

KINGDOM TRAINING LEVEL 3: SIX IMPORTANT DOCTRINAL TRUTHS

INTRODUCTION

Level 3 introduces six DOCTRINES that will help you to share your faith with people in various situations. DOCTRINE is the specific teachings that define what we believe and pass along as truth (2 Timothy 2:2). Titus 2:1 emphasizes the need for “sound doctrine” – accurate teaching that produces Christ-like character. 2 Timothy 4:1-4 emphasizes the need to preach sound doctrine without compromise to combat false teaching. 1 Timothy 4:16 demonstrates how as disciples, we should continually be pointing everyone back to the Bible as the standard for *life and doctrine* – both essential for salvation.

Doctrine is more than who we believe God is intellectually (theology) or our stance on certain moral issues. Doctrine is what we believe to be true about God and his Word, regardless of our feelings or experiences. This foundational truth becomes an anchor for the soul, our strength when we are weak, our conviction when we doubt, and our compass when we stray. Doctrinal convictions grow as we better understand God. Because of our tendency to drift (Hebrews 2:1) or compromise, sound doctrine must be a steady part of our diet – filling our hearts and minds with Jesus’ message through reading the Bible and listening to those who teach accurately.

In our battle for truth, we must not underestimate the impact of false doctrine. 2 Peter 2:1-3 describes the subtle, but disastrous, impact of false teaching. Paul urged Timothy to command people not to teach false doctrines that “promote controversies rather than God’s work – which is by faith” (1 Timothy 1:1-3). Just as they did in the Bible, today’s false teachers “masquerade as servants of righteousness” (2 Corinthians 11:13-15) like Satan himself. Most likely, they are not intentionally introducing heresy, and they may even have good motivation. But good intentions do not equal truth. Counterfeit religion is just as worthless as counterfeit money!

Another enemy to sound doctrine can be tradition. Matthew 15:1-9 (from the Word of God study) clearly teaches that misconstrued tradition can “nullify the word of God.” We can’t rely on our traditions to keep us in right relationship with God. It is too easy to become entitled, thinking to ourselves, “I’m praying; I’m going to church; I’m doing good religious things; God, isn’t that enough?”

There is a battle in our minds and our hearts. We will never understand everything about God, therefore, we must continue to be students, learning more about our Father, Savior, and friend. We can’t think that just because we were at one time soft-hearted we will continue in relationship with him without repentance. We also shouldn’t fall into the trap of blindly trusting our religious leaders to keep us on track without being personally into the Bible to seek God’s will in our lives.

How do we fight false doctrine? John encouraged disciples to “test the Spirits” (1 John 4:1). Luke called the Bereans “noble” for “examining the scriptures to see if what Paul said was true” (Acts 17:11). Jesus encouraged churches who tested their teachers and he rebuked entire churches for tolerating false teachings (Revelation 2:2,20). The common thread seems to be test whatever we are taught by men against the scriptures.

The traps of religion are all too common today. Think about how many different teachings exist in various denominations:

- I was once saved, so I'll always saved
- I prayed Jesus in my heart so I have my own personal relationship with him
- I don't need to repent or be baptized; these are not essential for salvation
- I don't need church; I can have my own relationship with God without other Christians

This list barely scratches the surface. Consider the damage to people's faith caused by universalism (don't all roads lead to God?), original sin, infant baptism, the sinlessness and perpetual virginity of Mary, the rapture (think, "Left Behind"), cheap grace ("I can sin as much as I want because Jesus forgave all of my sins already"), and so many more. We can easily underestimate how common it is for churches to begin with great zeal but get off track. That is one of the primary principles of Restoration movement - our goal should be to constantly restore biblical Christianity.

Today's relativistic culture would have us believe that religious doctrine is divisive, insensitive, and intolerant; that truth is only opinion; that no one should tell us how to live. Even amongst proclaiming Christians, many compromise the word of God for the sake of their tradition. In contrast, Jesus proclaimed an intolerant message - *"I am the way, the truth, the life. No one comes to the father except through me."* Our doctrinal convictions define our faith response to Jesus - do we accept him as God's son? Do we believe that what he spoke is truth? Are we willing to live by that truth, hold to his teachings, and be his disciples even in a world that rejects him?

The Level 3 Course Overview lists the DOCTRINES covered in this class and the associated memory verses. DOCTRINE 1 provides a study on the life and teachings of Jesus that can be used to introduce people to Jesus so that they can make a decision to learn more about him. DOCTRINE 2 outlines the core teaching of the gospel, the Cross. DOCTRINE 3, the Coming of the Kingdom, outlines the Old and New Testament kingdom prophecies to illustrate their fulfillment when Jesus established the Church. The final three classes introduce the working of the Holy Spirit in disciples' lives including a doctrinal understanding of the purpose and meaning of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit and his Miraculous Gifts.

LEVEL 3 COURSE OVERVIEW

	<u>Class Title</u>	<u>Memory Verse</u>
DOCTRINE 1:	Who is Jesus?	Luke 19:10
DOCTRINE 2:	The Cross	Galatians 2:20
DOCTRINE 3:	Coming of The Kingdom	John 3:3
DOCTRINE 4:	Indwelling of The Holy Spirit	Acts 22:16
DOCTRINE 5:	Baptism of The Holy Spirit	Galatians 3:26-27
DOCTRINE 6:	Miraculous Gifts of The Holy Spirit	Test

DOCTRINE 1: WHO IS JESUS?

The Bible is the story of how God continually pursues a relationship with people throughout history. He made the world, created people as his children, supernaturally helped establish a unique nation as “his people,” and sent prophets to call people back to him. The climax of the story is arguably God’s greatest miracle – the incarnation, where God became a man who lived among us with the purpose of making God known to us (*John 1:14-18*).

Jesus is God. Every aspect of his life reflects deity. He is all powerful, though he took on the weaknesses of humanity. He never sinned, yet he understands temptation, relates to us, and even forgives us. He lived the perfect example of a human life as an example for us to follow. He is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. He is the author of salvation. The most important question

Memory Verse: Luke 19:10

For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.

we will ever answer is, “Who is Jesus?”

OPENING QUESTION: Who do you believe Jesus is?

1. Jesus is God in the Flesh

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. (John 1:1) The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. (John 1:14)

- What did God do to help us understand him?
 - God caused his Word to become a man so we could know him.
- **Analogy:** imagine you are all-powerful and you want to communicate with an ant colony to let them understand how much you love them. How would you do it? One of the most effective ways would be to become an ant yourself.

2. All the Fullness of God Lives in Christ

For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form... (Colossians 2:9)

- Every aspect of God’s character can be seen in Christ.

What do you learn from each of these scriptures?

1) Jesus is All Powerful (Mark 4:35-41)

- Jesus, like God, has all power and controls nature. Jesus is fully God.

2) Jesus was Without Sin (Luke 4:1-13)

- Like us, he was tempted with lust (v.3), materialism/power (v.6-7), and pride (v.9-10).
- Jesus used the scriptures to fight temptation and never sinned. (*2 Corinthians 5:21*)

3) Jesus Relates to Us

- *Hebrews 2:14-18* – Jesus shared in our humanity so he could free us from fear and help us when we are tempted.
- *Hebrews 4:14-16* – Jesus, like God, can sympathize with our weaknesses.

4) Jesus was Focused on God and Mission (Mark 1:29-39)

- Jesus compassionately met people’s needs (v.29-33).
- Prayer was his top priority (v.35). He stayed focused on his purpose (v.38).

5) Jesus Forgives (Luke 23:32-43)

- Jesus, like God, is forgiving and filled with love.

3. Our Goal is to Imitate Jesus

We know that we have come to know him if we keep his commands. Whoever says, "I know him," but does not do what he commands is a liar, and the truth is not in that person. But if anyone obeys his word, love for God is truly made complete in them. This is how we know we are in him: Whoever claims to live in him must live as Jesus did. (1 John 2:3-6)

- **What does this scripture teach about knowing Jesus?**
 - Disciples are followers and imitators of Jesus.
 - Our purpose as a Christian is to be like Jesus.
 - This includes knowing and obeying his commands.

4. Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life

Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. (John 14:6)

- **What does it mean to be the Way, the Truth, and the Life?**
 - **The Way** - exclusive, not just a way, the only way to God.
 - **The Truth** - not just some truth, the whole truth of God.
 - **The Life** - not another alternative, the life we were created to live: an attractive, successful, fulfilling life!

Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved." (Acts 4:12)

- What we believe about Jesus is the most important decision we will ever make!

CONCLUSION

- What amazes you the most about Jesus?
- Who do you believe Jesus is?
- Do you want to study to learn what it means to follow Jesus?

CHALLENGE

Read one of the gospels to learn more about Jesus. We recommend the Book of John, which was written to help people "believe that Jesus is the Son of God" (John 20:31). As you read the gospel, insert yourself into the stories as one of the characters Jesus is addressing. This will bring the Bible to life and the results will be life changing. Write down any questions that you have while you are reading so we can discuss during our next study.

Set up the next study.

DOCTRINE 2: THE CROSS

The Cross is the central event in the history of mankind. The Cross demonstrates God's love for us. The Cross is the heart of the gospel – the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ (*1 Corinthians 15:1-4*). Jesus chose to suffer and become sin so that we could take on his righteousness and have a relationship with God (*2 Corinthians 5:21*). Our sins separated us from God; only in the Cross is there an opportunity for forgiveness. Many churches talk about the Cross, but judging by the way most people live, the Cross does not seem to have the same power in people's lives today as it did when the disciples of Jesus turned the world upside down. What's missing? This study aims to bring a deep understanding of what happened at the Cross

Memory Verse: Galatians 2:20

I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

and what that means for us as disciples of Jesus.

OPENING QUESTION: *Why do you think Jesus died on the cross?*

1. The Passion Account (Read: Mark 14:32-65; 15:1-37)

- Jesus: overwhelmed, depressed, deserted, alone, defrauded, denied, & despised....
- As you read, ask, *"Why did Jesus do this?"* Your answer: *"because he loves me."*

2. Jesus' Physical Pain and Death

- One way to understand the details is to read the Medical Account (below).
- Understanding the Cross gets us in touch with how horrible sin is to God. It hurts God.

3. The Pain of Separation from God

Psalms 22:1-18, 30-31 "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

- Background: This Psalm is a prophecy written ~1000 years before Jesus!
- Why would Jesus say this? The greatest challenge: Jesus was forsaken by God.
- Jesus took on my sin (the penalty of sin) and experienced a separation from God.

4. Our Response

- What words describe our condition when Jesus died for us? (*Romans 5:6-8*)
 - *"Powerless, sinners, ungodly, enemies..."*
 - What did Jesus do for his "enemies"?
 - He took my place and died for me, paying the penalty of my sin – death.
- What is the right response to this type of love? (*2 Corinthians 5:14-15; 20-21*)
 - What response did Paul expect? Gratitude, surrender, accepting love.
 - No longer live for ourselves; motivated to do God's will because he loves us.
 - Urgent to be reconciled to God. Jesus was our sin offering. He took the penalty for sin (death) so we can have His righteousness credited to us (a substitution).

5. Personal Application (Isaiah 53:4-6) What aspects of the cross do you see in this scripture?

- Remember the study on sin...your sin. Jesus died because of your sin. (*1 Peter 2:22-25*)
- We can substitute our names in this passage to make it more personal.
- **Analogy:** Drawbridge–man dies so others can live. Optional: Watch "The Cross" video.
- Pray together, expressing to God whatever is in your hearts.

A Medical Account of the Crucifixion Simplified & Amended

From Douglas Jacoby and Alex Mnatzaganian*

Hanging, electrocution, knee-capping, gas chamber: these punishments are feared. They all happen today, and we shudder as we think of the horror and pain. But as we shall see, these ordeals pale into insignificance compare with the bitter fate of Jesus Christ: crucifixion.

Few persons are crucified today (except by ISIS and various other terrorists). For us the cross remains confined to ornaments and jewelry, stained-glass windows, romanticized pictures and statues portraying a serene death. Crucifixion was a form of execution refined by the Romans to a precise art. It was carefully conceived to produce a slow death with maximum pain. It was a public spectacle intended to deter other would-be criminals. It was a death to be feared.

Sweat like blood

Luke 22:24 says of Jesus, "and being in anguish, he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground." The sweat was unusually intense because his emotional state was unusually intense. Dehydration coupled with exhaustion further weakened him. (Note: the scriptures nowhere say that Jesus was sweating blood.)

Beating

It was in this condition that Jesus faced the first physical abuse: punches and slaps to the face and head while blindfolded. Unable to anticipate the blows, Jesus was badly bruised, his mouth and eyes possibly injured. The psychological effects of the false trials should not be underestimated. Consider that Jesus faced them bruised, dehydrated, exhausted, possibly in shock.

Flogging

In the previous 12 hours Jesus had suffered emotional trauma, rejection by his closest friends, a cruel beating, and a sleepless night during which he had to walk miles between unjust hearings. Despite the fitness he must certainly have gained during his travels in Palestine, he was in no way prepared for the punishment of flogging. The effects would be worse as a result.

A man to be flogged was stripped of his clothes and his hands tied to a post above his head. He was then whipped across the shoulders, back, buttocks, thighs and legs, the soldier standing behind and to one side of the victim. The whip used - the flagellum - was designed to make this a devastating punishment, bringing the victim close to death: several short heavy leather thongs, with two small balls of lead or iron attached near the end of each. Pieces of sheep's bone were sometimes included.

As the scourging proceeds, the heavy leather thongs produce first superficial cuts, then deeper damage to underlying tissues. Bleeding becomes severe when not only capillaries and veins are cut, but also arteries in the underlying muscles. The small metal balls first produce large, deep bruises which are broken open by further blows. The fragments of sheep's bone rip the flesh as the whip is drawn back. When the beating is finished, the skin of the back is in ribbons, and the entire area torn and bleeding.

The words chosen by the gospel writers suggest that the scourging of Jesus was particularly severe: he was certainly at the point of collapse when he was cut down from the flogging-post.

The mocking

Jesus was allowed no time to recover before facing his next ordeal. Made to stand, he was dressed in a robe by jeering soldiers, crowned with a twisted band of thorny twigs, and to complete the parody, given a wooden staff as a king's scepter. "Next, they spat on Jesus and struck him on the head with the wooden staff." The long thorns were driven into the sensitive scalp tissue producing profuse bleeding, but even more terrible was the re-opening of the wounds on Jesus' back when the robe was torn off again.

Further weakened physically and emotionally, Jesus was led away to be executed.

The crucifixion

The wooden cross used by the Romans was too heavy to be carried by one man. Instead the victim to be crucified was made to bear the detached crossbar across his shoulders, carrying it outside the city walls to the place of execution. (The heavy upright portion of the cross was permanently in position here.) Jesus was unable to carry his load – a beam weighing around 75 to 125 pounds (approximately 35-55 kg). He collapsed under the burden, and an onlooker was ordered to take it for him.

Jesus refused to drink the wine and myrrh offered him before the nails were driven in. (It would have dulled the pain.) Thrown down on his back with arms outstretched along the crossbar, nails were driven through Jesus' wrists into the wood. These iron spikes, about 6 inches long and 3/8 inch thick, severed the large sensorimotor median nerve, causing excruciating pain in both arms. Carefully placed between bones and ligaments, they were able to bear the full weight of the crucified man.

In preparation for the nailing of the feet, Jesus was lifted up and the crossbar fixed to the upright post. Then with legs bent at the knee, a single nail was used to pierce both feet, one foot being placed over the other. Again, there was severe nerve damage and the pain caused was intense. It is important to note, however, that neither the wounds to the wrists or feet caused substantial bleeding, since no major arteries were ruptured. The executioner took care to ensure this, so that death would be slower and the suffering longer.

Now nailed to his cross, the real horror of crucifixion began. When the wrists were nailed to the crossbar, the elbows were intentionally left in a bent position so that the crucified man would hang with his arms above his head, the weight being taken on the nails in the wrists. Obviously this was unbearably painful, but it had another effect: It is very difficult to exhale in this position. In order to breathe out, and then take in fresh air, it was necessary to push the body up on the nailed feet. When the pain from the feet became unbearable, the victim would again slump down to hang by the arms. A terrible cycle of pain began: hanging by the arms, unable to breathe, pushing up on the feet to inhale quickly before again slumping down, and on and on.

This tortured activity became more and more difficult as Jesus' back was scraped against the upright post, as muscle cramps set in because of the inadequate respiration, and as exhaustion grew more severe. Jesus suffered in this manner for several hours before, with a final cry, he died.

Cause of death

Many factors contributed to Jesus' death. A combination of shock and suffocation killed most victims of crucifixion, but in Jesus' case acute heart failure may have been the final trauma. This is suggested by his sudden death following a loud cry, after only a few hours: a quick death, it seems (Pilate was surprised to find Jesus already dead). A fatal cardiac arrhythmia, or perhaps cardiac rupture, are likely candidates.

The spear wound

Jesus was already dead as the executioners broke the legs of the criminals crucified alongside (in order to speed their deaths). Instead, we read that a soldier pierced Jesus' side with a spear. Where on his side? The word chosen by John suggests the ribs, and if the soldier intended to make Jesus' death certain, a wound to the heart was the obvious choice.

From the wound came a flow of "blood and water." This is consistent with the spear blow to the heart (especially from the right side, the traditional site of the wound). Rupturing the pericardium (the sac surrounding the heart) released a flow of watery serum, followed by blood as the heart was pierced.

Conclusion

The detailed accounts given in the gospels combined with the historical evidence on crucifixion bring us to a firm conclusion: modern medical knowledge supports the claim of the scriptures that Jesus died on the cross.

* <https://www.douglasjacoby.com/a-more-accurate-medical-account-of-the-crucifixion/>

DOCTRINE 3: THE COMING OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD

Jesus is the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. Throughout history, God established his kingdom to be his reign over his creation. In the Old Testament (OT), he established Israel as the kingdom of God on earth. Through dozens of specific OT prophecies, God revealed even greater plans to establish an eternal kingdom. Jesus arrived, proclaiming “the good news of the kingdom of God.” The Book of Acts begins with Jesus teaching about the kingdom of God followed by the fulfilment of prophecies regarding the coming of the kingdom (*Acts 1:3ff*). God established his church as the fellowship of those in the kingdom of God on earth. However, the NT describes the kingdom as “now and not yet” – there is an even greater age to come (*Mark 10:30, Hebrews 6:5*), fulfilled in heaven. The unique and specific way the Scriptures reveal God’s eternal kingdom plan produces faith in the continuity of the entire Word of God. Prepare to be blown

Memory Verse: John 3:3

Jesus replied, “Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again.”

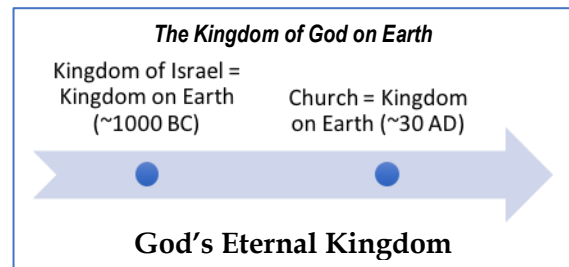
away by his masterplan and his amazing love for his people!

OPENING QUESTION: What is your picture of the Kingdom of God?

1. God’s Kingdom in the Old Testament

1) ISRAEL: The Kingdom of the Lord

- God established his “kingdom of priests” on earth through Moses. (*Exodus 19:6*)
- God established “the kingdom of the Lord” (*1 Chronicles 28:5*) under David and Solomon (*2 Samuel 7:12-16*) reaching the height of glory about 1000 B.C.
- Israel’s unfaithfulness led to the destruction of their kingdom. (*2 Kings 17:7-23*)



2) PROPHECY: The OT Prophecies of Coming of the New Kingdom

Through the prophets (especially Isaiah and Daniel), God revealed his plan for his re-establishing his kingdom on earth.

- **Isaiah 2:1-4 (750 BC)**
 - **When?** *In the last days*
 - **What?** *the mountain of the Lord’s temple* [symbol for God’s kingdom]
 - **Whom?** *all nations will stream to it*
 - **Where?** *The word of the Lord from Jerusalem*
- **Isaiah 9:6-7 (750 BC)**
 - **Who?** *He (the Messiah) will reign on David’s throne*
 - **What?** *over his kingdom... forever*
- **Daniel 2:1-44 (550 BC)**
 - **What?** Four kingdoms: Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, and Rome
 - **When?** *God will establish his kingdom in the time of the Roman kings*

Kingdoms of Daniel 2	
Head of Gold	Babylon (to 539 BC)
Chest of Silver	Medo-Persia (to 330 BC)
Bronz	Greece (331-31 BC)
Iron / Clay	Rome (31 BC - 325 AD)
Rock	Church (30 AD)

2. NEAR: The Kingdom Proclaimed by The Messiah

- 1) **John the Baptist (30 AD): When?** *Kingdom of heaven is near* (Matthew 3:1-6)
- 2) **Jesus (30 AD)**
 - **When?** *Kingdom is near* (Matthew 4:17)
 - **How/When?** *Kingdom to come with power in the lifetime of some disciples* (Mark 9:1)
 - **How?** *Must be born again of water and spirit to enter the kingdom* (John 3:1-7)
 - **What?** *Kingdom is within you* (Luke 17:20-21)
 - **How?** *Peter has the keys of the kingdom* (Matthew 16:13-19)
 - **How, Where, and to Whom?** *Repentance and forgiveness of sins preached first in Jerusalem and to all nations* (Luke 24:44-49)

3. FULFILLMENT: The Kingdom Come (Acts 1:1-8, 2:1-47)

- 1) **Who?** The *Messiah* now rules *on David's throne* (Isaiah 9:6-7 | Acts 2:30,38)
- 2) **What?** God established an *eternal kingdom* (Isaiah 9:6-7 | Acts 2:37-42)
 - *Spiritual* not physical (Luke 17:20-21 | Acts 2:37-42)
- 3) **When?** *In the last days* (Isaiah 2:2 | Acts 2:17)
 - *In the time of the Roman kings* (Daniel 2 | Acts 2:1)
 - *In the lifetime of the disciples* (Mark 9:1 | Acts 2:14)
- 4) **Where?** Established in *Jerusalem* (Isaiah 2:4 | Luke 24:49 | Acts 2:3)
- 5) **Whom?** Proclaimed to *all nations* (Isaiah 2:4 | Luke 24:49 | Acts 2:3)
- 6) **How?** The kingdom came with *power* (Mark 9:1 | Acts 1:8, 2:4)
 - Peter preached *repentance + forgiveness of sins* (Luke 24:44-49 | Acts 2:38)
 - Peter shared the *keys of the kingdom* (Matthew 16:13-19 | Acts 2:38)
 - Enter by *new birth: born again of water + spirit* (John 3:3-5 | Acts 2:38,41)

4. CONCLUSION: The Kingdom and You

- 1) **God uses his kingdom on earth to pursue a relationship with people**
 - His plan from the beginning was for us to be with him in his kingdom for eternity.
 - He established the kingdom of Israel through Moses and the line of David.
 - He sent his son as the Messiah to bring the good news of the kingdom.
 - He established the church as the fellowship of those on earth who serve him as King.
 - We await a greater fulfilment of the kingdom in the age to come! (Mk. 10:30, Heb. 6:5)
- 2) **The servants of the kingdom on earth, the church, are devoted to (Acts 2:42):**
 - *The Apostles' teaching* – which we now have as the New Testament.
 - *The Fellowship* – living out the “one another” passages on a relationship level.
 - *Breaking Bread* – participating in communion and remembering Jesus.
 - *Prayer* – communicating directly with the King to draw close to him.
- 3) **“Seek first the kingdom and his righteousness” (Matthew 6:33)**
 - How can you prioritize your commitment to the church?
 - One another relationships, Sunday/midweek services, Bible Study, etc.
 - How can you improve your commitment to “his righteousness”?
 - Prayer, Bible Study, confession, repentance, be born again, etc.

DOCTRINE 4: THE INDWELLING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

The Holy Spirit is how God works in people's lives. Jesus promised that the Holy Spirit would be our "counselor" and that the Holy Spirit live in us (indwelling) would be better than having Jesus present physically (*John 14-16*). The Bible describes the richness of life "in the Spirit" – he gives us a spiritual mind, adopts us into God's family, promises us Christ's inheritance, empowers us to overcome sin, interprets our prayers, and reproduces godliness (fruit). How can we comprehend God, who says, "my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways" (*Isaiah 55:8*)? There will always be a sense of mystery when we try to describe God, Jesus, or the Holy Spirit. The Indwelling of the Holy Spirit is the first of three "measures" of the Holy Spirit that we will study, followed by the Baptism of the Holy Spirit and Miraculous Gifts.

Memory Verse: Acts 22:16

And now what are you waiting for? Get up, be baptized and wash your sins away, calling on his name.

OPENING QUESTION: *What are some of the ways the Holy Spirit works in a disciple's life?*

1. The Spirit is God Living in Us

In the OT, God worked in people's lives externally through the Holy Spirit.

- **Creation:** The Spirit of God hovered over the waters... to create! (*Genesis 1:2*)
- **Gifts:** God gave people talents and abilities through his Spirit. (*Exodus 31:3, 1 Chr. 28:12*)
- **Leadership:** God's Spirit came on leaders. (*Numbers 11:25, Judges 3:10,6:34,11:29,14:6*)
- **Prophets:** The Spirit led the prophets. (*Isaiah 61:1, Ezekiel 3:12, Daniel 5:11,14*)
- **Messiah:** The Messiah was to be filled with the Spirit. (*Isaiah 42:1,59:21*)
- **Promise:** The Spirit would come to all. (*Isaiah 44:3, Ezekiel 36:27, Joel 2:28, Micah 3:8*)

In the NT, the promise is more personal: God lives (dwells) in us through the Spirit.

- Jesus promised He would *live in us*, be with us, and advocate for us. (*John 14:16-17*)
- Disciples *received power* when the Holy Spirit came on them. (*Acts 1:8,2:1-4*)
- We receive the *indwelling* of the Holy Spirit at baptism (*Acts 2:38*), who then lives in us (*Romans 8:9*), making our body a "temple of the Holy Spirit" (*1 Corinthians 6:19*).

2. The Spirit Enables us to Comprehend Spiritual Things

- He opens the eyes of our hearts to understand God's riches. (*Ephesians 1:17-20*)
- He strengthens us, lives in us, empowers us to understand God's love. (*Eph. 3:14-21*)
- He gives us the mind of Christ through Spirit-taught spiritual realities. (*1 Cor. 2:13-16*)

3. The Spirit Makes Us Children of God with an Inheritance

- God adopts us as his children with Christ's full inheritance. (*Romans 8:14-17*)
- We cry out "Abba" (Daddy) – an intimate relationship. (*Romans 8:16, Galatians 4:6*)
- The Spirit helps us pray, interceding to give us confidence before God. (*Romans 8:26-27*)

4. The Spirit Guarantees our Salvation

- God marks us with a seal, a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance. (*Ephesians 1:13-14*)
 - "Seal" (Greek "sphragizo") means to mark for identification or ownership.
- A pledge or "down payment" on our heavenly promise. (*2 Corinthians 1:21-22*)
 - "Deposit" – like an engagement or a mortgage.

5. The Spirit Changes Our Characters to Make Us Godly and to Reproduce

- God pours out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit. (*Romans 5:3-5*)
- Sin grieves God, but the Spirit helps us put sin to death so we can live. (*Romans 8:13*)
- The Spirit's discipline transforms our habits, lifestyle, and boldness. (*2 Timothy 1:7*)
- We live by the Spirit, in step with him, walking with him. (*Galatians 5:22-25*)
 - When we walk with him, we crucify our old life.
 - Then we reproduce his fruit to become like him – he gives us power to change!
- We plant and water, God makes it grow. (*1 Corinthians 3:6-7*)
- God chose us to go and bear fruit – to his glory. (*John 15:8,16*)
 - Never underestimate the power of the Holy Spirit in us to replicate godliness!
 - The Spirit is Power – therefore we are powerful people!
 - We weren't commanded to create the world or raise someone from the dead.
 - Whatever God commands us to do, he gives us the power to do... *Go bear fruit!*

10 Questions About the Holy Spirit

1. When does the Bible first introduce the "Spirit of God"?
 - *Genesis 1:2 (creation) then Genesis 6:3 (flood).*
2. Is the Holy Spirit a person?
 - Yes and the Holy Spirit is referred to as "he"!
3. Did the Holy Spirit live inside of people in the OT?
 - No, the OT doesn't mention the Holy Spirit "living in" or "indwelling" us.
 - The OT uses the phrase "came on." (*Ex 31:3, 1 Sam 10:10; 19:23; 2 Chron. 15:1; 24:20*)
 - Pouring out of the Holy Spirit was promised in *Isaiah 44:3, Ezekiel 36:27, and Joel 2:29.*
4. What baby was said to be conceived by the Holy Spirit?
 - Jesus! (*Matthew 1:18-20*)
5. Did John the Baptist's baptism include the Holy Spirit?
 - No! (*Matthew 3:11; Acts 19:1-10*)
6. What verses reference all three persons of the trinity?
 - *Matthew 28:18-20, 2 Corinthians 13:14, John 14:17-23... (many others)*
7. What specific work does Jesus promise the Holy Spirit will do among his disciples?
 - Convict the world of guilt in regard to sin, righteousness, and judgment. (*John 16:8*)
 - Teach and remind of everything he said. (*John 14:26*)
 - Give words to speak when testifying about Jesus. (*Mark 13:11, Luke 12:10*)
 - Give power to be his witnesses. (*Acts 1:8*)
8. How does the Bible say that we receive the "indwelling" of the Holy Spirit?
 - *Acts 2:38 "and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit" – the Spirit then lived in the 3000, without the miraculous gifts of the Spirit or the baptism of the Holy Spirit.*
9. What two times does the NT describe an occurrence of Baptism of the Holy Spirit?
 - *Acts 2 – the Spirit came on them, bringing the kingdom to the Jews.*
 - *Acts 10-11 – the same type of outpouring, bringing the kingdom to the Gentiles.*
10. What two books in the Bible mention the miraculous gifts of the Holy Spirit?
 - *1 Corinthians and Acts*

DOCTRINE 5: THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

The Indwelling of the Holy Spirit study introduced the *only* conversion experience: repentance and baptism leading to the indwelling of the Spirit, without a “miraculous” outpouring of the Spirit. Some people may get confused and put pressure on people to “be baptized in the Holy Spirit” so that they can receive a sensational blessing that may involve speaking in tongues and miraculous gifts (sometimes called the “full gospel”). However, a careful reading of the book of Acts reveals that outpourings of the Holy Spirit were not normal, but were special cases. It is not surprising that there is some confusion because there are many things about the Holy Spirit that are difficult to understand. However, as Paul reassured Christians, we can be confident that “*we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body*” (1 Cor. 12:13) and “*we are the body of Christ*” regardless of whether we “*work miracles*” or “*speak in tongues*” (1 Cor. 12:27-30).

Memory Verse: Galatians 3:26-27

So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.

OPENING QUESTIONS: *Do all Christians receive the Holy Spirit? When?*

How is the “baptism of the Holy Spirit” different from the “indwelling of the Holy Spirit”?

1. All Christians receive the Holy Spirit at conversion

- The Christians Paul addressed “*were all baptized by one Spirit into one body.*” (1 Cor. 12:13)
- “*if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, they do not belong to Christ.*” (Romans 8:9)
- Conversion is “miraculous” but is not necessarily accompanied by miracles. (Acts 18:8)

2. Acts 2:1-7 illustrates a special outpouring (baptism) of the Holy Spirit

- The Jews were “*filled with the Spirit.*” (Acts 2:4)
 - The Spirit came without warning, they were not praying for it. (Acts 2:1-2)
 - This was not the gift (indwelling) of the Spirit from conversion. (Acts 2:38)
- This outpouring of the Spirit fulfilled the prophecy / promise of Joel 2:28-32 (and others).
 - Jesus promised, “*in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.*” (Acts 1:8)
 - Review the *Coming of the Kingdom* study – this ushered in the church to the Jews.
 - Fulfilling a promise is different from commanding them to be baptized. (Acts 2:38)
- The Spirit enabled them to speak in other understandable languages/tongues. (Acts 2:6)

3. Acts 10 illustrates a similar outpouring (baptism) of the Holy Spirit

- The Spirit “*came on*” and was “*poured out on the Gentiles.*” (Acts 10:44-45)
 - Peter equated this to being “*baptized with the Holy Spirit.*” (Acts 11:16)
 - The Spirit came without warning, they were not praying for it. (Acts 10:44)
 - This was not the gift (indwelling) of the Spirit from conversion. (Acts 10:48)
- This outpouring of the Spirit fulfilled prophecy (“*all nations*” Isaiah 2:2).
 - Here, the Spirit ushered in the kingdom of God to the Gentiles. (Acts 10:45,11:18)
 - Fulfilling a promise is different from commanding them to be baptized. (Acts 10:48)
- The Spirit enabled them to speak in languages/tongues. (Acts 10:46)
- They recognized this special event to be similar to Acts 2. (Acts 11:15)

4. Does the Baptism of the Holy Spirit exist today?

- The *"Baptism of the Holy Spirit"* of Acts 2 and 10 fulfilled Jesus' promise.
 - Jesus promised, *"in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."* (Acts 1:8)
 - Acts 2 fulfilled this promise to the Jews, Acts 10 to the Gentiles.
- *Ephesians 4:4-6* (60 AD) teaches that *"there is one baptism"* - Which one?
 - **John's Baptism?**
 - Did not include the gift (indwelling) of the Holy Spirit. (*Acts 2:38, Acts 19:1-5*)
 - No longer valid under the New Covenant. (*Acts 19:1-5*)
 - **"Baptism of the Holy Spirit"?**
 - This was not a command for conversion, but a New Covenant promise.
 - It was fulfilled in *Acts 2 and Acts 10*.
 - The Spirit is now poured out in conversion. (*Titus 3:5-6*)
 - **Baptism in water for the forgiveness of sins and to receive the Holy Spirit?**
 - Baptism is how we are *"born again of the water and the spirit."* (*John 3:3-5*)
 - Jesus commanded this baptism in *Matthew 28:18-20*.
 - This baptism is how Peter said you *"receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."* (*Acts 2:38*)
 - This is the baptism **commanded** by the apostles throughout the NT.
 - This is the baptism preached by Peter (*1 Peter 3:21*) that *"saves us."*
 - This would be the only existing baptism at the time of *Ephesians* (~60 AD).
- What about "the Miraculous Gifts of the Holy Spirit" (tongues, healings, etc.)?
 - Let's look at that in our next study!

DOCTRINE 6:

THE MIRACULOUS GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

God is a God of miracles. God can do any miracle for anyone at any time! This study is not designed to give you all the answers to all the possible questions but it can provide insight about the miraculous gifts in the Book of Acts. Even though we do not possess the same apostolic miraculous gifts of the Holy Spirit today, it doesn't mean that God doesn't perform miracles.

The most common biblical purpose for miracles was to bring us the Word of God. God inspired the writers of the Bible (*2 Peter 1:19-21*), the apostles and the prophets (*Ephesians 2:20*), to deliver his message to us. God also certified the authority of the scriptures and the gospel through miracles (*Exodus 4:5 – Moses; Matthew 11:4-5, John 14:11,20:30-31, and Acts 2:22 – Jesus; Mark 16:20 and Acts 14:3 – Apostles*). Jesus often played down miracles in favor of obedience to the Word, even warning, “if they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone rises from the dead!” (*Luke 16:31*).

OPENING QUESTIONS: *Do you believe that God can do miracles today?*

Are these the same miracles that were done by Jesus and the apostles in the first century AD?

1. The Holy Spirit gave miraculous gifts to the believers

- Examples included: *wisdom, knowledge, faith, healing, miracles, prophecy, distinguishing spirits, tongues, and interpretation.* (*1 Corinthians 12:8-10*)
- Some *drank poison* (*Mark 16:16-18*) or were *bitten by snakes* and didn't die (*Acts 28:5*).
- How did believers get these miraculous gifts?
 - Either directly from Jesus (*Apostles*) or directly from the Holy Spirit (*Acts 2, Acts 10*).
 - Or: when one of the Apostles laid their hands on them.

2. Jesus gave the apostles a miraculous, special measure of the Holy Spirit

- Note: Apostles were eyewitnesses of John's baptism and the resurrection. (*Acts 1:21-22*)
- Jesus gave the Apostles “*power and authority*” to perform miracles. (*Luke 9:1-2*)
- “*many wonders and signs were performed by the apostles.*” (*Acts 2:43*)
- “*the marks of a true apostle, including signs, wonders and miracles.*” (*2 Corinthians 12:12*)

3. The apostles had the ability to pass the spiritual gifts through the laying on of hands

- The Bible includes several other purposes for “*laying on of hands.*”
 - Blessing: *The Levites* (*Numbers 8:10*); *Saul / Barnabas* (*Acts 13:3*); *Timothy* (*2 Tim. 1:6*)
 - Healing: *Ananias healed Paul* (*Acts 9:17-18*); *Paul healed Publius' father* (*Acts 28:8*)
- First Recorded Time: The Apostles laid their hands on “*the Seven*” (*Acts 6:1-8*).
 - Stephen immediately performed miracles among the people with God's power (v8).

4. Only apostles could pass the spiritual gifts to another person (*Acts 8:1-25*)

- Philip, one of the “*Seven,*” performed miracles and converted many (e.g., Simon).
- Those people that the apostles passed the gifts to COULD NOT pass on the gifts they received – observe that Simon couldn't ask Philip for this gift (v.13).
- “*Simon saw that the Spirit was given at the laying on of the apostles' hands.*” (*Acts 8:18*)
- Note: They became Christians and thus received the forgiveness of sins and the gift (indwelling) of the Holy Spirit through conversion. (*Acts 8:12, like Acts 2:38*)

5. **Laying on of hands was not the same as conversion or “Baptism of the Holy Spirit”**
- Baptism of the Holy Spirit (the previous study) was a unique experience (*Acts 1:5,11:16*) that ushered in the kingdom of God to the Jews (*Acts 2*) and the Gentiles (*Acts 10-11*).
 - Jesus commanded the apostles to make disciples (*Matthew 28:19*), baptizing them for the forgiveness of sins and to receive the gift (indwelling) of the Holy Spirit (*Acts 2:38*).
 - Laying on of hands was not part of conversion.
 - Laying on of hands did not forgive sins or impart the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.
 - **An Unusual Example:** converting John’s disciples (*Acts 19:1-6*)
 - They only received John’s baptism of repentance – they didn’t know about the Holy Spirit because their conversion occurred before the Spirit was given (*John 7:39*).
 - First (v.5), they were baptized into the name of Jesus Christ to receive the forgiveness of their sins and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.
 - Then (v.6) they received the miraculous gifts of prophecy and speaking in tongues by the laying on of Paul’s hands (note: Paul was an apostle).

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS

- 1) “Speaking in tongues” or miracles are no proof of spirituality.
 - Jesus never spoke in tongues and he had the full measure of the Spirit. (*John 3:34-36*)
 - A person can be filled with the Holy Spirit without speaking in tongues. (*Eph. 5:18-20*)
 - “Ecstatic utterances” (unintelligible sounds and fragments of speech) are common in many religions (Mormon, Catholic, Islam, etc.).
 - Satan can use miracles to deceive people away from salvation. (*2 Thessalonians 2:9-10*)
- 2) Apostles were able to pass on the gifts because they were apostles.
 - Apostles performed miracles even during the ministry of Christ. (*Luke 9:1*)
- 3) *1 Corinthians 12 and 14* are not the directives on how to receive tongues (the church there had already received them), but rather the correctives on how to use them.
 - Paul addressed many issues in these chapters, including misusing the tongues.
 - Not everyone in the church had the gift of tongues. (*1 Corinthians 12:28-30*)
 - The “Pentecostal Church” (every member speaking in tongues) is not scriptural.
- 4) “Perfection” in *1 Corinthians 13:8-10* could NOT mean the coming of Christ because it is in the neuter gender in Greek, not the masculine gender which would describe Jesus.
 - “When perfection comes” probably refers to the maturity of the church which included the canonization of the Bible sometime after the first century AD.
 - By that time, these miraculous gifts would be gone because all the apostles and those to whom they passed the gifts would have died.
- 5) The purpose of the miraculous gifts from *1 Corinthians 14:20-22*:
 - To get non-believers to believe.
 - To edify the Christians and strengthen their faith.
 - The Bible now serves as the testimony of God’s miracles.
 - The church today does not need what it needed in its childhood state.
 - We still have miracles – those described in the Bible.
 - God can still do miracles today, even though the apostles are no longer here.