



# CHRISTIANITY

**COMPLEMENTARY COURSE**

Spanish - Russian - Portuguese - Brazilian - **English**

# CHRISTIANITY COMPLEMENTARY COURSE

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# INTRODUCTION

I'm sure you'll agree with me when I say that, no one can enter another person's home unless they're invited. For example, you cannot simply get into the United States of America unless you have your passport up to date and a duly stamped visa authorising you to do so. The same applies to the Kingdom of God! In order to get in you need to follow certain protocols.

## REPENTANCE OF DEAD WORKS

This lesson is the first of six, which make up the Complementary Course for new converts. Study the book thoroughly, reading all of the Biblical References. At the end of the book, you will find a test.

Answer the questions, without consulting the book. Looking for the answers in the book, would simply defeat the purpose of this exercise. The main reason of the test is to show you how much you have learnt and what you need to study again.

After having completed each test, simply tear off the test page and hand it in to the person in charge of this course at your local church.

If you don't understand a question, find someone who is able to help you: your home group leader, your Pastor or even an older brother or sister in Church that you can confide in.

Read all of the questions carefully and answer them in clear handwriting!

The other lessons of this course are:

- FAITH IN GOD
- BORN AGAIN
- WE ARE CHILDREN OF GOD
- WHY PRAY?

# 1- REPENTANCE OF DEAD WORKS

## I - SOME REASONS FOR THE IMPORTANCE OF THE DOCTRINE OF REPENTANCE

In this day and age many people, even among Christians, unfortunately do not live a prosperous life, filled with the blessings of God because they choose not to govern their lives according to the Word of God. They prefer to govern their lives according to the system dictated by this world.

Our spiritual life should be constructed the same way as a building is. First of all, foundations need to be dug in such a way that they will adequately support the building.

Please note that a building without firm foundations may survive a short while, but as soon as adverse conditions come, the building will fall.

The same can be said about our spiritual lives. For some people, things may appear to be going well, but when problems arise, they abandon God because they never took the time to develop a strong foundation in God.

I would like to draw your attention to the following: What is more important to you?

Governing your life according to the insecure worldly system or reading the Bible and practicing God's wise teachings?

God came into existence before any of us did!

He created all things; therefore, there is no one more knowledgeable to teach us how to live a successful life.

Wouldn't you agree?

## 1) WITHOUT REPENTANCE THERE IS NO SALVATION

Some will say, "I haven't got anything to ask forgiveness for. I am a good person, I don't harm anyone, I go to church every Sunday, and I donate money to charities, so I'll surely go to heaven when I die."

However, you have to be born again in order to enter the Kingdom of God. *(John 3:3)*

Then once you have been born again, you have to renew your mind with the Word of God.

You cannot accept Jesus Christ as your personal Saviour today, and tomorrow continue living as before. The importance of repentance will remain with us forever.

## 2) JOHN THE BAPTIST PREACHED ...

In the beginning of his ministry, John the Baptist preached that no one could enter the Kingdom of God without repentance.

*Mathew 3:1-2 - "In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!"*

### 3) JESUS PREACHED...

Jesus also began His ministry preaching about repentance.

*Mathew 4:17* - "From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

### 4) JESUS TOLD US TO PREACH ...

*Luke 24:47* - "and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem."

*Mark 6:12* - "So they went out and preached that people should repent."

### 5) THE DISCIPLES PREACHED

#### PETER:

*Acts 2:38* - "Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."

#### PAUL:

*Acts 26:20* - "but declared first to those in Damascus and in Jerusalem, and throughout all the region of Judea, and then to the Gentiles, that they should repent, turn to God, and do works befitting repentance."

### 6) IT'S ONE OF GOD'S COMMANDMENTS

*Acts 17:30* - "Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent".

### 7) IT'S REFRESHING TO THE SOUL

*Acts 3:19* - "Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord."

## 8) IT SETS US FREE FROM ETERNAL CONDEMNATION

*Luke 13:3 - "I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish."*

(Also read verses 4 and 5).

## II - WHAT IS TRUE REPENTANCE?

Biblical repentance requires 3 things:

- 1- You must change the way you think.
- 2- You must change your feelings.
- 3- You must change your attitudes.

### **A - TO REPENT YOU MUST CHANGE THE WAY YOU THINK**

The word "repentance" means a change of direction, a change in the way you think, which implies that a person who truly repents of their sins experiences 2 situations in their life:

They become disgusted by what they are doing (thinking) and after repenting they do not repeat their sinful actions (thoughts).

For example, if you are driving in a certain direction and suddenly you realize that you are going in the wrong direction, you turn back (find the correct road) and begin driving in the right direction.

*Mathew 21:28-30 - "But what do you think? A man had two sons, and he came to the first and said, 'Son, go, work today in my vineyard. He answered and said, 'I will not,' but afterward he regretted it and went. Then he came to the second and said likewise. And he answered and said, 'I go, sir,' but he did not go.*

Before I was born again, I thought I had a wonderful life and that I was a good person, but when I began reading the Bible I realized the following;



**Isaiah 64:6** - *“But we are all like an unclean thing, and all our righteousness are like filthy rags; We all fade as a leaf, And our iniquities, like the wind, Have taken us away.*

*Romans 3:23 - “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”*

**Isaiah 64:6** (New Living Translation)

*“We are all infected and impure with sin. When we display our righteous deeds, they are nothing but filthy rags. Like autumn leaves, we wither and fall, and our sins sweep us away like the wind”*

The words “all” include me as well! I then realized that I was a sinner as well and that I had to change the opinion I had about myself.

Today I know that I wasn’t really a good person.

I started to look at myself as Jesus saw me: a sinner, condemned, deserving only to go to hell.

I had to change the way I thought about myself and about my sins.

In the past, I thought that if God condemned good people, like myself, to eternal damnation, he was being unfair, but now I realize that:

**Romans 3:12** - *“They have all turned aside; they have together become unprofitable; There is none who does good, no, not one.”*

Furthermore, I learnt that;

**John 3:16** - *“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”*

I now no longer look at God as a God of retribution, but as a God of justice and love, who did what he could to save man from going to hell.

**Ezekiel 33:11** - *“Say to them: ‘As I live,’ says the Lord GOD, ‘I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live. Turn, turn from your evil ways! For why should you die, Oh house of Israel?’”*

I’ve also changed my thoughts concerning God’s justice and righteousness.

### **Ezekiel 33:8-12 (New Living Translation)**

**8** *When I say to the wicked, ‘O wicked man, you shall surely die!’ and you do not speak to warn the wicked from his way, that wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood I will require at your hand.*

**9** *Nevertheless if you warn the wicked to turn from his way, and he does not turn from his way, he shall die in his iniquity; but you have delivered your soul.*

**10** *“Therefore you, O son of man, say to the house of Israel: ‘Thus you say, “If our transgressions and our sins lie upon us, and we pine away in them, how can we then live?”’”*

**11** *Say to them: ‘As I live,’ says the Lord GOD, ‘I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live. Turn, turn from your evil ways! For why should you die, O house of Israel?’”*

*The Fairness of God’s Judgment*

**12** *“Therefore you, O son of man, say to the children of your people: ‘The righteousness of the righteous man shall not deliver him in the day of his transgression; as for the wickedness of the wicked, he shall not fall because of it in the day that he turns from his wickedness; nor shall the righteous be able to live because of his righteousness in the day that he sins.’”*

On the day of Pentecost Apostle Peter called everyone to repent that is, he asked them to change the way they thought about Christ. (*Acts 2:14-40*).

They thought that Jesus was merely a man, but Peter spoke to them about the resurrection of Jesus from the dead and His ascension to Heaven, which confirmed that Jesus was the Son of God and the Messiah(Saviour) that they had been awaiting.

He also told them that as a result, they should change their way of thinking and accept Jesus as their God and Saviour.

## **B - YOU MUST CHANGE YOUR FEELINGS.**

A frivolous attitude towards sin always produces superficial conversions.

Those who do not understand how dark and evil sin is and that it is an offence to a loving God, will never understand the need to change their heart

Only when man, confronts his sin in the light of God's holiness, will he come to terms with the true condition of his heart. This realization that we have sinned and that we are unworthy of Salvation will make us hate the sin in our lives!

Some people come to me and say; "Pastor, I have never hurt anyone, I have always been honest and good to others, I have always paid all my debts..."

I then reply; "What do you think, that God thinks of you?"

Let's read about the Pharisee and the Tax Collector.

**Luke 18:9-14, 19:1-10** show us two different attitudes toward sin. The Pharisee's sin, difficult to perceive, was very well hidden behind his own righteousness; but the Tax Collector's sin, visible to both himself and God, appeared to be so dark and huge that he beat his breast, showing profound sadness for having sinned against a holy God.

**(Luke 18:13)**

When you think about the sin in your life with honesty, you will feel "Godly sorrow". This feeling is Biblical:

***II Corinthians 7:10*** - *"For Godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death."*

The feeling "Godly sorrow" will bring you to change the way you think and turn your back on sin. However, not all feelings of sorrow towards sin, are of God.

For example; Whilst a man was robbing a shop, he was surprised by the proprietor and killed him so that he could escape. This murderer was eventually caught by the police and sentenced to death.

Whilst in jail awaiting his death, the murderer stated that he regretted killing the shop keeper, when in actual fact, what he truly regretted was being caught and condemned to death. This is not true repentance.

A young woman was involved in prostitution for many years because of her beauty and sensuality. Whilst on her death bed, as a result of her lifestyle, she repents and wishes to start her life a new. What she really regret however, is having reaped what she sowed.

If she had been given the opportunity to start again, I believe that she would have returned to prostitution to satisfy her carnal desires because she was an adulteress at heart.

*II Corinthians 7:10 - "For Godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, ... but the sorrow of the world produces death."*

Having Godly sorrow means understanding that when we sin, we go against God's commandments and that as a result, we're sinning against Him.

For example, David went against God's commandment (*II Samuel 15:24*), but He repented with all his heart.

Read *Psalms 51*.

However, Saul expressed a different attitude towards his sin (*I Samuel 15:24*). He regarded his sin, very lightly and of no consequence. He tried to hide his sin from his people so that he could continue being king as though nothing had happened.

Therefore, true repentance will make a person regret ever having sinned in such a way that they will completely turn their back on sin and ask God for His forgiveness.

## **C- YOU MUST CHANGE YOUR ATTITUDE**

A change in your attitude involves confessing your sins to God, abandoning sin and accepting Salvation.

You have to fulfil all three conditions.  
The prodigal son said;

*Luke 15:18, 20 - "I will arise and go .... And he arose and came to his father ... "*

Repentance is not only having feeling bad about the sins you've committed, but it is also being determined not to sin again.

*1 John 1:8-9 - "If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."*

The correct attitude towards sin is:

## **1 - CONFESSING YOUR SIN BEFORE GOD.**

Some tend to hide their mistakes.

Others admit their errors but always have excuses, which they present to God, "Oh God, I sinned, but you know, it wasn't my fault because..."

This way, God won't forgive you.

It doesn't help to hide our sin from others and from God. People who hide their sin do not grow spiritually.

The Bible teaches us that God knows about everything that is happening in your life.

*Proverbs 15:3 - "The eyes of the LORD are in every place, keeping watch on the evil and the good."*

Sometimes we sin against God by offending our brothers and sisters in Christ. In these situations we need to talk to the person whom we offended and ask for their forgiveness.

Jesus taught us:

*Mathew 5:23-24 - "Therefore if you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and*

*offer your gift.”*

**James 5:16** - *“Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much..”*

## **2 - TURN YOUR BACK ON SIN.**

Sometimes, you find people that derive pleasure in confessing their sins repeatedly to such an extent that they relive their sin. But, according to the Word of God, we are taught that when we confess our sins to God, we must forget about them.

We must forget that which God has forgotten.

**Isaiah 55:7** - *“Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the LORD, and He will have mercy on him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon..”*

**Proverbs 28:13** - *“He who covers his sins will not prosper, but whoever confesses and forsakes them will have mercy..”*

Abandoning sin means never looking back on it. If we could see sin for what it really is we'd never go back to it again because we'd know that, that was the only way that we could be cleansed by the blood of Jesus.

**1 John 1:7** - *“... and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.”*

## **3 - TURNING TO GOD**

Abandoning sin has no meaning if you do not turn to God.

Read **1 Thessalonians 1:9**

*“... and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God.”*

**Acts 26:18** - *“... in order to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins ...”*

### **III - HOW DO WE REPENT?**

#### **A - REPENTANCE IS A GIFT FROM GOD.**

Repentance cannot be achieved by our personal effort: it is a gift from God.

You might ask: “How can I be held responsible if I do not have that gift?”

The responsibility we have in this matter is recognizing our inability to repent.

As a result, we realize that we need to find refuge in someone greater than ourselves and that is when we become dependant on the grace of God.

We soon realize that only God can change our hearts (bring true repentance) and that there is nothing we can do on our own.

It is true that man likes to control everything, but only when confronted with his weaknesses does he seek refuge in God. The bible teaches us that Jesus is the author and finisher of our faith.

He is the beginning and the end.  
Life begins in God. Actually, God is life.

Therefore, repentance is a gift from God: by allowing His Son Jesus Christ to die for the world on the cross, God the Father touched man with His eternal love.

Whosoever recognises this love (goodness) and realizes that without God he is weak and sinful, shall experience true repentance.



*Acts 11:18 - "When they heard these things they became silent; and they glorified God, saying, "Then God has also granted to the Gentiles repentance to life."*

*Acts 5:30-31 - "The God of our fathers raised up Jesus whom you murdered by hanging on a tree. Him God has exalted to His right hand to be Prince and Savior; to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins."*

## **B - GOD USES MAN**

Whenever, God called His people to repent, He gave them the capacity to obey His commandments.

It is not just any message that produces repentance, but God uses the preaching of His Gospel as an instrument to call us to repentance. This message should be preached under the power of the Holy Spirit.

*(I Thessalonians 1:5-10)*

*Acts 2:37, 38, 41*

*"Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?"*

*Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ... Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them."*

*Romans 2:4 - "Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance?"*

*II Peter 3:9 - The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance."*

**Revelation 3:19** - *“As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent.”*

**Hebrews 12: 6, 10,11** - *“For whom the LORD loves He chastens, and scourges every son whom He receives.*

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

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

These scriptures show us that at times God may punish His children in the hope that they will repent.

God might also use a church member to advise us to return to God.

**II Timothy 2:24-25** - *“And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient, in humility correcting those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth.”*

## **IV - THE RESULTS OF TRUE REPENTANCE**

### **A - REPENTANCE CAUSES JUBILATION IN HEAVEN.**

**Luke 15:7, 10** - *“I say to you that likewise there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine just persons who need no repentance.*

*Likewise, I say to you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”*

### **B - REPENTANCE BRINGS A FRESHNESS TO OUR LIVES – FORGIVENESS OF SINS**

**Acts 3:19** - *“Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord.”*

*Isaiah 55:7* - "Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the LORD, and He will have mercy on him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon."

### **C - REPENTANCE INITIATES AN OUTPOURING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**

*Acts 2:38* - "Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."

When someone deliberately refuses to repent, they hinder the transforming power of the Holy Spirit to flow into their lives.

## **V - REPENTANCE FROM DEAD WORKS**

### **A - WHAT ARE DEAD WORKS ?**

In *Hebrews 6:1*

*"Therefore, leaving the discussion of the elementary principles of Christ, let us go on to perfection, not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works ..."*

Dead works are the things you do that produce death.

You have to repent from having done these things and never do them again.

*Galatians 5:19-21* - "Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God."

**IDOLATRY** – Images, statues, amulets

*(Exodus 20:1)*

**WITCHCRAFT** – horoscopes, mediums, tarot cards, voodoo, spiritualism, omens, divination, consulting the dead...

*(Deuteronomy 18:9-12)*

“When you come into the land which the LORD your God is  
Infidelity towards God – *Revelation 21:6*

### **ARGUING, CRITICISING, ACCUSING, JUDGING**

If you have done any of these things, then you have sinned.

**PROMISCUITY** – Adultery, theft, fraud

Galatians 5:19-21

### **DEBAUCHERY, UNFORGIVING, HATRED, GLUTTONY**

You need to make a decision now.

If you have been involved in any of these things, you must  
repent now.

Otherwise, you will not live the prosperous life, which God  
has ordained for you.

The Bible teaches us that God can have no association with  
sin. Therefore, those who are involved in any of the above  
mentioned acts will not enter the kingdom of heaven.

*Revelation 21:7-8 - “He who overcomes shall inherit all  
things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son. But the  
cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually im-  
moral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part  
in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is  
the second death.”*

Confess your sins to God now and He is faithful to forgive you.

*Acts 3:19 - "Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord."*

## VI - SUMMARY OF THE LESSON

The importance of repentance is clearly emphasised in the Bible.

Repentance involves three things:

### 1 - CHANGE THE WAY YOU THINK

Accept the blame for your own sin by recognizing that it is a direct result of a corrupted soul and of the incapability you have of being any better without God.

The Bible calls it, knowledge or awareness of your sin.

You can compare *Romans 3:20* with *Romans 1:32*

When this knowledge isn't accompanied by "Godly sorrow", or by the decision to abandon the sins you have committed, it will indeed make you become afraid of being punished but it won't give you a feeling of disgust when you think about them.

### 2 - CHANGE YOUR FEELINGS.

This change is evident by your remorse towards the sin you committed against a Holy God.

Our feeling towards sin should be similar to the remorse King David expressed:

*Psalm 51:2, 10, 14 - "Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.*

*Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.*

*Deliver me from the guilt of bloodshed, O God, the God of my salvation ..."*

When you feel remorse towards your sin, you will inevitably abandon it and desire to be forgiven and cleansed.

If not, then your feelings of remorse are compared to Jude's (who betrayed Jesus) and the outcome of your sin will be spiritual and physical death as with Jude.

*Mathew 27:3-5* - "Then Judas, His betrayer, seeing that He had been condemned, was remorseful and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, saying, "I have sinned by betraying innocent blood." And they said, "What is that to us? You see to it!" Then he threw down the pieces of silver in the temple and departed, and went and hanged himself."

### **3 - CHANGE YOUR ATTITUDE**

Abandon sin and desire forgiveness and sanctification.

*Psalms 51:5, 7, 10* - "Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin my mother conceived me.

*Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.*

*Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me."*

*Jeremiah 25:5* - "They said, 'Repent now everyone of his evil way and his evil doings, and dwell in the land that the LORD has given to you and your fathers forever and ever."

The type of repentance that is mentioned in this verse is the most important one of all because your repentance is merely a superficial one if you do not also decide to abandon the sins you have committed.

## 2 - FAITH IN GOD

### I - THE IMPORTANCE OF THE DOCTRINE OF FAITH

Many Christians don't allow God to operate in their lives because they don't understand the ways in which God wants to bless them.

Sometimes we might think we have a problem with God when in fact, he has a problem with us: He cannot bless us more due to our lack of faith.

God doesn't change. We're the ones who have to change. We have to abide by God's laws.

The Bible says that we need to have Faith in order to please God. When a baby is born, its muscles are not yet fully developed. and even though it possesses all of it's organs, they're still small and they need to grow and to develop.

When we give our lives to Jesus, God puts a portion of faith in our hearts but it's our job to grow spiritually and to develop the muscles of our faith.

*Hebrews 11:6 – “But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.”*

Faith is the only thing God asks of us in order to obtain his favour. We have to believe that God exists and that He rewards those who earnestly seek Him.

Jesus said that faith is the greatest virtue one can have.

Despite being persistent in seeking Jesus, the Canaanite woman, described in **Matthew 15:21-28**, was rewarded not for her persistence, but for her faith.

**Matthew 15:28** – *“Then Jesus answered and said to her, “O woman, great is your faith! Let it be to you as you desire...”*

A centurion approached Jesus with humility, but it was because of his faith that his servant was healed.

**Matthew 8:10** - *“... Assuredly, I say to you, I have not found such great faith, not even in Israel!”*

**Matthew 8:13** - *“...”Go your way; and as you have believed, so let it be done for you.” And his servant was healed that same hour.”*

A blind man prayed sincerely, but received his healing because of his faith:

**Mark 10:52** - *Then Jesus said to him, “Go your way; your faith has made you well.” And immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus on the road.”*

In **II Peter 1:5-7** we see that faith is considered to be the root, or the foundation, by which seven aspects of our spiritual character are developed.

These 7 aspects are:

**II Peter 1:8** – *“... you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.”*

**Hebrews 11:6** – *“... for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.”*



Nobody can bear fruit in the knowledge of God if they doubt his existence.

Apostle Paul lists three virtues in *I Corinthians 13:13*. He claims that Love is the most important of these, however he also says that faith is the foundation for love as well as for hope.

*Hebrews 11:1 – “Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.”*

Faith is the firm conviction of facts that you don't yet see; because how can we love someone we've never seen, if we're not sure whether He exists or not?

*1 Peter 1:8-9 – “whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, receiving the end of your faith—the salvation of your souls.”*

Our faith is based on Jesus which means that having a feeling of fear towards the circumstances that occur in our lives, is in fact, doubting His power to answer our prayers in troubled times.

## II - WHAT IS FAITH?

**FAITH IN GOD IS:** Believing that God exists; believing that He does what He promises; believing that he is there for us in times of trouble.

Faith is like a magnet that pulls towards you the things that in fact, already rightfully belong to you. They belong to you because they were given to by Jesus on the Cross of Calvary.

Faith also gets rid of the problems that the devil brings.

Faith is also a force that removes mountains from your path.

Basically there are two types of faith:

A - Human, natural faith.

B - Godly Faith

### **A - HUMAN, NATURAL FAITH**

It is the kind of faith that everyone has, even non-Christians. For example, many people travel by airplane, and they have faith in the plane and in the pilot.

They travel by car and have faith in the tyres, they believe that they won't become loose when the car starts moving. If they drive over a bridge, they have faith in the engineers who built it and they have faith that it will carry the weight of the cars that are passing by.

*On the other hand when Jesus says: "I am your Lord, I will supply all your needs, according to my endless richness, and I will supply abundantly."*

Some still say:

*"I don't know, I don't know..."*

Often people have more faith in their boss, than in Jesus. Normally people even consult a doctor, and believe in everything he says will happen to them. They have more faith in their doctor than in Jesus.

### **B – GODLY FAITH**

Jesus was a man of faith! Jesus was the most successful man in the world!

Everything he needed, he had; all he wanted to do, he did. He even died willingly.

In **Joshua 1:8** we see how the Lord told Joshua the secret of success:

Speak the Word

*(This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth...),  
meditate on the Word (meditate in it day and night...),  
practise the Word (that you may observe to do according to  
all that is written in it...)*

## **FAITH IN GOD IS RELATED TO FOUR THINGS:**

### **1- BELIEVING IN THE PROMISES OF GOD (NOT DOUBTING THEM).**

Faith is not what we often think it is or what we want it to be; it is not based on what one says or on what tradition says, but it is believing in God's promises to us.

Faith is not a leap in the dark, it's not something that you need to feel uncertain about. It is trusting in what God has promised us.

*Hebrews 11:1 – “Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.”*

Faith is the evidence of the things YOU DO NOT SEE.  
Which things? Those that God has promised.

So what does God promise? It is all written in the Bible. Many Christians do not even have a Bible. How can someone say he has faith, if he doesn't know what God promises in his Word? Faith is based on the knowledge of the Word of God.

However, we not only need to know it. we must believe that it is true.

**John 17:17** – “... Your word is truth.”

**Mark 12:32** - “Well said, Teacher. You have spoken the truth, for there is one God, and there is no other but He.”

**John 16:30** – “Now we are sure that You know all things, and have no need that anyone should question You. By this we believe that You came forth from God.”

**John 6:69** – “Also we have come to believe and know that You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”

Trusting the Word:

**1 John 5:14-15** – “Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.”

Believing in the Word is believing in the One who spoke the words that are written in the Bible.

**Psalms 9:10** – “And those who know Your name will put their trust in You; For You, LORD, have not forsaken those who seek You.”

Living by faith is not a leap in the dark, on the contrary, it allows you to walk in the light .

**Psalms 119:130** – “The entrance of Your words gives light; It gives understanding to the simple.”

**Psalms 119:105** – “Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.”

Not doubting – not questioning God:

“Is this really going to work?”

**James 1:5-6** – “...let him ask of God,... it will be given to him. But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind.”

**Mark 11:24** – “Therefore I say to you, whatever things you

*ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them.”*

***Hebrews 11:13** – “These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.”*

## **2 - FILL YOUR HEART WITH THE WORD OF GOD**

Meditate on the Word of God. Listen to the Word.

Faith is based on the knowledge you have of the Word of God. Whosoever wants to be rich in faith, has to be rich in the knowledge of the Word of God.

Paul wrote to the Romans, teaching them about how faith comes:

***Romans 10:17** – “So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”*

Whoever listens to the Word of God and pays attention to it will receive life.

***Proverbs 4:20-23** - “My son, give attention to my words; Incline your ear to my sayings ... For they are life to those who find them, And health to all their flesh. Keep your heart with all diligence, For out of it spring the issues of life.”*

God’s advice on how to lead a successful life can be found in the book of Joshua:

***Joshua 1:8** - “...meditate in it day and night...”.*

## **3 – SPEAK ACCORDING TO THE WORD OF GOD**

God says in His Word that you are healthy, He says that you have been healed.

God says that you are able do anything, because greater

is He who is in you, than satan, who is in this world.

Agree with God and you will prosper:

*Joshua 1:8* - "...This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth..." (Speak the Word)

#### **4 - ACT ACCORDING TO THE WORD OF GOD.**

Obedience:

*1 Samuel 15:22* - "Then Samuel said: "Has the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, As in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, And to heed than the fat of rams."

It is better to obey, to do what God says, than to bring sacrifices.

*Luke 6:46* - "But why do you call Me 'Lord, Lord,' and not do the things which I say?"

In *Joshua 1:8* we read that we should practice the Word of God – "... that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it..."

Faith is acting according to the Word of God. It's when, you are in Jesus, and His Word is inside of you. (*John 15:7*)

*John 3:36* – "He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him."

*1 John 5:12* – "He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life."

*Hebrews 4:2* – "For indeed the gospel was preached to us as well as to them; but the word which they heard did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in those who heard it."

### III - THE ORIGIN OF FAITH

Faith is not a human skill; it is a gift from God: God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit work together in the process of Faith.

Everybody who is saved in Jesus receives a measure of Faith from God.

*Romans 12:3 – “For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith.”*

By looking at Jesus, the Author and Finisher of our Faith (*Hebrews 12:2*), we will walk in victory and we will remain steadfast regardless of the problems we might face.

For as long as Peter kept on looking at Jesus he was able to walk on the water.

As soon as he started being afraid of the wind and the waves, and paying attention to the circumstances that surrounded him, he began drowning.

It's our job as Christians to develop this faith in our hearts as is written in *1 Corinthians 12*

Although the Holy Spirit is the One who places a measure of faith in our hearts.

*1 Corinthians 12:9 - “...to another faith by the same Spirit.”*

At one time Jesus' disciples asked Him: “make our faith greater”, but faith is like a muscle that has to be exercised in order to grow; our faith only grows by hearing the Word of God.

*Romans 10:17*—“So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”

## IV - FAITH AND WORKS

### A - FAITH WITHOUT WORKS IS DEAD

Apostle James shows us that our works are the demonstration of our faith.

We are justified before God because of the blood of Jesus and because of his works and we are justified before Man by the good works that we do as a natural consequence of having a true, living faith.

When God looks at us he sees the heart that he saved but others only see us from the outside.

They see the result of what is in our heart, the fruits of faith which are our good works.

#### *James 2:14-20 -*

*“14 What does it profit, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can faith save him?”*

*15 If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food,*

*16 and one of you says to them, “Depart in peace, be warmed and filled,” but you do not give them the things which are needed for the body, what does it profit?*

*17 Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.*

*18 But someone will say, “You have faith, and I have works.” Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works.*

*19 You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe—and tremble!*



*20 But do you want to know, O foolish man, that faith without works is dead?"*

## **B – SOME PEOPLE SAY THEY HAVE FAITH WHEN IN FACT THEY DON'T**

Our faith can be measured by the fruits that we bear:

*Matthew 7:20 - "Therefore by their fruits you will know them."*

## **V - THE RESULTS OF OUR FAITH**

### **A - WE ARE SAVED BY FAITH**

*Ephesians 2:8-9 – "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast."*

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

Not only are we saved by faith, but we must also live by faith:

*Romans 1:17– "... The just shall live by faith."*

We are sanctified by faith:

*Acts 26:18 – "to open their eyes, in order to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in Me."*

We are set aside for God:

*1 Peter 1:5 – "Who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time."*

**B - FAITH GIVES US PEACE, REST, SECURITY AND JOY**

Faith makes us feel safe and protected, grateful and joyful.

*Isaiah 26:3* – “You will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on You, because he trusts in You.”

*Philippians 4:6-7* – “Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”

*Romans 5:1* – “Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

*John 14:1* - “Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me.”

Salvation doesn't depend on what we feel, meaning that we don't necessarily have to feel any differently in order to be sure that we're saved.

This is because our salvation doesn't depend on what we feel but on what the Word of God says.

We have to read the scriptures so that we're able to discover the “truths” that are contained within them. Combining this knowledge with our faith will allow us to experience a feeling of certainty.

So we conclude that the way we feel is a direct result of the truth and the faith that we have in our hearts and that it shouldn't be a decisive factor in assuring us of our salvation. Many people want to feel something before they're able to believe in God's word but He ordained things to work the other way around.

His ways are different from ours and we only make a mess of things by wanting to do them our way, thus becoming confused, doubtful and afraid.

Having a firm faith in Christ based on His unchangeable Word is the secret to having a feeling of peace, rest, security and perfect joy.

### **C - FAITH ALLOWS US TO DO THE SAME THINGS JESUS DID**

*Hebrews 11:32-34 – “And what more shall I say? For the time would fail me to tell of Gideon and Barak and Samson and Jephthah, also of David and Samuel and the prophets: who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, became valiant in battle, turned to flight the armies of the aliens.”*

According to Jesus there are no limits to the power of faith. By faith Jesus’ disciples will be able to do greater things than their master did.

Faith is a great source of power for a believer.

“What can I do?” isn’t the most important question that a believer can ask himself but instead he should ask himself this: “How much am I able to believe in?”

*Mark 9:23 - “... all things are possible to him who believes..”*

Always have faith in God. Place your trust in God and then He will set you free, He will heal you, He will save you and there will be no limits to what you can do for God in favour of humanity.



# 3 - BORN AGAIN

## I - THE IMPORTANCE OF THE DOCTRINE OF BEING BORN AGAIN

The doctrine of Born Again is very important because the Bible teaches us clearly that no one can be a child of God unless they are born again.

*John 3:1-2 - "There was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. This man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, "Rabbi, we know that You are a teacher come from God; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him."*

Jesus answered him, *"Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."*

Verses 4 and 5 say:

*"Nicodemus said to Him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?" Jesus answered, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God."*

This man was the prince of a Synagogue.

He played a similar role to that of a Pastor nowadays.

Jesus told him that nobody could enter the Kingdom of God without first being born again. As a result, we can draw the conclusion that without Born Again there is no salvation.

Now let's take a look at what Born Again is:

Just before a mother gives birth to her child, her waters break.

This is why Jesus spoke about being born of the water and of the Spirit.

Babies are born into this world through their mother's womb and as a result, they're born with the wrong nature.

To enter the Kingdom of God, one must be born of the Spirit.

How can we be born of the Spirit?

How can we be born again?

## II - THE DEFINITION OF BEING BORN AGAIN

Being born again can only happen through an act of God.

Through it we become a member of His family – it is a Spiritual Birth.

Many people from all kinds of social backgrounds, look for other ways in which to receive salvation..

Let's take a look at some of those alternatives.

## III - THE NATURE OF BEING BORN AGAIN

### A - WHAT IS NOT BEING BORN AGAIN?

#### 1- BAPTISM.

Some state that the Biblical passages of *John 3:5* and *Titus 3:5* teach us that baptism is essential in order to be saved.

*John 3:5- "... Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God."*

*Titus 3:5- "... He saved us, through the washing of regeneration "*

However if we look at the context of these and other related

scriptures, it becomes clear that their meaning is metaphoric, and that they're simply trying to point out the purifying power of the Word of God.

Other scriptures reaffirm this truth:

*John 15:3* – “You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you.”

*The Word of God is the instrument that brings a new birth as we can see in the following scriptures:*

*James 1:18* – “Of His own will He brought us forth by the word of truth...”

*1 Peter 1:23* – “Having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever.”

The eunuch from Ethiopia said:

*Acts 8:36, 38* – “... See, here is water. What hinders me from being baptized?”

So he commanded the chariot to stand still. And both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and he baptized him”

Here it says that Philip only baptized the eunuch after he started believing.

## **2- A REFORMED LIFE.**

To reform means to reconstruct or to re-establish something that is falling apart.

In the Spiritual sense it would be better if you could change your life on your own, due to your own strength, but you can't... Being born again is a supernatural act of God.

***Ephesians 2:8-10** – “For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.”*

According to this Biblical passage we can see that regeneration is not a work in progress, or a slow process that leads us in God's direction; on the contrary, it's a tremendous work of God done in our favour.

We are made new in Jesus Christ from the moment we accept him.

'GRACE' means receiving something that you do not deserve. When parents give their children food, they don't need to pay them for it. Why do parents do that? Because they love their children.

Children do nothing to deserve their beds, furniture, meals, school and clothes.

What have we done to deserve the Salvation that God gives us? Nothing. What have we given to God? Nothing!

Most people only give God their sorrow and sadness. But God still loves them.

When God saves us, he does it for love, for grace, for "free"!

Nobody deserves anything, but God saves us because of the



love that he has for us. If our actions could save us, it would not have been necessary for Jesus to come to Earth. It would simply be enough for us to do good deeds.

NO! There is no good deed that is worth enough to buy our salvation. We are a new creation.

When we receive Jesus as our Saviour, we are made a new creation, not physically, but spiritually.

Our exterior doesn't change, the change we experience is an inner change. We are transformed from the inside-out. This change starts in our spirit which is the part of our being that holds our true identity.

Being born Again takes place inside of us, in our spirits. It doesn't change us on the outside, which is why we still look the same to others; instead, our true identity which is our spiritual being, changes..

Religion tries to change people on the outside, BY LAYING DOWN RULES AND LAWS that don't work.

## **B - WHAT IS BEING BORN AGAIN?**

### **1- BEING BORN AGAIN.**

Being Born Again is a divine gift – a new life; a new creation.

It is not the adaptation of an old nature, but the receiving of a new nature.

As soon as someone repents from their sins, turns to God for help and decides to receive Jesus, a new nature is given to

them by God.

*Everyone who is not yet born again is already dead in their “trespasses” and in their “sins.”*

***(Ephesians 2:1)***

***Ephesians 2:5*** – “Even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ ...”

***John 5:21*** – “For as the Father raises the dead and gives life to them, even so the Son gives life to whom He will.”

***Ephesians 2:10*** – “For we are his workmanship, created in Jesus Christ for good works.”

***John 3:6-8*** – “That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’ The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit.”

In the New Testament God repeats what He did in the beginning of creation:

***Genesis 1:26*** – “... Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness ...”

***II Corinthians 5:17*** – “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.”

Through being Born Again we pass from death to life:

***John 5:24*** – “... he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life.”.

## **2- RECEIVING THE NATURE OF GOD.**

Due to being Born Again we are able to share God’s divine nature.

**II Peter 1:4** – “By which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.”

**Ephesians 4:24** – “And that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.”

**Colossians 3:10** – “And have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him.”

### **3- IT IS RECEIVING NEW DESIRES.**

Before receiving Jesus, man was almost exclusively interested in material things, but after having received this new life, a true desire for spiritual things arises.

**II Peter 1:3** – “As His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue”

**Ezekiel 36:26-27** – “I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them.”

**Romans 8:5** – “For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit.”

**Romans 8:9** – “But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His.”

**II Corinthians 5:17** – “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.”

## IV - THE NEED OF BEING BORN AGAIN

### A - BECAUSE OF THE SINS OF MAN

God desires to have fellowship with man whom he created for his glory and who is the object of his love. But, in order for Him to enjoy this fellowship, Adam had to love Him.

Despite that, God gave him the freedom to choose whether or not to express his love for Him because if God had forced Adam to love him, then this love would have been a love brought on by fear; it wouldn't have been true love. This would mean that Adam wasn't more than a toy in the hands of God, His powerful creator.

### B - BECAUSE OF GOD'S HOLINESS

*Hebrews 12:14* – “Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord.”

If a person without sanctification cannot see God, and if we cannot obtain this sanctification by ourselves, or because of natural disasters, then being Born Again is essential.

*Psalms 145:17* – “The LORD is righteous in all His ways, gracious in all His works.”

*Leviticus 20:26* – “And you shall be holy to Me, for I the LORD am holy, and have separated you from the peoples, that you should be Mine.”

## V - HOW TO BE BORN AGAIN

### A - BEING BORN AGAIN IS A WORK OF GOD.

Being born Again can only come by divine intervention. It doesn't happen because you decide to live a better life or because you stop committing certain sins, neither does it happen

because you start attending Church or because you decide to take part in religious ceremonies.

*“Who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.” (John 1: 13)*

We don't inherit being Born Again from our parents; from them we inherit the nature passed on to us by Adam which can be described as the “old self”, the “self” which simply drives us to satisfy the desires of the flesh.

We cannot be born again due to the efforts of a Pastor, Priest or evangelist either. Born Again is an exclusive act of God.

*James 1:18 – “Of His own will He brought us forth by the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of His creatures.”*

In the same way that we had no active part in our physical birth, we cannot do anything to be born again of the Spirit.

The Holy Spirit is the divine agent who who makes us be born again.

That's why *Titus 3:5* says that being Born Again is a renovation made by the Holy Spirit.

## **B - MAN'S RESPONSIBILITY:**

- 1- To believe that Jesus died for us all on the cross.
- 2- To believe that Jesus shed His blood to pay for our sins.
- 3- To believe that Jesus was resurrected from death so that we could be justified.

In the Bible it is written in:

*John 20:31 – “... that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life*

*in His name.”*

**Luke 11:28** – *“... blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it!”*

**Acts 13:39** – *“And by Him everyone who believes is justified from all things from which you could not be justified by the law of Moses.”*

James says that we must be born again by the Word of truth.

**(James 1:18)**

Peter confirms that we aren't reborn by a corruptible seed, but by an uncorruptible one, by the Word of God **(I Peter 1:23)**.

Everybody has to believe to be saved and even all who believe in the Gospel:

**Romans 3:22** – *“Even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference.”*

**Romans 10:9** – *“That if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.”*

4 - Give your life to Jesus and receive Him as your personal Lord and Saviour.

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

Being born again is an act of God, but each one of us has to invite Him to regenerate our lives and believe that He can do it through Jesus Christ.

Nobody can enter the Kingdom of God without allowing Jesus Christ to be the Lord of their life.

For example: if you want to go to the United States of America you have to ask the local authorities' permission and obey their laws.

In the same way, when you want to enter the Kingdom of God, you must submit to the King, who is Jesus.

Even though you have to receive Jesus as your Lord and Saviour Jesus is a "Gentleman", He won't come into your life without being invited.

The miracle of being born again happens inside of you at the moment that you give your life to Jesus, and believe in your heart regarding what he did on the Cross for mankind.

At this time, Jesus removes the old nature within you and replaces it with God's nature.

**THIS IS CALLED: "BEING BORN AGAIN".**





# 4 - WE ARE CHILDREN OF GOD

## I - WHAT DOES BEING ADOPTED BY GOD MEAN?

### A- THE DISTINCTION BETWEEN ADOPTION, BEING BORN AGAIN AND JUSTIFICATION.

As we have previously studied, that being Born Again occurs when God implants a new life inside of you; justification means that God changes his attitude towards you and adoption occurs when you change your attitude towards God.

Being born again has to do with the change in our nature.

Justification has to do with the change of our position before God.

Adoption has to do with the change in our relationship with Him and is achieved when we are admitted into God's family and as a result, we are given all the privileges of being His child.

*(Galatians 4: 6-7)*

### B- YOUR POSITION AS A CHILD OF GOD:

Note this: You're not the one who is able to turn yourself into a Child of God! It is God who makes you His child!

There's absolutely nothing you can do to deserve such a position.

*Romans 8:15 – “For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by*

*whom we cry out, "Abba, Father."*

**Romans 8:16** – *"The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God."*

I am no longer a sinner, but a child of God.

I am what God says I am! I used to be a sinner, but now I'm saved and as a result I've become a new creation.

**Romans 8:17** – *"And if children, then heirs - heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together."*

This means that we belong to God's family. Think carefully about this statement because it's not just a religious cliché, it's the Word of God.

Real Christianity is giving your life to Jesus and belonging to God's family. As a result God becomes your Father and not just your God.

Once you begin to understand this truth and allow it to shed light into your heart, it will become easy for you to receive all of the blessings that God has for you.

## **II - HOW ARE WE ADOPTED BY HIM?**

### **A- BY RECEIVING JESUS.**

**John 1:12-13** – *"But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God."*

There are many people who are under the false impression that we are all children of God, but in truth, we are not. Only those who are born from God can become children of God.

One can only be considered to be the child of a particular couple if he/she was born out of that couple's union, it's not enough to simply bare a physical resemblance to them.

We are all God's creation. Why?

*Because God created us just as He created everything else in this world.*

But being a child of God is very different: only those who are born of God, give their lives to Jesus and receive Him as their saviour can be called children of God.

When you give your life to Jesus, a number of things happen and one of those things is that you become a new person, not externally, but internally.

Another thing that happens is that you become a child of God.

## **B- OUR ADOPTION IS FINALIZED IN THE SECOND COMING OF JESUS.**

*1 John 3:1-3 – “Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him.*

*Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.”*

When we receive Jesus as our Lord and Saviour, we are adopted by God the Father, but the world will only recognize this in the second coming of Jesus.

Only then will Christians be able to experience the true magnitude of their position as children of God.

### **III - HOW DO WE BENEFIT FROM THIS ADOPTION ?**

#### **OUR POSITION AS CHILDREN OF GOD ENABLES US TO RECEIVE HIS BLESSINGS.**

The other day a lady was telling me that she had various diseases.

As she was saying that she had this, that and the other, I told her that Jesus wanted to heal her, to which she responded by saying: “Oh, I hope God hears you but truthfully, I don’t think I deserve to be healed!”

With such strong feelings of doubt, there was no point in her asking for prayer.

So I decided to explain to her that God is our Father and that He gives us everything we need simply because He loves us. The same is true for us as parents. We give everything to our children simply because we love them.

When you give your life to Jesus, you become the child of God Almighty, the ruler of Heaven and Earth.

When you are able to understand this in your heart, you’ll stop thinking small and you’ll stop thinking that you need to suffer poverty, sickness or any other kind of problem.

My Father is God! Your father is God: He created the world that we see before us (as well as all the other planets that we don’t see).

He owns all of it! And the Bible says that you are an heir of God, which means that all that belongs to God is yours.

Our Father is God. Think about it!

We're children of God, we're a new creation:

### **1- WE ARE HEIRS OF GOD.**

*Romans 8:17 – “And if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.”*

### **2- WE HAVE BEEN BLESSED WITH ALL OF GOD'S BLESSINGS.**

*Ephesians 1:3 – “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ.”*

Do you know what the biggest problem is for God?

It's that even though He wants to help His children, to give them presents and to bless them, many of them don't understand this and as a result end up not receiving His blessings.

Imagine you bought a doll for your daughter, took it home with you and gave it to her. Your daughter wouldn't say:

*“I wish someone would give me a doll! I would really like to have a doll! “ No. She would grab the doll immediately and say: “It's mine.”*

Later on when your daughter grows up, she'd do things like start wearing her mothers' shoes without even asking for permission. All this is due to the belief that she has whatever belongs to her is hers alone, but what belongs to you (her parents) is also hers...

This is the way we should think. But some Christians who know nothing about the Bible spend their lives begging God for things. They beg for a new job, a new house, etc. when at all time God has already made these blessings available to them and all they need to do is to receive them.

Some people say:

*“Oh, I’m not worthy of receiving God’s blessings!”*

Well, I’m not worthy either, but since I’m no fool, I don’t mind receiving them! The truth is that no one is worthy of anything that is God given but He’s our father and He gives us things just because He loves us.

Think about this verse in the Bible as I’m sure it will change your life.

Let me say this again: God has a big problem with many Christians, because he wants to bless them and they don’t want to receive His blessings.

Take a look at this dialogue as an example:

*- Oh Pastor, this is too good to be true!*

It might be too good to be true, but it is true. Glory to God!

Others say:

*- This is too simple! It’s too easy!*

Of course it is! God isn’t a complicated God and he doesn’t need a sealed document with an authenticated signature on it to be able to save someone.

We belong to His family.

Please pay close attention to what I’m now going to say:

Anyone who belongs to Christ is made a new creation.

The past is forgotten and everything is made new!

## **IV - EVIDENCE GENERATED BY THIS ADOPTION**

### **A- SPIRITUAL GROWTH.**

When someone gives their life to Jesus they become spiritual babies.

Our Spiritual growth can be compared to our physical growth. For example, when a baby is born it's always very little then later on it'll grow to become a toddler and so on, until it reaches adulthood.

A person's spiritual growth occurs in exactly the same way.

### **1 - BABIES**

When someone gives their life to Jesus they become like a spiritual baby, thus behaving like one. When babies cry, their mothers immediately come and tend to their needs, they feed them, change their dippers etc.

The same occurs in the Spiritual World. When a baby in Christ cries out to God He'll take care of it.

Later on when we're older we have to learn how to get the things we need by using our faith.

When a baby's dipper gets dirty his mother doesn't just throw him away. The problem is that some Christians see a new convert "dirtying his dipper", and immediately think that he's lost his salvation.. Change his dipper and he'll be just fine.

## 2 - CHILDREN

*Galatians 4:1-2 – “Now I say that the heir, as long as he is a child, does not differ at all from a slave, though he is master of all, but is under guardians and stewards until the time appointed by the father.”*

What do you do with a 7, 8 or 9 year old child? You send them to school in order for them to learn.

The same thing happens in the Spiritual World. A new born believer goes to church with the same attitude as if he were going to school. He goes there to learn more about the Word of God. Thus he is studying at “ The School of God.”

Consider this; Both Heaven and Earth will come to an end and a new Heaven and Earth will be created, but the Word of God never changes!

This means that we’ll have to live and abide by God’s rules forever and so the faster you learn these rules, the sooner you’ll be able to live the way God wants you to.

God wants the brothers in the church to grow spiritually so that they are able to do the same things that Jesus did. That’s the Plan that He has for our lives.

He gives Prophets, Pastors, Doctors and Evangelists to the church for a reason, so that they can train and educate us, enabling our spiritual growth in such a way that we can become just like Jesus was.

What was Jesus like? Jesus always walked in love, forgiving other people’s trespasses; praying for the blind so that they could be able to see; praying for the deaf so that they could be able to hear; praying for the paralysed so that they could be able to walk; praying for the dead so that they would resurrect...



Praise God that these things are starting to happen more and more in our midst and that each day we become more like Jesus.

***Ephesians 4:11-15 –***

*“11 And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers,  
12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ,  
13 until we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;  
14 that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting,  
15 but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things unto Him who is the head—Christ.”*

God desires all of us to grow spiritually until we reach the complete stature of Christ.

This means that God wants us to one day do the same things that Jesus did here on earth.

***John 14:12 –*** *“Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father.”*

Jesus said that if we believed him, we would do the same things that he did. Jesus healed the sick, cast out demons, resurrected the dead, spoke to the sea and to the wind and they obeyed him, he spoke to a fig tree and it withered up, he fed a crowd of thousands with only a few loaves of bread and some fish etc.

### **3 - ADULTS**

God’s will is that we as His children grow up in such a way that we’re able to attain the stature that Jesus had here on earth. He wants us to be capable of doing the same things that Jesus did.

*John 20:21 – “So Jesus said to them again, “Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you.”*

Nobody can be expected to grow up all of a sudden and to do the same things that Jesus did from one day to another, instead it's a work in progress that develops as you spend time studying the Word of God and putting it into practise.

So if you're not yet able to distinguish God's voice or if you're not yet able to understand what He says to you, don't be discouraged.

You have to do what all of us did and still do: study the Word of God; meditate on it; have fellowship with God, pray in tongues as well as in your own language and praise God.

The day will come when God will be as real in your life as your best friend is and you'll be able to clearly understand what He says to you, as if indeed He were your best friend.

We're God's children! We don't need to approach God with fear but with confidence because He's our Father.

We can always turn to Him in times of trouble. We don't need to pray mechanically. Instead praying to God is like having a conversation with our Father.

If we speak to Him, He'll answer. God is our Father – we are His children.

In *John 20:21* we see that Jesus was speaking to His disciples – his followers.

Here, Jesus taught them something extraordinary: He said that

in the same way God the Father sent him to speak about salvation, divine healing and deliverance from bad spirits and in the same way that He sent Him to bring joy, peace and prosperity, He is now sending you.

This is God's Plan for each of His children and he wants you to know that:

- *He's your Father; He's not a distant God, but a wonderful Father.*
- *You belong to His family.*

God wants you to go to His House which is the Church. The Church is a school, "The School of God," where you can learn his Word and learn to reign in this world and in the coming one. This "school" also teaches you about all the things that God has in store for your life.

### **MAKE THIS CONFESSION:**

- GOD IS MY FATHER.
- I AM A CHILD OF GOD.
- I AM A NEW BEING.
- I AM AN HEIR OF GOD, TOGETHER WITH JESUS.

### **B. BEING GUIDED BY THE SPIRIT OF GOD.**

*Romans 8:4 – "That the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit."*

*Galatians 5:18 – "But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law."*

### **C. HAVING LOVE FOR OTHERS.**

Walking in Love is the most important characteristic a child of God should put into practise and yet it often tends to be forgotten.

But a Christian who is constantly led by the Holy Spirit and whose motivations are subject to the will of God will manifest a great faith and trust in God.

A man of faith is a man of prayer, approaching God's throne in prayer on a regular basis. Something else to keep in mind about prayer is that it's impossible for one to pray for others with sincerity if one doesn't develop the Love of God in one's heart for them.

*1 John 2:9-11 – “He who says he is in the light, and hates his brother, is in darkness until now. 10 He who loves his brother abides in the light, and there is no cause for stumbling in him. 11 But he who hates his brother is in darkness and walks in darkness, and does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes.”*

*1 John 5:2-3 – “By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and keep His commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome.”*

# 5 - WHY PRAY?

## I - WHAT IS PRAYER?

God created man, male and female, in His own image and likeness.

He placed them in the Garden of Eden and had fellowship with Adam and Eve everyday:

*Genesis 3:8,9 - “And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden.*

*Then the Lord God called to Adam and said to him, “Where are you?”*

God still wants to have fellowship with man today, through His Spirit.

## PRAYER IS TALKING TO GOD

Prayer is a 2 way conversation: we speak to God and He speaks back to us.

## II - WHY SHOULD WE PRAY?

Many people directly associate prayer with the idea of asking God for things:

*“Oh Lord, give me this, give me that, help my children at school, give my husband a better salary, etc.”*

*“Oh Lord, give me more money.”*

*“Oh Lord, change my child and make him more studious. (a long list...).”*

When all the while, they don't even bother to have fellowship with God.

I know people who were saved and healed by Jesus, or had other miracles happen in their lives, and after six months or a year, they stopped serving God and they stopped going to Church.

Praying is much more than just asking God for things.

How would you feel if your children only came home to ask you for money and to eat and sleep, not even bothering to greet you?

### **IS GOD OUR LORD OR OUR SERVANT?**

The purpose of prayer isn't only to ask God for things, but it's also for us to have fellowship with Him, to receive orientation for our lives and to intercede for our families and for others. The reason for many a Christians failure, is that they don't pray enough.

Let's take the life of Saul or Judas Iscariot as an example. It doesn't seem like they had a habit of praying!

And Abraham?

Do you think that he prayed to God, seeking His advice before deciding whether or not to have a child with Hagar?

Lack of prayer can provoke chaos.

Jacob only learned the secret of persisting in prayer at the brook of Jabbok (place of emptiness).

There he emptied himself of his natural strength and became crippled, to the point where he was no longer able to do anything else but to cling onto God for the rest of his life.

In **Acts 6:2-4**, we read that the apostles gave great importance to prayer "It is not desirable that we should leave the word of

God and serve tables... but we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word.”

There are many ways by which we can be stimulated to pray: by reading the Word of God; by worshipping the Father; by analysing our mistakes and our weaknesses and by deciding to accept God’s help; by being aware not only of our needs but of the needs others may have.

### **III - HOW SHOULD WE PRAY?** **A - WITH PERSISTANCE AND INSISTENCE.**

*Luke 18:1 - Then He spoke a parable to them that men always ought to pray and not lose heart.*

The Bible tells us about a man who didn’t stop asking his friend for some bread even though it was already midnight. *(Luke 11:5-8)*

It also tells us about another who refused to stop shouting *(Mark 10:46-52)*;

And about a widow who wouldn’t stop disturbing the judge with her petitions *(Luke 18:1-8)*;

On another occasion it tells us about a woman who managed to counteract each objection, made both by God and by man.

In *James 5:16*, it says “...*The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.*”

When Peter was sent to prison by king Herod, the Church prayed continually. As a result, Peter was under a special protection when he was in prison.

*Hebrews 5:7-9 - “Who, in the days of His flesh, when He had offered up prayers and supplications, with vehement cries and tears to Him who was able to save Him from death, and was heard because of His godly fear... And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him.”*

## **B - IN THE SAME PLACE AND AT THE SAME TIME.**

Great men of prayer in the Old and in the New Testament rose early in the morning to pray.

You can read about the following men of prayer in your Bible:

- Abraham (*Genesis 21:14*)
- Jacob (*Genesis 28:18*)
- Moses (*Exodus 34:4*)
- Joshua (*Joshua 3:1*)

And in particular about our Lord Jesus Christ:

*Mark 1:35* “Now in the morning, having risen a long while before daylight, He went out and departed to a solitary place; and there He prayed.”

We should dedicate a certain amount of time (for example, two hours) and a certain place in which to have fellowship with God. The Bible says:

*Proverbs 23:23* - “Buy the truth, and do not sell it, also wisdom and instruction and understanding.”

## **IV - TYPES OF PRAYER**

There are different types of PRAYER and each type has its own rules that should not be mixed up.

For example, you cannot use rules for basketball when you are playing football.

In the same way, regarding prayer, you cannot apply the rules that are used for the Prayer of intercession to the Prayer of Faith, which is a prayer that can only be used for your personal life.



There are different types of prayer that can be categorised as follows:

- A - Prayer of Faith for oneself
- B - Prayer of consecration and dedication to God
- C - Prayer in the Spirit
- D - Prayer of agreement
- E - Prayer of intercession
- F - Prayer of yielding your problems to God
- G - Prayer of thanksgiving, praise and worship
- H - Prayer of reasoning your case with God

## 1 - PRAYER OF FAITH FOR ONESELF

This is when we ask God for something for ourselves. Naturally we can use our faith for ourselves, but sometimes it won't work in the lives of others. That is in the case of a person praying for a friend or a family member, etc.

Do you know, if that person wants you to pray for them? If he/she doesn't want what you're praying for in his/her life, then your prayer will be worthless.

The Prayer of Faith for oneself is based on:

*Mark 11:24 - "Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them."*

### PRACTICAL PRINCIPLES:

**1.** We should decide upon, and be specific about what we want from God. One day Jesus passed by a blind man who yelled: "Have mercy on me, and help me,"

To whom Jesus replied:

*“What do you want from me?”*

It was then that the blind man specifically asked Jesus to give him sight. Jesus knew what the blind man needed, but Jesus only answered his prayer, when he was specific.

During one of his counselling sessions, Pastor Youngi Cho, asked a young woman, whose desire it was to get married, what kind of a husband she would like: She replied: “The Lord knows what’s best.”

Then the Pastor went on to show her that according to the Word of God, she needed to be more specific.

Later on when she began praying properly, God gave her just the husband she had asked for.

God does not answer prayers that are not specific.

God’s not going to choose your fiancé for you because He’s not the one who is getting married. Take this as an example, this lady only got married after having been specific about the type of fiancé she wanted.

**2.** Find a Biblical scripture that promises what you want to ask God for.

God is only responsible for answering your prayer if you ask Him something that is according to His will, in other words: that is according to what He promised in the Bible.

The will of God is entirely described in the Bible.

*1 John 5:14-15 - “Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.”*

**3.** Before asking God for something, you need to spend time meditating on his promises.

This is because God only answers a prayer of faith, and faith only comes by hearing the Word of God. This means that before you pray to God, you need to meditate a lot promises in the Bible that tell you that you'll get exactly what you're asking Him for. Only then will you have enough faith for that area, and only then will God be able to answer your prayers.

***Romans 10:17** - "So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."*

***John 15:7,8** - "If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be my disciples."*

As you can see, first it's necessary for you to fill your heart with the Word of God, and only then will God be able to answer your petition.

**4.** Ask God the Father, in the name of Jesus Christ.

Contrary to what many people do, the official way to ask God for something is to direct your request to the Father Himself, in the name of Jesus.

***John 16:23** - "And in that day you will ask me nothing. Most assuredly, I say to you, whatever you ask the Father in My name He will give you."*

Jesus is the only 'mediator' between God and men. So you shouldn't ask angels, saints, or even Jesus to give you anything.

Always direct your prayers to God the Father, in the Name of Jesus.

**5.** Believe that you have received the answer to your prayer, at the exact same moment that you've prayed for something.

*Mark 11:24 – “Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them.”*

**6.** While you wait for the materialisation of God's answer to your prayer, praise Him continuously for the answer.

Faith is PRAISING God, thanking God because “you have already received that which you have asked God for.”

How long should you spend praising God for having answered your prayer? For as long as it takes for you to receive it in full.

*Philippians 4:6,7 - “Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”*

**7.** Don't be surprised if your mind is attacked with doubt while you're waiting for the answer to your prayers. It's exactly during this waiting period that the devil most likes to attack.

## **HOW DOES THE DEVIL ATTACK YOU?**

*He hurls DOUBT into your mind.*

The mind is a battlefield. It's as if the devil were a dragon throwing flaming arrows into your mind so as to infect it with doubt.

*II Corinthians 10:3-5 “For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ.”*

During this time we have to fight against the devil, using the sword of the Spirit. *(Ephesians 6:17).*

How can we do this? By using our mouth to confess verses in the Bible, so that the devil can hear us.

This is how Jesus fought against the devil and it's how you'll have to act when the devil attacks you with doubts.

**8.** Don't become discouraged if the situation gets worse right after you've prayed.

Another way that the devil usually uses to attack us is by trying to DISCOURAGE us with adverse circumstances.

I know of cases where people went to Church to pray for their health and in the following days everything seemed to get worse. They were in more pain, or contracted an even higher fever, etc.

Why does this happen? Because when the devil is involved in someone's life, he has to leave, but before he does he's going to try to do his utmost to bring this person down, or to make them feel worse than ever.

Look at what happened with Jesus.

*Mark 9:25,26 – “When Jesus saw that the people came running together, He rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, “Deaf and dumb spirit, I command you, come out of him and enter him no more!” Then the spirit cried out, convulsed him greatly, and came out of him. And he became as one dead, so that many said, “He is dead.”*

The devil also uses this tactic to make people think that God hasn't answered their prayers after all. But if we submit to God and resist the devil, he will flee from us.

*James 4:7 – "Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you."*

*Ephesians 6:13 – "Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand."*

So, on a bad day, after you've done everything you could to solve the problem at hand, don't be discouraged, don't give up, stay strong and don't give in to the devil.

Resist the devil because he will have to flee from you.

## **2- PRAYER OF CONSECRATION AND DEDICATION TO GOD.**

Christianity is not just coming to God when you need Him, or to "obtain" blessings.

Christianity is living a holy life:

Sanctification (separation) from sin and the world;

Consecration to God – serving God.

*Matthew 6:9-13 – "In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And do not lead us into temptation, But deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen."*

**CONSECRATION** – This means separating yourself to do the will of God and to work for Him.

Working for God doesn't mean that you must give your job up straight away and become a Pastor. It means serving God while you're at work by witnessing Jesus; It also means helping out at your local Church: as an usher, or in the praise and worship group, or as a helper in the homegroup, etc.

This is consecrating yourself and working for Jesus.

**DEDICATION** – Is being willing to do what God wants.

*Isaiah 1:19 - "... willing and obedient."*

Many people want God to use them in great things, such as signs and wonders. But, in order for that to happen you must first be obedient and available (out of your own free will).

Paul's example:

*Acts 16:6,7* (forbidden to preach)

*Acts 8:26* (Philip and the Eunuch).

The teaching of Jesus:

*Matthew 10:37-39* "He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me. He who finds his life will lose it, and he who loses his life for My sake will find it"

*Luke 9:23-26* "Then He said to them all, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will save it. For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and is himself destroyed or lost? For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words, of him the Son of Man will be ashamed when He comes in His own glory, and in His Father's, and of the holy angels."

**Luke 9:57-62** “Now it happened as they journeyed on the road, that someone said to Him, “Lord, I will follow You wherever You go.” And Jesus said to him, “Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head.” Then He said to another, “Follow Me.” But he said, “Lord, let me first go and bury my father.” Jesus said to him, “Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and preach the kingdom of God.” And another also said, “Lord, I will follow You, but let me first go and bid them farewell who are at my house.” But Jesus said to him, “No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.”

## **PRACTICAL ADVICE**

“Father, if it is your will ...” (Jesus Christ)

**Luke 22:42** saying, “Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done.”

**a)** Regarding Jesus’ prayer in the garden of Gethsemane, many people confuse the types of prayer, and pray in the same way for everything. They think that because Jesus prayed “if it is your will...,” they should pray this in every prayer.

**b)** Here Jesus wasn’t praying in order to receive something from God.

**c)** Jesus was consecrating Himself to God, dedicating Himself to do exactly that which the Father desired.

Jesus knew that He would take all of our sins upon himself, that he would die and go to hell. It made him suffer terribly, knowing it would mean separation from the Father. That is why Jesus said:

*“Father, if it is your will...”*



**d)** This kind of Prayer is used when you separate your life for God's use; When you allow Him to do His will in your life or to send you wherever He wants you to go.

One day God showed me that he wanted me to go to Portugal. I had a good, comfortable life in South Africa, a good salary, etc. All in all I had an easy life and I thought that if one day I left, I would go anywhere, but Portugal.

But, because God wanted me to go, I went.

This is one of the reasons God has blessed us so much.

**e)** "If it is your will," using these words in any other kind of prayer produces a lack of faith.

**f)** When you pray for something that God has (already) promised in his word, you do not need to pray: "If it is your will," because the Word of God is His will. If you try to pray the PRAYER OF FAITH in this way, it won't work because only those who lack faith pray like that.

We only pray for God's will to be done when we need direction and orientation from God for our lives, it has nothing to do with receiving something from God, something He has already promised in His Word.

The prayer of consecration and dedication however keeps your heart open, so that you can fulfil the ministry of God in your life.

### **3 - PRAYER IN THE SPIRIT**

Here are 2 steps that a born again Christian must take in order to be able to pray in the Spirit:

He/she must be baptized in the Holy Spirit and must speak in tongues regularly.

Although Jesus was God, He never acted as such on earth. He dedicated Himself totally to God the Father and gave Himself over to be cloaked with the Holy Spirit, the power from above. When did this power come upon him?

When he was baptized in the Holy Spirit.

***Luke 3:21-22** - "When all the people were baptized, it came to pass that Jesus also was baptized; and while He prayed, the heaven was opened. And the Holy Spirit descended in bodily form like a dove upon Him, and a voice came from heaven which said, "You are My beloved Son; in You I am well pleased."*

Baptism in the Holy Spirit still applies today, for all those who believe and who want to live Spirit filled lives.

***Acts 2:38-39** - "Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call."*

1. We can pray in the Spirit by praying in tongues.

***I Corinthians 14:2** - "For he who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God, for no one understands him; however, in the spirit he speaks mysteries."*

It is our spirit speaking with God.

***I Corinthians 14:14** - "For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my understanding is unfruitful."*

Our spirit prays, but our mind doesn't understand what we're saying. When you speak "in tongues", your spirit is speaking to God.

2. We can pray in the Spirit by speaking in tongues in many different ways: quickly or slowly, while laughing or crying, etc. (This all depends on what God inspires us to do).

3. We can pray in the Spirit by speaking: in the language of angels or of man (English, Chinese, Hebrew), with different sounds (clicking, sighing, like certain native African languages); all the while we're speaking mysteries to God.

4. We can pray in the Spirit whenever we please.

It's not necessary for us to receive special instructions from the Holy Spirit in order to do so. Baptism of the Holy Spirit, with the evidence of speaking in tongues is a gift from God that we're allowed to use whenever we please. God gave us this present, so we should use it on a daily basis.

5. We can pray in the Spirit without understanding what we're saying. I don't understand what I'm saying when I pray, but that's how it should be. We can, however, also ask God to give us the gift of "interpretation of tongues".

### **WHY DO WE SPEAK IN TONGUES?**

1. For Spiritual edification.

*1 Corinthians 14:4 - "He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself, but he who prophesies edifies the church."*

You can compare this to charging a battery; so when you 'edify yourself' by praying in tongues, you are 'charging your spiritual batteries'. You should 'charge your batteries' every day.

2. Praying 100% according to the will of God.

*Romans 8:26, 27 - "Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered ..."*

No one prays exactly as they ought to.

But when we pray in tongues we are praying the perfect prayer, for it is the Holy Spirit Himself who uses our mouth to pray.

3. To stimulate our faith.

*Jude 1:20 - "But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit."*

4. To have spiritual refreshment.

*Isaiah 28:11 - "For with stammering lips and another tongue He will speak to this people."*

*Isaiah 28:12 - "To whom He said, "This is the rest with which You may cause the weary to rest," And, "This is the refreshing"; Yet they would not hear."*

5. To remind us of the presence of the Holy Spirit.

*John 14:16 - "And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever..."*

*John 14:17 - "...the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you."*

6. To give thanks to God.

*1 Corinthians 14:17 - "For you indeed give thanks well, but the other is not edified."*

## **4 - PRAYER OF AGREEMENT**

This type of prayer is based on:

*Matthew 18:18-19 - "Assuredly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.*

*Again I say to you that if two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven."*

When two or more people agree upon something and they pray in agreement, then what they have agreed upon will really happen. This type of prayer can be used to obtain the promises of God. It can also be used with regards to your personal life.

Example: A certain couple had a real estate company. Whenever they prayed in agreement, saying that they would sell one of their houses at a price that they'd set, they'd see the answer to that prayer within a week or two.

But one day the wife stopped agreeing with her husband in her heart and even though they prayed together, the power of agreement was broken and they didn't achieve positive result.

## **5- PRAYER OF INTERCESSION**

**INTERCESSION** - is praying for others, to knock down the walls that the devil built around them. It is breaking down the prison where the devil has kept them.

To intercede is to be sensitive to the needs of others around us, to ask God to work on their behalf.

It is to seek the presence of God, to request a hearing from God, to pray to Him in someone's favour and to listen to what He has to say about the matter.

### **A) CHARACTERISTICS OF AN INTERCESSOR**

- He spends time praying, interceding for others.
- He stands in the gap for someone.
- He never gives up.
- He perseveres in prayer, until the end result is achieved.

### **B) BIBLICAL ASPECTS AND EXAMPLES OF INTERCESSION**

1) Praying for a city – Abraham interceded for Sodom and Gomorra.

**Genesis 18:23-33**

**23** *“And Abraham came near and said, “Would You also destroy the righteous with the wicked?”*

**24** *Suppose there were fifty righteous within the city; would You also destroy the place and not spare it for the fifty righteous that were in it?”*

**25** *Far be it from You to do such a thing as this, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous should be as the wicked; far be it from You! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?”*

**26** *So the LORD said, “If I find in Sodom fifty righteous within the city, then I will spare all the place for their sakes.”*

**27** *Then Abraham answered and said, “Indeed now, I who am but dust and ashes have taken it upon myself to speak to the Lord:*

**28** *Suppose there were five less than the fifty righteous; would You destroy all of the city for lack of five?” So He said, “If I find there forty-five, I will not destroy it.”*

**29** *And he spoke to Him yet again and said, “Suppose there should be forty found there?”*

*So He said, “I will not do it for the sake of forty.”*

**30** *Then he said, “Let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak: Suppose thirty should be found there?”*

*So He said, “I will not do it if I find thirty there.”*

**31** *And he said, “Indeed now, I have taken it upon myself to speak to the Lord: Suppose twenty should be found there?”*

*So He said, “I will not destroy it for the sake of twenty.”*

**32** *Then he said, “Let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak but once more: Suppose ten should be found there? And He said, “I will not destroy it for the sake of ten.”*

**33** *So the LORD went His way as soon as He had finished speaking with Abraham; and Abraham returned to his place.”*

2) Praying for a war.

One person on each side of Moses.

**Exodus 17:8-13**

*8 Now Amalek came and fought with Israel in Rephidim.*

*9 And Moses said to Joshua, "Choose us some men and go out, fight with Amalek. Tomorrow I will stand on the top of the hill with the rod of God in my hand."*

*10 So Joshua did as Moses said to him, and fought with Amalek. And Moses, Aaron, and Hur went up to the top of the hill.*

*11 And so it was, when Moses held up his hand, that Israel prevailed; and when he let down his hand, Amalek prevailed.*

*12 But Moses' hands became heavy; so they took a stone and put it under him, and he sat on it. And Aaron and Hur supported his hands, one on one side, and the other on the other side; and his hands were steady until the going down of the sun.*

*13 So Joshua defeated Amalek and his people with the edge of the sword."*

There were two men who raised Moses' arms up high during this battle.

When you intercede for others, be they brothers or sisters in faith, you are raising their tired arms and fighting their battle for them.

3) Moses interceded for Israel, because of the serpent.

**Numbers 21:4-9**

*4 Then they journeyed from Mount Hor by the Way of the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; and the soul of the people became very discouraged on the way.*

*5 And the people spoke against God and against Moses: "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and our soul loathes this worthless bread."*

*6 So the LORD sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people; and many of the people of Israel died.*

**7** Therefore the people came to Moses, and said, “We have sinned, for we have spoken against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD that He take away the serpents from us.” So Moses prayed for the people.

**8** Then the LORD said to Moses, “Make a fiery serpent, and set it on a pole; and it shall be that everyone who is bitten, when he looks at it, shall live.”

**9** So Moses made a bronze serpent, and put it on a pole; and so it was, if a serpent had bitten anyone, when he looked at the bronze serpent, he lived.”

#### 4) Peter in prison – the Church prayed for him.

##### **Acts 12:4-16**

**4** So when he had arrested him, he put him in prison, and delivered him to four squads of soldiers to keep him, intending to bring him before the people after Passover.

**5** Peter was therefore kept in prison, but constant prayer was offered to God for him by the church.

**6** And when Herod was about to bring him out, that night Peter was sleeping, bound with two chains between two soldiers; and the guards before the door were keeping the prison.

**7** Now behold, an angel of the Lord stood by him, and a light shone in the prison; and he struck Peter on the side and raised him up, saying, “Arise quickly!” And his chains fell off his hands.

**8** Then the angel said to him, “Gird yourself and tie on your sandals”; and so he did. And he said to him, “Put on your garment and follow me.”

**9** So he went out and followed him, and did not know that what was done by the angel was real, but thought he was seeing a vision.

**10** When they were past the first and the second guard posts, they came to the iron gate that leads to the city, which opened to them of its own accord; and they went out and went down one street, and immediately the angel departed from him.



*11 And when Peter had come to himself, he said, "Now I know for certain that the Lord has sent His angel, and has delivered me from the hand of Herod and from all the expectation of the Jewish people."*

*12 So, when he had considered this, he came to the house of Mary, the mother of John whose surname was Mark, where many were gathered together praying.*

*13 And as Peter knocked at the door of the gate, a girl named Rhoda came to answer.*

*14 When she recognized Peter's voice, because of her gladness she did not open the gate, but ran in and announced that Peter stood before the gate.*

*15 But they said to her, "You are beside yourself!" Yet she kept insisting that it was so. So they said, "It is his angel."*

*16 Now Peter continued knocking; and when they opened the door and saw him, they were astonished*

Interceding for someone does NOT GUARANTEE results, for a person's OWN FREE WILL is also involved.

When we intercede for others, the following happens:

- a) You set this person free of the devil's influence; you free his mind so that he is free to choose Jesus.
- b) You ask God to send someone to talk to him/her about salvation.
- c) After that, it becomes his/her responsibility to MAKE A DECISION.

**NOTE:** Intercession is not imposing your will on someone else's life because no one has the right to do that.

That would be manipulation, but unfortunately that is exactly what some brothers and sisters do to others, without realizing it.

### **C. HOW TO INTERCEDE:**

- 1) SPEAK the Word of God over the situation. PRAY the Word of God; TRANSFORM the problem into a Victory.
- 2). PRAY IN THE SPIRIT for that person or for that situation.

### **6. THANKSGIVING, PRAISE, WORSHIP AND THE SACRIFICE OF PRAISE.**

When we praise God, we lift Him up high, and we talk to Him. That is why we can consider Praise and Worship as a type of Prayer.

**THANKSGIVING** – is thanking God for all the things he has done for us and for what he has given us.

Example: “Father I thank you for having given me that new piece of furniture, for having healed my kidneys,” etc.

**THE PRAYER OF PRAISE** - is when we exalt and honour Him for what He is, praising him for the great qualities He has.

Example: “Lord, I praise you because you sent Jesus to save us; you are good and full of mercy; you are my strength; my wisdom; you keep me in good health; the source of my prosperity; you are Love.”

**THE PRAYER OF WORSHIP** – This is when we give Him the highest honour and respect.

You can worship the Lord with words, with deeds and actions, and with the attitude you take (the woman who kissed Jesus’ feet, and who washed them with her tears). It’s man’s nature to worship someone; the question is: who do you worship?

Ways of praying which give praise and worship to God:

1. By lifting hands – *(Psalm 63:4)*.
2. Kneeling, or bowing down – *(Psalm 95:6)*.
3. By singing songs – *(Psalm 69:3)*.
4. With shouts of joy – *(Psalm 132:9)*.
5. By dancing – *(Psalm 147:1)*
6. With instruments – *(Psalm 150:3-5)*.
7. By clapping hands – *(Psalm 47:1)*.
8. With new tongues – *(I Corinthians 14:15-17)*.

The Sacrifice of Praise:

*Hebrews 13:15* “... Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name.”

A Biblical example of the Sacrifice of Praise:

Praising God when you're in the middle of a crisis, or while you're going through great sorrow, or oppression. Let's look at what happened with the people of Israel on arrival at the Promised Land.

They discovered that the land was OCCUPIED by giants. Mighty nations with strongholds and fortified cities dwelled there.

The same could be said of the city of Jericho, which was said to have such broad walls that chariot races were held on top of them.

But because they followed God's instructions *(Joshua 6:2-20)*, they won the battle – and conquered the city.

Likewise in this day and age, we have to conquer the castles, strongholds, and walls which are occupied by the enemy, in order to get into the promised land which is the abundant life that God has for His children.

Just because we are Christians doesn't mean everything is going to be easy. We will have to fight in the Spirit, to CONQUER these blessings.

Another example – *Acts 16:23-26*. The Lord gave Paul the mission to preach the Gospel in Macedonia.

At first sight they expected everything to go very smoothly and very easily, but what really happened was that Paul was thrown into prison, only because he had delivered a girl from a spirit of divination.

But, Paul didn't start moaning, "Lord, you were the one who sent me to Macedonia to preach. How could you let this happen."

Paul didn't complain, he didn't grumble.

Paul and Silas offered a SACRIFICE OF PRAISE to God at midnight, which symbolizes the darkest, most difficult hour. For this reason God performed a great miracle in their lives.

The Sacrifice of Praise makes a way where there isn't a way. The Sacrifice of Praise opens the doors of the prison cell where the devil had locked you up.

## **7- PRAYER OF REASONING YOUR CASE WITH GOD**

John Wesley said: "God cannot do anything for humanity, unless somebody asks Him to."

"Why is that?" Someone might ask.

Because the World no longer belongs to God. Adam was created to rule over this world, but he committed high treason against God and sold his soul to the devil.

In this way the devil became the god (king) of this world.

*(II Corinthians 4:4).*

But God the Father saved mankind through Jesus Christ. As a result, all the power that had been given to man before his fall was restored. That is why when we ask Him for something he is able to work in our favour.

That's what makes it seem like He cannot do anything for us, unless somebody asks Him to.

God himself tells us this in the book of Isaiah:

*Isaiah 43:25-26: - " I, even I, am He who blots out your transgressions for My own sake; And I will not remember your sins.*

*26 Put Me in remembrance; Let us contend together; State your case, that you may be acquitted."*

Abraham knew how to pray, when reasoning with God for the sake of Sodom and Gomorra (*Genesis 18:23-25*).

Moses reasoned his case with God when God wanted to kill the people of Israel and start everything from scratch, because of the golden calf they'd made.

God changed His mind:

*Exodus 32:9-14 - "And the LORD said to Moses, "I have seen this people, and indeed it is a stiff-necked people! Now therefore, let Me alone, that My wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them. And I will make of you a great nation." Then Moses pleaded with the LORD his God, and said: "LORD, why does Your wrath burn hot against Your people whom You have brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? ...*

*.... So the LORD relented from the harm, which He said He would do to His people."*

REMIND ME (*Isaiah 43:26*).

What is God trying to tell you here?

When we pray we are standing before God's throne, and at this time it's our job to remind Him of His promises.

Plead your situation like any good lawyer would do in defence of his case.

Use what is written: the Law, the Word of God. Use Biblical passages that claim what you need.

When we come before God using His Word to argue our case with, we will never lose face because His Word will never lose it's authenticity.

# 6 - WE ARE HOLY AND RIGHTEOUS

## I - WHAT IS SANCTIFICATION?

Sanctification when someone or something renounces evil and is set apart for God's service.

Sanctification is the process by which God enables a believer to change his/her life and conduct so as to bring it into conformity with the image of Christ.

When somebody is justified, God declares him just; it is something God does FOR us. Sanctification is something that God puts into operation inside of us.

Justification makes us right with God and sanctification is the fruit of the relationship we share with Him.

We manifest this fruit by dedicating ourselves to God and by forsaking all that is evil.

In the original language of the Bible the word "sanctification" means to cut or to separate.

This represents how God separates us from the world, and how He separates the world from us.

Sanctification involves:

## **1. SEPARATION FROM THE WORLD, FROM EVIL AND FROM IMPURITY.**

*II Chronicles 29:5 - "Hear me, Levites! Now sanctify yourselves, sanctify the house of the LORD God of your fathers, and carry out the rubbish from the holy place."*

Other passages indicate that we have to forsake all that is impure:

- *II Chronicles 35:6*

- *Exodus 19:10, 15*

- *I Chronicles 15:12*

- *Joshua 3:5*

- *Job 1:5*

Read these verses carefully and you will see that they all make a reference about personal purification.

## **2. CONSECRATION TO GOD**

When a person, a place or an object is exclusively separated or dedicated to the service of God, he/she/it is consecrated.

In the Old Testament we read that homes were consecrated to the Lord: *Leviticus 27:14*

*"And when a man dedicates his house to be holy to the LORD, then the priest shall set a value for it, whether it is good or bad; as the priest values it, so it shall stand."*

Solomon dedicated the temple that he built to God; people were consecrated to God, for example, *Jeremiah 1:5*

*"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; Before you were born I sanctified you; I ordained you a prophet to the nations"*



### 3. A HOLY LIFE

The result of sanctification, purification from sin and consecration to God is a holy life.

The new nature of a person who has been recreated in Christ's image only desires what is pure and just.

When God starts the process of sanctification in a believer's life and when that process is continued through his own efforts to change for the better, God's nature of morality and holiness is formed within him.

Through the process of sanctification, God prepares the believer for his Kingdom.

*Ephesians 1:4 – "... just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love,"*

This means that all those who are born again in Christ, are required to live a holy life. All our words, thoughts and actions have to be subject to the control of the Spirit of God.

Living a holy life is a scriptural commandment:

*Leviticus 19:2 - "'Speak to all the congregation of the children of Israel, and say to them: 'You shall be holy, for the LORD your God am holy.'"*

*Leviticus 20:7 - "Consecrate yourselves therefore, and be holy, for I am the LORD your God."*

By reading these verses, we understand that God wants his people to separate themselves from evil and from impurity. He also wants us to be recognized for our good conduct and for

our desire to serve God.

*I Peter 1:15, 16 - "but as He who called you is holy, YOU ALSO BE HOLY in all your conduct, because it is written, "BE HOLY, FOR I AM HOLY."*

## II - HOW CAN SANCTIFICATION BE ACHIEVED?

No-one can have a victorious life in Christ if they don't know who they are in Christ.

We know that when God created the world He made it perfect. God created man in his image and likeness, and gave instructions to man, but man failed.

The fact is that a person who has never given his life to Jesus is a sinner, he is a person with the wrong nature.

There are people who shamelessly say and think that they are great: "Pastor, I've never done anyone any harm, nor have I desired any evil to come upon anyone."

The truth of the matter is that they spend all their time talking bad about others and doing all sorts of evil.

Sinning and transgressing against the laws of God can be something as simple as telling one lie in your whole entire life or failing to pay homage to God; failing to honour Him in what He asks of you to do, or simply not paying any attention to Him. We must, therefore understand that in the eyes of God, there is not one just person in this world. All have transgressed and saddened God.

God gets irritated in such a way that he doesn't even talk

to the people who have saddened Him time after time. But God is also a very patient God, and He allows the world to carry on existing because of His grace.

Whoever is stubborn enough to continue thinking that he is a great and important person is only fooling himself. He's not even fooling others.

Whosoever thinks like this should be informed that he's not fooling anyone, much less God.

In the life of a Christian there are two kinds of sanctification:

- Instant Sanctification
- Progressive Sanctification

## **A) INSTANT SANCTIFICATION**

This happens instantly, as soon as we receive Jesus as our Saviour and it consists of Jesus forgiving us and washing away our sins from the day we were born up until the day we gave our lives to Him.

Who can be considered HOLY?

Every individual who has received Jesus as his Saviour has been made a new creation, a child of God and has become sanctified, cleansed, set free from his sin, by the Lord Jesus Christ.

A saint is not a person who has never failed, or somebody who is perfect. This is the reason we are called SAINTS. Now let's take a look at what Apostle Paul says:

*1 Corinthians 1:2 "... to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all who in every place call on the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours"*

This refers to all Christians all over the world, who have received Jesus Christ.

The Bible tells us that every brother in Christ around the world is a SAINT. We're not saints however by our own merit.

We cannot buy holiness with the good deeds we perform. Instead, we're holy because Jesus shed His blood for us so that He could cleanse us from sin and reconcile us with God the Father. We're not the ones who make ourselves holy, and no man can bestow the title of saint upon anyone else.

Only God can do this and God has made us holy by the sacrifice of Jesus, not because of our own works. We were all born with the wrong nature because of Adam and Eve and apart from that we also sin. There is no one who doesn't sin.

If Jesus hadn't died for us to purify us of our sins, then we would have no chance of entering the Kingdom of God.

***Romans 3: 9-10**– “What then? Are we better than they? Not at all. For we have previously charged both Jews and Greeks that they are all under sin. As it is written: “There is none righteous, no, not one;”*

***Romans 3:23** - “for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God”*

Before we gave our lives to Jesus, we were all sinners condemned to eternal death.

Some people don't understand this and they think that one day God will save them because they're good people. They pay their bills, they don't wish for any evil to come upon anyone, etc. The truth is that they're greatly mistaken, because in God's eyes lying, criticizing others and gossiping is just as bad as killing, stealing and committing adultery.

We were strangers and enemies to God because of our evil deeds but Jesus shed His blood for us on the cross to pay for our sins and to enable us to stand before God as being INNOCENT, HOLY and WITHOUT BLAME.

When we receive Jesus as our Lord and Saviour, Jesus cleanses us from all sin and presents us to God as being HOLY, BLAMELESS and INNOCENT.

When we were sinners, we were under the power of the devil. We were his slaves, whether we believed it or not.

As soon as we were born again by receiving Jesus, He set us free from the devil's chains and from being satan's slaves. He gave us a place in the Kingdom of God.

*Colossians 1:13 – “He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love,”*

## **B. PROGRESSIVE SANCTIFICATION**

It's up to a born again believer to achieve this type of sanctification which consists of confessing your sins to God, after having received Jesus and then of starting to live a life that pleases Him.

The path to sanctification is a joint venture between God and the believer. Nobody can achieve any kind of sanctification if God doesn't work in their lives; but it's also impossible to achieve without our own personal effort.

God did His part in enabling us to walk in the path of holiness, however He gave us the responsibility to walk, He cannot do that for us.

Christians like to talk about divine protection, about the way in which Jesus conquered over sin on the cross for us and about how He gave us the Holy Spirit to enable us to live victoriously over sin. However, normally we are not as eager to talk about our own responsibility to walk in the path of holiness.

All of us struggle with this question: “What should I do, and what can I expect of God?” After all, what does the Bible teach us in relation to this burning question?

What is my responsibility in the search for holiness? Achieving holiness is a process which demands diligence and which is a life long task.

I am saved now; I am a new creation, a child of God, holy and righteous, free of all former sin.

But will I never sin again? Unfortunately this is not so.

After we have received Jesus, we become determined to do what is good; but every once in a while, we end up sinning and doing what we shouldn't.

Now the question arises: Do we have a solution?

Fortunately, yes there is, seeing that Jesus has also provided a solution for the sins we commit after our conversion.

***1 John 1:8,9** – “If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.*

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

Sanctification starts on the day that we are born again, but it is up to us to work at it with the help of the Holy Spirit.

It consists of living in a way that pleases God and of trying to resemble Jesus more and more each day.

Progressive sanctification produces these fruits:

AGAPE love (Fruits of a renewed spirit – *1 Corinthians 13*)

- Meekness, self control,
- Joy
- Peace
- Longanimity (A quality that enables us to cope with adversity, injustice and persecution without complaining. It also enables us to wish for good things to happen even to those who harm us)
- Virtue
- Integrity
- Loyalty

### III - HOW WE ARE SANCTIFIED

#### A - THE DIVINE ASPECT

There are three ways divinely established by God for our sanctification that we should be aware of: the blood of Christ, the Holy Spirit and the Word of God.

#### 1. THE BLOOD OF CHRIST

*Hebrews 13:12; 10:10, 14* and *1 John 1:7*.

In this case the sinner is transformed into a holy worshipper. By virtue of the supreme sacrifice of Jesus Christ, the believer is transformed and eternally separated for God.

His conscience is purified and transformed into that of a worshipper, united in fellowship with the Lord Jesus Christ, for:

*Hebrews 2:10* - “For both He who sanctifies and those who are being sanctified are all of one, for which reason He is not ashamed to call them brethren.”

A conscience burdened due to sin hinders communion with God.

Confessing sin and faith in the sacrifice of Christ removes this barrier.

*1 John 1:8, 9 – “If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.*

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

## **2. THE HOLY SPIRIT** – inner sanctification

*I Corinthians 6:11; II Thessalonians 2:12;*

*I Peter 1:1, 2; Romans 15:16*

In these scriptures sanctification by the Holy Spirit is presented as the beginning of God’s work in the heart of man, leading him to a full understanding of justification by faith, in the blood of Jesus.

Chapter 10 of *Acts* illustrates the work of the Holy Spirit.

In it’s first years, the primitive Church was opposed to preaching the gospel to the gentiles. God had to give Peter a vision, showing him that what He had purified, should not be dealt with as impure or worldly. This was God saying that He had made provision for the sanctification of the gentiles so that they could become his people.

## **3. THE WORD OF GOD** – external sanctification is practical.

*John 17:17; Ephesians 5:26; John 15:3;*

*Psalms 119:9; James 1:23-25.*

Christians are described as those who have been generated by the Word.



*1 Peter 1:23 – “having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever.”*

The Word of God awakens men to the foolishness and impurity within their lives.

When we give importance to the Word, by repenting from our sins and by believing in Christ, we are purified by the Word which has been spoken to us.

This is the beginning of purification which should continue throughout our lives.

In Biblical times, when an Israeli priest was consecrated to the ministry he had to undergo a ritual bathing in which he washed his entire body.

This ritual was never repeated again. It was done only once, but was forever valid.

However, he was obliged to wash his hands and feet everyday.

We need to undergo a daily process of separation from our impurities and imperfections which are revealed to us by the Word of God. (*Titus 3:5*); This happens because the Word of God revealed to us acts like a mirror to the soul (*James 1:22-25*).

Consider what these washings symbolize:

-Washing of the hands - symbolize the honourable deeds we should do.

-Washing of the feet - means that we should guard ourselves from the filth that so easily clings to the feet of the pilgrim who walks through the streets of this world.

## **B - A CHRISTIAN'S ROLE**

### **1. FAITH IN ATONEMENT**

Salvation is by grace, if we told the Jewish people that they only need to have faith in Jesus, and that nothing else needs to be done in regards to salvation. They would certainly call this a heresy and at the same time they would slacken their lifestyle and easily fall into sin.

They would think that they could do anything they wanted to because they'd get away with it as long as they believed in the message of salvation. This is because their doctrine of faith instigates sin.

If Justification is by grace and not by works, why then be concerned about sin? Why not continue to sin even more, so that there may be an abundance of grace?

Paul's enemies accused him of preaching this doctrine. Paul, guided by the Holy Spirit professed:

***Romans 6:7** "For he who has died has been freed from sin."*

Death cancels any obligation and breaks all ties. By becoming united with Christ, a Christian dies to his old life and all chains of sin are broken.

### **2. CO-OPERATION WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT**

We can only grow in holiness after having consciously freed ourselves from the power of sin.

In ***Romans*** chapter 6 we can see how faith allows us to be victorious over the power of sin.

***Romans*** chapter 8 presents man with a new ally in the battle against sin. This ally is the Holy Spirit.

Paul shows us how important the law is in order to be saved and sanctified, but not because the law is good, but because of the sinful inclination of human nature, known as the ‘flesh’.

The dominating theme in **Romans** chapter 8 is freedom. This is because it teaches us that we can be freed of our sinful nature by the power of the Holy Spirit.

### 3. RENEWING YOUR MIND

**Romans 12:1** - “...present your bodies a living sacrifice, ...”  
**Philippians 4:8** – “... whatever things are true (the Word is true), whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, etc. **MEDITATE ON THESE THINGS**”

**Proverbs 23:7**- ‘For as he thinks in his heart, so is he’.

In **II Corinthians 10:5**, it also says that we must take captive all knowledge, destroy all arrogance and pride that rises up against God’s knowledge and grant God’s word it’s place in our hearts and in our minds. We have the “mind of Christ”.

Spiritual and physical transformations go on inside of us when we RENEW OUR MINDS. Our body is a laboratory of the five senses. No wonder it’s necessary to present it as a sacrifice. Paul adds this: “... be transformed by the **RENEWING OF YOUR MIND**, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.” (**Rom.12:2**)

Once our minds are renewed we become able to understand the spiritual value of confessing the right things.

## C. INSTRUMENTS OF SANCTIFICATION

### 1. THE BIBLE.

Every Christian should read the Bible on a day to day basis. The Bible is like a mirror to every Christian who reads it.

*James 1:23* – “... he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror.”

When reading the Bible one can look at his own spiritual state. The Bible brings to light all of one’s inadequacies, flaws and sins. When we obey the Bible we are purified.

*Psalms 119:9, 11* “How can a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to Your word. Your word I have hidden in my heart, That I might not sin against You!”

*John 15:3* – “You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you.”

### 2. CORRECTION

At times God will correct and even punish his servants for their sins. This correction is meant to impel us to stop desiring a sinful life. As a result, this correction becomes an instrument of sanctification for the Christian.

When God corrects us, our immediate reaction should be to have the desire to be purified and to grow in the knowledge of sanctification. This knowledge can be achieved by faith, after having confessed our sins in accordance with *1 John 1:9*.

*Revelation 3:19* “As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent.”

**Hebrews 12:6-8** “For whom the LORD loves He chastens, And scourges every son whom He receives.”

*If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten? But if you are without chastening, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate and not sons.”*

### 3. TRIALS

God uses trials and tribulations to stimulate us into holiness.

**1 Peter 1:6, 7** “In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ.”

Both correction and trials have the same purpose: to separate us from evil and to bring us closer to God.

**Psalms 119: 67, 71** “Before I was afflicted I went astray, But now I keep Your word. It is good for me that I have been afflicted, That I may learn Your statutes.”

Gods’ goal in the sanctification of the believer is for him to lead a holy life like Jesus did:

**Ephesians 4:12-13** – “for the equipping of the saints ... till we all come ... to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.”

This is the divine standard which God has set for His children to live by.

In the second coming of Jesus, our sanctification will be complete, the power of sin will be broken in our lives forever.

Then we shall be completely sanctified and ready to be in the presence of God.

*1 John 3:2 – “But we know that when he is revealed, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.”*

## **IV - THE MEANING OF JUSTIFICATION**

The first three lessons of this complementary course (Repentance of dead works, Faith in God and Born Again), dealt with man’s responsibility to achieve sanctification, but justification is a divine act by which man enters into a new relationship with God.

*Acts 13:39 – “by him everyone who believes is justified from all things from which you could not be justified by the Law of Moses.”*

*Romans 4:2-8 – “For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. For what does the Scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.” Now to him who works, the wages are not counted as grace but as debt. But to him who does not work but believes on Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is accounted for righteousness, just as David also describes the blessedness of the man to whom God imputes righteousness apart from works: “Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, And whose sins are covered; Blessed is the man to whom the LORD shall not impute sin.”*

*Romans 5:1 “Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.”*

*Romans 5:9 “Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him.”*

These Biblical verses clearly state that JUSTIFICATION does not mean: TO MAKE JUST, but to PRESENT as just or to DECLARE just in the legal sense.

JUSTIFICATION doesn't deal directly with one's conduct. We must understand that the justice we've acquired is mainly expressed in our relationship with God, although it will also become apparent in the relationships we have with others.

When a sinner establishes a concrete relationship with God, this will produce righteousness in his daily conduct. Someone who is truly justified before God will never try to exhibit the righteousness and perfection which results from his own efforts.

Paul said that he desired to:

*“be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith” (Philip.3:9)*

In **Luke 18:9-14**, the parable of the Pharisee and the Tax collector we read that the Pharisee tried to justify himself by saying:

***Luke 18:10-14** - “Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, ‘God, I thank You that I am not like other men—extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess.’ And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, ‘God, be merciful to me a sinner!’ I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.”*

Speaking to another Pharisee Jesus said:

***Luke 16:15** “You are those who justify yourselves before men, but God knows your hearts. For what is highly esteemed among men is an abomination in the sight of God.”*

No one can justify himself before God, only before man, because:

*Romans 8:33 – “... It is God who justifies”.*

## V - WHAT DOES ACQUITTAL MEAN?

*James 2:23 “Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.” And he was called the friend of God.”*

*Romans 5:1 – “Therefore, having been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.”*

To better understand the meaning of the word “acquittal”, let’s read Paul’s letter to Philemon, so that the meaning of the word “acquittal” can become clearer to us.

Onesimus, Philemon’s slave, had run away with some of his master’s belongings. He fled to Rome, where he met the Apostle Paul who was a good friend of Philemon.

Paul led Onesimus to believe in Jesus as Lord and Saviour and sent him back to his owner Philemon, with this message:

*Philemon 1:17-18 “If then you count me as a partner, receive him as you would me. But if he has wronged you or owes anything, put that on my account.”*

This is acquittal, and it is precisely what Christ did for us.

*Isaiah 53:5 “But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed.”*



# **TEST SECTION**

## **READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY**

Answer these questions after you have studied this booklet.

Do not look back at your notes to find the answers.  
The main reason for this test is to show you how much you have learnt and what you need to study again.

Keep this booklet so that you can consult it whenever you need to.

This course consists of 6 lessons and you will receive a certificate after having completed each one in a satisfactory manner.

## ABOUT THE TEST:

### 1<sup>ST</sup> PART – MULTIPLE CHOICE

Each question will be followed by three possible answers: a, b, and c, from which you have to choose the correct one. There is only one correct answer for each question.

Read the questions and the choice of answers very carefully and underline or mark the right one.

Example:

1 - The doctrine about repentance is ...

- a) A new doctrine
- b) A Biblical doctrine
- c) Contrary to biblical teachings

In this lesson we learnt that repentance is a very Biblical doctrine, so option (b) is the only correct choice to make and must be underlined or marked.

Do the same with all the other questions in Part 1 of each test. You may use a pen or a pencil. We only have one thing to ask of you: Use any colour you like except for red.

### 2<sup>ND</sup> PART – TRUE OR FALSE QUESTIONS

This part contains 10 statements that are either true or false. Read every statement carefully, and then write **TRUE** or **FALSE**.

Example:

1 - John the Baptist preached about repentance.

**TRUE**

If you think this statement is true, you should write the word **“TRUE”** in the blank next to it.

Follow the same rules with all of the other questions in this section.

## COMPLEMENTARY COURSE TEST 1

Grade: \_\_\_\_\_ N°: \_\_\_\_\_

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Qualifications: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Salvation: \_\_\_\_\_

Reason for taking this course: \_\_\_\_\_

### 1<sup>ST</sup> PART – MULTIPLE CHOICE

1- Why is the doctrine about repentance important?

- a) The Word of God teaches about repentance
- b) There are many teachings about repentance
- c) Man enjoys hearing about repentance

2- What did Jesus instruct His disciples to preach about?

- a) The way we should dress
- b) Repentance
- c) Confession

- 3- What does the word “repentance” mean?
- a) Change your friends
  - b) Change your surroundings
  - c) Change the way you think
- 4- What feeling should you possess upon finding out that your sin offends God because He is Holy?
- a) Joy
  - b) Godly sorrow
  - c) Indifference
- 5- What is the result of Godly sorrow?
- a) Salvation
  - b) Death
  - c) Despair
- 6- Which of the following men, truly repented?
- a) The Pharisee in *Luke 18:9-14*
  - b) King David
  - c) King Saul
- 7- *Psalm 51* is a Psalm of:
- a) Worship
  - b) Repentance
  - c) Victory
- 8- How can you show God that you have truly repented?
- a) By making an effort to hide your sin
  - b) By confessing your sins to a priest
  - c) By Confessing your sins to God



- 9- Why do you need to confess your sins to someone else?
- So that you have a witness to the fact that you have confessed your sins.
  - Because you offended that person and now you need to confess what you did (sin) to them.
  - So that you can clear your conscience.
- 10- What does it mean to abandon your sin?
- Turn your back on your sins forever
  - To hide it so that no one sees it
  - Confess your sin repeatedly so that you will never forget it and therefore not commit it again.
- 11- Once you have confessed your sin....
- You can continue with the same lifestyle as before, because God is love and he won't condemn you.
  - Draw closer to God, so that He can give you the strength to serve Him.
  - Allow God to ignite the spiritual flame in you, so that you become more like Him and no longer desire to sin.
- 12- Repentance is produced in our hearts for the following reason:
- Our desire to be a better person in the future.
  - Being friends with people better than ourselves, so that they can help us choose what is good.
  - Allowing God to ignite His divine nature in our heart, so that we can become more like Him and so that we can stop having the desire to sin
- 13- What is our part in achieving true repentance?
- Studying the Word of God and living according to the

teachings of the Gospel.

- b) Being Baptized and being and faithful to the church.
- c) Doing charity work in the name of Jesus Christ.

**14-** Why does repentance cause jubilation in heaven?

- a) Because the person who repented chose to live a better life.
- b) Because the person who has repented, will now have less sins to ask forgiveness for before going to heaven.
- c) Because it means that one more person has been saved.

**15-** “Godly sorrow” is caused by...

- a) Knowing that you will be punished because of your sin.
- b) Knowing that leading a sinful life grieves God because He is holy.
- c) Knowing that your family will suffer because of your sins.



## 2ND PART – TRUE OR FALSE

- 1- Peter believed that the doctrine of repentance should not be preached to the Jews.
- 2- The Tax Collector in *Luke 18:9-14* believed that he was so good that he did not have to repent.
- 3- “Godly sorrow” (towards sin) leads to repentance.
- 4- In order to abandon sin, you do not have to repent.
- 5- You should never confess your sins to another person.
- 6- By repeatedly confessing to God about a sin you have committed, you are refusing to believe in the promise God gave us saying that He forgives and forgets about our sins.
- 7- Repentance occurs as a result of a decision one makes to live a better life.
- 8- God condemns sinners because He hates them and wants them to be as far away from Him as possible.
- 9- Repentance is simply a human requirement.



We don't need to repent in order to receive God's forgiveness.

**10-** God needs you to repent before he can fill your heart with the Holy Spirit



## COMPLEMENTARY COURSE TEST 2

Grade: \_\_\_\_\_ N°: \_\_\_\_\_

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Church: \_\_\_\_\_

Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Qualifications: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Salvation: \_\_\_\_\_

Reason for taking this course: \_\_\_\_\_

### 1<sup>ST</sup> PART – MULTIPLE CHOICE

- 1 - Most important virtue which Jesus pointed out was:
- a) Persistence.
  - b) Humility.
  - c) Faith.
- 2 - Faith is based on:
- a) The Word of God.
  - b) Our skills and worth.
  - c) What we know about the future.

- 3 - The Word of God should be accepted as being:
- Fiction.
  - The truth.
  - A legend.
- 4 - We should act upon our faith by:
- Receiving Jesus as our Lord and Saviour.
  - Taking a leap in the dark.
  - Going to church so as to gain credits with God.
- 5 - Biblical faith has mainly to do with:
- our intellect.
  - our feelings.
  - our heart.
- 6 - We can get to know God:
- by using reason, faith doesn't play any part in it.
  - In this present time, by faith, if we believe that He exists.
  - Only after we have died.
- 7 - Because of our faith we are able to recognise Jesus as being:
- A man who never sinned.
  - God.
  - A martyr who died for a good cause.
- 8 - Regarding Faith and works:
- Faith has nothing to do with works.
  - Paul contradicts what is written by James.
  - Paul teaches faith from God's point of view and James teaches it from Man's point of view.



9 - Faith comes from:

- a) God the Father.
- b) Jesus Christ.
- c) The Trinity, working as one.

10 - If Faith depends on the operation of the trinity, are we or are we not responsible for not having faith?

a) There is no human responsibility, because God only chooses whom it pleases Him to..

b) We're responsible for having faith because the Holy Spirit will produce faith in anyone who allows him to do so.

c) No, the gift of faith hasn't been given to anyone after

*Hebrews 11: when it was given to men entitled "The Heroes of Faith"..*

11 - the works we can do by faith:

- a) aren't many..
- b) Have no limit.
- c) Depend on our ability.

12 - The correct order in which to exercise our faith is:

- a) Faith, Truth, Feelings.
- b) Feelings, Truth, Faith.
- c) Truth, Faith, Feelings.

## 2<sup>ND</sup> PART – TRUE OR FALSE

- 1- Faith is being uncertain about the things we believe in.
- 2- Faith is invisible therefore it doesn't have a firm foundation.
- 3- Our faith has no value if we don't accept what we believe in our hearts as being the truth.
- 4- Faith must be seen as 'blind trust': 'A leap in the dark.'
- 5- In order to have faith in God we can simply look around us and behold His creation, this proves His existence. Furthermore we don't need to have any other knowledge about Him in order to have true faith.
- 6- Believing that Jesus is God is essential in order to have faith in Him.
- 7- Believing in the historical facts about Jesus' life is the same thing as having faith in Him.
- 8- Without faith, prayer is a meaningless repetition of words.
- 9- You don't need to know anything about the word of God to be able to pray to Him in an acceptable manner.
- 10- Faith isn't a virtue that was given to us at birth. It's a gift from God.



11- Repentance is merely a human requirement. God doesn't require us to repent in order to forgive us.

12- God requires us to repent before he bountifully bestows the Holy Spirit upon us.

## COMPLEMENTARY COURSE TEST 3

Grade: \_\_\_\_\_ N°: \_\_\_\_\_

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Church: \_\_\_\_\_

Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Qualifications: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Salvation: \_\_\_\_\_

Reason for taking this course: \_\_\_\_\_

### 1<sup>ST</sup> PART – MULTIPLE CHOICE

- 1- The doctrine of Born Again is important because:
- a) Jesus teaches that nobody can enter the Kingdom of God unless they are born again.
  - b) Everyone has been reborn.
  - c) People like to hear about this subject.
- 2- Being born again means:
- a) Dressing differently.
  - b) Being baptized.
  - c) Being born of the spirit of God- spiritual birth.

3- Being born again is:

- a) A gift from our pastor.
- b) A gift we receive from God when we accept Jesus as our Saviour.
- c) Something that happens when we go to Church.

4- Through Born Again:

- a) Our old nature starts desiring to do what is good.
- b) God gives us a new nature.
- c) We better our old nature by wanting to do what is right.

5- Once we are born again:

- a) We never do anything wrong again.
- b) We are never tempted to sin again.
- c) We are able to overcome sin by the power of Jesus that lives in the heart of each believer.

6- To overcome sin, we:

- a) cannot live in this world.
- b) must accept our old nature so that we don't have to battle constantly against it.
- c) have to meditate on the Word of God every day, speaking and act according to it.

7- Born Again is necessary, because:

- a) As a result of Adam's sin, everyone died spiritually.
- b) We were taught to sin from a very young age.
- c) We need a spiritual body.

8- The Bible teaches that:

- a) Everyone has sinned and therefore become separated from God's glory.





- b) Only criminals and outlaws are sinners.
- c) Everybody is good.

9- The holiness and righteousness of God ...

- a) Doesn't necessarily stop us from living in sin because God knows that we've inherited a sinful nature from Adam. and as a result he doesn't hold us responsible for the sin in our lives.
- b) Makes it imperative for us to be born again, because God cannot tolerate sin.
- c) Stimulate us to live a better life so that we are able to attain the perfection required by God.

10- Born Again:

- a) An act of God done to people whether they consent to it or not.
- b) Happens when people are baptized and obey God's commandments.
- c) Is done by God, and executed by the Holy Spirit in the heart of those who believe and who give their lives to Him out of their own free will.

11- Man's responsibility in the act of Born Again is:

- a) Doing good deeds.
- b) Going to church regularly.
- c) Accepting the word of God, receiving Jesus and allowing God to work in his life.

12- To be born again we must:

- a) Decide to become a member of the Church.
- b) Make the Decision of living a better life and of going to church every Sunday.



c) Receive Jesus as our personal Saviour.

13- We can be sure that we are born again:

a) On the Final Judgement Day.

b) When we become members of a Church.

c) From the moment that we receive Jesus as our Lord and Saviour, because the Bible says that whosoever has the Son has eternal life.

14- Born Again can only occur to the following people:

a) Thieves.

b) Those who have never heard of Jesus.

c) Every human being who believes in Jesus.

15- Born Again became necessary:

a) When Jesus was crucified.

b) On the day of Pentecost.

c) When Adam sinned in the Garden of Eden.

## 2<sup>ND</sup> PART – TRUE OR FALSE

- 1- The phrase ‘the regenerating washing’ means that we are born again by baptism.
- 2- Born Again is a slow process which happens by reading the Bible.
- 3- The work done by the Holy Spirit during Born Again is compared to the movement of the wind.
- 4- When Paul wrote to the Ephesians about the “new man”, he was referring to the new body that we will receive in the resurrection period.
- 5- According to the Word of God, nothing can substitute Born Again.
- 6- By continuously confessing the same sin we demonstrate our disbelief in the promise God made when He said that He would wipe our sins away.
- 7- Repentance is produced by deciding to live a better life.
- 8- God punishes sinners because he hates them and wants them out of His life.
- 9- Repentance is only a human requisite, it isn’t a necessary requirement in order to receive Gods forgiveness.



10- It is necessary for us to show true repentance before the Holy Spirit can be granted in all its fullness in our lives.

## COMPLEMENTARY COURSE TEST 4

Grade: \_\_\_\_\_ N°: \_\_\_\_\_

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Church: \_\_\_\_\_

Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Qualifications: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Salvation: \_\_\_\_\_

Reason for taking this course:

### 1<sup>ST</sup> PART – MULTIPLE CHOICE

- 1- The first thing that adoption deals with is a change in:
  - a) God's attitude towards sin.
  - b) God's attitude towards man.
  - c) Man's attitude towards God.
  
- 2- The word "adoption" is used in the Scriptures in relation to:
  - a) Jesus being the heir of God.
  - b) The believer, being in co-inheritance with Jesus.
  - c) The sinner being an heir to the things of this world.



3- Our adoption is finalized:

- a) As soon as we give our lives to Jesus, thus becoming saved.
- b) When we die.
- c) When our body is resurrected in the second coming of Jesus Christ..

4- The Biblical term “Adoption” refers to a judicial act which is:

- a) Received by faith, and therefore, the world cannot understand it.
- b) Recognised by the world and authenticated in a notary’s office.
- c) Recognised by the world but only when there is authenticated paperwork from the church to prove it.

5- Due to our adoption our relationship with God:

- a) Doesn’t change because everyone is a creation of God and therefore we are all His children..
- b) Is changed and we become the object of His love
- c) Becomes uncertain, but it will only be clear to us when we arrive at God’s Kingdom in Heaven.

6- The benefits of adoption are:

- a) Only spiritual.
- b) Only material.
- c) Both spiritual and material.

7- Adoption influences our relationship:

- a) With God.
- b) With our brothers in Christ.
- c) Both with God and with our brothers in Christ.

- 
- 8- One of the main effects of adoption is:
- a) Self confidence.
  - b) Confidence in others.
  - c) Confidence in God.
- 9- God supplies our needs:
- a) In the same way that He supplies for non-believers.
  - b) But that has nothing to do with our adoption.
  - c) As a special privilege for being His adopted sons.
- 10- Being sure about one's salvation:
- a) Is a reality today for those who have become God's sons by adoption.
  - b) Has nothing to do with having been adopted by God.
  - c) Is a special privilege for those who have become God's sons by adoption.



## **2<sup>ND</sup> PART – TRUE OR FALSE**

- 1- Adoption is about changing our nature.
- 2- Adoption refers to the relationship between Jesus Christ and God.
- 3- The subject of adoption refers to the position we hold in God's family.
- 4- Adoption doesn't give us the right to be heirs of God.
- 5- Seeing as adoption is an act of God, we can receive it without having any faith.
- 6- Adoption is a spiritual truth that can be enjoyed in this life.
- 7- Being corrected by God is a sign that we're His children.
- 8- The similarities between God's adopted sons and their saviour are only physical.
- 9- God's adopted children don't have the liberty of speaking directly to Him.
- 10- God's children should love one another.



## COMPLEMENTARY COURSE TEST 5

Grade: \_\_\_\_\_ N<sup>o</sup>: \_\_\_\_\_

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City: \_\_\_\_\_

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Church: \_\_\_\_\_

Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Qualifications: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Salvation: \_\_\_\_\_

Reason for taking this course:

### 1<sup>ST</sup> PART – MULTIPLE CHOICE

- 1- Jacob learnt the secret of persisting in prayer:
  - a) In Bethel, the 'House of God'.
  - b) At the brook of Jabbok, the 'Place for Emptying oneself'.
  - c) In Hebron, the 'Place of the Covenant'.
  
- 2- The man in Luke 11:5-8 is a noteworthy example of:
  - a) Someone who gives up on prayer
  - b) Resistant prayer
  - c) Persistent prayer



- 3 - According to Biblical examples, the best time for prayer is:
- Just before going to bed at night.
  - Early in the morning.
  - At midday
- 4 - The Prayer of Faith consists of:
- Dedicating your life to God.
  - Asking God for something without feeling certain about whether you're going to receive it or not.
  - Asking God to help you in things related to your personal life.
- 5 - When we pray according to *Mark 11:24*, we receive the answer to our prayer:
- One month later.
  - At the very moment that we pray.
  - One day in Heaven.
- 6 - How many types of prayer are there, according to this book?
- Only three
  - At least ten
  - Around eight
- 7 - When we pray for someone else:
- We are praying the Prayer of Faith for ourselves
  - We are dedicating our lives to God.
  - We are praying the prayer of intercession.
- 8 - The Word of God clearly states that we can ask Him for:
- Anything
  - Nothing
  - Only Spiritual things.



9 - If we don't see the answer to our prayers as soon as we'd expected to:

- a) We should give up the wait.
- b) We should believe that it's because God hasn't heard us.
- c) We should keep on praising God knowing that He will do what He has promised.

10 - We are Praying in the Spirit when:

- a) We repeat the same words over and over again.
- b) We recite prayers that we've come to memorize.
- c) We pray in tongues.

## 2<sup>ND</sup> PART – TRUE OR FALSE

1 - In the beginning God often visited Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden, to have fellowship with them.

2 - The leaders of the primitive Church thought that doing the work of God was more important than praying

3 - The best prayers are the ones which are written down and memorised because they're the ones that inspire reverence and respect for God.

4 - Prayer is not having fellowship with God; it is only asking God for things.

5 - According to Luke 18:1 we should pray with persistence and insistence.

6 - The Bible tells us in Mark 1:35 that we should pray in bed at night.



7 - We should pray with discipline.

8 - When the answer to our prayer takes time to arrive, we should feel disheartened and give up the wait altogether

9 - When we pray in the Spirit we do not speak to man but to God, in mysteries.

10 - When two or more people agree on something and they ask God for it, they will get what they have agreed upon.

## COMPLEMENTARY COURSE TEST 6

Grade: \_\_\_\_\_ N<sup>o</sup>: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

Country: \_\_\_\_\_

Church: \_\_\_\_\_

Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Qualifications: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Salvation: \_\_\_\_\_

Reason for taking this course:

### 1<sup>ST</sup> PART – MULTIPLE CHOICE

1 - Instant sanctification is obtained:

- a) When we are baptized in water.
- b) By going to Church on a regular basis.
- c) When we are born again in the Spirit

2 - The Word 'sanctification' in the original language of the Bible means:

- a) To join.
- b) To separate
- c) To become a God



3 - We are Holy because:

- a) We do good deeds.
- b) We've never harmed anyone.
- c) When we received Jesus as our Saviour, He washed our sins away and set us free from them.

4 - Sanctification means:

- a) Separating oneself from the world, from evil and from impurity. It also means dedicating oneself to God
- b) Escaping, isolating oneself in a place far away from everyone.
- c) Having no contact whatsoever with unbelievers

5 - According to *1 Corinthians 1:2*, we are called saints because:

- a) We go to Church every Sunday.
- b) We give money to the poor.
- c) We call upon the name of Jesus.

6 - We can be sanctified:

- a) By religious leaders.
- b) By the blood of Jesus, the Word and the Spirit of God.
- c) By being baptized when we're still babies.

7 - What role do we, as believers, have in the process of our sanctification?

- a) We must have faith in redemption and we must also work together with the Holy Spirit so that our mind can be renewed.
- b) We should make religious sacrifices.
- c) We should bow down to statues.

8 - The instruments for sanctification are:

- a) Man-made rules.

- b) The Bible, God's correction and the trials and tribulations we go through.
- c) An academic education.

9 - The image of Jesus is revealed:

- a) At Church.
- b) Through Pastors or Priests
- c) Through the Word of God.

10 - The process of sanctification continues:

- a) Until we are in God's presence.
- b) Until we achieve a good reputation at church.
- c) For all eternity.

## 2<sup>ND</sup> PART – TRUE OR FALSE

1. Sanctification occurs when we recounce evil and set ourselves apart for God.
2. Sanctification can be achieved on our exterior by the way we dress.
3. Instant sanctification occurs as soon as we receive Jesus as our Saviour.
4. Instant sanctification occurs because our sins have been forgiven and washed away by Jesus. This is true for the sins we committed from the day we were born up until the day we received Jesus as our Saviour.
5. Saints are appointed by men.
6. Justification is a divine act by which man enters into a new



relationship with God.

7. Justification does not mean making oneself just, but presenting oneself as just or declaring oneself as just in the legal sense.

8. Justification does not directly deal with the character or behaviour of man.

9. In accordance with Romans 8:33, no one can justify himself before God.

10. In accordance with James 2:23, faith in the sacrifice of Jesus brings us justification.



## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Jorge Tadeu is the founder and president of the International Mana Ministry which presently has more than 2,000 churches, 800 Bible Schools, 400 Ministry Schools, as well as Radio, TV Stations and Satellite Coverage in the continents of Europe, Africa and the Americas.

*“Jorge Tadeu is undoubtedly one of the most anointed international leaders of our day. He is also one of the most organized men in the Body of Christ today. This man is a giant within the Portuguese-speaking nations around the world. His mission is to open churches as well as to train and develop highly qualified church leaders .....*”

*John Avanzini*

He is the author of Christian CD's, books, and DVD's, printed in several languages and published in several countries. He is also involved in the film industry having already produced 4 movies.

Jorge Tadeu is regarded as “An Apostle of Faith” and is often invited to conventions, seminars and special events of an evangelical nature etc all over the world.