROVERBS 12:26** The righteous is a guide to his neighbor, but the way of the wicked leads them astray.

**PROVERBS 13:10** Through presumption comes nothing but strife, but those who receive counsel is wisdom.

**PROVERBS 19:20** Listen to counsel and accept discipline, that you may be wise the rest of your days. 19:21 Many are the plans in a man's heart, But the counsel of the Lord, it will stand.

**PROVERBS 27:9** Oil and perfume make the heart glad, so a man's counsel is sweet to his friend.

**PROVERBS 27:17** Iron sharpens iron; So one man sharpens another.
Chapter 4 - OUR PROTECTION BY GOD

God will always protect every Christian who puts their trust in Him. Satanic powers constantly desire to destroy Christian lives; We daily need God’s protection; We should never live in fear, rather we should understand that being a Christian and a child of God, our loving and heavenly Father will do everything to protect our lives from harm.

God has appointed angels over us; and it is God who has put a spiritual hedge of protection around us. As we put our trust in God, we come into the spiritual shelter of Him, under the wing of the Almighty God, who has authority over all. This does not mean that you will not encounter any extreme difficulties or that you’ll never be confronted by evil spiritual principalities; However, God will be faithful to comfort and bring you through and deliver you from various trials.

As Christians we may even encounter physical persecutions and various sufferings for the Kingdom of God, but know that God has never left you, and no eternal harm will ever befall you. Moreover, rest assured if you do suffer for righteousness, you have not lost your reward. And your spiritual welfare, joy, salvation. and eternal life and rewards are always protected and made secure in Him.

KEY SCRIPTURES

PROVERBS 2:7 ... The Lord is a shield to those who walk in integrity, 2:8 Guarding the paths of justice, and He preserves the way of His godly ones.

PROVERBS 10:29 The way of the Lord is a stronghold to the upright,...

PROVERBS 14:26 In the fear of the Lord there is strong confidence, And his children will have refuge.