

HEBREWS TO REVELATION

TMBC Course #13



Leader's Guide

Dear Bible Study Leader,

“For the Word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword.”

—Hebrews 4:12

It is with joy, excitement, and yet with a bit of sorrow that I write you this letter. I feel that we have been on a beautiful journey through the Bible and now that journey is coming to an end. Some of you have been with us since the beginning, when we began our study in Genesis, and others have joined us along the way. What a privilege it has been to get into God’s Word and allow God’s Word to get into us. If you joined our study more recently, I would like to encourage you to go back and start with the first books of the Bible and study those with us. I firmly believe that, without having a firm foundation, you will especially have difficulty understanding this next book we will study, the book of Hebrews.

In these eighteen chapters in this guide, we will quickly survey the remaining books of the New Testament – the General Epistles and the one book of prophesy, the book of the Revelation. In all of the books, we will see the continued central theme of Jesus Christ and God’s eternal plan of redemption. These books will help us focus on our faith, and they will challenge and encourage us in our faith. What we learn exhorts us and strengthens us to remain steadfast in our relationship with our risen and soon-returning Lord.

There are so many profound and practical truths in these wonderful messages, and it is my prayer that, in this brief survey, these studies will encourage you to study God’s Word even more diligently. Remember, as we study these General Epistles and the book of the Revelation, the most important thing is to ask yourself and the group these three questions:

- What does it say? (Observation)
- What does it mean? (Interpretation)
- What does it mean to me and you? Or, what are we going to do with what we know? (Application)

As we finish our study of the Bible, I would like to remind you that God’s message of infinite love and salvation is for all people. God’s Word tells us that in heaven there will be *“a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb”* praising and worshiping God. To that end these studies are to help you to *“Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.”* Jesus said, *“Behold I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to everyone according to - what he has done.”* Therefore we must display in our lives what we believe and we must be bold in sharing the Good News because *“God is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.”* So, dear friends, be strong in the Lord and in His Word. (Revelation 22:12, 7:9, 1 Peter 3:15, 2 Peter 3:9)

Dick Woodward
Pastor and Author of the Mini Bible College

LEADING THE BIBLE STUDY GROUP

The Mini Bible College has prepared this devotionally practical survey of the General Epistles and the Book of the Revelation for you. Your role as leader is to guide your group through the study sessions and exercises, helping them to understand the truth, to discover the eternal principles, and, most importantly, to apply them to their lives. This is a survey study that will take 18 lessons to cover. This is the concluding study of the New Testament and is part of a strategic plan to provide you with the tools to be nurtured and grow personally and to help your church grow both spiritually and numerically.

To help you, we have provided the following tools:

- This Leader's Guide
- Report forms
- Audio of the New Testament Study of Hebrews to Revelation
- A study booklet on Hebrews to Revelation
- A set of workbooks for the students

Before class

- Personally start inviting people to come to this spiritual banquet. *"Go to the street corners and invite to the banquet anyone you find." So the servants went out into the streets and gathered all the people they could find, both good and bad, and the wedding hall was filled with guests.*" (Matthew 22:9-10)
- Prepare yourself in prayer for those who will attend. It would be best if both the husband and wife can attend together but if only one can or will come, it is better for one to come than none. If possible, pray for them by name. Only God can change the hearts of people, and prayer is the most powerful tool. *"Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up."* (Luke 18:1) If there is interest from women or men whose spouses do not wish to attend, consider starting a group just for the women and another one just for the men.
- Ask for help. Do not try to do everything yourself. Invite one or two people to help with music, singing, greeting, and keeping records.
- Review the lesson and understand the lesson objective.
- Become familiar with the material; listen, read, and study each lesson and memorize the Bible passages before class time.
- Be sure all materials are ready for each class.
- Make sure the meeting area is adequate and comfortable for the class.

During Class

(Remember to try to keep the class time to 1 1/2 hours.)

- Greet everyone as they arrive. Remember how nice it is when you are welcomed? Extend God's welcome to all. Have someone serve as the greeter and introduce people to one another if they are not already acquainted.
- Open with a time of worship and prayer, asking God to help you and each one understand and apply God's Word to your lives.
- Recite the memory verse.

- Listen to the audio lesson.
- Work through the workbook, inviting discussion with a focus on application. We trust that the questions will raise interesting discussion and understanding that will lead to application. If the group is large (more than 10), consider dividing it into smaller groups of three or four people to encourage discussion. Be sure to monitor the time and be careful that the conversation does not detract from the focus of the lesson and the study of God's Word.
- Thank all for coming and encourage attendance at the next class.
- Challenge the students to invite others to join the Bible study.
- Encourage the students to memorize the biblical passages of the lessons each week.

After Each Class

- Gather up all materials.
- Restore the meeting room to the proper order. Leave things more orderly than you found them.
- Fill out and file report forms, if required
- If you are meeting in someone's home, be sure to thank them for their hospitality.

Special Instructions for Teaching Auditory Learners – Non-Readers

It is important to remember that those who do not read and write will learn and retain information differently than those of us who are literate. The oral learners, even most of those who do know how to read, learn best from listening, discussing and telling what they have heard. Illiteracy was not an obstacle in Jesus' day and it should not be for us today. It is good to remember and even tell those in your class that most of the disciples and the majority of the people who first shared and spread the Gospel could not read or write.

In many ways, auditory learners have a greater capacity to learn what they hear than we who must write something down to remember it. Take the time, therefore, to allow your students to hear the lessons, pausing the message and even going back to listen again to a portion if it was not understood, and then allow them to respond to questions. When auditory learners can "story back"—tell in their own words what they have heard and learned—it indicates that they have properly grasped the principle. Therefore, use the study questions to guide the discussion time as they will help in the learning process. Ask the questions aloud and encourage all to participate. This will lead them into a deeper understanding of God's principles and a stronger relationship with His Son, Jesus the Christ.

The Mysterious Masterpiece

Chapter 1

Audio Lesson New Testament #73



Objective: To understand the background and importance of the book of Hebrews



In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the universe. The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven. So he became as much superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is superior to theirs.

—Hebrews 1:1-3

The book of Hebrews is a mysterious masterpiece. Bible scholars do not know who wrote it or who the Hebrews were to whom it was written, but we do know that they were Jewish Christians who were suffering persecution. The author of Hebrews offers much-needed assurance of salvation, encouragement, and exhortation to believe.

A few scholars say that Paul is the author, but many others disagree. Paul's letters always start with his name, but Hebrews does not. Paul often quoted from the Hebrew Old Testament, but the author of Hebrews quoted from the Septuagint, the Greek translation of the Old Testament. Also, the author of Hebrews did not focus on justification by faith, which Paul always emphasized. Unlike Paul, this author does not claim to have personally seen Jesus Christ.

Knowing the identities of the human authors of the books of the Bible is not critical, because ultimately it was God who authored the books. Rather, the important questions to ask about any book of the Bible are: What does the book say? What does it mean? What does it mean to me?

Hebrews is a masterpiece in content. More than any other book, it ties together the Old and New Testaments. It contains an argument from beginning to end. It shows that Jesus is the Messiah who was prophesied in the Old Testament, the Lord as revealed in the New Testament, and the coming King of Kings.

Three key words help us to understand the argument in Hebrews: **Better**, **believe**, and **beware**. Because Jesus Christ is God's Son, He is better than the prophets, the angels, the priesthood, the covenants, the tabernacle, everything. No more sacrifices need to be made, because Jesus' death fulfilled them all. And through believing in Christ's finished work on the cross, we can experience salvation.



Choose the best answer.

1. True or **False**: We know that the author of the Book of Hebrews was an apostle.
2. **True** or False: Hebrews deals extensively with who Jesus is.
3. True or **False**: The intended audience was Greek believers.
4. **True** or False: The identity of the author does not matter, because the book of Hebrews was written through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

Choose all answers that apply.

5. Why do scholars believe Paul was not the author of Hebrews?
 - a. The book starts with his name.
 - b. Paul often quoted from the Greek Old Testament, the Septuagint.
 - c. Hebrews does not focus on justification by faith.**
 - d. Paul mentioned the author of Hebrews in his letter to Timothy.
6. What did the author of Hebrews offer to his readers?
 - a. Money from a collection he had gathered from other Christians
 - b. Advice on marriage
 - c. Assurance of their faith**
 - d. Counsel to elders and deacons
7. When the author quoted from the Old Testament, he wrote, “God said” instead of “Moses said” or “David said.” Why?
 - a. He got confused.
 - b. He thought he would sound more spiritual if he wrote “God said”.
 - c. He could not remember who said it and did not want to look it up.
 - d. He wanted to show that the important thing was that God said it.**

8. Why is Hebrews a masterpiece in content?
- a. Because its theology is easy to understand.
 - b. Everything Paul wrote was a masterpiece.
 - c. It is a thorough, systematic argument about Jesus as the Christ.**
 - d. Scholars consider the author to be the best writer in the Bible.
9. How does the book of Hebrews present Jesus theologically?
- a. He was a good man and moral teacher.
 - b. He is the Messiah.**
 - c. He was a healer and miracle worker.
 - d. He is the King of kings who will return someday.**
10. Why is the book of Hebrews important?
- a. It links the Old and New Testaments.**
 - b. It addresses everything we need to know about suffering.
 - c. It explains why we should still make sacrifices to God.
 - d. It talks at length about the importance of angels.
11. What is the most important thing to remember about Hebrews?
- a. The human author's identity
 - b. The application of its truth to our lives**
 - c. The original audience
 - d. The author's reliance on the Greek translation of the Old Testament
12. What should we look for as we study each book of the Bible?
- a. Examples of good works we must do
 - b. Ways to sin more effectively
 - c. Reasons why man is worthy to be saved
 - d. Jesus the Christ**



When we study a book of the Bible, what are the first three questions we should ask about it? Why do you think these questions are important? Which is the most important?

Why was it necessary to explain that Jesus is better than certain things?



Praise God for Hebrews, a book to encourage us in our faith. Thank God for speaking to us through His Son. Thank God that Jesus is better and higher than anyone or anything that came before Him or since Him. Ask God to help you grow in your relationship with Him as you know and understand who Jesus is through this study.



Going Deeper

1. Give three reasons that this book is referred to as “The Mysterious Masterpiece.” _____

2. Give three reasons that scholars believe Paul did not write the book of Hebrews, and explain which of these reasons is the strongest argument. _____

3. Based on the content of this book, give a profile of the people to whom it was written. _____

4. Relate to and apply at least three ways the third and fourth chapters of Hebrews give meaningful commentary on the fourteenth chapter of the book of Numbers. _____

5. Show how the argument of the book of Hebrews uses the three words *better*, *believe* and *beware*. _____

6. How does the book of Hebrews show us that it doesn’t matter who wrote a book or a passage of the Bible, but rather, the important thing is that it is the Word of God? _____

7. According to the author of this book, name eight things that are inferior to Jesus. _____

You'd Better Believe It!

Chapter 2 New Testament Audio Lesson #74



Objective: To understand the warnings and exhortations of Hebrews.



We have much to say about this, but it is hard to explain because you are slow to learn. In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God's word all over again. You need milk, not solid food! ...Therefore let us leave the elementary teachings about Christ and go on to maturity.
—Hebrews 5:11-12, 6:1

It is impossible for those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, who have shared in the Holy Spirit, who have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the coming age, if they fall away, to be brought back to repentance, because to their loss they are crucifying the Son of God all over again and subjecting him to public disgrace.
—Hebrews 6:4-6

As we said in the last lesson, the book of Hebrews has three key words: Better, believe, and beware. *Beware* is a key word because the author gives many warnings to his readers. He warns against apostasy, which means to lose or depart from your faith. In Hebrews, apostasy includes the person who has the right theology but never applies it to his life. Apostasy can harden us to the deceitfulness of sin and cause us to drift away from the faith.

The book also cautions against an evil heart of unbelief. Just as the Israelites did not enter into physical rest in Canaan because of unbelief, the author warns those who have not entered into salvation rest because of unbelief. He exhorts them to believe in Jesus Christ so they will enter into that spiritual rest. And he exhorts his readers to not be spiritually immature but to become mature believers who come to the Word on their own, with the teaching and guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Hebrews 6:4-6 is perhaps the most difficult passage in the book. Some believe that you can lose your salvation. Others believe that once you are saved, you are always saved. If you believe in election, as Paul taught us in the book of Romans, then you believe that you cannot lose your salvation. This passage could therefore be describing a person who is not yet saved but who is being wooed by the Holy Spirit. Such a person comes to the point of partaking of Jesus, but not all the way to belief. Hebrews exhorts such people to believe — to commit to Christ and be assured of their salvation.



Choose the best answer.

1. True or **False**: The Israelites did not enter the Promised Land because the people in the land prevented them from doing so.
2. True or **False**: Immature believers have not entered into salvation rest.
3. True or **False**: Mature believers need spiritual milk.
4. **True** or False: We should prepare our hearts before we go to church.

Choose all answers that apply.

5. What do we need in order to study the Bible?
 - a. A seminary education
 - b. A pastor or teacher
 - c. The Holy Spirit**
 - d. Study guides
6. What are some of the characteristics of an apostate person?
 - a. Excited about the things of the Lord
 - b. Devotion to Jesus Christ
 - c. Unbelief**
 - d. Drifting from the faith**
7. What sort of person is described in Hebrews 6:4-6?
 - a. Lives for Jesus every day of his life
 - b. Has tasted the Word of God
 - c. Has never heard of Jesus at all
 - d. Has shared in the Holy Spirit**

8. Why would the author have written this difficult passage in Hebrews 6?

- a. To confuse his readers
- b. To discourage apostates
- c. To strip away any false assurance of faith**
- d. He was confused himself.

9. What makes it possible for believers to go to God with confidence?

- a. The goodness in our hearts
- b. Our works
- c. Our sincere faith
- d. Jesus' blood poured out for us**

10. What should we keep in mind about our church life?

- a. Draw near to God before church**
- b. Go to church every Sunday
- c. Display spiritual gifts for all to see
- d. Do not work on the Sabbath

11. How are we supposed to treat fellow believers?

- a. Point out their sin constantly
- b. Talk about them critically
- c. Encourage them**
- d. Have fellowship with them**



In Hebrews 5:11, the author wants to tell the readers much more, but he says that they are “slow to learn.” Are you drinking spiritual milk or eating spiritual food? What are some ways you can move on toward spiritual maturity?

Do you think it is possible to lose your salvation? Why or why not? What does the whole counsel of God's Word say? See especially Hebrews 7:25, 9:11-14, 26-28, 10:12-14, John 17:11, Ephesians 2:1-10, 1 Peter 1:5, Romans 5:1-8, 8:31-39, 1 Corinthians 5:1-5 and Jude 24 to name a few.



Thank God for the gift of salvation. Ask Him to give you assurance of your salvation or to give you the courage you need to believe in and follow Jesus Christ and be saved. Ask Him to help you move toward spiritual maturity. Ask God to give you wisdom as you learn more about Him. Thank God that, because of Jesus' sacrifice, you can now draw near to God with confidence.



Going Deeper

1. Relate and apply the lament of this author as he began chapter 5, regarding the lack of spiritual depth on the part of those to whom he was writing, to Paul's lament when he wrote the third chapter of his first letter to the Corinthians. _____

2. What is the difference between the "milk" of the Word and the "meat" of the Word? _____

3. Based upon your study of the difficult passage (6: 4-6), state why you believe this author is not teaching that it is possible for a believer to lose their salvation. _____

4. Give several reasons why you believe he is not teaching that, if a believer becomes a prodigal, it is impossible to renew them to repentance. _____

5. Explain how the way he describes the spiritual status of these people is what we might call a "spiritual miscarriage." _____

6. As you interpret, summarize and apply this difficult passage of Scripture personally, in what ways does it challenge and inspire you to move on to deeper growth in your spiritual journey of faith? _____

7. How does this same passage inspire and challenge you to exhort and challenge those you pastor to move on in their spiritual growth? _____

Focus on Faith

Chapter 3 New Testament Audio Lesson #75



Objective: To understand why we should hold onto our faith



Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see. This is what the ancients were commended for.... And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

—Hebrews 11:1-2, 6

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.

—Hebrews 12:1

Because the readers of Hebrews were suffering persecution, they were despairing. The author urges them to think back to when they were first saved, when Jesus was their first love. If they hold onto their faith, in heaven they will receive a greater reward. The author also exhorts them to hold onto their faith because the righteous live by faith. We are saved by faith and then we live by faith.

Chapter 11 is considered the Faith Chapter, with faith defined in verse one. When we hope, we believe that there is something good in this world and that it will happen to us, but we may not have any evidence. Faith is the evidence; it gives substance to our hope. Biblical faith is an act of belief in something or someone you cannot see based upon evidence. But in this passage, faith itself is the evidence of the unseen object: God. The greatest evidence of God is the person who has faith, because God is the source of faith.

We should hold onto our faith because without it, we cannot please God. When we come to God, we must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who seek Him. In Jeremiah 29:13, God says, “*You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.*”

Faith involves action. The heroes of the faith mentioned in Hebrews 11 performed acts of belief. Noah, who had never seen rain, worked for 120 years to build the ark. The evidence of Noah’s faith was shown by his obedience to God, his action – building the ark.

Hebrews 12:1 tells us that the heroes of the faith are surrounding us as though we are in a great stadium. We are the participants, and they are the witnesses, cheering us on. The author reminds us that God disciplines those He loves. Even though discipline at the time it happens is difficult, its purpose is to affirm our salvation through Jesus Christ.



1. True or **False**: Faith is only internal; it does not involve action.
2. **True** or False: The author of Hebrews exhorts his readers to hold onto their faith.
3. True or **False**: Faith involves our intellect only, not our will.
4. **True** or False: The greatest evidence that God exists is the person who believes in Him.

Choose all answers that apply.

5. Why would the Hebrews want to give up on their faith?
 - a. Jesus' death and resurrection had been disproved.
 - b. They were tired of being lectured to by the author.
 - c. Some Jewish people were trying to teach them a false gospel.
 - d. They were being persecuted.**
6. What does God promise to those who hold onto their faith?
 - a. A prosperous life on earth
 - b. No persecution
 - c. A greater reward in heaven**
 - d. No suffering
7. Why are these people called the heroes of the faith?
 - a. Their faith was evidenced by their actions.**
 - b. They performed deeds of remarkable heroism.
 - c. They saved other people's lives.
 - d. They told other people about Jesus.**

8. Why did God take Enoch?
- a. **He pleased God.**
 - b. Enoch disobeyed God.
 - c. Enoch angered God.
 - d. Enoch's wife had just died, and he was sad.
9. Hebrews 11:6 says, "Without faith it is impossible to please God." Why?
- a. **If you want to go to God, you must believe He exists.**
 - b. God ignores people who do not believe in Him.
 - c. God gets mad if you have unbelief in your heart.
 - d. We cannot know what pleases God.
10. Why was Noah discussed in the Faith Chapter, Hebrews 11?
- a. **He had never seen rain or an ark, but he believed God.**
 - b. His carpentry skills were exceptional.
 - c. God took his sons away to save them from experiencing death.
 - d. **He obeyed God.**
11. Hebrews tells us that "a great cloud of witnesses" surrounds us. Who might these people be?
- a. Angels
 - b. **The people listed in Hebrews 11**
 - c. **Loved ones who were believers when they died**
 - d. People who do not want us to hold onto our faith
12. Sometimes, God uses hardship to discipline us. Why?
- a. He is cruel.
 - b. **He loves us as His children.**
 - c. He wants us to be afraid of Him.
 - d. **He does it for our good.**



Have you ever been tempted to throw away your faith? Why? Has this study helped strengthen your faith? How?

How are hope and faith tied together? What gives substance to hope? Have you placed your hope in Jesus?



Thank God that faith is a gift from Him. Ask God to help you hold onto your faith, no matter what, and to deepen it. Thank God for biblical examples of people who lived by faith. Ask His help to be an example to those around you.



Going Deeper

1. Describe and apply how the heart of the author's argument begins at 10:35 and continues through the beginning of chapter 12. _____

2. Give and apply at least four reasons why the author exhorts these Hebrew believers not to throw away their faith. _____

3. How do these reasons form a definition of what faith truly is? _____

4. In what way does that definition present a context in which the author presents a long list of heroes of faith? _____

5. Describe and apply what all those heroes of faith have in common. _____

6. Describe and apply personally how faith itself in a believer is the evidence of the unseen Giver of faith. _____

7. How would you describe and personally apply the way divine chastisement is, in itself, affirmation that we are truly a child of God? _____

The Sources and the Sequences of Salvation

Chapter 4 New Testament Audio Lesson #76



Objective: To introduce the book of James and learn about the source of trials



Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him... Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him.

—James 1:2-5, 12

With the book of James, we come to a new section in the New Testament classification of books: the general epistles or letters. The general epistles, written by more than one author, were not addressed to specific readers. Filled with practical application, the book of James has been called the Proverbs of the New Testament, because it contains seemingly unrelated nuggets of truth and wisdom. The author was very familiar with Jesus' teachings, and like Jesus, he was concerned with the source of things: the motive or attitude behind an act.

Many scholars think that the author of James was not a disciple but actually the younger brother of Jesus. Scripture notes that Jesus' brothers did not believe in Him. After the Resurrection, however, Jesus appeared to many people, including James, who was apparently converted then. An extremely devoted Jew, James' nickname was "camel knees," because he spent so much time praying on his knees that they had become calloused. He was highly respected by Jews and Christians alike. He rapidly became a major leader of the church in Jerusalem, along with Peter and John. He presided over the Council of Jerusalem, which ruled that Jewish Christians could retain their Jewishness but that Gentile believers did not have to become Jews in order to be Christians.

In his book, James tells us that life is made up of tests and trials. When storms come, we should not resent them but welcome them. James implies that storms come from God—or at least with his permission – to grow us. God wants us to realize that when we lack wisdom, we should turn to Him. If we ask God for wisdom, He will share it with us. When we apply wisdom, we discover that this trust of faith leads us to the triumph of faith, or the crown of life.



1. True or **False**: The author of James was a close friend and disciple of Jesus.
2. True or **False**: The epistle of James was written to a specific audience.
3. **True** or False: The book of James has been called the Proverbs of the New Testament.
4. True or **False**: James was not concerned with the source of things.

Choose all answers that apply.

5. What are some characteristics of James's epistle?
 - a. **Practical application**
 - b. **Nuggets of truth**
 - c. **A commentary on the teachings of Jesus**
 - d. Refers often to Paul's teaching
6. Why was this author saturated with the teachings of Jesus?
 - a. James was one of Jesus' disciples.
 - b. **James was Jesus' brother.**
 - c. Paul taught him everything he knew.
 - d. **Jesus appeared to James individually after the Resurrection.**
7. Why did James quickly become a great leader of the church in Jerusalem, along with Peter and John?
 - a. People were impressed that he was Jesus' brother.
 - b. The other leaders were martyred so he took over.
 - c. **He was a well-respected Jew before converting.**
 - d. **He spent a lot of time praying.**

8. James presided over the Council of Jerusalem. What issue did the Council rule upon?
- a. Who would be the next leader of the church.
 - b. How the temple would be rebuilt.
 - c. Whether John or Peter were the greatest.
 - d. Whether Gentile believers had to convert to Judaism in order to be Christians.**
9. All of the general epistles, including the book of James, address one issue of the early church that still applies today. What is that?
- a. Apostasy
 - b. Jesus' identity
 - c. Suffering of Christians**
 - d. Marriage
10. Consider James 1:2-5, 12 again. Why is perseverance important?
- a. Impresses others
 - b. Leads to maturity**
 - c. Shows you are a good Christian
 - d. Means you are stubborn
11. What does God promise to those who persevere in spite of trials?
- a. No more trials
 - b. Revenge on those who hurt them
 - c. A quick resolution of the trial
 - d. The crown of life**
12. Where does the temptation to sin originate?
- a. Other people
 - b. God
 - c. Satan**
 - d. Our own lustful desires**



How do you think we should respond when we face trials?

In James 1:2-5 and 12, how does the trust of faith lead us to the triumph of faith?



Thank God for being with you always, even during trials. Ask God to help you to persevere and to trust Him in the difficulties you face. Thank Him that He is your heavenly Father and that you can come to Him with anything. Ask Him for wisdom. Thank Him for new life because of your salvation.



Going Deeper

1. How would you explain and apply why the author of this letter was revered by followers of Jesus and devout Jews in the first century of the church? _____

2. How do you explain and apply why James instructed us to count it all joy when we have many trials? _____

3. How do you personally apply the way James instructed us to respond to trials when we are so overwhelmed that we don't know what to do? (1:5) _____

4. How do you explain and personally apply what James teaches about the trial of faith, the test of faith, and the triumph of faith? _____

5. How do you explain and personally apply what, according to James, is the source of our temptation to sin? _____

6. Explain and personally apply why, when Jesus was raised from the dead, one of the first people He appeared to was James? _____

7. How do you explain and personally apply the parallels between the book of James and the Old Testament book of Proverbs? _____

The Sources and the Sequences of Sanctification

Chapter 5 New Testament Audio Lesson #77



Objective: To understand the sequence of sin, the importance of obeying God's Word, and the importance of bearing fruit from faith



When tempted, no one should say, "God is tempting me." For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; but each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed. Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.

—James 1:13-15

In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead. But someone will say, "You have faith; I have deeds." Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by what I do.

—James 2:17-18

Although God uses trials to grow us, He never tempts us to sin. God is not the source of sin or temptation. The sequence of sin begins when we see something we want. If we think about it, we start lusting after it. But if we do not feed that desire, we can stop ourselves from sinning. We control whether we take a second look and thus let temptation lead us to sin. We are no match for it, and God tells us to flee.

The Word of God gives us the power to rise above sin. It is the agent of the Holy Spirit that can bring about regeneration in our lives — that is, create life inside our hearts — when we respond properly. God's Word is like a spiritual mirror. It shows us our imperfections so we will change them. When we respond to the Word of God, we see that it is living and active and able to bring about change. But if we do nothing, we are foolish — only hearers of the Word.

In one of the most controversial sections of his letter, James states that there is no such thing as faith without works. When Abraham was tested, he trusted God and was willing to do whatever God told him to do, even to sacrifice his son. His faith was made complete by his actions. Like Jesus, James makes it clear that, *"By their fruit you will recognize them."* (Matthew 7:16) We are saved by faith alone but that saving faith is always accompanied by works that prove it is a real faith.

James says that the untamed tongue is a fire, full of evil and poison. We need spiritual discipline to tame our tongues. James also points us to the sources of true wisdom. Wisdom from God comes through His Word. We should ask for His wisdom and for the discipline to obey. If we sow in peace with the wisdom that comes from above, we will raise a harvest of righteousness.



1. **True** or False: God would never tempt us to sin.
2. **True** or False: James says that there is no such thing as faith without works.
3. **True** or False: We should ask God to help us tame our tongues.
4. True or **False**: The solution for sin is earthly wisdom.

Choose all answers that apply.

5. Why is God's Word the solution for sin?
 - a. It has a lot of examples of sin.
 - b. It can bring you new life**
 - c. It can help you overcome temptation.**
 - d. God creates sin so that His Word can deal with it.
6. How is God's Word like a mirror?
 - a. It helps us to see the truth about ourselves.**
 - b. It reflects our glory.
 - c. It helps us feel good about ourselves.
 - d. It shows us our imperfections.**
7. What should we do after hearing the Word?
 - a. Put off obeying until we are more mature.
 - b. Do what it says.**
 - c. Forget about it.
 - d. Argue if you disagree with it.

8. According to James, what kind of faith saves us?
- a. One that prays all the time for others.
 - b. One that loves to worship in song.
 - c. One that is shown by works to be real.**
 - d. One that goes on many pilgrimages and performs many sacrifices.
9. How do we let people know what we believe?
- a. By telling them many times what we believe.
 - b. By what we do and how we live.**
 - c. By going to church every week.
 - d. By preaching to our neighbors.
10. Why does James use Abraham as an example of real faith?
- a. Abraham did what God told him to do.**
 - b. Abraham reached out to the poor.
 - c. Abraham treated everyone the same.
 - d. Abraham's faith was made complete by his actions.**
11. Why is the tongue so dangerous?
- a. It is always ready to strike.**
 - b. It helps you praise God.
 - c. It can destroy others.**
 - d. It can lift others up.
12. How can you tell if wisdom is from God?
- a. It is filled with envy and selfish ambition.
 - b. It is peace-loving, pure, and humble.**
 - c. It results in disorder and evil practices.
 - d. It will lead to righteousness.**



In James 1:13-15, what is the sequence of sin? What does God's Word say you can do to avoid it?

Read James 2:17-24 again. Why is this passage so controversial? How can you demonstrate your faith - this week?



Thank God for the life-giving power of His Word. Ask Him to help you hear and obey it. Ask God for help in avoiding sin and especially in taming your tongue. Confess any sin and ask Him to give you assurance of your salvation. Ask Him to show you how to obediently live out your faith in your actions.



Going Deeper

1. How do you describe and personally apply the anatomy of a sin that James presents in his first chapter? _____

2. How would you interpret and apply the metaphor of James, when he writes that the Word of God is like a mirror? _____

3. How would you explain and apply the two kinds of religion described by James? _____

4. How would you explain and apply the two kinds of churches described by James? _____

5. How would you explain and apply the two kinds of faith described by James? _____

6. How would you explain and apply the two kinds of trees described by James? _____

7. How do you explain and apply the significance that James wrote his letter before the letters of Paul were written? _____

The Sources and the Sequences of the Solution

Chapter 6 New Testament Audio Lesson # 78



Objective: To understand James' practical advice about sanctification as we wait for His ultimate solution



Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded...Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.

—James 4:4-8, 10

Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.

—James 5:16

James writes that there is no such thing as faith alone. Faith saves us, and good works validate the faith. Our actions show what we believe. James also says that sanctification is the solution to the sequence and seduction of sin. He urges us to purify our hearts and not be double-minded.

James then moves into the sequence of God's ultimate solution to the world's problems: divine intervention through the Second Coming of Christ. Like other New Testament writers, he ends on a positive note: Christ is coming again. James encourages us to be patient, and as we wait, not to talk badly about each other.

James also discusses the life of the Church. We are to minister to each other, bless each other with our spiritual gifts, and love and care for each other. We should be honest with each other, confess our sins, and then pray for each other so that we may experience spiritual healing.

James also writes about faith healing. If anyone is sick, he should call for the elders to anoint him with oil and pray for him. The sick person must have faith to call the elders, and the elders must have faith to pray over him. It is not the oil used to anoint the sick person that heals but rather, it is God answering the prayer of faith.

1. True or **False**: Our good works save us.
2. **True** or False: When we resist the devil, he runs away from us.
3. **True** or False: Submitting to God is an important part of our sanctification.
4. True or **False**: Physical healing is always God's will.



Choose all answers that apply.

5. James says in several places that we are to humble ourselves before the Lord. How does this fit with the passage (James 4:13-16) about boasting of our plans for the future?
 - a. **If we are humble before the Lord, we will boast only of Him.**
 - b. **We should never plan or boast about the future.**
 - c. It is okay to boast about our plans for the future because He gave us our gifts and abilities.
 - d. It is always God's will to make our plans successful.
6. Why do James and other writers end their books with Jesus' Second Coming?
 - a. They are overly optimistic about it.
 - b. They do not care about this life at all.
 - c. They do not want to talk about suffering.
 - d. **They want to encourage their readers who are suffering.**
7. What is the correct definition of the word *confession*?
 - a. To say you are sorry many times.
 - b. To look sad, say many prayers, and go on a pilgrimage.
 - c. To tell the Pastor all the wrong things you have done.
 - d. **To agree with God and others that what you have done is wrong.**
8. Why do believers not confess their sins or share their struggles with each other?
 - a. We do not want people to judge us.
 - b. We are afraid to be vulnerable with others.
 - c. We want people to think our lives are perfect.
 - d. **All of the above**

9. What are some reasons why you should confess your sins to others? (*Choose the ones that apply to you*)

- a. To encourage others
- b. To be humble and obedient
- c. To be accountable to others
- d. So others can pray for you.

10. What are we to do with our spiritual gifts?

- a. Show them off
- b. Boast about them
- c. **Bless and edify the church with them**
- d. Use them for our glory

11. When elders come together and pray for healing, what brings about the healing?

- a. The anointing oil
- b. The elders' faith
- c. The priest
- d. **God, answering the prayer of faith**



Why is submitting ourselves to God so important? What areas of your life and heart do you need to submit to God?

What are some ways you can draw near or come close to God? Which of these things can you start doing this week?

Do you confess your sins and struggles with other believers? If not, do you know and trust a fellow believer enough to share and ask for prayer? Do others feel comfortable sharing with you, knowing that you will keep everything confidential? If not, how can you change that?



Thank God for James' conversion and for his letter. Ask God to help you submit to Him, humble yourself before Him, and love Him more every day. Ask Him to help you resist the devil and his evil schemes. Thank God that when you draw near to Him, He draws near to you. Ask Him to help you care and pray for others in the Church and to be obedient to share your troubles with them.



Going Deeper

1. In chapters 3 through 5, how do you apply the way James profiles the sources of the solutions that win the battle over sin? _____

2. How do you personally apply what he writes in chapter 3 about the tongue being a solution? _____

3. How does the wisdom that is from above overcome the wisdom that is from beneath, and some of the problems of a follower of Christ? _____

4. How do you personally apply the cluster of commandments that James provides in chapter 4:7-17? _____

5. How do you personally apply the exhortation to consider the patience of Job and of the prophets? _____

6. What is your personal application of the way James presents the ultimate solution to be the Second Coming of Jesus Christ? _____

7. What do we learn and how do you personally apply the picture James gives in chapter 5 of how a New Testament Church functioned? (Consider 5: 13-20) _____

The Three Peters

Chapter 7

New Testament Audio Lesson #79



Objective: To introduce the author of Peter's epistles and the process of conversion



[Jesus said,] “Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift you as wheat. But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers.” But he replied, “Lord, I am ready to go with you to prison and to death.” Jesus answered, “I tell you, Peter, before the rooster crows today, you will deny three times that you know me.”

—Luke 22:31-34

The Peter who wrote the epistles of Peter was the same man of the Gospels and Acts, yet he was different. We can follow his growth throughout the New Testament. Jesus gave Simon, Andrew's brother, the nickname of Cephas or Peter, which means rock or stability, even though Peter was spiritually unstable as well as impulsive. Jesus' nickname was an incentive for him to grow to be solid and stable.

On the night of His arrest, Jesus told Peter that Satan wanted to sift him like wheat, but Jesus had prayed for Peter, that his faith would not fail. Jesus said that when Peter had turned back, he should strengthen his brothers. This statement could imply that Peter had not yet been converted. Perhaps his conversion occurred that same night that he denied Jesus three times as the Lord had predicted.

At Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit came upon the believers, Peter told the crowd to repent and be converted. *Converted* literally means to be turned upside down. We are all born upside down. When we are converted, we are turned right side up. It is a complete turnover, to experience something that revolutionizes your life.

Peter, like Moses, learned that he was nobody, that he was somebody God could use, and that God can do wonderful things through somebody who has learned that he is nobody. From the time Jesus named him Rock through the time he wept bitterly after denying Jesus, Peter learned that he was nobody. After the Resurrection, Jesus appeared to Peter and other disciples and He asked Peter three times if he loved Him. When Peter said, “Yes Lord, You know all things, You know I love You,” Jesus told him to feed and shepherd His sheep. Peter learned he was somebody that God could and wanted to use.

At Pentecost, the Holy Spirit broke out through Peter, because by then Peter knew these spiritual secrets: 1) I am not but He is and He is with me; 2) I cannot but He can and He is with me; 3) It is not what I want but what He wants and He is with me. At Pentecost, 3,000 people were converted. Later, as an old pastor, Peter could look back at his life and say, “I did not but He did.”



1. True or **False**: The man who wrote the epistles of Peter was not the apostle Peter.
2. True or **False**: Peter's epistles sometimes reveal the old Peter, who was impulsive and unstable.
3. **True** or False: To be converted means to have a complete turnover.

Choose all answers that apply.

4. Who was Simon?
 - a. Andrew's brother
 - b. The disciple that Jesus nicknamed Peter
 - c. An uneducated fisherman
 - d. All of the above**
5. Why does Jesus' nickname for Simon--Cephas or Peter--seem to be a strange choice?
 - a. Simon was a fisherman.
 - b. Simon was steady and dependable every day.
 - c. Simon looked like a rock.
 - d. Simon was not spiritually strong like a rock.**
6. Why do you think Jesus gave Peter that nickname?
 - a. To make him feel special
 - b. To make fun of him
 - c. He did not know Simon well yet
 - d. To show that Jesus saw the great potential in him**
7. What were the lessons that Peter learned?
 - a. He was a nobody and would always be a nobody.
 - b. He was nobody but he was somebody that God could use.**
 - c. He was a nobody, and God cannot use nobodies.
 - d. He was a nobody, and God wanted him to feel badly about himself.

8. In the book of Acts, how was Peter different from when he first met Jesus in the Gospels?

- a. **He had become spiritually and emotionally stable.**
- b. His emotions overcame him sometimes.
- c. He wanted to be the leader and in charge.
- d. **He did not waver from his purpose or his passion for Jesus.**

9. When was Peter converted?

- a. The night he denied Jesus
- b. On the beach with Jesus after His resurrection
- c. At Pentecost when the Holy Spirit came
- d. **We do not know for certain.**

10. What does conversion mean?

- a. We have said a prayer and have been baptized.
- b. We are bold in sharing our religion with others.
- c. We go to church faithfully.
- d. **We have been turned right side up spiritually.**

11. What is the key theme in Peter's epistles?

- a. **Suffering**
- b. Love
- c. Fruit
- d. Salvation

12. Why are Peter's epistles sometimes hard to understand?

- a. He was a scholar.
- b. **Peter jumped from one topic to another.**
- c. Sylvanus made mistakes when he wrote down what Peter said.
- d. Peter's handwriting was hard to read.

At Pentecost, Peter encouraged his listeners to repent and be converted. Conversion means having a complete turnover so that you are right side up. It completely revolutionizes your life. Have you repented of your sins and been converted? If not, you can do so right now. Pray this prayer: *"Loving Heavenly Father, I confess that I am separated from You and Your plan for my life. I confess that I am a sinner. I trust Your Son, Jesus Christ, to be my personal Savior. I place my complete trust in His death on the cross for the forgiveness of every one of my sins. Thank You for making me right with You through the finished work on the cross. I now forsake and turn away from all my sins. Right here and now I crown my Savior, Jesus Christ, as the Lord of my life, and I surrender my life unconditionally to His control and direction. As I follow Your Son Jesus Christ, bring my life into perfect alignment with the great design You always have willed for my life. Amen."*



Explain the spiritual secrets Peter had learned by the time of Pentecost in your own words. Have you learned those secrets yourself? If not, ask God to help you understand and put them into practice in your own life.



Thank God for the growth and maturity we see in Peter's life. Thank God for Peter's example and for his strong faith to the very end. Ask God to help you learn the lessons and spiritual secrets that Peter learned. Thank God for what He is going to reveal to you through this study of Peter's epistles.

NOTES



Going Deeper

1. How would you define and apply to your own journey of faith what it means to be converted?

2. How would you define and apply to your own journey of faith the three distinct Peters that we see in the New Testament? _____

3. How would you apply to your own journey of faith the three lessons Peter learned from the time he met Jesus until he went out into the darkness and wept bitterly, when he met with Jesus on the beach (as described in John 21), and when he preached the great sermon on the Day of Pentecost? _____

4. How would you describe and apply to your own journey of faith the four spiritual secrets learned by Peter? _____

5. How did the reality that the Peter who wrote his epistles could not read or write impact his writing style? _____

6. Explain and apply to your own life where this illiterate apostle got the treasure house of inspired wisdom that he shares with us in his letters. _____

7. List and apply to you own life the things that were precious to the old apostle who wrote his letters. _____

Reflections on Regeneration

Chapter 8 New Testament Audio Lesson #80



Objective: To understand both why God allows suffering and how the new birth occurs



Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for your brothers, love one another deeply, from the heart. For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God.

—1 Peter 1:22-23

But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God.

—1 Peter 2:9-10

Today's "prosperity theology" falsely preaches that if you are in God's will, you will be healthy, wealthy, and immune to suffering. But that does not line up with the suffering and persecution that we find in the epistles of Peter and the rest of the entire New Testament. Peter's message to the suffering Jewish Christians is to be encouraged—and to keep following the Lord Jesus Christ.

Peter gives two reasons why God permits His people to suffer. God allows suffering to grow our faith. For example, Job's suffering came from Satan, but God allowed it. Jesus promised that no problem comes to us without going through Him first. Another reason God allows suffering is that it purifies our faith, which is more precious than gold.

Peter describes the process of new birth or conversion. Life is conceived when the seed and the egg meet. When we respond to the Word of God, the imperishable Seed, we are born again. Spiritual life is conceived in us. Our souls are purified. After spiritual conception, we have a gestation period, which brings us to full term and new birth. As newborns desire milk, we desire the living Word of God. The result of being born again is the fruit of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. (Galatians 5:22-23)

In 1 Peter 2:9-10, Peter writes about the kingdom of God. For the Israelites, God's kingdom was both national and geographical. But, in the New Testament, Jesus' first message was "*Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near.*" (Matthew 4:17) The kingdom of God is now within us, those who believe. The kingdom is wherever people believe and follow Jesus Christ.

All believers in Christ make up a royal priesthood. In the Old Testament, the priest would go into the presence of God on behalf of the people. Now, we are all priests who are called to make disciples and to intercede on their behalf. This is known as the priesthood of the believer.



1. **True** or False: The main reason for Peter's epistles was to comfort those who were suffering.
2. True or **False**: The "prosperity theology" of today fits well with the suffering that God's people have undergone in both the past and the present.
3. **True** or False: The prophets did not understand everything they foretold about salvation.
4. True or **False**: God wants all His people to escape persecution and suffering.

Choose all answers that apply.

5. Why would God allow His people to suffer?
 - a. He does not really love us.
 - b. He wants to grow our faith.**
 - c. He cannot stop suffering.
 - d. Suffering is only for bad people.
6. What does Jesus' image of Himself as the Good Shepherd imply about the suffering of His sheep?
 - a. We can trust Him to take care of us.**
 - b. He is not good after all.
 - c. The only problems that come to us are those which He has allowed through.**
 - d. It does not make sense.
7. Jesus said that one person sows while another person reaps. What does this imply about the Kingdom of God?
 - a. No one works alone in the Kingdom**
 - b. The one who reaps gets the credit.
 - c. Some people are more important in Kingdom work.
 - d. The Kingdom grows because of our efforts.**

8. What happens when we are born again or experience the new birth?
- a. **We hear the Word, believe, and are born again.**
 - b. We faithfully go to church.
 - c. We say a prayer and are baptized.
 - d. We are born into a Christian family.
9. The Kingdom of God is no longer under one flag or nation. Where is it?
- a. It is wherever Jewish people live.
 - b. It is wherever people go to church.
 - c. **It is in the hearts of believers.**
 - d. It is only in heaven.
10. What is the priesthood of the believer?
- a. Only bishops, archbishops, and cardinals can be priests.
 - b. **Every believer is a priest.**
 - c. No one is a priest anymore.
 - d. Jewish priests are the only ones that God recognizes.
11. Why does Peter compare suffering for our faith to the purifying of gold?
- a. **Gold is a precious metal, and our faith is precious to God.**
 - b. Gold is purified through cleansing with water.
 - c. **Gold and our faith become more valuable through purifying.**
 - d. Gold is lovely to look at.



Jesus, the Good Shepherd, said that He is the doorway or gatekeeper for His sheep. So no sheep can go out without his knowledge, and no predator can come in without his knowledge. How does this promise relate to you and suffering?

Explain the process of spiritual conception that leads to the new birth. Have you experienced the new birth?



Thank God for making salvation possible to you. Thank Him that you are a child of God, set apart for Him and vital to the Kingdom. During times of suffering, ask Him to purify your faith and help you be faithful to Him. Thank Him for all the people who gave their lives to ensure that the Bible would survive through the centuries. Thank Him for making His Word available to you.



Going Deeper

1. Why did Peter mention suffering fourteen times in this letter? _____

2. How do you explain and apply to your own life three things that Peter writes about the suffering of the followers of Christ in verses 6 and 7 of chapter 1? _____

3. How do you apply to your own journey of faith, and teach others about, the way Peter overviews in retrospect (in 1: 22, 23-2: 2) the experience of the new birth? _____

4. What is the catalyst that brings about “spiritual conception” in Peter’s inspired metaphor in which he compares the new birth to physical birth? _____

5. How does that analogy continue into verses 1 and 2 in the second chapter? _____

6. Explain and apply to your own life and ministry the role the Word of God plays in this entire process. _____

7. Why then is it important to get people in the Word and the Word into people? (Include in your answer 2 Peter 1:19, which teaches us beautifully and metaphorically that when God’s people get into His Word and His Word gets into His people they experience the new birth.)

The Marriage Model

Chapter 9

New Testament Audio Lesson #81



Objective: To understand God's model for marriage in 1 Peter



Wives, in the same way be submissive to your husbands so that, if any of them do not believe the word, they may be won over without words by the behavior of their wives, when they see the purity and reverence of your lives. Your beauty should not come from outward adornment, such as braided hair and the wearing of gold jewelry and fine clothes. Instead, it should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God's sight. ...Husbands, in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives, and treat them with respect as the weaker partner and as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life, so that nothing will hinder your prayers.

—1 Peter 3:1-4, 7

The best marriage counsel is found in Scripture, because God is the source of marriage. Both Peter and Paul encourage us to look at Christ and the church as the model for marriage. In this model, wives represent the Church, and husbands represent Christ. We should focus on changing ourselves instead of our spouses, because at the Judgment, we will each be accountable to God for the person we are.

The biggest problems in Christian marriages are husbands who will not assume their God-given responsibilities. Peter urges wives with husbands like this to grow in the faith. If the husband is not standing in his place, the wife cannot do much except, by God's grace, be the woman He made her to be and have a gentle, quiet spirit. Her husband still may not take the spiritual lead, but her example is more likely to persuade him than anything else.

Peter also tells wives to be submissive as Christ was submissive to the Father - our example to follow. God assigns the headship of the marriage and family to the men; they are responsible for their wives and children. The men represent Christ so they must love their wives as Christ loves the Church. Husbands should know and love their wives. Scripture says to "dwell with them," which means to make time to be with them, to make them a priority.

Although this advice was given centuries ago, it still works today because it is the Word of God. It is still timeless counsel. And if the Holy Spirit tells us to do this, we need to do it. Use the model of marriage in this epistle, and by the grace of God, stand in your place.



1. True or **False**: The most common problem in marriage is that wives do not submit to their husbands.
2. **True** or False: It is possible for a wife to win her husband to the Lord by her example.
3. True or **False**: God delegates responsibility of the home and children to the wife.
4. True or **False**: Peter gives advice to wives on how to make their husbands change.

Choose all answers that apply.

5. Why are many Christian marriages ineffective today?
 - a. Children distract parents from their responsibilities.
 - b. Wives submit to their husbands instead of demanding equality.
 - c. Men do not step into the role God designed for them.**
 - d. People are getting married too late in life.
6. Why should believers heed the marriage counsel in Scripture?
 - a. God designed marriage to be an example of Christ and the Church.**
 - b. The Bible's advice on marriage is as good as anyone else's.
 - c. Because the Pastor told us to.
 - d. Because Christian marriages are always the best.
7. Why does Peter use the example of Christ as a suffering servant to describe how marriage should look?
 - a. Because the wife is to be like a servant, and to suffer.
 - b. Christ showed us how to submit to God and each other through His humility.**
 - c. Christ was married.
 - d. Christ is head of the Church as the husband is head of the home.**

8. What does Peter tell wives and husbands to do?
- a. Try to change the other person.
 - b. Change themselves.**
 - c. Do not attempt to imitate Christ's example of loving the Church.
 - d. Do not have children because they complicate marriage.
9. Why should we focus on our own responsibilities and shortcomings in our marriage rather than our spouse's?
- a. We are accountable to God for our own lives.**
 - b. Trying to change someone else always works.
 - c. People appreciate it when we try to change them.
 - d. Nagging and complaining about your spouse strengthens your relationship.
10. Why is it so important that wives submit to their husbands?
- a. Husbands are more important than wives.
 - b. Husbands may reject them if they do not.
 - c. God's plan is for the husband to be responsible for the home.**
 - d. Because men always make better decisions.
11. Why does Peter encourage women to be quiet or silent?
- a. So they can win their husbands by example.**
 - b. So they can turn their husbands away from the Word.
 - c. He wanted men to have more control.
 - d. He did not like it when women talked.
12. How are husbands commanded to treat their wives?
- a. As sisters in Christ
 - b. With respect
 - c. With Christ's love
 - d. All of the above**



What are some reasons people think the Bible's marriage advice cannot work today?
What do you think?

If you are married, are you standing in your place in the marriage? Does your marriage look like Christ's example in the Bible? Using what you have learned from this study, what is one thing you need to do to be more obedient to God's Word? What are some ways you can strengthen your marriage today?



If you are married, thank God for your spouse and your relationship. Ask God to help you understand His marriage advice and to show you how to put it into practice. Ask God to give you patience with your spouse and to extend grace when needed. Thank God for Christ's love for the Church and for you, your spouse, and your children. Ask Him for the strength and courage to be the wife or husband He wants you to be. If you are not married, pray and ask God to bless the marriages in your church and use you to be a blessing in their lives.

NOTES



Going Deeper

1. How do you apply to your own marriage, or to the marriages of those you teach, the inspired model for marriage used by Peter in the verses from the end of 1 Peter chapter 2 through chapter 3:1-7? _____

2. Based on that model for marriage, what is the role assigned to the wife and what is the role assigned to the husband? _____

3. How do you explain and apply why Peter instructs the husband to dwell with his wife according to knowledge? _____

4. How do you explain and apply why Peter addresses the woman when he is writing about the role of the woman and the man when he is writing about the role of the man? _____

5. How do you explain and apply to marriage the Scripture Peter is quoting at the end of chapter 2? _____

6. How do you explain and apply the reality that Peter has given the greater challenge to the husband? _____

7. How would you paraphrase and summarize this marriage counsel of Peter? _____

The Storms of Life, the Word and the Witness

Chapter 10 New Testament Audio Lesson #82



Objective: To understand more about suffering as well as about the role of the elder



Dear friends, do not be surprised at the painful trial you are suffering, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice that you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed.

—1 Peter 4:12-13

To the elders among you....: Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, serving as overseers—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not greedy for money, but eager to serve; not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock.

—1 Peter 5:1-3

Peter could not read or write—he dictated his message—and he jumps around to several major subjects in one passage. The most difficult passage is where he says that Jesus ministered to the spirits in prison who disobeyed long ago in the days of Noah. Scholars do not know how to interpret this passage, and it remains a profound mystery.

Later, Peter urges his readers to be calm, self-controlled, hospitable, and loving to each other. We should be faithful stewards of our spiritual gifts, serving one another with them, acknowledging that God is the source of them and using them for His glory.

Peter says we should not be surprised by suffering; it is part of life. God permits trials and storms in our lives so we can be witnesses for Him. To cope with suffering, we process the trial through the Word and learn that we are partners with Jesus in His suffering. When we suffer, God will anoint us with the spirit of glory and of God. He will give us everything we need to endure. If we are suffering according to His will, we should keep on trusting God, because He will never fail.

In chapter 5, Peter speaks humbly to elders of the church as a fellow elder himself, reminding them that God is over them all. Peter called church leaders to be examples to their flocks, not flaunting their authority over them, but treating them as brothers equal under God.



1. **True** or False: We are not meant to understand everything in the Bible.
2. True or **False**: Our spiritual gifts are to be used to build up ourselves, rather than the body of believers.
3. **True** or False: We are called to share in Jesus's suffering.
4. **True** or False: Suffering often kills the desire to chase after sinful pleasures.

Choose all answers that apply.

5. Peter reminds us that Jesus is coming again soon. What are some of the things we should be doing until He returns?
 - a. Be afraid of the end times.
 - b. Listen to people who know for certain when Christ will come back.
 - c. Be calm, self-controlled people of prayer.**
 - d. Do not worry about it. It probably will not happen anytime soon.
6. What should be your attitude about being hospitable toward others?
 - a. "I am too busy."
 - b. "No one is hospitable to me."
 - c. "I will do it but I do not want to."
 - d. "I am glad to serve Jesus and others this way."**
7. What is the purpose of spiritual gifts?
 - a. To minister to each other in the Church**
 - b. To show them off
 - c. To glorify God**
 - d. To impress others

8. What were some of Peter's instructions to the believers who were suffering?

- a. Avoid suffering at all costs.
- b. Be surprised if you suffer for Jesus.
- c. Rejoice that you share in Jesus' sufferings.**
- d. Be ashamed if you suffer because of Jesus' name.

9. How should we respond to suffering and difficulties?

- a. Turn away from God for abandoning you.
- b. Blame God for the hard times.
- c. Become bitter because of your suffering.
- d. View your trials through the Word of God.**

10. What was Peter's advice to elders of the Church?

- a. Run the church like a military operation.
- b. Serve as shepherds and be examples.**
- c. Rule over the flock with discipline and strength.
- d. Run the church like a business so it will be successful.

11. Why was Peter a good elder?

- a. He was humble.**
- b. He was proud of his time with Jesus.
- c. He reminded his readers that he was a good elder.
- d. He served the flock, rather than being served.**



Does it bother you when you do not understand a passage of Scripture? Why or why not? How do you usually respond? How do you think you should respond?

Are you currently going through a time of suffering? What have you learned through this study of 1 Peter that has helped you with your suffering?



Thank God for being with you in your suffering. Ask Him to remind you of what His Word says about suffering and the importance of turning to Him and His Word for comfort and strength. Thank Him for the way He grew Peter from an impulsive fisherman into a loving pastor, and ask Him to also grow you into the person He wants you to be. Ask Him to give you the courage to be a witness for Him wherever you go.



Going Deeper

1. What does the reality that Peter mentions about ten different subjects (in 3: 18-22) tell you about his writing style, and how do you apply what he teaches about water baptism? _____

2. How do you apply to your own life and to the church of which you are a part, the magnificent cluster of exhortations that Peter gives (in 4: 7-11) about having fervent love for one another, which covers a multitude of sins, and each one expressing the greatly varied grace of God by using the spiritual gifts given to them? _____

3. How do you explain and apply to your own life and ministry the teaching of Peter that we should not think it strange when we suffer, because we are called to suffer as we follow the example of our Lord Who suffered? _____

4. How do you apply to your own suffering the great promise of Peter (in 4: 13, 14) that you are a partaker of the suffering of your Lord, and His glory rests upon you in such a way that when He returns, you will be filled with great joy? _____

5. How do you explain and apply to your own life and ministry the extraordinary humility expressed by Peter in 5: 1-6, in that he did not consider himself a bishop over the other elders but as a fellow elder? _____

6. How do you teach and apply the sober warnings of Peter (in 5: 8, 9) about the destructive intent of Satan? _____

7. In what way is verse 10 of chapter 5 an overview of the three Peters that we meet in the New Testament? _____

The Day Must Dawn

Chapter 11

New Testament Audio Lesson #83



Objective: To learn what qualities to add to our faith and to understand what will happen on the Day of the Lord



Make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love.

—2 Peter 1:5-7

And we have the word of the prophets made more certain, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation. For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

—2 Peter 1:19-21

But we are looking forward to the new heavens and new earth he has promised, a world filled with God's righteousness. And so, dear friends, while you are waiting for these things to happen, make every effort to be found living peaceful lives that are pure and blameless in his sight. And remember, our Lord's patience gives people time to be saved.

—2 Peter 3:13-15a

Peter wrote his second epistle when the persecution of Christians was very intense and spreading throughout the country. Peter wanted to remind the people of what they already knew, because they would need to remember it in the coming days.

In this epistle, he wrote about spiritual growth. The world believes knowledge is virtuous, but in spiritual things, the application of knowledge is virtue, not knowledge itself. We are to add virtue or goodness to our faith first, then knowledge, and then the other things that Peter mentioned.

Peter reminded his readers of the importance of God's Word. God is the source of all Scripture. The Holy Spirit moved the prophets to write those words. Scripture brings about regeneration in our hearts. Peter says it is like the day dawning, and the Morning Star, Jesus, rises in our hearts. Christians emphasize receiving Jesus into our hearts, but this passage seems to indicate that Jesus Christ is born in us.

In chapter 2, Peter rebukes false teachers. Chapter 3 describes the Day of the Lord, one among a series of events in the Second Coming of Christ, which also includes: the Rapture of the Church, the Great Tribulation, and end-time events. The last event, the Day of the Lord, will be cataclysmic, the dissolution from intense heat of everything on earth and in the universe. Jesus Himself said that heaven and earth will pass away, and Peter describes it clearly. Although God

has already destroyed the earth once by water, some people do not believe He will destroy the earth again. Others think He is too slow. God does not want anyone to perish; He wants everyone to repent, so He gives us time to share the Gospel. While we wait, we are to live blameless lives.



1. True or **False**: The persecution of Christians was beginning to decrease when Peter wrote 2 Peter.
2. **True** or False: Peter wrote to remind the Jewish Christians of what they already knew.
3. True or **False**: Peter did not know he was going to die soon.
4. **True** or False: For Peter the most important thing to understand was prophecy.

Choose all that apply.

5. Why would Peter repeat things his readers already knew?
 - a. He thought they were ignorant.
 - b. He knew they would need to remember them as the persecution worsened.**
 - c. He did not have any new messages from the Holy Spirit.
 - d. He was getting old and could not remember what he had already taught them.
6. Peter gives several ways to grow spiritually. What quality should we add first to our faith?
 - a. Knowledge
 - b. Love
 - c. Perseverance
 - d. Goodness or virtue**
7. Why is knowledge the second addition instead of the first?
 - a. The application of our knowledge of Scripture makes it effective.**
 - b. Perseverance is more important than knowledge or goodness.
 - c. He made a mistake in the order of the list.
 - d. Peter was an illiterate man so knowledge was not important to him.

8. If we add these things to our faith, what will happen?
- a. We will never have any trials or troubles.
 - b. We will become known for our knowledge.
 - c. We will be fruitful and productive for Jesus.**
 - d. Nothing. We will not be changed.
9. Why should we pay attention to Scripture?
- a. The biblical authors were smart, and they wrote what they thought would be helpful for others.
 - b. The Holy Spirit moved the prophets and other biblical authors to write the words.**
 - c. The apostles, who wrote most of the New Testament, were eyewitnesses of Jesus' life and death, resurrection and ascension.**
 - d. If we can find mistakes in the Bible, we do not have to do what it says.
10. What happens when we take scripture seriously?
- a. Our knowledge will get us into heaven.
 - b. Others around us are impressed.
 - c. We can become leaders because we know so much.
 - d. It changes our hearts.**
11. What will happen on the Day of the Lord?
- a. The Great Tribulation will begin.
 - b. God will flood the earth again like He did in Noah's time.
 - c. Everything will be utterly destroyed.**
 - d. Everyone will join hands and celebrate.
12. Why do people have a hard time believing the Day of the Lord will actually come?
- a. They do not think God is strong enough to do what He said.
 - b. They do not think God will destroy the earth again.
 - c. That Day has not come yet, even though long ago He declared it would.
 - d. All of the above.**



Christians today focus on getting nonbelievers to receive or ask Jesus into their hearts, but how does Peter say Jesus gets in your heart? Explain.

God has made it clear that Jesus is coming again. What can we do to prepare ourselves for that day? What are some specific ways you can prepare for when He comes?



Thank God for men like Peter and Paul, who gave their lives to spread the Gospel. Thank God also for the knowledge He has given you through the Word and the Holy Spirit. Ask Him to help you grow in goodness, which means you are applying the knowledge you already have. Ask Him to remind you, as you seek His help, that spiritual growth is a life-long process and requires patience and faithfulness.

NOTES



Going Deeper

1. How do you apply the way the context and the motivation of Peter for writing this second letter compares with the same context and motivation in the writing of Paul's second letter to Timothy? _____

2. How do you apply to your own life and your teaching ministry the additions to faith outlined by Peter? _____

3. How do you apply and teach the significance of the reality that Peter teaches that we should add virtue to our faith first, and then knowledge? _____

4. How do you apply and teach the way Peter describes the Day of the Lord as if it were a thermonuclear explosion? _____

5. How do you personally apply and then teach the way we can hasten the coming of the Day of the Lord? (Consider what the Lord said in Matthew 24 about this Gospel first being preached in all the nations.) _____

6. Explain how the amazing breakthroughs we are having through computers, cell phones and MegaVoice audio devices that I am using to get the Gospel out in 26 languages from my hospital bed may have been designed by the providence of God to hasten the Day of the Lord. _____

7. What are you personally doing to contribute to that great effort? _____

The Assurance Compass

Chapter 12

New Testament Audio Lesson #84



Objective: To introduce John's epistles and the assurance compass



God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. If we claim to have fellowship with him yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live by the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin...If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

—1 John 1:5b-7, 9

We know that we have come to know him if we obey his commands. The man who says, "I know him," but does not do what he commands is a liar, and the truth is not in him.

—1 John 2:3-4

John wrote three epistles as well as the gospel of John and the book of Revelation. He wrote this first epistle so that his readers would know if they have eternal life. He wanted those who believe intellectually to believe with their heart and have assurance of their salvation.



John gives eight points for assurance of salvation, somewhat like a compass. The first point of the assurance compass is facts. Faith is based on facts or evidence. The second point is faith in the gospel facts of the death and resurrection of Jesus. The third point is forgiveness. If we confess our sins, we have the promise that He forgives us.

The fourth point of the assurance compass is fellowship. Christ's resurrection means we can know Him and have fellowship with Him. Along with Peter, we can say, "I cannot but He can and He is with me. I am not but He is and He is with me." We share all He has and we, in turn, should share all we have with Him.

The next point on the assurance compass is following. If we follow Jesus, He will make us sure of our salvation, give us assurance as well as make us more like Himself. The sixth point is freedom. If we believe and follow His Word, we will know the truth by experience, and the truth will set us free.

The seventh point is fullness. John wrote these words so our joy may be full. The eighth and last point of the assurance compass is fruitfulness. Jesus is the vine. Are we willing to be His fruitful branches? Fruitfulness is a sign of assurance that God is doing His work in us.



1. True or **False**: We can be in Jesus without walking with Him.
2. True or **False**: If you are truly a Christian, you will never doubt that you are saved.
3. **True** or False: John's purpose in writing 1 John was to help believers be sure that they are saved.
4. True or **False**: Having the facts is not necessary to have faith in Jesus.

Choose all answers that apply.

5. What are the facts of the gospel?
 - a. **Christ died on the cross for our sins and rose from the dead.**
 - b. Christ was born in Bethlehem of a virgin.
 - c. Christ performed many miracles and had 12 disciples.
 - d. Christ is coming again and will rule and reign over all the earth
6. What are some ways we can have assurance of our salvation?
 - a. Through fellowship
 - b. Through following Jesus
 - c. Through fruitfulness
 - d. **All of the above**

7. What does 1 John 1 say about sin and assurance of our salvation?
- a. **If we know Him, we will not walk in darkness.**
 - b. If we sin, it is okay because God knows we are not perfect.
 - c. God overlooks sin in Christians.
 - d. Christians do not have to confess their sins other than the first time.
8. Why is forgiveness important for assurance of our salvation?
- a. We do not have to believe that Jesus died for our sins in order for God to forgive us.
 - b. **If we confess our sin to Him, we can trust that He will forgive us.**
 - c. Forgiving others is required so that we can be saved.
 - d. Forgiving ourselves is all we need for God's salvation.
9. What does fellowship with Jesus imply?
- a. He is my partner.
 - b. He shares everything with me.
 - c. I am to offer everything to Him.
 - d. **All the above**
10. Why is it important for us to follow Jesus?
- a. So that we might enjoy prosperity and success
 - b. So that we too can have disciples and many followers
 - c. So we can impress others with our godly lives
 - d. **To enjoy fellowship with our Savior as we walk in obedience.**
11. Why do you think John included freedom in his points about assurance?
- a. It is not possible to be free of sin, even if we are saved.
 - b. **Jesus sets His people free from the penalty and power of sin.**
 - c. We can never be totally free from the power of sin.
 - d. People are not really in bondage to sin.
12. Why is obedience another sign of salvation?
- a. If we love Jesus, we do not have to obey Him.
 - b. **If we obey Jesus' commands, we are sure that we know Him.**
 - c. God already loves us, so it does not matter if we obey Him.
 - d. We do not have to obey any commands because we live under grace, not the law.



As you think through the assurance compass, these questions might help: Do I believe in the facts of the Gospel? Have I confessed my sins to God and received His forgiveness? Do I have fellowship with Him and with other believers? Am I following Jesus? Am I experiencing His freedom? Am I experiencing the fullness of joy in Him? Am I being fruitful for Him?

Jesus said, *“I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.”* (John 15:5) Fruitfulness can help us with assurance of salvation. In what areas do I need to be more fruitful? Who do I need to share the good news with?



Thank God for His Word. Ask God to open your eyes to what He wants you to learn from it. Thank Him for the assurance of salvation. Ask Him to help you to live in the reality of who you are in Christ and to be bold in sharing Jesus Christ with others.

NOTES



Going Deeper

1. How would you apply and explain to others the differences between the reasons John gives us for writing his Gospel and this Epistle of 1 John? (Consider 1 John 5:13 and the last two verses of John chapter 20). _____

2. In what ways do the first 16 verses of 1 John compare to the first 18 verses of the Gospel of John? _____

3. How would you personally apply and explain to others the eight points of The Assurance Compass? _____

4. What are the two Gospel facts that form the foundation of The Assurance Compass? (Consider 1 Corinthians 15:1-4) _____

5. How would you personally apply and explain to others the way that placing your faith in those two facts brings you assurance of your salvation? _____

6. How would you explain to others and personally apply the way the concept I labeled as “follow-ship” is a critical point on The Assurance Compass? (Consider John 17:17 and 7:17) _____

7. How would you personally apply and explain to others the last three points on the spiritual compass: freedom, fullness and fruitfulness? _____

The Anointing That Assures

Chapter 13 New Testament Audio Lesson #85



Objective: To understand the building blocks of assurance in 1 John



If anyone says, "I love God," yet hates his brother, he is a liar. For anyone who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, cannot love God, whom he has not seen.

—1 John 4:20

Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

—1 John 2:15

Who is the liar? It is the man who denies that Jesus is the Christ. Such a man is the antichrist—he denies the Father and the Son. No one who denies the Son has the Father; whoever acknowledges the Son has the Father also.

—1 John 2:22-23

John wrote 1 John so that those who believe in Jesus may know they have eternal life. In chapter 2, he gives building blocks of assurance. The first is to love our brother or neighbor. Jesus commanded that we love our neighbor as ourselves. He told the disciples to love one another so the world would know they were His. In this epistle, John says that anyone who claims to be in the light but hates his brother is still in darkness. The second block of assurance is to love God more than the world and its mindset, values, and lifestyle.

Third is the anointing of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit keeps us doctrinally pure. Everyone who knows God knows the truth. The person who denies the Father and Jesus is a liar and an antichrist. If we have spiritual discernment, we have charisma or the Holy Spirit.

Fourth, people who are born of God do not habitually sin. They may fall into sin, but it is not natural for them. When we are born again, our patterns change. When we do sin, we confess—agree with God—and thank Him for His forgiveness.

Fifth, our salvation is not based on feelings. When our hearts condemn us, we should remember that our salvation is based on what He has done and our belief in Him, not on our emotions.



1. True or **False**: We can love God without loving our brother.
2. True or **False**: If we feel spiritual, we must be saved.
3. True or **False**: We can love the Father and the world at the same time.
4. True or **False**: People who are born of God often make a practice of sinning.

Choose all answers that apply.

5. What are some reasons why we might doubt our salvation?
 - a. Discouragement about our spiritual growth
 - b. Physical exhaustion from ministry
 - c. Spiritual warfare
 - d. All of the above**
6. What is one of the building blocks of assurance?
 - a. Spiritual discernment**
 - b. Others' opinions of us
 - c. Loving the world
 - d. Being a good person
7. Why is it important to be sure of our salvation?
 - a. It can help us be effective witnesses for Christ.**
 - b. It can comfort us.**
 - c. So that you can experience physical healing.
 - d. It is impossible to be sure.
8. What does it mean to love God more than the world?
 - a. To follow His ways and live for Him.**
 - b. To be totally separated from the world
 - c. To love God and hate nonbelievers.
 - d. To be considered a success by the church.

9. Why can we not love God and the world at the same time?
- a. We are human and not capable of such love.
 - b. We are supposed to love the world, because then we can be effective witnesses.
 - c. Everything in the world—its values, lifestyle, and mindset—is contrary to God’s holy nature.**
 - d. The world is full of sinners, and God does not like sinners.
10. How can we know if we have the Holy Spirit?
- a. When we speak in tongues
 - b. When we have experienced a miracle.
 - c. The fruit of the Spirit will be evident in our lives.**
 - d. The Holy Spirit teaches us spiritual truth.**
11. What role do our feelings play in assurance?
- a. If we feel like we are saved, then we must be.
 - b. God’s salvation does not change with our feelings.**
 - c. If our hearts condemn us, God does too.
 - d. Our salvation is based not upon feelings but the fact that we trust in the Gospel.**
12. How is sin an important indicator of our salvation?
- a. We do not live a life of habitual sin.**
 - b. We never sin again.
 - c. We do not concern ourselves with sin.
 - d. We only commit little sins.



Do you feel pulled by a love for the world? How? What are some areas of your life that need to be submitted to the Father?

Which building block of assurance is most helpful to you? Why? Which one do you find the hardest to understand or believe?



Thank God that we can be sure of our salvation. Ask Him to use the building blocks of assurance to confirm your salvation and grow your faith in Him so that you can share it with others. Thank God that your salvation does not depend on your feelings. Thank God for the way His Spirit works in your heart and life to teach you truth and to confirm that you are His. Ask Him to help you remember what you have learned in this study any time you feel unsure of your salvation.



Going Deeper

1. How would you apply personally and explain to others the way John tells us that the Anointing within us, which keeps us doctrinally pure, is a building block of assurance? _____

2. Explain and personally apply the way the Apostle Paul teaches the same thing in 1 Corinthians 2 and 12: 3. _____

3. Explain and personally apply the way John tells us in chapter 3 that there are two kinds of people in this world, the sons of God and the sons of the devil, and that this can be another building block of assurance. _____

4. How would you personally apply and explain to others the reality that the sons of God do not sin? _____

5. Do the same for John's teaching that the sons of God cannot sin because His seed remains in them. _____

6. How would you personally apply and explain to others the teaching of John (in 3: 18-23) that, if we feel depressed, God is greater than how we feel? _____

7. How would you apply personally and explain to others the prescription that John gives for overcoming depression and finding another building block of assurance in the reality that loving one another should assure us? _____

The Confession That Confirms

Chapter 14

New Testament Audio Lesson #86



Objective: To understand that we confess Christ through loving God and loving others



Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.

—1 John 4:7-8

There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love. We love because he first loved us. If anyone says, "I love God," yet hates his brother, he is a liar.

—1 John 4:18-20

John gives many reasons why we must love one another and therefore confess the Spirit of Christ, which is the spirit of love. God is the source of love, and we are the only ones who can love with *agape*. If we love, we are born of God and know God, because *agape* comes only from God. God's essence is love. If we are saved, we are in Christ, and our credential is love.

We also should love one another because if we dwell in love, we dwell in God and He dwells in us. *Agape* is selfless, without expectations, like Jesus' love for us. God wants us to love people around us with His love.

Another reason we must love is so we can have boldness at the Judgment Seat of Christ. If we love perfectly, we can face judgment confidently because love is the fulfilling of the law. Perfect love casts out fear—one of the great problems of today. If you have perfect love for God, you can submit everything you have and everything you are to Him. If you have perfect love for others, you can say, "Everything I have is yours. I'm committed to love you." When you have that sense of giving away, you have nothing to fear or to lose.

We also must love others because we cannot love God without loving others, too. Finally, Jesus, our Lord and Master, commanded that we love others, and we must obey Him.

John writes about three witnesses in our experience that give us assurance: the witness of and the fruit of the Holy Spirit in us; the water, probably referring to baptism, which requires a public confession of faith; and the blood of Jesus.

In 1 John, John's focus is assurance. In 2 and 3 John, his emphasis is on the truth that Jesus taught, and our steadfast commitment to that truth. Heresy began early in church history, and John says very clearly that we are to have nothing to do with heretics.



1. True or **False**: It is impossible to test spirits, because they are not in the flesh.
2. **True** or False: The three witnesses of our salvation are: the Holy Spirit, the water, and the blood.
3. **True** or False: Knowing Jesus personally is more important than knowing about Him.
4. True or **False**: John urged his readers to try to bring heretics back to the faith.

Choose all answers that apply.

5. What does John mean by testing the spirits?
 - a. Call on the spirit world for answers to life's questions.
 - b. Everything that is spiritual is good.
 - c. See if that spirit agrees with the Truth of God's Word.**
 - d. Put other people to the test spiritually.
6. What did Jesus pray His apostles would do?
 - a. Become the most powerful religious leaders of all time.
 - b. Love one another so the world would believe God had sent Him.**
 - c. Stop fighting among themselves.
 - d. Be successful in all that they do.
7. According to John, how do we confess Christ in our flesh?
 - a. By following His commands
 - b. By loving one another**
 - c. By having fruit of the Spirit
 - d. By sinning and being forgiven

8. What is one reason why Christians must love others?
 - a. **We are the only ones who can love with *agape*.**
 - b. We are to love because it makes us feel good.
 - c. We will never love like God does, so we should not even try.
 - d. Loving others shows that we understand the Gospel.

9. What are some characteristics of *agape*?
 - a. It is conditional, based on behavior.
 - b. **It is selfless, not self-centered.**
 - c. It takes care of others after taking care of self.
 - d. It forgives most failures.

10. How can the way we love others give us assurance of salvation?
 - a. **God is love, so if we dwell in love, we dwell in God and He dwells in us.**
 - b. If we love enough people, we will be good enough to get into heaven.
 - c. When we love, we become love and are assured of God's love.
 - d. We do not really have to love others to get into heaven.

11. Why can we face judgment with confidence if we love well in this life?
 - a. We can be proud of ourselves for following this command.
 - b. It will be clear that we are better than other Christians who did not love others.
 - c. ***Agape* love is the fulfilling of the Law of God.**
 - d. We will finally get the recognition and reward we deserve for obeying.

12. Why does John say that perfect love casts out fear?
 - a. God's love for us casts out our fear of Him.
 - b. It is impossible to have perfect love.
 - c. Perfect love can only be achieved with God, not with others.
 - d. **If we have perfect love, we let go of all we have so there is nothing left to lose.**



List three or four things that you have learned from this study about loving others. How can you put them into practice this week? How can you make them a regular part of your life?

John says, "*Perfect love drives out fear.*" (1 John 4:18) What are some of your fears? As you consider each one, determine what you are afraid of losing or giving up. Can you commit right now to loving God enough to give these fears to Him? If not, pray for the strength to do that within the next month.



As you go about your life today and every day, consider praying this prayer: *“Lord, today I want to go where the hurting people are and place myself between all the love that you are and all the pain they feel. Please pass your love through me and minister to their pain through me.”*

Thank God that He first loved us. Thank Him that His love, *agape* love, is freely given without conditions or expectations. Ask Him to grow your love for Him and for others. Ask for strength to love those you consider unlovable. Ask God to help you continue to struggle with what you have learned in this study, especially those things that you find difficult to understand or implement.

NOTES



Going Deeper

1. According to 1 John 4: 1-6, how would you apply personally and explain to others the way we are to test the spirits to see if they are of God? _____

2. According to 1 John 4: 1-6, how would you personally apply and explain to others the way a spirit confesses Christ to this world? _____

3. According to 1 John 4: 7-21, name and personally apply the ten reasons why John tells us we must love one another. _____

4. How would you explain and personally apply the way verse 16 of chapter 4 tells us that we can know God and become a conduit of God's love as another building block of assurance? _____

5. How would you explain and personally apply the way nine words in verse 17 describe authentic disciples who confess Jesus Christ in their spirits? ("... As He is, so are we in this world...") _____

6. How would you personally apply and explain to others the way perfect love would make it possible for us to eliminate fear and look forward to being judged by Jesus Christ with boldness? _____

7. What commandment (in 4: 21) do you think John was referencing in his final reason why we must love, and how would you apply this personally and explain it to others? _____

When God Pulls Back the Veil

Chapter 15 New Testament Audio Lesson #87



Objective: To introduce the books of Jude and Revelation



But you, dear friends, build yourselves up in your most holy faith and pray in the Holy Spirit. Keep yourselves in God's love as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life.

—Jude 20-21

The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show his servants what must soon take place. He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John, who testifies to everything he saw—that is, the word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ.

—Revelation 1:1-2

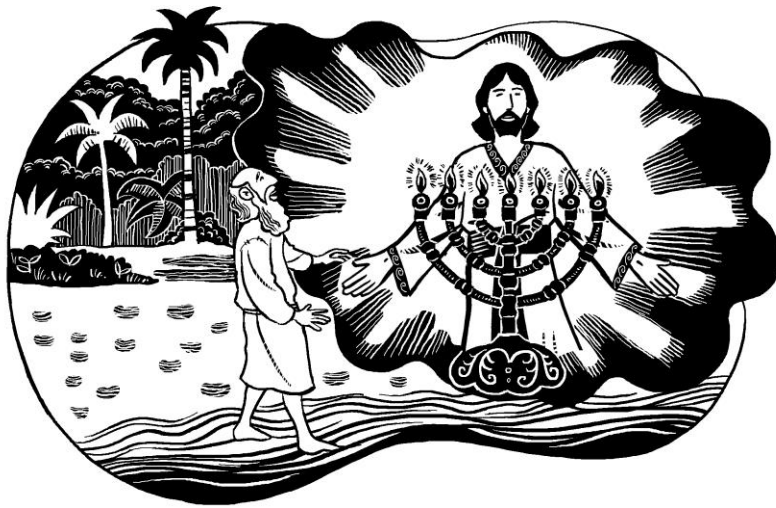
One of the shortest books in the New Testament, Jude was written by the Judas who scholars believe was, like James, one of the earthly brothers of Jesus. Jude addresses the problem of apostate teachers preaching cheap grace. These apostates were saying that God would not discipline His children. Using biblical examples, Jude makes it clear that God does not let His children do whatever they want.

Jude vividly describes the apostates as evil blemishes, fruitless trees, and wandering stars destined for darkness. He encourages the believers to reclaim the victims of the apostasy, stay true to the faith themselves, and learn to pray in the Holy Spirit.

The last book of the Bible, the Revelation, is perhaps the most difficult book of the Bible to understand. The word *revelation* is from a Greek word that means “to pull back a veil.” If it were not pulled back, we could never guess what was behind it. God revealed two areas of truth to us through prophets: the beginning, or creation, and the future. We need all of the other books of the Bible to help us understand the Revelation.

The book of Revelation begins with John on the Isle of Patmos because of his faith in Christ. Revelation is written in code, and we need the keys to break that code. The master key is the Holy Spirit. He not only teaches us spiritual things, but helps us understand and apply God's Word to our lives.

Another helpful key in breaking the code is knowledge of symbols or signs in the Bible. The Revelation is beautiful, an inspired sign language and a message from God to His people.



1. **True** or False: Scholars believe the epistle of Jude was written by a brother of Jesus and James.
2. **True** or False: Jude warns his readers about those in the Church who were teaching cheap grace.
3. True or **False**: The apostates were right about God not disciplining His children.
4. True or **False**: Revelation is filled with symbols we cannot begin to understand.

Choose all answers that apply.

5. Why did Jude not write about salvation?
 - a. He knew they understood everything already.
 - b. He was easily distracted from his purpose for writing.
 - c. He had to write about apostates who were pulling people away from the faith.**
 - d. He wanted to talk about Jesus.
6. How does Jude describe the apostates?
 - a. Wandering stars**
 - b. Brothers in Christ
 - c. Trees without fruit**
 - d. Mistaken Christians
7. What does Jude encourage the believers to do?
 - a. Build up their faith and help those who are wandering away**
 - b. Go to church every week and tithe
 - c. Do not have fellowship with the believers who had strayed
 - d. Leave the church and start a new one

8. Why was John on the Isle of Patmos?
 - a. He was old and went there to die in peace.
 - b. He had family and friends there.
 - c. He was on vacation.
 - d. He was exiled there for his faith in Christ.**

9. Why might those who organized the Bible have put the Revelation at the end?
 - a. We need the rest of Scripture to interpret it.**
 - b. They knew people would stop reading the Bible if they put the book toward the front.
 - c. The images would frighten people away from the rest of Scripture.
 - d. They did not know what to do with it.

10. What two huge events would we know nothing about if God had not pulled back the veil and showed His prophets?
 - a. The entry into the Promised Land
 - b. The destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah
 - c. The beginning and the end of the world**
 - d. The flood and the ark

11. What one thing must we have in order to begin to break the code of the Revelation?
 - a. Courage
 - b. Education
 - c. Intellect
 - d. The Holy Spirit**

12. What is the other key mentioned in this study that is required to break the code of Revelation?
 - a. Scriptural information about the signs mentioned**
 - b. Scientific code developed in the last three decades
 - c. A secret knowledge about numbers
 - d. A pastor to interpret it for us



The apostates in Jude took for granted God's gift of salvation and said that God would not discipline His children for sin or disobedience. Why is it heresy to teach that grace is cheap?

Make a chart with these headings, and fill it out as we work through the book of Revelation.

- 1st column: Sign
- 2nd column: Personal revelation (ask God to show you what the sign means)
- 3rd column: The Word (list other places where the sign has appeared in Scripture)
- 4th column: Commentaries (what scholars say about it)
- 5th column: Final Conclusions (your own thoughts about it)



Thank God for His costly gift of grace and ask forgiveness if you have taken it for granted. Ask God to help you approach the book of Revelation with eagerness, humility, and faith. Thank Him that you are His beloved child. Ask Him to help you to know Him better and to trust in Him, regardless of your circumstances. Thank Him that He is your hope for this life and the life to come.

NOTES



Going Deeper

1. We cannot help but be impressed with and consider how we should personally apply and explain to others the emphasis on doctrinal purity in the closing letters of John and in the letter of Jude. How do you personally apply these letters and explain them to others? _____

2. How do you explain and personally apply the hard reality that this apostle of love, John, was very hardline in his approach to how we are to relate to those who are not teaching the right truths about the person of Jesus Christ? _____

3. In the same way, what do you believe is the personal application of the awesome, graphic ways the letter of Jude describes the people who were teaching false doctrine? _____

4. How do you personally apply and explain to others the way Jude uses the 14th chapter of Numbers and Sodom and Gomorrah to teach us about the way the character of God is like a rainbow – a spectrum of attributes from love to wrath? _____

5. In what ways would the chart assignment given for the book of Revelation help you to understand and explain to others the last book of the Bible? _____

6. Which key that breaks the code of the encrypted message from God to his people (The Revelation) explains why those who organized the Bible placed this book as the last book in the Bible? _____

7. How would you personally apply and explain to others the symbol of “The Seven Spirits of God?” _____

The Sign Language of the Savior

Chapter 16 New Testament Audio Lesson #88



Objective: To understand the importance of the signs and symbols in the Revelation



To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood, and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father—to him be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen.

—Revelation 1:5b

A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit. The Spirit of the Lord will rest on him—the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of power, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord.

—Isaiah 11:1-2

When studying the Revelation, we need keys to help us unlock the mysteries inside. The Holy Spirit is the master key Who reveals to us the things to come.

The second key to this book is its symbols, because they are all used elsewhere in the Bible. One set of symbols is the seven spirits of God. Seven is the number of perfection or completeness, so these spirits are thought to be a composite or a complete and perfect expression of God. Isaiah 11:1-2 lists them. This passage refers to the Messiah to come, Jesus, who would be the complete expression of God. Similarly, Revelation 4 says that the seven lamps before the throne are the seven spirits of God.

The Lamb that looks like it has been slain has seven horns, which represent power, and seven eyes, which represent wisdom. This Lamb, Jesus, is the composite expression of the Spirit of God, with perfect wisdom and complete power. Jesus Christ is the only one who is always Spirit-filled.

Another symbol in the book of Revelation is the voice like a trumpet, which reminds us of the trumpet blast that will sound all over the world before the Rapture. The sea of glass refers to the laver used in the tabernacle for cleansing. The sea is solidified, meaning that because Jesus' blood cleansed us, in heaven we will not need to be cleansed again.

John sees a book perfectly sealed with seven seals, but no one is qualified to open it. This refers to the book of Ruth, which tells that the woman's debts were sealed up until after the kinsman-redeemer agreed to pay them by buying her back or redeeming her. In the Revelation, no one is willing or able to break the seal and pay the debt, so John weeps. Then the Lion of Judah, Jesus, steps up and breaks the seal. He paid our debt by His death.



1. True or **False**: When we break the code in the Revelation, we will know exactly what will happen when.
2. **True** or False: Jesus often calls Himself the Alpha and Omega, which are the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet.
3. True or **False**: The Revelation should come right after Genesis, because they are both revelations from God.
4. True or **False**: It is possible to always be Spirit-filled.

Choose all answers that apply.

5. How can we understand the symbols in the Revelation?
 - a. **Find where they occur elsewhere in Scripture and study them.**
 - b. Use our imaginations.
 - c. **Ask for help from the Holy Spirit.**
 - d. Just accept what others think they mean.
6. In the Revelation, why is Jesus the complete expression of God?
 - a. He has the voice of a mighty trumpet.
 - b. We do not know either of them well enough to know.
 - c. **He perfectly displayed the seven spirits of God.**
 - d. His physical qualities echoed those of God in heaven.

7. Which of these spirits are among the seven spirits of God?
- a. **Counsel**
 - b. Love
 - c. Forgiveness
 - d. **Knowledge**
8. The Lamb who looked like it had been slain had seven horns and seven eyes. Which of the seven spirits might they represent?
- a. Protection and vision
 - b. Stubbornness and foresight
 - c. **Power and wisdom**
 - d. Weapons and knowledge
9. What is a Spirit-filled person?
- a. Someone who speaks in tongues
 - b. **Someone who demonstrates the seven spirits of God**
 - c. Someone who acts very spiritual
 - d. Everyone who says he is a Christian
10. In this study, what might the trumpet signify?
- a. A call to worship
 - b. **The Rapture**
 - c. **The voice of God**
 - d. The wrath of God
11. What might the sea of glass represent?
- a. The beauty of heaven
 - b. **The reminder that we do not need spiritual cleansing in heaven**
 - c. The living water
 - d. The Sea of Galilee
12. Why does John weep at first over the book with seven seals?
- a. He wants to see what is inside but the angel will not let him.
 - b. **No one could pay the debt owed to God because of man's sin.**
 - c. He tries to open it but cannot.
 - d. It is incredibly beautiful.



Who is found worthy to open the book of the seven seals? Why?

The 24 elders who surround the throne of God are worthy to be near the throne. They have their own thrones, wear white robes and crowns, and hold harps and bowls of incense. They seem to hold a position of honor. Does your life honor God? What can you do today, this week, to honor Him?



Thank God for this vision of His glory in heaven. Thank Him that His Word is filled with symbols that tie the Old and New Testaments together and fill Bible study with mystery and discovery. Ask God for a passion to study and to know His Word. Pray that His Holy Spirit will reveal what He wants you to know about this book and how to apply it to your life. Pray for humility as you study it and share it with others.

NOTES



Going Deeper

1. How do you personally apply and teach others the way the symbols of the opening verses of chapter 4 describe God directing all of the worship taking place in heaven away from Himself and to His Son? _____

2. How does the reference to the carnelian, jasper and emerald jewels factor into that question? _____

3. In what ways do these seven lamp stands represent the seven spirits of God moving out into the world? _____

4. How can you personally apply and teach others a detailed account of the way the seven spirits of God applied to Jesus when He was here and to the risen, living Christ as He desires to live His life through us today? _____

5. What do the harps, crowns of gold, white robes and vials filled with incense tell us about the Elders around the throne who represent the leadership of the people of God? _____

6. What does the crystal sea of glass say about the state of our forgiveness on earth and in heaven? _____

7. In what ways do the four living creatures present an overview of the work of God in this world? _____

The Assignment of the Apostle

Chapter 17 New Testament Audio Lesson #89



Objective: To understand the outline and chronology of the book of Revelation



When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. Then he placed his right hand on me and said: “Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last. I am the Living One; I was dead, and behold I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades. Write, therefore, what you have seen, what is now and what will take place later.”

—Revelation 1:17-19

(Jesus said) “Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me”

—Revelation 3:20

An important key to unlocking the Revelation of Jesus Christ that John received on the isle of Patmos is the outline of the book. Jesus told John to record what he had seen and to address it to the seven churches. John would also write “the things which are,” such as what was happening in the churches, as well as the things that would happen in the future. These three points—the past, the present, and the future—make up the outline of the book.

In chapters two and three, Jesus addresses the seven churches that existed in Asia Minor at the time: Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, and Laodicea. His comments to the churches end with the phrase, “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches,” and He urges most of them to repent.

For example, the first church addressed is Ephesus, which has forsaken its first love, Jesus. If they do not repent, Jesus says He will remove their candlestick— their ministry.

Some scholars believe that these churches represent an outline of church history. If so, Laodicea, the last church addressed, represents the church today. Because they are lukewarm in their faith, Jesus is about to spit them out of His mouth. They think they are rich, but He calls them “wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked.” He reminds them that He disciplines those He loves and tells them to repent and open the door to fellowship with Him.

The fourth key to unlocking the Revelation is to understand the chronology of chapters 6-19, which make up the third part of the book’s outline and focus on the future. Chapters 4 and 5 examine worship in heaven, but chapter 6 begins the passages that are difficult to interpret. John describes the series of events that make up the Second Coming of Jesus Christ, the Great Tribulation.

In the next section, the Judgments of the Seven Seals, the Seven Trumpets and the Seven Bowls are difficult and awesome to read, and the added commentary is not in chronological order. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you as you read these passages.



1. True or **False**: The church at Sardis was neither hot nor cold.
2. True or **False**: What Jesus said to the churches does not apply to us today.
3. **True** or False: It is possible to outline the book of Revelation.
4. **True** or False: The commentary between the Judgments is not easy to understand.

Choose all answers that apply.

5. What is John's assignment?
 - a. To visit the churches
 - b. To escape from exile
 - c. To meet with the other apostles
 - d. To write what he sees**
6. What are the three divisions of the outline of the Revelation?
 - a. Earth, heaven, hell
 - b. Seals, trumpets, bowls
 - c. Past, present, future**
 - d. Jesus, God, Holy Spirit

7. Christ is in the midst of the seven lampstands, which represent the churches. What does he do?

- a. **He commands everyone to listen to what the Spirit has to say to the churches.**
- b. He turns his back on the lampstands.
- c. He gives all the churches the crown of life.
- d. He says He is pleased with all of them.

8. Revelation 3:20 is a famous verse. What does it mean?

- a. **Jesus will have fellowship with us again if we invite Him in.**
- b. **Do not be lukewarm spiritually.**
- c. In heaven, we will have our own houses.
- d. Nonbelievers should invite Him into their lives.

9. What is the series of events that John records in the Revelation?

- a. How he would be released from exile
- b. The churches' creation
- c. The churches' destruction
- d. **The last days and the Second Coming of Christ**

10. Why will God shorten the Great Tribulation to seven years?

- a. He will stop the process of the Second Coming so people can be saved.
- b. He will no longer want to pass judgment on the unredeemed.
- c. Jesus will beg Him to stop it.
- d. **Nothing will survive otherwise.**

11. What do the seals, trumpets, and bowls signify?

- a. The perfect spirits of God
- b. Gifts from God to the angels
- c. Gifts from the elders to God
- d. **Terrible judgments**

12. What are the new keys mentioned in this study that will help decode the Revelation?

- a. Instructions to the churches
- b. Language
- c. **Outline of book**
- d. **Chronology**



Why is it important that John notes he was “caught up in the Spirit” when he received the revelation from Christ?

Do you identify with the church of Ephesus or the church of Laodicea? Do you need to repent of anything today? If so, confess and repent of that right now.



Thank God that He has given us this message so that we will know the things to come. Ask Him to help you as you understand and apply what you learn in the book of Revelation. Pray that He will help you be ready when He comes. Thank Him for this glimpse of His awesome majesty and power. Thank Him that He will one day make things right and receive all the glory due Him. Thank Him, also, for His love and protection over you.

NOTES



Going Deeper

1. Explain how the assignment given to John in 1: 19 presents an outline of the book of Revelation. _____

2. Why were judgments introduced as things which **MUST** be hereafter? _____

3. How do you personally apply and explain to others the way the sealed scroll in chapter 5 relates to redemption and the Old Testament book of Ruth? _____

4. In what ways have the keys that break the code of the Revelation I have shared with you helped you to understand, apply and teach to others the book of Revelation? _____

5. How do you personally apply and explain to others the way the key I have shared with you regarding chapters 6-19 has helped you understand the most difficult part of this book? _____

6. How do you personally apply and teach others the way the book of Acts (see 1: 6-8), along with statements made by Jesus in Matthew 24: 36, teach us to be humble about our interpretation of the chronological order of the events that we refer to as the Second Coming of Jesus Christ? _____

7. What is your personal application and your perspective as you teach others regarding the reality that all the Scriptures that teach about the last things have a very practical application about the kind of people we should be, and the kind of lives we should live in this world? _____

Saints Sing and Sinners Salute

Chapter 18 New Testament Audio Lesson #90



Objective: To learn more keys to understanding the Revelation



In a loud voice they sang, “Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!”

—Revelation 5:12

Behold I come soon! Blessed is the one who keeps the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear it and take to heart what is written in it, because the time is near.

—Revelation 22:7

He who was sitting on the throne said, “I am making everything new!” ... He said, “It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To those who are thirsty I will give to drink without cost from the spring of the water of life.”

—Revelation 21:5-6

This is the last chapter in the Mini Bible College’s survey course of the Bible. We pray that, after you finish this study, you will continue to come to the Scripture by yourself often and hear what the Holy Spirit wants to teach you. We have covered four keys and they are: the Holy Spirit, the signs or symbols, the divisions of the book, and the chronology of chapters 6-19.

Now, for the fifth key: be humble about your interpretation of the chronology of the events and of John’s commentary in the book. Jesus said in Matthew that even He did not know when He will return, so we certainly cannot know for certain. Therefore, we should approach this book with humility.

Sixth, our main objective should be to worship God, rather than to understand or interpret everything in the Revelation. We can understand many things in it and we should obey them, but above all, our study of this prophetic book should move us to worship the King of kings and Lord of lords.

The seventh key is to ask why God has revealed these things. He does not owe us an explanation nor does He need us to bring His plans to fruition. Rather, His intent is for His Word to impact us. He pulled back the veil so we will live lives that bring Him glory.

Eighth, we should beware of wishful thinking. John tells us that the events in this book must come to pass. There is too much injustice in the world, so there must be judgment to set it right.

Ninth, we should remember that not everyone will be at the throne of God. Philippians 2 tells us that every knee will bow and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, but that does

not mean that everyone will be saved. Rather, it means that every creature, even those in hell, will confess Christ as Lord. Tenth, when we see God in all His glory, we will need to express the inexpressible. The saints will be singing a new song, and even sinners will be saluting Jesus from hell.

Other keys that help us to understand the code in the Revelation: a heavenly drama and an earthly drama are happening simultaneously; the commentary between the judgments is not in chronological order; and finally, comparing this book with other end-times Scriptures can help you better understand the events.



1. True or **False**: If you figure out the code of Revelation, you have a right to be proud.
2. **True** or False: No one but the Father knows when Jesus will return.
3. **True** or False: The most important reason to study the Revelation is to worship God, not to figure out every piece of the code.
4. **True** or False: Wishful thinking about the end times can lead us to deceive ourselves and others about what is going to happen.

Choose all answers that apply.

5. What is God's purpose for prophecy?
 - a. To make us figure out what it means.
 - b. To make us study the Word.
 - c. To hide the truth from some people.
 - d. To tell us about Jesus.**

6. Why is humility a key to understanding the code of the Revelation?
- a. **Humility allows us to stay open to the Holy Spirit's instruction.**
 - b. Humility closes our minds to other interpretations.
 - c. Humility only helps us if we think we might be wrong.
 - d. **Humility shows that we understand that we cannot know how or when everything will unfold.**
7. What is the right response to the Revelation?
- a. Obsessing about details
 - b. Debating with other Christians about your opinions
 - c. Ignoring other parts of the Bible to study the Revelation only
 - d. **Worshipping God**
8. What did the angel say when John fell down and worshipped him?
- a. "I am worthy of your worship."
 - b. **"Do not worship me. I am God's servant too."**
 - c. "You are right to worship me."
 - d. "Do not worship me yet."
9. Why would God tell us about the end times?
- a. He wants us to know so we will follow His plan for our lives.
 - b. He owes us an explanation, because we are created in His image.
 - c. He knows science will one day figure it out anyway.
 - d. **He wants us to live godly lives as we wait for His plans to unfold.**
10. According to the study, what will God give us so we can worship Him better?
- a. A heavenly choir
 - b. A heavenly worship leader
 - c. **A new song**
 - d. Voices like angels
11. What are the stories unfolding in the Revelation?
- a. The story of the churches
 - b. **The earthly story**
 - c. The creation story
 - d. **The heavenly story**
12. As we read the awesome, difficult passages in the Revelation, what should we keep in mind?
- a. **Jesus Christ is King of kings and Lord of lords.**
 - b. The language is symbolic so those terrible things will not really happen.
 - c. God will change His mind at the last minute and not carry out the Judgments.
 - d. We do not have to worry about it because it is far off into the future.



What are some things that you have taken to heart from your study of Revelation? What does God want you to do about those things?

Has the Holy Spirit uncovered any wishful thinking on your part about this study of the Revelation? Confess those things to Him now, and ask Him to change your thinking and help you trust Him and His plan.



Thank God for what He has shown and taught you through this study. Ask Him to continue to bring to mind what He has taught you. Ask Him to mold and shape you into a person who lives and loves like Jesus. Ask Him to remind you that He is on the throne, and He has already won the war with Satan. Thank God that, though heaven and earth will one day pass away, you will be with Him forever because your sin debt has been paid by the blood of the Lamb of God—Jesus the Christ—who was slain. Hallelujah!

NOTES



Going Deeper

1. How do you personally apply and teach others the significance of the reality that, on two occasions recorded in 19:10 and 22:8-9, when John wanted to worship the angel who made it possible for him to understand everything in this Revelation, he was rebuked and told not to worship the understanding but to **WORSHIP GOD**? _____

2. How do you personally apply and teach others the importance of not being guided by wishful thinking as you look behind the veil of this Revelation that God has given us? _____

3. How do you personally apply and teach others the significance of the reality that some from every tribe and nation will be there around the throne in heaven? (How did they get there?)

4. Why is it going to be necessary to give the people of God a new song when they gather around the Lamb on His throne in heaven? _____

5. What is your personal application and teaching strategy as you show the position of everything relative to the throne except the sinners who are saluting the Lamb while the great multitude of believers are singing a new song around the throne? _____

6. How do you personally apply and teach others that the Bible opens by asking us the question, "Where are you?" and closes implying the hard reality that where you will be then depends upon where you are now? _____

7. How do you personally apply and teach others that it is possible to do something about the quality of our eternity while we are still in this life? _____
