

Basic Training

Week 1 – Assurance of Salvation

Week 2 – Baptism and Dying To Self

Week 3 – Forgiveness and Grace

Week 4 – The Holy Spirit

Week 5 – The Word of God

Week 6 – The Church

Week 1 – Assurance Of Salvation

1) Introduction

Perhaps when you took Christ as your Savior and Lord you thought that your simple prayer of surrender would give you all Christ had to offer. Well, **you were right!**

In that moment you became a forgiven, freed, Christ-indwelt child of God. In that moment, however, you also received some **rights** from God. And you were given an **inheritance**. Those rights are yours to claim in the present; that inheritance is yours to claim in the **future**.

Salvation comes to you, therefore, in three stages: **past, present, and future**. The apostle Paul explained this truth to his friends in the letters he wrote, which are recorded in the Bible.

Read what Paul wrote in Philippians 1:6:

*“Being confident of this, that he who **began [PAST]** a good work in you **will carry it on [PRESENT]** to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. **[FUTURE]**”*

Below is a brief review of the three aspects of salvation.

SALVATION PAST: By the **blood of Christ**, you are forever free from the **penalty** of sin.

SALVATION PRESENT: Through the **indwelling life of Christ**, you are here and now set free from the **power** of sin.

SALVATION FUTURE: By the **return of Christ**, you will be forever set free from the **presence** of sin.

BEGINNING POINT	A PROCESS OF TIME	THE FINAL EVENT
<i>“He who began a good work in you...”</i>	<i>...will carry it on...</i>	<i>...to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.”</i>
Free from sin’s penalty	Free from sin’s power	Free from sin’s presence
Cleansed by Christ’s blood	Liberated by Christ’s indwelling life	Given your inheritance by Christ’s second coming

Week 1 (cont.)

2) Past – Our Salvation Is An Accomplished Fact

- a) Ephesians 1:13-14
- b) 1 John 5:11-13
- c) John 10:28-29
- d) John 5:24

3) Present – Our Salvation Empowers Us Daily

Salvation present gives you, **right now**, freedom from the power of sin. As we have learned, salvation is a process with three aspects: *salvation past, salvation present, and salvation future*. Throughout the New Testament you can see this distinction.

Paul wrote a letter to his friends, the Corinthians. In the letter, he told them that the message of the cross is the power of God to those “**who are being saved.**” Notice that he referred to salvation present *as a process*. Some people call this process “progressive sanctification,” or the process of growing into a mature Christian. Through Christ’s life, I daily receive salvation present!

- a) Philippians 3:10-15
- b) Romans 6:6-8

4) Future – Our Salvation Is Eternal

Salvation future will be the final event in the process of your salvation. Imagine what it will be like to live eternally with God in heaven. Heaven will be so great that we have a hard time envisioning it.

- a) Philippians 1:6
- b) 1 Corinthians 15:50-58

5) Application/Sharing

- a) It is our human nature to take for granted all that God has saved us from. Take a few minutes together and thank God for His salvation from our past.
- b) In what specific area of your life are you needing the Spirit’s help to break the power of sin?
- c) How do you feel about the thought of living eternally with Christ, being immortal and perfect in character?
- d) Memorize Ephesians 1:13-14

Week 2 – Baptism and Dying To Self

1) Introduction

When a person trusts Jesus Christ as their Savior, one important step of obedience that he/she should take is to get baptized. When we believe in Christ, God cleanses us from our sins and enters into our lives in the person of the Holy Spirit.

- a) Ephesians 1:13-14
- b) 1 Corinthians 12:13

These verses describe baptism of the Holy Spirit. This baptism of the Holy Spirit happens to everyone who places their faith and trust in Jesus Christ to forgive them of their sins and to cleanse them from all their wrong thoughts, deeds, words and attitudes.

The Bible then commands those who have trusted Christ to demonstrate that trust by being baptized in water. Baptism is something an adult (approximately age 12 and up) must choose of their own free will because it is only as adults that we can personally choose the gift of our Savior. There is a lot of confusion in our society today about baptism because many churches teach and practice infant baptism. Many people have been baptized as children by their parents and don't see the need to be baptized as adults. The purpose of this study is to help you look into God's word to see what God has to say about baptism. Cedarcreek is committed to following the Bible, as close as we know how, for our faith and practice. Sometimes we have to cut through man's traditions to do so. Let us dig into His word and see what is taught about the subject of baptism.

2) Why be baptized?

- a) To follow the example set by _____. Mark 1:9
- b) Because Christ _____ it. Matthew 28:19-20
- c) It demonstrates that I am a _____. Acts 18:8

3) How are we to be baptized?

- a) Was Jesus baptized by immersion, pouring or sprinkling? Mark 1:9-10
- b) In Acts 8:38-39, in what way was the Ethiopian official baptized?

Week 2 (cont.)

The Greek word baptizo means “to immerse or to dip.” In New Testament times, the Greek people used the word to refer to baptizing a cup in dishwater. It was used by the dying industry whereby white cloth was baptized into a dye and came out a completely different color. The meaning of the word shows that baptism should be by full immersion.

The founders of major denominations agree:

Martin Luther... “I would have those who are to be baptized be entirely immersed as the word imports and the mystery signifies.”

John Calvin... “The word ‘baptize’ signifies to immerse. It is certain that immersion was the practice of the ancient church.”

John Wesley... “Buried with Him, alluding to baptizing by immersion according to the custom of the first church.”

4) When should we be baptized?

- a) How soon after they believed were the following people baptized?
3000 people in Acts 2:41 _____
Ethiopian official in Acts 8:35-38 _____
Paul in Acts 9:17-19 _____
Philippian jailer in Acts 16:32-33 _____
- b) Were any of these people baptized before they personally trusted Christ?
- c) Did any of these people wait in order to get their life straightened out?

A person should get baptized as soon after they believe as possible. As soon as a person decides to believe in Christ they can and should be baptized. There is no reason to delay. If you wait until you “clean up your life” you will never get there and you will have missed the reason for baptism. It symbolizes what Christ has already done by giving (baptizing) you with His Holy Spirit. It does not mean that you have “now arrived” and are a good Christian.

5) Where should we be baptized?

- a) Where was the Ethiopian official baptized? Acts 8:26, 36-38 _____
- b) Where did John the Baptist baptize? Matthew 3:5-6; John 3:23 _____

A person can be baptized any place where there is enough water. It is not necessary to have it take place in a church building or in a baptismal fount.

Week 2 (cont.)

6) Spiritual Significance Of Baptism

- a) What is the basis of our salvation? Titus 3:5-7 _____
- b) In Acts 10:47-48, who did Peter say should be baptized? _____
- c) What did Paul tell the Philippian jailer when he asked what he needed to do to get saved? Acts 16:31
 - * Believe in Christ and keep all His commandments
 - * Believe in Christ and be baptized
 - * Believe in Christ
- d) Baptism symbolizes what two things? Romans 6:3-7 _____
 - * What is the believer dying to? _____
 - * What is the believer rising to? _____

Baptism is also a public testimony identifying a believer with Christ. In the New Testament times, slaves were often baptized after they were sold. This showed the community that the slave now belonged to a new master. In the same way, a believer is declaring to everyone that he now belongs to Christ.

7) Application/Sharing

- a) What do you think it means to deny yourself? Luke 9:23-26
- b) What is the meaning of a “living sacrifice” in Romans 12:1-2?
- c) Memorize Galatians 2:20

Week 3 – Forgiveness & Grace

How you *think* about yourself really does affect how you *feel and behave*. Tragically, many people go through life with a deep sense of worthlessness and insecurity. They feel unloved and carry the heavy burdens of guilt and shame from past mistakes they have committed.

Why is this tragic? Because that is not how God feels and thinks about us! A key to experiencing the joys of your Christian life is to renew your mind! (See Romans 12:1,2) Instead of looking at life through your limited perspective, **God wants you to see yourself and all of life through His perspective!**

As you grasp this truth and believe it, watch what happens to how you think and feel. Keep in mind God's love is unconditional! He sees all of your weaknesses and mistakes – yet He loves you completely. What you have in Christ is a free gift; you did nothing to earn every spiritual blessing. It is just God's good pleasure to give you these things!

I have swept away your offences like a cloud, your sins like the morning mist. Return to me for I have redeemed you. Isaiah 44:22

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God not by works, so that no one can boast. Ephesians 2:8-9

Grace = An undeserved favor or gift; the undeserved forgiveness, kindness and mercy that God gives.

Forgiveness = To pardon or excuse; no longer to blame or be angry with someone who has done you wrong.

Week 3 (cont.)

1) God works everything for good in my life! Romans 8:28

According to this verse, God will:

- Never work circumstances for your good.
- Sometimes work circumstances for your good.
- Always work circumstances for your good.

Knowing that God is sovereign over the circumstances in your life can give you great confidence to trust Him during trials and to take risks for Him!

2) God wants me! Romans 8:29-30

While it may be difficult to understand, these verses tell you that God knew before the creation of the world that you would be His child. Out of His love, He chose you. He finds great delight in you and longs to be an intimate Father to you. You were predestined to become His child. To be justified is to be made righteous in God's eyes. When He looks at you, He sees the perfect righteousness of Jesus, not all of your mistakes or shortcomings! And finally, you will one day be glorified with Him, living in His presence in heaven!

How does it make you feel to know that God delights in you and wants to be your Father? Hopefully, this makes you feel significant, deeply valued and loved!

3) God is for me! Romans 8:31

During difficult times it always helps to know that someone is there for you, especially if that someone is always able to help!

4) God provides for all my needs! Romans 8:32

How do you know that God will do anything for you?

Understanding this spiritual blessing will help you to **never be anxious**, because you know that God is ready, willing and able to provide for all your needs.

Week 3 (cont.)

5) God does not condemn me! Romans 8:33-34; 8:1

A common problem for many people is that they are unable to get up after making mistakes. It is imperative that you understand what it means that God has forgiven you! Take a moment and make a list of things that you think God may be holding against you.

God has forgiven you as a Christian. Take a moment and thank God for His forgiveness. Now take a pen and scribble out what you have written. If God has forgiven you, He says that He will never remember your sin any more! (Psalm 103:12) Since you are not guilty before God, you can feel freedom from the bondage, guilt or shame that accompanies your mistakes!

6) God loves me! Romans 8:35-39

Can any of the following separate you from God's love?

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Trouble, hard times or persecution | <input type="checkbox"/> Famine or financial hard times |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Violence of others | <input type="checkbox"/> Dangerous circumstances |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Life or death | <input type="checkbox"/> Angels or demons |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Present or future circumstances | <input type="checkbox"/> Height or depth |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Spiritual powers | <input type="checkbox"/> Anything in creation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yourself | <input type="checkbox"/> None of the above! |

Since God's love is unstoppable and irresistible, you can feel secure and valued!

7) Application/Sharing

- a) Ask God to help you change how you think about yourself.
- b) Memorize Isaiah 43:25

Week 4 – The Holy Spirit Your New Helper

1) Introduction

Some years ago while visiting a brother in Iraan, a West Texas town, I learned of a famous oil field known as the “Yates Pool.” During the Great Depression of the 1930’s, this field was a sheep ranch owned by a man named Ira Yates.

Because of Yates’ inability to make enough money on his ranching operation to pay the mortgage, he was in danger of losing his ranch. With little money for clothes or food, his family, like many others during the depression years, had to live on government subsidy.

Day after day, as Yates grazed his sheep over those rolling West Texas hills, he was no doubt greatly troubled about how he would be able to pay his bills. Then a seismographic crew from an oil company came into the area and convinced Yates there may be oil on his land. They asked permission to drill a wildcat test well, and Yates signed a lease contract.

At 1,150 feet the drillers struck a huge oil reserve. The first well came in at 80,000 barrels a day. Translated into today’s market, that would be a gross income of about \$2.5 million a day from a single well. And that was only the beginning.

Many more wells came in – some more than twice as productive as the first. Then, after oil had been pumped for 30 years, a government test of just one of the wells showed that it still had a potential of 125,000 barrels of oil a day. And the onetime sheep rancher Yates owned it all!

Before Ira Yates discovered oil on his property, he was a potential multi-millionaire living in daily poverty. What was the problem? He simply did not know the oil was there.

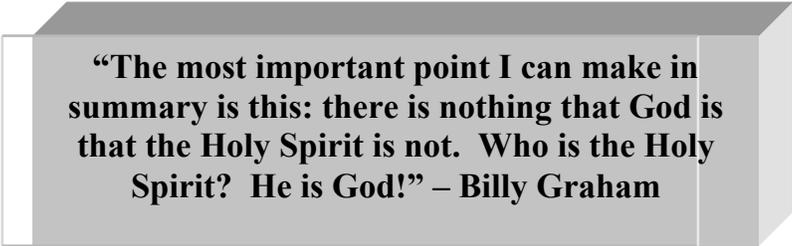
How many frustrated, defeated and fruitless Christians are living in spiritual poverty, not knowing the vast resources of God available to them? They too can reap the riches of God’s power once they discover the ministry of the third member of the God-head, the Holy Spirit, in their lives.

Adapted from Bill Bright’s book, The Holy Spirit

Week 4 (cont.)

2) Who is the Holy Spirit?

- a) John 14:16-18
- b) John 16:13
- c) Acts 5:3-4
- d) 1 Corinthians 2:10-13
- e) Hebrews 9:14



“The most important point I can make in summary is this: there is nothing that God is that the Holy Spirit is not. Who is the Holy Spirit? He is God!” – Billy Graham

3) Indwelling Of The Holy Spirit

- a) Matthew 3:11
- b) 1 Corinthians 6:19
- c) 1 Corinthians 12:13

4) Being Filled With The Spirit/Yielding To His Control

- a) Ephesians 5:18
- b) Galatians 5:16, 24-25

5) Fruits Of The Spirit

- a) Galatians 5:16-23
- b) What is the fruit of the Spirit and how do we get it?

6) Gifts Of The Spirit

- a) 1 Peter 4:10
- b) 1 Corinthians 12:11
- c) What are the gifts of the Spirit and how do we get them?

7) Application/Sharing

- a) What are the implications of the fact that the Holy Spirit of God is living in you?
- b) Why do so many believers not live Spirit-empowered lives?
- c) Memorize Ephesians 3:20

Week 5 – The Word Of God

1) Uniqueness Of The Bible

a) The Bible is an amazing book:

- Written over a 1,500 year span
- Written over 40 generations
- Written by over 40 authors from every walk of life including kings, peasants, philosophers, fishermen, poets, statesmen, etc.
- Written during times of war and peace
- Written during moods of joy and despair
- Written on three continents: Asia, Africa and Europe
- Written in three languages: Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek

And yet, when analyzed, the Bible speaks with amazing unity and conformity on hundreds of controversial subjects about which there are hundreds of opposing opinions.

b) The Bible is widely distributed:

To print every Bible, New Testament, and individual portion of the Bible, published up to 1974, one printer would have to produce:

- 1 copy every 3 seconds
- 20 copies every minute
- 1,200 copies every day
- 36,000 copies every month
- 10 ½ million copies every year

NON STOP FOR 245 YEARS

That's enough pages of Scripture to circle the earth over 1,000 times.

From the Bible societies alone, as of 1974, 2 billion, 582 million Bibles, New Testaments or individual Scripture portions have been printed.

The Bible has been translated into about 1700 different languages making it available to be read by 95% of the world's population.

c) The Bible is rooted in history.

When the number of surviving manuscripts of Scripture is compared with the number of surviving manuscripts from other books of antiquity, the results are truly astounding. The Bible stands unrivaled in its manuscript attestation. No other document of antiquity ever begins to approach such numbers.

“If it is a word from God, it has authority over men. For behind every word that anybody utters stands the person who speaks it. It is the speaker himself (Cedar Creek Basic Training knowledge and position) who determines how people regard his words. So God’s Word carries authority. It is because of who He is that we believe what He has said.”

John r. W. Stott

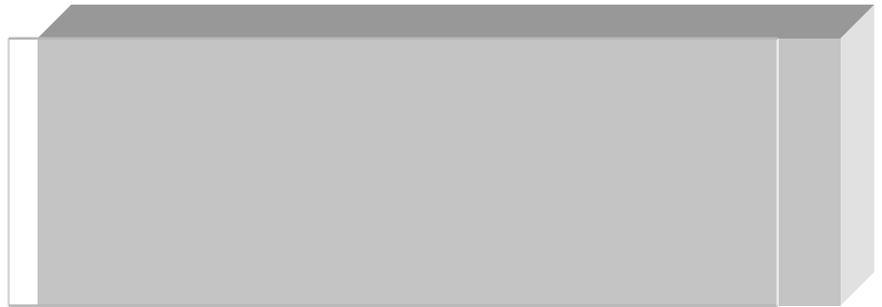
Week 5 (cont.)

<u>Work of Antiquity</u>	<u>Number of Surviving Manuscripts</u>
Pliny the Younger (History)	7
Plato (Tetralogies)	7
Caesar (Gallic Wars)	10
Tacitus (Annals)	20
Aristotle	49
Sophocles	193
Demosthenes	200
Homer (Iliad)	643
New Testament	24,633

Source: Research in Christian Evidences by Dale E. Bellis Editor Josh McDowell, 1979

2) Author Of The Word

- a) 1 Thessalonians 2:13
- b) 2 Timothy 3:16-17
- c) 2 Peter 1:20-21



3) Getting The Word Into Our Life

- a) Ezra 7:10
- b) 2 Timothy 2:15
- c) Five ways to get into the word
 - Romans 10:17 _____
 - Revelation 1:3 _____
 - Acts 17:11 _____
 - Psalm 119:9-11 _____
 - Psalm 1:2-3 _____

4) Obedience & Application Of God’s Word

- a) James 1:22-25
- b) Luke 6:46

5) Application/Sharing

- a) Give some examples from your life of how God’s Word has been living and active.
- b) What are some roadblocks to obeying the word of God in your life?
- c) Memorize 2 Timothy 3:16-17

Week 6 – The Church

1) Introduction

God does not see the church as a building with a steeple, but a living, loving and growing fellowship of His people. The Greek word used in the New Testament for the church is **ekklesia**, meaning “**called out ones.**”

Visualize a large group of people who live by their own personal whims. Christ approaches them and calls out: “Follow Me! Separate yourselves from those who live by their own personal desires. Be My disciples!”

Some hear Him... and then turn away. Others make a clear decision: they walk out from the large group. They come to Christ. They have decided to follow Him. These are the “called out ones.” They are the church.

2) A Living Building

- a) 1 Peter 2:9-10
- b) Ephesians 2:19-22

Notice in 1 Peter 2:9-10 that we are described as “living stones.” We are being constructed into a “spiritual house,” a “holy temple.”

When stonemasons erect a wall from stone, they must chip away on each one, smoothing it and shaping it. Soon it has the proper form to be fitted against the stones around it. This makes evident one of the reasons you must be a part of a church to grow properly. **GOD’S SHAPING PROCESS IN YOUR LIFE REQUIRES YOU TO BE RELATED PROPERLY TO OTHER “LIVING STONES.”** He chips away at your character until you are “bonded together” with the other “living stones.”

3) Nature Of The Church

What are the metaphors that God uses for the church in the following verses?
What does each metaphor have to say about the nature of the church?

- a) Galatians 6:10
- b) Ephesians 1:22-23
- c) 2 Timothy 2:3-4
- d) 1 Timothy 3:14-15

Week 6 (cont.)

4) The Heart Of The Church

- a) Acts 2:42-47
- b) Acts 4:32-36

5) Fellowship In The Church

- a) Hebrews 3:13
- b) Hebrews 10:24-25

6) Application/Sharing

- a) How has your understanding of the church changed since you've become a follower of Christ?
- b) What are the responsibilities and benefits of being in the church?
- c) What attitude should you have toward each member of the church?
- d) Memorize Hebrews 10:24-25